

# MEMORANDUM

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## 11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION

### SUMMARY

Senegalese growers in Eastern European markets	Page 2
BOAD approves new financing worth CFAF138bn	Page 2
Western Sahara should be able to negotiate a fisheries partnership agreement with the EU	Page 3
FADES grants two loans for Mauritania water, electricity projects	Page 4
Turkish firm announces \$1.5bn investment plan in Ethiopia	Page 5
Uganda set to connect 6.5MW hydropower plant	Page 5
Swaziland: Youth unemployment hits 53 percent	Page 6
Chinese aerospace firm signs \$10bn deal to build Tangier tech city	Page 6
Islamic banking to be licensed by year's end - Ugandan Central Bank	Page 7
Business man Simbi Phiri mulls tallest building in Malawi	Page 8
Nigeria seeks Ethiopian Airlines' help to revive national carrier	Page 8
Preliminary funding deal signed for \$10 billion tech city in Morocco	Page 9
Mozambique, Germany ink cooperation deals	Page 9
Bill Gates: Cutting Foreign Aid Makes America Less Safe	Page 10
Sugar: Cameroon market stocks in excess of 32,000 tonnes	Page 11
Survey reveals access to clean water in Kenya declines	Page 11
Three new destinations for Ethiopian Airlines	Page 12
IDBZ to construct housing facilities for 11 state universities in Zimbabwe	Page 13

## SENEGALESE GROWERS IN EASTERN EUROPEAN MARKETS

Senegalese growers and exporters are increasingly working with European markets. Both by increasing their presence at events like Fruit Logistica and by taking advantage of their unique seasonal position in the world market.

ASEPEX, a Senegalese organization has been helping the sector in promoting mangoes, cherry tomatoes, watermelons, limes, sweet potatoes and butter nut squash worldwide.

According to Oulimata Fall Sarr, this year they've noticed that there are more opportunities for trade in Eastern Europe. Countries like Russia and Poland are looking to diversify their sourcing, as they want to become more independent from Europe and the US due to political and economical unrest. She also said that they can sell more fruits and vegetables now because Senegal is able to meet international standards.



The organization aims to get in touch more with importers, buyers and retail chains while creating a presence abroad by attending trade fairs and exhibitions. Through exhibitions, it also gave them opportunities to do more market research with regards to the European sector or learn more about best practices, such as organic growing methods.

Senegal attended Fruit Logistica with its own national pavilion. The delegation consisted of 8 exhibitors and 16 professional visitors. While this is only the second time for the Senegal pavilion, ASEPEX has been visiting the event for 8 years. (Fresh Plaza 10-03-2017)

[www.asepex.sn](http://www.asepex.sn)

## BOAD APPROVES NEW FINANCING WORTH CFAF138BN



The Board of Directors of the West African Development Bank (BOAD), has approved new financings estimated at nearly CFA138 billion, a statement from the financial institution seen by APA on Thursday suggests.

The board made the decision during its 104th regular session in Dakar, Senegal on Wednesday.

"After approving the report of its 103rd meeting held in Bamako, Mali on 14 December 2016, the Board approved BOAD's accounts for the year ended December 31, 2016, submitted for the approval of the Council of Ministers of the West African Monetary Union (UMOA). It also approved 13 new financing valued at CFA 137.75 billion, bringing the total amount of BOAD's commitments since the start of its operational activities in 1976 to CFA 4 547.15 billion distributed to 1060 operations", the statement added.

It stressed that the Board also approved the partial funding of other projects, including the development of 3,308 hectares of Compartments I and II in the East-San plain in Mali and strengthening the resilience of agriculture to climate change through modern irrigation techniques in Niger.

The latter project involves the development of 1,000 hectares for vegetable farming, which will be converted into units of 1 to 5 hectares equipped with solar photovoltaic kits for the supply of energy to the irrigation system, to the tune of CFA 10 billion.

The BOAD Board of Directors also authorized the establishment of a subordinated loan and a refinancing line for ORABANK Cote d'Ivoire (ORABANK CI).

The cumulative amount of the two operations is estimated at CFA 20 billion.

The directors also approved a proposal to review BOAD's Articles of Association, its 2016 annual report and progress on its loan payment as from 28 February 2017. (APA 223-03-2017)

## **WESTERN SAHARA SHOULD BE ABLE TO NEGOTIATE A FISHERIES PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH THE EU**



Morocco has not claimed fishing rights in the waters off Western Sahara.

Morocco has no official claim to the waters off Western Sahara, so why, Linnéa Engström asks, should the EU pay Rabat for the right to fish there?

Linnéa Engström is a Swedish Green MEP and first vice-chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Fisheries.

In December 2016, the European Court of Justice (ECJ), through strict interpretation of international law, ruled that the Western Sahara was not part of Morocco and that no EU-Morocco trade deals should apply to any part of the Western Saharan territory. The ruling presents the first time the European court has taken a stance on Morocco's claims over the territory.

Inherently, this ruling also means that fishing rights sold by Morocco cannot by any means apply to the territory off the coast of Western Sahara. The ECJ explicitly declared that the Council had disregarded its obligation to ensure that International Law was respected before the FPA, and its protocols, were signed. The ruling also states that Front Polisario should give their consent on behalf of the Sahrawi people to any activity regarding their natural resources.

It is now clear that the EU must do its utmost to make sure that any agreement that entails the exploitation of resources in Western Sahara protects the right to self-determination of the Sahrawi people, as well as their right to benefit from the natural resources of their territory. This will be crucial for

the EU to uphold the credibility of its commitments towards sustainability and ensuring compliance with EU fishing laws and principles (including human rights) embedded in its Sustainable Fisheries Partnership Agreements.

Under the UN Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), states may declare exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of up to 200 nautical miles off their coast. Morocco did that in 1981 along the Atlantic coast. However, the southernmost point onshore from which the EEZ is derived is 27° 42' N, whereas the border between Morocco and the Western Sahara is 27° 40' N, slightly to the south. A search on the site of Oceans and Law of the Sea, the repository of states' legislation on, among other things, their EEZs, shows nothing whereby Morocco has claimed sovereignty or jurisdiction over the waters off the coast of Western Sahara.

On the other hand, in 2009, the Sahara Arab Democratic Republic (SADR) declared its maritime zones, including an EEZ of 200 nautical miles, beginning at 27° 40' N as the northern extremity.

The agreement of 2006 defines the Moroccan fishing zone as "the waters falling within the sovereignty or jurisdiction of the Kingdom of Morocco" which essentially leaves the geographical scope unclear. But if Morocco has not declared any sovereignty over the waters off Western Sahara, it is difficult to see why a) Morocco has the right to sell fishing rights there, and b) why the EU needs to pay Morocco for fishing in waters not under its jurisdiction.

Polisario must now develop its general policy on the management of the maritime resources it seeks to control. If UNCLOS gives a state the right to the resources in its waters, it also obliges them to accept the responsibilities of management that go along with it, rights and responsibilities are two sides of the same coin. Now is the time for Polisario to develop at least a general policy, committed to sustainability and food security. This is especially relevant as many of the resources are shared stocks, imposing a special responsibility under international law. International law clearly recognises the rights to natural resources as part of the right to self-determination.

After these crucial steps have been taken, Front Polisario should have the right, as the official representatives of the Sahrawi people, as recognized by the UN, to negotiate a sustainable fisheries partnership agreement with EU.(EurActiv 17-03-2017)

## **FADES GRANTS TWO LOANS FOR MAURITANIA WATER, ELECTRICITY PROJECTS**



The Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (FADES) has granted Mauritania two loans of \$137 million and \$49 million for drinking water and electricity projects.

Two conventions on these two loans were signed in Nouakchott on Wednesday by Moctar Ould Diay, Mauritania's Minister of Economy and Finance, and Hassen Rassoul Al-Orbed, an advisor to the Director General of FADES.

The first loan will finance the supply of electricity in northern Mauritania, which is particularly characterized by the presence of most of the mining operation in the country, especially the Zouerate iron.

To this end, a power line will be installed to connect the capital Nouakchott with Zouerate via the two cities of Akjoujt and Atar.

The second loan will install drinking water supply networks to supply the two towns of Aioun and Djiguenni in eastern Mauritania and a cluster of villages and communities in the outlying areas. (APA 20-03-2017)

## **TURKISH FIRM ANNOUNCES \$1.5BN INVESTMENT PLAN IN ETHIOPIA**



Turkey's Reyrich Plastic Company on Friday announced plans to launch a solar energy project in Ethiopia with an outlay of \$1.5 billion.

The chairman of the company's Board, Nehad Alayyoub, made the announcement after a Turkish delegation led by him, met with Ethiopia's President Mulatu Teshome at the national palace in Addis Ababa.

"The project is very promising and will generate 600 MW power," Alayyoub told journalists after the talks. The 40-member Turkish business delegation which comprises companies from pharmaceuticals, chemicals, machinery, energy and iron & steel, among others have been assessing business opportunities in Ethiopia since Wednesday.

Representatives of World Medicine Pharmaceuticals, Farmasol Medical Products and Istanbul Teknik, engaged in the manufacture of medicines, medical devices and consumables, and building materials & civil engineering are among members of the delegation.

The chairman said his company will be enjoying the full support of the Ethiopian government to start the project as soon as possible. (APA 24-03-2017)

## **UGANDA SET TO CONNECT 6.5MW HYDROPOWER PLANT**

A Sri Lankan private mini power generator, Viddullanka PLC, has announced that it will commission the completed 6.5MW mini hydropower plant in Uganda next week.

According to Colombo Page media, the firm noted that it has successfully completed the construction of the 6.5MW Muvumbe small hydropower plant located in Kabale District of Uganda.

According to media, the plant will be connected to the national grid next week after a joint testing by the relevant authorities.

Once in full operation, the plant is expected to supply 31.42 GWh of electrical energy to the national grid of Uganda annually.

Media reported that Viddullank PLC's subsidiary, Muvumbe Hydro (U) Limited entered into a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement with Uganda Electricity Transmission Company Ltd (UETCL) on 28 July 2015 commencing from the date of commissioning of the power plant.

### **Renewable expansion**

In earlier news, the Uganda Electricity Generation Company Limited (UEGCL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with a Norwegian power company, W. Giertsen Energy Solutions for the development of renewable energy projects.

Under the MoU, renewable energy projects (including solar power plants, solar water pumping systems, and hydro-solar hybrid power plants) will be implemented specifically for rural areas by having off-grid and mini-grid systems, the Monitor reported.

The partnership will also explore the option of having pilot off-grid solar solutions targeting mainly community facilities such as health care centres and schools.

On completion of a successful pilot project, the idea could be sold to government and rolled out under different national programmes, media reported. (ESI 17-03-2017)

### **SWAZILAND: YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT HITS 53 PERCENT**



Swaziland's youth unemployment rate is now at 53 percent, a senior government official has lamented.

Speaking on Friday, Minister of Commerce, Industry and Trade, Jabulani Mabuza claimed about 53 percent of Swazi youth is unemployed.

He said this segment of the population has to be accessed with entrepreneurship development programs and opportunities that will help transform this growing concern.

He advised the government to actively decide that if they are unable to create employment for their young people, they must capacitate and provide them with opportunities to start businesses and create jobs for themselves and others.

Speaking during a meeting at the Lugogo Sun in Ezulwini on Friday, Mabuza said there were so many aspects to entrepreneurship, and these include agriculture, technology and inventors, which the youth could venture in.

He said Swazis must copy other nations and instill entrepreneurship skills in children while they are still very young. (APA 24-03-2017)

### **CHINESE AEROSPACE FIRM SIGNS \$10BN DEAL TO BUILD TANGIER TECH CITY**

In a bid to hasten its industrialisation by attracting Chinese investment, Morocco has signed an agreement with Chinese aerospace company Haite to build a \$10bn industrial and technology city near Tangier.

Called Mohammed VI Tanger-tech in honour of Morocco's king, the city would be a 2,000ha development housing 300,000 people, with a target of industry creating 100,000 jobs.

It would be divided into zones that specialise in aerospace, automobiles, telecoms and other sectors. The aim is to attract as many as 200 transnational corporations, many of which will be Chinese attracted to Morocco's proximity to European markets.

Finance will be accessed over the next 10 years, and will come from Haite, Moroccan private bank BMCE and the Moroccan government.



Morocco's King Mohammed VI with Haite chairman Li Biao

Moulay Hafid El Alamy, Morocco's minister for industry, said the government's strategy was to [emulate China](#) by first becoming an industrial power before developing its scientific, technological and financial sectors, reports French-language Moroccan news site, Lesiteinfo.com.

Ilyas Omari, the chairman of the Tangier-Tetouan region, pointed out that that the city would be only 15km from Europe, and would be supported by a number of infrastructure projects, including the modern port of Tanger Med, the motorway network, a high speed train line and industrial and logistics areas, reports Moroccan news site, [L'Observateur](#).

Othman Benjelloun, president of BMCE, said that the project will contribute to "the revival of the Silk Road, so dear to our Chinese partners and friends. This road now [goes] through Tangier and, from this blessed land, to the rest of Africa, Europe and America."

A YouTube video of the signing ceremony can be viewed [here](#).(GCR 23-03-2017)

## **ISLAMIC BANKING TO BE LICENSED BY YEAR'S END - UGANDAN CENTRAL BANK**

Uganda's Central Bank has pledged to ensure all Islamic banking financial institutions are licensed by the end of the year.

The Ugandan Parliament approved the Financial Institutions (Amendment) Bill, 2015 Okaying Islamic banking, and agent banking among others in August last year.

However, no license has since been issued to Islamic Banking institutions since then.

According to the Governor of Uganda's Central Bank Emmanuel Mutebile the licensing has been slow as the bank needs enough time to sensitize the public on the importance of Islamic banking as well as the risks involved.

In an interview on Friday, Mutebile said the Ugandan Central Bank is awaiting approval of the guidelines to govern Islamic banking from Uganda's Finance ministry before issuance of licenses commences.

Under Islamic banking, also known as Halal banking, instead of a bank imposing interest, it shares the profit it accrues with clients.

Should the business make a loss, the bank also shares the loss with the borrower.

Islamic banking does not allow charging of interests like conventional banking does.

The other African countries that have adopted Islamic Banking but are non-Islamic states are South Africa, Senegal, Botswana, Zambia, The Gambia, Eritrea, Mozambique, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda. (APA 24-03-2017)

## BUSINESS MAN SIMBI PHIRI MULLS TALLEST BUILDING IN MALAWI

South African-based Malawian businessman Simbi Phiri recently disclosed his plans to construct the tallest building in Malawi in the capital, Lilongwe. The 14 storey twin tower will be built in City Centre. Phiri said Malawi needs modern buildings and his aim is to teach those who have money to invest it. He also said money is meant for everyone who takes care of it not only for Europeans, Indians or Chinese nationals.

According to Simbi, the building is to be constructed opposite [Reserve Bank of Malawi](#) at city centre. All regulatory procedures with Lilongwe City Council and other government agencies are already in place to that effect.

The \$3.42m building project is expected to provide job opportunities during construction and after completion as companies are to occupy spaces in the magnificent building.

Currently in Malawi, some of the tallest buildings are Kang'ombe, Bingu International Conference Centre in Lilongwe and Delamere House in Blantyre.

Phiri, the executive chairman of Khato Civils and South Zambezi is gradually becoming one of Malawi's major investors. His company Khato Civils has also been awarded a contract to tap water from Lake Malawi to Lilongwe in a \$500m mega water project.

Khato Civils (Pty) Ltd is a South African-based design and construction company involved in the development of large-scale infrastructure. The company boasts a pool of the highest skills and qualifications in terms of qualified professionals with broad experience in the areas of fibre optics, mass earthworks, pipelines, water works, roads and concrete works.

Also anchored in South Africa is his other company South Zambezi (Pty) Ltd, a civil and structural engineering company, with operations in various African countries.

It is a standard bearer for such services as engineering consultancy in civil and structural works, quantity surveying, architecture and town planning, geotechnical, environmental professionals, project and program management as well as electrical and mechanical works. (CRO 21-03-2017)

## NIGERIA SEEKS ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES' HELP TO REVIVE NATIONAL CARRIER



The government of Nigeria recently asked to forge a partnership with Ethiopian Airlines to re-establish its national airline, which ceased operation in 2012, AIN online, a media company focused on the aviation sector, reported on Friday.

Ethiopian Airlines Group CEO Tewelde Gebremariam said that the Nigerian government approached his management for the assistance during a recent visit to Nigeria.

He said that both sides have expressed interest in cooperating.

"There is also the possibility that we may discuss equity investment in the future, but for the time being it is only management contract that is under discussion," he noted.

One-time flag carrier Air Nigeria ceased operation in 2012 due to financial difficulties, leaving Africa's second largest economy without a national airline.

Arik Air, the largest private airline in Nigeria, has served as a de-facto national carrier since Air Nigeria's failure.



However, Arik Air has also suffered from financial difficulties and mounting debt.

Sources close to the negotiations told AIN that an Ethiopian delegation has twice visited Lagos while a high-level Nigerian delegation came to Addis Ababa to discuss how Ethiopian Airlines might assume control of Arik Air's management.

A member of the Ethiopian delegation that went to Lagos for the negotiation added that the Nigerian authorities wanted Ethiopian to take over Arik immediately to save the airline from collapse.

Ethiopian Airlines is a major player in Nigeria, serving four destinations in Africa's top oil producing country - namely Lagos, Abuja, Kano and Enugu - from its main hub in Addis Ababa. (APA 24-03-2017)

## PRELIMINARY FUNDING DEAL SIGNED FOR \$10 BILLION TECH CITY IN MOROCCO

Plans to construct a mega tech city in [Morocco](#) have gone a notch higher after the North African country said that it has signed a \$10 billion deal for the project.

The new industrial and [technology hub](#) close to the northern city of Tangiers will be funded by Chinese group Haite 002023.SZ, BMCE's Bank of Africa and the Moroccan government.

[Morocco](#) and the Chinese government signed a preliminary memorandum of understanding last year for the 2,000 hectare city, which will deliver 100,000 jobs and accommodate 300,000 inhabitants, Industry Minister Moulay Hafid El Alamy said in a presentation.

The \$10 billion investment will be made over a 10-year period, the minister said. The city will be situated in the north of the state and contain multiple industrial zones specializing in sectors as well as aeronautics, automobiles, telecommunications, renewable energy, and transport equipment.

In a ceremony presided over by King Mohammed VI, senior officials from the government, BMCE and Haite group signed a new pledge to the project.

Alamy said the project was estimated to attract investment from 200 multinational corporations.

King Mohammed made an official visit to China last year, where numerous contracts were signed, including a three-year currency swap agreement.

Chinese firms have been active in the Maghreb, particularly in Algeria. In Morocco they have been involved in a number of infrastructure projects, counting a suspension bridge linking the capital Rabat with the neighboring city of Sale that is among the longest in Africa and was completed last year.

"Chinese economic operators are searching for competitive platforms and they have selected Morocco as one of those platforms," Industry Minister Moulay Hafid Elalamy.

"The project is planned to take 10 years" and work will begin in the second half of 2017, he said.

Morocco has launched an industrialization drive centered on Tangiers which is being transformed into a hub with a free trade zone and deepwater harbour. (CRO 21-03-2017)

## MOZAMBIQUE, GERMANY INK COOPERATION DEALS



Maputo and Berlin have signed technical and financial accords establishing support for education, sustainable economic development, and public finances in Mozambique.

State-owned Sunday newspaper, Domingo says the deals were formalized on Friday by the Mozambican Foreign Minister Oldemiro Baloi and the German ambassador Detlev Wolter.

The deals followed on the heels of negotiations between the two governments last year, which resulted in pledges by Germany to grant €118.6 million for the three sectors.

According to Domingo, Germany will also provide an additional €39 million to finance a power transmission line between Mozambique and neighbouring Malawi, as well as supporting short-term electricity projects in the country.

Baloi reportedly told the signing ceremony that the German financial support would spur on the government to redouble its efforts to implement the projects.

“Our sincere appreciation for the friendship, solidarity, and support that the German government has shown since our independence, particularly during the most difficult times”, Baloi was quoted saying.

Ambassador Wolter explained that Germany is looking to expand and improve basic and technical education through the Mozambican Education Sector Support Fund (FASE).

This will involve collaboration with government institutions as well as some educational establishments.

“We also aim to improve conditions for the creation of a financially competitive private sector, improve the state management of the mining sector, and improve access to energy through the modernization and amplification of the electricity grid”, he said.

(APA 26-03-2017)

## **BILL GATES: CUTTING FOREIGN AID MAKES AMERICA LESS SAFE**

Foreign aid is often in the hot seat, but today the heat is cranked up especially high. The United States government, one of the world’s most influential donors, is considering dramatic cuts to health and development programs around the world. I understand why some Americans watch their tax dollars going overseas and wonder why we’re not spending them at home. Here’s my answer: These projects keep Americans safe. And by promoting health, security and economic opportunity, they stabilize vulnerable parts of the world.

This is a lesson I’ve learned myself. When I first got involved in health and development more than 15 years ago, the main motivation was to save and improve people’s lives around the world. That’s still true today, but over the years I have come to see the tangible ways in which American aid benefits Americans too.

For one thing, it helps prevent epidemics. The most recent Ebola outbreak in West Africa killed more than 11,000 people, but the death toll would have been much worse if the disease had spread widely in neighboring Nigeria, an international travel hub that’s home to 180 million people. What contained it? Among other things, a group of health workers who were stationed there for an anti-polio campaign. They were quickly reassigned to the Ebola fight, and their efforts helped stop the disease—and keep it from crossing the Atlantic to the United States

The biggest public funder of anti-polio work has been the U.S. government, and for good reason. It is protecting Americans and helping us get ready for the next epidemic, which could be orders of magnitude deadlier than Ebola. To stop emerging diseases, we need the infrastructure built by consistent funding of well-run health programs.

Another example is America’s global HIV/AIDS effort, known as PEPFAR, which began under President George W. Bush and works with some of the world’s poorest countries. PEPFAR is an undeniable success. There are 11 million people with HIV who are alive today because of the medicines that it provides. Many more never got the virus in the first place because of prevention efforts supported by PEPFAR.

This is not simply a humanitarian accomplishment. For those countries it means more teachers, entrepreneurs, police officers, and health-care workers who can contribute to strong, stable societies. According to one study, political instability and violent activity in African countries with PEPFAR programs dropped 40 percent between 2004 and 2015. Where there was no PEPFAR program, the decline was just 3 percent.

Better health puts nations on the path to self-sufficiency. How? When health improves, people decide to have fewer children, because they’re confident that the children they do have will survive into adulthood.

As family size drops, it gets easier for countries to feed, educate, and provide opportunity for their people—and that is one of the best ways to stabilize any vulnerable region.

A more stable world is good for everyone. But there are other ways that aid benefits Americans in particular. It strengthens markets for U.S. goods: of our top 15 trade partners, 11 are former aid recipients. It is also visible proof of America's global leadership. Popular support for the U.S. is high in Africa, where aid has such a dramatic impact. When you help a mother save her child's life, she never forgets. Withdrawing now would not only cost lives, it would create a leadership vacuum that others would happily fill.

Syria is a tragic example of what can happen when the key ingredients of stability don't come together. Beginning in 2007, the country experienced the worst drought in its history, driving more than a million people from rural areas into the cities, stoking political tension, and laying the foundation for the horrific civil war that continues today. Of course there were many causes of that war, and not every country that has a severe drought collapses as badly as Syria did. But the world will not be a safer place if the U.S. stops helping other countries meet their people's needs.

None of this is lost on our military leaders. More than 120 retired generals and admirals recently wrote a letter to Congress arguing that U.S. programs "are critical to preventing conflict and reducing the need to put our men and women in uniform in harm's way." Secretary of Defense James Mattis famously said, back when he was commander of U.S. forces in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and other hotspots: "If you don't fully fund the State Department"—which runs many of America's key programs—"then I need to buy more ammunition."

Protecting Americans, preventing epidemics, strengthening markets, saving lives: aid delivers phenomenal benefits, and for a bargain. It represents less than 1 percent of the federal budget, not even a penny out of every dollar. It is some of the best return on investment anywhere in government. This money is well spent, it has an enormous impact, and it ought to be maintained.(Time 17-03-2017)

## **SUGAR: CAMEROON MARKET STOCKS IN EXCESS OF 32,000 TONNES**



Over 32,000 tonnes of sugar are currently stored in warehouses of the Cameroon Sugar Corporation (SOSUCAM) as state regulators met to manage available stocks for the intervening few months.

This was revealed at the end of Saturday's meeting of the Inter-ministerial Market Regulation Committee (CIRM).

The stocks will ensure an optimal availability of sugar on all markets, and prevent any shortages in the short and medium terms.

According to reliable sources, SOSUCAM has surplus to immediate requirement of the commodity to meet optimal national needs, thanks to its production campaign which runs until June, a month during which Cameroonian Muslims will observe the Ramadan month of fasting when sugar consumption is usually at its peak.

Implicitly, contrary to some reports suggesting possible shortage of the commodity "there is no concern

about the availability of sugar during this period of high consumption.

Meanwhile sugar in the Cameroon market is available at 750 francs per kilogram, according to the standard price.

With an estimated production of 130,000 tonnes, which can swell to 170,000 tonnes later this year, SOSUCAM is by far the market leader for the commodity, with other competitors barely accounting for 60,000 tonnes.

This offer falls short of the estimated 300,000 tonne demand for sugar every year in Cameroon, requiring additional imports authorized by the authorities to plug the gap. (APA 26-03-2017)

### **SURVEY REVEALS ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER IN KENYA DECLINES**

A report, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene in Kenya, by [Twaweza East Africa](#) that was released earlier this week indicated a steady decrease in levels of access to clean water in Kenya today.

Urban areas are the most affected dropping from around 90 % in 1990 to about 78 % today.

This had been attributed to high rate of population growth in Kenya's towns and cities without parallel infrastructural development to keep pace with the rapid population growth in urban areas.

However, the report indicated that there has been a steady improvement in access to clean and safe water in Kenya where at least two-thirds or 68 % of Kenyans get their water from an improved water source, that is, piped water, protected wells and springs, and rain water.

In rural areas, this access had improved from 37 % in 2009 to 62 % or six in ten households in 2015.

However, a clear link between wealth and access to clean and safe water persists with 87 % of the richest households having access compared to only 48 % of the poorest households.

The report revealed that the task of collecting water was borne primarily by women and children in over nine in ten households with the figures almost similar in both rural and urban areas. Moreover, the distance to water points, insufficient numbers of water points and irregular supply still remain a big challenge.

Majority of households in urban areas, 78 %, were able to collect water within 30 minutes, while only 12 % spent an hour or more. This is strikingly different in rural Kenya, where the time spent collecting water was much longer with 26 % spending an hour or more, 20 % spend between 30 and 60 minutes while slightly more than half are able to get their water within a 30-minute period.

According to the survey done between November 5th and 28th last year, 65 % of Kenyan households reported treating their water before drinking with boiling water and use of chemical disinfectants.

The 35 % who did not treat their water said that the water was either safe for drinking or they lacked resources to do so. (CRO 21-03-2017)

### **THREE NEW DESTINATIONS FOR ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES**

Ethiopian Airlines have launched flights to three new destinations, namely Victoria Falls, Oslo in Norway and Antananarivo in Madagascar.

Heralding the launch of the new destinations on Friday, the airline's CEO Tewelde GebreMariam said, "we have now completed our preparations and we will start our first flight on Sunday and serve five flights a week."

He said there was nothing more which can symbolize the fast and perhaps the fastest growth that Ethiopian Airlines is registering in their 2025 vision more than opening three new destinations in three days.

"We are proud that we are able to link these new destinations to the Ethiopian network in such a short period of time," Tewelde added.

“We have the best air planes in the world, the most technologically advanced airplanes in the world, the most eco-friendly airplanes in the world-the 787 Dream liner-I think you can't expect anymore than this”, the Group CEO pointed out.

Norway's Ambassador to Ethiopia, Andreas Gaarder, during the inaugural ceremony expressed delight with the inauguration of the flight to his country.

“I am excited about the significance of the direct link now being established between our two countries” the ambassador said.

“The way I see it, this celebration is about more than an airline carrier landing on a strip of land in the very north of Europe. It is about new connections and new opportunities, enabling new experiences and new relationships” Gaarder added.

Nirina Angela Rabozakandraina, Counselor of the Embassy of Madagascar said efforts being exerted by the Ethiopian Airlines to reach more countries is in line with the continental vision of networking Africa through air transport.

“This is perfectly in line with the vision of an integrated Africa as foreseen in the AU Agenda 2063”, the counselor added.

The Ethiopian Airlines has 28 weekly flights to four destinations in China, 20 weekly flights to America, 72 weekly flights to Asia, 65 weekly flights to the Middle East, 400 weekly flights to 53 cities across Africa and almost daily 54 flights to Europe.

Ethiopian Airlines envisages reaching 120 international destinations worldwide by 2025.

It has reached more than 90 destinations so far. (APA 23-03-2017)

## **IDBZ TO CONSTRUCT HOUSING FACILITIES FOR 11 STATE UNIVERSITIES IN ZIMBABWE**

The Infrastructure [Development Bank](#) of Zimbabwe (IDBZ) has partnered with the [Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education](#), Science and Technology in a move that is set to see the development of accommodation facilities for 11 state universities in Zimbabwe.

The accommodation facilities for the state universities in Zimbabwe is aimed at alleviating the huge infrastructural deficit at the country's state institutions, which affects approximately 117,137 students who have no accommodation at 11 State universities.

In the 2016 National Budget statement Finance Minister Mr. Patrick Chinamasa stated that the hardest hit institutions were the Midlands State University and the Great Zimbabwe University with 28,240 and 17,412 students in need of accommodation as they attend college respectively.

Out of the 117,137 in need of accommodation countrywide, only 10,709 were said to be accommodate in hostels thereby leaving 106,428 students renting rooms outside college facilities. From the figures provided above it was surmised that about 21,360 additional houses or stands are needed to effectively cater for the housing requirements of both students and staff members.

In an interview IDBZ's Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Thomas Sakhala stated that the bank recognises the serious shortage of accommodation for students and they have been working with the responsible ministry and a number of land developers in an effort to address the issue by putting together some accommodation packages for students.

Further to this it was highlighted that the IDBZ has also partnered with the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education in scouting for investors to finance the construction of schools in various provinces across the country.

US\$20 million has already been secured towards this and it is anticipated that 2,000 new primary and secondary schools will be developed over the next few years across the country – 20 of which will be completed by the end of 2017.

It was reported that most of the additional schools would be constructed in resettlement areas as they do not have enough schools and are serviced by satellite schools, which usually do not have adequate infrastructure.

The Infrastructure Development Bank of Zimbabwe (IDBZ) whose mandate is to mobilise debt and equity funds for investment by public and private institutions involved in key economic sectors that include communication, energy, housing, transportation, water and other infrastructure critical for national development.(CRO 23-03-2017)

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

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



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