

MEMORANDUM

N° 75/2015 | 08/05/2015

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L'UNION EUROPÉENNE VERSE UNE AIDE DE 100 MILLIONS D'EUROS À LA TUNISIE

La Commission européenne a effectué aujourd'hui, au nom de l'Union européenne, le versement d'un prêt de 100 millions d'euros en faveur de la Tunisie. Il s'agit du versement de la première tranche du programme d'assistance macrofinancière (AMF) de 300 millions d'euros en faveur de la Tunisie, approuvé par l'UE en mai 2014.

Pierre Moscovici, commissaire européen pour les affaires économiques et financières, la fiscalité et les douanes, a déclaré: *«Une semaine après la signature de conventions de financement entre la Tunisie et la Commission européenne au titre de la politique de voisinage, ce versement représente un nouvel exemple concret du soutien que l'Union européenne apporte à la Tunisie dans sa transition politique et la mise en œuvre de son agenda de réformes. C'est au volet économique de cet agenda, qui doit créer les conditions d'une croissance durable et profitable à tous, que l'assistance macrofinancière d'aujourd'hui va contribuer.»*

L'assistance macrofinancière s'inscrit dans le cadre général de l'engagement de l'UE dans les pays voisins et constitue un instrument exceptionnel de réponse aux crises, que l'UE met à la disposition de ces pays.

Cette aide s'ajoute donc aux subventions dont bénéficie la Tunisie au titre en particulier de l'Instrument de la politique européenne de voisinage. Dans ce cadre d'ailleurs, le Commissaire Johannes Hahn, Membre de la Commission européenne chargé de la Politique européenne de voisinage, a lancé cinq programmes d'un montant de [63 millions d'euro](#) durant sa récente visite en Tunisie les 29 et 30 avril derniers.

La Commission européenne a levé les fonds nécessaires au versement effectué aujourd'hui sur les marchés financiers, dans le cadre d'un placement privé réalisé le 29 avril 2015. Cette levée de fonds a été réalisée via l'émission d'un emprunt obligataire d'un montant de 100 millions d'euros, assorti d'une échéance finale à 12 ans, et d'un taux d'intérêt de seulement 0,498 %.

Ce montant est alloué sous forme de prêt aujourd'hui à la Tunisie aux mêmes conditions, c'est-à-dire à long terme et à un taux d'intérêt très bas.

L'enveloppe d'aide en faveur de la Tunisie au titre de l'assistance financière a été proposée par la Commission européenne le 5 décembre 2013 et adoptée par le Parlement européen et le Conseil le 15 mai 2014 (décision 534/2014/UE). Ce premier versement de 100 millions d'euros [a été approuvé par la Commission européenne](#) le 14 avril 2015. (EC 07-05-2015)

ANGOLA MAY BECOME A MAJOR WORLD PRODUCER OF COFFEE ONCE AGAIN

The Director General of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation (IACO), Frederick Kawuama, said Wednesday in Luanda there was a high possibility of coffee revitalisation in Angola, as it was one of the largest coffee producers before independence.

Cited by Angolan news agency Angop, Kawuama, who Friday concluded a three-day visit to Angola, said the country has the experience necessary for recovery of the coffee sector and may be able to return to being a major power in the sector.

This visit is also due to the fact that Angola has taken on the presidency of the Inter-African Coffee Organisation in November 2014, in the capital of Uganda, Kampala, during the 54th Annual General Meeting of the forum, which brings together coffee producing countries from Africa.

Between the 1990/91 and 2014/15 campaigns Angola's coffee production ranged from a minimum of 13,000 60-kilogram bags in 2009/2010 and 85,000 in 1998/1999, whilst the latest, in 2014/2015, production indicated by the International Coffee Organisation is 35,000 bags.

Before independence from Portugal in 1975, Angola was a major world producer with 4 million bags or 240 tons of coffee per year, but the civil war between independence and 2002 destroyed almost all the country's coffee plantations.

The world's biggest coffee producers in 2014/2015 were Brazil, with 45.3 million bags, Vietnam with 27.5 million and Colombia with 12.5 million bags. (07-05-2015)

WHAT BOSSES AND FOREIGNERS SAY ABOUT WORK IN SOUTH AFRICA

Richard, human resources manager of several family-owned restaurants in Cape Town: "We always look locally first, but where scarce skills are required — like baking or cooking — or applicants don't meet criteria, we do hire foreigners.

"The reason so many foreigners find work as waiters is that their English is good and they have an ability to talk to customers and make them feel comfortable. They also meet other skills requirements like literacy, numeracy and computer literacy.

"I don't believe foreigners work harder. It depends on the individual, but we have found a foreigner is more likely to work continuously without taking time off.

"They are here to work, so there are fewer disruptions. South Africans are more likely to go absent without leave without following procedures to attend family affairs in the rural areas and so on.

"I've had lots of problems with foreigners and just as many with locals. A lot of them come with skills, but many exaggerate their skills and their CVs don't check out. In places like Zimbabwe, Congo, Malawi there are five-star trained waiters who are very tourist-focused, who come looking for work.

"We require permits from asylum seekers and that these be renewed whenever they expire. We require a passport. If people's documents expire or their application for asylum fails, then their employment is terminated.

"We have regular inspections by the Department of Labour.

"It's not true to say that South Africans have a bad attitude. Foreigners also bring risks; often they are responsible for card skimming and scams like those. It is also not true to say that foreigners are less likely to go the Council for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration when aggrieved — that hasn't been my experience.

"All our waiters are on the same pay, with slight differences if they have been here longer."

...

MARK, Cape Town restaurant owner: "We haven't specifically targeted foreign nationals for employment. Pretty much all our employees are local except for two Zimbabweans and one Congolese — out of 20 people.

"The Congolese guy was a barman I met at another restaurant and he was just so cool and amazing that I gave him my number. He walked in the door and now he is our barista and barman.

"The Zimbabwean happened to walk through the door three years ago and had excellent references from several people I know in the business. They all strongly recommended him so I took him and now he is my manager and runs the place when we aren't there. He had experience; he's on the level and he's a great guy.

"But there are no hard and fast generalisations: Zimbabweans do tend to be well educated, their English and their elocution is excellent; they are computer literate; they are worldly. You have to be choosy about what kind of person serves your client; they must be able to make them feel at home; explain the menu well and so on.

"On wages — it is totally untrue that in most restaurants foreigners are paid less, but I think it does happen in some places that people are very badly paid. There is a restaurant near us that employs only foreigners and looking at that business I shudder to think what they are paid.

"We insist on original documents from home affairs."

...

MOHAMMED, Somali refugee working in a tuck shop in Mitchells Plain:

"When I came to SA, it was mostly by walking. I haven't heard from my parents in Somalia since I left.

"The Mubarak tuck shop belongs to a relative, who owns several tuck shops and who bought it from Faizal, a fellow Somali.

"Faizal was the first foreigner to establish a tuck shop in Beacon Valley. Now there is a Somali or Bangladeshi shop on every corner. The neighbours, a local family, also started a shop with his encouragement.

"But Faizal said they didn't know how to do business. If they felt like closing the shop they did. They didn't wake up early. Now they are renting it to Bangladeshis."

Low mark-ups, high volumes, long hours and a willingness to give credit were key to Faizal's success.

"Faizal is now in the US. He earned refugee status in the land of opportunity.

"The shop sells the kinds of goods people in this neighbourhood need: small plastic packets of cornflakes, sugar, coffee or tea for R1; loose cigarettes; and single disposable nappies.

"I also sell mielie meal, baby food, tinned food, sweets, cold drinks and bread.

"My prices are very good. There's a Pick n Pay just two blocks down the road, but I can sell many things for much cheaper than them."

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GEORGES, Congolese waiter, Cape Town: "I'm a challenging person — even when it comes to my rights. I've studied South African law, so when it comes to the companies I've worked for I can tell you there is discrimination against foreigners.

"It is mostly used when you do something wrong or they do something wrong to you — then they use the word 'if'. If you don't like it, you don't need to stay if you don't want to.

"On the wages: everyone gets the same. But then when you get reviewed, some get increases, others not.

"They know you are desperate. Theoretically they say to me, you are the best, but they use me because I am good. If you are good they might even promote you, but they don't pay you much more.

"They will say, 'We are doing you a favour'; but it could be that you are an asset to the country.

"I left Congo in 2005. I was in my final year at university in Lubumbashi. Students were protesting against the government. There were some killings; some students died and some students killed soldiers.

"They arrested all the young men. I was arrested and paid bribes to escape and crossed into Zambia.

"Three of us took the same road. The two stayed in Zambia; I came here because I wanted to be far from Congo.

"Before I got arrested I was running a small business with my cousin, buying wholesale nuts and reselling them, so I had some money. I came through two countries by paying truck drivers, until I got to Joburg. The truck driver was continuing to Cape Town so I went with him.

"I slept outside somewhere near Epping; I didn't know anyone. I started washing cars and then became a car guard. I had basic English from school but I am good with languages. Someone advised me to read newspapers, which I still do. That is how I improved my English skills.

"Then I got a job as a security guard doing night shift at a big hotel. I studied during the day — did a call centre course and an admin course. My salary was R2,100.

"After that I got a job as a receptionist and my salary went up to R3,000. I worked there for four years. I did a business management course at the College of Cape Town.

"I went for some job interviews but as soon as they saw I was a refugee they said, 'Sorry we can't employ you.'

"I never lived in the township, so I can't see the person whose house I might have taken. I live in town. I've been 10 years in SA and I have my refugee status.

"Most foreigners here look for work at the restaurants because they can't get other work. Foreigners get employed in restaurants, in hotels. Yes, the wage is very small. South Africans do apply but they also consider the pay to be low. A foreigner who is desperate for a plate of food on his table will take it.

"We are not taking over SA, it is just a place that we have found refuge. South Africans should have their rights and benefits, but just be fair to everyone."

...

PAMELA, Zimbabwean beauty therapist, Cape Town:

"I came to SA in 2009 to train as a beauty therapist. I applied for asylum seeker status when I got here. I did a six-month course as a nail technician in Durbanville, then I got work at a salon.

"The work is hard and so not everyone can do it. Your back can ache because you never sit in a chair. We work weekends and holidays and time off is during the week when everyone else is working.

"In 2010, I applied for the Zimbabwean special dispensation, so I have another two years until that ends. But I've heard if you have been here for nine years you can get permanent residence.

"South African girls also apply to the salon, but they don't stay long. We have girls here from Zimbabwe who are teachers but they can't get jobs teaching, so they work here.

"I can't go back to Zimbabwe. There is nothing there. I don't think Zimbabwe will get better. There is no work. My son is seven and he has only known SA."

...

CYNTHIA, Zimbabwean teacher working as a farm worker in Worcester:

"I came to SA in search of employment in 2008. I've worked on the farms at De Doorns and Worcester and I've had a temporary job cleaning. I also tried selling things — socks, ties, comforters — but it wasn't profitable.

"I'm a teacher by profession. I qualified in 2004. I taught for one year before I came to SA. The money was so little. I got 300 Zim (Zimbabwean) dollars a month. You can't buy anything with that.

"I came here in search of greener pastures, but up until now I haven't found anything. My work on the farms is just for a few months from October to December.

"I have a work permit but it is about to expire. I need to go back to Zimbabwe and renew it. It is a permit that I got at the border coming in. I got it from the Department of Home Affairs — you can get them for two years or four years. For two years it is R2,000.*

"I did apply at some schools for teaching jobs but I was very unlucky; there were no openings."

* *The work permit has probably been obtained illegally.* (BD 30-04-2015)

ANADARKO PETROLEUM TO DECIDE ON INVESTMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE BY EARLY 2016

Anadarko Petroleum will make a final decision on investment in Mozambique by the end of this year or early next year, said the group's chief executive speaking to Reuters news agency, taking the opportunity to deny news the group planned to sell the asset.

The group controls a 26.5 percent stake in the Area 1 block of the Rovuma basin in northern Mozambique on the border with Tanzania, which has as partners Mitsui EP Mozambique Area 1 Limited (20 percent), BPRL Ventures Mozambique BV (10 percent), Videocon Mozambique Rovuma Area 1 Limited (10 percent), PTT Exploration and Production Plc (8.5 percent) and state-owned ENH (15%) during the exploration phase.

The news about a possible sale mentioned oil companies Exxon Mobil and Qatar Petroleum as potential buyers but Al Walker said the group was working to make a final decision on the investment to be made in that block, which contains natural gas reserves estimated at 75 trillion cubic feet.

Al Walker gave assurances that the group was trying to secure natural gas supply contracts with customers, most likely in Asia, and added that the final investment decision should be taken at the end of this year or early 2016.

Natural gas reserves discovered so far in the Rovuma basin point to the existence of more than 200 trillion cubic feet, which may put Mozambique in the top five largest natural gas exporters in the world on par with Russia, Qatar and Australia. (07-05-2015)

FLYAFRICA.COM TO FINALLY TAKE OFF IN NAMIBIA

After several delays, Africa low fare airline Flyafrica.com will finally take off in Namibia in mid-May after it was awarded a Foreign Operators Permit by the Directorate of Civil Aviation last week, APA learnt here Thursday.

Namibia Flyafrica, a joint venture between Namibia's Nomad Aviation and Mauritius-based Flyafrica Ltd, will operate daily flights between Windhoek and Johannesburg at a minimal fares from N\$799 (about US\$67) per flight.

Nomad Aviation chief executive officer Clifford Strydom told Windhoek Observer on Thursday that they now had everything in place and they will start advertising flights next week.

He said the airline planned to commence flights from Windhoek to Johannesburg on February 2, but had to cancel due to lack of necessary documents.

Nomad Aviation will use locally registered Boeing 737-500s to operate daily flights from Windhoek to Johannesburg as well Cape Town.

Strydom was earlier quoted as saying: "Nomad has been operating a successful airline in Namibia since

1989, but we have always wanted to offer more to the travelling public. Our partnership with flyafrica.com delivers what we have always wanted: low fares and exceptional service. Travellers to Namibia have paid too much for too long and the launch of Namibia Flyafrica will change that". (APA 30-04-2015)

NAVIGABILITY STUDY OF THE CHIRE AND ZAMBEZI RIVERS IN MOZAMBIQUE, READY IN AUGUST

The study on the navigability of the Chire and Zambezi rivers in Mozambique should be completed by August, said the director of international relations at the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Fortunato Albreiro, cited by Rádio Moçambique.

The study was conducted at the request of neighbouring Malawi, which wants to use the two rivers to import and export its goods, with the prospect of lowering transport costs by about 60 percent.

Fortunato Albreiro said, however, that preliminary studies advise against trade and international navigation in those two rivers and added that observing the environmental, social and even economic impacts "it would be very difficult, if not impossible, to allow international commercial shipping in both watercourses."

Albreiro recalled that the two rivers had their own characteristics and were of greater economic importance to Mozambique, particularly the Zambezi where the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric dam is located.

The river Chire, in turn, is narrow but deep, with depths up to eight metres, so there would be no need to dredge it to achieve the drafts required for commercial shipping, but it has a large amount of aquatic plants, which would be a serious obstacle to navigation. (07-05-2015)

CAMEROON AIMS TO BOOST RELIANCE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Cameroon will increasingly rely on renewable energy as it moves towards its goal of "economic emergence" by 2035, the government has announced.

Speaking at the Nkolfoulou landfill treatment centre, which is part of an upcoming project to generate electricity and cooking gas from municipal waste, officials said a new crop of renewable-energy startups could help provide the solution to Cameroon's energy shortages.

"Energy supply has been the main hurdle in Cameroon's path towards economic growth," said Basil Atangana Kouna, Minister of Water and Energy Resources. He said the country uses less than one percent of its renewable energy potential.

Hele Pierre, the Minister of Environment, Nature Protection and Sustainable Development, said Cameroon is ready to move seriously toward renewable energy – alongside plans to expand fossil fuel plants – but will need financial help to do so.

"The government needs to harness ... solar, wind, biomass and small-hydro," he said. "But the government needs the support of its development partners to achieve this goal."

During their visit to Nkolfoulou landfill in April, Pierre extended an appeal to Michaëlle Jean, secretary general of the International Organisation of La Francophonie (IOF) – a group that represents French-speaking nations – asking her to encourage the IOF to support a Cameroon [Clean Development Mechanism \(CDM\) project based on converting biogas into electricity](#).

Under the expiring Kyoto Protocol, which aims to cut climate-changing emissions, the CDM allows developing nations to sell carbon credits earned by carrying out emissions reduction projects.

The credits can then be bought or traded by richer nations to meet part of their own requirements to meet emissions reduction targets.

LOW ACCESS TO ENERGY

According to a recent report by the Africa Development Bank, despite Cameroon's abundance of energy resource resources – including oil, gas hydropower and solar – only 18 percent of people in the country had access to those energy sources in 2013, a rate experts said is low for Africa.

The report says currently 60 percent of the country's installed electricity generating capacity of 1,400 MW is based on hydropower, "which fluctuates greatly during the dry season, forcing Cameroon to rely on expensive emergency thermal units," or fossil fuel power.

To carry out its Energy Sector Development Plan—which aims for a 75 percent electrification rate by 2030—and reach its economic goals, Cameroon needs more and more reliable energy, experts say. The country also needs new energy grids to reach rural areas and other development infrastructure such as roads, they say.

"The key to the government's 2035 economic growth plans lies in the provision of energy, especially to the over 70 percent of the population who live in rural areas," said Richard Balla, the director of renewable energy for Cameroon's Ministry of Water and Energy.

However Cameroon's renewable energy developers complain that the current state of the carbon market is putting off investors looking to gather credits from CDM projects.

"The price of carbon has dropped from 12 euros per metric ton (about FCFA 7,800) to less than 1 euro today," said Michel Ngapanoun, general manager of the Hygiene and Sanitation Company Cameroon (Hysacam), the company investing in the Nkolfoulou landfill project.

Ngapanoun hopes the IOF secretary general will highlight the issue of low carbon prices at the U.N. climate negotiations in Paris in December.

"An increase in the price of carbon would certainly encourage other companies in Cameroon to invest" in emissions reductions projects, he said.

INVESTMENT IN SOLAR

Along with the Nkolfoulou landfill project, Cameroon has a range of other plans to help it achieve its renewable energy goals.

In January, the country got a cash boost from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa (Sefa) to help launch a 72-megawatt solar power plant.

By providing financial support to medium- and small-scale clean energy and energy efficiency projects, Sefa helps offset preparation costs and enables these projects to become financially viable, experts say. With Sefa's \$777,000 grant and support from the African Development Bank, Cameroon is set to start building its first renewable energy independent power producer (IPP) – a facility not owned by the government that can generate electricity for sale to utilities or the general public.

"Its success will have significant effects on the country's power sector and the continent at large," predicted Alex Rugamba, director of energy, environment and climate change at the African Development Bank.

Meanwhile, South African company GSC Energy has entered into a 27-year partnership agreement with the Cameroon government to construct 10 solar parks.

At its peak, the \$2.2 billion project will create up to 4,000 direct and indirect jobs and produce enough energy to power more than 50,000 homes, the government says.

Jean, the IOF secretary general, praised the Cameroon government's push to support renewable energy projects.

"There is need for this new push for energy diversification in Africa and I think Cameroon is quite on track," she said. "We need to work together to better promote best practices and preserve the environment." (Thomson Reuters 01-05-2015)

PORTUGUESE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES AWARDED CONTRACT TO REFURBISH HOMES IN CABO VERDE

Portuguese construction companies Armando Cunha and Monte Adriano have been awarded a contract to refurbish 110 houses built after the volcanic eruption in 1995 on the island of Fogo, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

The contract, worth 304 million escudos (US\$3.08 million), was signed in São Filipe and covering repairs on 70 homes in Monte Grande (Armando Cunha) and 40 in Achada Furna (Monte Adriano), in the south of the island, which were never used by the population affected by the volcano 20 years ago.

The houses are intended to accommodate families from Chã das Caldeiras – the plateau that includes several of the island's several volcanic cones, and where around 1,500 people lived before being displaced by another volcanic eruption that affected Fogo from 23 November 2014 to 8 February this year.

The lead-time for the work is eight months for repairs in Monte Grande and six months in Achada Furna. The volcanic eruption, one of three recorded in the last 63 years – 1951 and 1995 – destroyed Portela and Bangaeira, a hamlet on the islet of Losna, an extensive agricultural area that also includes economic infrastructure, social and tourist sites, with losses estimated by the government at about US\$50 million. (07-05-2015)

PORTUGUESE FIRM CANCELS \$50M PROJECT IN MALAWI

A Portuguese construction conglomerate, "Mota Engil" has announced the cancellation of a MK22 billion (US\$50 million) project for a 5-star hotel in the resort district of Mangochi in southern Malawi.

The company's Public Relations and Media Consultant, Thomas Chafunya, said Thursday in the capital Lilongwe that the company's decision follows misunderstandings with the community because of land issues.

"The situation on the ground compelled the firm to abandon the project which was supposed to facelift the lake-shore district," he said.

The communities vehemently blocked the 100-hectare land the government allocated to the company arguing that the area was too huge and could affect many people.

Meanwhile, the government has initiated a round table discussion with the company and representatives of the community to map the way forward on the project. (APA 30-04-2015)

EMANHA COMPANY INVESTS IN PRODUCTION OF ORNAMENTAL STONE IN ANGOLA

Emanha, a company focused on exploration and production of ornamental stone in recent years has invested more than US\$20 million on retrofitting factories, quarries and infrastructure recovery, said the managing director of the Angolan company.

Henrique Carriço told Angolan news agency Angop that the investment made in the three provinces where the company operates also sought to expand capacity to meet demand for its products.

Emanha currently has three quarries located in Huila, Namibe and Benguela, with annual production of 100,000 cubic metres of granite that supply its own factories, whose finished products are marketed in Angolan.

The company processes Negro Angola, Grey Caraculo, Lucira Rose and Rose granite and intends introduce Rose Huila granite to the market, a product that is relatively new and is quarried in the commune of Huila, in Lubango municipality.

In Benguela province the company quarries limestone and white marble deposits in Namibe, which is then sent in blocks to the Lubango factory for processing.

Initially Emanha's main markets were European and Asian countries but, following the international crisis and lower prices, it decided to focus on the Angolan market "especially as the country is in a rebuilding phase."

Emanha started granite quarrying and processing in 2002, in Huila province. (06-05-2015)

NIGERIA'S ANTI-CORRUPTION PLEDGE RESONATES IN FAR-OFF ZAMBIA

Nigeria's president-elect is already making waves with his pledge to attack corruption, starting with the missing 20 billion dollars allegedly swiped from the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation during the previous administration.

Muhammadu Buhari pledged to pursue the claim of former Central Bank governor, Lamido Sanusi, who was suspended last year by former president Goodluck Jonathan after he warned of massive mismanagement by the oil corporation. His claim was never investigated by the ex-president.

"This issue is not over yet," declared Buhari, who will be sworn in on May 29. "Once we assume office we will order a fresh probe into the matter... We will not allow people to steal money meant for Nigerians to buy shares and stash (them) away in foreign lands."

Buhari's warning to those who pocketed national funds thrilled Africans as far away as Zambia and prompted an editorial in The Post newspaper.

"Nigerian President-elect General Muhammadu Buhari's message on corruption brings some hope for that country and our continent," wrote The Post's editor in a piece viewed 1,294 times.

The editorial continued: "We wish this was the message we were getting from our own President, Edgar Lungu. But it is not. If there is anything Edgar hardly talks about, it is corruption.

"What we have in Zambia today is a corrupt government... This is a government where those in leadership are the ones getting government contracts. They are the suppliers of government. Leaders and cadres of the ruling party are the ones doing business with government.

"If one scrutinises all government contracts, it will not be difficult to discover that almost all of them have been given to people connected to the ruling party and its leadership.... When one criticises such practices, he is seen to be hurtful, frustrated.

"Look at how quickly those in the leadership of government, from president to the lowest cadre, become rich! What is the magic? Where is the money coming from? It is from corruption, from bribes, from selling government policy. There is no other source of that money other than corruption."

Africans surveyed by the group Afrobarometer in 2013 expressed similar views and many believe the situation has deteriorated in the last decade.

In the survey of 34 countries, 56 percent of the 51,000 people surveyed thought their governments were doing "fairly badly" or "very badly" in the fight against corruption. Only 35 percent said their governments were doing "fairly well" or "very well".

Among those most dissatisfied by official efforts to end corruption were Nigerians and Egyptians at the top, followed by Zimbabweans, Ugandans and Sudanese, Kenyans, Malians, Tunisians, Togolese, Tanzanians and South Africans. (IPS 29-04-2015)

SAUDI ARABIA PREPARES BUSINESS MISSION TO ANGOLA

Saudi Arabia is organising a business mission to Angola to assess the economic potential of the country, the Angolan Embassy in Saudi Arabia said in a statement.

In the statement cited by Angolan news agency Angop, the embassy also said that Angola intends to enhance its cooperation with Saudi Arabia, especially in the economic sector, as well as cooperation within the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The intention was expressed Monday by Ambassador José Andrade de Lemos when he handed in his credentials to Prince Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia at the Royal Palace.

Saudi Arabia is a monarchy in the Middle East, located on the Arabian Peninsula, and is one of the world's largest oil producers. (06-05-2015)

IMF, W/BANK ANNOUNCE \$1.1BN DEBT RELIEF FOR CHAD

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank have decided to support \$1.1 billion in total debt relief for Chad, of which \$1.0 billion is expected to be delivered by multilateral creditors and the

remainder by bilateral and commercial creditors, reports said on Thursday.

Mauricio Villafuerte, IMF mission chief for Chad said reaching the Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) completion point represents an important achievement and milestone for Chad.

According to him, it reflects the significant improvement in economic management in recent years, including during the period covered by a staff monitored program (SMP) approved by Fund management in July 2013 and the ongoing three-year ECF-supported program approved by the Executive Board in August 2014.

It will also help Chad allocate more resources for poverty reduction and the promotion of economic growth. Sound macroeconomic management will remain critical after the completion point for Chad to reap the full benefits of the debt relief, Mr. Villafuerte said.

The attainment of the HIPC completion point opens a new development era for Chad. It acknowledges the many efforts accomplished by Chad to exit from a difficult decade of conflict and instability, and allows refocusing attention and resources on Chad's forward looking emergence agenda, said Paul Nomba Um, World Bank Country Director for Chad.

Nomba Um added that in the next months, the World Bank will present its new Country Partnership Framework to support Chad's aspirations over the period 2016-20, notably in terms of rural development, health, education, social protection, and governance. (APA 30-04-2015)

IMF GRANTS LOAN TO GUINEA-BISSAU

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) will provide a loan of US\$23.9 million to Guinea-Bissau after noting improvements in the country's macroeconomic performance, the head of an IMF mission said Tuesday in Bissau.

Felix Fisher, summarising two weeks of consultations, said he was pleased with what he saw and heard from the new Guinea-Bissau authorities resulting from the 2014 general elections.

He said, however, that a final decision on a loan to Guinea-Bissau would only be formally taken at the meeting of the IMF board of directors, scheduled for July.

Cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa, Fisher said the loan would be granted in three instalments over as many years and noted that the factors that contributed to macroeconomic performance included the good price of cashew nuts (the country's main export product) and improvements in telecommunications and energy services.

The IMF estimates that Guinea-Bissau's economy grew 2.5 percent in 2014 and will grow 4.7 percent this year, with Felix Fisher noting this trend would continue in the coming years, provided structural reforms are implemented alongside good management of public finances, payment of back wages, termination of non-approved expenses and centralisation of state revenues into a single account. (07-05-2015)

NIGERIA: TELECOMS MARKET OFFERS MULTIPLE GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES

Airtel Nigeria CEO, Segun Ogunsanya, has stated that the country's telecoms market offers multiple growth opportunities, stating that with 78 percent mobile penetration in December 2014, there is massive untapped market potential.

Ogunsanya also revealed that the broadband adoption is set to rise. Ogunsanya disclosed that 47 million subscriptions are expected between December 2014 and December 2019. This is according to a report revealed by [TelecomPaper](#).

In the report, Ogunsanya noted that strong growth is expected from mobile financial services over the forecast period. He said operators should ensure they are able to offer products to the large unbanked population of Nigeria, and predicted growing demand for mobile apps and e-commerce.

Ogunsanya also stated that Nigeria offers exciting opportunities for telecoms investors as a large population with rising incomes positions the country as one of the most attractive destinations for investment on the African continent.

Ogunsanya added that Nigeria has massive bandwidth capacity from the four undersea cables, which has yet to be exploited. This will provide opportunities to domestic and international investors to take advantage of the growing broadband and data industry.

He said key issues must be urgently resolved, though, for the Nigerian telecoms industry to reach its full market potential. These include spectrum availability and adequacy, government commitment to the National Broadband Plan, multiple taxation, reliable and cost-effective power supply, protection of infrastructure from vandalism, and mobile money restrictions. (IT News Africa 30-04-2015)

JAPAN PAYS FOR WORK TO BUILD INSTITUTE OF HEALTH SCIENCES IN MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) will pay for work to build the future Institute of Maputo Health Sciences (ICSM) with an estimated cost of US\$18.4 million, according to Mozambican news agency AIM.

The ceremony to lay the first stone, symbolising the start of work, took place Monday and was attended by the Japanese ambassador to Mozambique, Akira Mizutani and the Mozambican Health Minister Nazira Abdula.

In a statement, the Japanese Embassy said the project to build the new institute had been ordered by the government of Mozambique, which then requested non-refundable financial support from its Japanese counterpart.

The institute is intended for the training of middle-level staff, including courses on nursing, maternal and child health nursing, medical technicians, preventive medicine, laboratory and pharmacy.

The ICSM building will have the capacity to accommodate 450 students per shift, spread across 15 classes, with plans for it to operate with two shifts to allow a maximum capacity of 900 students. (06-05-2015)

CHINA SIGNS \$2 BILLION INFRASTRUCTURE PACT WITH EQUATORIAL GUINEA

China's biggest lender by assets, Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, said on Wednesday it had signed an infrastructure pact worth \$2 billion with the oil-rich Central African nation of Equatorial Guinea.

According to Reuters news agency, the agreement was signed on Tuesday following a meeting in Beijing between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Equatorial Guinea President Teodor Obiang Nguema, marking the latest Chinese investment in the continent and its resources.

The deal will include providing "financial support" to Equatorial Guinea's government as well as Chinese enterprises there, ICBC said in a statement.

China has sought to broaden financial support for its companies investing abroad as part of a policy drive known as "going out".

"There are growing numbers of cooperation areas between our two countries, and the prospects are very bright," Chinese Premier Li Keqiang told Obiang on Wednesday, according to a government statement.

The two countries should deepen their "traditional friendship", Li added.

ICBC called Africa the "strategic and developmental heart of 'going out'" for firms the bank supports.

"Equatorial Guinea is a central African country that has developed relatively well," the government said. "The government in recent years has supported expanded investment into infrastructure development, and the need for infrastructure projects is enormous."

Many Chinese development and aid projects have drawn condemnation from rights groups for their support of governments with poor rights records and lack of transparency, including Zimbabwe, Sudan and Angola.

China has said it will not follow the path of "Western colonialists" in Africa by sacrificing countries' long-term interests or environments.

Beijing says it follows a policy of non-interference in other countries' domestic politics that is welcomed in Africa.

Equatorial Guinea, a tiny Sub-Saharan African nation, boasts the highest GDP per capita in Africa, thanks to a hydrocarbon boom. But it is also notorious for corruption and ranked 144 of 187 states on the UN's 2014 Human Development Index.

A 2004 US Senate probe showed millions of dollars channeled by Obiang and relatives into the disgraced Riggs Bank.

Obiang, in power since 1979, is Africa's longest-serving head of state. Rights groups say he has enriched himself and his family while many of his people go hungry.

China is Africa's biggest trade partner, and has sought to tap the continent's rich resources to fuel its economic boom.

Critics, including some African leaders, have said Chinese projects bring little benefit to Africans, with materials and workers brought in from China. (APA 30-04-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE PLANS TO REACTIVATE BÚZI SUGAR COMPANY

The government of Mozambique is still looking for solutions to re-launch sugar company Companhia Açucareira do Búzi (CB), in the district of the same name in the central province of Sofala, said the district's permanent secretary, Fernando Félix.

The company, at a standstill for more than two decades, has completely abandoned sugar cane fields and the production plant is in an advanced state of disrepair.

Speaking to daily newspaper Notícias Félix noted the socio-economic importance of the company, which used to be the main source of employment in the district.

Notícias reported that given the advanced state of disrepair of the sugarcane processing plant it should be knocked down to make way for a new one, which has yet to happen.

There are four sugar factories in operation in Mozambique – Marromeu, Xinavane, Maragra and Mafambisse – and 25 producer associations and 486 independent producers. (06-05-2015)

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