

MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION

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SOUTH AFRICA: COSATU'S CALL FOR ZUMA TO STEP DOWN IS IMMENSELY IMPORTANT

The end of President Jacob Zuma seems tantalisingly near but also so far. The question on everyone's mind is how long can he last?

A crescendo of opposition is mounting against him. Cosatu's call on Tuesday that he step down is immensely important. Together with the South Africa Communist Party (SACP), which came out with the same call a week ago, these two organisations represent a significant number of ANC members. SACP and Cosatu activists and organisers also tend to be among the most active ANC members; they make up the heart of the ANC.

On Tuesday, ANC veterans also called for him to go and it emerged on Monday that the ANC's own integrity committee had asked him to step down. These follow the many other calls from church leaders, opposition parties, civil society organisations and luminaries from within the ANC tradition.

With pockets of protest starting to spring up all over and the credit ratings agencies beginning to wield the axe, Zuma's world is closing in.

But even with all this and more — two marches are planned on the Union Buildings in the next week — Zuma is sitting tight. He will not go voluntarily and has drafted in reinforcements in the form of ANC provincial chairmen to protect him at Tuesday's national working committee meeting. It can also be expected that he will mobilise ANC supporters in the strongholds of his strongmen and put on a show of force.

But while he does, time is running out and attention will inevitably turn to Parliament, which has become a new and important player in resolving the ANC conflict.

The next ANC national executive committee (NEC) meeting will be critical. Disaffected ANC MPs have indicated that before they support a vote of no confidence, they must take another shot at persuading the ANC national executive to put the motion itself. This is their insurance policy against being labelled traitors.

While the next NEC meeting is scheduled for May, it is possible that a special meeting will be called before then in the light of the crisis. It is a certainty that a motion of no confidence will be put to the meeting.

One of two things could happen. Zuma's supporters could reject the motion and support him, with the result that a clear decision cannot be reached. This opens the door for his detractors in Parliament to support an opposition motion on the grounds that the NEC is moribund. Provided this motion is put by a smaller party that would not be able to whip the ANC about it at the polls, there is a very good chance that the vote will succeed.

The other possible outcome of the NEC meeting is that everyone agrees to remove him. For his closest supporters, this is a large gamble, as the loss of the presidency will threaten their hold on the state.

However, for the ANC as an organisation, this is the best possible outcome as it may offer it some redemption with voters in 2019. This could swing some NEC members who have previously insisted that it was necessary to keep Zuma.

The difficulty, though, will be to agree on a replacement. It's not unthinkable that a suitably neutral person could be found. In this negotiation, though, it would be the Zuma detractors who have the upper hand, given their alternative option of voting with the opposition.

It will be an intense few weeks for ANC MPs, on whom the future of the Zuma presidency now hinges. If they stand firm or can reach an agreement, then Zuma's days will be quickly over. If not, the country could limp all the way to the ANC's December conference, while campaigns of civil society and the political opposition, swelled by the activists of Cosatu and the SACP, grow the ranks of the disaffected every day. (BD 05-04-2017)

ANC TO ANNOUNCE JACOB ZUMA'S FATE AFTER BITTER LEADERSHIP MEETING

The ANC will on Wednesday morning announce the outcome of a critical extended national working committee meeting (NWC) as calls for President Jacob Zuma to resign grow.

The meeting concluded late on Monday but committee member Nomvula Mokonyane stepped out to address the ANC Youth League (ANCYL) in Germiston and proclaimed that Zuma "is not leaving office until 2019".

Notes released, ostensibly by accident, by the ANC's own e-mail account to the media indicated a fight back by Zuma's allies in the meeting calling on Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, treasurer-general Zweli Mkhize and secretary-general Gwede Mantashe to apologise for criticising his reshuffle last week. The notes also criticised ministers for their conduct at the funeral of late stalwart Ahmed Kathrada and referred to the "mobilising " by former finance minister Pravin Gordhan.

The ANC, however, distanced itself from the notes in a separate media release, saying they did not represent the party's views.

Provincial chairs and secretaries were called in to attend the meeting on Tuesday after a lengthy officials meeting on Monday. The integrity commission urged Zuma to step down in the Monday meeting.

Ally Cosatu also called on Zuma to step down on Tuesday, as well as the party veterans.

Cosatu general secretary Bheki Nthsalintshali announced at a media briefing that the federation's top brass had taken a decision to call on him to step down — among the reasons was his failure to consult the federation on the reshuffle.

It is understood that only three unions, one of which was not in good standing, had opposed the decision taken at a special central executive committee meeting on Monday.

Zuma allies are fighting back against the tide of criticism Zuma faced in the wake of the reshuffle, which also resulted in S&P Global Ratings downgrading the country's credit rating to junk status.

(BD 05-04-2017)

MEDIOCRITY IS REWARDED, IS WHAT CABINET RESHUFFLE SAYS TO SOUTH AFRICANS

Consulting Engineers SA says the move does not bode well for the building of much-needed infrastructure in the country

Consulting Engineers SA (Cesa) says the Cabinet reshuffle by President Jacob Zuma sends a "disturbing" message that mediocrity will be rewarded, while excellence is punished.

It says the move risks exacerbating the already troubled economy and does not bode well for the building of much-needed infrastructure in SA. The industry body represents more than 500 companies employing about 23,000 people in various engineering capacities.

"As an industry, we pride ourselves on excellence in the delivery of infrastructure projects. The current Cabinet reshuffle, which we accept as being the prerogative of the President regrettably ... is counterintuitive to the culture we seek to establish among young engineering professionals, who will be responsible for ensuring the wellbeing of our infrastructure for generations to come," Cesa CEO Chris Campbell said on Tuesday.

"As engineers, we believe that a better approach would have been to dispense of the nonperformers and bring on board more performers," he said.

Cesa said the engineering industry was already experiencing difficulty amid corruption, the appointment of consulting engineering firms that had little or no track record of delivery, and even criminal activity halting construction activity.

"The latter not only puts lives at risk but also affects job security in a sector where limited employment opportunities currently exist due to the already low levels of capital investment in infrastructure," Campbell said.

He said SA's downgrade to junk status by S&P Global Ratings limited investor confidence further and would further stifle the country's ability to create jobs.

"Skilled engineering practitioners from various technical disciplines are currently being retrenched at a time when this [type of employment] has been identified as at least six out of the 10 most scarce skills in the country," Campbell said.(BD 04-05-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA: ZUMA WON'T DO IT AGAIN, PROMISES ANC

The public disagreement by ANC officials on President Jacob Zuma's Cabinet reshuffle was a mistake and will not happen again, party secretary-general Gwede Mantashe said on Wednesday.

Mantashe, ANC deputy president Cyril Ramaphosa and treasurer-general Zweli Mkhize publicly voiced their disapproval over the lack of consultation on the reshuffle last week. Speaking after an extended meeting of the ANC's national working committee, Mantashe said the officials reported back to the NWC on a lengthy meeting it held on Monday.

"That public dissonance was a mistake that will not happen again," Mantashe said.

It was unprecedented for Mantashe, Ramaphosa and Mkhize to publicly criticise Zuma's reshuffle - at the core of which was his failure to consult on the move.

The official word from the party came as insiders said Zuma backers had pushed in the meeting for the three to apologise over the move.

The meeting also lashed out at the "serious breach of confidence" between it and its alliance partners, the SACP and the Congress of SA Trade Unions.

Mantashe said the meeting discussed the calls by both Cosatu and the SACP for Zuma to step down.

He said that the party's allies could have discussed the matter with the party behind closed doors.

But Cosatu on Monday told journalists that it has been in discussions with the ANC over its unhappiness with the current state of affairs in the movement since November last year.

The SACP has been holding bilateral meetings with the party in recent months. (BD 05-04-2017)

ANADARKO PETROLEUM EXPECTED TO MAKE FINAL INVESTMENT DECISION ON MOZAMBIQUE IN 2018

US group Anadarko Petroleum is expected to make a final investment decision about a natural gas exploration project in Mozambique in April/June 2018, said the chief executive of Japanese group Mitsui & Co.

Hirotsu Fujiwara told the Reuters news agency that partners in the Area 1 block of the Rovuma Basin had expected to end talks with the government of Mozambique in December but added that the process has a four-month delay.

The CEO of Mitsui & Co also said the two natural gas processing plants with a capacity of 12 million tonnes per year should become operational in 2022/2023, after a construction period of four years.

The partners in the block – including the Anadarko group that acts as operator, Mitsui & Co Group, Indian company ONGC Videsh, Bharat PetroResources Ltd and Oil India Ltd and Thai PTT Exploration & Production Plc – have been negotiating with Japanese companies in the gas sector to sign long-term gas sale contracts.

Fujiwara also told Reuters that partners have already signed contracts for eight million tonnes/year and that it was necessary to reach at least 9.6 million tonnes/year or 80% of the processing capacity that will be built in Mozambique to secure the funding required to make a final investment decision. (05-04-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA LAUNCHES FIRST CONTINUOUS HYDROTHERMAL LIQUEFACTION PLANT

South Africa's first continuous hydrothermal liquefaction plant was launched at [North-West University](#) (NWU) earlier this month, which will lead to the production of bio-oils, bio-char, biochemical and biogas. The continuous hydrothermal liquefaction plant is one of the outputs of the Department of Science and Technology- and the National Research Foundation-supported [South African Research Chairs Initiative](#) (Sarchi), mostly of the Biofuels Sarchi at NWU led by Professor Sanette Marx. She elucidates that the

plant can process dry plant matter, or lignocellulose biomass, in water feed of 150 ℓ/h at a dwelling time of 10 min. The plant is intended to function at 350 C and pressures of 100 bar.

The nearest comparable plant, at the University of Sydney, in Australia, has an utmost capacity of 90 ℓ/h. This plant is intended to process a liquid feed of micro-algae in water at 280 C and pressures of 610 bar. The local plant will be used for the manufacture of products for research applications and is the first of its kind in the globe to use biomass as feedstock.

The plant has shown the possibility of co-feeding such oils with the crude oil presently used by refineries, to decrease the sulphur content in liquid fuels, thus reducing environmental impact.

In September last year the plant produced its initial batch of bio-char, a form of charcoal created from plant matter, using sweet sorghum bagasse as the feedstock.

Bio-char can be used for various purposes, including cogeneration or cogasification with coal to decrease the sulphur footprint of coal combustion or gasification. Bio-char can also be used as a soil remediation agent in the agricultural industry or as an adsorbent to get rid of heavy metals and organic pollutants from industrial water effluent streams.

The plant at NWU was planned, built and commissioned by Johannesburg-based design and engineering company Mass and Heat Transfer Technology.

The design was based on the work of numerous NWU alumni over a nine-year phase, as well as two PhD, six master's, and nine chemical engineering undergraduate students.(CRO 28-03-2017)

EU-AFRICA PARTNERSHIP INJECTS CFA427 BLN INTO CONTINENT'S COTTON INDUSTRY



The EU-Africa Cotton Partnership adopted in 2004, injected about CFA427 billion into the continent's cotton sector, APA can report from the organizers of the program in Ouagadougou on Saturday.

Burkina Faso, the country of reference for cotton production, was chosen to host the activities included in the closing of the program from March 27 to April 1.

It was held under the theme "Cotton processing, a challenge for Africa: The new challenges of cotton value chains in Africa."

More than 200 actions to support African cotton and its sectors have been carried out to the tune of nearly CFA427 billion.

Subsidy support has been provided to some 20 countries, including Burkina Faso, which has particularly benefited from a number of facilities.

These include the dissemination of good agricultural practices that respect the environment, capacity building for cotton producers, the establishment of a strategic framework for a sustainable motorization of cotton growing, for the diversification of the market through the introduction of a range of products in natural dyeing and support for more than 50 cottage textile processing workshops in Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso, which generated over 1,000 jobs.

Cotton, a sector employing four million people in Burkina Faso, is one of Africa's first export products and a major job creator.

The Ouagadougou meeting has led to the adoption of a Pan-African Cotton Investment Program and the revival of African cotton research. (APA 01-04-2017)

GOLD GIANT PAYS \$5.8MILLION DIVIDEND TO GHANA



Gold Fields Ghana Limited on Friday presented a cheque of \$5.8 million to the government in Accra as dividend for the 2016 financial year.

Ghana's Finance Minister Ken Ofori Atta receiving the cheque commended the company for consistency in paying 10 percent dividend to the government in the face of rising challenges confronting the gold mining sector especially the falling prices of gold in the world market.

Gold Fields Ghana Limited Executive Vice President and Head of West Africa, Mr. Albert Baku led the team to the Finance ministry to present the cheque to the sector minister, according a report by the state-owned Daily Graphic on Saturday. (APA 01-04-2017)

NEWLY CONSTRUCTED ABATTOIR IN ETHIOPIA TO BE COMMISSIONED

A subsidiary of [Allana Group](#) – Frigorifico Boran Foods Plc is set to commission newly constructed abattoir in Ethiopia next month in Adami Tulu, 163kms from the Ethiopia capital, Addis Ababa.

The General Manager of Frigorifico Boran Foods Plc, Mr. Vijay Dongare confirmed the reports and said that they are left with internal and external finishing works with the trial production being underway.

"We are now left with the internal and external finishing works and finally the trial production phase," Vijay said.

Allana Group which is an Indian-based meat processing company managed to secure a 75 hectares piece of land two years ago from the Oromia Regional government to erect the abattoir in Ethiopia around Adami Tulu, near Ziway.

The mega project is approximated to have cost the company US\$ 75m for it to be operational.

Though the project has been delayed for about a year, industry representatives say the project is currently 99pc complete.

The company invested US\$ 20m in the first phase of the construction, which is one-third of the total amount of capital invested by the company so far.

The mega plant is known to be the largest factory between Shashemene and Ziway and will have the capacity to slaughter approximately 200 cattle and 5,000 sheep and on a daily basis once operation begins.

Ethiopia is home to Africa's largest livestock population and this initiative will encourage more and more investments in meat and meat product export as part of an effort to increase hard currency earnings in the country.

The livestock sector in Ethiopia undoubtedly is of greater importance in many respects. It plays roles from creating jobs, increasing hard currency inflow to technology and knowledge transfer and various incentives are attached to elicit those involved in the sector.

The Allana Group is India's largest exporter of processed food products and agro commodities, including Frozen & Chilled Meat, Aseptic & Frozen Fruit, Vegetable products, Coffee & Spices and Cereals.

The company exports to the requirements of over 85 countries while maintaining the highest standards of quality in procurement, manufacturing and distribution. (CRO 28-03-2017)

W/BANK LOANS GHANA \$1.2 BILLION



The World Bank has announced a \$1.2 billion loan to support Ghana's developmental agenda for the next three years.

The money would be disbursed in three tranches of \$400 million for the next three years, World Bank Country Director in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone, Mr. Henry G.R. Kerali told journalists in Accra on Friday.

According to him, the interaction with the press was part of activities during a three-day working visit of the World Bank Chief Economist for Africa, Dr Albert Zuefack to Ghana.

Mr Kerali the loan forms part of the \$57 billion the World Bank has allocated to Sub-Saharan African countries this year. (APA 01-04-2017)

SYMBION POWER SEEKS \$561M FROM TANZANIA IN POWER SUPPLY ROW

[Symbion](#) Power is seeking \$561-million from Tanzania's state power supplier [Tanesco](#) through international arbitration, reproving it of breach of contract, the US firm.

Symbion owns a 120 MW thermal power plant in Tanzania's commercial capital Dar es Salaam and is one the few independent producers that vend power to State-owned utility Tanzania Electric Supply (Tanesco).

Tanzania has reserves of more than 57-trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas but faces unceasing power deficit owing its dependence on hydropower dams in a drought-prone area, forcing its utility to buy from the private firms.

Symbion's spokesperson Julie Foster said it sued Tanesco at the International Chamber of Commerce's International Court of Arbitration in Paris on March 13, saying it has not honored a 15-year contract.

"The power purchase agreement is now terminated and the sum claimed is \$561-million. Since the case is a very straightforward case to arbitrate, we trust that it will not take too long for the mediation to come to an end," Foster said.

Foster said Symbion filed for mediation because it ran out of alternatives “after trying to resolve the disagreement ... in a friendly manner for over a whole year.”

TanESCO refused to comment, saying the matter was under court proceedings.

Tanzanian President John Magufuli, nicknamed “the Bulldozer” for his infrastructure projects and stern leadership style, launched his reform drive after he was elected in 2015, vowing to change an economy shambled by bureaucracy and bribery.

But some foreign investors have said they could level back their operations or development plans because of harsher demands, including elevated tax bills, as part of the president’s drive to revamp the economy.

“The worry however is that such quick-fix thinking, and resulting policies, only strengthen a growing investor opinion that Magufuli’s government is anti-business,” Ahmed Salim, VP of consultancy Teneo Intelligence, said in a note to patrons .(CRO 29-03-2017)

ETHIOPIA, TANZANIA INK TRADE AND INVESTMENT DEALS



Ethiopia and Tanzania on Saturday inked agreements to cooperate in tourism, trade and investment, technology and the prevention of human trafficking.

The agreement came following an official trip by Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn to Tanzania on Friday after concluding a three-day state visit to Zambia.

Upon his arrival at Julius Nyerere International Airport in Dar es Salaam, the Ethiopian premier was welcomed by Tanzania's President John Pombe Magufuli.

He was also given a 19-gun salute.

After talks between their senior government officials, Ethiopia agreed to sell 400MW of electricity for Tanzania via Kenya, an Ethiopian Foreign ministry statement noted. (APA 01-04-2017)

GOVERNANCE ISSUES LOOM LARGE AS BLAIR MEETS GAMBIAN LEADER



Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair has been meeting senior government officials in Banjul including President Adama Barrow over issues of effective good governance for the new

Blair was on a one-day visit to the Gambian capital on Friday in his capacity as the head of the Africa Governance Initiative (AGI) whose stated mission is **to support effective governance in Africa, making government work to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged people in their communities.**

The ex British PM's brief talks with President Barrow revolved around the AGI's possible contributions to international efforts aimed at strengthening the culture of good governance, rule of law and economic advancement in The Gambia.

The crisis of governance that resulted from Gambia's post-election crisis which ended in January was fresh on the minds of both Barrow and Mr. Blair who had pledged that the AGI would help to improve areas of governance the new government in Banjul is currently grappling with.

Meanwhile, the new dispensation also confirmed to Blair that it has since applied to rejoin the Commonwealth, an organization of mainly English-speaking nations of which The Gambia was a member until it left in 2013.

Blair's trip comes two months after President Barrow took over the reins of governance in The Gambia under acrimonious political circumstances.

Barrow's accession to power through democratic elections was briefly threatened by his predecessor Yahya Jammeh's reluctance to vacate the presidency despite earlier conceding poll defeat to his opposition challenger. (APA 01-04-2017)

BASIC ENGINEERING COULD SAVE SOMALILAND'S WATER, EXPERT URGES



Most of Somaliland's 3.5 million people depend on agriculture and herding

A water expert in Los Angeles is warning his former country, the Republic of Somaliland, to perform some basic civil engineering to save its underground water reserves – or face permanent unviability as a place for human habitation.

Simple techniques such as recharge dams and “spreading grounds”, which catch rain when it comes and channel it into depleting aquifers, are needed urgently as the impoverished and drought-ravaged nation intensifies water drilling to cope with urbanisation.

The self-declared republic, home to 3.5 million people, must spend more of its limited budget on engineering works now common in Los Angeles, said Adan Iman, a management consultant at the Los Angeles City public works department and writer on Somaliland.

“The bottom line is that the government must do something about it. I want to say to them, you are using the water that is supposed to be used by your great grand kids”– Adan Iman, Los Angeles City public works department

Along with Yemen, South Sudan and areas of northern Kenya and Nigeria, Somaliland is experiencing famine brought by a prolonged drought. Its government declared a state of drought in August 2015 after experiencing two failed rainy seasons.

The failures, which were associated with an El Niño event in the Pacific Ocean, are particularly serious for Somaliland because it has no permanent rivers or lakes and has an economy that relies largely on the herding of sheep, camels and cattle for export to the Gulf states.

“Drill, drill, drill”

Adan Iman, who grew up there, said the more serious long-term effects of the drought would be to deplete the country's store of underground water. He urged the government to invest in civil engineering schemes to replenish its aquifers.

He told *GCR*: "The government has an annual budget of \$250m and they have to allocate some of it to water. When Somaliland was under British rule they carried out surveys, and they know where the water is. They should now build spreading grounds and recharge dams where the aquifers are."

He said that instead, the government's response was to "drill, drill, drill", but that increasingly the water table was becoming depleted.

"People are coming into urban centres, and they are building more homes with septic tanks so the per capita consumption of water has increased. But this water is going to end. When I was growing up in the 1960s you could reach water right away; now it's going deeper and deeper."

Government could lead

The position of the government is complicated by chronic instability of its surroundings, which means that it spends half of its revenue on security.

There is also a problem with its legal status. The Republic of Somaliland has declared itself to be an independent state, but it is internationally recognised to be an autonomous province of Somalia. That means that all aid from international donors is given to the government of Somalia. In practice, Somaliland [receives minimal international support](#).

Iman argues that if the Somaliland government were to take action the international community would find a way to help it. He said: "There is a business community that has money and the government could increase the budget for the department of water to third after defence and education. If the international community sees they are helping themselves, then they will get assistance to build dams and spreading grounds."

Spreading grounds are a technique used to replenish underground water stores in low-rainfall areas that experience occasional storms. They are relatively inexpensive in civil engineering terms, and consist of a basin with a porous or permeable subsoil connected to a target aquifer that can be filled by storm drains. The City of Los Angeles has 27 of them.

The dams are similar in effect, in that they prevent the run-off from storms from flowing past the "recharge zone" of an aquifer.

Iman said: "The bottom line is that the government must do something about it. I want to say to them, you are using the water that is supposed to be used by your great grand kids."(GCR 29-03-2017)

CAMEROON ELECTRICITY SECTOR RECEIVES CFA8.5 BILLION FROM OPEC



The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Fund for International Development (OFID) has just approved a CFA8.45 billion funding for an electrification project in Cameroon.

This came at the end of the first session of the steering committee overseeing the second phase of the rural electrification project.

The chairman of the project, Ousmane Nou said funding for the project covers 21 localities in four of the country's ten regions, namely Adamaoua, Littoral, North and South.

The program covers 102 localities across the country to the tune of CFA18.5 billion and is financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA)) and OFID.

IDB's financing amounts to CFA12.2 billion, while BADEA's which covers the electrification of 50 localities in the three northern regions of Adamaoua, North and Far-North amounts to CFA6.31 billion.

The contribution of the Cameroonian government is CFA1.352 billion.

Phase II of the project comes on the heels of the first one, launched six years ago, covering only 33 localities, with 3935 households in the Central North and North-West given access to electricity. (APA 31-03-2017)

NIGERIAN MINISTER TO RESIGN IF DEADLINE TO REOPEN ABUJA AIRPORT IS MISSED

Nigeria's Aviation minister Senator Hadi Sirika has vowed to resign if the rehabilitation of [Abuja Airport](#) fails to be completed on time.

According to the minister he will keep the project manager carrying out the project on task to ensure that the current deadline is met.

He added that he will be of no value if the federal government fails to meet the six-weeks deadline for the rehabilitation of the runway of the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport, Abuja.

The minister made this known during a meeting with Aviation Round Table (ART) in Lagos where he assured them that the project is on track.

Sirika said the level of work done in the first three weeks since the runway was closed on March 8, 2017, had shown that the work would be completed at the given date (April 19, 2017).

He explained that so far so good the project is ongoing well and they will ensure that the airport starts its operation in the date set by the government in agreement to the contractor.

He explained that the Kaduna airport was chosen as alternative to Abuja airport because the other airports around Abuja, including the airports in Minna, Jos, and Makurdi do not provide adequate security and safety measures but it was Kaduna airport that has dual carriageway to Abuja, which road could easily be rehabilitated within the period the airport in Abuja would be closed.

He also noted that while the Minna airport is closer to Abuja, the road is a single lane, filled with potholes and along undulating topography and hills, adding that it is insecure and unsafe compared to Kaduna. Besides, he said while there was immediate plan to rehabilitate the Kaduna-Abuja road, there was no plan to rebuild the Minna-Abuja road.

He added that the government has lost a good income in the few days that the project has been ongoing and they will ensure that ends. (CRO 28-03-2017)

EUROMED JUSTICE ESTABLISHES EXPERTS GROUP ON CRIMINAL COOPERATION IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION

The 1st session of the CrimEx Experts Group created under the EU-funded EuroMed Justice IV Project to enhance criminal cooperation and international judicial cooperation took place in Madrid, Spain on 14-16 March 2017, and was attended by members from 6 South Partner Countries, i.e. Algeria, Egypt, Israel, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority and Tunisia - Lebanon and Jordan being still in the selection process.



EuroMed Justice

The session benefitted from the presence and active collaboration of experts and EU prosecutors from Eurojust, the European Judicial Network in criminal matters (EJN) and the UN-CTED (United Nation's Counter Terrorism Directorate), as well as EuroMed Police, which are main stakeholders of this EuroMed Justice phase.

In order to promote a holistic and coordinated national response to transnational crime and terrorism, the Project Team envisages to create, in cooperation with/or centred around the CrimEx Contact Points or CrimEx Members, national platforms/mechanisms to facilitate strategic and operational development, information sharing and other coordination among the range of national actors involved in activities that contribute to fighting crime.

CrimEx will initiate the debates on the international and national frameworks on judicial and law enforcement cooperation in criminal matters, focusing on the practical matters and its various forms: extradition, mutual legal assistance (MLA), the transfer of proceedings, the gathering of evidence, the recognition and the execution of foreign decisions.

The final output will be the elaboration of a Handbook on Gaps and Legal Analysis in the Southern Partner Countries, as regards investigation and prosecution of complex judicial cases, and updating the existing EuroMed Fiches.

Over two years (2017-2018) and during eight sessions, CrimEx will function as a real think-tank and a regional forum of cooperation, being key in setting up a mechanism of judicial and law enforcement cooperation among the EU and its South Partner Countries. (EurMed 29-03-2017)

[Euromed Justice III](#)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETRAY FUND

Algeria - <http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/03/20/pr1790-algeria-imf-staff-completes-2017-article-iv-mission>

Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Gabon, Jordan, Republic of Congo, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Republic of Mozambique - <http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/03/09/TR030917-Transcript-of-a-Press-Briefing-with-Gerry-Rice>

Congo - <http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/03/09/PR1779-Republic-of-Congo-IMF-Staff-Finalizes-2017-Article-IV-Consultation>

Jordan - <http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/03/15/pr1783-jordan-imf-staff-concludes-visit>

Madagascar - <http://www.imf.org/en/News/Articles/2017/03/23/pr1796-madagascar-imf-staff-completes-mission-for-2017-article-iv-and-first-ecf-review>

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