

MEMORANDUM

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EU PROPOSES ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICA ON PEACE AND SECURITY, AND JOB CREATION FOR YOUTH

The European Commission and the High Representative/ Vice-President have set out today the EU's political priorities and concrete proposals for a stronger strategic partnership with Africa.

The European Commission and the High Representative / Vice-President present today a revitalised framework for joint action, to build a stronger strategic partnership between Europe and Africa for more prosperity and stability in the two continents. The Communication presents innovative proposals in a number of key areas – such as peace and security, migration, job creation or energy – based on priorities defined by African countries and stepping up the existing fruitful cooperation between the two continents. This comes ahead of the Africa-EU Summit in November this year, which will put a specific focus on youth.

At this occasion, High Representative/Vice President Federica **Mogherini** said: *"2017 is the year for a new impetus of the partnership between Europe and Africa: every obstacle we may face is a common challenge, and Africa's hope is our hope. A strong Africa matters to Europe; our friendship matters to our people. Only by joining forces and working in partnership can we provide our youth with a more hopeful and peaceful future. Today, we don't simply look at what we can do for Africa but what we can do with Africa, together"*.

Neven **Mimica**, Commissioner in charge of International Cooperation and Development, added: *"We propose several ideas and concrete measures on how to translate our priorities for the years to come into action, notably to foster growth and to create more jobs, especially for youth. We have a solid offer on the table and we now want to discuss it further with EU Member States and with African partners so that this offer materializes into something concrete and visible. More than ever citizens on both sides of the Mediterranean need to see that the Africa-Europe strategic partnership is a reality which goes beyond words."*

Today's proposal identifies three objectives for building an EU-Africa alliance to address common global and regional challenges:

- a **stronger mutual engagement and increased cooperation** bilaterally and in the international arena, based on common values and shared interests,
- **security**, on land and on sea, and the **fight against transnational threats**
- **sustainable and inclusive economic development** in Africa, in order to create the jobs that the continent needs.

Concrete actions are proposed around two main strands.

The first one aims to achieve **more resilient states and societies**, through closer cooperation and action in order to prevent conflicts, improve conflict management; strengthen governance systems, and manage migration and mobility.

The second strand will aim to **create more and better jobs, especially for youth**. It develops concrete proposals for attracting responsible and sustainable investment, for example with the recently proposed [External Investment Plan](#), which is expected to leverage up to €44 billion of private investment. Further proposals concern the cooperation in renewable energy, agriculture, agribusiness and the blue economy as well as advancement of knowledge and skills. For example, the Commission proposes to launch an African Youth Facility, which will expand the scope of Erasmus+, or to support digital innovation in Africa.

The Joint Communication will now be presented to the Council and the European Parliament.

Today, the Commission also [presented its Digital4Development approach](#), outlining ideas on how to promote information and communication technologies in developing countries and mainstream digitalisation into EU development policy.

Background:

The EU is Africa's closest neighbour and main partner. Collectively, the EU is Africa's main foreign investor, main trading partner (offering free access to the EU market via Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), Free Trade Agreements and the Everything But Arms initiative), a key security provider (through the African Peace Facility alone, the EU channelled substantial funding amounting to

over EUR 2 billion since 2004), and its first source of remittances and ODA (€21 billion 2015 EU collectively). An ever closer network of human contacts and exchanges strengthens the bonds between the peoples.

The policy priorities and initial set of concrete initiatives set out today, to be coordinated and implemented with EU Member States and further developed jointly with African partners, come in response to Africa's own Agenda 2063 and build on the EU Global Strategy for Foreign and Security Policy. (EC 04-05-2017)

[Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council for a new impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership](#)

[Thematic factsheets related to the Joint Communication to the European Parliament and the Council for a new impetus of the Africa-EU Partnership](#)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: A RENEWED IMPETUS OF THE AFRICA-EU PARTNERSHIP

1. Why is this Communication being proposed now?

Over the ten past years, the EU and Africa had already forged a more political partnership based on shared values and interests, enshrined in the Joint Africa-EU Strategy adopted in 2007.

A series of events in 2017 – from the G7 and G20 Summits in May and June respectively to the 5th Africa-EU Summit on 28-29 November – have placed Africa high on the international agenda.

The 5th Africa EU Summit provides a critical opportunity for African and European leaders to reshape and deepen their relationship in response to the evolving context.

In a rapidly changing global landscape, Africa is experiencing profound economic, political and societal changes, and its importance to Europe's security and prosperity – both internally and externally - is becoming ever more obvious.

Africa has seen impressive economic growth over the last two decades and an increasing number of African governments and regional organisations are taking a leading role in addressing the security, political and poverty reduction challenges within their borders and beyond.

Yet both European and African citizens are witnessing a more uncertain global order, increasing incidence of disasters and crisis, insecurity and the rise of terrorism, and the increased movements of people.

Against this background the Communication comes at the right time to reflect on how Africa and the EU should take their relationship forward. This will be guided in particular by the [Global Strategy](#) for the EU's Foreign and Security Policy, the UN's 2030 Agenda and Africa's Agenda 2063, allowing sufficient time to engage with EU Member States and African partners in view of establishing joint priorities and actions for the Summit and beyond.

2. Why should Africa and the EU step up their engagement?

Europe is Africa's closest neighbour and main partner in foreign investments, trade, security, remittances and development and humanitarian assistance. What happens in Africa matters in Europe and vice versa.

In a more complex, more contested and more connected world as we see it today, this is more valid than ever. It is in Africa's and Europe's mutual interest to step up their engagement to face together the challenges and reap the benefits of the profound changes in Africa, in Europe and at global level.

Europe and Africa have much to gain from increased political and economic ties, but also a lot to lose if they fail to act.

3. How does the EU plan to strengthen political dialogue and cooperation with Africa?

A stronger political engagement with Africa shall serve first of all to deliver on the EU's ambitious strategic priorities with Africa.

In particular it will allow for closer cooperation on global governance issues and support for developing agreements, norms and actions in response to global challenges such as terrorism and transnational

crime, climate change, epidemics, pressure on natural resources, humanitarian crises, irregular migration.

The African Union (AU) and the African group in the UN are strategic partners and key allies to strengthen the role of the UN and the rule-based global order which is essential for future peace and prosperity.

Additionally, the EU aims to increase cooperation with Africa on interregional level based on frequent political interaction, using all existing cooperation frameworks. Political dialogue also needs to include other stakeholders. The EU strives to strengthen engagement and contacts with local authorities, the private sector and civil society.

For more information, see the dedicated [factsheet](#).

4. Why is Youth the focus of the Africa-EU partnership in 2017?

The demographic dynamics on both continents combined with the challenges facing Africa put youth at the heart of the relations between Africa and the European Union.

Africa is experiencing a growing youth population with 60% people across the continent under 30 years of age. Meanwhile, the population in the European Union is decreasing and aging. Economic progress in Africa has not been inclusive or sustainable enough to offer better prospects for a large part of the population, especially young people. In its cooperation with Africa, the European Union puts great emphasis on empowering and supporting youth. It does so by focusing both on economic inclusion through the generation of more and better jobs for young people as well as on democratic and political inclusion through fostering active participation in the decision-making bodies and political processes. The European Union also focuses on ensuring better intra-African youth mobility as well as equal access for all to quality education, including vocational education and training.

For example, the Commission proposes to launch an African Youth Facility, which will expand the scope of Erasmus+, or to support digital innovation in Africa. Today, the Commission also presented its [Digital4Development approach](#), outlining ideas on how to promote information and communication technologies in developing countries and mainstream digitalisation into EU development policy.

5. How does the EU support peace and stability in Africa?

The EU is a strong supporter of the African Union and the African sub-regions to pursue the objective of "African solutions to African problems".

Currently, the EU funds 8 Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) civilian and military missions and operations across Africa in Somalia, Mali, Niger, Libya and the Central African Republic. The missions and operation aim at supporting partner countries, through for example training and capacity building in a number of fields, from rule of law to fighting terrorism and organised crime.

The EU is one of the main financial contributors to the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) having committed more than €1.3 billion between March 2007 and March 2017.

The EU has also been actively supporting the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) with more than €150 million since 2004.

In the future, the EU aims to further intensify the cooperation with its African partners in all stages of conflict. This means strengthening coordination and dialogue to increase conflict resilience, to enhance conflict prevention capabilities by supporting the full operationalisation of the APSA and African capacity building as well as assisting the African Union, sub-regional organisations and countries in improving conflict management and peacebuilding efforts.

For more information, see the dedicated [factsheet](#).

6. How can the EU contribute to strengthening democracy and good governance in Africa?

The EU is Africa's main partner in governance, democracy, rule of law and human rights.

The EU provides substantial support to the implementation of African governance commitments on national, regional and continental level, including efforts to strengthen local authorities and civil society participation. Notably, this includes the operationalisation of the African Governance Architecture as a holistic, Africa-owned framework for coordination and democracy-building.

The EU engages with its African partners in a number of human rights dialogues on bilateral and interregional level, including the annually held [EU-AU Human Rights Dialogue](#). The EU also supports African countries in ensuring peaceful electoral processes: it regularly deploys [Election Observation Missions](#) and in this works closely with the African Union and Regional Economic Communities.

The EU will continue to support democratic consolidation, human rights and the rule of law through enhanced cooperation and dialogue, while advocating for the ratification and implementation of

international and continental instruments. As good governance is essential for stable democracies, it will promote accountability, transparency and responsiveness of institutions on all levels, including efficient public finance management, empowerment and participation of all groups of society and strengthened resilience to humanitarian crises and environmental degradation.

For more information, see the dedicated [factsheet](#).

7. What is the EU doing to boost investment and job creation in Africa?

Job creation and sustainable and inclusive development in Africa are among the EU's main strategic objectives. To this end, it supports Africa in attracting responsible and sustainable investments in value-adding and labour intensive sectors. Specific emphasis will be on the private sector, as it holds the largest potential for generating jobs.

The main tool will be the proposed [European External Investment Plan](#), which focuses on leveraging additional private and public resources for investment, enabling it to mobilise up to €44 billion. Under its three integrated pillars, it will provide finance and guarantees for investments, technical support to local authorities and companies and strive to improve the investment climate through systemic reforms and good governance. Additionally, the EU will work to facilitate intra-African trade as well as European-African business relations by establishing private sector dialogues, using the stable framework of the [Economic Partnership Agreements](#) and promote preparations for an African Continental Free Trade Area.

For more information, see the dedicated [factsheet](#).

8. What are the key sectors the EU aims to target in Africa?

The EU has identified agriculture and energy as key sectors to generate inclusive development in both rural and urban areas.

They provide abundant opportunities to create sustainable and adequate jobs, notably in view of climate change related challenges and adaptations. The EU supports Africa in meeting the energy demand of its growing economies by spurring public and private investment in renewable energy on all levels and cross-border. Both EU and Africa are set to benefit from deepened strategic alliances and collaboration between public and private stakeholders, notably local authorities, researchers and innovators.

Agriculture is a vital source of income for many Africans, while at the same time the sector's full potential – in terms of climate resilience, food security, job creation and empowerment – remains underdeveloped. The EU as one of Africa's main partners for agriculture and blue economy development intends to support the development of responsible value chains, guided by a strong regulatory and policy framework that ensures the sustainable management of precious resources.

At the same time, it aims to foster skills, innovation and collaborative research to strengthen resilience and reduce the sector's vulnerability, while promoting entrepreneurship and productivity.

For more information, see the dedicated [factsheets](#).

9. How does the EU cooperate with Africa on migration?

Both Africa and the EU have a shared interest to effectively and responsibly manage migration and mobility in view of its repercussions on economic, security and social factors. Africa and Europe therefore take on their shared responsibility, calling also for global solutions and international regulatory frameworks.

Migration first takes place inside Africa, with around 50% of African migration happening within the continent, between African countries^[1]. The Communication proposes to further support Africa to address this situation, which can raise both opportunities and challenges. Intra-African migration is driven largely by a search for job opportunities in neighbouring countries and by waves of internal and cross-border conflicts. Half of the top-10 refugee hosting countries are now located in sub-Saharan Africa, namely Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Chad and Sudan.

At the same time, increasing numbers of migrants and asylum seekers are arriving in Europe from Africa. Both continents have recognised that more needs to be done in particular to prevent hazardous journeys, reduce deaths on the route, address the root causes of migration and step up practical cooperation.

On Africa-EU level, several instruments are already in place. The EU and Africa developed a number of dialogues related to migration issues such as the [Africa-EU Migration and Mobility Dialogue](#), the [Khartoum](#) and [Rabat](#) processes with key countries and the [Migration Partnership Framework](#). The Partnership Framework provides an umbrella for practical cooperation between the EU and third countries, taking into account all tools and policies at the EU's disposal, always fully in line with human rights obligations.

The EU also set up the Emergency Trust Fund for Africa as an important tool to deliver on the commitments made in the context of the Valletta Summit on Migration, and in the implementation of the Partnership Framework approach. Worth over €2.6 billion, the Trust Fund encompasses three windows, covering the Sahel region and Lake Chad, the Horn of Africa and North Africa. It addresses root causes of instability, forced displacement and irregular migration, as well as trafficking in human beings. The bulk of its resources are dedicated to supporting job creation and economic development, especially for young people and women in local communities, resilience, migration management, as well as stability and governance. A total of 112 programmes, worth over €1.7 billion were approved already under the three regional windows, and around €700 million have been contracted.

While migration is a transnational challenge, it also contains enormous potential as a driver for sustainable development in regard to diaspora engagement, remittances and knowledge transfer. This does not only concern migration movements between Africa and Europe, but equally and on a larger scale intra-African mobility.

For more information, see the dedicated [factsheet](#).

10. How much development and humanitarian aid does the EU provide in Africa?

The EU is the world's largest donor, giving more than half of Official Development Assistance (ODA) worldwide. The EU's collective ODA amounted to €75.5 billion in 2016, with over €20 billion of ODA to Africa every year. The European Commission's total official development aid to Africa will amount to €31 billion between 2014 and 2020.

Furthermore, the EU, together with its Member states, is Africa's leading donor of emergency humanitarian aid with the Commission itself committing more than €800 million annually since 2015.

11. How important are remittances and foreign direct investment between the EU and Africa?

The EU is collectively Africa's main foreign investor and main source of remittances. In 2015, both the foreign direct investment flow, amounting to €32.2 billion, as well as the remittances flow from Europe to Africa, amounting to €21.1 billion, were at least on par with the total official development assistance of EU institutions and Member States.

[\[1\] According to the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs statistics](#) (2 May 2017). (EC 04-05 - 2017)

SUDAN: REBELS IN DARFUR ANNOUNCES UNILATERAL CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES FOR 6 MONTHS

The two biggest arm Movements in Darfur, The Justice and Equality Movement (JEM), headed by Jibril Ibrahim, and Sudan Liberation Army (SLA), led by Minni Arko Minawi, announced on Wednesday, a unilateral cessation of hostilities for another six months.



In a joint statement, the two movements affirmed their commitment to the African Roadmap, and appreciated the role of the joint mission and international parties seeking peace in Darfur and throughout Sudan, announcing a unilateral extension of the cessation of hostilities for another six months.

The official announcement of the move followed their meeting with the head of the UNAMID mission, 2-3 May in Paris.

The statement said that "the leaders of the two movements discussed with Mamabolo ways to resume the peace process in Darfur through negotiation and obstacles."

"The meeting, which took place in the French capital Paris from Monday to Wednesday, was called by the head of the joint UN-African Union mission in Darfur, Kongsali Mamapolo," the statement said.

And stressed that the head of UNAMID conveyed to the delegation of the two movements a message from the head of the African High-level Mechanism, Thabo Mbeki, concerning the peace process and the resumption of negotiations.

Adding that "During the head of the mission, the aim of his meeting with the two movements is to look for ways to resume the peace process in Darfur and the obstacles it faces."

The statement pointed out that the delegation of the two movements raised the dire humanitarian and security situation and the continued grave violations against civilians in Darfur, pointing out that the temporary decrease in the rate of fighting does not mean the end of the war or achieve peace.

The Statement Confirmed that "The overwhelming chaos of the regime's militias will lead to an uncontrollable explosion of conditions in the region," adding that the delegation strongly condemned the planning, resettlement and deprivation of livelihoods of displaced persons.

The statement pointed out that the aim of the project of planning camps for the displaced is to legitimize the occupation, and the survival of the land of the new occupiers, and the occurrence of a complete demographic transformation in the region, echoing "and this cannot be silent or stand idly by."

The leader of the Justice and Equality Movement Jibril Ibrahim said after The declaration that "the meeting with the president of UNAMID approved the renewal of the cessation of hostilities for six months from Wednesday, and Mambolo was handed over the vision of the two movements on procedural issues for negotiations with the government."

The two movements stressed in their statement the commitment to a just and comprehensive peace for the Darfur issue within the framework of a comprehensive solution to the Sudanese problem through negotiation, which addresses the roots of the crisis and addresses its secretions. (APA 04-05-2017)

ROSATOM TO PARTICIPATE IN TENDER FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NPP IN SOUTH AFRICA

[Rosatom](#), Russia's state-run nuclear corporation has confirmed that it plans to bid on construction of nuclear power plants in South Africa despite the decision of the country's court to cancel the relevant intergovernmental agreement dated 2014 as "illegal".

Viktor Polikarpov, Vice-President of Rosatom for Sub-Saharan Africa said Rosatom responded to Eskom's request to grant tender information for the construction of nuclear power plants with a total capacity of 9.6 GW.

Earlier on this week, South Africa's High Court ruled to cancel a 2014 intergovernmental agreement with Russia for the construction of eight nuclear reactors in that country, terming it as unconstitutional and unlawful and it is reviewed and set aside.

Kelvin Kemm, chairperson of the [Nuclear Energy Corporation of South Africa](#) said he does not think the court's decision will seriously affect the project of construction of nuclear power plants in the country. He further spoke of similar agreements with China, France, South Korea. It is an attempt of the anti-nuclear lobby to ruin the project. We continue cooperating with interested Russian organizations.

April 28 is the deadline for submitting responses to the request for tender information, which is the first step to the announcement of a full-fledged tender.

The agreement provides for a strategic partnership for the development of the nuclear power industry of South Africa.

It visualizes not only with the construction of nuclear power plants, but also the development of various areas of nuclear industry in general and in particular construction of a multipurpose research reactor under the Russian technology as well as training of South African specialists in Russian universities.

Four companies from China (State Nuclear Power Technology), France (EDF), Russia (Rosatom) and the Republic of Korea (KEPCO) are main bidders for construction of the NPP in South Africa. South Africa's energy monopoly Eskom is the project's operator and owner of future nuclear power plants. (CRO 28-04-2017)

NIGERIA TO ANNOUNCE NEW INVESTORS FOR REFINERIES IN SEPTEMBER

Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum Resources Ibe Kachikwu has said that state-owned refineries will have new investors in September this year.



Kachikwu told a news conference on the sideline of the 2017 Offshore Technology Conference (OTC) in Houston, U.S. on Wednesday that the refineries included Port Harcourt Refining Company (PHRC); Warri Refining and Petrochemicals Company (WRPC) and the Kaduna Refining and Petrochemicals Company (KRPC).

A report by Nigeria's Independent newspaper on Thursday said that Kachikwu explained that the country now has a sizeable willing investment portfolio for the refineries, and that the investors would be made public in September.

"When we came on-board, the refineries were not working but as we speak, we have sizeable investment portfolio for them to an extent that we don't know who to partner with for the investment.

"By September, we will unveil the investors for the refineries. The new investors are expected to repair, revamp and maintain the refineries according to the terms and conditions of the contract," he said.

Kachikwu, however, said that when completely repaired, the refineries would still not meet the country's consumption needs, but added that where the refineries fail to meet the demand, Dangote's and modular refineries would fill the gap.

In January, General Electric Co proposed investing in Nigeria's oil refineries, potentially convening a consortium of companies to improve capacity at the run-down facilities.

GE's plan and similar promises from companies like Italy's Eni to work with Nigeria to rehabilitate the country's three oil refineries could help the government as it tries to reduce costly imported oil products.

The minister also said in January that Chevron and Total were also interested in working on the refineries. (APA 04-05-2017)

AFDB APPROVES US\$ 253M TO UPGRADE ROADS CONNECTING KENYA AND UGANDA

US\$253m in loans has been approved by The [African Development Bank](#) (AfDB) to the Kenya and Uganda for the upgrading of a 118 km road section connecting the two countries and the construction of the 32 km Eldoret town bypass, in Kenya.

The development which is projected to be complete in 2021 will enhance the living standards of citizens in the two countries.

Kenya is set to receive a whopping US\$147m and Uganda US\$106m. The AfDB loans will cover the costs 89% for Kenya and 88% for Uganda with the governments contributing 11% and 12% respectively. AfDB Infrastructure, Cities and Urban Development Department director Amadou Oumarou confirmed the reports and said in a statement released last month that the proposed intervention was in line with the AfDB's Ten Year Strategy, which also includes five priority areas for development – the High 5s – which are Light up and power Africa, Feed Africa, Industrialise Africa, Integrate Africa, and Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa.

"The intervention meets four of the High 5s by contributing to the integration of the East African Community countries; improving the quality of life by providing socioeconomic facilities for people in the zone of influence; increasing agricultural production through access to markets; and the reduction in transport costs, which lowers the cost of doing business that will play a pivotal role in industrialization," Oumarou explained.

The project also includes the construction of a one-stop border post in Suam to facilitate trade between the two countries.

Further to that, the Eldoret bypass of 32 km will reduce traffic congestion, as it avoids crossing the city centre. Therefore, the average speed will increase from 26 km/h on the existing road to 42 km/h using the Eldoret bypass.

AfDB is a multilateral development finance institution established by Laston M. to contribute to the economic development and social progress of African countries. (CRO 28-04-2017)

ABOUT 400 BRITISH TROOPS ARRIVE IN SOUTH SUDAN FOR UN MISSION

In a statement released on Tuesday, UNMISS said British troops, proudly wearing their distinctive blue UN berets had arrived in Juba to join the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS).



About 400 United Kingdom troops arrived in Juba to provide engineering and medical support as part of peacekeepers in South Sudan, the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) said.

The UK contingent will provide a Military Engineering Taskforce to the Malakal and Bentiu Protection of Civilians Sites (POCs), as well as a Level II Hospital in Bentiu, according to the UN mission.

"The Royal Engineers will conduct tasks at the UN Camps to improve accommodation, routes, security and drainage, as well as the construction of a jetty on the River Nile and a helicopter landing site," partly reads the statement.

"Alongside their UNMISS colleague, their efforts will make a contribution to protecting civilians and creating conditions to enable the delivery of humanitarian aids," the UNMISS added.

With almost 400 troops in total, this will be one of the UK's largest operational deployments across the world. (APA 04-05-2017)

EDITORIAL: JACOB ZUMA IS NOW ON SHAKY GROUND

The robust rejection of Zuma by a substantial number of Cosatu members at Monday's May Day rally may really have been the much-vaunted tipping point at last

Pundits of our politics have for many years declared that we had reached a tipping point in the Jacob Zuma presidency.

First, it was the disclosure that Zuma had spent millions building himself a grand place in Nkandla. The story first broke in 2009 and political commentators predicted that this, of all things, would damage his standing in the ANC. It didn't. Instead, the ANC closed ranks around him.

Then came the public protector's report saying that Zuma was responsible for a portion of the costs to improve his homestead. It also pointed out his very active role in dealing with the architect of his choice in making the changes. The report came just before the 2014 general election. But when people went to the polls, the needle indicating ANC support hardly moved.

Next was the Constitutional Court judgment that Zuma had unlawfully ignored the public protector and must pay back the money. This time, the ground shifted ever so slightly as the ANC national executive discussed how to respond, with one lone voice — Gauteng's Paul Mashatile — suggesting that Zuma should "do the honourable thing" and follow his conscience. But again, in the end, ranks were closed.

Zuma has not before been rejected in one of his stronghold provinces

But since the latter half of 2016, there have been tangible shifts. Parliament has shown some rebelliousness, individual ANC national executive committee (NEC) members have spoken out, stalwarts have lobbied and campaigned and the pressure is certainly building. But with an iron constitution like Zuma's, the pundits have realised that contrary to rational expectation, the president is not going anywhere, no matter the damage being done to the ANC's electoral chances.

This week, though, the odds on the calculation changed. The robust rejection of Zuma by a substantial number of Cosatu members at Monday's May Day rally may really have been the much-vaunted tipping point at last.

For the first time, it was abundantly clear — particularly to the ANC itself — that the risk that Zuma has laid on the ANC is a price that may be too expensive to pay. The context was also important. While Zuma has been booed before — in Gauteng at the memorial service of Nelson Mandela — he has not been rejected in one of his stronghold provinces.

The Free State is one such stronghold. Run by Ace Magashule with tight control over minutiae such as who joins which branch and who attends which meeting, the expectation the day before the rally had been that the stadium would be packed with loyalists. But although an attempt was made by an unknown and unnamed group of people in red 100% Zuma T-shirts to occupy the front rows of the stadium and sing their support for the president, the deluge of real Cosatu red shirts, determined to drown out Zuma, was too much for the strong men of the Free State to cope with.

That Zuma left the occasion taciturn and silent without having given his speech, while his closest acolytes sprouted nonsense about conspiracies and anarchists, said it all. It was a rout that was widely celebrated.

Coming as it does just before a crucial NEC meeting in which once again the fitness of the president to govern is certain to be raised makes it even more interesting. With the NEC sharply divided and the stakes too high for the pro-Zuma group to allow another contender into the presidential chair, this won't be resolved amicably or at all. As the ANC operates on consensus and not a vote, the NEC is likely to find itself in a bind from which it cannot escape.

It brings us inexorably close to the tipping point. But this time the tipping point might hinge not on whether Zuma continues to lead the ANC, it might instead be about the future of the ANC itself, and who wins the election in 2019 (BD 04-05-2017)

PORT AND INFRASTRUCTURE EXPANSION IN DJIBOUTI

Djibouti is making investments in excess of \$15 billion in new infrastructure, including four new ports.

The ports – together with projects to build a Liquefied Natural Gas facility, an oil terminal, and two brand new airports – will dramatically expand Djibouti's ability to serve as a platform and trade hub for East African countries and African countries beyond the region.

The ports target several different sectors, from minerals to livestock. Two are already operational – the ports of Tadjourah and Goubet. The ultra-modern Doraleh Multi-Purpose Port (DMP) is due to be inaugurated in May 2017.

The present Port of Djibouti is administered and managed by the Djibouti Ports and Free Zones Authority (DPFZA). DPFZA has responsibility for all the country's port development.

The port is a gateway to one of the fastest growing regions of the world with 30,000 ships transiting the port each year. Goods from Asia represent 59%, with 21% coming from Europe and 16% from elsewhere in Africa. In 2015, overall traffic to Djibouti increased by nearly 20%, reaching approximately 5.7 million tonnes.

The first of the four new ports being built is for the export of potassium for Ethiopia. The second is dedicated to livestock export. Djibouti currently exports two million head of cattle to the Middle East - the new port will export ten million.

The third port – a joint venture with a Chinese company – is for the export of salt from Lake Assal, the largest salt deposit in the world. The fourth - the Doraleh Multi-Purpose Port (DMP) – will replace the current multipurpose port.

Aboubaker Omar Hadi, Chairman of the DPFZA comments: "Modern transport links are vital to national and global prosperity. Without quick and reliable routes to move goods – and the facilities needed to handle them – Africa's development will be held back". (Patrick@raittorr.co.uk 04-05-2017]

NIGERIA APPROVES \$250M SOFT LOANS FOR BASIC SERVICES

Nigeria has approved a \$150 million soft loans from the African Development Bank (AfDB) and \$100 million from the African Development Finance (ADF) for some basic services.



The services are inclusive of Rural Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative (RWSSI).

Mr. Salisu Na'ina, Director, Information, Ministry of Finance said on Wednesday in Abuja that a grant of 5 million euros to finance Inclusive Basic Service Delivery and Livelihood Empowerment Integrated Programme in five states of the North East was also approved.

He also said that the approval followed a memo presented to the Federal Executive Council by the Minister of Finance, Mrs. Kemi Adeosun.

Adeosun explained that the money would facilitate in improving the quality of life of 14 million people and over 2.3 million Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) affected by the Boko Haram insurgency.

It would improve their standard of living by increasing their access to basic social services in the areas of potable water supply, sanitation, health care delivery and education.

Other areas covered by the programme are entrepreneurship development, job creation and livelihoods for youth, women and the vulnerable, social cohesion and physiological support.

She recalled that in its social inclusion agenda, the Federal Government had launched a programme for rebuilding and reconstruction for peace and development in the North East and sought support from the African Development Bank to achieve the goal.

The multi-sectoral programme will be implemented in Adamawa, Borno, Gombe, Bauchi and Taraba States within a span of five years starting from 2017 to December 2021, while Yobe State has already started implementing a similar programme.

The loan would be repayable in 25 years on a highly concessional interest rate, while the five benefitting states would make a counterpart funding of 6.1 percent, the statement said. (APA 04-05-2017)

NAMIBIAN OFFSHORE PROJECT MAY ENTICE OTHER INVESTORS TO THE COUNTRY

Namibia is looking to make progress on its flagship Kudu gas project this year, encouraging the many smaller upstream investors who continue to believe in the southwest African country's offshore potential



A map of Namibia and its offshore and homeland territories

Though not known as one of Africa's great oil and gas producers, Namibia has long enticed international investors, and for good reason.

In terms of location, the country sits just beneath Angola, one of Africa's top two oil exporters, alongside Nigeria, which continues to yield immense offshore riches, pulling in billions of dollars in foreign investment. This offshore search has spread into Namibian waters, where most of the country's potential is believed to be located.

It is not just potential either, with oil and gas already identified, including the giant Kudu gas field, discovered way back in 1974. The offshore field sits approximately 170 km north-west of the city of Oranjemund, on the border with South Africa, and in around 170 metres of water. Reserve estimates vary hugely, with at least 1.3 trillion cubic feet of confirmed natural gas, potentially running up to 9 trillion cubic feet, subject to further exploratory work.

Although commercialisation of this field has thus far eluded the industry, various development options through the years have included piping the gas to the shore to feed a large power plant - the current preferred option - a floating liquefied natural gas (FLNG) facility, and even running gas across the border by pipeline to South Africa.

Earlier this year, BW Kudu Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of BW Offshore, took a 56 per cent stake in the Kudu block, joining state oil firm, National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia (Namcor). It is the latest in a long line of investors and owners linked to Kudu, that include the likes of She. (Image source: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency/Commons)

Il, Chevron, and, more recently, Tullow Oil and Gazprom. This time, there is a belief that Kudu's potential can be unleashed, with the development of a gas-fired power plant onshore central to the development. BW Offshore's chief executive, Carl K. Arnet, announcing the deal in February, said the new-look consortium aims to secure a final investment decision (FID) by the final quarter of 2017: "BW Offshore will now start the work with the Namibian government, Namcor, NamPower (the Namibian power utility), large infrastructure investors and other stakeholders to get this very exciting project to FID," he said. (Oil Review Africa 18-04-2017)

BOTSWANA TO SIGN SADC PROTOCOL ON GENDER

Botswana said on Thursday that it has taken a decision to sign the revised Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Gender and Development.



In a statement, the Botswana government said the protocol is a commitment of SADC Heads of State and Government in recognition of the fact that gender equality and equity is a fundamental human right.

"The Protocol therefore aims to provide for the empowerment of women; eliminate discrimination against them; and also achieve gender equality by encouraging and harmonising development and implementation of gender responsive legislation, policies and programmes," reads the statement.

It said the decision to sign comes after the review of the protocol as per Article 38 of the Protocol and Article 22 of the SADC Treaty, which sets the procedure for review.

"The Revised Protocol's targets are more realistic, thereby taking into consideration Botswana's concerns," the statement said.

It added: "Furthermore, the Protocol has been harmonised with other SADC Instruments to optimize resources and avoid duplication."

Botswana is one of two SADC countries that have not signed the gender protocol that was initially approved in 2008 and was revised in 2016. The other country is Mauritius. (APA 27-04-2017)

KENYA LAUNCHES REVISED IMMIGRATION BORDER PROCEDURES MANUAL

The Kenyan Government with the support of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on Thursday launched the revised Immigration Border Procedures and Operations Manual to capture new immigration laws, policies and procedure.



The manual was first developed in 2006 and later revised in 2010 to accommodate further changes.

Since then, the Government has enacted new immigration laws and policies, key among them; the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act 2011, the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act Regulations 2012 and the East African Community (EAC) Common Market Protocol in 2010 and the EAC One Stop Border Posts Act 2016.

In 2014, the government amended the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act, under the Section 75 of the Security Laws (Amendment) Act by adding Section 5A-5D to establish Border Control and Operations Co-ordination Committee (BCOCC) to enhance border efficiency and inter-agency coordination in border management.

Additionally, instability, radicalization and armed conflict in neighboring countries have created an uncertain environment for immigration in Kenya which has been addressed in various policy documents including the revised manual.

Consequently, these new developments will help address various migration challenges facing Kenya in today's ever mobile, complex and challenging world.

Speaking in Nairobi at the launch, the Director of Immigration Services, Maj. General (Rtd) Dr. Gordon Kihalangwa said that the revised manual will aid border officials tackle a myriad of migration challenges facing Kenya.

"Human trafficking, terrorism, and document fraud are some of the complex challenges we are currently facing at our border posts," he said.

On his part, IOM Head of Kenya County Office, Mr. Mike Pillinger, noted that the manual is a result of re-assessing immigration and border management against a backdrop of evolving migration trends, policies, profiles, legislations and regulations.

"It pools pertinent up-to-date policies and procedures for the guidance of immigration officers in their daily work at the border posts across Kenya and headquarters in Nairobi," he said. (APA 27-04-2017)

QATAR AIRWAYS ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF DIRECT FLIGHTS TO THREE NEW AFRICAN CITIES

Qatar Airways has announced that it will launch direct flights to three new African cities in 2018.

The State-owned carrier will introduce flights to Mombasa, Kenya; Abidjan, Ivory Coast; and Accra, Ghana among an additional 12 new destinations.

Qatar Airways which operates daily flights to Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKAI) will compete with Ethiopian Airlines, Turkish Airlines, Rwandair and flydubai the other international airlines which already ply the direct Mombasa route.

Kenya's flag carrier Kenya Airways has to stop over at its Nairobi hub before proceeding to Mombasa on international flights.

Qatar Airways made the announcement at the Arabian Travel Market (ATM) in Dubai.

The 12 new destinations Qatar Airways plans for 2018 include: San Francisco, U.S.; Cardiff, United Kingdom; Utapao, Thailand; Chittagong, Bangladesh; Mykonos, Greece; Málaga, Spain; Accra, Ghana; Lisbon, Portugal; Abidjan, Ivory Coast; Prague, Czech Republic; Kiev, Ukraine and Mombasa, Kenya.

This adds to the airline's global network of more than 150 destinations.

The carrier also announced that it will be the first airline in the Middle East to launch high-speed broadband on flights starting this summer in a partnership with Inmarsat, the leading provider of airborne broadband connectivity.

“The new announced destinations mean that we can now bring these innovative and world-class products to even more travellers around the world,” Qatar Airways Group Chief Executive His Excellency Mr. Akbar Al Baker said. (Footprint to Africa 27-04-2017)

OVER 100 AFRICAN FIRMS REGISTERED ON THE LONDON MARKET

More than 100 African firms have been registered on the London market, the co-head of the emerging international markets on the London Stock Exchange, Ibukun Adebayo announced Wednesday in Abidjan at the end of a visit to the Regional Stock Exchange (BRVM) of Abidjan.



“110 African companies are present on the London market with a value of 125 billion US dollars,” Mr. Adebayo said, pointing out that some of those firms are from Nigeria, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire.

Following discussions with BRVM Chief Executive Officer, Edoh Amenounve, Adebayo expressed the willingness of the London Stock Exchange to provide expertise to African stock exchanges through a platform for collaboration.

The BRVM was created on 18 December 1996 and is shared by all eight countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. (APA 27-04-2017)

UN FOOD AGENCIES URGE GOVERNMENTS TO STEP UP FOOD ACTION IN AFRICAN COUNTRIES FACING FAMINE



Mothers and children wait to be screened for malnutrition at a UNICEF-supported Outpatient Therapeutic Program in Baidoa, Somalia

Unless urgent action is taken to feed people in north-east Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen, more than 20 million people will not find enough food to eat, the heads of the United Nations food agencies today warned.

"Many people have [already died](#)," UN Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) Director-General José Graziano da Silva said on the sidelines of FAO's Council – the executive arm of FAO's governing body – which is now meeting in Rome.

He stressed that peace is essential for ending the fighting which is spurring the famine, but more needs to be done to fight hunger.

"I visited Maiduguri in north-eastern Nigeria and saw myself how powerful agricultural support can be in a humanitarian crisis," Mr. Grazaiano da Silva said.

A famine has been formally declared in parts of South Sudan, while north-eastern Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen are on the brink of famine, according to the press release.

"We have the strength, logistical capacity and technology to get the job done. What we need is access to the people who are on the brink of famine and resources, now not later," said David Beasley, the new Executive Director of the UN World Food Programme.

For example, in South Sudan, FAO and WFP are part of an inter-agency rapid response bringing life-saving food, fishing and vegetable-growing kits, and other emergency services to hard-to-reach communities gripped by famine.

However, more funding is needed. Food production kits cost less than \$90 but can provide enough food for a family of eight for six months, FAO has said.

Around \$4.4 billion has been requested for programs related to the famine. So far, \$1.2 billion or about 27 per cent, has been received, according to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

"Without this support, we will have to make life-challenging decisions over who will receive food and who will not," cautioned Mr. Beasley. (UN News Center 28-04-2017)

TANZANIA TO LAUNCH NATIONAL PLAN TO CURB ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The Tanzanian government will on Friday launch a National Action Plan to curb the threat of antibiotic resistance in the country, a top medical officer said on Thursday.



Chief Medical Officer, Professor Mohammed Bakari told public health stakeholders in Dar es salaam that the new government's plan will address the challenges faced by health workers who prescribe antibiotics irrationally and also introduce strict measures to control self-prescription of the medications.

"When I was still in medical school, many years ago, a drug known as Amoxicillin could effectively cure Urinary Tract Infections (UTI), but currently, this drug is one of the antibiotics that can no longer cure UTIs," said Prof Bakari during a symposium organised by the Ministry of Health, community Development, Gender, Elderly and children in collaboration with World Health Organization (WHO).

The Symposium, themed: "Handle antibiotics with care-Antimicrobial Resistance in Tanzania," comes at a time when the world is battling the public health crisis-antibiotic resistance.

WHO's Acting Country Representative, Dr Richard Banda warned during the symposium in Dar es Salaam that if left unchecked, antibiotic resistance will make common dental and surgical procedures risky; and infections more difficult to treat.

Tomorrow's launching of the National Action Plan, is expected to give a direction to the country and stakeholders on how the problem would be curbed in Tanzania. (APA 27-04-2017)

INVESTMENT SLUMPS IN AFRICA AS INFRASTRUCTURE GAP PERSISTS



Road under construction at Giriama, Kenya

Sub-Saharan Africa experienced a slowdown in investment growth from nearly 8% in 2014 to 0.6% in 2015, according to the new *Africa's Pulse*, a biannual analysis of the state of African economies conducted by the World Bank.

This sluggish investment has coincided with a sharp deceleration in economic growth in Africa.

In this year's edition of the report, special attention is paid to infrastructure in the region, a sector in which investment could become a strategic tool for poverty reduction and economic development. Infrastructure is particularly important since the continent ranks at the bottom of all developing regions in nearly all dimensions of performance.

On the positive side, Sub-Saharan Africa has made great progress in telecommunications coverage in the past 25 years, expanding at a fast pace across both low- and middle-income countries in the continent. Access to safe water has also increased, from 51% of the population in 1990 to 77% in 2015.

But the challenges that remain are vast and deeply ingrained, the World Bank says.

For example, little progress has been made in per capita electricity-generating capacity in over two decades.

Only 35% of the population has access to electricity, with rural access rates less than one-third urban ones.

Transport infrastructure is also lagging, with Sub-Saharan Africa being the only region in the world where road density has declined over the past 20 years.

The growth effects of narrowing Sub-Saharan Africa's infrastructure quantity and quality gap are potentially large. For instance, growth of GDP per capita for the region would increase by an estimated 1.7 percentage points per year if it were to close the gap with the median of the rest of the developing world.

Closing the infrastructure quantity and quality gap relative to the best performers in the world could increase growth of GDP per capita by 2.6% per year. The largest potential growth benefits would come from closing the gap in electricity-generating capacity, the World Bank said.

Public capital spending levels are too low to address the region's infrastructure needs. According to budget data collected for 24 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, annual public spending on infrastructure was 2% of GDP in 2009–15. Roads accounted for two-thirds of overall infrastructure investments in the

region. Capital spending on electricity and water supply and sanitation each accounted for 15% of total capital expenditures.

When analyzing public spending in infrastructure, the report found that countries spend significantly less money than they actually allocate to projects. This reduces the execution of projects earmarked for investment each year, a clear sign of the inefficiencies pervasive in the sector.

Public-private partnerships in Sub-Saharan Africa remain a very small market, with projects concentrated in only a few countries, namely, South Africa, Nigeria, Kenya, and Uganda.

“The analysis shows that the impact of public investment on economic growth can be improved if countries implement policies that make public investment more efficient,” said Punam Chuhan-Pole, World Bank Lead Economist and author of the report.

“There is evidence that countries with sound public investment management systems tend to have even more private investment.”

Improving the institutions and procedures governing project appraisal, selection, and monitoring are among the policies countries should implement to ensure they have a sound public investment system. (CGR 28-04-2017)

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



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