

# MEMORANDUM

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**EU-AFRICA BUSINESS FORUM, See page 16**

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## NEW SUGAR FACTORY STARTS OPERATING IN OCTOBER IN MOZAMBIQUE

A new sugar production plant will start operating in the Chemba district next October, raising the number of sugar factories operating in Sofala province, in central Mozambique, to three, the district administrator said.

João Geral Patrício said the factory, a South African investment, will have an installed capacity to produce 50 tonnes of sugar per day, and its raw material will be sugarcane produced in an irrigated area of about 2,500 hectares .

Of this area, about 1,000 hectares will be explored directly by the investors and the remaining 1,500 hectares by two agricultural cooperatives with 250 members each, according to Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias.

The district administrator said that the launch of this plant, the third after the Companhia de Sena in Marromeu, and the Mafambisse sugar mill in Dondo, is expected to have a direct impact on the lives of the district's 93,000 inhabitants.

Patrício mentioned the initial benefits of job creation, drinking water supply, construction of classrooms and training of young people, as well as training activities directly related to the planting and treatment of sugarcane.

The district of Chemba is 565 kilometres from the city of Beira, the provincial capital of Sofala. (04-05-2017)

## INTERNATIONAL HOUSING SOLUTIONS INVESTS \$214,000 IN NIGERIA

International Housing [Solutions](#) (IHS), the global private equity investor leading investment into the affordable housing sector in sub-Saharan [Africa](#), has created HIS Fund II, to target affordable and energy-efficient housing opportunities in sub-Saharan Africa.

The fund has already garnered up to \$214,400 capital from diverse investors, including the [International Monetary](#) Fund (IMF). Nigeria's housing market size, which is currently estimated at \$179.2Bn crashed recently, offering opportunities for bold investors to reap high returns as Africa's biggest economy strives to clamber out of recession.

Nigeria's fast-growing population requires more housing and shopping malls in the long-term. Analysts believe it is time for discerning investors to step in with their funds and harvest huge returns upon exit. The IHS fund has backed six projects to date, providing a total of 1,630 housing units. Five of the projects have used the fund's green investment facility which is designed to improve the use of energy, water and building materials in their developments.

Having held its first close in July 2014, the HIS Fund II has attracted \$30m from the IFC Global Environmental Facility and KfW, the German development finance institution. The European Investment Bank (EIB) is also considering \$20m investment in the HIS Fund II, which has a primary focus on Namibia and Botswana.

Some private equity funds, mostly from South Africa, have invested in Lagos and Abuja, the country's capital, staking that the spending power of the country's 180m people will rise. Nigeria has one of the world's fastest growing populations in the world; investors say that this means it has better long-term prospects than the rest of Africa.

"We believe Nigeria has massive potential in the retail area," Jan van Zyl, head of Nigerian property development at South African fund Novare Equity Partners, expressed his optimism in the country's potential, stating that although in its infancy, the sector will continue to grow.

IHS's first fund, the \$230m South Africa Workforce Housing Fund, is fully committed and has exited a number of the projects in its portfolio.(CRO 04-05-2017)

## JIANGSU DOLPHIN INTERNATIONAL TRADING BECOMES SHAREHOLDER OF GROUP WITH FORESTRY INTERESTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

A share issue in the amount of 4.0 million pounds by the Obtala Limited group was transferred from Wealth Rank Ltd, a company registered in the British Virgin Islands, to Chinese trading company Jiangsu Dolphin International Trading Co. Ltd, the group said in a statement

In the statement the group also said that the terms of the deal remain the same – an issue of 20 million shares at a unit price of 20 pence – except for the completion date, which has been delayed to 30 June 2017.

This issue represents 7.2% of the current capital of the Obtala group and, when completed, Jiangsu will hold 6.7% of the new share capital, represented by 297.6 million shares.

The group also reported that it is working to fulfill a substantial order for wood from the new future stockholder, Jiangsu Dolphin International Trading Co. Ltd.

The Obtala group, based in Guernsey, has 10 forest concessions in Mozambique covering an area of 120,000 hectares. (05-05-2017)

## 7 AFRICAN ONLINE EDUCATION PLATFORMS TO WATCH



The impact of technology on education is one that cannot be overlooked. Not only does having technology in the classroom enhance learning but it also improves the education experience and increases the level of interaction.

E-learning in Africa has come a long way and with the growth of the internet and increase in the number of people who have access to smartphones, it is reasonable to expect a boom in e-learning.

The online education opportunity has driven down the cost of education and it is an alternative that could make learning more convenient and exciting.

Although e-learning in Africa is still in its infancy, there are some organisations that are already making a mark in this space. Here are 7 online education platforms to acquire a qualification from or enhance your skills.

### 1. [University of Africa](#)

The University of Africa (UA) is a Private Open Distance-Learning Tertiary Institution with an expanding portfolio of study programmes and degrees being offered. Currently, these programmes include Bachelor's Degrees in Business Administration; Commerce; Economics; Health Service Administration; Human Resource Management; Law; Logistics and Transport; Marketing; Public Administration; Tourism and many more. A process is currently underway to make all courses available online as part of our e-learning initiative. more than 2000 students from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Uganda, South Africa and the Democratic Republic of the Congo and we are looking forward to welcoming students from Nigeria and Kenya soon.

### 2. [Wits Plus](#)

Wits Plus is a virtual online university offered by the University of the Witwatersrand. The platform offers

fully online learning opportunities with courses that can be accessed anytime, anywhere, and are fully adaptable to all device types. Online courses are offered in partnership with Digital Campus. Wits Plus only offers programmes for a Bachelor of Arts degree and Bachelor of Commerce degree on a part-time basis.

### 3. [University of Rwanda](#)

The University of Rwanda offers eLearning portal for six diploma programmes for secondary school teachers. The e-learning portal is administrated by the College of Education. The college of education is responsible for coordinating Open and Distance eLearning programmes of all UR-Colleges. The college of education also focuses on putting learning materials used in ordinary classroom training online, so all students can access them anytime.

### 4. [Ahmadu Bello University Distance Learning](#)

The Ahmadu Bello University Distance Learning is offered by the Ahmadu Bello University. The university has Certificate/Diploma, undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in all fields. There is a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) programme accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC) available on the online platform. Lecture videos and study materials can be accessed offline. The e-learning portal allows students to submit assignments, interacts with lectures and tutors.

### 5. [African Virtual University](#)

The African Virtual University is a pan-African intergovernmental organisation with 19 member countries and is aimed at increasing access to quality higher education through the innovative use of information and communication technologies. African Virtual University (AVU), a satellite-based distance education programme which began working with the World Bank in 1995. AVU has been transformed from being a project of the World Bank to an independent reputable inter-governmental organisation based in Nairobi, Kenya with over 34 learning centers in 17 African countries. The university offers programmes in Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry, Physics and more.

### 6. [Kenyatta Digital School of Learning](#)

In 2014 Kenyatta University (KU), launched its new KU Digital School in a move that is set to address the increased demand for improved higher education e-Learning programmes in Kenya. The Digital School offers diploma and undergraduate programmes as well as Masters degrees using blended teaching and learning that combines digital instructions with live tutorials in regional centres. The Digital School has centres in Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, Nakuru, Kakamega, Kericho, Nyeri, Embu, Garissa and Marsabit.

### 7. [Unicaf University](#)

UNICAF is an online platform offering higher education to underserved markets, in collaboration with reputable universities in the UK, US, Europe and Africa. The university offers quality higher education degrees to students in Africa and the world. Current partners include the University of South Wales (UK), the Marymount California University (USA), the University of Nicosia (Europe) and Unicaf University (Africa). Undergraduate and postgraduate qualifications are offered online or on campus. In Africa, the university has campuses and learning centres in Malawi, Nigeria, Somalia, Zimbabwe, Mauritius, Zambia and Ghana.

IT News Africa will be hosting the next edition of the [Education Innovation Summit](#) on 31 May 2017 at the Radisson Blu Gautrain in Johannesburg. Under the theme "Transforming Education With Technology", the event will tackle issues about e-learning in Africa with interactive with roundtable discussions and case studies from leading education experts, policy makers, service providers and EduTech entrepreneurs, all sharing their experiences on what works and what does not. Make sure to book your early bird ticket by 1 May 2017. (ITNA 05-05-2017)

## **PRODUCTION OF CASHEW NUTS IN MOZAMBIQUE REACHES 30-YEAR RECORD IN 2017**

Cashew nut production in Mozambique this year reached 137,400 tonnes, exceeding the initial forecast of 120,000 tonnes and is already considered the biggest harvest of the last 30 years, announced the director of the National Cashew Institute (Incaju).

Ilídio Afonso Bande, quoted by Mozambican daily newspaper Diário de Moçambique, said that in the 2016 campaign, cashew nut production was only 104,000 tonnes.

The director of Incaju said that the increase in nut production was also due to the fact that rain distribution was more balanced, despite the tendency for shortage in the south of the country.

The rains also came at a favourable time, which allowed the transition to the flowering phase and efforts to promote production with the introduction of various plant varieties.

The northern province of Nampula accounted for 44% of overall production, followed by neighbouring Cabo Delgado (15%) and the central province of Zambezia (12%).

In the 1970s Mozambique was the world's largest producer of cashew nuts with annual production of 216,000 tonnes. (05-05-2017)

## **NIGERIA: FG APPOINTS LUFTHANSA, FIVE OTHERS ADVISERS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CARRIER**

The federal government has appointed advisers to help it set up a national airline and develop its aviation infrastructure – currently seen as a barrier to economic growth – to create a hub for West Africa, the Minister of State for Aviation, Hadi Sirika, said on Wednesday.

Sirika said a group of six firms including German carrier Lufthansa would advise the government on setting up an airline, an aviation leasing company and a maintenance hanger, and on creating concessions to run the country's airports.

A cabinet meeting chaired by Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo had approved N1.52 billion (\$4.99 million) of funding for the project, he added.

President Muhammadu Buhari, who promised a national airline when campaigning for election, did not attend the weekly meeting, fuelling concerns about the state of his health.

Decades of neglect and lack of investment have left Nigeria with low-quality infrastructure that is seen as a hurdle to prosperity and the government has already said that upgrading it will require private investment.

The government set up a committee on establishing a national airline in 2015, in fulfillment of the campaign promises which brought Buhari's All Progressives Congress (APC) to power.

An APC transition paper seen by Reuters in 2015 had proposed merging a dozen debt-laden airlines on the books of state-owned "bad bank" Asset Management Corporation of Nigeria (AMCON) into a single carrier that would partner with a global airline to serve the West and Central African region.

The single carrier would include Nigeria's biggest airline, Arik Air, which AMCON took over in February. AMCON has said it has no plans to convert Arik into a national carrier and that the government has no interest in doing so other than to ensure that the airline continues to fly. (This Day 05-05-2017)

## **THE PRIME MINISTER VISITS VIVO ENERGY CABO VERDE**

For the first time in the history of the company, the Prime Minister of Cabo Verde paid a visit to Vivo Energy.

The Government of Cabo Verde, in co-operation with the Chambers of Commerce and Tourism, promoted the “1st Week of the Private Sector”. Running from 17th to 24th of April, this initiative entails an official field trip by the Prime Minister and part of his Cabinet, to a number of the largest and most representative private companies in the country, in a bid to deepen understanding of the business environment in which they operate, thus enabling the conception of fitting structural policies that will benefit the sector in economic, financial and commercial terms.



In this sense, His Excellency The Prime Minister of Cabo Verde, José Ulisses Correia & Silva, visited companies based in Sal, Mindelo and Praia, ranging from tourism to industry and trade sectors, with added focus on businesses with exporting potential and geared towards Maritime Economy. Vivo Energy was the only energy business to be honoured with the visit of the Prime Minister and his entourage. On Wednesday, 19th of April, the Government delegation was hosted in our Head Office in Mindelo, by the country’s Senior Leadership team, presided by the Managing Director, Cristóvão Coimbra and Board Members Valdemar Soares, Euridice Mauricio and Aristides Ramos. The meeting took place in our Board Room in a light and relaxed atmosphere, with our Leadership team taking the opportunity to point out the main challenges of our business, as well as our long term vision. The Prime Minister was very pleased with the outcome of the visit and commended Vivo Energy’s strong commitment, recognizing the vital role that the company can play in the development of the country. (VE 05-05-2017)

## **INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN ANGOLA HAS 700 FACTORIES**

The industrial sector in Angola currently has 700 factories, which is a significant increase compared to the units that existed five years ago, said on Thursday in Luanda the minister of Industry, speaking at the opening of the first methodological meeting of the ministry.

Bernarda Martins, quoted by Angolan news agency Angop, said of that of that total there are 90 factories that are at a standstill due to several factors, such as financial inadequacy, mismanagement and non-compliance with the regulations in force.

The minister said that the industrial sector has been able to survive the effects of the crisis, despite the few resources available for the State to carry out investments considered critical to the development of the sector.

Martins stressed the importance of setting up sector-based industrial associations to limit situations that hinder those interested in the growth of national industry and in strengthening the competitiveness of companies.

“The Ministry of Industry will strengthen the workforce with a new generation of more qualified technicians capable of understanding the importance of the process of economic diversification, which is a strategic goal of the government,” said the minister.

At the meeting there were presentations about the industrial licensing system and the monthly industrial production survey in Angola. (05-05-2017)



## BISSAU LAUNCHES ONLINE VISA SERVICE TO PROMOTE TOURISM

The government of Guinea-Bissau on Friday launched an online acquisition service for short-stay visas in the country ([www.rqb-visa.com](http://www.rqb-visa.com)) as part of a campaign to promote tourism.



“Given the growing competition in the sub-region, it is quite obvious that there is a need to publicize and implement mechanisms such as the acquisition of online visas to facilitate obtaining entry visa to the country,” Guinea Bissau Tourism Minister Fernando Vaz said.

“Tourism can make a positive contribution to changing the external image of Guinea-Bissau, its negative image and enhance the country’s natural and cultural heritage, which contributes to the fight against poverty, unemployment, sustainable economic and social development and promote social cohesion and national identity.”

Minister Vaz also announced that the government intends to exempt visitors from making the visa payment for up to 15 days, in the near future.

As part of promoting tourism, the government has concluded an agreement with a Euro-Atlantic company for charter flights between Lisbon and Bissau.

“We will also sign this month an agreement of the same type with TAP Air Portugal, the flag carrier airline of Portugal, which intends to operate until July five daily flights to Guinea-Bissau,” he further revealed. (APA 05-05-2017)

## WEST AFRICAN INTEGRATION POLICIES SHOULD INSIST ON GENDER EQUALITY

“Any West African integration policy must take gender equality into account,” Awudu Ahmed Gumah, the head of Planning, Research, Monitoring and Evaluation at the Center of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) for Gender Development (CCDG) argued on Friday in Dakar.



“Integration in West Africa is first and foremost a matter of gender equality and access to resources for all,” Guma said at a panel on the second day of the 2017 edition of the National Week of ECOWAS, held

this year under the theme: “Freedom of movement in ECOWAS: Meaning and Scope in the Achievement of Vision 2020.”

The meeting was initiated by the Senegalese Ministry of African Integration, Promotion of Good Governance and the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD).

According to the ministry, the importance of gender in West Africa’s integration process is at the origins of the creation of CCDG, a regional mechanism for articulating and taking gender into account in the ECOWAS area.

Insisting that “gender equality has a very positive impact in developing economies,” Ahmed Gumah further argued that “the reason why ECOWAS takes it into account, as a factor of change in all its integration

policies, is that it is the only guarantee of a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable development.”

Recalling the initiatives taken at the sub-regional level to promote gender equality, Ahmed Gumah advocated the granting of 'scholarships for excellence' to brilliant girls from poor families.” (APA 05-05-2017)

## **SIERRA LEONE HOSTS AIR NAVIGATION CONFERENCE**

A three-day conference on air safety and navigation is underway in the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown.



The meeting, held under the auspices of the Roberts Flight Information Region (RFIR), is discussing air safety and the provision of Africa Air Navigation Services (NANS).

Representatives of at least 18 countries are taking part in the conference that began on Thursday and is due to end on Saturday.

The RFIR is a sub-regional entity comprising Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, designed to enable a unified airspace and sharing of information and surveillance.

This Freetown conference is geared toward having the FRIR countries to join the NANS, said Leonard Balogun Koroma, Sierra Leone’s Minister of Transport and Aviation.

He said in a statement marking the official opening of the conference at the Bintumani Hotel in the west end of the capital that the meeting showed that FRIR wanted to move from the “doldrums.”

“The RFIR is embracing the initiative, and the technical committee and the secretariat will be expected to be fully involved by participating in the various programmes that are related to it,” he said. (APA 05-05-2017)

## **MALAWI ANNUAL INFLATION DECLINING, AS ECONOMY RECOVERS**

Malawi President Peter Mutharika said Friday the country’s economy is recovering as annual inflation has declined steadily in recent months, reaching 15.8 per cent as of end of March 2017.





Speaking during the official opening of the 2017/18 Budget Session in the capital Lilongwe, he said it was the lowest level of inflation recorded in recent years, and this is mostly due to a decrease in food prices, a relatively stable exchange rate and lower international fuel prices.

“This trend is expected to continue due to a favourable agriculture season we have had this year. We believe we are on course to achieving a single digit inflation rate by the end of next year,” he announced. The downward trajectory will provide scope for monetary policy to gradually start unwinding its tight stance thereby allowing the economy to continue recovering, the president continued.

Mutharika also projected an estimated growth rate of between 5 and 6 per cent due to a good maize harvest and agricultural season, following favourable rains the country received this year. (APA 05-05-2017)

## **ECA UNVEILS INAUGURAL AFRICA DATA REVOLUTION REPORT**

***The African Centre for Statistics at the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) has launched the Africa Data Revolution Report 2016, a biennial report highlighting developments in African national data ecosystems.***



A press release issued May 4 by the ECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, said the 2016 edition is the inaugural Africa Data Revolution Report (ADRR) published by the ECA in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Open Data for Development and the World Wide Web Foundation.

It went on: The first ADRR focuses on mapping the data ecosystem in Africa with reference to the production, distribution and use of data by public, private and civil society actors, as they relate to the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

It draws from in-depth case studies of national data ecosystems in 10 African countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland and Tanzania.

“We are very excited about the report because harnessing the on-going data revolution in Africa is crucial to accelerating sustainable development on our continent, among many other things” said African Centre for Statistics Director, Oliver Chinganya.

“There is definitely a need for us as Africa to boost the capacity of national data ecosystems fairly early in the implementation cycle of the sustainable development goals, that is why the ECA and its partners have produced this report and will continue to do so.”

The report identifies and describes key actors, communities and systems, their capacities, interactions and 'rules of the game', the enabling environment, and the laws, regulations and principles that govern the production, dissemination and use of data in Africa.

Empirical evidence is mounting that data enables citizens to make more effective decisions in their daily lives, entrepreneurs to create new business opportunities, and institutions to make the governing process more efficient, responsive, inclusive and transparent, making data an enabler of development, going beyond just being a tool for monitoring and evaluation.

The ADRR 2016 reviews seven key data communities in terms of their historical development, interaction with other data communities, strengths and limitations, and showcases data innovations in Africa.

"It will help readers to better understand the changing data landscape in Africa and the increasingly important role of various data communities and new technology," said Mr. Chinganya.

The ADRR assesses the infrastructure requirements and the nature and impacts of prevailing protocols governing data production on the continent, openness, analysis, privacy and ethics in Africa, focusing on open data systems, big data and innovations.

Based on the analysis of data ecosystems in Africa, the ADRR identifies challenges to the data revolution in the legal, legislative and policy frameworks or principles; financial investments; technology and infrastructure; and data governance areas.

African countries are making considerable efforts to strengthen quality, accessibility and timeliness of data production and use by revitalizing national statistical systems, open data policies and platforms, greater generation and use of non-government generated data, especially citizen- and private sector-generated data. (APA 05-05-2017)

## DEMAND FOR U.S. INVESTMENT VISAS FROM RICH SOUTH AFRICANS DOUBLES



The number of wealthy South Africans looking to attain U.S. investment visas more than doubled from 2014 to 2015, with many considering the benefits and advantages of having an exit plan during economic and politically unstable times.

Recently released data revealed that South African demand for US EB-5 visas, which enable investors in American companies to obtain a green card, increased noticeably since 2014.

A U.S. EB-5 visa can be attained by investing at least \$1 million (or \$500,000 for projects in a "targeted employment zone") and creating more than 10 full-time jobs in the U.S. within two years.

The \$500,000 at current exchange rates would require a Rand millionaire to make a R6.66 million investment.

Administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the EB-5 program approves and designates Regional Centers, such as the LCR Overseas Regional Center, to attract foreign investment into the U.S.

Since the program was created in 1990, thousands of immigrants have received permanent U.S. residency, creating tens of thousands of jobs at no cost to the U.S. taxpayer.

### Increased interest in U.S. Investment visas

Doug van der Merwe of LCR Capital, a private equity investment firm that assists high-net-worth individuals in acquiring the visas through investments, said that data from South Africa showed great interest in the EB-5 opportunity.

Applications in 2014 amounted to 14 in total, with an increase to 40 during 2015 demonstrating the growing demand for the investment visas from South Africa, according to [IOL](#).

“We think it’s likely that number will have doubled again in 2016, based on the increased interest we have recently experienced at LCR,” Van der Merwe said in reference to the 40 applications during 2015. “Political developments often drive demand in South Africa, and we are experiencing requests for information daily, rather than weekly, since the credit ratings downgrade. Previously, there was a spike in interest after Nenegate and during the Fees Must Fall protests,” he revealed.

South Africa was recently downgraded to junk status by both S&P Global Ratings and Fitch Ratings after a surprise cabinet reshuffle by President Jacob Zuma at the end of March, which included the removal of respected finance minister, Pravin Gordhan.

South Africa is home to around 40,400 dollar millionaires with the ability to launch applications for the program, with combined wealth holdings of US\$171 billion between them, according to [The South Africa 2017 Wealth Report](#).

Van der Merwe explained that LCR had offered South African investors the opportunity to invest in the Dunkin Donuts franchise through a private equity fund during 2016, and that the hugely popular opportunity was now closed to further investment.

He did, however, mention that a new investment opportunity was open to interested South Africans, at the Miami Surf Club Hotel.

“LCR is currently offering the opportunity to invest in the iconic Miami Surf Club hotel, a 1930s refurbishment whose developers are seeking \$100 million in working capital from foreigners, which also qualifies investors for EB-5 visas, due to its guaranteed job-creation prospects,” Van der Merwe added.

The timeline for a capital return in the EB-5 visa program is five years, but the investor is expected to secure a green card after around 18 months, according to the LCR [website](#).

The Trump administration is in the process of reviewing the EB-5 program, which was due to expire in April, with congress recently extending the immigration initiative until May 5 when they passed a continuing resolution to extend federal funding for a week, giving them time to review and extend the program for a longer term.

The program is likely to be reauthorized under a short-term budget bill, separate from large-scale immigration reforms that lobbyists and the Trump administration are currently discussing, according to the [Washington Post](#). (AFKI 02-05-2017)

### WORLD BANK APPROVES US\$80M CREDIT FOR MALAWI BUDGET SUPPORT

The World Bank board of directors has approved a MK58.9billion (US\$80million) credit facility to Malawi for general budget support.



This is the first budget support the bank is giving to the government of Malawi after a four-year break, following allegations of corruption in the public sector, which led to several international donors pulling out.

The bank, in a statement indicated that the budget support operation, fully referred to as the Agriculture Support and Fiscal Management Development Policy Operation (DPO), is the first of a proposed series of operations.

“It aims to improve incentives for private sector participation in agricultural markets, and to strengthen fiscal management through more effective expenditure controls and greater transparency.”

The bank added that Malawi’s policies and institution, particularly in the agricultural sector, have often exacerbated the country’s vulnerability, and the government has taken initial steps towards addressing vulnerability and the operation is to help boost those efforts.

The DPO supports a series of policy and institutional reforms that the government of Malawi is undertaking in order to reduce distortions in, and improve performance of the agriculture sector, and to restore basic public financial management and accountability systems.

Minister of Finance Goodall Gondwe said the resumption of budgetary support to the country shows donors’ confidence and trust in the country’s economic management.

“Our government is committed to breaking the cycle of vulnerability by making the necessary reforms that will lead to a more resilient and private sector-oriented agricultural sector, and by rebuilding integrity in our public financial management systems.”

It is a vote of confidence from the World Bank, after recognizing the efforts government has demonstrated, he added. (APA 05-05-2017)

## **THE HEAD OF THE WORLD BANK IS PUSHING A TERRIFYING PREDICTION FOR JOBS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES**



World Bank President Jim Yong Kim listens to opening remarks at the Development Committee’s news conference during the IMF and World Bank’s annual meetings in Washington,

World Bank president Jim Yong Kim said about two-thirds of jobs in the developing world may be lost to automation.

Kim made the comments during a presentation on May 1 at the Milken Institute Global Conference held at the Beverly Hilton.

Kim pointed out several countries in particular with high risk of job loss. In Ethiopia, 85% of jobs are vulnerable, compared to 77% in China and 72% in Thailand.

The prediction isn't new, as such. His comments at the Milken event echo those he made at the 2017 World Bank Group/IMF Spring meeting in April.

He said then:

"We estimate that two-thirds of all jobs that currently exist in developing countries will be wiped out by automation. At the same time the internet, smart phones, and social media allow everyone to see exactly how everyone else lives, which is causing aspirations to rise all over the world. I see this everywhere I go. So in the midst of these crises and with rising aspirations we must change the way we work in development finance. We have to find new and innovative ways to reach the poor and make the world more secure and stable and to help the world grow. "

And in 2016, the World Bank said two thirds of the jobs in [the developing world were susceptible to automation](#). The report said:

"Nobody can predict the full impact of technological change in coming decades, which may be faster and broader than previous ones. What is clear, however, is that policy makers face a race between technology and education, and the winners will be those who encourage skill upgrading so that all can benefit from digital opportunities."

Still, the number is striking. (DEV 01-05-2017)

### **MOZAMBIQUE PROBES DISAPPEARANCE OF 763KG OF IVORY**

Mozambique's National Administration of Conservation Areas (ANAC) is investigating the disappearance of 763 kilogrammes of ivory confiscated from poachers in the northern region of the country, the state-run Mozambique News Agency (AIM) reported on Friday.



According to AIM, thieves hacked through the ceiling of the storage room to gain access.

It said a team comprising members of the Criminal Investigation Services (SERNIC) and ANAC officials has been created to investigate the case.

The disappeared ivory consisted of 85 pairs of tusks held by the Niassa Provincial Forest and Wildlife Services.

The authorities attribute the disappearance to a succession of unsolved robberies that have occurred since April 2016.

Elephant tusks and rhinoceros horns, lion and leopard teeth, pelts and claws are among the trophies sought by the international traffic in animal parts in Mozambique.

Elephants have been worst affected and in the last five years amid reports that the population in the country's conservation areas has shrunk from about 20,000 to half that number.

Two years ago, Mozambique burned 2.5 tonnes of seized ivory and rhino horn as part of a campaign to end an illicit trade that was fuelling a wave of big-animal poaching in Africa.



Neighboring South Africa lost a record 1,125 rhinos last year, up 20 percent from 2013, as poachers looked to meet surging consumption in Vietnam, where the animal's horn is coveted as a key ingredient in traditional medicines. (APA 05-05-2017)

## US CONGRESS URGED TO MAKE AID TO EGYPT MORE CONDITIONAL

A bipartisan panel of experts on Egypt-U.S. relations is urging Congress to rethink its annual \$1.5 billion aid package to Cairo as the country fails to improve its human rights record.

The experts argued Egypt, under President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, is a military-run state, with no respect for human rights and rampant with government-sponsored anti-Americanism.

The scholars made their comments at a recent hearing of the Senate Appropriations Committee.

Michele Dunne, director of the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, began her remarks by mentioning recently leaked footage that appears to show Egyptian soldiers executing terror suspects in the Sinai Peninsula.

### Rising repression

"Egypt does face a serious threat from terrorism, but the unprecedented human rights abuses and political repression practiced by the government since 2013 is fanning the flames rather than putting them out," Dunne said. "And the U.S., at this point, does not have a way to ensure that our assistance is not making the problem worse instead of better."

She commended President Donald Trump's apparent reluctance to give Cairo whatever it wants as a positive sign. During President Sissi's recent visit to the U.S., he did not get a promise from the administration to keep aid coming without questioning conditions in the country, Dunne added.

Tom Malinowski, assistant secretary of state for human rights in Former President Barack Obama's administration, focused his testimony on the persistent crackdown and repression in Egypt.

"Over the last two or three years, the primary priority of the Egyptian military and General Sissi has not been to fight terrorism or improve governance," Malinowski said. "It has been to make sure that what happened in 2011 -- the Tahrir Square uprising -- can never ever happen again in Egypt, and that the power of the military over the country's politics and economics is not challenged."

Malinowski said as a result, the military has concentrated on persecuting political opponents, peaceful protesters, and independent, nongovernmental organizations -- the very people in Egypt who despise jihadis.

He criticized Egypt for its attacks on U.S.-funded nongovernmental organizations and urged Trump to adopt an "America first" human rights policy. Such a policy would call for the release of Egyptian-American political prisoners, such as recently freed aid worker Ayah Hijazi, Malinowski said.

President Donald Trump meets with Aya Hijazi, an Egyptian-American aid worker, in the Oval office of the White House in Washington, April 21, 2017.

Hijazi and four other humanitarian workers were released after [Trump spoke with Sissi on Hijazi's behalf](#).

### Creating more jihadis

Elliot Abrams, a senior fellow for Middle Eastern studies at the Council on Foreign Relations, urged Congress to link up to 25 percent of the annual \$1.3 billion military assistance package to progress on human rights. Current law only links 15 percent of aid to the issue.

Abrams said many of the big-ticket items Egypt is buying with the U.S. aid, such as fighter jets, are useless for battling terrorist threats such as the Islamic State. He also accused Egypt of creating more jihadis through its operations in the Sinai Peninsula.

"If you take 60,000 political prisoners, people who have not committed acts of violence, beat them up, toss them into prisons, keep them in for years, incarcerate them with real jihadis; what comes out at the end of that process is more jihadis," Abrams said.

He also argued that Egypt has lost the regional influence it had when the United States urged it to make peace with Israel in the late 1970s.

The experts urged Congress to retain the Obama administration's plan to end the cash flow to Egypt. Senators of both parties in the committee seemed to agree with much of the testimony offered by the panel.

At the end of the hearing, Senator Lindsey Graham, the committee chairman, said, "We need to reshape the relationship in a way that's sustainable. What I see is disheartening, and as to the taxpayer dollars we have, I think we're obligated to spend them wisely, consistent with our values."

The Trump administration has proposed replacing military assistance grants with loans for all countries except Israel. And the State Department is seeking a 42 percent cut in economic aid to Egypt, from \$143 million to \$75 million, according to draft budget documents obtained by Foreign Policy magazine. (VoA 27-04-2017)

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