

MEMORANDUM

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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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NEW SURVEY SHOWS HIGHEST SUPPORT FOR DEVELOPMENT AID AMONGST EU CITIZENS IN 6 YEARS

New figures show that almost nine out of ten EU citizens support development (89% - a 4 percentage point increase since 2014.) More than half say that promised levels of aid should be delivered by the EU, with a further 16% saying aid should be increased beyond what is already promised.

EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, today presented the results from the EU's International Cooperation and Development Eurobarometer survey. Figures show that the vast majority of Europeans hold a positive view about the benefits of international cooperation and development. Almost three quarters of those participating in the survey agreed that development aid is an effective way to tackle irregular migration (73%) and 80% of Europeans believe that development is in the EU's own interest.

Following the announcement of the results, Commissioner Mimica said: "*Eurobarometer results clearly show that EU citizens know about and value the importance of the EU's international cooperation and development. Almost nine out of ten respondents think that helping developing countries is important, while more than seven out of ten agree that tackling poverty in developing countries has a positive influence on EU citizens. So at a time when Europe is challenged to make the case of its relevance to its citizens, we should seize this opportunity and make sure that we show the results of what we do, the impact it has on the ground, the difference it makes to the lives of people and how it benefits Europe's values and interests.*"

The survey was held towards the end of 2015, which was the [European Year for Development](#). One of the goals of the European Year for Development was to increase the awareness of citizens about how EU development aid works and where the money is spent. The survey shows that the campaign achieved its results: almost one in five people who were questioned knew that 2015 was the European Year for Development (an increase of some 50% on 2014's results.)

Some key results of the Eurobarometer on Development:

Figures show that increases in the proportion of people who think tackling poverty in developing countries should be one of the main priorities of the EU (up five percentage points to 69%) and of national governments (up five percentage points to 50%). Almost seven out of ten respondents supported an increase of development aid delivered by the EU (68%) - a higher percentage than in recent years.

EU citizens see peace and security in developing countries as the most important challenge of the year for development and cooperation (41%) - which perhaps may be due to the fact that it can be seen as an important factor in tackling the root causes of irregular migration. This was followed by health and education (both 34%).

Meanwhile, more than one third of Europeans have heard or read about the Sustainable Development Goals (36%). (EC 29-02-2016)

The Special Eurobarometer can be found at:

http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/special-eurobarometer-441-european-year-development-citizens-viewson-development-cooperation-and-aid_en

MALAWI DEVELOP NATIONAL DIASPORA POLICY

Malawi has developed a national diaspora engagement policy to help mobilize resources from its people living in diaspora to develop their nation.

Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, George Chabonda said Monday in the capital Lilongwe that Malawians in diaspora have always longed to get involved in the development of their country through resource mobilization but they had no tool to back and guide them up.

"With the development of such a policy, it will be easy for them to effectively mobilize resources to successfully develop their nation," he said

Adding that government was hoping that there shall be strengthened partnership and engagement with

those Malawians living outside their homeland through the policy.

During the consultations and formulation process of the policy, he added, many Malawians living outside were contacted in order to put in their views on how best the policy could be effective and sustainable. (APA 29-02-2016)

ANGOLAN BANK ANNOUNCES STAKE IN PORTUGUESE BANK BPI

Angolan bank Banco BIC has a share of 2.28 percent in Portuguese bank Banco BPI and respective voting rights, the bank said in a statement institution issued Friday through the Portuguese Securities and Exchange Commission, CMVM.

The stake is divided into 1.90 percent held directly by BIC and 0.38 percent held by the chairman of the board of directors, Fernando Teles and administrator Fernando Duarte.

The shareholder structure of Banco BIC, as of 31 December, 2014, included SGPS Santoro, with 25 percent, and Finisantoro, with 17.5 percent, both controlled by Angolan businesswoman Isabel dos Santos.

The Angolan businesswoman and Teles control 80 percent of Banco BIC, the former with a share of 42.5 percent and the latter 37.5 percent.

This stake is not new, and the market regulator forced BIC and its two directors and shareholders to announce that, together, they control 2.28 percent of BPI.

Banco BIC (1.9 percent) and the two directors (0.38 percent) have held the shares in BPI for a long time, but as they were acquired separately, avoided having to communicate the stake to the market, which is required when it reaches 2 percent. (29-02-2016)

EGYPT: DIGITAL HUB TO HELP AFRICA TRACK AND CONTROL DISEASE OUTBREAKS

A new disease control hub is set to be launched in Egypt, which will use technology to trace and control diseases, predict outbreaks and engage communities in affected areas across Africa.

The African Health Data and Disease Control Hub (AHDCH) is an initiative by the Government of Egypt through the Egyptian Agency of Partnership for Development (EAPD), with the Association of Friends of the National Cancer-free Initiative (AFNCI) as its implementing partner and Microsoft providing technology support for the platform development. The initiative comes in-line with the [African Union's](#) call for an integrated and innovative effort to improve prevention, detection, and response to public health threats. EAPD and its partners are launching this regional initiative at this year's Africa 2016 Forum in Egypt.

The AHDCH was conceptualised in response to the lessons learned from the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, which affected more than [20 000 people](#), and showed that prevention and control of disease outbreaks requires coordinated action and greater national, regional and international collaboration. The hub will include a state-of-the-art virtual platform developed on a scalable backbone infrastructure, accompanied by provision of capacities, services and tools for various stakeholders and communities.

To be headquartered in Egypt, the hub will leverage the country's recent advancements in ICT and data infrastructure, its commitment to the healthcare, pharmaceutical and environmental industries, as well as its capacity development and training expertise. However, it will act as a one-stop solution for all African countries, providing a nationwide directory of diseases, prevention methods, medical facility maps, vaccinations and medications. In addition, it will publish government efforts, news and campaigns, as well as provide communication tools to reach out to African citizens and raise awareness. This multi-

stakeholders' initiative is open for collaboration and contribution by various relevant national, regional and international organizations.

"There is a lot of momentum and enthusiasm at both regional and international levels for a disease control hub, following the Ebola outbreak," says Ambassador Dr. Hazem Fahmy, Secretary General of EAPD, leading sponsor of the initiative. "The spread of diseases poses a threat to African stability, growth and international security. The AHDCH aims to play a primary role in disease control, enhancing the quality of life of citizens in affected areas, and helping African countries achieve their [Sustainable Development Goals](#) around health and the environment."

As the technology partner, Microsoft will provide the primary technology, knowledge and expertise for the development of the hub's digital solutions.

"We are using our cloud platform to make the AHDCH a central portal, where governments, policy makers, non-profits, researchers and other organisations from across Africa can collaborate on disease control," says Khaled Abdel Kader, General Manager of Microsoft Egypt. "Through Microsoft's Azure for Research Initiative, researchers will be able to take full advantage of the power and scalability of cloud computing for collaboration, computation, and data-intensive processing."

Customised training will be handled by the AFNCI, who will also manage the day-to-day operations of the hub, including collecting data, generating reports and maintaining an active community of users.

"The sustainability of this project really depends on a coordinated effort. Training will play a key role in ensuring we have capable and active users on the ground, in various African countries, who know how to use and contribute to the features of the hub. We are eager to work and exchange precious knowledge and expertise with our African colleagues and potential partners," says Dr Sherif Abouelnaga, AFNCI Secretary General.

"Through this regional project, Egypt is striving to invest and transfer its health sector success in preventive health policies, vaccination programs and pharmaceutical industries to support Africa in its endeavour to achieve health protection and face the potential outbreaks by continuous cross border cooperation and supply of necessary skilled professionals, vaccinations and pharmaceuticals," says Dr. Madiha Khattab, former Dean of Faculty of Medicine, Cairo University, who is acting as health adviser to the AHDCH.

The completion of the hub is targeted for December 2016, with a roll-out over a period of three years to ensure its sustainable functioning, funding and quality performance. (IT News Africa 22-02-2016)

IRELAND TRAINS LESOTHO PHYSICAL PLANNERS ON COMPUTER PROGRAMMES

Fingal County Council of the Republic of Ireland has enrolled physical planners from Lesotho's eight districts on how to map the country using computer software, APA learns here Monday.

Lesotho Commissioner of Lands Relebohile Lebeta explained that in February 2013 the southern African country signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Fingal County Council to train physical planners on how they can map the mountain kingdom.

She indicated that the MOU was signed to create a relationship with the Dublin Institute of Technology and the National University of Lesotho's Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences. (APA 22-02-2016)

LESOTHO, KUWAIT SIGN AIRPORT MODERNIZATION DEAL

The Lesotho government and Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development on Monday signed a loan agreement of M232.56 million (about US\$15.3 million) for co-financing the reconstruction of Moshoeshe I International Airport, APA can report.

The loan agreement was signed by the Lesotho Finance Minister 'Mamphono Khaketla and Hamad AL-Omar, Deputy General of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Khaketla said the main objective of the project is to support the economic and social development of Lesotho through increasing the handling capacity and improving the quality of service at the airport.

This is meant to ensure that the airport meets the existing and forecast demand for passenger and freight transport in compliance with international Civil Aviation Standards and attracts airline operators.

“Cargo will increase our business in the country in terms of exporting goods from Lesotho to other countries. A bigger airport will also assist in attracting more tourists into the country,” she noted.

Khaketla revealed that the project would include the improvement of the airport infrastructure such as the main runway, taxiways and apron as well as improvement and expansion of landside facilities and passenger handling and security services for the passengers' terminal and the administration buildings.

The project would also include consultancy services for design update and supervision of construction and international support for airport management. (APA 22-02-2016)

TANZANIA PEMBA PROJECT: SOWING THE SEEDS OF CHANGE

On a small island in the Indian Ocean, the combination of hard work, friendship and financial support has helped protect vulnerable communities from the effects of climate change.

What started as a tenacious “one-seed-at-a-time” replanting scheme on the Islet of Kokota has grown into an expanding programme of actions including educational films, infrastructure-building and knowledge-sharing among communities dotted across the Zanzibar Archipelago in the Indian Ocean. Pemba, is one of three pilot eco-village projects, selected by the Global Climate Change Alliance. All of them have different types of ecosystems deemed particularly vulnerable to climate change.

Soon a series of educational films and a documentary - *Kokota: Islet of hope* will be released, with the financial help of the [GCCA Intra-ACP programme](#). The GCCA Intra-ACP Programme amounts to EUR 31 million in support to tackling climate change in ACP regions.

Showing how a handful of small Tanzanian islands realise that climate change is only going to worsen their dwindling fisheries, water shortages and growing deforestation, then resolve to adapt to this new reality, the films will help to spread these messages across the island, country and the whole continent.

The featured project was implemented on Pemba Island by the local NGO Community Forests Pemba (CFP), in collaboration with Zanzibar government authorities.

Tanzania's economy is very dependent on sectors affected by climate variability and change, notably agriculture. Current climate variability already results in significant economic damage. It is estimated that climate change will lead to large future additional economic costs, possibly amounting to 1-2% of GDP per year by 2030.

By taking matters into their own hands, the community acts as a shining example for other vulnerable areas.

Actively adapting

Local endeavour backed by outside support, including GCCA funding, has given hope and the chance of a better future to islanders as they face the impacts of climate change. Community Forests Pemba has shown the importance of working together, good communication and the need to set achievable goals.

“Kokota is not the kind of place you’d expect to find people actively adapting to climate change... but that’s exactly what they’re doing,” according to *Kokota: Islet of hope*, a film being produced to tell the story of how an island community like Kokota can rise to the climate change challenge.

As the population on the island grew, pressure on the land, forests and biodiversity intensified. Poor topsoil, water shortages and erosion made growing food nearly impossible. Meanwhile, fish stocks were severely stressed or “bankrupt”, as one villager described it.

This was about the time when Mbarouk Mussa Omar visited from the neighbouring islet of Pemba. He was shocked at the state of Kokota and saw it as a warning sign that his community was on the same ill-fated path if it didn’t take immediate action. He rallied community support and, together, they identified the key issues to address first: water and forests.

Mbarouk started out with a small-scale tree nursery built and run “on a smile and handshake”, according to Jeff Schnurr, a young Canadian who stumbled upon the islands’ plight and put his tree-planting expertise to good use. It took months of hard work to scale up the effort. Mbarouk focused on local engagement while Jeff looked for international backing.

Pounding for Pemba

That backing came from the Finnish Embassy, a GCCA investment and other contributions. Jeff even persuaded his tree-planting colleagues in Canada to donate a day’s pay to the ‘Pound for Pemba’ cause – a reference to the way in which soil is pounded or compacted down around new seedlings.

“Fortunately, the people of Kokota decided to wake up before they destroyed themselves,” Mbarouk noted in the film. Thanks to the work of his NGO, Community Forest Pemba, and timely financial assistance, they are rebuilding what they destroyed and using natural resources more efficiently.

Following successful efforts to save and collect more water, the reforestation programme could expand. Today, roughly 50 percent of Kokota is set aside for reforestation: “It’s a good example, a benchmark for the world... Kokota is recovering,” commented Mbarouk.

Jeff, who has set up a sister NGO to Mbarouk’s called Community Forests International, underlines the importance of scaling up projects in a natural and achievable way: “We didn’t plant 1.3 million trees overnight,” he said, “it was one seed at a time.”

Leaping into the future... with education, technology, infrastructure

Reinforced by new schools and awareness-raising programmes, early success on the islands has encouraged villagers to tackle other issues too, including problems with health, infrastructure, and electricity.

And a series of educational films is being developed to help spread the word about best practices in land care, agroforestry, kitchen gardening, plant nursery development, apiary care, and even how to build clay stoves and sturdy housing with earth blocks.

“The clay stoves alone have had a huge impact,” according to Craig Norris, the film-maker who spent over two months documenting the efforts of Tanzanian islanders working to recover their natural assets. “They’re twice as efficient as open-pit fires and that means less trees need to be cut for firewood. It also gives replanting programmes a chance to take root,” he said.

Like many communities in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific, the villagers are using mobile technology and energy innovations to leapfrog the need for more costly installations. Power is generated in a purpose-built mini-plant where individuals can recharge a motorcycle battery to transport electricity into

their homes. This small innovation has spin-off benefits for education too, helping children to revise at night what they learnt in newly-built schools.

The educational videos themselves are also benefitting from leapfrog technology – Bluetooth – which allows villagers to stream films phone-to-phone, in lieu of a functioning internet. “Little innovations like this are really having a huge effect on daily life for these island communities – it’s plain to see and inspiring,” Craig observed.

About the GCCA Intra-ACP Programme

The GCCA Intra-ACP programme supports members of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) to tackle climate change as a challenge to their development. We work towards this goal by offering technical assistance, promoting knowledge sharing, initiating regional dialogue, and facilitating regional partnership on climate change issues.

Several actors collaborate to implement the GCCA Intra-ACP programme. This includes a Technical Assistance to the ACP Secretariat team, who facilitate dialogue, knowledge sharing, and access to technical support; the Climate Support Facility (CSF), which makes funding available for technical assistance; and Regional Partners who, partly supported by the programme, carry out projects and programmes related to climate change. The Technical Assistance team is located at the ACP Secretariat in Brussels, Belgium, and the Regional Partners are located in their respective ACP Regions. (ACP 19-02-2016)

CHINA’S REAL ESTATE EXPERIENCE CAN HELP ANGOLA OVERCOME ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES

China has been involved in urban development in Angola, particularly in Luanda, and its experience in this field may help the economic diversification of Angola, with more investment in real estate, thus overcoming current economic difficulties.

In the article “Opportunities for new urbanism of Angola after the collapse of the oil economy”, published by the NGO Development Workshop (<http://www.dw.angonet.org/>), researcher Allan Cain emphasises that in “post-socialist” countries “conversion of land held by state monopolies for urban use is a “unique opportunity” and can trigger a wave of investment.

“Applying some of the long awaited reforms in housing credit, participatory planning and fiscal decentralisation for municipalities can encourage housing owners themselves and the private sector to invest in urban development and housing opportunities,” “stimulating foreign investment in real estate” said Cain.

“Angola is committed to finding new ways to diversify and grow its economy in the new climate of low prices of raw materials. The Chinese experience of urban development, if shared, could prove to be as valuable as their loans,” he said.

For the “rapid urban and economic growth” of China from 1980, he said, municipalisation and decentralization of governance was central, together with the greater financial autonomy of local authorities, who made use of the value of their land by leasing it or selling building rights to private investors.

Revenues captured by the local authorities were then used to finance social housing and urban infrastructure, increasing real estate value and generating greater wealth and urban growth.

“As in China, the origins of wealth that grows and sustains these cities are the savings of home buyers and investors in the private sector, these resources are yet to be made use of in Angola,” said Cain.

By “capturing the value of private investment for public benefit,” he said, municipalities can use the revenues to “improve infrastructure and provide social housing, promote a virtuous cycle and increase the values that accompany urban transformation.”

One of the reasons for investor reluctance so far has been the “lack of a functional land market” in Angola, and the resolution of issues related to property that are the “first step to stimulating private sector involvement” in financing the housing projects that the country needs.

Luanda received China’s largest housing development in Africa, the Kilamba project comprising 20,000 apartments, with similar projects planned for the remaining 18 provinces, providing 150,000 housing units.

The recently released “Operational plan for China’s credit line” to Angola, prepared by the Angolan government with the work to be carried out by Chinese companies, provides for connection of 480,000 homes to the power grid, construction and rehabilitation of more than 2,200 kilometres of roads and construction of 39 water supply systems.

With approximately 155 projects in the sectors of Health, Education, Transport, Agriculture, Industry, and other sectors, the Plan has an estimated cost of US\$5.2 billion. (29-02-2016)

HIGH COST OF VACCINE UNDERMINES IMMUNIZATION IN AFRICA - WHO

The World Health Organization has issued a warning to stakeholders in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Friday, pointing out that high vaccine cost was hampering immunization efforts around Africa. According to Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa, the continent is lagging behind the rest of the world in the provision of basic life-saving vaccine.

One in five children in Africa does not receive basic vaccine, the director lamented.

Dr. Moeti who is attending the continental Ministerial Conference in Addis Ababa said five African countries reach fewer than 50 percent of children with three doses of vaccines against diphtheria, tetanus and Pertussi, a commonly used measure of routine immunization coverage.

He drew attention to the rising inequalities in African countries caused by the increased financial burden for vaccination campaigns.

Speaking to APA, Medecin Sans Frontiers (MSF) Vaccine policy advisor, Kate Elder also confirmed Dr. Moeti's claim about the rising cost of vaccines, saying it is now 68 times more expensive to vaccinate a child than in 2001.

Many parts of the continent may not be able to afford new high priced vaccines like that against Pneumonia, Elder explained.

Pneumonia is the leading global cause of childhood deaths, accounting for an alarming one million fatalities each year.

She warned that if the cost of vaccines continues to spiral out of control Africa will face difficult decisions which about which deadly disease they can and can't afford to protect their children against. (APA 26-02-2016)

PRESIDENT MUGABE HANDS OVER 300 HEAD OF CATTLE TO THE AFRICAN UNION FOUNDATION

Robert Mugabe, President of the Republic of Zimbabwe on Thursday 25 February 2016, handed over 300 head of cattle to a delegation of the African Union led by H.E. Erastus Mwencha, Deputy Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC). The donation in kind, was a pledge made by

President Mugabe to the African Union Foundation last year in his capacity as Chairman of the African Union (AU).

“We are deeply humbled and honoured by H.E. President R.G Mugabe and the people of Zimbabwe for this gift and commitment to the socio-economic transformation of the continent. As Africans, giving is a part of our culture, although it does not always come easily to us as individuals,” said Deputy Chairperson Erastus Mwencha.

H.E Erastus Mwencha told the press immediately after the meeting at State House with President Mugabe that, the cattle contribution would go a long way in capacitating the AU Foundation. “His Excellency the President during his tenure as Chairperson of the African Union made a contribution and donation to the private sector and as we know that last year when we had Ebola the private sector came up in a very strong way to support the African Union. So His Excellency also showed his commitment in that direction. He made a donation of some 300 cattle which will be a contribution to support our programmes including, for instance building health capacity and also strengthening our education systems in the continent”, stated the AUC Deputy Chairperson.

The AUC Deputy Chairperson is expected to go and see the cattle at Vuka Farm in Karoid today.

The cattle were pledged as a gift by H.E. President Robert Mugabe in June 2015, at the 25th African Union Summit in Johannesburg, to the newly formed African Union Foundation established by Heads of State and Government in 2013. The Foundation was set up with a mandate to enhance voluntary contributions by the private sector, individuals and member states towards Africa’s socio-economic transformation. The Foundation was instrumental in the African Union led Ebola intervention in West Africa, mobilising the African private sector to contribute over \$30million in 2014.

On behalf of the African Union Foundation, Acting Chief Executive Mr. Dumisani Mngadi thanked the President for his exemplary leadership in demonstrating the ability of ordinary African citizens to fund Africa’s development imperatives by aligning individual efforts, strengthening domestic resource mobilisation and reducing the continents’ dependency on external aid.

The delegation also took the opportunity to extend an invitation to President Mugabe to attend the inaugural African Economic Platform to be held in Port Louis, Mauritius in April 2016. The delegation led by the AUC Deputy Chairperson arrived in Zimbabwe from the Mauritian capital where they met with the government of the Republic of Mauritius in preparation for the African Economic Platform scheduled to take place on 14 - 16 April, 2016.

The African Economic Platform was announced by the AU Commission Chairperson, Dr. Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during the just concluded 26th AU Summit of Heads of State and Government. The platform will bring together the public sector, led by Heads of State and Government; the African private sector led by captains of commerce and industry; as well as the African higher education sector, to fast track African economic transformation toward the realization of Africa’s Agenda 2063. (AUC 26-02-2016))

TURKISH SHIP SUPPLIES POWER TO NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE AND ZAMBIA

A power station installed on board a ship moored in Nacala should start operating in March, and will supply electricity to northern Mozambique and neighboring Zambia, the Mozambican press reported.

The ship MV Karadeniz PowerShip Irem Sultan, registered in Liberia, which docked at the port of Nacala on 18 February is a power station owned and operated by a company based in Istanbul, Karadeniz PowerShip Co.

The first floating power plant to operate in Mozambique, where it will remain for two years, follows an agreement between the governments of Mozambique and Zambia, whose countries will benefit from the production, and the Turkish, which is responsible for the maintenance of the facility.

With an installed capacity of 110 megawatts, this ship will produce vital electricity to supply the northern region of Mozambique, the provinces of Nampula, Cabo Delgado and Niassa, and the energy to be sold to Zambia will be sent there from the Cahora Bassa dam, which is closer to the country. (29-02-2016)

LA FONDATION BILL ET MELINDA GATES PROMET D'INVESTIR 120 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS DANS LA PROMOTION DE LA PLANIFICATION FAMILIALE

La Fondation Bill et Melinda Gates s'est engagée à investir 120 millions de dollars dans la promotion de la planification familiale au profit des pays membres du Partenariat de Ouagadougou.

Ces ressources financières supplémentaires seront destinées à la promotion de la planification familiale.

Les investissements dans ce domaine vont permettre aux femmes et aux filles d'avoir plus d'accès à l'information et aux services de contraception, afin d'accélérer les progrès.

De 3 millions d'utilisatrices, les neuf pays d'Afrique francophones qui composent le Partenariat de Ouagadougou (Bénin, Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinée, Mali, Mauritanie, Niger, Sénégal et Togo) ont pu atteindre, de 2011 à 2015, environ 1,8 million d'utilisatrices supplémentaires de méthodes modernes de contraception de femmes âgées de 15 à 49 ans.

L'engagement des bailleurs de fonds a permis de mobiliser plus de 14 milliards de FCFA pour la planification familiale entre 2012 et 2014.

La Fondation Gates s'engage à octroyer, dans les trois prochaines années, ce montant pour que les efforts en cours dans le domaine de la planification familiale soient maintenus.

Le Partenariat de Ouagadougou a été lancé lors de la Conférence Régionale sur la Population, le Développement et la Planification Familiale tenue au Burkina Faso en février 2011.

Parmi les partenaires figurent, outre la Fondation Bill et Melinda Gates, l'Agence Française de Développement (AFD), l'Agence Américaine pour le Développement International (USAID), la Fondation William et Flora Hewlett, le Ministère Français des Affaires Etrangères, le Fonds des Nations Unies pour la Population (UNFPA) et l'Organisation Ouest Africaine pour la Santé (OOAS). (APA 29-02-2016)

CELEBRITIES, SUPERDANCERS AND DRUMMERS AT THE AFRICA EXPO IN HUNGARY

Senegal is considered to be the country of hospitality, Teranga. The country which is sunlit almost all year and bordered to the west by the North Atlantic Ocean offers visitors amazing sights, unforgettable moments, various cultural programs and welcoming, kind people. Lacking only the sunlight, everything else is guaranteed at the 5th HTCC Africa Expo and Fair together with the Travel Exhibition from 3rd till 6th March 2016.

It is the fifth time that the **Africa Expo and Fair** is held at the HUNGEXPO Budapest Fair Centre, a four-day-long exhibition including cultural programs, international professional forums and conference. Visitors might get acquainted with 26 exhibitors and 13 African countries in Pavilion A 101/A stand. The 600 square meter big Africa stand offers those interested specific decoration, tropical palms to create the proper African atmosphere for the fair. Giving its name to the Expo, this year's top exhibitor and main sponsor is HTCC – Hungarian Trade and Cultural Centre, www.htcc.org.hu - which has already opened several centres in five African countries where in they provide help for Hungarian investors and merchants in order to make successful businesses. Consisting of 54 countries, the continent is home to 1 billion people and holds out more and more potential for inquiring businessmen. The patron of the opening ceremony is the Ministry of National Development which will be followed by a conference called Business Opportunities in Africa organized by HTCC, a partner organisation of the EBCAM-member (www.ebcam.eu) AHEAD GLOBAL-Hungary, www.aheadglobal.hu . It is dedicated to promote business possibilities and to draw the visitors' attention on economic activities in the continent.

Among other exhibitors the Republic of South Africa, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Madagascar, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal, Tunisia and Uganda will display at the Expo among others. Besides the

diplomatic representation, embassies and for-profit entities, charity organizations dealing with African issues will be presented as well in the framework of the multi-sectoral exhibition.

The partner and sponsor of the Africa Expo and Fair is the Travels To Africa Tour Operator (www.utazzafrikaba.hu), which besides Tanzania, Madagascar or Uganda organizes tours regularly to less-visited destinations as well such as Senegal or Congo. Being chosen as Responsible Tourism Supplier the professional agency organizes a game during the fair and along other precious African souvenirs, the main prize is a preferential tour around Senegal.

In the common area of the Expo and on the main stage of the Travel Exhibition the four-day-long event offers visitors several cultural programs such as Africa-quiz game, the spectacular dance and drum show of Senegalese artist Abdoul Camara, book première, fashion-show and handicraft workshops which intend to present the exotic continent and make the visitors become attached to Africa. (HTCC)

CABO VERDE GOVERNMENT APPOINTS FIRST OFFICIAL GAMING BUREAU TEAM

The government of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) has named the first team to lead the country's Gaming Bureau (IGJ), under an order of the Ministry of Tourism, Investment and Business Development, published in the Official Bulletin.

The Inspector General was named as José Augusto Cardoso Monteiro, who was part of the framework of the Directorate General of Tourism, and the Assistant Inspector General, Carlos Miguel Teixeira, of the General Inspectorate of Economic Activities.

The creation of this supervisory body by Decree-Law 25/2014, of 29 April, is an important step for implementing future tourist developments with casinos attached. This is the case of the tourism project planned for the islet of Santa Maria, with a hotel/casino, built by Chinese businessman David Chow, in the capital of Cabo Verde, estimated to cost US\$200 million.

The team will be responsible for developing procedures for the installation and operation of gaming and gambling activities in Cabo Verde, which involves creation of an institutional framework, organisation and adjustment of the legal system, as well as negotiation and formalisation of concession contracts in the country.

The skills and experience gained over the years through training, both in Portugal and in Macau, in the area of gaming and gambling, are considered to be advantages for the new team, and the Inspector General and his assistant directors are members of the "Gambling Regulators European Forum" of the European Union. (29-02-2016)

CABO VERDE TAKES ON LOAN IN FRANCE TO MODERNISE SAL POWER STATION

The government of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) has approved taking on a loan of 26 million euros to be granted by the French Development Agency to finance the modernisation works of the power plant of Palmeira, on Sal Island, reported Cape Verdean weekly newspaper A Semana.

The loan provided by the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement, AFD) will be paid back over a period of 15 years, after a five-year grace period, in 30 consecutive half-yearly installments.

The works in question are intended to increase power production capacity and improve integration of renewable energy into the island's system.

The project's tender document outlines, for example, that the current thermal power plant cannot meet demand, as some of its generators are obsolete, as well as the fact that the high proportion of renewable energy – 35 percent of the total in 2013 – causes to stability problems in the grid.

According to the newspaper, the works include, the purchase and installation of three 3.5 megawatt generators, modernisation of some facilities such as the waste oil incinerator, the fire prevention system and fuel park . (29-02-2016)

PLOTTING AND PLANNING FOR A ZIMBABWE WITHOUT MUGABE

For much of January, Harare was awash with rumour. While President Robert Mugabe was on holiday in Southeast Asia, a toxic succession battle within the ruling Zanu (PF) party erupted into view.

First, there was a mysterious break-in at the office of his vice-president, Emmerson Mnangagwa, a frontrunner to succeed Mugabe, who turned 92 last weekend.

Then, a live bullet was reported to have been found in the hotel room of a government minister seen to be a Mnangagwa loyalist.

And last week, police fired water cannon and tear gas to disperse war veterans who were planning to march on the Zanu (PF) headquarters after the veterans publicly criticised a faction within the ruling party affiliated to Mugabe's wife, Grace.

Throughout it all, amid routine speculation that Mugabe was at death's door, there was nervous whispering: what happens once he leaves the scene?

Zimbabwe's is no ordinary succession. Whoever replaces Mugabe will inherit power from a leader who has towered over African politics.

At Zimbabwe's independence in 1980, Mugabe made an apparently seamless transition from guerrilla leader to international statesman. In Britain, where he had once been seen as a dangerous Marxist, he was embraced as a visionary leader who could build on his country's prosperous legacy to create a rare success story of African liberation.

It was not to be. After a promising start, marked by progressive social policies and attempts at reconciliation with the formerly ruling white minority, Zimbabwe descended into a political and economic abyss, culminating in land seizures and hyperinflation.

Didymus Mutasa, a veteran of the liberation struggle until his expulsion from Zanu (PF) in 2014, had spent decades by Mugabe's side. He accuses the president of destroying his own legacy.

"He has produced the situation we are seeing now, the decay of our country, and that is what we are trying to rescue," he says.

Mutasa says Mugabe has become "unpredictable" and should have retired years ago.

Mugabe shows few signs of going anywhere. He returned to Harare four weeks ago looking healthy. He headed to Addis Ababa, where he marked the end of his year-long stint as chairman of the African Union by delivering a speech in which he told those who moan about ruling parties being in power too long to "shut their mouths".

"Mugabe will not step down," says Ibbo Mandaza, a Zimbabwean political analyst. "He does not have the word 'retire' in his vocabulary."

Whether he retires or not, most observers accept that the Mugabe era is drawing to a close.

The prospect of life after Mugabe is concentrating minds. The international community, which has treated Zimbabwe as an outcast for years, is cautiously preparing to welcome it back into the fold.

Talks have intensified with multilateral institutions with the aim of helping Harare clear nearly \$1.9bn of debt in arrears in the hope it will be able to gain international funding to repair its economy.

Reaching an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and African Development Bank would end 15 years of exclusion from international lending.

There are also signs that foreign investors are dipping their toes in the water in anticipation of a better environment in the post-Mugabe era. Aliko Dangote, the Nigerian tycoon who is Africa's richest man, said last year he planned to build a \$400m cement plant in the country.

Officials and diplomats say French and other European companies have recently shown more interest. Opposition parties question the wisdom of the international community re-engaging with Mugabe's administration, saying it risks emboldening Zanu (PF) at a time when it is vulnerable.

In Harare, various political actors are jostling for pole position. Among them is believed to be Grace Mugabe. She had no liberation credentials and little grassroots support, so few people took her seriously as a potential challenger.

That began to change at the end of 2014, when she toured the country, making attacks on senior party members thought to be preparing to usurp Mugabe, including Joice Mujuru, who was then vice-president.

Mujuru, until then seen as a possible successor, as well as other senior Zanu (PF) loyalists, were purged from the party.

There is a whispering campaign from within Zanu-PF, suggesting that Grace is fast gaining influence. Opposition members talk of a "palace coup".

Outside Zanu-PF, the opposition is fragmented. The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) has challenged Mugabe three times at the ballot box and its leader Morgan Tsvangirai became prime minister in a joint administration after disputed elections in 2008.

His party splintered after a crushing defeat in the 2013 election, which Tsvangirai claims was stolen. Another group that is emerging is a breakaway group of the loyalists expelled from the ruling party in 2014 and led by Mujuru.

Yet despite his advancing years, few underestimate the president. Mugabe is adept at using a combination of intimidation, violence and abuse of state resources to cling to power.

Even opposition members are not ruling out the possibility of him leading Zanu-PF at the next election in 2018.

"We want to believe differently, but Mugabe has surpassed all our expectations," says Nelson Chamisa of the MDC. "Mugabe is his own successor. He has succeeded himself successively." (Financial Times 29-02-2016)

IMF RECOMMENDS REFORM OF THE MOZAMBIKAN FUEL IMPORT AND SUBSIDIES SYSTEM

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recommended to Mozambique it should carry out a reform of the fuel import and subsidies system, in a report issued recently in Washington.

The IMF, while acknowledging that the bill for fuel paid by the State had shrunk as a result of the recent fall in oil prices in international markets, said that the current system was costly, inefficient and was misdirected.

The report went on to say that in May 2015 the government had to securitise about US\$100 million (0.7 percent of GDP) of debt due to fuel distributors to pay part of the accrued subsidies in 2014 due in large part to inefficiencies in the import system.

The cost of importing fuel to Mozambique, said the IMF, was higher than for most countries in the region due to a number of inefficiencies in the import system, especially since April 2014.

Also according to the IMF, measures that could help improve the system include granting permission to oil product distributors and major natural resource companies to import fuel and raise financing directly, according to market needs. (23-02-2016)

SHELL DECLARES FORCE MAJEURE ON OIL LIFTING FROM TERMINAL

One week after discovering a crude oil spill on water around Forcados Terminal, the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited has declared force majeure on the lifting of oil from the terminal.

In a statement on Monday, Shell said the force majeure became effective 15:00hrs (3pm), Nigerian time on February 21, 2016, following the disruption in production caused by the spill on the Forcados

Terminal subsea crude export pipeline.

The Forcados export terminal in Delta State is one of the country's biggest terminals with capacity to export about 400,000 barrels of oil per day.

Shell said in the statement signed by its Media Relations Manager, Precious Okolobo, that it was intensifying efforts on containment and oil recovery from the February 14, 2016 spill, while also finalising repair plans.

The SPDC had on Saturday said it had deployed specialised equipment to contain the spill, with the support of Clean Nigeria Associates and other oil companies.

It said it had also mobilised clean-up teams and contracted a specialised aircraft to join in the response and that production into the terminal and crude oil exports were stopped after the spill was discovered. (APA 23-02-2016)

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



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