# MEMORANDUM

N° 04/2016 | 07/01/2016

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.
More than 1,455 Memoranda issued from 2006 to Jun 2015. More than 17,300 pages of Business Clips issued covering all African, European Institutions and African Union, as well as the Breton Woods Institutions. The subscription is free of charge, and sponsored by various Development Organisations and Corporations.
Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to fernando.matos.rosa@sapo or fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be.

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

***Welcome back to all our readers for a 2016 full of timely and popular press clips on Africa***

## SUMMARY

## SOUTH AFRICA IN EXTRA TIME IN TERMS OF MEETING US'S AGOA DEADLINE

The US government has not yet blocked SA's agricultural products from receiving the duty free benefits of the Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa), Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies said on Monday.

The minister conceded, however, that SA was in "extra time" with regard to meeting the December 31 deadline set by US President Barack Obama. Mr. Obama had said the negotiations to grant access of US poultry, beef and pork onto the market should have been concluded by then.

Further discussions between US and South African veterinarians are scheduled to take place on Wednesday. Mr. Davies hoped that the US administration would allow more time for an agreement on the outstanding issues to be reached.

The main issue of disagreement is the acceptable level of salmonella in chicken and the procedures to be followed if it were to be detected during testing at ports of entry.

The minister addressed the media on the latest developments regarding SA's status under the act. He was flanked by Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi and Agriculture Minister Senzeni Zokwana.

Mr. Motsoaledi emphasised the need to protect the health of the South African population.

Mr. Davies said that if the US did suspend Agoa access on specific agricultural products this could be lifted if agreement was reached later. Discussions would continue regardless of whether or not the US cancelled SA's benefits under the act.

Mr. Davies stressed that SA was committed to finding solutions to allow the import of US poultry, beef and pork.

He said "considerable and discernable" progress had been made in the talks and that the US embassy agreed that this was so.

The rules for the administration of the quota for the import of 65,000 tons of bone-in chicken portions annually free of anti-dumping duties had been gazetted and a protocol for addressing avian flu had been concluded. Also, the differences over pork imports had been largely resolved as had the question of whether beef originating from outside the US could be included in US beef imports.(BD 06-01-2016)

## ANGOLA'S CURRENCY FALLS AGAINST THE US DOLLAR

The decision of the National Bank of Angola to allow the kwanza to depreciate took the Angolan currency to a record low of 158.73 kwanzas per dollar on Monday, according to financial news agency Bloomberg.

Bloomberg said the low recorded Monday, the first working day of 2016, represented a 15-percent depreciation of the kwanza against the dollar, in addition to a 24-percent drop recorded in 2015.

Bloomberg said the Angolan central bank was trying to reduce the difference between the official exchange rate and prices on the "black market" in which one US dollar can be worth 270 or 280 kwanzas, about twice the official rate.

In November, the central bank began to limit access to dollars, restricting the amount offered to commercial banks following a drop of over 65 percent in oil prices since June 2014, which has drastically reduced the availability of the US currency in Angola. (05-01-2016)

## NIGERIA ANNOUNCES 21 COMPANIES FOR CRUDE OIL GRADE

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has announced 21 companies as Off-takers for 26 Nigeria's crude oil grade.

A statement signed by Mr. Ohi Alegbe, Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division NNPC, on

Friday in Abuja said that the companies emerged as winners of the open bid exercise conducted in October.

"The exercise witnessed the 278 bids submitted by indigenous and foreign firms seeking to secure contract for the sale and purchase of the 26 Nigerian crude oil grades on offer,’’ he said.

He added that a breakdown of the 2015/2016 crude oil term contract off-takers for the 991,661 barrel per day (bpd) Nigerian equity crude indicate that 240, 000 bpd representing 24 percent of the total volume on offer is awarded to four refiners.

The refiners were classified as major current receivers of Nigerian crude with capacity to process all of Nigerian crude grades.

It named the Off-takers in the category to include Emirates National Oil Coy, ENOC, Indian Oil Corporation, CEPSA Refinery Madrid and Sara SPA Refinery.

"Each of the Off-takers in this category was awarded 60, 000 bpd," he said

He stated that three notable International Trading companies won the bid for the lifting of 32, 000 bpd of crude based on their pedigree as large scale buyers of Nigerian crude.

The companies, according to him, have structure for short term freight intervention and storage were Trafigura PT Ltd, Mercuria Energy Trading SA and Vitol SA.

"The off-takers in this category represent about 10 percent of total crude volume on offer," he added. (APA 18-12-2015)

## WORLD BANK PULLS FUNDING FOR UGANDA TRANSPORT PROJECT

The World Bank on Monday cancelled funding for a Uganda transport initiative, citing environmental concerns and allegations of sexual misconduct by contractors working on the project.

The cancellation, a rarity for the development bank, came after an early review of the Uganda Transport Sector Development Project uncovered numerous problems, the bank said. "The multiple failures we’ve seen in this project — on the part of the World Bank, the government of Uganda and a government contractor — are unacceptable," said World Bank President Jim Yong Kim.

"It is our obligation to properly supervise all investment projects to ensure that the poor and vulnerable are protected in our work. In this case, we did not."

The bank took action following complaints received by an independent board. Communities in western Uganda had complained of negative environmental and social impacts from the project’s construction, including worrisome impacts on road safety. The complaint also outlined "serious allegations of road workers’ sexual relations with minor girls in the community, and sexual harassment of female employees", the World Bank said.

The World Bank said it suspended financing of the project in late October and cancelled it on December 17 after the Uganda government and the government contractor failed to take corrective steps.

The project, which aimed to improve Uganda’s road network and road management system, was seen rising to maximum funding of $265m.

In addition to cancelling the project, the World Bank said it would review other World Bank programmes in Uganda and other countries to make "needed improvements." Cancelling projects is rare for the World Bank. A bank spokesperson told AFP that the bank ended a $1.2bn bridge project in Bangladesh in 2012 following accusations of corruption.

The World Bank in February 2014 suspended a $90m loan to Uganda following the African country’s enactment of a harsh anti-gay law. *(*AFP 22-12-2015)

## AFDB TO PROVIDE EGYPT WITH $500 MILLION SOFT LOAN

Egypt's International Cooperation Ministry and the African Development Bank (AfDB) on Thursday signed an agreement to provide Egypt a soft loan of $500 million, part of a comprehensive programme for economic development to support the general budget with a total of $1.5 billion over three years.

The loan comes at a time when the Egyptian government is racing to collect money before the end of the year.
The AfDB last week approved the soft loan for Egypt's cash-strapped government, according to an announcement by International Cooperation Minister Sahar Nasr.

She added in a statement that this is part of a wider economic development programme which will see the bank support Egypt with $1.5 billion over three years.

Egypt is a founding member of the AfDB and since 1974, has been receiving help from the bank to support its power sector.

The AfDB has helped Egypt build El-Kureimat Power Plant complex and is supporting the sector with three other power-generation projects, through loans worth $1.2 billion. (APA 18-12-2015)

## NIGERIA: EIGHT COMPANIES GET LICENCE TO GENERATE 1,648.25MW OF ELECTRICITY

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) on Thursday issued licence to eight companies with a combined capacity to generate 1,648.25 megawatts of electricity.

The Commission also licenced a distribution company at the event in Abuja.
According a statement issued by the Commission, the licences
were a mixture of on-grid, off-grid, embedded generation and distribution of electricity.

It explained that one of the licensees, Ossiomo Offistes and Utilities/ Ossiomo Power &Infrastructure, based in Edo state will engage in electricity distribution and in embedded generation of 55 Megawatts gas power electricity. (APA 18-12-2015)

## EGYPT: NON-PETROLEUM EXPORTS DROP 18.7% IN NOVEMBER 2015 TO $1.4 BILLION

Egypt’s non-petroleum exports dropped 18.7 percent year-on-year in November 2015 to $1.4 billion, compared with $1.7 billion in the same month last year, according to Trade and Industry Minister Tareq Qabil.

In October, Egyptian non-petroleum exports increased by 0.5 percent for the first time since the start of 2015.

At that time, the minister said those figures were positive indicators reflecting the ministry's efforts since the cabinet was formed 50 days ago.

In terms of the November figures, however, the minister stated that they were not indicators that government policies are failing, but that they need time to be translated into positive outcomes.

Regardless, Egypt's non-petroleum exports fell, during the first 11 months of 2015, by 17.3 percent to $16.8 billion, versus $20.3 billion during the same period in 2014. (APA 20-12-2015)

## IMF WILL NOT NEGOTIATE ANY LOAN WITH NIGERIA – LAGARDE

The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Ms. Christine Lagarde, says that the Fund has no loan programme to negotiate with the Nigerian government.
Lagarde told journalists after meeting with Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari and his ministers and the economic team on Tuesday in Abuja that she was not in the country to negotiate any loan programmes with Nigerian officials, and assured Nigerians that the role of the IMF has since changed for the better.

The IMF boss, who arrived in Nigeria on Monday for an official visit, explained that the IMF provides policy advice to member countries and engages in an annual review of their economies and provides Balance of Payment assistance where necessary.

She said that the IMF would be happy to provide technical and capacity building assistance to Nigeria.

According to her, Nigeria needs to strengthen its debt management policies, customs service amongst others in tackling the current economic challenges due to the drop in international oil prices.

She disclosed that experts from the IMF would be visiting Nigeria soon to discuss the countries budget with its officials and offer necessary advice.

Lagarde stressed the need for transparency in the management of the country's fiscal and monetary policies and suggested some degree of flexibility in order to ensure that the poor is not unduly affected.

She said that the IMF was supportive of the efforts of the Nigerian government to tackle corruption and that her team would be holding discussion with the central bank on key fiscal and monetary policies.

On her discussions with Nigerian leader, Lagarde said that the challenges of low oil prices, adoption of fiscal discipline, looking at other revenue sources and attending to the needs of the people were discussed.

Lagarde, who expressed delight in the changes that had taken place in Nigeria in the last four years, especially the reform programmes, which she said could be replicated in neighbouring countries.

The IMF boss is expected to hold discussions with Nigeria' Minister of Finance, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun and the Central Bank Governor, Mr. Godwin Emefiele, principal officers of the National Assembly, business leaders, prominent women, and representatives of the civil society during her visit.(APA 05-01-2016)

## BOTSWANA-BASED RETAILER TARGETS SOUTH AFRICAN EXPANSION

Botswana-based retailer Choppies Enterprises is extending its South African footprint with the proposed acquisition of retail outlets owned by niche supermarket group Jwayelani.
This week Choppies — which listed on the JSE earlier this year — confirmed filing an application with the South African Competition Commission regarding an intention to acquire 21 Jwayelani stores in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape.
Jwayelani was initially started as a butchery, but morphed into a niche convenience store chain with a presence in Durban and Pietermaritzburg as well as smaller centres such as Pinetown, Empangeni, Estcourt, Umzinto and Flagstaff.
No further detail was disclosed by Choppies, which already operates 39 stores in South Africa in the Mpumalanga, Limpopo, Free State and North West provinces.
A more determined push by Choppies into South Africa is not entirely unexpected after it opened an 8,000m² fruit and vegetable distribution centre in Rustenburg in December last year. At the time Choppies CEO Ram Ottapathu said the centre was critical to the company’s expansion plans in South

Africa's northern provinces. Choppies' new distribution centre is currently operating at only 35% capacity, but this will change as the South African operations expand.

Mr. Ottapathu recently indicated that Choppies aimed to expand its footprint from the current 36 stores to 42 in the short term and 100 stores in the medium term.

He said the company was following a very strong organic and acquisitive strategy for the South African market.

Since Choppies' listing there have been questions in the market whether the company — which aside from its core market in Botswana also holds a presence in Zimbabwe and Zambia — can crack the competitive South African supermarket market.

Market watchers have pointed out that a good deal of Choppies' business is conducted in mining areas, where economic activity has been depressed by the ongoing commodity price crunch.

The local market is also dominated by large retailers such as Shoprite, Pick n Pay and Spar — although Choppies has stressed seeking out opportunities in areas "underserviced" by formal retail offerings.

In the year to end June Choppies' South African operations recorded revenue of R1,75bn with gross profit of R390m.

Mr. Ottapathu said although operations achieved ebitda (earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation) breakeven, the South African interests were not yet profitable on a net income basis. (BD 22-12-2015)

## MOZAMBIQUE IS ONE OF THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES WITH MOST AGRICULTURAL COMPANIES FROM CHINA

Mozambique is one of the African countries with the largest number of Chinese-owned agro-industrial companies, with major projects in the cotton sector, while Angola is also on the top 10 list, according to a recent study on the subject.

The study by Lu Jiang, an expert on Chinese involvement in agriculture in Africa, resulting from extensive field work in Mozambique and other African countries, concludes that 13 percent of internationalised Chinese agricultural companies are in Africa, the same level as Europe but significantly less than in Asia (59 percent).

Mozambique has 12 Chinese-owned agricultural companies, nearly 15 percent of all Chinese companies in the country. The largest projects are those of the China Africa Cotton Company (CACC), in partnership with the China Africa Development Fund (CADF), and Hubei SFE, a Chinese provincial public agricultural company, which has 22,000 hectares of rice fields planted in partnership with private company Wanbao and Hubei Hefeng Grain & Oil Group.

The study published by the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) reported that the CACC has branches in seven African countries, working with more than 200,000 cotton farmers and the branch in Mozambique purchases the product from 30,000 local producers in three provinces.

The CACC provides seed and capital to cotton growers, sends agricultural experts to assist in planting and during the harvest and also sets up hundreds of sales locations in nearby villages to receive the produce of the farmers who sell to the company.

The Chinese company, currently considered the largest cotton company in Sofala province, then transports the cotton to a plant in the port city of Beira.

According to the author, Mozambique is also an example of so-called combined production, including farming of the Chinese enterprises and local farmers, particularly in the rice fields.

Other active companies are Hefeng (Hubei), with 2,000 hectares of sugarcane, in partnership with Hubei, and Haode, with 1,000 hectares of varied production.

The Mozambican rice market has been the target of Chinese private companies in the country, ranging from wholesale centres to supermarket chains.

In Angola, the author identified eight companies, almost 7 percent of total Chinese companies in the country, notably the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corp, a Chinese provincial public agricultural company, which manages 17,000 hectares of corn, soybeans, rice and vegetables and is already “the largest supplier of vegetables to Luanda.”

According to Jiang, Chinese agricultural investment in Africa “is a relatively new phenomenon” and therefore still “limited in scale of investment.”

Economically, Africa is a “major destination for Chinese international agricultural investment, focused on resources,” and this support for agriculture helps maintain good diplomatic relations between these countries, given their “special meaning” and importance for the “wellbeing of the people,” Jiang said.

Compared to other sectors, there are many Chinese agricultural companies investing in Africa and, in general, private companies are involved in small-scale crops, with state-owned enterprises leading major projects, sometimes with funding from the Export Import Bank of China and the China Development Bank. (22-12-2015)

## CAMEROON SOON TO GET ITS FIFTH CEMENT PLANT

The Switzerland-based Mira company has revealed plans to build a cement plant in the Cameroonian city of Douala under an agreement signed with the government of Cameroon, sources at the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Technological Development disclosed Monday.

The company should benefit from the provisions on incentives for private investment in Cameroon, a facility for which nine other companies are eligible.

For an estimated investment capital of over 32 billion CFA francs, the new cement production plant will create about 1,600 direct and indirect jobs for an initial production of one million tons of cement a year.

This new plant will bring to five the number of cement plants already operating in Cameroon including the Cameroon Cement (CIMENCAM) belonging to the French group Lafarge, the Morocco-based African Cement (CIMAF), the local subsidiary of the Nigerian Dangote cement group (DCC) Medecem Cameroon, a subsidiary of the Turkish Eren Holdings.

The total production of cement in Cameroon is estimated at around 3.5 million tons while the domestic demand is estimated at 5 million tons, which is yet to be met. (APA 28-12-2015)

## SOUTH AFRICA AIRWAYS BOARD APPROVES REVISED AIRBUS CONTRACT

South African Airways (SAA) chairwoman Dudu Myeni has officially lost her battle to reconfigure the airline’s Airbus swap deal, which could have threatened the financial stability of SAA.

SAA has informed the Treasury that the board has approved the execution of the transaction as directed and a process is under way to conclude it within the next few days, the Treasury said in a statement late on Monday.

This took place after Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan directed the SAA board to conclude the swap transaction with Airbus in line with approval granted in July 2015.

Former minister Nhlanhla Nene fell out with Ms Myeni over the deal, with Mr. Nene adamant that the deal continue as approved in July. He was fired by President Jacob Zuma — Ms Myeni's close friend — amid the turmoil.

After his appointment, Mr. Gordhan gave SAA an opportunity to make further representation, following which he decided that the airline must go ahead with executing the A320/A330 swap as had been approved by Mr. Nene, the Treasury said.

The Treasury has also been in direct contact with Airbus to ensure that all the required actions are executed smoothly to conclude the deal, it said on Monday.

"Airbus has indicated that they are amenable to the implementation of the transaction and have required that all legal documentation be in place by December 28," said the Treasury. "The National Treasury will work closely with Airbus and SAA to finalise the swap transaction."

The transaction will see SAA swap the purchase of ten A320 aircraft for a lease of five A330-300 aircraft from Airbus.

The implementation of the deal in this manner will mean that SAA will no longer be required to pay additional pre-delivery payments to Airbus, which would have amounted to about R603m.

"Also, as the airline takes delivery of each of the A330s, the pre-delivery payments that have already been paid, which total just more than $100m, will be refunded by Airbus.

"SAA will not be required to recognise impairments, as it will no longer be acquiring aircraft. It had been estimated that such impairments could have totalled in excess of R1bn."

"The implementation of the transaction will therefore improve the airline's financial position by alleviating the cash flow pressure and improving its profitability. Further measures will be taken next year to stabilise the airline," Treasury said.

The Airbus deal was the first major test for Mr. Gordhan since returning to Mr. Treasury last week. (Fin24 21-12-2015)

## LICHINGA, MOZAMBIQUE, WILL HAVE NEW DRY DOCK IN 2016

Mozambican state rail and port company CFM in 2016 plans to start construction of a dry dock in the Chimbunila district of Niassa province, replacing the existing dock at Lichinga station, said the provincial governor.

Governor Arlindo Chilundo, cited by broadcaster Rádio Moçambique, said the future dry dock is 14 kilometres from Lichinga. In an area of 100 hectares the dry dock will have warehouses, a container terminal and truck park, among other facilities.

The decision to move the location of the dock is based on the fact that compensation payments to people who built their homes very close to the railway line in the city of Lichinga would be very expensive.

The governor said that over 80 kilometres of the railway linking Cuamba (formerly Nova Freixo) to Lichinga (formerly Vila Cabral), with a total length of 250 kilometres, have been rebuilt with funding from the United Arab Emirates.

Trains have not connected Cuamba to Lichinga since 2010 due to the poor state of repair of the railway line, which increases the cost of living in the provincial capital of Niassa due to the poor condition of the road connecting the two cities. (28-12-2015)

## ETHIOPIA TO PROVIDE 300,000 SOLAR-POWERED POTABLE WATER FACILITIES

Ethiopia's rural localities without access to the power grid are to get potable water facilities powered by renewable energy sources, APA learns here Monday.

According to Ethiopia's Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity, the country is massively engaged in the installation of wind and solar powered water pumps in remote localities throughout the country.

Bizuneh Tolcha, Public Relations Director at the Ministry on Monday said that 109 such projects are under implementation in Amhara, Oromia, Tigray and Southern Nations, Nationalities and People's states of the country.

Out of the total projects, 33 have been fully accomplished with additional 67 under installation, Bizuneh said, adding that design works and further studies are underway on the remaining projects.

Bizuneh said the government's Universal Access Program favors such initiatives of long term investment in improved technologies to ensure more access to basic amenities in rural areas.

The director added that the projects will help increase the sustained supply of water at lower economic, environmental and social cost than fossil fuel powered water pumping systems in rural areas.

The ongoing projects are expected to benefit over 300,000 people, according to the director, who added that the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the National Climate Facility are the financiers of the $5million project. (APA 28-12-2015)

## SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR PROCUREMENT PROCESS HAS BEGUN, DEPARTMENT CONFIRMS

The Department of Energy has officially confirmed that the Cabinet has authorised it to issue a request for proposal for South Africa's nuclear procurement programme.

A statement issued on Saturday addresses media reports that the decision was taken the infamous Cabinet meeting on December 9 that took place just before Nhlanhla Nene was fired as finance minister. It follows a government gazette notice on December 21.

The closest the media had got to a confirmation before this was during a question-and-answer session with Mr. Nene's successor (and predecessor) Pravin Gordhan, who said the government would proceed with a formal procurement process only if it was affordable.

A major query regarding this development was how the government would pay for the construction of nuclear power stations providing 9,600MW of electricity.

The department said that the Cabinet had approved a process during this meeting where the business proposals submitted through the request for proposal process would determine the final funding model.

The government gazette confirmed the Cabinet's decision to move ahead with the nuclear procurement programme, paving the way for the department to issue requests for proposals. Up until that point no official press statement had confirmed reports that the Cabinet had taken the next step in procuring nuclear energy.

Department of Energy director-general Thabane Zulu confirmed in a statement on Saturday that these next steps were approved at the Cabinet meeting on December 9.

He said the funding model would be "submitted to Cabinet thereafter for final approval and implementation".

Mr. Zulu said these decisions were made after the Cabinet received a report-back from its energy security subcommittee, which had considered the work being done by both the department and the Treasury on the funding and financing of the programme.

"The decision to proceed with issuing the request for proposal will further assist in developing a funding model". Proposals would first be submitted to the energy security subcommittee "for recommendation before being considered by Cabinet", he said.

"Any decision to proceed further with a nuclear new build programme will therefore only take place after the request for proposal process has been completed and a final funding model has been developed, and then referred back to Cabinet for consideration and approval.

"The Department of Energy is committed to cost-effectiveness and full transparency," he said.

"We will ensure that the integrity of the process is safeguarded at all times and is done within the existing fiscal policy framework of our government."

He said the decision to proceed with developing the nuclear new build programme had been taken in principle by the Cabinet in June.
“However, he said this was subject to more work being done on the proposed funding model; the risks and mitigation strategies; and the contributions by countries as contained in the intergovernmental agreements.” (Fin24 27-12--2015)

## DROP IN OIL PRICES LEADS TO REDUNDANCIES IN ANGOLA

The sharp fall in oil prices has indirectly led to the dismissal of more than 7,000 workers in Angola, 6,500 of which in the construction sector, according to a union estimate.
The National Union of Angolan Workers (UNTA-CS) said this number refers only to the provinces of Luanda, Benguela, Kwanza Sul and Huíla, with the construction sector most affected by the State’s lack of financial resources due to tax only oil exports falling by half.
Cited by the Angonotícias website, the secretary general of the Angolan trade union confederation, Manuel Viage, said most of the workers who were made redundant, and consequently stopped paying union dues, lost their jobs when the contractors closed work yards and demobilised staff due to the government’s inability to honour its commitments.
The sharp fall in the price of oil per barrel in 2014 reduced Angola’s oil export revenues, prompting the government this year to cut a third of all public expenditure and review some projects underway or in the pipeline.
The unemployment rate in Angola currently stands at 24 percent, according to UNTA-CS and is due to fixed term contracts with Angolan workers that come to an end and are not renewed, precisely because construction companies have no projects in the pipeline.
After the construction sector, retail and services, and industry are the most affected by the crisis with a total of about 450 jobs lost.
Angola has approximately 1 million workers who make payments into the social security system, between the public and private sectors, but UNTA-CS estimates that more than 5 million work in the informal market, i.e. outside of this scheme and without any type of social protection. (29-12-2015)

## NIGERIA TO BUILD 10,000 NEW HEALTH CENTRES

Nigeria’s Minister of Health, Prof. Isaac Adewole, has said that the Federal Government plans to build 10,000 primary health centres in 774 local government areas to make medical care available to more Nigerians and decongest tertiary health institutions,

Speaking at the inauguration of 12 projects executed and completed by its Chief Medical Director, Dr. Majekodunmi Ayodele at Federal Teaching Hospital, Ido Ekiti (FETHI), Adewole said that over 60 million indigent citizens would be given access to quality healthcare delivery within the next two years under the health agenda of President Muhammadu Buhari.

He explained that Buhari was determined to alleviate the citizens’ sufferings in the area of quality healthcare by providing more facilities at both the primary and secondary health institutions.

The minister decried a situation in which minor health problems expected to be treated at primary and secondary health centres were taken to teaching hospitals, stressing that government planned to decongest tertiary health institutions by 70 percent.

“The tertiary institutions are not meant to treat malaria or skin rashes, but to attend to critical issues.

“We are determined to take away over 70 percent of patients from the teaching hospitals, but the heads of tertiary institutions must find a way to relate freely with this cadre for effective healthcare delivery.

“We won’t abandon that cadre so that the sequence of referral could be protected,” he said.

Adewole condemned incessant strikes by doctors in federal health institutions, saying the Federal Government would no longer tolerate “coups” against chief medical directors (CMDs).

“It is unfortunate that our national hospitals are better known for strikes, rather than services.

“The human factor is the most important; we should learn to put services above all other considerations in our agitations as medical practitioners because some of the cases I have handled in recent time were more of how to get more pay and not about commitment,’’ he added. (APA 29-12-2015)

## DROUGHT JEOPARDISES POWER GENERATION IN ZIMBABWE

Power generation at Zimbabwe’s main hydro station could be further reduced due to a drought, the national electricity supplier said on Monday, adding that it plans to increase tariffs to raise money for power imports.

Southern Africa is facing a drought caused by the El Nino weather pattern that is expected to bring more drought to already-parched countries, including Zimbabwe, affecting Kariba hydropower station which produces half of the nation’s electricity.

Power supply at Kariba would be cut further to 275 megawatts in 2016 due to low water levels after falling by a third to 475MW in August, state-owned Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) said in a statement.

ZETDC is currently supplying 1,194MW, half Zimbabwe’s peak demand, from both hydro and coal power generation.

Electricity shortages have forced local industries to use costly diesel generators to keep operations running and have been blamed for keeping away potential investors, analysts say.

The ZETDC said it had requested the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority to allow it to raise the electricity tariff from 9.86 cents per kilowatt-hour to import power to sustain the economy, but did not say how much the increase would be.

"The purpose of the proposed tariff increase is to cover the increased costs of emergency power and additional imports in order to maintain supply at current levels and avoid shrinking the economy," ZETDC said.

The power regulator said it would consult industry, mines and residents before making a decision on the tariff request.

Zimbabwe’s economy is struggling to emerge from a catastrophic recession between 1999 and 2008 and is seen struggling next year due to low commodity prices and a forecast of poor rainfall that could hit the agriculture sector. (Reuters 28-12-2015)

## GERMANY FUNDS PROJECTS IN CABO VERDE

Germany will pay for the reconstruction of the headquarters of the Natural Park of Fogo Island (PNF), announced Cabo Verde’s (Cape Verde’s) Minister of Rural Development, Eva Ortet, cited by news agency Inforpress.

The headquarters of the Natural Park of the island of Fogo, whose construction cost about 120 million escudos, were destroyed following a volcanic eruption on the island just a few months after its inauguration.
The minister, who at the time was also delivering irrigated plots, and livestock and cheese production equipment to the families of Chã das Caldeiras, said that Germany would also pay for construction of a road and soil and water conservation work as well as the development of fruit growing in the Montinho area.
The road project, whose construction cost is estimated at 600 million escudos, was drawn up over 10 years ago, as part of a project to preserve the island's natural resources, which was also funded by Germany.
At the same ceremony, the Mayor of São Filipe, Luis Pires, announced negotiations were underway with the German Bank for Reconstruction to extend the runway of the island's airfield. (28-12-2015)

---------------------------------------------------------------------------

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.

www.camaratenerife.com http://www.africacncl.org www.elo-online.org

www.helafrican-chamber.gr www.norwegianafrican.no

Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be