

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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ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO COME TO LIFE THROUGH CIRCULAR AFRICAN ECONOMIES

Transforming ideas into economic opportunities is the crux of entrepreneurship and at REDISA we recognise the possibilities which lie in circular economies specifically, for all those willing to look at waste not as waste, but as opportunity. (Image Source: <http://africa.techvoize.com/>)

Entrepreneurs create and bring to life new technologies, products and services, building new markets and jobs along the way. And like any economy aiming to move ahead, in South Africa we need lots of them.

Africa's role on the global stage as a hub for economic growth and empowerment opportunities continues to gather pace. There do however remain critical challenges, in particular the need to create a significant number of jobs for the growing populations, as well as developing home-grown business leaders able to access global markets and drive growth in a sustainable and inclusive manner.

Transforming ideas into economic opportunities is the crux of entrepreneurship and at REDISA we recognise the possibilities which lie in circular economies specifically, for all those willing to look at waste not as waste, but as opportunity.

The current levels of production and consumption are no longer sustainable. It is anticipated that by 2030, the world's population could sit at 9 billion, with an additional 3 billion new middle-class consumers over and above today's 1.8 billion.

Expanding supply of consumer goods and services to meet this future demand presents a great challenge, but one that a circular economy model is capable of meeting – particularly if it is implemented within every country, region and community.

The World Economic Forum estimates the circular economy could be worth \$1 trillion worldwide by 2025. This would mean that doing more with less would bring more wealth and jobs, and less landfill, resource depletion and environmental damage. Currently, there are only a few countries which are experimenting with more circular thinking – these include the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, France, China, Japan and South Africa. The promise of circular economy initiatives is that they will provide brand-new business needs which will simultaneously address resource and environmental challenges, and generate economic activity to fund those needs.

Entrepreneurship is acknowledged as one of the drivers of sustainable economic growth because entrepreneurs create new businesses, drive and shape innovation, speed up structural changes in the economy, and introduce new competition – thereby contributing to productivity.

The circular economy focuses on creating and promoting new business opportunities that entail entrepreneurship and eco-innovation with the aim of waste being fed back into the production process as raw material.

I believe that entrepreneurs will be the key custodians responsible for leading the transition to a circular economy business model and closing the loop on dwindling resources. Essentially this is what we need to be focusing on, pairing both entrepreneurial spirit and the concerted effort to finding solutions to the many challenges and problems that we face as a country and a continent. (IT News Africa 21-12-2015)

ETHIOPIA ANNOUNCES PLAN TO BOOST TRADE RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS

Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on Tuesday disclosed the country's plan to enlarge the volume of trade exchanges with its neighbors.

According to the Director-General in charge of Nile Basin countries at the Ministry, Gebiresilasie Gebiregziabiher, Ethiopia will elevate its current trade exchanges with its neighbors such as Sudan, Kenya, Somalia and Djibouti.

These countries are among Ethiopia's major five export destinations in Africa with Somalia taking the biggest share at 330 million dollars, according to the ministry.

Gebiresilasie said Djibouti and Ethiopia are now working towards economic integration with the already expanding infrastructural ties between the two nations.

He referred to the preferential trade agreement signed between Ethiopia and Sudan in 2002 and the Special Statues Agreement with Kenya in 2012 to raise the economic cooperation to a higher level.

Constructing highways that will connect Ethiopia with neighboring Sudan and South Sudan is also part of the drive to increase exchanges with its neighbors, he added.

Yeshak Tekaligne, Bilateral and Regional Trade Relation and Negotiation Director at the Ministry of Trade also confirmed the growing push to improve trade exchanges between Ethiopia and its neighbors.

Yeshak said the government is highly prioritizing increased trade relations with neighboring countries due to the longstanding people to people relationship, geographic location and shared borders.

The trade volume exchanged between Ethiopia and Sudan has reached 184 million dollars in 2014 from only two million dollars in 2002, according to Yeshak.

He said the Ethiopia-Kenya total trade volume which was 35 million dollars in 2010 has reached 57 million dollars in 2014.

The country is also confident about the valuable role of its massive infrastructure development projects in accelerating exchanges in trade, the director said.

“The ultimate goal of the country is ensuring mutual benefit, mutual prosperity, and mutual growth among neighboring countries”, the director added.(APA 05-01-2016)

MOZAMBICAN COMPANY CONTINUES TO FARM GIANT SHRIMP

Mozambique's Aquapesca company will continue to produce giant shrimp through aquaculture with the creation of genetically modified larvae immune to the white spot virus, said lab technician Sidónio Juda Chan.

In 2011, the French-owned company was forced to suspend shrimp production indefinitely after the virus almost completely wiped out the shrimp in the company's aquaculture ponds in Inhassunge, in Zambézia province.

Judá Chan also told Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias that in 2015 the company opened a clam production line at its laboratory in the port city of Nacala, Nampula province.

Aquapesca's production has a guaranteed market, and the shrimp and oysters are exported to Europe, the clams to Japan and the tilapia fish is intended for domestic consumption. (08-01-2016)

ALGERIA: CONSERVATION OF NUMIDIAN KINGS' TEMPLE WITH EU SUPPORT

The EU-funded "Support Programme for the protection and enhancement of cultural heritage in Algeria" (PATRIMOINE) organised a seminar in Batna earlier this month to present a pilot project to secure and promote the royal mausoleum-temple of the Berber Numidian Kings (Imedghassen).

The seminar focused on the challenges and opportunities for the protection and enhancement of the site dating from the Numidian period and was the occasion to present to decision makers and stakeholders, the tools and methodologies proposed by the experts in charge of the project.

The heritage programme aims to support the inclusion of cultural heritage as a development tool in Algeria and to contribute to its identification, protection and development. It also seeks to build capacity in the sector at central and local level and provide technical support. (EU Neighbourhood 23-12-2015)

MALAYSIAN COMPANY SECURES CREDIT LINE FOR PROJECT IN ANGOLA

The Armada Cabaca company, a subsidiary of Malaysian group Bumi Armada, has secured a credit line of up to US\$1.12 billion with a banking syndicate to partially fund a project in Angola, the group said in a statement.

The banking syndicate is led by the Oversea-Chinese Banking Corporation of Singapore and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation of Japan, and its members include the Korean Development Bank, the National Bank of Abu Dhabi, Societe Generale and Standard Chartered.

According to the press release, the credit line is intended to secure the contract awarded to Armada Cabaca in August 2014 to build a floating production, storage and offloading unit (FPSO) for ENI Angola, a subsidiary the Italian oil and gas group ENI.

The group also said the credit line would reimburse the costs and expenses for the acquisition, conversion, transport and installation of the FPSO and related work. (30-12-2015)

MALAWI LEADER EXHORTS CITIZENS OVER PERSONAL HYGIENE

Malawi President Peter Mutharika has appealed to Malawians to observe personal hygiene to avoid waterborne diseases including cholera, diarrhea and dysentery.

In his speech monitored on the public Malawi Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) television on Monday, he said, Malawians should be extra careful in observing personal hygiene especially in the rain season.

"People should drink portable water which is either boiled or treated with chlorine, wash hands before preparing food, eating and after using the toilet as well as changing nappies to avoid the diseases," he said.

He said it is good for the people to prevent by following the said precautionary measures because it is expensive to treat the diseases than preventing them.

Meanwhile, Ministry of Health has confirmed that cholera outbreak has so far killed over 10 people and over 20 cases are being treated in several health facilities in the country. (APA 04-01-2016)

MEDITERRANEAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH INNOVATIVE FORESTRY: EU PROJECT HOLDS FORESTRY INNOVATION AND DEVELOPMENT WEEK IN MOROCCO

The EU-funded project MENFRI last month organised a "Forestry Innovation and Development Week" in Morocco, as part of its aim of supporting Mediterranean forestry actors with effective services and information to ensure a sustainable use of forests.

The objective was to hold a first set of training modules on forest certification, women's empowerment and inclusion of unemployed in the forestry sector, for representatives from local and national administrations, cooperatives, academics, entrepreneurs, and international organizations. The ultimate

goal is for these modules to be replicable all over the Mediterranean and scalable to local specifics. They will be also tested in May 2016 in Tunisia.

Mediterranean forestry is a multidisciplinary sector leading to complex situations where many aspects are to be taken into consideration: regulation, finance, education, environmental management, social inclusion etc. Because all these aspects are interlinked, it is crucial to develop capacity building and put the different stakeholders in contact.

MENFRI – the Mediterranean Network of Forestry Research and Innovation - is a research project funded by the EU under its Seventh Framework Programme for Research (FP7), aiming at fostering international cooperation amongst the Mediterranean region in the field of forestry. (EU Neighbourhood 23-12-2015)

CABO VERDE GOVERNMENT APPROVES CREATION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

The unemployment allowance, newly created in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), requires employers to pay in an additional 1.5 percent of workers' wages of workers who, in turn, contribute 0.5 percent, according to an announcement made by the Minister of Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

Minister Démis Lobo Almeida, announcing the approval of a draft law establishing the unemployment benefits in the archipelago, said difference to 3 percent of wages would be borne by allowances and supplementary benefits from the National Social Security Institute (INPS).

The announcement in what is considered as an "active (measure to) repair the unemployment situation" in Cabo Verde, comes in response to a resolution of the meeting of the Council for Social Dialogue held on 25 February 2015.

Cited by pan-African news agency Panapress, Almeida also announced that unemployment benefits would never be less than the national minimum wage, which is 11,000 escudos (99.7 euros) and not more than 2.5 times the minimum wage.

Unemployment benefit will be awarded for a minimum of 60 days and may be extended, as appropriate, by "90, 120 or 150 days," depending on the age of the worker and the amount of contributions paid.

The management of unemployment benefits falls to the National Social Security Institute (INPS), while the management of active employment measures is the responsibility of the Employment and Vocational Training Institute (IEFP).

The Cabo Verde government also approved a review of the Labour Code, another measures agreed at the Council for Social Dialogue, which aims to "create conditions for modernising labour relations in the country." (04-01-2015)

BOTSWANA BRACES FOR UNPRECEDENTED HEAT WAVE

Botswana's Department of Meteorological Services on Monday warned its people of the imminence of an unprecedented heat wave expected to prevail on Thursday and Friday.

In a statement, the department said that the inclement weather is expected to break some records with temperatures expected to reach maximums of between 40oC and 43oC.

However, the department said, the heat wave is expected to ease and see temperatures drop slightly by about 2oC over most parts of the country from Saturday onwards.

Notwithstanding these, the department added, isolated thunderstorms are expected to occur with a temperature dropping effect at some places.

It therefore advised members of the public to take precautionary measures to protect themselves from

these adverse weather conditions.

These measures may include among others, avoiding prolonged stay under the sun, if at all possible stay under the shade and wearing brimmed hat or umbrella. (APA 04-01-2016)

KENYA: MOBILE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND BROADBAND ON THE RISE

The Communications Authority of Kenya (CA) has stated that in the first quarter of the [financial year](#) 2015/2016, from July until September 2015, the number of mobile subscriptions grew by 4.7 percent to 37.8 million from 36.1 million in the fourth quarter. Mobile penetration increased by 4.2 percentage points from 83.9 percent in the previous quarter to 88.1 percent during the quarter under review. This is according to a report via [TelecomPaper](#).

According to the report, there were 36.8 million pre-paid subscriptions, or 97.3 percent of the total. Post-paid subscriptions climbed to 989,889 from 963,684 subscriptions in the previous quarter.

Safaricom recorded a market share of 66.3 percent, down from last quarter's 67.0 percent. Airtel Kenya saw its market share shrink by 0.3 percentage points to 19.1 percent. Orange Kenya had a rise in its market share to 11.8 percent and relative newcomer Equitel to 2.9 percent.

Safaricom had a 3.8 percent rise in its mobile subscriber base to 25.10 million subscriptions. Pre-paid subscriptions grew from 23.38 million last quarter to 24.26 million subscriptions during the quarter under review. Post-paid subscriptions increased from 805,651 to 833,818.

Airtel saw its subscriber base rise to 7.21 million from 6.86 million. There were 7.07 million pre-paid and 146,873 post-paid subscribers. Equitel saw its user base swell by 24.3 percent to 1.09 million, all of them pre-paid. The total number of Orange Kenya subscriptions increased from 4.04 million last quarter to 4.47 million this time. Post-paid subscriptions dropped from 11,264 to 9,198 subscriptions this time.

Local mobile traffic went up by 18.2 percent to 10.8 billion minutes from 9.2 billion minutes in the previous quarter. On-net traffic contributed 88.9 percent of total traffic at 9.6 billion minutes, up from 7.9 billion. Each subscriber talked for an average of 95.8 minutes per month during the quarter, up from 84.9 minutes in the previous quarter.

The volume of SMS sent during the first quarter rose to 7.0 billion from 6.5 billion, up 7.7 percent. Each subscriber sent an average of 61 messages per month.

During the quarter under review, the number of mobile money transfer subscriptions rose by 3.0 percent to 28.7 million from 27.7 million in the fourth quarter. The number of mobile money agents swelled to 135,724 from 129,357 in the last quarter.

The fixed network service continued its downward trend, with 87,111 lines, falling 0.7 percent from 87,774 in the previous period.

There were 21.6 million internet connections in the first quarter, up from 19.9 million in the last quarter. The estimated number of internet users went up to 31.9 million from 29.6 million estimated for the fourth quarter. It is thought that 74.2 percent of inhabitants had internet access, up from 69.0 percent last quarter. The number of broadband subscriptions increased by 19.3 percent to 6.3 million from 5.3 million in the last quarter, putting penetration at 14.7 percent.

During the quarter under review, international bandwidth available in the country dropped by 7.2 percent to 1.5 million Mbps from 1.6 million Mbps in the last quarter. Thus bandwidth utilisation represented 51.1 percent of total capacity, up from 47.2 percent

By the end of the quarter in review, the number of registered internet domain names rose by 17.8 percent to 46,411 from 39,386 in the previous quarter. (IT News Africa 29-12-2015)

ROYAL AIR MAROC HIRES WORKERS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Twenty-five young people have been hired in Guinea-Bissau to work as flight attendants on Moroccan airline Royal Air Maroc (RAM), announced in Bissau the Secretary of State for Transport and Communications (SETC).

The recruitment was carried out as part of "the good relations between the government of Guinea-Bissau, through the Secretary of State and the Moroccan airline," according to the SETC statement.

The group is expected to travel from Guinea-Bissau to Casablanca (Morocco) in early 2016 to be allocated to the different aircraft of the Moroccan company.

Royal Air Maroc offers flights between Bissau and Lisbon via Casablanca every day except Tuesdays. (29-12-2015)

CAMEROON SIGNS NEW POWER PLANT DEAL

The Cameroonian government has signed a loan agreement estimated at €198 million for the construction and operation of a 216 megawatt plant to be constructed in the coastal town of Kribi (south), official sources said on Wednesday.

The partners involved in the project include the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC), Proparco (French Development Agency), the International Finance Corporation (IFC) the Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) and a syndication of local banks led by Standard Chartered Bank.

The contribution of AfDB alone amounts to \$39.5 million and is meant for the construction of a 100 km transmission line to connect the south network (RIS) which is the largest in Cameroon.

According to the AfDB, the Kribi power plant will provide greater reliability of electricity supply and enhance energy security in the country as Cameroon has been grappling with reliable energy which is a major challenge for the development of the business environment. (APA 30-12-2015)

OIL PROCEEDS WENT INTO PERSONAL ACCOUNTS, SAYS NIGERIA'S BUHARI

Nigerian authorities have seen documents suggesting the proceeds from past crude oil sales were diverted to personal accounts rather than reaching government coffers, President Muhammadu Buhari said in a wide-ranging interview on Wednesday.

Africa's biggest economy faces its worst economic crisis in years, since it relies on oil exports for about 58% of government revenue. The sharp fall in oil prices over the past year has hit that revenue hard.

This problem has been made worse by the longstanding mismanagement of oil revenue. Mr Buhari has previously said treasury coffers were virtually empty when he took office in May and "mind-boggling" sums of money had been stolen.

The 73-year-old former military ruler, who won elections in April after campaigning on an anticorruption ticket, outlined progress made by his government in a two-hour "media chat" with three journalists broadcast live on state television.

"We have some documents where Nigerian crude oil was lifted illegally and the proceeds were put into some personal accounts instead of the federal government accounts," said Mr Buhari.

The president said stolen money had already been recovered by the government. He did not disclose the sums involved and said he could not provide more details because various cases were being taken to court.

A former oil minister, Diezani Alison-Madueke, is under investigation as part of a crackdown on corruption in the oil industry. She has denied any wrongdoing. Mr. Buhari's latest comments suggested other officials might also be named.

A 2013 investigation by former central bank governor Lamido Sanusi raised questions about the alleged disappearance of about \$20bn in oil revenues.

The president answered questions on a wide range of topics, from security to the economy, unemployment and the Biafra secessionist movement.

Smiling frequently and at times laughing, Mr Buhari seemed more at ease in the public interview format than his predecessor, Goodluck Jonathan, who was widely considered to have responded to with rambling answers.

Talks with Boko Haram

Mr. Buhari said the government was prepared to hold talks with the Islamist militant group Boko Haram in a bid to secure the release of around 200 schoolgirls kidnapped from the northeastern town of Chibok last year.

"If a credible leadership of Boko Haram can be established and they tell us where those girls are, we are prepared to negotiate with them without any preconditions," said Mr Buhari.

The president also reiterated his belief that Nigeria's currency should not be devalued further, despite the central bank's growing struggles to keep the naira at current levels.

And he backed measures imposed by the central bank to restrict access to foreign exchange, which have not gone down well with investors. "The foreign currency restrictions cannot be lifted because the money is not there," the president said.

Mr Buhari added that "productive industries" -such as manufacturers — should be identified and allocated foreign exchange to pay for "essential materials" rather than to "those who want to import rice and toothpicks". (Reuters 31-12-2015)

NUMBER OF ACTIVE COMPANIES IN CABO VERDE GROWS 1.5 PCT IN 2014

The number of active companies in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) in 2014 grew 1.5 percent, the number of workers rose by 3.0 percent but turnover fell by 3.4 percent against 2013, reported the National Statistics Institute.

Provisional results of the Annual Survey of companies, for 2014, released on 31 December, showed that at the end of 2014 Cabo Verde had 9,185 active enterprises, an increase of 136 over 2013, employing 52,518 people (an additional 1,543).

However, business value varied in the opposite direction, totalling 244 billion escudos, or a year on year fall of 8.5 billion escudos.

The survey data showed that the difference between the islands is visible in statistical terms, with a high concentration of business on the islands of Santiago, São Vicente, Sal and Boa Vista.

In 2014, about 79 percent of active companies were located in these three islands, accounting for 92 percent of the total workers and accumulating 97 percent of the value of business generated that year in Cabo Verde.

The retail sector, as in previous years, accounted for most of the business units (47 percent), followed by accommodation and food service activities (15 percent) and manufacturing (10 percent).

With regard to Staff Employed in companies, retail was the sector with most jobs (23 percent), followed by accommodation & catering activities (19 percent) and manufacturing (13 percent).

Retail was the sector that generated the most turnover (39 percent), followed by accommodation & catering and construction (both with 9 percent) and financial & insurance and manufacturing activities (both with 8 percent). (04-01-2016)

LIBERIA GETS \$1.495M GATES FOUNDATION RESEARCH GRANT

The Office of Liberia's Vice President Joseph N. Boakai and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation have signed an agreement for a \$1.495 million research grant, reports said on Monday.

According to the agreement, the grant will be used to underwrite the cost of researching and publishing a study on challenges and hindrances of community reintegration of survivors of deadly diseases.

According to a release issued by the Office of the Vice President, the perception study and the accompanying intervention will be conducted to discover how people perceive Ebola, what factors might influence their perceptions, and what types of care and support survivors need to enhance their reintegration into society.

The project will be implemented by the Center for Liberia's Future headed by Dr. Emmanuel Dolo and will run for a period of 18 (eighteen) months.

The proposed research will cover all 15 counties and will include some villages, towns as well as rural and urban cities. The study population will include at least 1000 adults residing in villages, towns, and cities across Liberia.

A multistage sampling technique will be used, according to the statement. During the first stage, one urban county will be selected along with two large size rural counties and one medium size rural county.

To ensure transparency and proper accountability, Vice President Boakai has requested the Ministry of Finance and Development Planning to serve as Fiduciary Agent of the grant, while the VP's office will monitor the implementation of the project.

The statement said the Vice President has also requested the Ministry of Health to review the final report of the research prior to submission to the Gates Foundation.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance and Development Planning has identified the Project Financial Management Unit (PFMU) as the Organ that will oversee this Project.

It is expected that upon completion of the project, the report will be used to help improve preventive health communication and national data collection and reporting on the outbreak of infectious diseases.

Additionally, it will accelerate behavioral change in emergency response so that communities can properly manage and achieve early detection, response, containment, surveillance, data collection and better communication with the larger public.

According to the statement, thousands of lives are expected to be impacted by the study, as they will understand the gravity of the threat that deadly diseases pose, leading to prevention and suppression of future outbreaks.

The investment will try to address the wide knowledge gap, derive lessons from the study that can contribute to prevention and possible response and at the same time facilitate reintegration support for survivors. (APA 04-01-2016)

ZAMBIA SETS 2016 ELECTION DATE, SCRAPS POWER PRICE HIKE

Zambia's new constitution on Monday set August 11 as the date for five-yearly presidential and parliamentary elections, previously set by the president, lining up another close vote after last year's neck-and-neck race.

Also on Monday, President Edgar Lungu, who plans to stand in the election, reversed a sharp increase in electricity tariffs, saying the hike had ended up hurting the poor, presidential spokesperson Amos Chanda said on Monday.

Mr. Lungu, who is due to ratify the constitutional amendments on Tuesday, defeated the opposition United Party for National Development's (UPND) Hakainde Hichilema last January. Mr Hakainde said the election had been "stolen".

Mr. Lungu, a lawyer, won 48.3% of the vote to 46.7% for Mr. Hichilema, a wealthy economist.

"The new constitution has a fixed election date and that will take effect as soon as the president signs," Mr. Chanda said.

Other amendments to Zambia's constitution include a clause requiring a winning presidential candidate to get more than 50% of the valid votes cast, Mr. Chanda said.

Some analysts criticised as politically motivated Mr. Lungu's decision to scrap electricity price increases and sign the constitutional amendments at a lavish public ceremony.

"Obviously these are efforts intended to gain political advantage," University of Zambia analyst Lee Habasonda said.

"For now the decision to reverse the electricity tariff increase will go down well with the voters but it won't help to resolve Zambia's power problems," Mr. Habasonda said.

Zambia's state power utility Zesco on December 3 nearly doubled the price of electricity.

The International Monetary Fund had welcomed the price hike, saying it would ease power shortages that have put pressure on the economy of Africa's number two copper producer.

The tariff rises were expected to raise revenue that would see \$3.7bn invested in power generation projects, adding capacity to the national grid, Zambia's energy regulator said. (Reuters O4-01-2016)

TAIWAN PROVIDES US\$15 MILLION TO SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

Taiwan has provided funding of US\$15 million to São Tomé and Príncipe for 2016, under the new annual programme of bilateral cooperation, signed Wednesday in São Tomé.

In a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the new document was signed by the São Tomé Minister for the Economy and International Cooperation, Agostinho Fernandes and Taiwanese representative, Miguel Her in the presence of the São Tomé Minister of Finance, Américo Ramos.

Minister Agostinho Fernandes said that infrastructure and agriculture were the sectors that would receive the biggest investment in 2016, followed by health, education, tourism and youth entrepreneurship.

Her added that Taiwan intends to support the São Tomé private sector through business exchanges in the coming months. He said trade groups from São Tomé were expected to take part in the Taipei Economic Forum scheduled for next April, and the hosting of the Taiwan International Trade Fair in the capital of São Tomé and Príncipe.

The Taiwan representative also said that this cooperation programme unlocks funds for measures included in projects already designed by the São Tomé authorities and approved by the Taiwanese authorities in the context of bilateral cooperation.

It is estimated that Taiwan has provided over US\$250 million in funding since the establishment of relations with São Tomé and Príncipe in 1997. (31-12-2025)

SWAZILAND RANKS POORLY IN TOURISM

Swaziland is not enjoying a fairly competitive advantage in tourism and travel as it ranks poor globally and in the region, APA can report Monday.

The World Economic Forum (WEF) Global Travel and Tourism Report 2015 ranks Swaziland 108 out of 141 countries surveyed by the forum.

Out of the 15 Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Swaziland ranks eighth and countries are determined by tourist service, infrastructure, resorts, entertainment facility, cultural and nature resources.

"We measure the level of tourism service infrastructure through the number of upper level hotel rooms complimented by the extent of access to services such as car rentals and ATMs, reads the report in part.

The country has also been found to be fairly prioritising the travel sector and also has relatively conducive environmental sustainability. (04-01-2016)

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