

MEMORANDUM

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EU AND 79 AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES JOIN FORCES FOR AMBITIOUS GLOBAL CLIMATE DEAL

As UN climate negotiations enter their final days, the European Union and the group of 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific States today stressed their shared commitment for an ambitious and binding global climate deal to be agreed in Paris.

The EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific states have agreed:

- the Paris Agreement must be legally binding, inclusive, fair, ambitious, durable and dynamic
- it must set out a clear and operational long-term goal which is in line with science
- it must establish a review mechanism for countries to come together every five years to consider progress made and to enhance collective and individual efforts as appropriate
- it must include a transparency and accountability system to track progress on the delivery of national commitments and the sharing of best practice

EU Climate Action and Energy Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete, Minister for Environment of Luxembourg holding the Presidency of the Council of the European Union, Carole DIESCHBOURG, and Secretary-General of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, Patrick Gomes, highlighted the longstanding cooperation and common understanding between the two groups of countries in the fight against climate change. They agreed that the 79 ACP countries and the 28 European Union Member States will push together for an ambitious agreement in Paris.

Miguel Arias Cañete and Patrick Gomes welcomed the signing of the 11th European Development Fund Intra-ACP Strategy by the ACP Group and the European Commission, which allocates €475 million to support climate action, resilience building and the environment in ACP countries up to 2020.

Commissioner Miguel Arias Cañete said: *“These negotiations are not about “them” and “us”. These negotiations are about all of us, both developed and developing countries, finding common ground and solutions together. This is why the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries have agreed to join forces for an ambitious outcome here in Paris. We urge other countries to join us. Together we can do it. The EU stands shoulder to shoulder with its long term partners in the African, Caribbean and Pacific regions.”*

ACP Secretary General Patrick Gomes stressed the importance of supporting ACP Countries to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change, stating: *“The EU and the ACP Group represent a great majority of countries in the world and we want an ambitious Paris Agreement to accelerate the global transition that we urgently need. Now is the time for leaders to be ambitious. The adverse impacts of climate change threaten the world as a whole, including the very survival of the 79 countries of the ACP Group, while impeding their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals”.*

The Paris climate conference, scheduled to run from 30 November to 11 December, is due to conclude a new international agreement to limit global average temperature rise and avoid the most dangerous consequences of climate change. (EC 08-12-2015)

[ACP Declaration on the Paris Climate Change Conference \(COP21\)](#)

[ACP Issues Paper on the Paris Climate Change Conference \(COP21\)](#)

AFRICA RICE BOSS TO ASSESS SIERRA LEONE'S RICE PRODUCTION CAPACITY

The Director General of the Abidjan-based Africa Rice is on a visit to Sierra Leone to assess the country's rice production capacity, the Ministry of Agriculture announced here Monday.

Harold Roy-Macauley is in the country to also look at the possibility of deploying Africa Rice's new variety, officials added.

The visiting official is scheduled to tour rice research stations across the country. He was also scheduled to hold discussions with the Minister of Agriculture and officials of the Sierra Leone Agricultural Research Institute. (APA 08-12-2015)

CANADIAN ORGANISATION LAUNCHES INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT JOBLESS UGANDAN YOUTHS

A Canada-based organization, MasterCard Foundation, has launched an initiative worth 37 billion US dollars targeting about 150,000 jobless Ugandan youths.

The five-year Youth Forward Initiative (YFI) project is to run up to 2020 in 12 northern Ugandan districts.

The deputy director of Youth Livelihood for MasterCard Foundation, Meredith Lee, said they target those out-of-school, unemployed or underemployed, seeking quality employment or the opportunity to start their own businesses in agricultural and construction sector.

She said the same project has also kicked off in Ghana to address the issues of high unemployment rate among the youth.

The entire project in the two countries is worth \$74 million targeting over 200,000 jobless youth.

"We are going to use a holistic approach that combines, market-relevant skills training, mentor ship, internships and financial support to help young people get out of poverty into sustainable livelihoods," Meredith Lee added.

With the initiative, the youths will also be taught to start new businesses in their areas like spraying, input supplies, and post-harvest handling, among others.

The project comes as Uganda grapples with high rates of youth unemployment. (APA 08-12-2015)

CHEAP DEVICES AND AFRICAN MARKET TO POWER GLOBAL SMARTPHONE GROWTH

Global smartphone shipments are losing steam but lower priced devices and the African market are likely to be an engine of growth, says an international research organisation.

The International Data Corporation (IDC) last week forecast that global smartphone growth will hit 9.8% in 2015 — the segment's first ever single-digit growth.

The IDC attributed the slowdown to slowing demand in China, but the research organisation has argued that lower-priced smartphones are expected to drive growth in Africa and other parts of the globe.

"The smartphone growth will come from the low-priced smartphones (under \$150)," Joseph Hlongwane, an IDC SA research analyst, told Fin24.

Further IDC data showed that shipments to the Middle East and Africa are set to grow at 50%, surpassing those to India and Indonesia.

"With the other regions slowing down, Africa has become very crucial to manufacturers. Africa's smartphone market is expected to grow — especially the low priced smartphone (segment). However, the key for success in Africa will be to launch the right product at the right price point," Mr Hlongwane said.

The IDC said that Android will marginally increase its global market share from 81% to 82%, while Apple's iOS operating system for iPhones should remain flat at about 14%.

The organisation forecast that Microsoft would see a 10.2% decline in its global market share despite investments in its Windows operating system.

Meanwhile, Chinese manufactures such as ZTE and Xiaomi have already actively targeted the lower price market segment in SA while Xiaomi has also entered the local space. Xiaomi, which promotes its own Android flavour MIUI, has launched its Mi 4 in SA on contracts starting at R229 per month.

"I think that the diversity in Android is the driver of its success. The OS offers the consumer a variety of handset brands and models to choose from, and a broad range of prices. Due to these reasons, I see Android OS dominating the smartphone market for many years to come," Mr. Hlongwane told Fin24. (Fin24 08-12-2015)

BRITISH BUSINESSMEN DELEGATION VISITS CAMEROON

A delegation of 24 British businessmen on a mission in Cameroon, was on Tuesday met by Prime Minister Philemon Yang, APA noted here.

Addressing the press at the end of their meeting the British High Commissioner to Cameroon, John Brian Olley, said that the investors were particularly interested in agriculture, education, energy, infrastructure, mining, health "and especially the banking sector."

The same investors had already visited Cameroon from 28 to 30 April, 2015 in the wake of a conference on investment held a month earlier.

Relations between Cameroon and Great Britain date back to the 19th century, when British traders were dominant in the commercial activity along the West African coast.

Diplomatic relations between the UK and Cameroon are generally presented as "good" by both parties as the British presence in the country is felt particularly through companies like Shell (petroleum), Guinness (beer industry) or the Standard Chartered Bank but also through human rights, pro-democracy and environmental NGOs.

In recent years, the UK, through the European Development Fund (EDF) contributed annually between CFA 6 billion and 7 billion CFA francs to fund development projects in Cameroon. (APA 08-12-2015)

AFRICAN LEADERS MUST WORK ENGAGE PRIVATE SECTOR FOR CLIMATE FINANCING

More than ever, Africa needs to mobilize its investments, to stimulate sustainable development on the continent to increase its resilience.

A press statement issued Monday by the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) quotes Andrew Norton, Director of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), saying that Africa needs to rely on the private sector to engage the continent on a path of sustainable, low carbon emissions.

Speaking at a parallel session themed: Climate change in Africa: financing sustainable pathways for development, Mr. Norton said it is now important for African governments to provide a favorable and reliable environment for investment.

Furthermore, the proposed market and financing mechanisms should be suited to Africa's needs. He said that the less advanced countries "should be better targeted in order to better target funding."

According to Kurt Lonsway, Chief of the Division of Environmental and Climate Change of the African Development Bank (AfDB), private sector investment in climate action is crucial for transformational impact. "That is why the African Development Bank and its partners are determined to promote investment, and improve the environment in order to strengthen the commitment of the African private sector," he said.

Lord Nicholas Stern of the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change and the Environment said Africa needs to search for innovative financing. He cited as an example, the case of Ethiopia and lauded its late leader, Prime Minister Meles Zenawi for his foresight in promoting research funding in infrastructural development. He also mentioned the BRICS and Asia, as sources from which Africa can obtain funding for its development.

Eric Postel, Associate Administrator of USAID, said the initiative of President Barack Obama titled 'Africa Power', for example, has already attracted thousands of investors and \$21 billion in investment pledges.

The African Climate Policy Centre organized the session to allow discussions on the different options

available for African policy makers to adopt innovative funding strategies to accelerate sustainable and resilient growth.

The countries pledged to formulate, by the end of 2015, in Paris, a global agreement on climate change, which should take effect in 2020. This agreement, it is hoped, should be largely dedicated to ways to mobilize some US\$100 billion per year to mitigate climate change and ways to adapt to its inevitable consequences. (APA 08-12-2015)

CHINA PLANS NEW LOANS TO AFRICA DESPITE SLOWING ECONOMY

Some African countries, hit by lower crude and commodity prices, may seek to renegotiate repayment of existing debts to China, but will not turn down offers of new loans by the Asian giant at a summit this week.

African countries will also seek more Chinese investment in factories manufacturing goods for export in addition to roads and railways on a continent long seen as a major commodities and energy source for China.

Chinese state-owned firms in Africa face criticism for using Chinese labour to build government-funded projects like roads and hospitals, while pumping out resources and leaving little for local economies, an image Beijing wants to change at the Forum on China-Africa Co-operation in Johannesburg on December 3 and December 4.

Chinese President Xi Jinping visits Zimbabwe on December 1-2 and South Africa on December 2-3, before co-chairing the conference in South Africa, which several African heads of state are expected to attend.

Experts are confident China will push ahead with new loan and trade proposals for the continent despite its own slowing economy.

"Key themes for Africa will be Africa's growing debt to China (and) how China's domestic stimulus can reignite commodity demand to help pay off the loans and industrialisation of the continent," said Martyn Davies, managing director for Emerging Markets & Africa at Deloitte.

"Real development is driven not by another \$10bn loan pledge, but by African economies institutionalising intellectual property and not just investment in mines and roads."

China is Africa's largest trading partner. The trade volume between them amounted to \$220bn in 2014, according to China state news agency Xinhua. China's investments in Africa amounted to \$32.4bn at the end of 2014, according to London-based BMI Research.

It has offered loans totalling \$32bn to African nations in the past two years but there is concern that the continent is not benefiting from developing skills or technology from the Asian economic giant, despite its pledges to train thousands of African students and increase technology transfer.

Zhang Ming, a Chinese vice foreign minister, said last week that Beijing would continue to provide support and loans to the continent which supplies oil and raw materials such as copper and uranium to the world's second-largest economy.

Africans broadly see China as a healthy counterbalance to Western influence, though Western governments charge China of turning a blind eye to conflicts and rights abuses on the continent as they pursue trade and aid policies there.

Deeper into debt

"He will not be coming unless they are going to announce a big deal. But you still have to pay for it and it will lead Zimbabwe deeper into a debt crisis," Antony Hawkins, economics professor at University of Zimbabwe's Graduate School of Management said, referring to Xi.

Mr. Davies said African countries could push for loan moratoriums following weak metal and crude prices that have weakened their currencies. From Nigeria in the west to Zambia in the south, currencies have all fallen sharply to the dollar.

"China's loans are often linked to commodity arrangements.

Now that commodity prices have fallen, how will the loans be restructured?" he said. "These talks are likely to be bilateral and not at the plenary sessions." Some also see China's future investment tone changing.

China's investments on the continent range from Zambian power plants, Egyptian trade deals, cobalt mines in Congo, rail links in East Africa and infrastructure in Equatorial Guinea.

But the country's direct investment in Africa has fallen roughly 40% in the first half of 2015 to \$1.19bn, China's commerce ministry said on November 17.

"China is reaching a mature phase of its investment cycle in Africa," said Francesca Beausang, head of Africa Research at BMI Research. "Our infrastructure team's long-standing view is that China will refocus infrastructure investment away from Africa toward developed markets." (Reuters 30-11-2015)

MAPUTO/CATEMBE BRIDGE IN MOZAMBIQUE SCHEDULED FOR COMPLETION IN DECEMBER 2017

Construction work on the Maputo/Catembe bridge and associated road network should be completed in December 2017, in line with the deadline included in the tender document, Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias reported.

The newspaper added that the developer, Empresa de Desenvolvimento de Maputo Sul, had given assurances that the project was progressing according to plan, and that more than half of the pillars planned for the north bank (the Maputo side) had been placed and nearly 90 percent in the south (Catembe side), all on land.

The bridge, which is being built by the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), starts at the extension of national road 1 (EN1) to Praça 16 de Junho, near the National Institute of Communications, where a 1.09-kilometre viaduct begins and runs as far as the tower next to pier 5 of the Port of Maputo.

There will be a suspended section 680 metres long at a height of 60 metres in relation to the sea to allow the navigability of the port of Maputo and in the southern part there is a viaduct that is 1.2 kilometres long.

Construction of the Maputo/Catembe bridge is part of a project that includes connecting roads with the southernmost part of Maputo province, with a final estimated cost of US\$785 million financed through borrowing by the government of Mozambique from the Export Import Bank of China.

With the completion of the bridge and associated road network, it will be possible to travel by road between the north and south of the country, "from the Rovuma to Ponta do Ouro" and connect to the road network of the South African region of Durban. (01-12-2015)

AFRICITIES: YOUTH ACTIVISTS DEMAND MORE STAKE IN GOVT

Youth activists from Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa drawn to the Africities Summit currently taking place in Johannesburg are demanding more say in the running of their affairs at local level.

Speaking in an exclusive interview to the African Press Agency at the end of some lively speeches and film presentations at the Youth and Cities seminar at the Sandton Convention Centre on Tuesday, Michael Uwemedimo, the head of a media centre in Port Harcourt in Nigeria said it is important that young people are given their rightful place in government decision-making especially on issues that directly affect their young lives.

Mr. Uwemedimo, an award winning film producer runs the community built Chicoco Media Centre, housing a waterfront radio station which gives poor residents of the area a voice to be heard by the authorities and practically encourage the development of local capacities to make their neighbourhood a better place to live.

It is important to see young people in partnership with the government, who in principle should be there for the communities they claim to be representing. We want a formal relationship with the authorities for development even if communities will make sacrifices for improvements to take place he said. What is the use of development in the absence of the people Uwemedimo added.

For Isaac Muasa, who heads an environmental group in Madera, the second biggest slum in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, challenges faced by young people should also be viewed as opportunities to reach better levels of development provided that governments are willing to collaborate with youth to change lives in profound ways.

Muasa's Mathare Environmental Conservation Youth Group engages the youth of Madera to reclaim garbage sites and other inaccessible parts of the slum for the benefit of the community including young and old people.

A video show at the seminar depicted the group mobilising members of the community, and engaging politicians to help them with state resources to improve their area in exchange for their votes.

We have been able to create a better environment with very little, so if youth are supported by governments they will do even better. We want communities that have changed markedly away from the challenges he told APA.

Unathi Mfecane, a South African youth member of Slum Dwellers International, a key partner with UN Habitat to improve housing conditions for poor people said youth should raise their voices to be heard and keep pushing the boundaries of possibilities to improve their situation.

Social actions are only meaningful if they help the poor, old women, the disabled and disadvantaged youth to live better lives away from hunger and lack of hygiene among many challenges confronting us today. That would help them become better citizens forging partnerships to fight poverty and want he added.

At the close of the forum, panelists and participants made what they hoped would be a stronger case for youth empowerment to be incorporated into the political agendas of their countries.

Their recommendations which would be handed over to the political leaders led by mayors for consideration and adoption at the end of the Africities summit lamented the untapped and therefore unrealised potential of young people across Africa where millions of them continue to live in abject poverty, daunting illiteracy and fundamentally not seen or heard in the decision-making processes about the future.(APA 01-12-2015)

INDIA LOOKS TO IMPROVE AFRICAN HEALTH

At the recent India-Africa summit in Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi met 54 African heads of state to discuss ways of deepening relationships, including working together to improve public health.

For India, the main goal is to increase its lucrative pharmaceutical exports to Africa, which make up about 16% of total exported items including 85% of all antiretroviral drugs used to treat HIV. African ministers, meanwhile, are keen to copy India's success in developing its drug manufacturing industry, both to secure their own medicine supplies and to give their economies a fillip.

India can be proud of its role in driving down the cost of HIV treatment in Africa and elsewhere through its supply of cheap drugs. It would be unwise, however, to assume that what has worked for HIV will work for all the other health problems faced by Africans and Indians.

HIV has been singled out for attention by western governments, which have poured billions of dollars into health infrastructure in addition to paying for the majority of the (largely Indian-made) antiretroviral drugs that are currently relied on by African patients.

Yet outside a handful of sub-Saharan African countries such as SA, HIV/AIDS constitutes only 3.1% of all deaths (0.77% in India). Far more people die from heart disease, strokes and lung disease, and easily treatable diseases such as diarrhoea remain a leading cause of death.

India manufactures vast quantities of cheap off-patent medicines that could slash death rates for these diseases in Africa and India, but they are not getting to those who need them, either at home or abroad. India is home to 3,000 pharmaceutical companies and 10,500 drugs factories, yet its citizens struggle to access the most basic medicines.

In New Delhi, essential medicines are frequently only available in a quarter of state government facilities, the primary source of free medicines for the majority of India's low-income population.

Across sub-Saharan Africa, clinics and pharmacies frequently fail to stock basics such as antibiotics. Even the cheapest, off-patent medicines are unaffordable to the majority on both continents. A single asthma inhaler can cost 50 days' wages in Mozambique, while in India it can cost 2.3 days wages for the lowest-paid government worker.

These generally unaffordable prices are compounded by long-term failures by African and Indian states to create workable health insurance models. These failures impoverish 63-million Indians a year as a result of healthcare costs, which rarely happens in developed countries.

Even if medicines are provided for free, it means little if the health infrastructure is not there to deliver them. There are only 0.7 doctors per 1,000 of the population in India, well below the three to four seen in most high-income countries.

Relatively wealthy SA has only 0.8 doctors per 1,000 people. These are terrible statistics that are unlikely to improve while governments spend so little on health.

In 2001 there were 189 African governments committed to spending 15% of total government expenditure on health, the minimum amount recommended by the World Health Organisation.

Only Rwanda, Botswana, Zambia and Togo have met this commitment, whereas 19 African countries actually now spend less (SA spends 14%). India only commits 4.3% of government expenditure to health — nowhere near enough.

To improve healthcare in India and Africa, there needs to be more focus on the basics — recruiting staff, building infrastructure, working on pharmaceutical supply chains, committing funds and ensuring people have insurance. India has the resources to make this happen for its people, and it can help Africa develop its own health infrastructure through skills in areas such as telemedicine.

• Banik is a professor of economics at Mahindra Ecole Centrale and a fellow at CUTS International. Stevens is the director of Geneva Network. (BD 01-12-2015)

CABO VERDE RECEIVES 408,000 TOURISTS IN THIRD QUARTER

Hotel establishments in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) received 408,800 guests from January to September, an annual increase of 5.8 percent, while overnight stays totalled 2.6 million or an additional 7.1 percent, reported the National Statistics Institute (INE).

In the third quarter the number of people who stayed on the archipelago's accommodation units totalled 408,800, or an annual increase of 14.9 percent, while the 908,500 overnight stays posted the same percentage change.

Hotels remained the most popular establishments, with 88.2 percent of the total, which was followed by bed and breakfasts, 4.1 percent, inns, with 3.2 percent and tourist villages with 2.3 percent.

The island of Sal is the most popular, with 40.3 percent of all entries, followed by the island of Boavista, with 36.7 percent and Santiago, with 11.9 percent.

The main source of tourists in the third quarter continued to be the United Kingdom, with 25.7 percent of the total, which was followed by Portugal, Germany, resident Cape Verdeans and Belgium/Netherlands, with 15.6 percent, 12.6 percent, 10.1 percent and 7.3 percent, respectively.

The UK was also first in terms of overnight stays, followed by Germany, Portugal and Belgium/Netherlands, with 15.5 percent, 13.3 percent and 8.4 percent, respectively. (01-12-2015)

AFRICA MIGRATION NETWORK LAUNCHED AT AFRICITIES SUMMIT

The Pan-African Network on Migration to further the interests of migrants on the continent and beyond has been launched at the seventh Africities summit being held in the South African city of Johannesburg. A session on the migrant situation was held on Tuesday during which delegates took the floor to share experiences and make recommendations on what the network should be focussing on before it was officially launched at the close of the seminar.

The network is set to form an African chapter of the World Social Forum on Migrations.

Similar to the World Social Forum on Migrations, the Pan- African Network on Migration has as its objective the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants, focussing primarily on African migrants who have migrated to other African countries and other continents.

It will bring together several migrant associations and local governments across Africa in a collaborative effort that will ensure their relations are strengthened.

The Pan-African Network on Migration will be the voice of African migrants, representing African migration on a global scale and working with international organisations such as the African Union, European Union and United Nations.

The importance of Africa uniting in order to solve the migration issue came to the fore during the discussions and it was generally accepted that united local government interventions, through the network is the means by which migration issues can be addressed.

Migration as a natural phenomenon was also highlighted as a human right issue given that people move to find jobs and make a better life for themselves.

Their journeys to other places are often life-changing if not life-threatening with little or no promise of a better quality of life.

According to the Southern African Forum on Migration represented at the summit, migration issues are worsened by the fact that many African cities do not have effective programmes in place to welcome, host and manage the flow of migrants within Africa.

The lack of an effective migrant network that helps host cities deal with an influx of migrants is a gap the Pan-African Network on Migration hopes to fill.

Marc Gbaffou, Chairperson of the African Diaspora Forum (ADF) suggested that the best way to change the current situation concerning migration is through a positive networking system that changes the way such movements of people are viewed.

Let us link our efforts, migration should be seen as a potential for this continent to develop itself he suggested.

The negative perception that migrants steal jobs, perpetrate crime and are bad for a host country needs to change Gbaffou pointed out.

Let us stand united as we want this network to be launched so that we don't see each other as enemies he concluded.

Brice Monnou, the Vice-president of Forum des Organizations de Solidarité Internationale issues des Migrations (FORIM) led calls for the Pan-African Network on Migration to focus on creating a united Africa bringing to the fore the bigger picture to resolve their own problems instead of allowing young people to inherit the cancer of exploiting Africa particularly its resources.

We keep saying Europe is not giving us a chance in the market, but are we giving each other a chance said Blessing, a young South African delegate.

Others referred to the recurrent cycle of Africans leaving their continent to study overseas and the little control over other migrants to other continents where the focus should be on improving their conditions at home so that they can will stay and develop their own countries.

According to a delegate from Burundi, the high rate of youth unemployment creates huge conflicts between those who had completed their studies inside the country and those unable to complete theirs overseas.

In order to develop continental integration, opening of African borders to Africans was also suggested.

A delegate from Cameroon, who arrived in South Africa on Tuesday morning, shared his experience of trying to get to the summit, saying he had struggled to obtain a visa from the South African embassy in his country.

They told me that if I am Cameroonian I need a visa to South Africa but if I was a French citizen no visa was required, I could get a visa on arrival at the airport, he said.

A European is exempted from getting a visa but I, an African should obtain a visa. I was shocked he added.

A recommendation that controlled regional integration should first be achieved before continental integration came from a South African delegate who added: Let's learn to crawl before we can walk.

His concern highlighted the importance of the careful planning needed to make open access to African countries a reality.

The recommendations from the session and the resolutions from the Africities summit regarding migration will be deliberated on as the Pan-African Network on Migration goes forward after the launch, to recognise that migration can be positive for the continent through collaboration and effective management.(APA 01-12-2015)

EGYPTIAN PROFESSORS GAIN INSIGHT INTO JOURNALISM TEACHING METHODS IN IRELAND

Online publications aimed at giving Irish journalism students the opportunity to apply theory to practice were the focus of a recent study tour for two Egyptian professors to the Dublin Institute of Technology's School of Media, organised as part of the EU-funded MedMedia peer-to-peer programme.

The two Egyptian teachers were given a unique insight into the use of student websites as a tool for developing journalism skills. They hope to integrate a similar approach into the curriculum at the Misr University of Science and Technology near Cairo where they teach, with a view to improving the employability of their journalism graduates.

MedMedia's peer-to-peer mentoring programme works to facilitate an exchange of expertise between media organisations across the Mediterranean. It is part of a wider project which aims to create an enabling environment for media reform in the MENA region.

The EU-funded **MedMedia** project aims to create an enabling environment for media reforms in the Southern Mediterranean region. It is part of the €17 million EU programme "Media and culture for development in the Southern Mediterranean" which aims at supporting the media and culture reform processes in the region.

MedMedia focuses on media legislation, regulation, programming, strategy and leadership with a view to helping state media fulfil their public service mandate and compete with the commercial sector. It will

also work to build public trust by strengthening the media's role as an independent watchdog and a forum for democratic debate. (EU Neighbourhood 02-12-2015)

NIGERIA TO ASSIST SOUTH SUDAN IN DEBT MANAGEMENT

Nigeria is to assist South Sudan in managing its huge debt profile and develop its bonds market, the Director-General of Nigeria's Debt Management Officer (DMO), Dr. Abraham Nwankwo, has said.

Speaking on Tuesday when he received a South Sudan delegation on a study tour in his office in Abuja, Nwankwo stressed the need for cooperation among African countries.

He also assured the delegation that Nigeria would assist South Sudan to set up its own Debt Management Office.

“This visit has opened a new door for economic cooperation between Nigeria and Sudan to share our knowledge, experience and also to learn from each other.

“We are happy that rather than going to European or industrialised Asian countries, you came to Nigeria. This shows the spirit of African solidarity,” he said.

Mr. Philip Boldit, a member of the delegation and Director-General, Directorate of Macroeconomic Planning, South Sudan, noted that there are currently no records to establish the debt of South Sudan.

“The debt profile of South Sudan was incurred locally through the commercial banks and the central bank. This is because we could not borrow internationally due to the insecurity in the country.

“In fact, most of the borrowings were through the central bank. The central bank is supposed to be the last resort but we abused it.

“This resulted in the apex bank printing more money, which meant more money in the market and it caused the devaluation of our currency.

“So, we have a very high inflation which can only be brought down when we devise ways to manage our debts properly,” he said.(APA 01-12-2915)

SWAZILAND: UBOMBO SUGAR BUYS \$77 000 IRRIGATION WATER PER MONTH

Swaziland's sugar producers, Ubombo Sugar Limited (USL) is now incurring additional production costs of over E1 million per month in purchasing water for irrigation due to the drought, APA reports here on Tuesday.

This is money the company pays to the Swaziland Water and Agricultural Development Enterprise (SWADE) for irrigation water, which SWADE releases from the Lubovane Dam located at Siphofaneni in the driest region.

SWADE officials said Ubombo Sugar pays about \$138.5 to irrigate a hectare of sugar cane and due to the supply of Ubombo Sugar; the officials said the dam has dropped from 69 per cent holding capacity to 68 per cent.

Despite the ongoing drought, we still have enough water here at Lubovane Dam. This is mainly because the dam is not fully utilised, so that it why we have managed to supply Ubombo Sugar, said one of the officials.

USL Managing Director (MD), Oswald Magwenzi, announced early November that the company was struggling in watering its cane fields adequately after the level at Great Usuthu river dropped to its lowest level. (APA 08-12-2015)

TUNISIA: EU ALLOCATES €25 MILLION TO CULTURE AND PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION TWINNING PROGRAMMES

The EU has allocated a total of €25 million to support the culture sector and the reform of public administration in Tunisia.

The support programme to the culture sector, funded with €6 million, aims at supporting the strategy of the Ministry of culture and heritage and supporting actors in the culture sector to promote events, actions and initiatives. It will be implemented by the European Union National Institutes for Culture Network (EUNIC).

Another two agreements have been signed funding two new phases of the support programme to the Association Agreement with a total of €18.6 million. This will support twinning activities between Tunisian and European administrations with the aim of infusing new working methods and modernising Tunisia's public administration.

"With this assistance package, the EU reaffirms its support to Tunisia, which amounts to €187 million in 2015," said Head of EU Delegation in Tunisia Laura Baeza. (EU Neighbourhood 02-2-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE TO SET LIMITS ON USE OF CREDIT, DEBIT CARDS

The Reserve Bank of Mozambique, Banco de Mocambique, BM has announced plans to set limits on the use of Mozambican credit and debit cards as part of a series of measures being placed to shore up the country's currency, the metical, APA learns here on Tuesday.

Central bank governor, Ernesto Gove, said that huge amounts of money were leaving the country through the unrestrained use of credit and debit cards abroad and this type of spending has risen dramatically.

The metical depreciated against the US dollar by 35.05 per cent between 1 November 2014 and 31 October 2015 on the Inter-Bank Exchange Market.

Despite the central bank raising its interest rates twice in October and November, the depreciation of the metical gathered pace in mid-November sparking off price rises, since companies found that the metical price for everything they imported suddenly rose substantially.

Analysts say this threatens the government's target for an inflation rate in 2015 of no more than 5.6 per cent.

Gove said the central bank would introduce a range of measures intended to stabilize the currency, and eventually reverse the depreciation and the point of using credit and debit cards abroad was to pay for such things as holiday, health and education expenses, but not to make commercial imports, for which there exist normal mechanisms controlled by the central bank.

For Gove, in the very near future, the Bank of Mozambique will impose limits on the use of credit and

debit cards abroad and this will mean changes to the computer systems used by the commercial banks.

The official did not reveal what the limits would be, but guaranteed that travelers could still use their cards to pay for legitimate expenses.

We will see whether this provision is being obeyed, he said.

The Bank of Mozambique would also strengthen its banking supervision and exchange control departments, he pledged. (APA 01-12-2015)

ETHIOPIA: PEACE TALKS BEGINS BETWEEN TWO CONFLICTING SOMALIA STATES

Peace talks between the autonomous Somali state of Puntland and the neighboring Galmudug state has re-started following clashes between them that claimed the lives of 20 people last week.

According to information released on Tuesday from Ethiopia's foreign ministry a federal government delegation led by Prime Minister Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke is in Galkayo town that falls on the border of the two states to broker the peace deal.

Galkayo is divided into two zones, with the northern part of the city forming part of Puntland state, while the southern part is under the Galmudug administration.

The fighting erupted after an argument involving the construction of a new road by Galmudug state in the town, which was halted by Puntland forces.

Local elders from the two sides held ceasefire negotiations early last week and agreed to a deal under which the two sides pulled back forces from the frontlines and started negotiations to avoid further clashes. However, fighting resumed again last Wednesday.

Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud in a statement on Sunday called on the two sides to avoid further bloodshed, warning that his government would take a tough position towards any further fighting.(APA 01-12-2015)

The Memorandum is supported by the Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association and other organisations.



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