

MEMORANDUM

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THE EU AND NIGERIA START NEGOTIATIONS ON READMISSION

Following the launch of the new [Partnership Framework with third countries](#) by the Commission on 7 June 2016, in which Nigeria is one of the five priority countries, the Commission and Nigeria today began negotiations in Abuja for a readmission agreement to establish procedures for the return and readmission of irregular migrants to Nigeria. Dimitris **Avramopoulos**, Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, said: *"Nigeria is a strategic partner of the EU in Africa to manage migration comprehensively and jointly. Readmission and return is one of the elements of our partnership and today's launch of negotiations marks an important step forward in our cooperation."* A coherent, credible and effective return policy, in full respect of human rights and the principle of non-refoulement, is one element of this new comprehensive approach with countries of origin and transit, aimed at making a deeper investment in tackling the root causes of irregular migration, fighting smugglers and traffickers of human beings, ensuring adequate protection for people on the move, fostering sustainable development and stability, and opening opportunities for regular migration, while humanitarian and human rights imperatives remain at the core of all actions. (EC 27-10-2016)

RWANDA VOWS TO WORK TOWARD MOROCCO'S RETURN TO AU



Rwandan Head of State, Paul Kagame reiterated his country's support to Morocco's return to the African Union (AU).

Kagame has called for a "prompt and unconditional admission" of Morocco in the "Panafrican institution" as early as the next AU Summit.

This commitment is contained in a joint statement issued on Sunday in Kigali at the end of the official visit (18-23 October) by the Moroccan sovereign to the East Africa country.

Kigali and Rabat have decided in this context to strengthen, "from now on", their consultations and coordination at all levels and on various regional, continental and multilateral issues, the text notes.

In last September, Morocco officially requested to return to the African Union, an organization that Rabat had left in 1984 in protest against the admission of the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic (SADR).

The AU summit will be held in late January in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), headquarters of the continental organization. (APA 23-10-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE SEEKS FUNDING FOR SOCIAL PROTECTION

Mozambique's Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Oldemiro Baloi says his government believes it important to set up a social fund to meet the growing needs for basic social protection, and to improve the living conditions of the most vulnerable strata of the population, APA has observed here on Sunday. According to state-controlled weekly newspaper, Domingo, The official was addressing the Second

National Conference on Basic Social Protection, on Saturday and he was representing Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario.

Baloi said the mobilization of resources to implement social protection programmes is crucial in order to meet the current challenges posed in this area.

According to Baloi, these challenges concern the expansion of social protection to more citizens, and improving the size of the payments and the quality of the services provided.

“Obviously the mobilisation of resources to implement basic social protection programmes is crucial, under any circumstances, to improve living conditions in the communities and the establishment of a social fund that can respond to the growing needs of the population is also crucial”, he said.

Baloi added that various institutions have been working to improve the lives of the most vulnerable members of society, and have implemented a variety of programmes to assist groups living in poverty.

The government has been channelling assistance to the neediest strata through the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Welfare.

Representing the government’s partners, Marcoluigi Corsi, of the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), guaranteed that they will continue to support the government in this area.

“We know that social protection has multiple positive impacts on the life of the beneficiaries”, said Corsi. “However, if transformational change is to occur, then a series of necessary instruments must be made available.

Continued political support must be guaranteed, and the establishment and implementation of a favourable framework of socio-economic policies and favourable legislation, as well as the provision of social assistance combined with protective actions and access to basic social services”.

The conference is supported by the World Bank and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).(APA 23-10-2016)

THE EU HAS ANNOUNCED NEW ACTIONS TO RESPOND TO THE EL NIÑO AND FOOD SECURITY CRISIS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Four new actions worth €66.5 million will be funded under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa to address the destructive impacts of the El Niño phenomenon in the Horn of Africa region, such as floods and droughts.

El Niño is the phenomenon of rising temperatures of surface sea water, which causes different extreme events such as floods and droughts. This package of development assistance focuses on the four countries that are most severely hit by El Niño and that are experiencing the highest levels of food insecurity: Ethiopia (€22.5 million), Somalia (€8 million), South Sudan (€28 million) and Sudan (€8 million). It focusses on short and long-term solutions for vulnerable groups and combines measures for relief, rehabilitation and development.

Neven Mimica, Commissioner responsible for International Cooperation and Development, said: *“When people are at risk of starvation, we have to mobilize our means – and have to do it fast. With these four actions we are providing an immediate response in the Horn of Africa. This clearly demonstrates the value of the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa as a highly swift and responsive tool in critical situations.”*

Droughts and other climate change-related occurrences are a major driver of displacement in the region. They have the potential of increasing food insecurity and as a consequence fuelling tensions and local conflicts over scarce resources and livelihood opportunities. To maximise the impact of EU action and to support a broader development response in the region, this package will be channelled through the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa. The Trust Fund, which aims at tackling instability and addressing the

root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, is already delivering actions worth €370 million in the [Horn of Africa](#) region.

The four resilience-oriented projects will contribute to:

- Peace-building and economic development;
- Empowering vulnerable groups to meet food and nutrition needs by created linkages with markets;
- Developing more efficient water management systems and resilient agricultural practices;
- Creating income generating opportunities to help poor households become self-sufficient and therefore enhance community livelihoods;
- Strengthening capacity of local institutions for service delivery, thereby supporting vulnerable communities;
- Support social networks in resolving community conflicts in a peaceful manner.

Background:

These actions are part of the EU global response to the El Niño phenomenon, worth almost €550 million (of which €258.5 are allocated to countries in East Africa).

They will also build upon, and complement, two previous packages of actions worth a total of €370 million for the Horn of Africa region, with [€253 million](#) and [€117 million](#) adopted in December 2015 and April 2016 respectively, as an ongoing response to the commitments made by the EU and African partners at the Valletta summit on migration in November 2015.(EC 25-10-2016)

On the Trust Fund for Africa: https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/regions/africa/eu-emergency-trust-fund-africa_en

IRELAND PLEDGES SUPPORT TO MOZAMBIQUE LABOR SECTOR

Mozambique will receive support from Ireland in the areas of labor administration and employment within the framework of cooperation between the two countries, APA can report on Tuesday.

To this end, a technical team made up of staff from the Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security (MITESS) linked to the areas of Employment and Labour Market Observatory, are in Ireland since Sunday at the invitation of local authorities to formalise the deal.

The Mozambican Ministry of Labor, Employment and Social Security says in a statement emailed to APA on Tuesday that the visit, which is expected to end on Friday, takes place in the framework of the cooperation program covering employment, vocational training, statistics and information system of the labor market.

The document points to these areas that Ireland has demonstrated greater commitment and achieved significant results not only within Europe, but also worldwide.

According to the statement, the team that went to Ireland took the components of professional or vocational training, creation and management of an information system on the labor market, its collection, qualitative and quantitative analysis, systematization and dissemination as some of the major challenges of the labor sector.

"With this mission, we expect to be laying the foundations for the establishment of cooperative ties, the MITESS can take advantage to improve their performance in the materialization of the objectives of the governance program, in particular on employment, which is the epicenter of its agenda" the statement said.(APA 25-10-2016)

BURKINA: POOR MANAGEMENT CAUSES CFA551BLN IN MINING SECTOR LOSSES



The Parliamentary Inquiry Commission into Burkina Faso's mining sector has uncovered losses of over CFA551 billion blamed on the lackluster management of mining title deeds between 2005 and 2015, an official leading the inquiry told APA on Tuesday.

The inquiry covered 12 operating mines, two gold mining sites, three semi-mechanized sites and two quarries, according to the president of the Commission, Ousseni Tamboura.

As per the details of losses, the state lost nearly CFA2.4 billion in superficial taxes, and CFA101.2 billion in import taxes.

The Commission also indexed dubious exemptions amounting to about CFA177.5 billion.

Only six companies have paid dividends to the state amounting to about CFA15 billion, with a shortfall of CFA21 billion.

The fraudulent export of gold incurred losses of nearly CFA74 billion to the state.

With more than 5,700 direct jobs, a 12-percent contribution to the GDP and 20 percent of income taxes for the state, the gold sector has risen since 2010, as the country's top exporter, overtaking cotton.

The commission is composed of members from both the ruling party and the opposition. (APA 25-10-2016)

EU ANNOUNCES NEW SUPPORT TO TACKLE ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION IN SENEGAL

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, and the President of Senegal, Macky Sall, have today signed two projects worth € 60 million.

They will be financed under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa, and their aim is to develop economies and businesses in departure zones of migrants and improve living conditions in rural areas. They also signed two projects in support of food security and agricultural development and of the rule of law, financed by the 11th European Development Fund, for a total value of € 30 million.

The signature of these agreements took place on the occasion of Commissioner **Mimica's** visit to Senegal where he attended a conference on "Migrations, governance and development in West Africa" hosted by President Macky Sall. Commissioner **Mimica** delivered the opening speech at the conference which is taking place days before the first anniversary of the Valletta Summit on migration between EU and African leaders.

These financing agreements confirm the EU's commitment to strengthening cooperation on migration with West African countries by addressing root causes of migration. This is in line with the [new partnership framework approach](#) of the European Union, that aims at deepening cooperation with countries of origin and transit. Senegal is one of the five priority countries with which the EU is implementing this approach. It further reinforces the already good relations between Senegal and the European Union.

The visit is also an occasion to present the Commission's proposal for a new [External Investment Plan](#) which aims to provide an integrated framework to boost investments in Africa. Senegal is an excellent example where such an instrument could be used to support private sector and enhance the investment climate.

On the occasion of the signature of the four projects, Commissioner **Mimica** said: *"The EU will continue to support the Government of Senegal in its endeavour to improve access to basic social services, to make*

its economy more competitive and to strengthen food security and agricultural development. I am convinced that improved living conditions in rural areas and new job opportunities will go a long way to address root causes of irregular migration and make a real difference in the prospects of Senegalese people".

The two new projects under the EU Emergency Trust Fund for Africa will focus on "Developing economies and local businesses in the departure zones" (€ 40 million) and "Improving people's living conditions in the rural areas – Natanguées farms" (€ 20 million).

As part of the ongoing development cooperation between the EU and Senegal, Commissioner Mimica also signed agreements to support the rule of law (€ 10 million) and food security and agricultural development in the southeast region (€ 20 million). The project "Support to the rule of law" aims to improve access to a fair and efficient justice system, promote the rights of detainees and reinforce the fight against corruption and money laundering. The project "Food security and agricultural development in the southeast region" will support agricultural production, rural infrastructures and equipment, access to markets, improve economic opportunities and access to a balanced nutrition for vulnerable population. Both financing agreements were set up in the framework of the 2016 Annual Action Programme (AAP) of the [11th European Development Fund](#).

During his mission, Commissioner **Mimica** visited the centre "Empire des enfants" co-financed by the European Union. This centre contributes to the promotion of children's rights by fighting against trafficking and reintegrating street children into their families. Commissioner had the opportunity to meet with educators and speak to the children themselves.

Background

The overall allocation for Senegal under the 11th European Development Fund amounts to € 347 million for the period 2014-2020.

The development cooperation priorities which have been agreed between Senegal and the EU for the period 2014-17 are 1) Strengthening democratic governance (€ 20 million), 2) Sustainable agricultural development and food security (€ 105 million), and 3) Water and Sanitation (€ 65 million). The total support to Senegal from the EU and its Member States amounts to EUR 1.5 billion for the period.

For the period 2018-2020, the EU and those Member States that work with Senegal will jointly programme their development cooperation with Senegal and the European Investment Bank. The EU has allocated € 147 million to Senegal for this period.(EC 25-10-2016)

S/LEONE SIGNS NEW TELECOMS GATEWAY AGREEMENT WITH GHANAIAN OPERATOR

A Ghanaian company has officially assumed responsibility of monitoring Sierra Leone's International Telecommunications Gateway system, APA learns here on Wednesday.

Representatives of the company, Subah Infosolutions (Ghana) Limited, signed the agreement on Tuesday with officials of the National Telecommunications (NATCOM) of Sierra Leone. The agreement was first announced last month after NATCOM unsealed a highly competitive bid for the project.

The development also comes after Sierra Leone reluctantly liberalized the gateway in fulfillment of a World Bank requirement.

The Ghanaian company was represented at the signing ceremony by its Executive Chairman, Joseph Agyepong, while NATCOM's Director General, Senessie Kallon, signed on behalf of Sierra Leone.

Subah Infosolutions currently monitors the gateways of Ghana and Guinea. NATCOM officials were particularly concerned about the perennial problem of Simbox fraud in Sierra Leone and they requested that to be a top priority.

EGYPT'S EXTERNAL DEBT RISES BY 16% IN 2015-2016- CENTRAL BANK

The Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) said on Wednesday that the country's external debt rose by \$7.7 billion by the end of the 2015-2016 fiscal year, marking a 16 percent increase on the previous year.

The debt rose to \$55.8 billion, compared to \$48.1 billion by the end of 2014-2015, the bank added.

The CBE attributed the rise to a \$7.4 billion increase in the net repayments of foreign loans, facilities and deposits, and an increase in exchange rates of the currencies of the external debt versus the US dollar, which led to an increase in external debt estimated at \$0.3 billion.

External debt service (medium- and long-term) reached \$5.2 billion during the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the CBE noted.

It added that total domestic debt rose to 2.619 trillion Egyptian pounds by the end of June, 87.3 percent of which is owed by the government, 4 percent owed by public economic bodies, and 8.7 percent on the National Investment Bank (NIB). (APA 26-10-2016)

UN URGES BOTSWANA TO REVIEW CLIMATE CHANGE BLUEPRINT



The United Nations (UN) Special Envoy for El Niño and Climate, Ambassador Macharia Kamau said Wednesday that Botswana needs to review the blueprint on climate change with a view to responding to the growing challenges posed by the environment.

Once developed, Kamau told reporters that the blueprint will help in mitigating the impact of future El Niño events by developing robust multi-stakeholder commitments and interventions at the national and regional levels.

It will also help build climate resilience and embed an approach based on prevention and early action in member states mostly affected by El Niño events, he added.

He noted said there was a lot of hesitation in the world to review the blueprint adding that "governments had become very resistant."

"This is what we are trying to tell the world that you cannot really pick and choose the easy tried and tested ways of doing things, because those tried and tested ways of doing things are the ones that have gotten us the difficulties that we are having in the world today," he said.

He said they should instead explore new ways of doing things, adding that exploration, just like any challenge, comes with huge risks.

"But, if you are not willing to take on those risks, then you are not serious about breaking new grounds or finding new solutions to the challenges that you are facing" he said. (APA 26-10-2016)

LA BEI SOUTIENT LES INDUSTRIES CHIMIQUES AU SENEGAL

La Banque européenne d'investissement (BEI) a signé ce 25 octobre 2016 à Dakar un accord avec les Industries Chimiques du Sénégal (ICS) dans l'objectif de pérenniser et de développer l'activité du plus grand complexe industriel du Sénégal.

« C'est un accord important pour les Industries Chimiques du Sénégal a déclaré Isabelle VAN GRUNDERBEECK, Représentante régionale pour l'Afrique de l'Ouest durant la cérémonie de signature. Cet accord va contribuer au développement de l'activité du groupe au Sénégal et en Afrique de l'Ouest. L'impact sera réel pour l'emploi au niveau local. »

Cette signature, réunissant tous les prêteurs des ICS, constitue la seconde phase de la restructuration de la dette des ICS, la première phase ayant été conclue le 2 août 2016 par la signature à Paris des accords de restructuration de dettes de l'Agence française de développement (AFD), la Banque ouest africaine de développement (BOAD) et la BEI.

Les ICS, qui emploient localement plus de 1600 personnes, produisent :

- du phosphate, à partir de la mine de TAÏBA (distante de quelque 100 km de DAKAR),
- de l'acide phosphorique (P2O5), grâce à deux usines contiguës, situées à DAROU, à proximité de la mine, et
- des engrais (DAP, NPK, SSP/TPS), dans une usine située à MBAO (18 km de DAKAR).

L'activité des ICS est le fruit d'un partenariat stratégique entre le Sénégal et l'Inde (tous deux actionnaires des ICS), notamment à travers Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative Limited (IFFCO), la plus importante coopérative d'engrais dans le monde, qui a conclu un contrat à long terme d'achat de la production en P2O5 des ICS. L'Inde est le premier consommateur d'acide phosphorique au monde et certains experts prévoient une augmentation de ses besoins de 5% par an d'ici 2020.

La restructuration doit aider les ICS, en complément de l'expertise et des fonds déjà engagés par leur nouvel actionnaire majoritaire (Indorama Corporation), à réaliser les investissements nécessaires afin de rénover et améliorer les installations existantes, l'objectif étant de faire à terme des ICS le leader sur le marché des engrais en Afrique de l'Ouest. (EIB 25-10-2016)

US DELEGATION IN EGYPT TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMIC RELATION

Leading a major business delegation, consisting of representatives of more than 50 U.S. companies, Ambassador David Thorne, Senior Advisor to Secretary of State John Kerry arrived in Cairo Sunday to further strengthen economic relations between the United States and Egypt.

Jointly organized by the U.S. and Egyptian American Chambers of Commerce and Business Councils, from October 23-25, 2016, the delegation plans to meet with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi, ministers and other Government of Egypt officials, and leaders in Egypt's private sector as it explores opportunities to enhance engagement with Egypt.

"The United States is committed to strengthening its long-term economic partnership with Egypt," Ambassador Thorne said. "This business delegation is clear indication of U.S. private sector interest in Egypt and its future."

Ambassador David Thorne was named Senior Advisor to the Secretary of State in August 2013 and has visited Egypt several times.

Among other duties, Secretary Kerry has asked Thorne to lead a Department-wide effort to position economic and commercial issues more prominently within the U.S. foreign policy landscape.

Ambassador Thorne is also working to elevate the importance of entrepreneurship, technology, and innovation in the State Department's promotion of global prosperity. (APA 23-10-2016)

US PLEDGES TO HELP MOZAMBIQUE FIND EFFECTIVE WAY OF PEACE

The United States of America has volunteered to become more involved in the search process of peace in Mozambique without being part of the mediation between the government and the main opposition Renamo party, APA can report on Sunday.

According to the Mozambican Minister of Foreign Affairs and Co-operation, Baloi, even without being part of the mediation, the US volunteered to make all efforts to contribute to peace return to parents and definitively.

Whenever we expose the situation of Mozambique, the question is how you can help and the answer is, essentially, invariably the same: First, help us to stop the violence that Renamo has promoted and, secondly, help Us to conduct a real dialogue, the leader of Renamo, Afonso Dhlakama is willing to meet with the President," Baloi is quoted as saying in the local media on Sunday.

The minister explained that stopping violence is crucial and in a democracy, no political differs from others in that it is armed and use these weapons as a political tool to push for concessions.

According to Baloi, the meeting that the Mozambican President held with the Secretary of State, John Kerry, set the tone of the visit in the political domain and subsequent contacts with US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker, and the Secretary of Energy, Ernest Moniz, and the National Security advisor, Condoleza Rice.

Renamo is at loggerheads with the government of 2014 general elections won by the ruling Frelimo party and its Presidential candidate, Filipe Nyusi.

Renamo contends that the poll was flawed and it resorted to violence to push for a power sharing as on an option to solve the dispute. (APA 23-10-2016)

STATE OF EMERGENCY LIKELY TO RAMP UP REPRESSION IN FRACTURED ETHIOPIA

Near a sacred volcanic lake for the Oromo people in the Ethiopian town of Bishoftu, a boisterous crowd seized an unusual opportunity to chant anti-government slogans during their annual Irreecha cultural celebration.

Disregarding the Oromo officials and traditional leaders at the 2 October ceremony, the youthful protesters crossed their arms in a symbol of defiance and edged forward towards police armed with batons. In a defining moment for the Oromo resistance, one man got on stage, grabbed the microphone and sent the thousands in the audience into fever pitch as he led a chant.

"Down, down, Woyane! Down, down, TPLF!" he yelled, referring to the [Tigrayan People's Liberation Front party](#), which opponents say has controlled the strategically vital Horn of Africa nation for 25 years.

In Ethiopia, anger over corruption and farmland development runs deep

Despite the government ending plans to build on Oromo land around the capital, clashes continue, as lack of transparency and maladministration fuel dissent

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Minutes later, as demonstrators threatened to take over the stage, [Oromia police triggered a deadly stampede](#) by firing tear gas. The crackle of gunfire followed from armed officers and an armoured vehicle sped into action, exacerbating the panic. People fell into a deep ditch and were crushed. Others drowned in the lake, contributing to [an official death toll of 52](#), while rights groups estimate that more than 100 died.

Social media activists characterised the bungled dispersal as a "massacre", falsely accusing soldiers of shooting people from a helicopter, and called for "five days of rage". A week later, [the government announced a state of emergency](#) after protesters rampaged across Oromia, burning government buildings, and torching farms and factories.

The events may mark a turning point in the 11-month uprising by the Oromo, Ethiopia's most populous ethnic group, who cite frustrations over political and economic marginalisation. The movement, along

with a series of violent demonstrations occurring since late July in the historically powerful Amhara region, had already threatened the authority of the government, a favoured [partner of the UK](#) and other donors that provide [close to \\$4bn](#) (£3.2bn) in aid a year.

The state of emergency is likely to mean the increased use of federal security forces, including the military, to quell unrest at the expense of regional states' autonomy, as well as occasional curfews and suspensions of due process. The US Department of State said the move could "further enshrine" the repression that has contributed to the crisis.

The government has killed about 500 Oromo demonstrators so far during the crisis, while detaining tens of thousands more in an effort to discourage civil resistance. The message from those efforts and the latest round of unrest, however, is that it will be hard to subdue protesters, who see the government as discredited and embattled. That means the possibility of escalating violence in Africa's second-most populous nation.

"If the government persists with the current stand, [Ethiopia](#) may be in for long-term instability," said Hassen Hussein, a US-based regional analyst who has written sympathetically about the Oromo struggle.

The Bishoftu violence was preceded by a two-month lull, as new Oromo ruling party leaders emerged and pledged reforms. Before that, on 6 August, activists called for a day of "grand Oromo protests", which resulted in about 70 deaths and included a rare demonstration in [Addis Ababa](#), the capital. Federal police dispersed that rally, scattering attendees with batons and boots.

Among those subsequently detained was an educated young man calling himself Gudina Jalata. He'd previously stayed away from protests out of fear, but felt compelled to participate by witnessing continuing injustice across the sprawling region that encircles the capital. "First you have to be respected for your dignity – that is why I got involved. There is a lot of discrimination against the Oromo," he said.

Before the government came to power in 1991 by removing a socialist junta, Ethiopia was a unitary state. A 1995 federal constitution ensured self-rule for minorities and promoted local languages in schools and government. However, Oromo allege the state is controlled by Tigrayans, [who comprise 6%](#) of the country's [almost 100 million-strong population](#), and say farmers are being unfairly evicted by investors tied to ruling elites.

Analysis 'Unbridled violence' in Gambella leaves Ethiopia searching for answers

Why did a group of South Sudanese people cross the border into western Ethiopia and start shooting mothers and abducting their children?

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The divergent narratives feed a furious debate. Far from being oppressors, TPLF elites say their community made huge sacrifices during a 16-year struggle that liberated the Oromo and other groups from Amhara domination. They add that ethnic federalism now protects those hard-won rights, and power is shared equitably within government, while the statist development model pushed by [Meles Zenawi](#), the former TPLF chairman and prime minister who died in 2012, helped Ethiopia advance.

For Gudina and the other detainees, such claims seem fanciful. After time in a cramped cell, his group was driven to a federal police facility in the Awash area; some were held for a week and then released, others were held for up to two weeks. There were no showers or toilets and they were given only small amounts of bread and water. The camp had three components: gruelling barefoot exercises on gravel under a scorching sun, political lessons and bouts of investigation.

The workouts included being forced to hop forwards with hands behind their head. Even the injured had to participate; if there was any slacking off, they were beaten. "It was really inhuman," Gudina said.

Tigrayan officers, the interviewed detainees claimed, gave lessons on federalism and ruling coalition doctrines. While they felt contempt for their instructors, the prisoners were compliant, although one bucked the trend and was severely beaten. "The constitution they are teaching us is not broken by us – they themselves break the law. For example, it's our right to protest," one explained.

Mass detention is not a new tactic for a government that has largely failed to move Ethiopia on from an authoritarian past. There have been similar initiatives during these Oromo protests, [Human Rights Watch](#) said in June, while thousands have also been detained in Amhara. After the disputed elections in 2005, when Ethiopia faced its last major political crisis, the US state department said up to 18,000 youths were kept at a military camp for longer than a month.

While the regime undertakes [another mass roundup of suspects](#), the efforts to indoctrinate Oromo youth are increasingly futile, Hassen believes. "If anything, it makes people even more defiant," he said. "It's exposing how empty the regime is, making it more vulnerable."

Ethiopia's crisis developed after only one opposition lawmaker won a federal parliamentary seat in 2010 and [last year's election](#) produced no opposition representative. The multi-ethnic ruling coalition emphasises its success in building infrastructure, improving social services, and helping millions out of extreme poverty, while acknowledging the democratic deficit.

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Donor support for the government, which is also a security ally in [Somalia](#) and [South Sudan](#), is unwavering. That relationship gives officials leeway to reject western criticism of abuses as a neocolonial attempt to impose liberal norms. Ethiopia's leaders believe democratic pluralism is the product of development, not a means to achieve it.

When parliament reconvened, the largely ceremonial president, Mulatu Teshome, an Oromo, promised to create jobs and introduce some proportional representation at elections. And using familiar refrains, the government blamed [Egypt](#) and [Eritrea](#) for stoking the violence by backing a weakened, fragmented Oromo rebel group.

But the primary threat to Ethiopia is that a portion of its population is now committed to liberating regime change, rather than campaigning for reforms – including the young Oromo the police tried to re-educate. "Until we get our freedom, our self-determination as Oromo, I will continue struggling. I will continue to death," said one. (The Guardian 23-10-2016)

KENYA: NGO COORDINATION BOARD DISSOLVED

Devolution Cabinet Secretary Mwangi Kiunjuri on Wednesday dissolved the NGO Coordination Board and sent Executive Director Fazul Mahamed on forced leave.

Consequently, the CS appointed Ali Yussuf as the Executive Director on an acting capacity with immediate effect as a probe is launched into claims Mahamed holds a fake degree.

"The NGO Coordination Board has faced numerous challenges in the execution of its mandate," he pointed out. "In view of the circumstances, I have today dissolved the Board of the NGO Coordination Board."

The move comes after a section of NGO's protested demanding the immediate suspension of Mahamed for allegedly sabotaging the implementation of the Public Benefit Organisations Act and claims that he used a fake degree to apply for the job.

Kiunjuri also dismissed allegations that he received a Sh20 million bribe as indicated on an affidavit allegedly written by one Delphine Bram Christopher.

"The allegations were based on the premise that I was induced to operationalise the PBO Act. I would like to bring to the attention that the said Mr. Cheboi was first to congratulate me on commencement of the PBO Act," he said.

He said the alleged affidavit was not even sworn before a Commissioner of Oaths. (Capital FM)

MOZAMBIQUE: BETTER AIR CONNECTION KEY TO BOOSTING AFRICAN BUSINESS

Prime minister of Mozambique, Carlos Agostinho do Rosario has argued that better air connections between African countries will help improve the business environment on the continent, APA learns here on Sunday.

Maputo-based national broadcaster, Radio Mozambique quotes do Rosario addressing the closing of the 25th General Assembly of the Airports Council International (ACI) on Saturday which brought about 300 delegates from across the globe are participating in the three day meeting in Maputo.

“Improving air connections is an imperative and since once those connections are guaranteed, they will contribute to improving the business environment, encouraging investment, stimulating innovation and raising the efficiency of business management”, said Rosario.

Air transport, he continued, is taking on growing importance in the world economy.

“It facilitates the export of goods, particularly agricultural goods, ensuring that fresh products reach distant markets with the required quality and it allows the rapid movement and reasonable prices of specialist components in the chains of production”, he said

One of the main challenges faced by African countries, the Prime Minister said, concerns investment in airport facilities, which is extremely expensive.

Airports should bank on modernization, he added, to improve the quality of the services they provide, and should work to establish public-private partnerships.

But he stressed that the financial sustainability of airport companies should be one of the top priorities. That involved “investing continually in human resources, adopting innovative models of management and creating opportunities for greater participation by the private sector”.

“Air connectivity, measured by the frequency of flights, reliability, and the diversity of destinations, is strongly associated with important economic variables, such as labour productivity and the competitiveness of the tourism sector”, the Mozambican Prime Minister said.

A chronic problem in Africa is the lack of routes between African countries. Frequently, the quickest way of flying from one African country to another is via Europe.

According to its website, the ACI “is the only global trade representative of the world’s airports. Established in 1991, ACI represents airport’s interests with Governments and international organizations such as ICAO, develops standards, policies and recommended practices for airports, and provides information and training opportunities to raise standards around the world”. (APA 23-10-2016)

MTN SAYS IT OBTAINED CLEARANCE TO MOVE MONEY OUT OF NIGERIA

MTN Group, responding in detail to allegations that it illegally moved more than \$14bn out of Nigeria, said central bank approvals were obtained before any dividends were issued.

"No dividends were declared or paid until the certificates of capital importation were issued and finalised," Ferdi Moolman, the Nigeria head of the Johannesburg-based cellphone company, said in an e-mailed statement on Friday.

A CCI is a central bank document that allows for the transfer of capital from Nigeria to a foreign investor, according to Guaranty Trust Bank.

MTN shares have slumped 14% to six-year lows since Nigerian politicians raised allegations that the wireless carrier broke the law when repatriating funds from the country, its biggest market, over 10 years starting in 2006.

Moolman appeared before a senate committee on Thursday to defend the company against the claims, which came four months after MTN agreed to pay a regulatory fine of \$1.1bn related to an order to disconnect unregistered subscribers.

MTN said some CCIs were issued outside a 24-hour requirement for various administrative reasons. The company said it believed its banks followed proper guidelines by notifying the central bank and getting approvals.

"The central bank has the authority, and indeed we believe, approved the banks' applications to issue CCIs outside the recommended time frame," Moolman said in the statement.

MTN shares were off 2% at R105.40 at 12.46pm on the JSE on Friday, their lowest since July 2010. (Bloomberg 21-10-2016)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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