

MEMORANDUM

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ANADARKO PETROLEUM STUDIES POSSIBLE SALE OF ASSETS IN MOZAMBIQUE

US group Anadarko Petroleum is studying the possible sale of natural gas assets in Mozambique with Exxon Mobil and Qatar Petroleum having expressed interest in the deal, according to a report from the Reuters news agency.

The agency cited banking and industry sources as saying that the Anadarko Petroleum group may sell the entire 26.5 percent holding in the Area 1 concession of the Rovuma basin in northern Mozambique, where it discovered deposits of about 75 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

The group, which initially held 36.5 percent of the concession area, in 2013 sold a portion of 10 percent to Indian state group Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) for US\$2.64 billion.

The group planned to build a natural gas liquefaction unit in Palma, Cabo Delgado province, exporting the final product to countries in Asia, including India, China and Japan.

Earlier this month, John Pepper, the group's director of the group to Mozambique, announced sales contracts would be signed soon that would make it possible to kick off the project for natural gas extraction and processing.

Pepper also said that final investment decision depends on the conversion of non-binding agreements into binding ones that the Anadarko Petroleum group has closed to export 8 million tons of natural gas per year to customers in Japan, China, Thailand and Singapore. (20-04-2015)

BILLION DOLLAR IVORY AND GOLD TRADE FUELLING DRC WAR, SAYS UN

Smuggling of ivory, gold and timber worth over a billion dollars a year is fuelling war by funding dozens of rebel groups in Democratic Republic of Congo, a United Nations report warned on Friday.

"Militarised criminal groups with transnational links are involved in large-scale smuggling" of "gold, minerals, timber, charcoal and wildlife products such as ivory" of up to \$1.3 billion each year from eastern DR Congo, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) said.

The revenues finance at least 25 armed groups — but up to 49 according to some estimates — that "increasingly fuel the conflict" in the war-torn region, the report read.

Control over the mineral-rich areas is a key factor in the conflicts that have raged in eastern DR Congo for decades.

"These resources lost to criminal gangs and fuelling the conflict could have been used to build schools, roads, hospitals and a future for the Congolese people," said Martin Kobler, UN chief in DR Congo, and head of the 20,000-strong UN peacekeeping force, MONUSCO.

Gold forms the largest section, with organised crime gangs earning up to \$120m a year from the trade. The vast majority of income earned goes outside the impoverished region, but the estimated 2% that goes to the armed groups -some \$13m a year -provides the funds to prolong war.

"This income represents the basic subsistence cost for at least 8,000 armed fighters per year, and enables defeated or disarmed groups to continuously resurface and destabilise the region," the report read.

Criminal gangs use their cash to push a strategy of "divide and rule" among the rebel groups, to ensure no one rebel force can dominate and take over the trade, the report added.

DR Congo has massive resources of gold, copper and cobalt but also diamonds, iron, nickel, manganese, bauxite, uranium and cassiterite, the most important source of tin. However most of the country's people live in poverty.

Much of the rebel activity consists of abuses against civilians and illegal exploitation of natural resources. (AFP 17-04-2015)

EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY ACCOUNTS FOR 30 PCT OF MOZAMBIQUE'S EXPORTS IN 2ND QUARTER OF 2014

The extractive industry accounted for 30 percent of Mozambique's exports in the second quarter of 2014, contributing 12.6 percent to the growth of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in that three-month period, according to an official report published in Maputo.

The sector's contribution to GDP growth, mainly due to coal, natural gas and mineral sands, was registered despite global production continuing to record relatively low growth of around 2.0 percent.

The 5th report by Mozambique as part of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) reports that state revenues from the sector in 2012 amounted to 11.717 billion meticaís (US\$333.8 million), which corresponds to 12 percent of total revenue, which amounted to 98.615 billion meticaís.

The report, produced by Mozambican company Intellica, is the fifth such report and provides a comprehensive contextual analysis of the industry and the reconciliation of receipts confirmed by the Mozambican government, with payments declared by the industry that occurred during 2012.

Of the 56 companies that were included in this report are Cimentos de Mozambique, Kenmare Moma Mining, Ceta Construções e Serviços, Anadarko Moçambique, Rio Tinto Mining and Exploration, Vale Moçambique, Companhia Moçambicana de Hidrocarbonetos, Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), Sasol and Nkondezi.

EITI is a voluntary global initiative launched in 2002 which aims to improve governance in countries rich in extractive resources through accountability, verification and publication of company payments and revenues collected by the government in the oil, gas and mining sectors. (20-04-2015)

INVESTIGATION TEARS VEIL OFF WORLD BANK'S "PROMISE" TO ERADICATE POVERTY

An expose published Thursday by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) and its media partners has revealed that in the course of a single decade, 3.4 million people were evicted from their homes, torn away from their lands or otherwise displaced by projects funded by the World Bank.

Over 50 journalists from 21 countries worked for nearly 12 months to systematically analyse the bank's promise to protect vulnerable communities from the negative impacts of its own projects.

"The situation is simply untenable and unconscionable. Enough is enough." -- Kate Geary Oxfam's land advocacy lead

Reporters around the world – from Ghana to Guatemala, Kenya to Kosovo and South Sudan to Serbia – read through thousands of pages of World Bank records, interviewed scores of people including former Bank employees and carefully [documented](#) over 10 years of lapses in the financial institution's practices, which have rendered poor farmers, urban slum-dwellers, indigenous communities and destitute fisherfolk landless, homeless or jobless.

In several cases, reporters found that whole communities who happened to live in the pathway of a World Bank-funded project were forcibly removed through means that involved the use of violence, or intimidation.

Such massive displacement directly violates the Bank's decades-old [Twin Goals](#) of "[ending] extreme poverty by reducing the share of people living on less than 1.25 dollars a day to less than three percent of the global population by 2030 [and] promote shared prosperity by improving the living standards of the bottom 40 percent of the population in every country" – goals that the Bank promised to "pursue in ways that sustainably secure the future of the planet and its resources, promote social inclusion, and limit the economic burdens that future generations inherit."

Far from finding sustainable ways of closing the vast wealth gaps that exist between the world richest and poorest people, between 2009 and 2013 "World Bank Group lenders pumped 50 billion dollars into projects graded the highest risk for "irreversible or unprecedented" social or environmental impacts — more than twice as much as the previous five-year span."

The investigation further revealed, "The World Bank and its private-sector lending arm, the International Finance Corp., have financed governments and companies accused of human rights violations such as rape, murder and torture. In some cases the lenders have continued to bankroll these borrowers after evidence of abuses emerged."

Nearly 50 percent of the estimated 3.4 million people who were physically or economically displaced by large-scale projects – ostensibly aimed at improving water and electricity supplies or beefing up transport and energy networks in some of the world’s most impoverished nations – reside in Africa, or one of three Asian nations: China, India and Vietnam.

Between 2004 and 2013, the World Bank, together with the IFC, pledged 455 billion dollars for the purpose of rolling out 7,200 projects in the developing world. In that same time period, complaints poured in from communities around the world that both the lenders and borrowers were flouting their own safeguards policies.

In Ethiopia, for instance, reporters from the ICIJ team found that government officials [siphoned](#) millions of dollars from the two billion dollars the Bank poured into a health and education initiative, and used the money to fund a campaign of mass evictions that sought to forcibly remove two million poor people from their lands.

Over 95,000 people in Ethiopia have been displaced by World Bank-funded projects.

Financial intermediaries

In a [report](#) released earlier this month, Oxfam claimed that the “International Finance Corporation has little accountability for billions of dollars’ worth of investments into banks, hedge funds and other financial intermediaries, resulting in projects that are causing human rights abuses around the world.”

In the four years leading up to 2013, Oxfam found that the IFC invested 36 billion dollars in financial intermediaries, 50 percent more than the sum spent on health and three times more than the Bank spent on education during that same period.

The new model, of pumping money into an investment portfolio in financial intermediaries, now makes up 62 percent of the IFC’s total investment portfolio, but the “painful truth is that the IFC does not know where much of its money under this new model is ending up or even whether it’s helping or harming,” Nicolas Mombrial, head of Oxfam International’s Washington DC office, said in a statement on Apr. 2. Investments made to what the Bank classifies as “high-risk” intermediaries have caused conflict and hardship for thousands on palm oil, sugarcane and rubber plantations in Honduras, Laos, and Cambodia; at a dam site in Guatemala; around a power plant in India; and in the areas surrounding a mine in Vietnam, according to Oxfam’s [research](#).

In response to widespread criticism over such lapses, the Bank is now in the process of overhauling its safeguards policy, but officials say that instead of making vulnerable communities safer, the new policy will only serve to increase their risk of displacement.

Citing current and former Bank employees, the ICIJ investigation claims, “[The] latest draft of the new policy, released in July 2014, would give governments more room to sidestep the Bank’s standards and make decisions about whether local populations need protecting.”

In a response to the ICIJ investigation released today, Oxfam’s land advocacy lead Kate Geary stated, “ICIJ’s findings echo what Oxfam has long been saying: that the World Bank Group – and its private sector arm the IFC in particular – is sometimes failing those people who it aims to benefit: the poorest and most marginalised [...].

“It’s not just Oxfam and the ICIJ who say this – these disturbing findings are backed up by the Bank’s own internal audits which found, shockingly, that the Bank simply lost track of people who had to be “resettled” by its projects. President Kim himself has acknowledged this as a failure – and he’s right. The situation is simply untenable and unconscionable. Enough is enough.”

She stressed that the Bank must “provide redress through grant funding to those people it has displaced and left worse off [...], enact urgent and fundamental reforms to ensure that these tragedies are not repeated [and] revise its ‘Action Plan on Resettlement’, released just last month by Kim in response to the critical audits, because it is inadequate to stem the terrible results of the worst of these projects.” (IPS 16-04-2015)

ANALOGUE TV AND TELEPHONE SIGNAL WILL REMAIN IN PLACE IN MOZAMBIQUE AFTER JUNE

Telephony and television stations that are still broadcasting an analogue signal will remain in operation even after 17 June, assured the Mozambican deputy minister of Transport and Communications.

Mozambique, like other countries, is migrating from analogue to digital signals and the deadline agreed by the Region 1 member countries of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), in which Mozambique is included, is 17 June of this year.

Deputy minister Manuela Rebelo said in Maputo that the decision to cease emitting analogue signals is a sovereign one and the country's stations can continue to issue that signal, "so there will be no blackout after that date," according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

Rebelo said the government had already recognised that it would be impossible to meet the deadline for discontinuation of analogue broadcasts and their replacement by digital signals.

In 2014, the government of Mozambique and the Export-Import Bank (Ex-Im) of China signed an agreement worth US\$223 million for construction of 24 digital radio and television transmission stations in the country.

According to the deputy minister, the financing process is still under review by the bank, "which has led to a delay in implementing the project as it was designed."

South Africa, Swaziland and Malawi are among the countries in which the migration process is more advanced than Mozambique. (20-04-215)

XENOPHOBIA: SOUTH AFRICAN COMPANIES OPERATING IN REST OF AFRICA 'MAY BE AT RISK OF REPRISAL ATTACKS'

Minister in the Presidency Jeff Radebe warned on Friday that South African companies trading in other African countries could be at risk as a result of the xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals in recent weeks.

He said the Cabinet had expressed concern over the harm being done to SA's reputation as a result of two weeks of attacks on foreigners, which have spread from KwaZulu-Natal to Gauteng.

This came within hours of President Jacob Zuma taking the unusual step on Thursday of making a special statement to the National Assembly condemning the violence.

Mr Radebe would not be drawn on what intelligence was used as the basis for the statement that South African companies were possibly at risk of reprisal attacks. But he noted that South African artists recently had to cancel concerts in Zimbabwe and in London.

"The impact of these attacks has far-reaching implications for our economic and social relations with the continent and the world. South African companies who are running successful businesses on the continent who help to contribute to our revenue and sustaining our economy may suffer the same fate.

"Recently, South African artists who were to showcase their craft outside the borders of our country, such as BigNuz in Zimbabwe, Kelly Khumalo and Casper Nyovest in London, have had their concerts cancelled as a result of these attacks. Many of our communities who relied on shops owned by foreign nationals for their bread and butter are now stranded," Mr Radebe said.

Responding to questions, he said the point Cabinet was making was that the perpetrators of xenophobic violence should be aware of the "huge, huge damage that is being done".

He repeated Mr Zuma's strong condemnation, saying: "Cabinet condemns in the strongest terms the recent acts of violence against foreign nationals. At this point, Cabinet would like to extend its heartfelt condolences to the families of those who lost their lives and a speedy recovery to those who are injured.

"No amount of frustration or anger can justify these attacks and looting of shops. While noting the issues raised by communities, violence towards another fellow human being can never solve these issues.

Rather, it reflects badly on us as a people, going against the very ideals and foundations of our democracy. South Africa fought against colonialism and apartheid alongside fellow Africans so that all humanity on our continent should be respected and treated with dignity."

Mr Radebe said SA was a free country and this was attained through the contributions of a number of African countries.

"Our own late icon President Oliver Tambo was accommodated for close to 30 years in Zambia and many other South Africans that lived in exile. Fellow African countries did not only host our people, they also contributed resources and some paid the ultimate price and lost their own citizens in the course of South Africa attaining democracy".

He reiterated that Mr. Zuma had tasked the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster ministers together with ministers of Small Business Development, Trade and Industry and Social Development to engage all the relevant parties to seek a solution.

The ministers have also been tasked with dealing with the underlying socioeconomic conditions that seem to be at the heart of these attacks, so that this matter can be dealt with "decisively and comprehensively". (BD 17-04-2015)

GUINEA-BISSAU WANTS TO EXPORT MORE CASHEWS IN 2015 CAMPAIGN

The government of Guinea-Bissau intends to increase the export of cashews from 150,000 to 200,000 tons in the annual sales campaign started Saturday, announced the Minister of Trade, Serifo Embaló. The minister said the government would focus on markets such as Vietnam and China (beyond the main buyer of cashews, which is India) and is expected to impose added measures to prevent smuggling. The Trade Minister admitted that there was "a lot of contraband" in the 2014 campaign via "parallel routes" to Senegal, giving a speech in March at the Guinean parliament.

Any operator who is caught this year illegally exporting cashews will have their truck and merchandise confiscated by the State as well as paying a fine, the minister said, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

The official opening ceremony of this year's cashew sales and export campaign, promoted by the Ministry of Trade and Crafts, was held Saturday in São Domingos (northern Guinea-Bissau).

Among other measures for this year's campaign, the minister mentioned the opening of four weigh bridges in Bissau, to avoid queues of trucks in the downtown area of the country's capital towards the commercial port, and a requirement for exporters to submit an export document before loading their product onto a ship. (20-04-2015)

EU AND MOROCCO LAUNCH NEW PROJECT TO PROMOTE MIGRANTS' INTEGRATION

The EU and Morocco today launched a project on "Promoting Integration of migrants in Morocco", funded by the EU in the framework of the EU-Morocco Mobility Partnership, and to support Morocco's National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum.

This new €10 million programme will support in particular:

- The development of a medical insurance system for legalised migrants
- The implementation of measures to promote access and integration of migrant children to school
- Capacity building of the Ministry in the management and implementation of the National Strategy for Immigration and Asylum
- Two pilot projects with civil society organisations: "Towards integration" targeting the accompaniment of at least 1,500 migrants to vocational training and employment, and "Tamkine migrants" to improve medical, social and psychological care of 1,500 migrant women in vulnerable situations. (EU Neighbourhood 17-04-2015)

MOZAMBICAN GRAPHITE FINDS MARKET IN CHINA

Mozambique, as well as being a worldwide coal producer, is to establish itself as a major exporter of graphite, and in China has found a preferential market for this mineral.

A recent analysis of samples collected in Mozambique by Australia's Triton Minerals concluded that the graphite concentrate can be used to manufacture batteries, specialty products, steel and refractories, lubricants for the automotive and electrical sector and other products.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), the latest developments in graphite mining in Mozambique show the country “has the potential to emerge as a major global producer” of this raw material, “thanks to abundant reserves and low mining costs.”

These factors make it possible to “take advantage of the growing demand for this mineral,” the EIU added.

The findings aroused the interest of several Chinese companies, including China Aluminium International Engineering Corp Ltd (Chalieco), which recently sealed a deal to buy a third of the production of Syrah Resources.

The agreement provides that Chalieco buy at least 80 tons per year over three years from the Australian company, which can now more easily secure funding to develop the mine.

Triton Minerals recently signed a contract with Yichang Xincheng Graphite Co., Ltd. (YXGC) for the supply of graphite extracted in Mozambique, with a duration of 20 years and a minimum value of US\$2 billion.

Stressing that YXGC is currently “China’s largest private producer of high value graphite products,” the company’s chairman, Yue Bin, noted the quality of graphite extracted in Mozambique, which is higher than initially expected, and that the agreement will facilitate procurement of this raw material at “competitive prices” and “indirectly help the economic growth of Mozambique.”

Headquartered in the region of Yichang, Hubei Province, YXGC develops products for various industries such as oil, chemical, metallurgy, machinery, automotive, aerospace, among others, acting in the Chinese market and in more than 20 countries.

In Mozambique, Triton Minerals owns the rights to exploration of three graphite and vanadium concessions in the province of Cabo Delgado, in the north, and the Balama Norte concession, where monte Nicanda is located, is a priority area for the launch of operating activities.

The EIU estimates that Nicanda may contain the world’s largest graphite reserves and Triton “is assessing its options for the development of these deposits alone or in partnership.

If the four graphite production projects announced since February are all launched, Mozambique will become a leading global producer of graphite.

Although the development of the coal industry is on a larger scale, says the EIU, graphite “may in the long run contribute to a more diversified mining sector, while becoming a significant generator of government revenues and exports.”

The developments in mining and, in particular, investment in the mining sector, support projections of “robust economic growth” between 2015 and 2019, at an annual average of 7.4 percent. (20-04-2015)

NIGERIA: TRAVAILS OF ABA POWER PROJECT

The 141megawatt integrated Aba Power Project is a child of necessity. The desire of Aba industrialists, including the small and medium scale industries, and our desire to contribute our quota to increasing power supply in the nation converged 10 years ago. We realized that the best way to ensure that this city will quickly have reliable and affordable electricity was to build this off-grid project that serves the Aba metropolis. The then World Bank President, Mr. Jim Wolfensohn, and the then Finance Minister who is the current Finance Minister and Coordinating Minister for the Economy, Dr. (Mrs.) Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, came and met the Aba Industrialists, including the Aba Ariaria Manufacturers (SMEs). At the meeting, the Ariaria manufacturers were asked to identify their number one problem which if addressed would significantly improve their production; they unanimously said that it was reliable electricity.

This convergence of desire for reliable electricity was what led us to this historic Aba Integrated Power Project. At that time, our development partners from the IFC of the World Bank, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Emerging Africa Infrastructure Fund (now known as FMFM) and myself wanted to find a business model for power development in Nigeria that is sustainable, can stand on its own, and can be easily replicated by various investors in other major cities in Nigeria. We recognized that the nation would not be able to afford sovereign guarantee for all of its power needs, we therefore developed a model of customized embedded generation that would not require sovereign guarantee.

Consequently, we set about developing this integrated power project to satisfy the electricity needs of Aba metropolis at a time when the Power Sector Reform Act of 2005 was not yet enacted. The Federal Government in 2005 concessioned Aba metropolis to us; this was the only security of the investment in

the project instead of the normal sovereign guarantee. We have met the terms of our concession agreement with the Federal Government by building this 141MW Power Plant with state of the art equipment from General Electric (GE) and rehabilitating the entire distribution network in Aba.

In addition to the power plant, we have built over 105 kms of 33kV overhead lines within the Aba metropolis. The steel tubular poles used to build the 33kV line infrastructure are unlike any other in Nigeria. We have also built over 40km of new 11kV lines in Aba. We have completed 5 new substations consisting of the power plant's 3x60MVAs substation; four (4) brand new 2x15MVA substations in various parts of Aba town. In addition, we have refurbished the only three existing PHCN substations which were dilapidated, by building three brand new control buildings with outdoor substation gantries within the premises of the existing PHCN substations. To ensure the reliability of gas supply, we built a 27km gas pipeline from Imo River to the power plant and built the gas infrastructure to support the supply of reliable gas to the facility. To date, we have invested over \$500million or in today's money over N100 billion in this project.

This project is virtually completed. The power plant, various substations and 33kV lines have been energised and fuel is available for this project. The remaining interconnection work on the distribution network within the premises of the existing PHCN substations and the 11kv lines should take less than two months. This was the remaining work that was being done by our contractors before the entire Enugu Electricity Distribution Company was handed over to another party by the Bureau of Public Enterprises (BPE) without excising Aba from the sale. This action was in spite of our valid concession agreement and assurances by President Goodluck Jonathan that the agreement is sacrosanct.

Operators of EEDC stopped our work and chased away contractors from the substations, thereby preventing Aba people from having uninterrupted and quality electricity. The BPE, in effect, double-sold Aba metropolis (which includes Aba and Ariaria Electricity Business Districts) to our company and to Interstate Electrics. This is in spite of the very fact that the agreement we have with the FGN clearly states that whenever there is privatization, our company has first right to purchase the facility in Aba hence our heavy investment in this project.

Investors in Aba IPP have developed a world class electricity infrastructure with the belief that their investment is safe in Nigeria. We have made all effort to get the BPE to correct what (for choice of words) may be called an "error". So far, they have not yielded to doing the correct thing. Rather, they have sought to justify this error and have continued to politicise the situation unnecessarily, thereby playing with the investment of this magnitude by people who have the interest of our country and the people of Aba at heart. Investors in the Aba IPP led by my humble self answered the call of our beloved country to come home and be part of the development of our dear nation.

The investors and stakeholders include members of the Aba Business Community, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and our banks, especially Diamond Bank. This travesty has been very cruel to all of us. People in the investment community continue to wonder if this can happen to Nigerian investors with a well-structured agreement, how then can they be sure that their investments and agreements will not be breached in the future? This action by the government has certainly demoralised and discouraged potential investors.

The only instrument for doing business in developing and developed nations across the globe is an agreement, which must be respected and held sacrosanct by all parties. All the various Committees set up to look into this issue have come up with the same answer: that our agreement should be respected by the Federal Government and that Aba Power should be offered the Aba and Ariaria Electricity Business Districts as enshrined in the agreement. I was assured by the outgoing Vice President that the Technical committee of National Council on Privatization (NCP) and the NCP Legal Committee have made the same recommendation. However the painful fact is that this critical issue has been left festering since November 2013. It costs our company \$3.5m (Three and a half million US dollars) in bank interest charges alone; plus more than N30 million for insurance coverage; other operational expenses every single month to carry a project that is not yielding any revenue due to the deliberate, hostile and crippling action of Enugu DisCo and the BPE over 15 months ago!

So far about 8 committees, including committees of the NCP, NERC, and Ministry of Power amongst others have investigated this matter and come up with the same recommendation. There is no more need for another committee; all that it requires is your decision and firm action that will ensure the full implementation of their recommendation to sell Aba metropolis to Aba Power. We are therefore pleading with the authorities to take a decisive action today and rescue our company and the people of Aba from the shackles of deliberate man-made mischief.

We also plead with you to ask Enugu DisCo (EEDC) to immediately allow our contractors to complete the interconnection works that will allow Aba to receive this power. Please give the people of Aba an opportunity to get the intended benefit of this project, which is absolute reliable electricity. It is unfortunate that the powerful economic and political saboteurs within the system have denied your administration the golden opportunity of using the Aba metropolis electricity ring-fence as a shining example of your power reform agenda. Nevertheless, we remain fully committed to ensuring that this project will be completed as soon as possible for the benefit of Aba Business Community and the Nigerian people.

-Prof Nnaji, NNOM, OFR, the immediate past Minister of Power and one of the world's top engineers, is Chairman of Geometric Power Ltd. (This Day Live 17-04-2015)

TWO MALAWIANS KILLED IN S/AFRICA'S XENOPHOBIA ATTACKS

Two Malawian nationals have been confirmed dead while over 3000 have been affected by the xenophobia attacks in South Africa, reports said on Monday.

Minister of Information, Tourism and Culture Kondwani Nankhumwa told reporters in the capital Lilongwe on Monday that government has arranged the repatriation of the bodies from South Africa to their home district in Mangochi, southern part of the country.

"We are saddened by the loss of lives through these attacks. Government has already done the arrangements to take the bodies back to Malawi," he said.

He added that the number of the affected Malawians has risen from 1000 to 3200 most of them are women and children.

The minister said his government has arranged buses to repatriate its citizens from South Africa.

Meanwhile, six buses have arrived in Blantyre through Mwanza border carrying over 300 Malawians. (APA 20-04-2015)

EGYPT SIGNS DEAL TO CREATE TRANSFORMER STATION AHEAD OF THE SUMMER

Egypt's Electricity Ministry signed on Thursday a deal to create a transformer station worth 210.8 million Egyptian pounds in the Suez Canal region, as the country gears up for the summer.

The project will be funded by partners headed by the European Union's European Investment Bank, said Ahmed Hanafi, head of the Egyptian Electricity Transmission Company.

Hanafi said, in a statement by the Electricity Ministry, that the new project aims to meet the expected increase in electricity consumption next summer.

Egypt has been facing an energy crisis for years, with power outages surging in the summer.

Egyptian authorities have often owed the power crisis to a larger fuel crisis and have been taking measures in recent months to diversify sources of energy.

The government has turned to renewable energy such as solar and wind energy. The state has also passed legislations allowing the generation of energy from coal, despite environmental concerns. (Aswat Masriya 16-04-2015)

UN RAPID REACTION FORCE DEPLOYS IN LIBERIA

The United Nations Operation in Cote d'Ivoire (UNOCI) began Monday in Liberia a deployment exercise of military elite of the Rapid Reaction Force (FRR), the UN mission said in a statement on Monday.

The elite force is expected in Liberia in 48 hours, the statement says. This exercise is carried out in accordance with FRR operating concept and as part of the cooperation between UNOCI and the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).

It will be carried out without prejudice to the implementation of UNOCI mandate. The related operations will be completed at the latest in October 9, 2015.(APA 20-04-2015)

UGANDA SETS UP INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE TO MONITOR SOUTH AFRICAN ATTACKS

The Ugandan government has set up an Inter-Ministerial Crisis Team at the Ministry Of Foreign Affairs to monitor the situation in South Africa, following the recent outbreak of xenophobic attacks targeting nationals of other African countries.

During an interview in Kampala on Monday morning, Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary, John Mugume said the committee will monitor the situation in South Africa and advise the government accordingly as it continues to liaise with the Ugandan High Commission in Pretoria.

He said that the ministry has confirmed through its High Commission in Pretoria that no Ugandan has so far been killed in the attacks apart from a case of murder resulting from a robbery.

He advises Ugandans in South Africa to exercise maximum caution by staying within the communities they reside, especially those in Durban and Johannesburg.

He said in case the attacks continue, the government is ready to evacuate all Ugandans caught up in the attacks.

Mugume said there are at least 200 legally registered Ugandan nationals in South Africa, adding that the committee is to find out where the unregistered Ugandans stay in South Africa and help them.

Meanwhile, the South African High Commissioner to Uganda, Wendy Swartz, said her government has set up a panel of experts to advise on how to integrate foreign nationals in South Africa.

She said that in order to legalize foreigners trading in South Africa, they have established a new ministry for small business development.

The latest outbreak of violence against immigrants in South Africa flared up two weeks ago after the Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini reportedly asked foreign nationals to pack their bags and leave.

South African media reports indicate that over 75 suspected perpetrators of the attacks have been arrested. (APA 20-04-2015)

MIGRATION – TUSK CALLS FOR EU EXTRAORDINARY MEETING TO TACKLE MIGRATION ISSUES

All media today overwhelmingly report and comment about the recent tragedies in the Mediterranean. Many lament the fact that it took hundreds of deaths to raise awareness and force the EU to react. Many newspapers report that EU Ministers of Foreign and Home Affairs met yesterday in Luxembourg in order

to discuss the migration issue. Together with the EC, they drew up a 10-point plan which includes increasing funding resources to reinforce sea and air operations through doubling Triton's funding to €6 million, seizing and destroying boats used by people traffickers, and a "pilot project" to accommodate 5,000 refugees. EC Vice-President Federica Mogherini stated that there is "no easy solution" to the problem of illegal immigration to the EU, but that the whole EU should strive to overcome it. *Corriere della Sera* quotes her saying that the migrant boat disaster was a "dramatic alarm clock for all Europeans". She stressed that the EC decided to set up a joint task force to counter smuggling trafficking networks that can be operational in the next days. For his part, Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos expressed his dissatisfaction regarding the delayed taking of measures, noting that migration is neither a new phenomenon nor one that will end soon. He stated that it is a moral obligation of the EU to put an end to the continuous drama of the thousands of people who risk their lives every day in the Mediterranean. All media meanwhile report that European Council President Donald Tusk convoked an extraordinary European Council meeting on Thursday, where the Foreign and Home Affairs Ministers will talk about a joint answer to the influx of migrants in the Mediterranean. *El Mundo* reports that increasing Frontex funding as well as extending the external border management agency's "scope of operations" will be the main focus of the meeting, while according to EU HR Vice-President Mogherini quoted in *Corriere della Sera*, the ministers will evaluate the options to support Libya in forming a government of national unity. *Il Foglio* reports Donald Tusk as saying that "the situation in the Mediterranean is dramatic" and that "we cannot accept that hundreds of people die while trying to cross the sea to Europe". EP President Martin Schulz said on *France Info* yesterday that "the EU must take action now. I don't want to have to announce another tragedy in a week or two," while on *iTélé*, Commissioner Moscovici said he hoped Europe will become mobilised, while pleading for a collective approach. *Le Monde's* editorial believes that the EU must rise to meet this challenge, arguing that it is a moral duty: Europe must live up to its claim of being a region of material wealth and ethical values. However, the discussion is expected to show some disagreements between member states. Many newspapers stress there is a clear division between Southern countries, which have to face the emergency of the situation, and Northern ones, which want to help on the paper but do not wish to welcome more refugees. *The Malta Times* quotes Claude Moraes, Chairman of the European Parliament's civil liberties, justice and home affairs committee as saying yesterday that Malta is under unbearable pressure because of the complacency of some European member states in addressing the migration problem. *RAI UNO* reports that Germany and France are calling for new measures not to leave Italy to deal with the problem on its own, while German media continue to harshly criticise the EU's sea rescue mission and call for a European allocation key for refugees. *L'Humanité* says that the EU should stop criminalising migrants and welcome them on all of its territory instead of letting Italy bear the burden alone, arguing that Europe should be bold enough to come up with a Euro-Mediterranean and Euro-Africa co-development plan. *Publico* notes that each member state actually defines its own priorities: Malta advocates that the UN should intervene in Libya; Latvia requests more money from Frontex; France requests more means and rescue boats; others claim that more means are an invitation to illegal immigration. Some like *Der Standard* however think that all the proposals that are now being made cannot stop the wave of refugees from failed states like Syria, Somalia, Eritrea and sub-Saharan Africa. Many believe that putting an end to wars and poverty in the countries of origin is the real starting point. (© EU, 2015)

NAMIBIA: MTN TO SELL 30 PERCENT SHAREHOLDING TO BREAK MONOPOLY

According to a report by namibian.com.na, MTN Namibia plans to sell a 30 percent shareholding to local shareholders. According to MTN Nigeria: "Interested investors are invited to submit a letter of intent to purchase shares of MTN Business Namibia, which makes up 30% of the share capital."

MTN Namibia managing director, Manfred Engling stated in the report that the company was granted an Internet Service Provider licence last year and said the government has initially wanted the company to sell 51% stake which was later reduced to 30%. This is according to the report.

"We have not yet determined what the value of the stake will be," Engling added. He further stated that: "The company is looking for investors who will add value to the company and help it expand. We want to provide more services."

“We have enough money already,” he said explaining that the selling of the stake was not meant for raising money. Engling said selling a stake to local investors was part of the licensing requirements of the company that is currently wholly owned by MTN South Africa.

Presently, the company has mainly been a reseller of various IT solutions. But with the ISP licence, the company now offers other services including fibre network solutions. Its current clients include banks, private companies and government institutions. He said with its own network in place, MTN will be able to break Telecom Namibia’s monopoly and break a lot of solutions on the market.(IT News Africa 17-04-2015)

KENYA BEGINS RECRUITING 10,000 POLICE OFFICERS IN WAKE OF TERROR ATTACKS

Kenya on Monday began recruiting 10,000 police officers to shove up security in the East African nation that has been struggling with terrorist attacks carried out by Somali Al-Shabaab militants.

The exercise carried out by the National Police Service is being rolled in 294 recruitment centers across the country.

The exercise was hurriedly organized following the cancellation of a similar one last year over corruption claims.

The Kenyan government has vowed to enhance ongoing security operation countrywide until all terror suspects behind the wave of insecurity incidents are arrested and brought to face justice.

President Uhuru Kenyatta blamed insecurity in the country on a shortage of police officers after the Garissa University College terror attack that claimed 148 lives over two weeks ago.

The port city of Mombasa, the capital Nairobi and the northern parts of Kenya have suffered a series of grenade attacks since Kenya sent troops into Somalia to help flush out Al-Shabaab militants.(APA 20-04-2015)

BRAZILIAN AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURER TO PROPOSE DEAL TO CAMEROON

A delegation from the Brazilian aircraft manufacturer Embraer is in Cameroon to propose an aircraft deal to the national carrier Camair-Co, the Ministry of Transportation told APA on Monday.

This is part of negotiations recently initiated between the parties and which are said to be on the right track.

Through its offer, Embraer is committed to providing Camair-Co with short and medium haul aircrafts, for which an after sales service option is under completion.

The national airline has already had three Boeing planes of different design and, it also purchased two weeks ago another two Chinese-made MA60 aircrafts for domestic flights.(APA 20-04-2015)

LIBERIAN GOV'T COMMENDS W/BANK GROUP FOR \$650M GRANT

The Government of Liberia has commended the World Bank Group (WBG) and its partners for the recent donor meeting, which culminated in the announcement of a US\$650 million grant to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone for the next 12 to 18 months to help them recover from the impact of the Ebola crisis.

The government also said it was grateful for the additional commitment, which includes US\$300 million from the African Development Bank, US\$80 million from GAVI and US\$387 million from the Global Fund.

In a special statement at the Ministry of Information on Monday, Information Minister Lewis G. Brown explained that the commitments are separate from funding committed to EVD response and recovery efforts from the United States, the United Kingdom and development partners, which represents a substantial investment in support of the plan.

Brown named priority areas where the US\$650 million will be utilized as strengthening the healthcare system and frontline care, agriculture, education, cash transfer and other social protection programmes.

The other priority areas are life-saving infrastructure such as electricity, water, sanitation and roads. "The new funding will also be used to develop a regional disease surveillance system across West Africa to help prevent future epidemics," he said.

Brown said that the Liberian delegation and partners at the donor meeting emphasized the immediate importance of "getting to zero case" to facilitate early recovery before the rainy season as well as the establishment of a set of cross-cutting priorities, including infection prevention and control in facilities, among others. (APA 20-04-2015)

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