

MEMORANDUM

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SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS ADDS FIRST A330-300



[South African Airways](#) (SA, [Johannesburg O.R. Tambo](#)) took delivery of its first [A330-300](#)(E) on Friday, December 1, with ZS-SXI (cn 1745) ferried direct from [Toulouse Blagnac](#) to [Johannesburg O.R. Tambo](#).

The twinjet is one of five the state-owned carrier will take delivery of from [Airbus Industrie](#) (AIB, [Toulouse Blagnac](#)) with two due to arrive by year-end.

As previously reported, SAA expects to deploy the type into service later this month on [Johannesburg O.R. Tambo-Lagos](#), Nigeria flights followed by [São Paulo Guarulhos](#), Brazil operations early next year.

SAA's A330-300s are configured in a two-class cabin layout with forty-six seats in Business Class (BD 05-12-2012)

ETHIOPIA GETS \$4M DEMARK GRANT TO BOOST RENEWABLE ENERGY

Denmark has extended \$4 million in grant to Ethiopia to support the horn African nation's renewable energy generation.

The grant agreement, signed on Friday in Ethiopia's capital, aims at backing the country's wind power generation activities and improving quality of service electric power distribution systems.

Ethiopia is set to generate 17,000MW by the end 2019 through energy mix of hydropower, wind, solar and biogas said Admasu Nebebe, Ethiopia's State Minister of Finance and Economic Cooperation.

The fund is also expected to improve the country's institutional framework and market readiness in the power sector with an improved power integration system and minimum grid loss.

Currently, Ethiopia generates a total of 3715 megawatt of electricity from more than ten power generating units. (APA 09-12-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE BUDGET OUTLINES 11% DEFICIT IN 2017

Mozambique's parliament on Thursday approved, in general, the state budget for 2017 which includes a deficit of 11% of gross domestic product (GDP) and stipulates costs of 272.3 billion meticaais (US\$3.729 billion), the Mozambican press reported.

The Minister of Economy and Finance, Adriano Maleiane said in Parliament that the deficit will be covered by issuing debt in the domestic market and borrowing from foreign markets, according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

Mozambique awaits conclusion of the international, independent audit of the way public companies took on loans of over US\$2 billion and the fate of this money so that the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will consider approving a new aid programme.

Addressing parliament, the minister estimated revenues for 2017 in the amount of US\$2.5 billion.

Maleiane said that of planned expenditure 23% will be earmarked for education, while the construction of infrastructure will account for 18% of the total.

Expected economic growth outlined in the macroeconomic scenario of the state budget is 5.5%, which compares with a rate of 3.9% expected for 2016, said Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, addressing members of parliament.

Rosario stressed that the advances seen in the extractive industries will in the short and medium term, stabilise the economy and restore economic growth and expand and diversify the production base to improve the living conditions of every Mozambican. (09-12-2016)

LUNDA SUL: CONSTRUCTION OF SAURIMO NEW CITY TO START IN 2017



The construction of the new city of Saurimo in Nhama locality will start in the first quarter of 2017, according to the Chairman of Imogestin Board of Directors, Rui Cruz.

The official said so on Tuesday at the end of the meeting he held with the governor of Lunda Sul province, Candida Narciso.

He noted that the Cabinet Council's Economic Commission and Commission for the Real Economy, has oriented the start of the construction works of the Saurimo new city, aiming for the access to the house and provide a new image to the region.

The project of the new city of Saurimo, according to Rui Cruz, should happen in a phased way, with the first phase to include the construction of 200 flats and second one with 1000 flats.

According to him, the site chosen for the construction of the city is a land reserve of 414 hectares and offers appropriate conditions for the development of the project.

To address other issues related to the project, Rui Cruz said that Imogestin will return to the province in January 2017 with technical teams and the contractor to create the conditions for the starting of the works.

The chairman of the Imogestim Board of Directors of Imogestim also worked in Lunda Norte province, where he visited the city of Dundo, which is in the final phase. (Angola Press Agency 08-12-2016)

SWAZILAND: TAX BODY HIRES EXPERTS FOR LIFESTYLE AUDITS

A team of Ugandan specialists has been roped in to conduct lifestyle audits on all taxpayers, APA learnt on Sunday.

The Swaziland Revenue Authority (SRA) said the team will work together with a Swazi team in the project for skills sharing purposes.

“We request that people cooperate with the team each time they ask for information,” said SRA Commissioner General Dumisani Masilela.

Central Bank Governor Majozi Sithole on the other hand said the team would be working with local banks checking on people’s bank accounts and also with Swazi MTN checking through customers who are registered for Mobile Money.

“All banks and financial services institutions are expected to comply and demand the information on the identity of their customers,” said the governor. (APA 11-12-2016)

DIRECTOR OF DELOITTE & TOUCHE (MOZAMBIQUE) HEADS UP LIQUIDATION COMMITTEE OF NOSSO BANCO

The director of the Deloitte & Touche consulting company (Mozambique), João Machado, was named by the Bank of Mozambique as chairman of the liquidation committee of former ban Nosso Banco, according to a statement issued in Maputo by the Mozambican central bank.

The statement said that the committee will consist of three people, a chairman, a member representing the creditors and another on behalf of shareholders.

The committee’s main mission will be to determine assets and liabilities so that after selling the assets they can pay off creditors, probably on a prorated basis.

Through an order issued on 11 November by the Governor of the Bank of Mozambique, Nosso Banco was dissolved due to deterioration in the financial situation of the institution, affecting the main prudential and profitability indicators.

Nosso Banco was founded in 1999 as Banco Mercantil e de Investimentos (BMI), and changed its name in 2015.

Although it is a private entity, the majority of the capital belongs to the National Institute of Social Security (77%), and also shareholders of public company Electricidade de Mozambique (15%) and SPI – Gestão de Investimentos, a company linked to top figures of ruling political party the Mozambique Liberation front (Frelimo). (09-12-2016)

NEW EFFORT TO ASSIST PEOPLE DISPLACED BY CONFLICT IN THE BORNO REGION IN NIGERIA



As hundreds of thousands flee their homes in northeastern Nigeria to seek safety from intensifying conflict between Boko Haram and the Nigerian military, the IKEA Foundation has given Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) €1 million to provide lifesaving medical assistance.

The conflict in Northeastern Nigeria started in 2009, as a result of the fighting, countless families have been forced to flee their homes and sought safety in overcrowded cities or camps for displaced people. Tragically, many are losing their lives and their loved ones to illness, hunger and violence.

MSF is working tirelessly to help displaced survive the biggest killers inside the camps: measles, diarrhoea, malaria and malnutrition.

The IKEA Foundation is leading the way with a €1 million grant and hopes that other funders will step forward to help MSF save even more lives.

MSF is using the funding to implement a range of health activities for the most vulnerable.

More than 7,500 children under five have been vaccinated against measles and have been provided with emergency food rations. Fourteen per cent of children screened for malnutrition were suffering from the deadliest form of malnutrition and received therapeutic food and treatment. MSF is also providing antenatal care for pregnant women, referring critical patients for hospital care and is delivering large quantities of clean water.

Shining a light on unseen emergencies

Around the world, MSF gives medical care to thousands of people suffering from emergencies that receive little or no international assistance.

Thanks to a special agreement with the IKEA Foundation signed only a couple of weeks ago, MSF can quickly access grants to help children and their families survive these emergencies.

“Through this grant, the IKEA Foundation is giving a financial boost for our emergency action on the ground and is also working with us to shine a light on this crisis,” says Bruno Jochum, General Director of MSF.

“When our teams first arrived in Banki in July, we discovered some 25,000 people living in catastrophic conditions in a camp without access to food, water and medical care. The health and humanitarian situation was beyond critical with mortality rates three times above the emergency threshold. Fourteen per cent of the children screened by MSF were suffering from severe acute malnutrition, and nearly one in three children was malnourished. Since then, we have been providing regular assistance in Banki, and we now see an improvement in the health situation. This shows the positive impact of humanitarian aid, although much more remains to be done.” Said Hugues Robert, MSF Programme Manager for Nigeria.

“This emergency has not received the kind of international attention it deserves considering the scale of suffering going on,” he continues. “The IKEA Foundation’s support of our lifesaving medical action is a recognition that more needs to be done, and fast.”

Per Heggnes, CEO of the IKEA Foundation, agrees. “Children and their families have the right to health and protection, which is why the IKEA Foundation is proud to support MSF’s lifesaving services during unseen emergencies and calls on other funders to do the same.”

Ngala, Nigeria: Emergency aid to victims of violence and displacement, On 13 November, MSF teams from Cameroon managed to access Ngala in Nigeria for the second time.

Some 78,000 internally displaced people live there in a camp and receive little external assistance. MSF provided food, relief items and medical care, and screened over 7,000 of children for malnutrition and vaccinated them against measles.

Over twenty per cent of the children were found to suffer from malnutrition. MSF teams also started to improve the water supply.

In the town of Gambaru, a few kilometers from Ngala, MSF teams vaccinated over 8,000 children under the age of five against measles and also screened them for malnutrition. Ten per cent were malnourished and received food aid and medical care. The town’s estimated 70,000 residents lack basic food supplies and have no access to healthcare.

The only health centre was burnt down, and the road is too dangerous for people to leave to seek care elsewhere.

For more information about the IKEA Foundation’s emergency-grant agreement with MSF:

<https://www.ikeafoundation.org/stories/helping-save-children-msf-save-thousands-childrens-lives-catastrophic-disasters/>

The IKEA Foundation and MSF have partnered since 2013 to bring lifesaving medical care to people suffering in conflicts and disasters. The IKEA Foundation has donated more than EUR 20 million to

MSF since 2013. In 2014, IKEA Foundation provided EUR 5 million to fight the Ebola virus outbreak in West Africa.

About the IKEA Foundation

The IKEA Foundation (Stichting IKEA Foundation) is the philanthropic arm of INGKA Foundation, the owner of the IKEA Group of companies. We aim to improve opportunities for children and youth in some of the world's poorest communities by funding holistic, long-term programmes that can create substantial, lasting change. The IKEA Foundation works with strong strategic partners applying innovative approaches to achieve large-scale results in four fundamental areas of a child's life: a place to call home; a healthy start in life; a quality education; and a sustainable family income, while helping these communities fight and cope with climate change.

Learn more at www.ikeafoundation.org and www.facebook.com/IKEAfoundation.

About MSF

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) is an international, independent, medical humanitarian organisation that delivers emergency aid to people affected by armed conflict, epidemics, natural disasters and exclusion from healthcare. MSF offers assistance to people based on need, irrespective of race, religion, gender or political affiliation. (IPS 02-12-2016)

Learn more at www.msf.org/en/about-msf

WATER, SANITATION PROJECTS PLEASE MOZAMBIQUE AND JAPAN

Japan's International Cooperation Agency, (JICA) and the Mozambican government have expressed satisfaction over the degree of implementation of the Project for the Promotion of Sustainability in Water Supply, Hygiene and Rural Sanitation (PROSUAS), in the northern province of Niassa.

The two sides expressed their sentiments late on Friday during a meeting to assess the impact and efficiency of the project, due to be concluded in February.

This is due to the positive results of the Intermediate and Final Project Evaluations, carried out at the end of 2014 and the middle of the current year.

The project, whose implementation started in 2013, aims to improve the water supply and rural sanitation conditions in the Mavago, Muembe, Majune, Mandimba, Metarica and Cuamba districts in Niassa through the construction of new sources of water and sanitation, sanitary blocks in public schools in target districts, rehabilitation of existing sources, awareness of hygiene and sanitation practices, among others.

"We feel a very positive reaction from both the beneficiaries, society and other organizations that have been following the implementation of PROSUAS," said Katsuyoshi Sudo, JICA's resident representative in Mozambique.

Sudo said he believes the project will contribute significantly to improving water supply and rural sanitation.

"In addition, I would like to emphasize that PROSUAS can serve as a reference in several African countries," he added.

The Mozambican government, through the Provincial Directorate of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources of Niassa, praised the project's impact, including the construction of 50 water sources and rehabilitation of 65 faulty roads, construction of 20 sanitary blocks with hand washing system for schools, the acquisition of eight motorcycles, six computers, four digital machines, four electronic probes to measure water levels in the fountains and water quality analysis kits.

Other achievements include the formation of 110 water committees, training of 20 water and sanitation technicians, and of 37 artisans to build latrines in communities. (APA 10-12-2016)

GOVERNMENT OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE TERMINATES CONTRACT WITH OIL COMPANY SINOANGOL

The government of Sao Tome and Principe has decided to terminate the contract with oil company Sinoangol for “breach and violation” of the production sharing contract in Block 2 of the maritime area of the archipelago, the director of the National Petroleum Agency (ANP) said on Wednesday.

In a statement, director Orlando Pontes said “among multiple defaults and violations, Sinoangol never provided the Sao Tome state with information about the amount received from the transfer of 30% stake in block 2 which took place on 31 March 2014.”

In addition to “systematic and continuous” violation of laws on oil tax and revenues, the statement said that the company “never even allowed the calculation and payment to Sao Tome of state tax as a result of this transfer.”

In addition to the payment of US\$5 million for the production sharing contract signing bonus, the oil company was also required to provide US\$250,000 per year to fund social projects in the archipelago.

The oil company announced investments of more than US\$154 million in oil exploration, which included seismic and environmental impact studies as well as drilling and evaluation of the existence of deposits of commercial value.

Sinoangol is a partnership between the China Petroleum & Chemical Corporation (Sinopec) and Angolan state oil company Sonangol. (09-12-2016)

SOUTH AFRICA: BALANCE OF PAYMENTS BRIGHTENS



Reserve Bank.

There has been a turnaround from the sizeable net outflows over the past two years when South African companies stepped up their efforts to internationalise their businesses.

The shift in direct investments trend made a small contribution to improving the financial account of SA's balance of payments, which showed a surplus of 3.5% for the third quarter, up from 1.3% the previous quarter. The Reserve Bank's quarterly bulletin shows capital inflows were more than adequate to finance the deficit on the current account deficit of the balance of payments, which widened to 4.1% from a revised 2.9% in the third quarter.

Economists expect that the current account deficit, which tends to be a driver of the rand exchange rate, will narrow again in the fourth quarter as exports pick up again. (BD 12-12-2016)

TANZANIA RECEIVES £2.8 MILLION MALARIA GRANT

Comic Relief and GSK has allotted £2.8million to three organisations in Tanzania to help them tackle the malaria pandemic in the country.

According to a statement to the media on Sunday, the project will work to improve the availability and quality malaria diagnosis treatment and preventative services through training public and private health providers in national malaria treatment guidelines and the use of diagnostic equipment and appropriate treatment.

Organisations that will receive the support include the Association of Private Health Facilities in Tanzania (APHFTA) the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the Tanzania Communication and Development Center (TCDC).

Survey shows that malaria death in Tanzania has decreased by 73 percent between 2004 and 2014.

TCDC is expected to use the grant of £890,499 to engage and educate communities on malaria and promote positive care while APHFTA will use the grant of €995,675 to improve malaria health care services in the private and public health sector. (APA 11-12-2016)

MOROCCAN MEDICAL TEAM TACKLES EYE DISEASES IN DAKAR DISTRICT

A Moroccan medical and socio-educational caravan, on Saturday offered eye care to the disadvantaged populations of Pikine, a suburb of Dakar.

The medical exercises, which took place at the King Baudouin Hospital in Pikine, are initiated by the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) and the Alwaleed Philanthropies Foundation, in partnership with Senegalese partners.

Abibatou Mbengue a patient found at the hospital's ophthalmology department has been waiting to see the doctor since the early hours of the day, in an attempt to benefit from the consultation.

She welcomed the opportunity offered by the Moroccan caravan.

"I am suffering from cataracts and I do not have the means to be treated. Today, thanks to this medical caravan, I have been able to benefit from free treatment," said the 70-year-old woman who will have eye surgery by the Moroccan team.

Sitting next to her was another 30-year-old lady holding an eye consultation sheet.

She also thanked the organizers of the caravan who have allowed her free access to care.

"It's been four years since I began to suffer from vision problems, this is the reason for my presence here to benefit from these free consultations offered by the Moroccan caravan," Mame Coumba Diop said.

The medical and socio-educational caravan was launched last Thursday at the Palais de la Republique (State House) in collaboration with "Servir le Senegal", a foundation set up by Senegal's First Lady.

The medical caravan which consists of specialists in ophthalmology, pediatrics, ENT, cardiology, and gynecology will provide free care to the disadvantaged populations from 9 to 15 December. (APA 11-12-2016)

INVESTMENT BREEZE SHIFTS IN SA'S FAVOUR



Foreign direct investment into SA has declined steadily this year, but so has outward investment by local companies expanding offshore.

SA recorded small inflows of direct investment on a net basis in the past two quarters, representing a turnaround from the sizeable net outflows seen over the past two years as companies stepped up efforts to internationalise their businesses.

The shift in the direct investment trend made a small contribution to improving the financial account of SA's balance of payments, which showed a surplus of 3.5% for the third quarter, up from 1.3% in the previous quarter, as it continued to attract more volatile portfolio capital inflows, particularly into its bond markets, as well as bank deposits from abroad.

The Reserve Bank's latest quarterly bulletin shows that those capital inflows were more than adequate to finance the deficit on the current account of SA's balance of payments, which widened to 4.1% from a revised 2.9% in the third quarter as export performance deteriorated and the trade account swung from surplus to deficit in the third quarter.

Economists expect, however, that the current account deficit, which tends to be a driver of the rand exchange rate, will narrow in the fourth quarter as exports pick up, with Investec economist Kamilla Kaplan predicting a current account deficit of 3.9% for full-year 2016, down from 4.3% in 2015.

The bulletin, released on Friday, shows direct "real economy" investment into SA declined to R7bn in the third quarter, from R14bn in the same quarter in 2015. But outward direct investment fell to R1.4bn for the quarter, against R38bn a year ago, suggesting a slowdown in the trend that has seen high-profile acquisitions by South African companies in the UK and Europe in the past few years.

The year to date has been a net negative on the direct investment front, with SA continuing to rely on the more volatile portfolio inflows of capital into equities and bonds to finance the deficit on the current account on its balance of payments.

Third quarter figures also show a big R26.3bn "other" investment inflow, following an "other" outflow in the previous quarter, which Reserve Bank economist Johan van den Heever said reflected items such as trade credit, and long-and short-term loans by the banking sector. "The banking sector is a major driver of flows on the asset and liability side," Van den Heever said.

The bulletin shows, however, that domestic fixed investment continued its decline, with fixed investment going below 20% of GDP again for the first time since 2012, with private sector investment and investment by public corporations contracting.

"The prolonged decline in real capital spending by private business enterprises — comprising nearly two-thirds of capital investment — continued in the third quarter of 2016," the bulletin reported, with aggregate real gross fixed capital formation 3.9% lower in the first three quarters of 2016 than in the corresponding period in 2015. (BD 12-12-2016)

AFDB APPROVES \$92.9M FOR ETHIOPIA'S ROAD PROJECT

The Board of Directors of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB) approved a \$92.9 million support to the government of Ethiopia for the upgrading of 240km of gravel road sections to all-weather asphalt concrete surfaced road.

About \$57.6 million of the total fund is a grant, while the remaining \$35.3 million is a loan, according to a statement issued by the bank on Saturday.

The road sections are found in Oromia and in Southern Nations, Nationalities and Peoples Region (SNNPR) and will be serving 1.4 million people living in 8 districts of the two states.

The road project is also expected to contribute to the transformation of rural economies and moving up the agricultural value chain.

The two road sections will connect the towns of Jimma and Chida (80km) as well as Sawla and Sodo (160km), facilitating access to remote hinterlands to the main trunk road network thereby providing social and economic opportunities in Addis Ababa and the rest of the country.

Both road sections are located in areas with high agricultural potentials, especially for coffee and sesame production.

The investment is a new milestone in the Bank's and the Ethiopian government's bids to reinforce the spatial, social and economic inclusion of the population living in the southern regions of the country, where the Bank's \$1 billion transport portfolio has been invested. (APA 11-12-2016)

WORK ON THE MAPUTO-KATEMBE BRIDGE IN MOZAMBIQUE, COMPLETED AT THE END OF 2017

The Minister of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources of Mozambique, Carlos Bonete said 70% of the work on the Maputo-Katembe bridge has been completed, according to Mozambican daily newspaper Noticias.

With full completion planned for the end of 2017 the bridge, which is just over 3 kilometres long, will have a deck of 680 metres over the bay, with pillars on both sides and is being built by the China Bridge and Road Corporation .

Construction of the bridge is part of the Maputo/Ponta de Ouro road construction project, a distance of 209 kilometres, a development that is divided into three parts – the first section from Maputo to Katembe, over 35 kilometres; the second section comprising Katembe/Ponta de Ouro (109 kilometres) and includes the repair/construction of roads between Katembe/Bela Vista and Bela Vista/South Africa and the third section of 63 kilometres covering the repair of the Bela Vista/Boane road.

This project has an estimated cost of US\$700 million and is funded by the Export-Import Bank of China. Completion of the bridge and other related facilities will allow exploration of tourist resorts and areas in the southern part of Maputo province. (12-12-2016)

USAID IS READY, BUT STILL WAITING, FOR THE TRUMP TRANSITION

The [U.S. Agency for International Development](#) is still waiting to hear from President-elect Donald Trump's transition team.

Agency leaders have made sure USAID is ready to change hands. Staff are prepared to fill in when political appointees resign, they've appointed a transition team, they've collected reams of briefing material on a "nifty iPad," and they've instructed outgoing officials to write exit memos for their successors, said USAID's Chief of Staff Michele Sumilas.

The only problem is, they still have no one to share this information with. It's not yet clear who will make up Trump's "landing team" — the handful of individuals who will consider what direction the agency should take in the next administration.

"I think we're ready. We just need people to show up. And they will," Sumilas said Tuesday at the Council for International Development Companies' annual conference.

Officials expected the landing team would arrive last month, and that a bulk of the transition effort would be spent on in-person briefings with the incoming administration. By comparison, President Barack

Obama announced his USAID agency review team in mid-November 2008. It was co-led by current USAID Administrator Gayle Smith and former [Peace Corps](#) Director Aaron Williams.

The two months between the election and inauguration are critical to a smooth transition between administrations. A large portion of USAID's leadership — as with other agencies and departments — are political appointees, and when they resign sometime before inauguration day, so does their institutional knowledge. The lack of a Trump landing team at USAID has fed some speculation that the incoming president will not prioritize development programs — since he has not appeared to prioritize their transition so far.

Laying the groundwork

Donald Trump's victory raises a lot of questions about what U.S. development cooperation will look like under the next administration. Here are five of them.

USAID has been working on the transition for over a year, Sumilas said.

Since foreign service officers rotate through international and domestic postings, the agency had to ensure it would have qualified personnel in Washington to step into leadership roles when Obama's political appointees resign — which they are expected to do by inauguration day.

"We've ensured that there is a senior deputy assistant administrator in every single bureau who is prepared and ready to hit the ground running, whether that's a foreign service officer or a civil servant," Sumilas said.

USAID also set up a transition team of career — nonpolitical — staff to put together briefing papers from each of the agency's regional and functional bureaus.

"There's about a half a dozen corporate papers that we've developed that focus on key issues ... and then there are papers that are bureau specific. All of that is ready on a very nifty iPad," Sumilas said.

All of the political appointees who are leaving the agency have also been requested to write an exit memo for whoever arrives to fill their roles in the new administration. According to Sumilas, those memos will outline what the official tried to accomplish, what was successful, what wasn't, and where future opportunities may lie.

The transition process

Before the election and when Hillary Clinton was expected to win, Wade Warren, assistant to the administrator, had laid out what he believed the transition process would look like.

Already, some of those expectations haven't been met.

"We expect there to be five to 10 to 12 people who will come to the agency and work with us through November and December to learn more about what the agency does and begin to think about directions that they want to take the agency in," he said at the Advisory Council on Voluntary Foreign Assistance Oct. 19 meeting.

Warren said at the same meeting that he had consulted with past landing teams, who told him that they had gotten most of their information from in-person briefings, more than background papers.

With November gone and December quickly disappearing, it's not clear how much time will be left — or if the Trump team is planning — to do those in-person briefings with outgoing USAID officials, and there is little USAID's leadership can do to influence the process.

Speculation about the future

As the agency and its partners wait for the Trump administration team to arrive, speculation about what they might have in store for USAID, and who they might tap to lead the agency, continues to build.

Speaking at the Council of International Development Companies' annual conference on Dec. 6, Diana Ohlbaum, an independent consultant and U.S. development expert, predicted that the Trump administration will push a policy agenda to strip USAID of its independence and relocate development within other departments.

"My assumption is that the Trump administration will move to eliminate USAID and merge it into the State Department," Ohlbaum said.

Such a proposal would not be unprecedented. In the mid-1990s, with a Republican-controlled Congress, there was an effort to dismantle USAID and fold U.S. foreign assistance programs into the State Department. *Ohlbaum, who was working for Sen. Paul Sarbanes, was part of the successful effort to defend the agency against those plans.

Not everyone agrees the Trump administration will pursue anything that drastic. The agency enjoys more bipartisan support now than it did then, with key Republican and Democratic allies in Congress who have helped secure a relatively stable budget and independent management for the agency. Trump

never explicitly attacked U.S. development programs during the campaign — even though his rival Hillary Clinton was closely associated with many of them.

Trump team's silence so far, however, is doing little to ease concerns. (Devex 09-12-2016)

BOTSWANA BLASTS FRANCE OVER TAX BLACKLISTING

Botswana has expressed concern at the “unsolicited” 2012 blacklisting of the country as an uncooperative tax jurisdiction by France, APA learnt here Monday.

In a statement delivered at the 19th African Caribbean Pacific-European Union (ACP-EU) joint Ministerial Trade Committee and seen by APA on Monday, Botswana's Trade Minister Vincent Seretse said Botswana strongly contests its blacklisting in view of the country's cooperation with the Global Forum on Transparency Exchange of Information or Tax Purposes.

“Botswana has in all respects been transparent and has continually responded to the Global Forum fair taxation requirements with the objective of being transparent and compliant in the exchange of tax information at all levels,” said Seretse.

He added: “Our commitment in response to transparency and in exchange of information has been evidenced by various engagements of our treaty partners to renegotiate our existing Tax Treaties or Protocols to amend existing Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAA) in place (that were considered non-compliant).”

Seretse said Botswana has worked on the deficiencies, including amending DTAAs, which the country has with other countries that were not compliant.

Botswana was blacklisted by France in 2012 as one of the countries that aid fraud after failing to meet standards set by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

The southern African country was also accused of not having adequate international agreements under which information for tax purposes could be exchanged.

It was named alongside 11 other countries to be excluded from the international business community because they are tax havens.(APA 12-12-2016)

MOZAL IS THE LARGEST COMPANY IN MOZAMBIQUE ACCORDING TO KPMG

Aluminium smelter, Mozal, once again took first place in the ranking of the Top 100 Companies in Mozambique, followed by oil company Petromoc (Petroleos de Mozambique) and construction and engineering company Mota Engil – Engenharia Construção África, SA according to a study prepared by the KPMG consultancy and published by Mozambican daily newspaper Noticias.

Beer maker Cervejas de Moçambique, SARL (CDM) came in fourth place followed by electricity company EDM, in fifth, and hydropower company Hidroeléctrica de Cahora Bassa, SARL, in sixth place. The MOTRACO power company came in seventh place followed by CFM (Mozambique Ports and Railways) in eighth place, and for the first time Banco Internacional de Moçambique (BIM) in ninth place. Ending the list of Mozambique's top ten companies is Mozambique Leaf Tobacco. (12-12-2016)

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.

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NEWS DETAILS: AFRICA'S ECONOMIC OUTLOOK - NOV/DEC EJOURNAL

On Tuesday, November 1, Corporate Council on Africa hosted Albert Zeufack, Chief Economist, of the Africa Region, at the World Bank Group. Mr. Zeufack indicated that though growth is faltering on the continent for the first time in twenty years, the overall investment climate is improving. The lower growth is due to the end of the commodity price super cycle which drove growth on the continent during the 2010-2015 period; the difficulty to access financing, especially equity; and strong pressure on currencies translated to higher inflation.

Despite the gloomy macroeconomic situation, Mr. Zeufack stated that 41% of the population lives in an Africa that is still rising; and that Angola, Nigeria and South Africa, which make up 60% of the continent GDP, are dragging down growth. He identified countries such as Ethiopia, Rwanda and Tanzania as established performers experiencing good growth before and after the commodity crisis. He also highlighted Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal and Kenya as countries that were growing well before the crisis but growing at a lesser rate since the crisis.

According to Mr. Zeufack, African countries cannot continue to rely on commodities alone but must diversify their economies by identifying new growth sectors and export markets, in addition to adding value to their raw materials and exports.

Moreover, Mr. Zeufack indicated that African countries can sustain their growth if they take advantage of the diaspora, who can contribute both expertise and financial resources; deepen intra-regional trades to increase the overall business climate and lower trade barriers; invest in infrastructure development and power sector; as well as train a workforce (including vocational training) that meets the needs of the job market.

Mr. Zeufack concluded by sharing his optimism about the continent's continued growth by saying that the rest of Africa is still growing about four percent a year.

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