

MEMORANDUM

N° 218/2015 | 21/12/2015

The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

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2006 – 2015, 9 Years devoted to reinforce Europe – Africa Business and Development

The Memorandum wishes all supporting organisations and readers, the best Season's Greetings.

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SOUTH AFRICA'S ILLICIT OUTFLOWS A TAXING MATTER

SA ranks seventh among developing countries in the volume of illicit financial outflows, a Washington-based research organisation has found.

Illicit outflows are of great concern to the Treasury, which has introduced a number of tax measures to curb them, particularly outflows achieved by large multinationals through profit shifting.

Further amendments to the Financial Intelligence Centre Act that will tighten controls are currently before Parliament.

Economic Freedom Fighters MP Floyd Shivambu said he did not believe the Treasury had done enough to stem the problem, flagging the importance of the issue in Parliament and berating the government for failing to deal with it adequately.

Former president Thabo Mbeki as chairman of the African Union's high-level panel on illicit financial flows has also championed the issue, estimating that Africa lost more than \$50bn annually through illicit financial outflows.

The problem is, however, a global one, with governments in Europe having dealt with big companies such as McDonald's, Amazon, Google, Apple and Starbucks, among others, for avoiding taxes by transferring their profits from high tax jurisdictions to low tax ones.

Accurate figures are difficult to come by, but Global Financial Integrity estimates in its latest report, *Illicit Financial Flows from Developing Countries: 2004-13*, that the annual outflow from SA over 10 years averaged \$20.92bn, higher than Turkey and Nigeria, but less than India and Brazil.

China led the pack of developing countries with an estimated average annual illicit outflow of \$139bn, followed by Russia at \$105bn. The study found \$7.8-trillion had been sucked out of the developing world between 2004 and 2013 and trade fraud was responsible for \$6.5-trillion.

"Our analysis shows that, of the \$1-trillion in illicit flows leaving poor nations annually, over 83% is due to trade misinvoicing. Simply put, each year over \$800bn in illicit trade exits developing countries," the Global Financial Integrity report says.

"The tax associated with this illicit activity could be allocated to various poverty alleviation efforts. Given the trade volume, revenue could be in the hundreds of billions of dollars. Addressing the trade misinvoicing challenge should be the initial focus of all developing country governments."

Trade misinvoicing occurs when the value or volume of exports or imports is misstated on a customs invoice.

Its integrity report also shows that illicit financial flows from developing countries have exceeded the official development assistance and foreign direct investment they have received.

In 2012, for instance, \$10 left the developing world for every \$1 received in official development aid. The 6.8% growth in official development assistance and foreign direct investment between 2004 and 2013 barely outpaced the 6.5% increase in illicit financial flows over this period.

The report urged governments to implement all of the Financial Action Task Force's antimoney laundering recommendations.

It also recommends that multinational companies be obliged to publicly disclose their revenues, profits, losses, sales, taxes paid, subsidiaries, and staff levels on a country-by-country basis.

All countries should participate in the worldwide movement towards the automatic exchange of tax information as endorsed by the Organisation of Economic Co-operation and Development, and the Group of 20 developed countries, it recommends. (BD 10-12-2015)

\$1.4B REQUIRED TO MITIGATE ETHIOPIAN DROUGHT

At least \$1.4 billion is required to mitigate the effects of drought and feed starving populations in Ethiopia until December 2016, the head of the country's disaster prevention agency told diplomats and humanitarian workers in Addis Ababa on Saturday.

Mitiku Kassa, General Secretary of the National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee briefing embassies and humanitarian agencies on the scale of the El Nino triggered drought and aid required to deal with the humanitarian crisis, said the number of people in need of relief assistance is

rising daily.

The population of needy increased to 4.2 million in August this year from 2.9 million at the end of last year.

The figure has now soared to 8.9 million and is also projected to reach 10.2 million next month, he said.

According to him, 400,000 children are projected to suffer from malnutrition and 3.6 million people from health-related problems.

Kassa said Ethiopia shelters several refugees and donors should also take this into consideration.

The government in Addis Ababa has so far spent \$200 million to support people living in areas hit by the drought, he added.

Ambassadors from more than 50 countries as well as humanitarian agencies from US, Sweden, Canada and UK, including UNICEF, Save the Children and USAID were present at the briefing aimed at sensitizing them about the drought situation.(APA 12-12-2015)

MALAWI: US GRANTS \$390,000 TO GENDER VIOLENCE SURVIVORS

The United States government has granted United Nations (UN) Women in Malawi \$390,000 to strengthen the economic empowerment of girls and women survivors from Gender Based Violence (GBV).

According to a statement from the US embassy in Lilongwe on Friday, the grant is expected to empower survivors through education, skills training and making GBV referral system in the country operational for a period of two years.

"The project will be implemented in partnership with local grassroots organization called Coalition of Women Living with HIV and Aids in Malawi (COWHLA) through intensive trainings to impart lessons about building women's confidence, leadership and participation in decision-making," it read.

The project will also enhance women and girls economic empowerment to ensure their effective participation and benefit from development.

The statement said the qualified trainers will emphasize the importance of including both women and men as gender equality advocates in their communities and the need for both voices to help eliminate GBV.(APA 12-12-2015)

ZIMBABWEAN ACTIVISTS CALL FOR TOUGHER ACTION AGAINST CHILD MARRIAGES

Thobekile Mpfu was 15 when she got pregnant to a 41-year-old man who quickly accepted responsibility and married her, avoiding possible legal action for having sex with an underage girl. Child rights activists on Thursday launched a campaign to call on the authorities to crack down on men using marriage to avoid criminal charges for having sex with a minor, one of the factors fuelling the number of child marriages in Zimbabwe.

Figures from the United Nation's child agency, Unicef, show that one in nine girls aged under 15 in Zimbabwe are married, with child marriage often ending a girl's education and exposing her to health risks from early childbearing and HIV.

Ms Mpofu said her marriage was a "nightmare" and she ran away from her husband after he took a second wife. She says she has nothing but regrets 10 years on for being married so young which she hopes will not happen to other girls.

"I cannot wish this on anyone ... I fled to South Africa to my sisters. That's how the marriage ended," said Ms Mpofu who, together with her child, now lives with a relative in Bulawayo.

The campaign calling for authorities to do more to stop child marriages was launched by the Research and Advocacy Unit, Girls Legacy, the Zimbabwe Women Lawyers and Human Rights Watch.

Girls Legacy director Judith Chiyangwa questioned whether the government was committed to act despite mounting pressure.

"Is there political will to do this?" Ms Chiyangwa asked.

The exact scale of child marriage in Zimbabwe is not known as most child marriages are unregistered customary law unions.

A 2014 survey by Zimbabwe's National Statistics Agency found one in three women aged 20 to 49 reported that they married before age 18 while an estimated 4% marry before age 15.

But Zimbabwe has conflicting legal provisions on the minimum age for marriage. Its constitution does not expressly prohibit child marriage and a number of laws effectively condone it.

Extreme poverty, poor access to education, and certain harmful religious beliefs and social norms fuel child marriage in Zimbabwe, according to a Human Rights Watch report.

A recent Unicef report said an estimated 125-million girls are child brides in Africa and that number is expected to rise to 310-million by 2050 with girls married to pay off family debt or for traditional reasons.

Jane Khumalo, a teacher and counsellor in Bulawayo, said often families allowed their daughters into these marriages, particularly if they were pregnant, because they could not afford to look after them.

"Marriage becomes the only thing that makes sense in these tough economic conditions," Ms Khumalo said.

Kuda Chitsike, director of the Research and Advocacy Unit, a rights group in Zimbabwe, said calling this child marriage was "to legitimise child abuse". It is illegal to have sex with a girl aged under 16 in Zimbabwe.

The country's chief magistrate, Mishrod Guvamombe, this week said child marriages are a violation of child rights.

Jessie Majome, an opposition legislator who chairs the parliamentary committee on justice, legal and parliamentary affairs, said child marriage continued because of the collapsed economy and called for tougher enforcement of existing laws.

"(Marrying a child) is a very serious criminal offence but if the law is not fully enforced, then we will continue having this problem," Ms Majome told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. (Reuters 11-12-2015)

CHINA VOWS TO HELP LESOTHO THROUGH HRD COOPERATION PROGRAM

China on Wednesday made a pledge to help Lesotho through China-aid Human Resource Development (HRD) Cooperation Program, reports said on Wednesday.

The program offers courses aimed at teaching managerial experience, practical techniques and promoting the traditional friendship and cooperation in fields such as economy and trade between China and Lesotho.

Ma Guoliang, Economic and Commercial Counselor of Chinese Embassy in Maseru said China government has attached great importance to HRD Cooperation Program to Lesotho and has trained a large number of professionals in different fields of social development.

He noted that in 2015, 252 Basotho were trained in the fields of agriculture, industrial, telecommunication science, food processing and trade and investment among others.

Guoliang also stated that bilateral relations between these two countries have further been strengthened in the fields of cooperation expanded respectively.(APA 16-12-2015)

CAMEROON GETS 25B FCFA JAPANESE LOAN TO REVAMP INFRASTRUCTURE

The Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has approved a 25 billion francs CFA loan to Cameroon in a bid to fast-track the construction of a 67.5 km highway connecting the towns of Mintom and Lele in the South of the Central African country.

The announcement was made on Tuesday during a visit of a Japanese delegation in Cameroon.

This road project is part of Djoum-Ketta road, a component of the highway due to connect the towns of Sangmélina (South Cameroon) and Ouesso (North Congo).

With this funding, Cameroon should be able to reach the total amount required for the construction of the Cameroon section of the highway which will boost sub-regional integration.

According to specifications, the Cameroonian part of Sangmelima-Ouesso road is expected to cost 119.8 billion francs, already mobilized by various donors such as the Arab Development Bank in Africa (BADEA), IDB, AfDB, and the Saudi Fund for Development and the Kuwaiti Fund. (APA 16-12-2015)

MUGABE'S RULING PARTY MEETS AMID FACTION FIGHTING AND ECONOMIC GLOOM

President Robert Mugabe's ruling party opens a two-day annual conference on Friday as it battles internal faction fighting and attempts to stave off Zimbabwe's second economic crisis since the turn of the century.

The meeting in the resort town of Victoria Falls comes as party officials are split over improving ties with the International Monetary Fund to rebuild an economy blessed with diamond deposits, the world's second-biggest reserves of platinum and chrome, after SA, and fertile farmland.

The conference will debate plans to hand a greater stake in business to "the people," said Simon Khaya Moyo, spokesman for the Zanu (PF) party.

The economy shrank by about 40% between 2000 and 2009 after Zanu (PF) backed an often-violent seizure of most of the country's white-owned farms. This year the worst drought in a decade has left Zimbabwe, once Africa's second-biggest corn exporter, with 1.5-million people in need of food aid from January to March, according to the United Nations.

Battling deflation and an unprecedented liquidity crisis, Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa said in November that monthly wage obligations swallow about 82% of government revenue.

While Zanu (PF) has chosen Mr. Mugabe, 91, to lead the party into the next elections in 2018, the conference may reinstate a clause requiring gender-equality in leadership positions that could lead to a third vice-presidential position that his wife Grace could win, Alex Magaisa, a constitutional lawyer at the University of Kent, said in an e-mailed response to questions.

"This conference won't make any other fundamental changes to the current leadership," he said. "It will merely confirm that Mugabe will be their candidate for 2018, as bizarre and ridiculous as that might seem, given his age."

Known by her critics as the "First Shopper" and "Gucci Grace," for what they say is her extravagant lifestyle, Grace Mugabe has built support among a group of senior ruling party officials known as Generation-40 because most of them are in their 40s and played no role in Zimbabwe's war for independence against the white-minority Rhodesian government.

Her main adversary in a run for the top job is the vice-president and deputy leader of Zanu (PF), Emmerson Mnangagwa, who previously served as state security and defence minister. (Bloomberg 11-12-2015)

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS STATE BUDGETS OF SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

The European Union will deliver 20 million euros over the next five years to support the state budgets of São Tomé and Príncipe, announced the new EU ambassador in São Tomé and Príncipe, Hemut Rudolf.

The aid will be delivered in instalments and is part of the 2014/2020 Indicative Cooperation Programme, which includes a total of 28 million euros, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

After an audience with Prime Minister Patrice Trovoada, the new ambassador said drinking water supply and sanitation were priorities for European financial aid, which has also earmarked 6.5 million euros for the agricultural sector, particularly to strengthen exports.

Rudolf was accredited as new EU ambassador in São Tomé and Príncipe by São Tomé President Manuel Pinto da Costa, last Friday. (16-12-2015)

NIGERIA: AU BOSS URGES ECOWAS TO EMBRACE INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

The African Union (AU) Commission chairperson has urged ECOWAS member states to ensure an inclusive economy to promote the living conditions of community citizens.

Addressing the 48th Ordinary Session of the ECOWAS Heads of States and Government (HOSG) in Abuja on Wednesday, Dr Nkosazana Zuma said even though progress had been made in the economic development of the continent, more than 10 ECOWAS member states made slow progress in investing in human development.

“Africa has made progress over the last decade with a sustained growth of over 5 per cent; on the whole, the human development index over the past decade has not changed dramatically.

“In the most recent UNDP Human Development Report of 2015, we still have 37 African countries in the low human development categories, and we are the overwhelming majority.

“Amongst them are ECOWAS countries, with only two countries from the region in the medium human development category.

“This shows that there are things we are not doing right and we have widening inequalities in our countries across the continent,” she said.

The AU Chairperson called on member states to implement policies that would facilitate the exploitation of natural resources in the sub-region.

She further called on member countries to implement the AU Agenda 2063 which she explained was inclusive of the Sustainable Development Goals “but specific to African aspirations”.

“We must therefore create peace and security, good governance and stability, build decentralised governance, and ensure that young people are and remain in school.

“We have to create good jobs by industrialising; provide conditions for innovation and ensure that all African citizens can participate in the economic, social, political, and cultural development of the continent.”

She however, commended the regional bloc on the progress it had made so far in the promotion of good governance, peace and security and integration.

Zuma also reiterated the commitment of the AU to promote the goal of enhancing integration and achieving an ECOWAS of the people.(APA 17-12-2015)

WHY NURTURING TALENT IS HARD IN AFRICA

Africa is hailed as a major growth market for global businesses, but as global companies expand there, they are having a tough time finding leaders to run their operations.

That is the conclusion of a new report on executive talent by Russell Reynolds Associates, which surveyed 230 senior leaders and recruiters in Africa. Recruiters say companies are eager to recruit good hires in the region, but find that candidates with traditional management skills — such as the ability to drive change or build teams — are in short supply.

The report focused on the talent markets of Kenya and Nigeria, whose economies are growing rapidly, and SA, the continent's most developed economy, yet the issues are common to many nations in sub-Saharan Africa, the authors note.

The issues will become more acute as more businesses expand in Africa, where gross domestic product growth is projected to strengthen to 4.5% this year and 5% next year, according to the African Economic Outlook 2015 report.

Driving the talent shortage is Africa's dearth of high-quality business schools, according to Simon Kingston, who leads the global development practice at Russell Reynolds. In countries such as Kenya and Nigeria, many with management aspirations tend to leave for school or work abroad, and persuading them to return home for their career is a challenge, recruiters said.

In the absence of traditional management training ground, companies such as Coca-Cola, Diageo and Heineken have developed their own programmes to nurture Africa-based leaders.

McKinsey & Co trains promising young Kenyan professionals in critical thinking and quantitative analysis, as well as people skills such as co-operation and consensus-building, with an eye on developing talent for the firm, said Mutsa Chironga, a McKinsey partner based in Johannesburg.

The management-consulting firm turns away many local hires in Kenya and Nigeria who attended top local schools, Mr. Chironga said, because those schools often fail to adequately prepare young people for work in global corporations. Local candidates also lack the internship or work experience and global exposure of some of their counterparts hailing from other regions, he added.

So far, global firms have relied on imported talent to fill local roles but relocating people is costly and doesn't strengthen the local talent pipeline, said James Newlands, who leads the Americas-Africa business centre at EY.

"It's not a sustainable solution to run your business on expat management," Mr. Newlands said.

Retaining managers in the region is difficult because compensation tends to be lower than in other global areas, the study found. In Kenya and SA, some professionals are forgoing global companies' management-development programmes in favour of local firms, which often provide a faster path to senior ranks, according to the survey.

To provide emerging leaders with international experience and training, more multinationals are trying rotation programmes that send Africa-based talent abroad with the plan that they will return later, said Mr. Newlands.

Eulicia Govender, a South African national and second-year MBA student at the University of the Witwatersrand Business School, said she plans to work abroad for a few years in financial services before ultimately returning to SA to found a for-profit enterprise with a social mission.

"I want to bring back knowledge to SA with me, and see how I can make these ideas work in the South African context," she said.

Businesses are hoping that young Africans such as Ms Govender stick with their plan.

Some 39% of Kenyan executives, 39% of Nigerian executives and 41% of South African executives surveyed see the diaspora as a key source of leadership talent over the next five to 10 years, yet only 32%, 29% and 13% of them felt local talent would be willing to return home. (WSJ 09-12-2015)

ANGOLA'S SONANGOL OIL GRANTED OIL RIGHTS TO ARE OF 4,900 SQUARE KILOMETRES

The Angolan government has granted oil and gas operation, development and production rights to state oil company Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola (Sonangol) in an area of 4,900 square kilometres in deep water, under the terms of presidential decrees.

The decrees grant Sonangol the rights to develop and produce oil and gas in block 20/15, with 88.8 square kilometres, and block 16/15, with 4,809 square kilometres.

Both concessions are valid for six years for the research period, adding another 20 years for production, from the date of the respective commercial discovery statement (of oil or gas).

The first concession results from a gas discovery in the drilling of the Lontra-1 well, production potential studies on which have since been completed, with Sonangol showing interest in "carrying out, in the short term, operations for development and production" in that area, which will now be known as block 20/15 block, according to the decree.

The second concession is for areas that have not been demarcated in block 16/15, in which Sonangol intends to independently analyse the feasibility of oil operations, with no other partners. (11-12-2015)

BANCO CAIXA GERAL ANGOLA PLANS TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONALISATION OF ANGOLAN COMPANIES

Support for the internationalisation of companies in Angola is one of the focuses of Banco Caixa Geral Angola, said Thursday in Luanda the chairman of the executive committee of the bank that lost the name Totta after the departure of Spanish banking group Santander.

Marques Pereira said it was important to support the internationalisation of Angolan companies and help other companies to invest in Angola, taking advantage of the international network of which the Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) group is a part as well as the international network of some of the shareholders, particularly oil company Sonangol.

Banco Santander Totta and Santotta – Internacional SGPS announced on 8 July the sale of their 49 percent stake in the capital of Partang SGPS to Caixa Geral de Depósitos, with the CGD Group now holding the entire share capital of that company and through it 51 percent of the share capital of what is now called Banco Caixa Geral Angola.

Besides the Partang holding (51 percent), the shareholder structure of the bank, which has been operating in Angola since 2009, is owned by Angolan state oil company Sonangol (25 percent) and entrepreneurs Jaime Freitas (12 percent) and António Mosquito (12 percent).

In 2014 the bank recorded net profit of 9.1 billion kwanzas (61.4 million euros), the fourth best performance within the Angolan financial system last year. (11-12-2015)

NO DOUBT THAT AFRICA NEEDS WHAT CHINA OFFERS

Despite his many political and philosophical detractors, Henry Kissinger is one of the few authoritative voices on China. Having served as a key US diplomat during a time when China was reinventing herself to what she is today, Kissinger has had a perspective few other analysts have today.

His views on China are not inconsistent with the China we see, in the ways in which it responds to global debates and tensions. One need only look at the way China votes at the United Nations Security Council to understand its posture on affairs of other nations. In his book, *On China*, Kissinger is seemingly at pains to show that, unlike the US, China is not interested in exporting its values or owning culture and territories outside itself — that even though it may seek to be a leading civilisation, it does so not through an effort to export its values, but to sustain them even in what Kissinger himself calls the "new world order".

He recounts the China of old, reflecting that in official Chinese records, foreign envoys did not come to the imperial court to engage in negotiations or affairs of state: they came "to be transformed" by the emperor's civilising influence.

The emperor did not hold "summit meetings" with other heads of state; instead, audiences with him represented the "tender cherishing of men from afar", who brought tribute to recognise his overlordship.

When the Chinese court deigned to send envoys abroad, they were not diplomats, but "heavenly envoys" from the Celestial Court.

This may seem like an old China, but modern China presents the same posture, albeit in a different paradigm.

From sharing its strategies on growth to discussing its approaches to corruption, China is open to those who wish to dip into the reservoir, but it is not particularly keen to advertise its views or supply the world with its values and culture.

If this is accepted, it is curious that so many regarded the summit held in Sandton last week as "China's scramble for Africa" or "China takes up from where the West left off". The public sentiment on China reinforces two notions. First, that Africa remains a vulnerable, almost pitiful, player in trade and investment negotiations, freely open to the ravages of nefarious nations with money. Second, it represents a misreading of global political and economic conditions as they exist today, and thus Africa's unique position of strength.

The tensions in the Middle East, compounded by frosty relations between the West and many other regions, have complicated economic diplomacy a great deal. Trade and investment relations amid geopolitics make for less than optimal outcomes. It doesn't help that Europe, and even Japan, all which have been close economic partners to China, face continually tough economic conditions.

There are really very few other places to look for China to improve her economic fortunes. China also knows that in Africa, she has an economic and diplomatic partner that is not too keen to impose its views on China's social order. Not only is China looking to Africa for opportunity, it realises that it has competition, having seen African heads of state head to India to listen to that nation's sales pitch.

The \$64bn package prepared by China shows just how far it will go to promote itself and gain business advantage over anyone else. There is also no question that Africa needs China, as a market for both minerals and manufactured goods. Africa also needs Chinese expertise in industry and infrastructural development.

Most of all — as China well knows — Africa needs Chinese money to plug the vast financial deficit preventing Africa from building the infrastructure that is so critical for growth and development.

So, leaving behind the old talk of colonisation and exploitation, Africa has one thing to do: recognise its power to negotiate for a good and sustainable deal. That must be preceded by Africa's extensive plan and thus outline of its own need and bargaining chips.

While visiting Mexico, another developing nation, in 2009, Chinese president Xi Jinping made remarks that are important to consider if we are to be comfortable in dealing with China: "Some foreigners with full bellies and nothing better to (do) engage in finger pointing at us. First, China does not export revolution; second, it does not export famine and poverty; and third, it does not mess around with you. So what else is there to say?"

The year is 2015. The question cannot be whether China wants to exploit Africa, but how Africa can benefit itself from relating with the world's second-largest economy, which has come knocking at her door. (BD 10-09-2015)

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT HUBS IN ANGOLA CREATE MORE THAN 12,000 JOBS

The industrial development hubs (PDI) built in Angola since 2002, the end of the Civil War, have allowed for the creation of 12,500 jobs, said Thursday in Luanda the secretary of State for Industry, Kiala Gabriel.

Speaking on "The role of industrial development hubs in the diversification of the economy", at the 2nd edition of ExpoIndústria, which runs from 10 to 13 December in Luanda, the Secretary of State said that this number of jobs was the result of the construction of hubs in the provinces of Luanda, Cabinda, Benguela, Kwanza Norte, Kwanza Sul, Zaire, Malanje, Uige, Huambo and Kuando Kubango.

Gabriel, cited by Angolan news agency Angop, said that at the Viana Hub, the country's largest, there were 871 companies in operation 871 and at the Catumbela Hub (Benguela) there were 408 companies, which together employ most of the workers; over 6,800.

The Secretary of State said the government planned to build, in stages, 22 new industrial development hubs, which will occupy an estimated area of 36,000 hectares.

This year's ExpoIndústria, an event taking place at the Viana Industrial Development Hub, in Luanda, is themed "National Industry, driver of change" and has national and foreign exhibitors from the industrial sector. (11-12-2015)

JAPAN DONATES FUNDS TO MOZAMBIQUE FOR AGRICULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

Japan will donate US\$164,000 to fund two projects in education and agriculture in the provinces of Inhambane and Cabo Delgado, in southern and northern Mozambique, under an agreement signed Thursday in Maputo.

Of that amount, US\$81,000 will be invested in expansion of the Mangalisse Primary School in Vilanculos (southern Inhambane province), while the remainder will be used to expand the water supply to the agricultural sector in Cabo Delgado.

The aim of this second is to extend the areas of production and agricultural productivity as well as, in two districts of the province, improve irrigation systems to take full advantage of rainwater and provide training on the production of organic fertilisers.

The ambassador of Japan in Mozambique, Akira Mizutani said he hoped this donation would allow the two projects to be carried out so that sustainable development objectives can be achieved in Mozambique, according to Mozambican news agency AIM. (10-12-2015)

NORTH AFRICAN PARTNERS TO BENEFIT FROM NEW AFRICA-EU INTERNET PROJECT

North African Neighbourhood partners will be among the countries to benefit from the launch of a new €26 million EU-Africa project to provide dedicated high-speed internet all over the continent.

Among the four regional partners of the project is [ASREN](#), which has been connecting Northern Africa following the Mediterranean [EUMEDCONNECT](#) project. They will link up with African networks [UbuntuNet Alliance](#) and [WACREN](#), in partnership with their European counterpart [GÉANT](#).

AfricaConnect2 will develop high-capacity internet networks across the entire African continent and connect them to the European GÉANT network, allowing students, researchers and academics in Africa and beyond to collaborate. The connectivity boost will not only advance research and education locally with opportunities like e-learning and cloud computing, but it will equally benefit scientific studies the world over in areas such as climate change, biodiversity, food security, malaria and other infectious diseases. (EU Neighbourhood 10-12-2015)

WORLD BANK PAYS FOR ROAD REPAIRS IN CABO VERDE

The World Bank will finance road repair works on the island of Santiago in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), including the section between Praia and Santa Catarina, said Wednesday the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Defence, Rui Semedo.

The minister, who responded to questions in parliament from Members, said the World Bank would contribute 152 million escudos (US\$1.5 million) for these repairs.

Semedo, cited by Cape Verdean news agency Inforpress also said that the works had not started yet due to legal formalities that the company being awarded the contract must carry out. (11-12-2015)

REVENUE FROM TOURISM IN MOZAMBIQUE TOTALS US\$85 MILLION IN 1ST HALF

Tourism revenue in Mozambique reached over US\$85 million in the first half of the year, with the entry into the country of more than 834,000 foreign tourists, the Minister for Culture and Tourism said in Bilene, Gaza province.

Minister Silva Dunduro, in taking the floor at the first coordinating council of the institution, said that throughout 2015 the sector conducted activities that enabled the international exhibition of the country's tourism and cultural potential, leading many tourists to visit the country and businesspeople to be interested in investing in Mozambique.

Cited by Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias, the minister noted that Mozambique was represented at Expo Milano and at the Venice Biennale, in Italy and was elected member of the executive council of the World Tourism Organization for the 2015/2019 period.

During the meeting, the approval of 89 projects valued at about US\$146 million was announced, which has allowed creation of over 1,000 new jobs and approved and funded 60 small cultural projects valued at 5 million meticals.

Twenty three new hotel units started operating in Mozambique this year, with a total of 984 beds, and three hotels have been equipped as part of the "Kapulana" project in Guijá districts in Gaza province, Mueda, in Cabo Delgado province and Funhalouro in Inhambane province. (10-12-2015)

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.

The Memorandum is also made available by the Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO and NABA, to their Members.



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