MEMORANDUM

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Due to Technical Resons this issue of the Memorandum is published with delay

SUMMARY

TANZANIA: NEW MONEY TRANSFER SERVICE GOES LIVE

Terrapay has launched a international money transfer services to mobile wallets in Tanzania

Terrapay, an international payment company has launched an international money transfer service in Tanzania. The company received approval from the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) to send cross-border remittances to mobile wallets in Tanzania.

The service allows Tanzanians in the UK, France, Italy, Canada, US, South Africa and other countries to send remittances directly to Vodacom M-Pesa, Tigo Pesa, Airtel Money and Zantel Ezy Pesa Mobile Money account via TerraPay.

“Tanzania is one of the fastest growing country in mobile wallet space with a total of 18 Million active mobile money subscribers. The Bank of Tanzania’s recent move to provide TerraPay with a license to send international remittances to mobile wallets in the region will provide a boost to remittances in Tanzania. We are positive that other partners will join the TerraPay hub which will help to grow and sustain remittances to mobile wallet in the region.” said Ambar Sur, Founder and CEO of TerraPay.

Terrapay also partnered with Selcom, a Tanzanian mobile money aggregator to send money to Tanzania’s mobile wallets. Terrapay received a license from the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority for mobile-based domestic payments. (ITNA 08-05-2017)

MAURITIUS SBM HOLDINGS ACQUIRES MAJORITY STAKE OF KENYAN BANK

The SBM Holdings Limited of Mauritius has completed the acquisition of a majority stake in Kenyan owned, Fidelity Commercial Bank Limited (FCB), following the requisite regulatory approvals, the Central Bank of Kenya(CBK) said on Thursday.

SBM Africa is a fully-owned subsidiary of SBM Holdings Limited of Mauritius and has been approved by CBK as a non-operating holding company under section 13 of the banking act.

CBK has also approved the change of name from Fidelity Commercial Bank Limited to SBM Bank (Kenya) Limited, under Section 3 of the banking act.

“The entry of SBM Group into Kenya provides a welcome impetus to our banking sector. SBM will bring its experience and expertise from Mauritius and other markets, to enhance the competitiveness and resilience of Kenya’s banking sector,” said Dr. Patrick Njoroge.

“Going forward, SBM is well poised to play a significant role in financing intra-Africa trade and investments, using Kenya as a launching pad into other African markets,” he added in a statement.

As at September 30, 2016, Fidelity Commercial Bank Limited had an asset base of about US$4.2 billion.

SBM Group’s banking arm, SBM Bank (Mauritius) Ltd., is a leading bank in Mauritius with an international footprint in India, Madagascar, and a representative office in Myanmar.

SBM Group is pursuing an international expansion strategy, and for the African region, it is anchored on Kenya as the entry point for Eastern Africa. (APA 08-05-2017)

WORLD BANK APPROVES US$ 200M FOR ZAMBIA’S RURAL ROADS UPGRADE

A whopping US$ 200m has been approved by the World Bank’s Board of Executive Directors for the upgrade of rural roads in six of Zambia’s ten provinces.

The funds were approved under an International Development Association (IDA) credit under the IDA17 Scale-up Facility and will see Zambia selected roads improving.

Only 17 percent of people leaving in rural areas within 2 km of a good road in Zambia, leaving about 7.5 million rural residents unconnected to the road network in the country; this is according to the Rural Access Index.

The Improved Rural Connectivity Project will benefit approximately 460,000 people in the targeted rural areas.

World Bank Country Manager for Zambia Ina Ruthenberg confirmed the reports and said that the Improved Rural Connectivity Project is significant for Zambia because it will develop connectivity in rural areas where poverty levels are particularly high.

“This is good initiative set to be undertaken in Zambia, it will really improve the connectivity in rural areas where poverty levels are particularly high,” Ruthenberg noted.

World Bank Senior Transport Specialist Justin Runji also pointed out that the project will contribute towards addressing institutional capacity challenges, particularly in the area of road maintenance and road safety in the country where feeder roads are largely in poor condition.

“The project will add up to addressing institutional capacity challenges, mainly in the area of road maintenance and road safety in the country where feeder roads are largely in poor condition,” Mr. Runji said.

The development project supports the Government of Zambia’s development priorities as reflected in the National Development Plan and Vision 2030.

The Zambian Government will finance the rural roads of the remaining four provinces.(CRO 10-05-2017)

SENEGALESE SCHOLAR URGES PRUDENCE ON LAND REFORM

The land reforms introduced by the Senegalese government require adequate precaution especially when it involves critical thinking, Professor Abdou Wakhab Ndiaye, a lecturer at the school of Law at Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, warned on Wednesday.

"Of course, there are many land reforms that need to be done in Senegal, but it takes patience and especially cautiousness so that these reforms are carried through taking into account the realities of the country," Pr Ndiaye said, highlighting the complexity of Senegalese land law.

He was addressing a press conference at the launch ceremony of his book entitled "Senegalese Law of Real Estate Contracts".

Senegal launched the land reform process in 2014, under the aegis of the National Land Reform Commission (CNRF).

Out of a population of more than 13 million, only 103,000 land titles are registered.

"Senegalese land law is complex. Many land disputes are due to a lack of knowledge of land laws. There are even lawyers who do not master the issue the way they should," the land expert observed.

Speaking about his book, he explained that he means it to meet the demands of the students who were its first target, but also those of the law lecturers and lawyers. (APA 11-05-2017)

RWANDA URGED TO ENGAGE PRIVATE DEVELOPERS TO FIX HOUSING CHALLENGE

Experts have urged the Rwandan government to work with private developers with a view to fix the housing challenge in the country.

The experts say that the government is spending a lot of resources on feasibility studies, research and project expropriation instead of working with the developers to bring affordable units on to the market.

Charles Haba, the director of Century Real Estate, and chairman Rwanda Real Estate Developers Association advised the government to buy housing units from developers instead of wasting money on projects that are yet to materialize.

He said that working with private developers will help save lots of money, while addressing the current housing deficit in the country.

Earlier on this week, the Government recently launched a new affordable housing fund is estimated to cost between $200 million and $250 million. The fund, which is due to start in July will enable persons earning between $360 and $840 in monthly wages to buy a house. It will be used to subsidize mortgage loans or directly provide funding to private developers at low interest rates.

Samson Muvuzankwaya, who is in charge of affordable housing at the Rwanda National Authority said the government is already supporting developers who will bring affordable houses to the market through the provision of availing land, basic infrastructure like road network, electricity, water supply, and waste management among other amenities.

Investors and local SME's looking to venture into the market and establish large and medium scale material production plants will get with tax exemption on machinery and raw materials from the government.

This is all with a view to achieving the goal of 344,068 housing units by 2020 so as to be able to meet the growing demand in the country.

However, those at the forefront of developing these units have often been accused of inflating prices, making the units expensive. Equally experts have also blamed banks for charging high rates on mortgages, which has further stifled the situation.(CRO 11-05-2017)

KENYAN LEADER SEEKS TRADE PACT WITH UK

President Uhuru Kenyatta on Thursday met Prime Minister Theresa May and sought a pact to guarantee Kenyan exports accessed the UK market on a duty-free quota-free basis after the country exits from the European Union.

At a landmark meeting at Number 10 Downing Street, President Kenyatta also spoke strongly about strengthening bilateral relations with Britain, and closer security cooperation, especially in regard to Somalia.

Kenyatta arrived in Britain Wednesday night to attend the Third London Conference on Somalia at the famed Lancaster House and to meet PM May on deepening bilateral relations for one of the country's long-term allies. The President will also meet Prince William at Buckingham Palace on Friday.

It was the first meeting between the Kenyan leader and the British Prime Minister. The UK is Kenya's third most important export destination after Uganda and the United States, and the leading source market for Kenya's lifeblood tourism sector.

There are hundreds of UK companies in Kenya, valued in the trillions.

The President's agenda is about ensuring a conducive environment so businesses can thrive in order to provide much-needed jobs, and deepen security in Kenya and the region in order to foster growth and inclusive prosperity.

"It is Kenya's desire to continue having seamless trade relations during and after Brexit. We wish to continue accessing the UK market duty-free and quota-free after the UK exits the EU," Kenyatta said.

Kenyatta and Prime Minister May agreed on creating a working group to examine a new framework for bilateral and economic relations between the two countries to ensure predictability and continuation of the existing market conditions after Brexit.

The President and the Prime Minister also discussed Kenya's counter-terrorism program in the context of deepening the security architecture for Kenya and the region, and the Prime Minister made commitment to support the program.

Kenyatta also pressed for the re-establishment of a UK visa processing centre in Nairobi, to serve as a regional office for Eastern and Central Africa. Currently UK visas for the region are processed in the South African capital Pretoria. (APA 11-05-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA: MINING SECTOR SOARS MORE THAN 15% ON BETTER COMMODITY PRICES

The mining industry is picking up significantly, building on the gains made in February. This indicates that the mining sector will make a positive contribution to first-quarter GDP.

Mining production increased dramatically — 15.5% year-on-year in March 2017 — on an improvement in commodity prices and uptick in demand.

The biggest contributors were platinum group metals (PGMs), which were up 30% and contributed 6.1 percentage points; iron ore, which increased 24.4% and contributed four percentage points; coal which was up 8.1% and contributed 2 percentage points; and diamonds which experienced a huge increase of 53.8% and contributed 1.6 percentage points.

Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 3.7% in March 2017 compared with 2.3% in February.

Seasonally adjusted mining production increased by 3.5% in the first quarter of 2017 compared with the previous quarter, with PGMs contributing 3.5 percentage points. (BD 11-05-2017)

TANZANIA ORDERS 131,000 TONES OF SUGAR

Tanzania's Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa has said that his government has ordered for 131,000 tones of sugar to cater for deficit that is facing the country.

He said this on Thursday in Dodoma when responding to a question from CCM House of Representative Mr. Jaku Ayoub.

Ayoub wanted to know how the government planned to ensure there will be no sugar shortage ahead of Ramadan.

"We have already ordered for 131,000 tones of sugar, 35,000 tones already in the market," he said. (APA 11-05-2017)

WHY EQUITY INVESTORS ARE RETREATING FROM SOUTH AFRICA

Equity investors are flocking offshore in the wake of the recent foreign-currency debt downgrades, afraid of weak economic growth and its effect on the value of their investment portfolios.

This has tested some asset managers' offshore allocation limits. "The allocation to offshore assets in unit trust funds where we have discretion, [such as] our regulation 28 funds, have largely been at or close to their maximum offshore allowance, so there has been no real change here, as we couldn't increase direct offshore exposure any further," said Paul Hutchinson, a sales manager at Investec Asset Management.

Regulation 28 is a section of the Pension Funds Act limiting how much asset managers can invest in each asset class for retirement funds. The Reserve Bank's limit for investment in offshore assets is 25%.

"In terms of the Investec Equity Fund, however, over the past month we have increased our offshore allocation. The fund can invest up to 25% of its assets offshore, but we were comfortable with an allocation of about 12.5% until recently," Hutchinson said. "We have used the ... recent period of a bit of rand strength to enhance the fund's diversification by increasing its offshore allocation from 12.5% to 20%, a level we believe is more appropriate for the environment."

This includes the effect of the recent downgrades of SA's foreign currency debt. The World Bank estimates these may cost SA 1% of GDP and nudge another 160,000 citizens into poverty.

Nick Brummer, director at InvestOnline, said about 20% of the investment adviser's clients had asked about moving funds offshore, while Hutchinson said rand-denominated funds feeding into offshore assets and direct offshore funds at Investec Asset Management had seen big increases in inflows.

Hutchinson warned, however, that an investment in dollars at the beginning of 2016 would have eroded savings 20%, so this would not be the "ultimate protection".

"In addition, despite SA not growing much, the JSE has many offshore opportunities to supplement potential local disappointments," Brummer said.

Domestic investors have been net sellers of R10bn of government debt. Unfortunately, foreign investors are concentrating on the 10-year part of the yield curve

Hutchinson said while portfolio managers sometimes wished the 25% offshore cap could be lifted, SA companies earning most of their money offshore mitigated this somewhat.

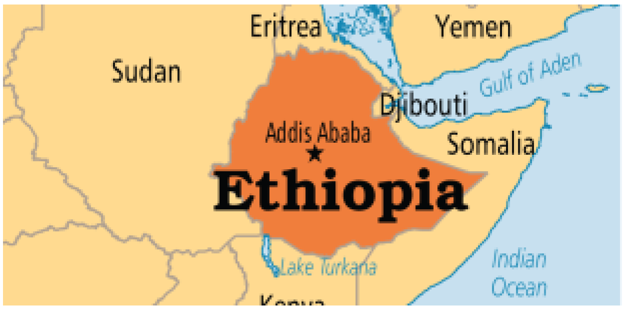
In fixed income, foreign investors are propping up the market as large domestic investors sell off their holdings in government debt, and bond auctions at state-owned companies draw scant interest.

"SA appears to have escaped without serious financial consequences, as the 10-year government bond yield is only 15 basis points higher than it was before the cabinet reshuffle," said Nazmeera Moola, co-head of fixed income at Investec Asset Management. "However, the local bond market has been propped up by foreign investors, who have invested R22bn into government debt since the cabinet reshuffle. There have been massive inflows into emerging market debt funds, totalling $8bn in April and more than $30bn since the start [of 2017].

"In contrast, domestic investors have been net sellers of R10bn of government debt. Unfortunately, foreign investors are concentrating on the 10-year part of the yield curve." She said SA's improving inflation profile should have positioned it as "a place to hide" in emerging markets if commodity prices continued to soften. "Instead, the cabinet reshuffle makes it one of the first places foreign investors would seek to sell if they face outflows from their funds."(BD 11-05-2017)

ABOUT 400,000 UNDOCUMENTED ETHIOPIANS LIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA

About 400,000 undocumented Ethiopians are estimated to live in Saudi Arabia and only 23,000 of them have so far taken travel documents, a top government official announced on Thursday.



Meles Alem, Spokesperson of Ethiopia's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) told reporters that the government of Ethiopia has been working to ensure the safe returns of undocumented Ethiopians right after the announcement of the amnesty which came into force on March 29.

Saudi Arabia announced the "Nation Free of Violators" campaign on March 19, to help undocumented expatriates regularize their status.

With only 43 days left to the deadline, the number of undocumented Ethiopians who have been returning to their home country is still less, the spokesperson said

He said the government of Ethiopia is urging its citizens who have been living in Saudi Arabia without residence and work permit to take advantage of the 90-day amnesty granted by Saudi Arabia.

As part of the efforts to encourage them, it granted duty-free privileges allowing them to bring home 21 types of personal properties.

Meles called on Ethiopians to take all the advantages to avoid acts that will endanger their lives.

Foreigners staying illegally in Saudi Arabia will face detention and pay fines of 15,000-50,000 riyals if they fail to leave the country within the amnesty.

Under the amnesty, however, undocumented foreigners will be able to leave the kingdom without paying any fines or being subject to legal action. (APA 11-05-2017)

NIGERIA WANTS $5.2BN FROM WORLD BANK TO EXPAND ELECTRICITY GENERATION

Nigeria is seeking $5.2bn from the World Bank to expand electricity generation and help the economy recover from its first contraction in 25 years.

The bank's private-sector lending arm, the International Finance Corporation, may invest about $1.3bn in power projects and electricity distribution companies. Its political-risk insurer, the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency, could provide equity and debt of $1.4bn for gas and solar power programmes, according to Power, Works and Housing Minister Babatunde Fashola.

That's in addition to loans of $2.5bn Nigeria is seeking from the lender to help improve the distribution of power, expand transmission-capacity and increase access to electricity in rural areas, Fashola said.

"Disbursements with the World Bank are being worked out to start from around June, July this year," Fashola said in an interview from his office in the capital, Abuja on May 4. Nigeria is asking the lender to bring forward the timetables "because next year we want to see results", he said.

Africa's most populous nation produces about 4,000MW of power compared with a average peak generation of about 35,000MW in SA, with a population that's less than a third of the size of Nigeria's 180-million. The lack of supply increases production costs for many businesses forced to provide their own electricity, mostly using diesel-run generators. The Nigerian economy shrank 1.5% last year, the first full-year contraction since 1991 due to a fall in oil prices and production, and dollar shortages. GDP could expand 0.8% this year and 1.9% in 2018, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Fashola, who presided over several infrastructure projects in Nigeria's commercial hub of Lagos as its governor, was appointed by Buhari last year to boost the power industry, one of the biggest impediments to growth in the country.

Power-generation and distribution companies are facing cash-flow difficulties, partly because of foreign-exchange losses, outages due to technical faults, and the theft of electricity by some users, according to Fashola. In 2016, power distributors paid only 27% of the 331-billion naira ($1bn) that generating companies invoiced, according to the National Bureau of Statistics.

Cost-reflective tariffs

Last month, Buhari introduced an economic plan that proposes cost-reflective electricity tariffs, partly to attract investment in the sector and help the economy recover. Power distributors should fix meters to measure what they receive from generators and what they sell to users, Fashola said. The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission should simplify the price-setting formula and work with the central bank to protect the tariff from exchange-rate fluctuations, he said.

Nigeria's currency lost about a third of its value against the dollar after the central bank removed a 197 to 199 naira to dollar peg in June. The regulator continued to intervene in the market to keep the naira at about 315 to the dollar, which helped create a thriving black market where foreign currency cost about 30% more. Electricity tariffs were fixed before the naira was devalued.

"I don't think we will have any successful tariff regime where you have a very fluid exchange rate," Fashola said. Depreciation of the naira "wiped out any or most of the gains that the new tariff should have conferred".

The national grid can currently only transmit about 6,200MW, with projects in the pipeline to expand that capacity to 10,000MW by 2019, Fashola said.

The World Bank said in a statement last month that Nigeria's power sector is characterised by poor service and lack of liquidity, which causes macro-economic imbalances and a binding constraint to economic recovery. The lender will support the government's power-sector recovery plan, according to the statement. (Bloomberg 09-05-2017)

SACU 'VERY IMPORTANT' TO MEMBER STATES

The 107-year-old Southern African Customs Union (SACU) remains essential as it continues to advance the common interests of its member states, says Swazi's King Mswati III.

Speaking during his visit to the customs union offices in Windhoek on Thursday, King Mswati said it was through SACU that increased markets for goods and services from the region can be secured, through various trade negotiations that seek to advance greater regional and continental integration.

"SACU participates as a bloc and advances common positions in the COMESA-EAC-SADC tripartite, as well as the continental free trade area negotiations," added King Mswati, who is also the chairman of SACU.

The customs union that was established in 1910 is made up of Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland, with the secretariat located in the Namibian capital.

The objectives of the union, as contained in Article 2 of the 2002 SACU Agreement, include the facilitation of cross-border movement of goods between the territories of the member states.

"We are grateful that at SACU level, regional industrialisation has been identified as the overarching priority area in the SACU working programme. It addresses the formulation of policy initiatives, as well as the identification of cross border value chains," King Mswati continued, while heaping praises on the SACU Secretariat for maintaining sound financial and good governance operations.

"All the audits conducted over the years have been very positive – an achievement that you should all take pride in as staff of the secretariat. This is highly commendable and should be maintained in future," he advised. (APA 11-05-2017)

EU-TUNISIA ASSOCIATION COUNCIL: TOWARDS A STRENGTHENED FUTURE PARTNERSHIP WITH A FOCUS ON YOUTH AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

The 13th session of the EU-Tunisia Association Council was held today in Brussels. On this occasion, the two parties noted with satisfaction the progress achieved since the 12th session held on 18 April 2016, in terms of the implementation of the Privileged Partnership Action Plan for 2013-2017.

The EU and Tunisia agreed on the importance of making progress in identifying a new framework for the future Partnership to replace the current Action Plan for a Privileged Partnership (2013-2017), to define priorities that reflect the scale and the depth of the privileged relations, and to meet their ambitions for the future.

The two sides had an exchange of views at high level on regional issues of common interest, in particular the situation in Libya. They noted with satisfaction the marked improvement in the security situation in Tunisia and emphasised the progress achieved in their bilateral cooperation in the field of security and the fight against terrorism.

Noting the opportunities and challenges posed by migration, the EU and Tunisia reiterated their wish to define together a common vision for the proper management of migration flows within their Mobility Partnership.

The 13th session of the Association Council provided an opportunity to identify concrete bilateral actions in the priority areas of youth and of economic development:

Youth Partnership

As part of the implementation of the 'EU-Tunisia Youth Partnership' initiative launched on 1 December 2016, the two parties agreed on priority themes such as: youth employability; education in the wider sense; the participation of young people in public and political life and the strengthening of links between young Tunisians and Europeans.

Partnership for Growth

In an enhanced effort to promote trade and investment and with the aim of supporting the Tunisian government's efforts for its economic transition, the two sides discussed the main thrusts of the 'Partnership for Growth' announced in the Joint EU Communication on 'Strengthening EU support for Tunisia'. They also pledged to strengthen their economic and trade relations and reaffirmed their commitment to continuing negotiations on a Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreement (DCFTA).

In the margins of the Association Council's work, the two parties signed:

- an agreement on Tunisia's participation in the European programme to support the cultural and creative sectors entitled 'Creative Europe';
- a financial Convention for the 'Integrated Local Development Pilot Initiative'. With a grant of EUR 60 million, this initiative aims to support the government's efforts in the decentralisation process aimed at reducing inequalities in regional development. (EEAS 11-05-2017)

Joint Declaration

EU cooperation with Tunisia

NAMIBIA ANTI-GRAFT BODY WIDENS PROBE ON OIL STORAGE TENDER

Namibia’s Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) said it has widened its investigation into how a N$3.7 billion (about US$277 million) contract for a national oil storage facility ballooned to N$5.5 billion last year.

ACC has been investigation allegations of irregularities around the tendering process for the construction of national oil and petroleum facility at Walvis Bay in 2013.

The contract was jointly awarded to China Harbour Engineering Company, with local partners Road Contractor Company and Baby Civil in 2014.

ACC director Paulus Noa said now they have spread the probe to include how the value of the project shot up.

ACC set its sight on individuals who were involved in the tender process that includes officials at the Ministry of Mines and Energy, members of the cabinet technical committee, the ministerial committee and members of the former tender board, which has since replaced by Central Procurement Board.

“We need to investigate the role that all these committees played in the entire process and why conditions set out in the tender regulations were not adhered to.

“We need to hear from these different people about what led to the ballooning of the price. However, we have not started questioning anybody at this stage,” Noa told Confidénte newspaper. (APA 11-05-2017)

EU EXTENDS €49 MILLION FUNDING TO BOOST SOMALIA’S EDUCATION SECTOR

EU Ambassador to Somalia Veronique Lorenzo on Tuesday announced €49 million Euros funding to boost Somalia’s education sector, the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) said on Wednesday in a statement.

The signing of the new education package took place in the capital Mogadishu, between the EU ambassador and the Minister of Planning, Investment and Economic promotion of Somalia, Jamal Mohamed Hassan.

“The programme will consolidate some of our achievements and expand equitable and inclusive quality education”, Ms. Lorenzo said.

EU’s support to Somalia since 2008 surpasses 2.5 billion Euros, in development, humanitarian aid and stabilization, thus making it the country’s biggest development partner. (APA 10-05-2017)

MALAWI, MOZAMBIQUE AND ZIMBABWE INK DEAL TO COMBAT MALARIA AND CHOLERA

The ministers of Health from Mozambique, Malawi and Zimbabwe have signed an agreement committing them to design and implement a comprehensive and coordinated response together on their borders, in halting the transmission of cholera and malaria in the three countries, APA can report on Wednesday.

The three countries are members of the Southern African Development Community, SADC, and share common borders.

The deal was formalized on Wednesday at the end of cross-border meeting held in Mozambique's western province of Tete, hosted by Mozambique's Minister of Health, Nazira Abdula, her Zimbabwean counterpart David Parirenyatwa, and Malawi's ambassador to Mozambique, Frank Viyazhi.

The meeting, supported by the World Health Organization (WHO), highlights the need to improve the management of public health emergencies with a focus on cholera and malaria at border crossings of the three countries; as well as reverse the epidemiological situation in border districts.

Also within the framework of the meeting, the countries committed to developing recommendations to strengthen epidemiological surveillance and response to priority endemic diseases in border areas, according to a WHO media statement emailed to APA.

Malaria and diarrheal diseases, including cholera, are a major public health problem in the region. Since January, the three countries have collectively reported more than four million cases of the disease with 949 deaths.

Cholera originated over two thousand cases with seven deaths. Typhoid fever caused 13,016 episodes and resulted in five deaths.

Because of the large movement of people at the frontiers for socio-economic reasons, the epidemiological situation of malaria and diarrheal diseases, including cholera and other communicable diseases, has been experiencing a significant deterioration.

The media release said the three countries must develop a coordinated cross-border research agenda to fill gaps in knowledge, improve the selection and prioritization of interventions, and identify innovative strategies to improve the epidemiological situation in the three countries.

The three countries also committed to establishing a Working Group and developing the standard procedures for community surveillance and institutional epidemiological surveillance, as well as creating a mechanism for sharing data among them.

The WHO representative in Mozambique, Djamila Cabral, called for greater inter-sectoral coordination and collaboration, as well as the implementation of joint actions, to ensure positive results in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

Staff from the three countries' ministries of health and WHO, as well as representatives from other partners attended the meeting.
(APA 10-05-2017)

TOWARDS A STRENGTHENING OF EU-TUNISIA PRIVILEGED PARTNERSHIP: REPORT FINDS TANGIBLE PROGRESS IN RELATIONS

The European Commission and the European External Action Service published their first report on the state of EU-Tunisia relations in 2015-2016, in accordance with the revised European Neighbourhood Policy and prior to the Association Council being to be held on 11 May 2017.

Six years on from the 2011 revolution, and particularly over the past two years, there has been tangible progress, in particular as regards democratic consolidation and promotion of good governance, enhanced security, and exchange and integration between the people of Tunisia and Europe. The EU's constant support, which began immediately after the revolution, was further displayed when Tunisia was associated in the Horizon 2020 research programme and the Erasmus+ programme, and when EU-Tunisia partnerships for both youth and mobility were adopted.

"Since the 2011 revolution, Tunisia has been a ray of hope for our common region. It has been a beacon for change and for the aspirations of the Mediterranean people. Today, Tunisia needs to consolidate what it has achieved over the past few years. The change initiated in Tunisia must continue, and we, as Europeans, stand alongside the Tunisians and the young people of Tunisia, who are the country's great wealth, every step of the way. Through these actions, the European Union is demonstrating its continuing support for Tunisia. We will continue to work to deepen our collaboration in all possible areas – political, cultural, economic, social and security-related – and to intensify exchanges between our societies and between our young people, based on the conviction that this will lead to a positive outcome." declared the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Federica Mogherini**.**

The Commissioner for European Neighbourhood Policy and Enlargement Negotiations, Johannes Hahn said: "*Tunisia is facing a major challenge: to translate the incredible democratic achievements of the past years into tangible successes, and to create growth and employment, thereby giving the people of Tunisia, in particular its young people, prospects for the future. With the joint Communication presented in Autumn 2016, the EU tabled a series of proposals to support Tunisia in its reform efforts, mobilising a whole range of instruments, including substantial financial assistance. The recent adoption by the Tunisian Parliament of the Five-Year Development Plan 2016-2020 will make it possible to anchor the EU's financial support in a coherent and targeted strategy. It is now urgent to move into high gear and translate these reforms into day-to-day life." (EEAS 10-05-2017)*

Full report

EU cooperation with Tunisia

SUDANESE BADR AIRLINE RESUMES FLIGHTS FROM KHARTOUM TO S/SUDAN

South Sudan's ambassador to Sudan, Mayen Dut Wol, has announced that the Sudanese BADR airline, which halted direct operations in 2011, will resume operations between Khartoum, Juba and Wau from next Monday.

The move came after Aloor Airline Company in South Sudan agreed in Khartoum with BADR airline for a joint operation between South Sudan and the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

On Wednesday, a joint delegation led by Wol made an assessment visit to Wau airport ahead of Monday's flight launch.
"We came here actually with those of BADR flight because they are planning to operate between Juba-Wau, Wau-Juba-Khartoum and we came here with the technical team to investigate Wau airport. This is the main reason we came here and from next Monday, we'll launch flights that will start from Khartoum-Juba-Wau," said Wol.
Ahmed Osam Abu Shaira, the airline's Chief Executive Officer (CEO), called on South Sudan and the Sudanese government to establish a Sudan coordination office in Wau to make the direct flight process from Wau to Khartoum an easy one.
"This morning we are in Wau and very happy to be in here; it is an important visit. First, let me thank the people of Wau and, secondly, we have come with the technical team to obtain permission from the Wau airport to land here. There will be a big jet that will be taking passengers from Wau, Juba and Khartoum," said Ahmed.
The airline's CEO said the visit was to make a request that would allow flights to land in Wau, instead of first going to the South Sudan capital.
David John Ponis, Wau State Information Minister, said the move would help citizens have access to Khartoum, allowing them medical and other services.
"This will help the citizens in a big way. It will help those who are ill and need to go to Khartoum for treatment because sometimes it costs a lot of money to go to Juba and then Khartoum. Trips like this cost a lot, but now we are able to help our citizens with such expenses, so if somebody is sick in Wau and there is a Sudanese coordination office in Wau, they can immediately get their visa processed and get a flight from Wau to Khartoum," said Ponis.
Between 2004 and 2011, BADR airline operated between Wau and Khartoum, but cut stopped its services following the independence of South Sudan in 2011. (APA 10-05-2017)

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Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be