MEMORANDUM

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JAPAN PROMISES KENYA AID TO FUND DEVELOPMENT, POWER GENERATION

Japan will give Kenya 1 billion yen (7.45 million pounds) in aid to spur economic and social development, and will extend an as yet unspecified amount for a geothermal power project, the leaders of the two countries said.

Resource-poor Japan has long been keen on tapping Africa's vast natural resources, even more so since dependence on oil and natural gas imports jumped after the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster shut almost all its nuclear reactors.

"Japan will extend grant aid for economic and social development amounting to one billion yen," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta said in a joint statement late on Sunday.

On Saturday, Abe had told African leaders at a development conference that Japan would commit US$30 billion in public and private support for infrastructure development, education and healthcare expansion in the continent over a three-year period starting in 2016.

Japan will also provide a concessional loan to the Olkaria geothermal project, operated by state-run Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen), the two leaders added.

KenGen has a total production capacity of 1,618 megawatts, of which 514 MW is from geothermal.

Japan has provided loans and technical assistance to KenGen power projects in the past, among them a 46-billion-yen (US$408-million) loan deal signed in March to build a 140 MW geothermal plant expected to be operational within two years. (Reuters 27-09-2016)

MOZAMBICAN FARMERS TO BENEFIT FROM MECHANISATION PROGRAMME

Pacheco said Agrarian Services Centres (CSA) will be installed across the country to share management experiences as a way of bringing farm mechanisation to the farmers.

"It is estimated that about 35,000 farmers will benefit from the NEP and each CSA will cater for about 1,600 hectares," Pacheco said.

The official said the Agricultural Development Fund has completed the installation of 73 CSAs in all provinces of the country and by the end of the year,

Each CSA will be equipped with four to six tractors as well as implements intended for ploughing, harrowing, fertilizing, sowing and harvesting.

Pacheco said the material is part of the "More Food Programme" valued at US$97 million which will be used to purchase 513 tractors and more than 2,000 implements to increase productivity and gradually transform subsistence farming into commercial.

Mozambique has 36 million hectares of arable land and just over 15 percent are currently being used.(APA 23-09-2016)

BOTSWANA BREAKS RANKS WITH NEIGHBOURS OVER IVORY SALES

Botswana has broken ranks with some of its neighbours who wanted stockpiles of ivory sold and insisted instead that there should be a complete ban on the sale of ivory, APA learns here Monday.

Botswana shunned the proposal submitted by some its neighbours; Namibia, Zimbabwe and South Africa for the sale of stockpiles of ivory, but instead supported a complete ban of the ivory trade.

A communiqué from the Ministry of Tourism states that Minister Tshekedi Khama told the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of Parties (CoP17) underway in Johannesburg, South Africa on Monday that, "While Botswana has demonstrated conservation success with regard to its elephant population, we will not ignore our responsibility to other African elephant range states and their elephant populations."

Khama reportedly said although Botswana has previously supported the limited, "legal ivory sales from countries that manage their elephant herds sustainably, we now recognise that we can no longer support these sales, and we cannot deal with this issue in a vacuum."

"We must unite in solidarity with our colleagues worldwide to stop this crisis. Put simply, a threat to elephants anywhere is a threat to elephants everywhere," Khama reportedly said.

He added that "We greatly appreciate that many non-range states, particularly consumer countries, have already taken actions or made commitments to adopt measures to close their legal domestic ivory markets, such as China (including Hong Kong), France, and the United States of America."

Khama reportedly said there is clear and growing global consensus, which includes major consumer countries that the ivory trade needs to be stopped if elephants are to be conserved effectively.(APA 03-10-2016)

EBRD: STRENGTHENING FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCTION IN MOROCCO

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is bolstering the agribusiness sector in Morocco with a EUR 2.5 million senior loan to Maïsadour Maroc and Maïsadour Agri Maroc, subsidiaries of Groupe Coopératif Maïsadour, an important French agricultural cooperative.

The EBRD financing will help Maïsadour to expand its production of quality fruit and vegetables in Morocco and particularly the rural region of Souss-Massa in southern Morocco.

Production is organised both on Maïsadour's own plantations and in cooperation with 25 local farms. With this EBRD-financed project Maïsadour will increase the number of local partners it works with, therefore allowing more farms to benefit from Maïsadour's know-how, technical support and access to international markets. Maïsadour helps its local partners to achieve international standards. Moreover, a dedicated team assists the producers in the implementation of good environmental practices.

The EBRD is also supporting the increased use of sustainable climate-friendly agricultural inputs with a EUR 24 million loan to Elephant Vert, a Morocco-based producer of bio-fertilisers, bio-pesticides and bio-stimulants. The EBRD's financing will allow Elephant Vert to significantly boost the development, output and distribution of these biological products, which are used to increase agricultural yields while remaining cost-efficient and environmentally friendly. The switch away from chemical fertilisers should lead to significant greenhouse gas emission savings of over 150,000 tonnes of CO_2 equivalents each year in Morocco.

The EBRD started investing in Morocco in 2012. To date, the Bank has invested over EUR 1 billion in 26 projects across the country. (EBRD 23-09-2016)

LIBERIA SIGNS LOAN AGREEMENT WITH CHINESE BANK TO REFURBISH AIRPORT

The governments of Liberia and China, through EXIM Bank on Monday officially signed a US$50 million loan agreement to refurbish the runway and terminal of the Roberts International Airport (RIA) outside Monrovia.

During the signing ceremony which took place at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Monrovia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf approved the Act ratifying the China-Liberia Framework Agreement.

Speaking after she approved the agreement, President Sirleaf said the signing of the loan agreement through EXIM Bank has helped to make the already 10 years of friendship existing between Liberia and China much stronger.

The Liberian leader recalled that China has been very instrumental in Liberia's development efforts over the past 10 years, especially in the areas of roads, electricity, and peacekeeping, amongst others.

President Sirleaf also recounted the refurbishing of the Samuel K. Doe Sports Complex and the construction of the modern Monrovia Vocational Training Center (MVTC) as some of the several development supports that China had been rendering to Liberia.

She however called on the Chinese government to speed up the construction of the Ministerial Complex, which when completed, will see some government ministries and agencies move from rented and unsuitable structures to a more modern and technological complex.

Finance Minister Boima S. Kamara signed for the Liberian government, while the Chinese Ambassador, Zhang Yue signed on behalf of his government.(APA 03-10-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE'S FINANCIAL SYSTEM REMAINS HEALTHY - APEX BANK

The director of banking supervision at the Bank of Mozambique, Joana Matsombe has said the country's financial system is in good health despite the bailout of Mozambique's fourth largest bank, Moza Banco, APA can report on Monday.

Addressing the media in Maputo on Monday, Matsombe said that the average solvency ratio in Mozambican banks is 15 per cent, almost double the minimum requirement of 8 per cent and the average return on equity is also 15 per cent, while the average return on assets is 1.3 per cent, describing it as "within international standards".

"There is no reason for alarm since the liquidity problem was restricted to Moza Banco," she said.

The problems at Moza Banco had occurred this year while in mid-2015 the bank's solvency ratio was healthy, and it was only in 2016 that the ratio fell below the minimum required.

Matsombe said the main cause was the failure of the shareholders to recapitalize Moza Banco, even though a shareholders' meeting had earlier decided to recapitalize.

"They did not fully comply with their own decision and they only complied with it 80 per cent", said Matsombe

On top of the failure to inject new capital was Moza Banco's ambitious expansion programme. The bank's fixed assets grew substantially, as it opened new branches across the country, and there were also significant increases in administrative costs.

Matsombe did not believe that bad loans had played a significant role in Moza Banco's downfall. Non-performing loans amounted to 8 per cent of total loans. Although this was higher than the average figure of 5.3 per cent in the Mozambican banking system, Matsombe did not regard it as particularly damaging.

The Bank of Mozambique had held a series of meetings with Moza Banco, at which it called for an adjustment plan from the bank's directors which could restore normality. Emergency measures were taken, including restrictions on new loans and a ban on new deposits.

None of this was sufficient, and on Friday the Bank of Mozambique intervened, suspending the Moza Banco Board of Directors, and appointed a provisional three member board, chaired by Joao Figueiredo, a former chief executive officer of the country's largest commercial bank, the Millennium-BIM.

The task of the provisional board, said Matsombe, is to stabilize Moza Banco and prepare it for sale. "We do not intend to stay there and our task, as the regulator, is not to manage banks", she added.

The official said that Moza Banco will be sold as a whole, and will not be broken up.

"Anyone who wants to buy the bank must have enough and we expected the bank to be sold within six months, "but if that period needs to be extended, it will be", said Matlombe.(APA 03-10-2016)

MTN HIT BY NEW NIGERIAN CHARGE

MTN has been accused of illegally repatriating about $14bn from Nigeria, the mobile network operator's largest market.

The news sent the share price down about 3% to close at R119.77. According to a Bloomberg report, Nigeria's senate said on Tuesday it would investigate the claim thoroughly.

Africa's biggest wireless carrier by sales is accused of repatriating the funds over 10 years starting in 2006, according to Dino Melaye, the politician who tabled the motion. The four banks involved in the alleged illegal transfers are Citigroup, Standard Chartered, and Nigerian lenders Stanbic IBTC Holdings and Diamond Bank.

MTN and Standard Bank Group, which controls Stanbic, declined to comment.

But analysts expressed doubts about the veracity of the claims and how this had gone undetected for such a long time, especially since the Nigerian authorities had tight controls on foreign exchange.

Mergence Investment Managers' portfolio manager Peter Takaendesa said it was difficult to believe that anyone could use top banks that were heavily regulated domestically and internationally to move cash out of the country for such a long period without complying with domestic requirements.

"It would also be quite a surprise if the allegations are proven correct in the Nigerian market, given the Central Bank of Nigeria has tightly controlled the foreign exchange market for quite a long time under the previous foreign exchange policy," he said.

The accusation comes a few months after MTN agreed to pay a 330-billion naira (about $1bn) fine to the Nigerian government and to list its local unit on the country's stock exchange. That penalty was levied for missing a deadline to disconnect 5.1-million unregistered customers in the country.

The initial fine was $5.2bn. MTN's share price has fallen more than 37% since the fine was first reported in October.
MyWealth Investments CEO Devin Shutte said: "Unfortunately, MTN seems to be the gift that keeps taking from shareholders at the moment."
The market needed clarity on the details of these alleged transactions, he said, noting, however, "We can see by the market reaction that many shareholders are not taking chances on what has already been a rough ride with the company of late."
The Nigerian government is under pressure to raise revenue to improve the ailing economy. There is speculation that some politicians in the country were unhappy with the reduction of the fine levied on MTN, and the latest disclosure could be motivated by similar thinking.
"The unfortunate reality is that MTN has made a concerted effort to improve its corporate governance recently, but this latest revelation indicates that there might still be a few skeletons in the closet that need to be dealt with," he said.
Takaendesa said the continuing negative news flow from Nigeria reflected badly on MTN, as well as on Nigeria as an investment destination.
"It is very unlikely that MTN would have moved all these funds to SA, given foreign exchange shortages in Nigeria," he said. (Bloomberg 27-09-2016)

ETHIOPIA CONCLUDE PLANS TO BUILD $50M TOURISM CENTER

As part of efforts to show-case the country's cultural heritage, the Addis Ababa Culture and Tourism Bureau is set to build a tourism center at mount Entoto at a cost of $50 million.

In a statement issued here Friday, head of the Bureau, Gebretsadik Hagos, said that the center to be built on a 114-hectares land will help promote the culture, tradition, dressing, equipment and handicrafts of nations and nationalities of Ethiopia.

Moreover, it helps build the image of the country and increase the number of days tourists stay in Ethiopia, he says.

Design of the center has been finalized two years ago with financial support obtained from the World Bank, he adds.

According to Gebretsadik, the center will comprise cultural and modern sports fields as well as shopping facilities.

The center is set to be completed in five years' time.(APA 23-09-2016)

SWAZILAND TAKES WATER HARVESTING LESSONS FROM UGANDA

Swaziland has learnt from Uganda on how to harvest water for domestic use during its first ever Water and Sanitation Joint Sector Review (JSR), APA reports here on Friday.

The JSR is an event currently undertaken by over 70 countries which helps bring a wide range of stakeholders together on a periodic basis to appraise sector performance.

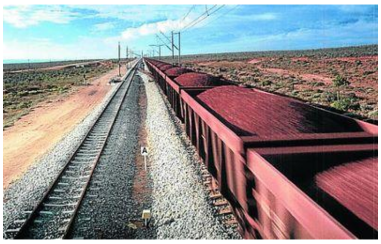
Swaziland hosted this three-day event in Ezulwini in north-west Swaziland where stakeholders from Lesotho, Nepal and the United Kingdom participated.

Natural Resources Minister Jabulile Mashwama said the country was still faced with challenges regarding reaching out to children, women and men with water and sanitation and also how to sustain such services while ensuring affordability and equitability.

“I am very happy to see that such issues have been some of the topics deliberated by you the JSR participants, who represent our wide and diverse range of stakeholders in the water and sanitations sector.”

She assured that the actions identified by the sector would be acted upon, saying this would be made possible by the delegates who were sent to Uganda in 2014 and also the technical assistance provided by the JSR consultant. (APA 23-09-2016)

AFDB SEEKS INVESTORS FOR $7.6BN TANZANIAN RAILWAY LINE



Domestic politics has led countries like Guinea to make costly choices in the development of its rail infrastructure.

The African Development Bank will hold an investors’ roadshow to attract as much as $7.6bn in financing for a railway line linking Tanzania’s port in Dar es Salaam with neighbouring landlocked countries.

The Abidjan, Ivory Coast-based lender is teaming up with the World Economic Forum to help find investors to bankroll the 2,200km line, according to Gabriel Negatu, AfDB’s regional director for East Africa.

"We are convening a meeting of would-be investors to see how best to finance the line," Negatu said in a September 23 interview in Kenya’s capital, Nairobi. "Everyone who can come up with financing, we will recommend them to the Tanzania government."

The planned standard gauge line is "credit positive" and once operational may cement Tanzania’s position as a logistics hub for Eastern Africa, Moody’s Investors Service said on September 15. While President John Magufuli’s government says it will become a major trade artery between Tanzania and its neighbours, research firms such as NKC African Economics say there’s uncertainty about whether regional demand will justify both Kenya and Tanzania operating similar rail networks.

Rwanda, Burundi

The Tanzania line will run from Dar es Salaam port to Rwanda’s capital, Kigali. Two other lines will branch off to Musongati in Burundi and to Mwanza port on the shores of Lake Victoria to service Ugandan shippers. The line to Kigali is expected to ultimately connect to the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Export-Import Bank China may lend Tanzania $7.6bn to finance the railway, the government said in July. Chinese investors will be among those invited to the AfDB financing roadshow, Negatu said.

"If they finance it completely, no one will be more happier than us," he said. "If China comes up with that money, I will kiss their hands."

AfDB wants to co-finance the project, with a strategy to "catalyze financing" and encourage other investors to come on board, he said.

Tanzania’s economy, East Africa’s largest after Kenya, is expected to grow 7.2% this year, partly due to investment in roads and power plants, along with upgrades to ports and airports, according to the International Monetary Fund. The country is the continent’s fifth-biggest gold producer and has estimated reserves of 58 trillion cubic feet of natural gas being developed for export by companies including Statoil ASA and BG Group Plc.

‘Next century’

AfDB holds no "short-term financing view" on the railway line, although most investors would prefer debt repayment periods of as long as 15 years, according to Negatu. The line "can be amortised over 100 years," he said. "It will be profitable — this is a project for the next century."

Kenya is building a similar railway that seeks to connect landlocked countries to Mombasa, its main port. Given that such economies "are not particularly large," it’s "questionable whether the region requires two standard-gauge railway networks connected to two of sub-Saharan Africa’s largest ports," Jacques Nel, an analyst at Paarl, SA-based NKC African Economics, said in an e-mailed response to questions.

The first phase of the Kenyan link, measuring 609km and costing $3.2bn, is scheduled for completion by June 2017. Construction of a second 120km leg will begin by the end of this year, according to the government.

Tanzania is also planning a liquefied natural gas plant that could cost as much as $30bn and a $10bn port at Bagamoyo. It has also agreed to host a $3.6bn pipeline to transport Ugandan crude to its Indian Ocean port at Tanga. (Bloomberg 27-09-2016)

EGYPT'S TOURIST NUMBERS DROP 51.2% IN FIRST HALF OF 2016

Egypt lost over half of its tourists in the first half of 2016 compared with the same period last year, the official statistics agency said on Monday.

Egypt welcomed 2.3 million tourists in the period from January to June 2016, compared to 4.8 million tourists in the same period last year, the Central Agency for Public Mobilisation and Statistics said in a statement issued on the eve of World Tourism Day, commemorated each year on September 27.

The agency mainly ascribed the decline, which totaled to 51.2 percent, to the decrease in number of Russian tourists by 54.9 percent and tourists from the UK by 14.9 percent.

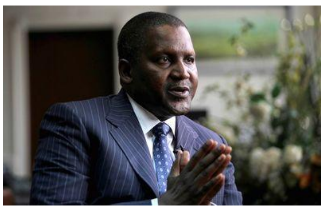
In 2015, 37.7 percent of Egypt's visitors came from Eastern Europe, with Russian tourists at 67.9 percent, while 35.1 percent came from Eastern Europe, with Germany holding the largest share at 31.2 percent.

In October, a charter flight operated by Russian airline Metrojet broke up midair 23 minutes after takeoff from Egypt’s Sharm el-Sheikh Airport as it headed to St. Petersburg, killing all 224 passengers and crew on board.

Moscow suspended all flights to Egypt pending an investigation into the crash. The UK followed suit, halting all flights to and from Sharm el-Sheikh.

As tourist numbers plunged in 2016, the number of nights spent by tourists dropped to 13.5 million nights, compared to 45.9 million nights during the same period of 2015, marking a 70.5 percent decrease. (APA 26-09-2916)

POLITICAL WILL IS WEAK TO MAKE TRAVEL IN AFRICA CHEAPER AND EASIER



Aliko Dangote, Africa’s richest man, is fond of banging the visa drum. He uses many public platforms to urge leaders to make it easier for Africans to travel around their own continent.

Last week was no exception. Dangote, in a television interview in Nigeria with CNBC, said he needed 38 visas to travel across Africa. And it was not always straightforward to get them, he said.

"You go to a country that is looking for investment, that particular country will give you a runaround just to get a visa," he said.

"You have to know somebody who is big in that country to call somebody. They are giving you visas as if it is a favour."

Dangote’s comments will resonate with many people who have battled to get visas timeously for multiple business trips. Only 13 African countries allow other Africans to enter without a visa or give visas on arrival.

South Africans often complain about the hoops they have to jump through to get visas for other African states, but in fact, SA is part of the problem. According to the African Development Bank, 75% of the most visa-friendly countries in Africa are in East Africa.

In Southern Africa, the visa-friendly nations are Mauritius, Madagascar, Zambia and Mozambique. West Africa fares better with six countries regarded as visa-friendly. Nigeria is not among them.

So what about the African passport? The AU launched it earlier in 2016 with some fanfare, and without a hint of irony. Two passports have been issued so far — to the presidents of Rwanda and Chad. That is a start, on a continent of a billion people.

How soon the passports will be implemented will depend on each country and their preparation to distribute widely, the AU says.

But political will for pan-African initiatives mooted on political platforms is in short supply at home in most cases. Even Ethiopia, the home of the AU, requires visas for African visitors.

There are many well-intended AU initiatives that have stalled on the issue of sovereignty and local protection. An often cited one is the Yamoussoukro Agreement to free up African skies. It was signed in 1988 and was due to come into force by 2002. Rather than leading to open skies, the African Airline Association reports that levels of protectionism have increased to protect domestic carriers, where they exist.

Although it is no longer necessary to fly via Europe to access certain African destinations, it can require a time-consuming complicated timetable and extortionate air fares. The concept of an African passport may be a popular symbolic gesture. But it is a red herring for the actual problems on the ground that plague Africans.

There are many things that can be done to make it easier and cheaper to move around the continent that do not require such an ambitious solution.

It is those who want to bring their money in, either to shop, go on holiday or invest, who are bearing the brunt of visa hassles. Many Africans now prefer to take their money to countries that welcome them and give them long-term visas. Some countries cite security. But the Rwandan government, which has introduced visas on arrival for African visitors, says the benefits of bringing new talent and visitors with money to spend far outweighs the potential problems.

Africa’s development challenges, high unemployment rates and security issues are factors used to determine immigration policy. But some of these may be attended to by making it easier to investors, students and others to travel.

There is a rumour that Dangote will be a recipient of an African passport. That might keep him quiet, but it will not change the underlying problem that has become a significant cost to African development and progress.(BD 26-09-2016)

EU SECURES €70M GRANT FOR EGYPT’S EMERGENCY EMPLOYMENT INVESTMENT PROJECT

The European Union (EU) has secured a €70 million grant in favour of Egypt’s Emergency Employment Investment Project, the EU Head of Operations in Egypt, Diego Escalona announced on Monday.

The Emergency Employment Investment Project is being implemented by the World Bank in cooperation with the Egyptian Social Fund for Development (SFD).

The objective of the Emergency Employment Investment Project for Egypt is to: (i) create short-term employment opportunities for the unemployed, unskilled, and semi-skilled workers in selected locations in Egypt; (ii) contribute to the creation and or maintenance of community infrastructure and services; (iii) improve access to basic infrastructure and community services among the target population; and (iv) improve the employability of young men and women through short-term training or other support services to facilitate transitions to wage and self-employment.

The project comprises of four components. The first, employment-intensive small-scale infrastructure sub-projects will finance employment-intensive small infrastructure.

The second component, intensive community service sub-projects and youth employment activities will support labor-intensive community service sub-projects through the provision of grants to local communities (non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community development associations (CDAs)) for sub-projects.

The third component, improving workers' employability will finance the piloting of two types of youth employment support activities, one aimed primarily at youth in urban areas and the second for youth in rural areas, to facilitate transitions into wage- or self-employment.

The fourth component, project implementation and capacity building may finance: consultancy, training cost (tuition, travel, accommodation, per diem, etc.), non-consultancy services, material, office supplies, etc.(APA 26-09-2016)

OIL WORKERS THREATEN TO SHUT DOWN NIGERIA OVER PLANNED SALE NATIONAL ASSETS

Nigerian senior oil workers under the aegis of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Senior Staff Association of Nigeria (PENGASSAN) have threatened to shut down the country if the Federal Government should carry out its plan to sell national assets to augment revenue shortfall as a way out of the current economic recession.

In a statement issued by PENGASSAN on Sunday in Lagos, the workers described the plan to sell the national assets as a self-destructive move to Nigeria, saying that the plan meant to solve short term financial obligations is targeted at handing over our collective common wealth to a few individuals and further impoverish the rest of our country men and women.

They advised that instead of selling those assets, the government should look for other ways of increasing the revenue base of the country, while plugging loopholes and leakages in government's finances.

It further advised the governments at all levels to pump out money through execution of capital projects and payment of workers' salaries to revive the economy.

They, however, cautioned the Federal Government to be wary of such plan as the association will not sit back and watch national assets, especially those in the oil and gas industry such as NLNG that has become a huge revenue earner for Nigeria, refineries and shares in the upstream oil and gas Joint Venture operations being shared among those in power and their cronies.

Any attempt to sell these national assets will be met with stiff resistance from the association as PENGASSAN will galvanize every support, including that of our sister union and labour centres to shut down this country by ensuring that every activity in the oil and gas sector is brought to a complete halt,� the statement said.

Some opportunists in the clothes of businessmen and short sighted politicians had earlier advocated for the sale of the public assets such as the Nigerian LNG, four state-owned refineries, Nigeria's stakes in

Africa Finance Corporation (AFC), the nation's airports and reduction of government's shares in upstream oil joint venture operations and this was approved by the National Economic Council (NEC). (APA 26-09-2016)

KENYA WILL ROLL OUT THE FIRST CHILD-FRIENDLY TB DRUG

Kenya will become the first country to adopt and roll out at the national level the world's first tuberculosis treatment for children next week.

At least 1 million children are infected with TB every year, and approximately 140,000 children die annually from the disease according to the World Health Organization, though experts fear the number is much higher. The drug's adoption in Kenya aims to correct a gap in TB treatment that frequently led to incorrect dosages and fueled drug-resistant strains of the disease. The majority of TB-infected children worldwide rely on crushed up, loosely estimated portions of adult dosages, although the roll-out in Kenya is the first of at least three other countries committed at the national level to fixing the problem.

The program comes through a partnership between WHO, Global Alliance for TB Drug Development and UNITAID To develop and bring the drug through clinical trials, and will be implemented by the Kenyan government, local and international partners, including the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. The collaboration will also serve as a model for the 17 other countries planning to adopt and roll-out the drug in coming years. The partnership has created new opportunities for these and other organizations to work together across sectors on issues facing children.

"Even though the main milestone was to get the product on the market, that gave us the opportunity to really galvanize support for children's TB, to get a conversation going outside of the medical arena," Dr. Cherise Scott, director of pediatric programs at TB Alliance told Devex.

"Because of this we've committed new players to the fight against TB, organizations like Save the Children and UNICEF, people we wouldn't have reached if we were focusing on TB broadly," she said.

Kenya is classified as a high-burden country for TB by the WHO, and Scott confirmed it will be the first to roll out the drug in a national health program since the formulation was approved in November 2015. More than 17 other governments have placed orders for the drug, and several others plan to implement national programs, Mario Raviglione, director of the global TB program at the WHO told Devex in a phone interview.

"Uganda, the Philippines and India will roll out a national program, meaning once those are running, the majority of children with TB will have access to the correct formulation worldwide," he said.

Kenya, he explained, has been extremely eager to begin roll-out, made easier by its well-established and relatively decentralized network of TB clinics. Other interested countries, however, are not far behind in moving the drug forward.

For Raviglione, it was crucial to reorient the partnerships approach, from working with other health and TB-focused organizations to joining forces with those working on maternal and child health as well as education. These newer collaborations helped correct a small flaw in Kenya's implementation of TB-related services which previously left children in a lurch.

"National TB programs deliver [medicines] through program clinics," he said, explaining that TB symptoms can be tough to detect, especially in young children, and often the facilities that offer health services to mothers and children are separate from those with staff trained to detect TB. When mothers brought their children to these pediatrics-focused clinics, the symptoms of TB were often missed.

"In many countries these kinds of services are not well connected to the national programs," he said. "You would be astonished, there's so many organizations, private ones too, that work in issues related to children, so simply getting them involved in informing people about child TB goes a very long way," he said.

Raviglione emphasized that even though well-heeled organizations such as the Global Fund provide generous funding for TB programs, "only 15-20 percent of this money goes to TB, despite being the number one killer among infectious diseases," he said. This is one reason it's taken so long to develop child-safe formulations and dosages, he added, and yet another reason why those working on TB must cross sectors to achieve the greatest impact. (Devex 26-09-2016)

DANGOTE EYES $20BN NEW INVESTMENTS IN NIGERIA, OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES

The Chairman of Dangote Group, Alhaji Aliko Dangote, says that he plans to increase his investments in Nigeria and across the continent by injecting about N6.09tn (about $20bn) into projects despite the current economic challenges.

A statement issued by the group on Sunday in Lagos said that Dangote made the commitment in New York, United States, where he was named the 2016 African Business Leader by the US-based organisation, Africa-America Institute, for his contribution to human capital development through the establishment of businesses across the continent.

Local media reports quoted Dangote as saying that the investment areas would include petroleum refinery, petrochemicals, fertiliser, gas pipeline, and backward integration in sugar and rice production.

Last year alone, we commenced cement operations in Ethiopia, Zambia, Cameroon, South Africa, Senegal and Tanzania. By 2019, we will have operations in 18 countries with a total capacity of nearly 80 million metric tonnes per annum, thus making us the largest cement producer in Africa and the sixth largest in the world.

Over the next few years, we will also be investing nearly $20bn in projects ranging from a petroleum refinery, petrochemicals, fertiliser, gas pipeline, and backward integration in sugar and rice production. These projects will create over 250,000 jobs and provide foreign exchange earnings and savings of $16bn for the country and help diversify our economy. Central to this developmental trajectory is the need for capacity building and ramping up of the quality of skills of a fast-growing African workforce,� Dangote said.

According to the reports, Dangote, who was presented with the award at a ceremony held on the sidelines of the United Nations congress, alongside other prominent Africans, said that the award would further encourage him to redouble efforts towards promoting the continent's economic renaissance.

Despite the current economic challenges, we will continue to scale up the value of our investments not only in Nigeria, but also across the entire continent, because we believe in Nigeria and Africa's potential, Dangote added. (APA 26-09-2016)

UN MISSION TO CONDUCT ANTI-POACHING IN CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The United Nations Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) plans to conduct patrols in the Bayanga area where one of the wildlife parks is located, to thwart poaching which is rampant there, a source close to the UN mission in Bangui told APA on Monday.

The objective of these patrols will prevent the multiplication of cases of poaching in the Dzanga Sangha Trinational Park.

The peacekeepers will act together with the anti-poaching brigade composed of elements from Cameroon, Congo and the Central African Republic.

They are working in the Dzanga Sangha Trinational Park to conserve protected species.

The Park that CAR shares with Congo and Cameroon contains protected animal species such as elephants and gorillas. (APA 26-09-2016)

EXTERNAL INVESTMENT PLAN: HELPING THE NEIGHBOURHOOD REGION ACHIEVE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

EU High Representative for foreign affairs Federica Mogherini and Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations Johannes Hahn explain in a joint Op-ed that with the External Investment Plan, the EU is taking its aid policies to the next level, by involving the private sector in order to achieve a sustainable growth and the transformation agreed in the Sustainable Development Goals.

The plan aims to leverage more than EUR 40 billion in investments in the broader neighbourhood. *"That is more than the EU currently invests on aid worldwide. This amount could be doubled if our member states match the EU contribution,"* underlined the EU officials.
They explained that the European Fund for Sustainable Development will guarantee private investors against the risk they face when they start a business in developing countries. *"This guarantee will not only promote single projects but also larger "investment windows" in strategic regions or sectors."*

The Plan will be accompanied by policy dialogues and capacity building activities. A "one stop shop" will encourage private and institutional investors, from both Europe and partner countries, to channel their proposals and to gather information on the incentives and the investment windows. The External Investment Plan will provide technical assistance to enhance the quality, the number and the sustainability of projects. The European Commission, the European Investment Bank and other international financial institutions – with the specialist advice of private operators – will work hand in hand to deliver a swift and business-oriented screening of projects.(EC 26-09-2016)

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