

# MEMORANDUM

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*The Memorandum will not be published from May 25th to June 10th, for a short period of holidays*

*We will come back afterwards, with the selection of daily relevant African news*

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## **SOUTH AFRICA: BUST-UP AS BLACK BUSINESS COUNCIL QUILTS BUSA**

The Black Business Council will go it alone as a voice of black business, in a move it says was caused by Business Unity SA ejecting BBC representatives from Nedlac

The Black Business Council (BBC) has ended its relationship with Business Unity SA (Busa).

BBC president Danisa Baloyi said the move comes after BBC representatives were kicked out of a National Economic Development and Labour Council (Nedlac) meeting by Busa delegates.

This marks the end of a 23-year partnership between white and black business representatives.

Baloyi said: "The BBC will continue participating in Nedlac as an independent voice of black business and we believe this will provide a great opportunity for BBC to advocate the aspirations of our people.

"We have declared 2017 the year of radical economic transformation, and on platforms such as Nedlac we will continue to advocate a less apologetic approach to economic redress.

"The closed-door approach by Busa is directly contrary to the BBC's open-door policy, which has been a key pillar of the 23-year-old relationship."

BBC secretary-general George Sebulela said: "Civil society must be wary of these approaches lest they become the next victims of Mabuza's constant exclusion of black people in positions of power," referring to Busa president Jabu Mabuza.

Sebulela said: "White business cannot keep the social dialogue alive alone. You need the BBC, a different organisation fighting for the aspiration of black people, and white business doesn't seem to realise this fact. They are finding it very difficult to work with black people."

BUSA says it is the recognised voice at Nedlac for business and that it had formally advised the BBC of the termination of cooperation at Nedlac on May 11 this year.

In a statement released on Monday, Busa said: "The BBC will no longer be represented through Busa at Nedlac. This does not prevent the BBC from seeking their own seat at Nedlac in line with the Nedlac Act and Constitution."

Busa added that the decision to terminate the participation of the BCC through Busa in Nedlac was taken unanimously by the Busa board and that the two organisations were not aligned on key issues facing the economy. (BD 22-05-2017)

## **CHINA SUPPORTS CREATION OF SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN CABO VERDE**

China will support the creation of a maritime Special Economic Zone (SEZ) on the Cape Verdean island of S. Vicente, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Saturday at a meeting in Praia with his Cape Verdean counterpart Luís Filipe Tavares.

The Cape Verdean Foreign Minister announced that the Chinese government will also finance the construction of a new maternity hospital in S. Vicente to serve the northern region of the country.

During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed the economic and political cooperation between the two countries, currently involving 12 projects, worth an estimated 30 million euros, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

Luís Filipe Tavares said that Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) will now begin to carry out the economic feasibility study of the Special Economic Zone and maternity projects, estimating that they will be operational by the end of this legislature.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi recalled that Chinese cooperation has taken into account the needs of the country, ensuring the necessary support for Cape Verdean projects.

The head of Chinese diplomacy stressed the importance of Cabo Verde's geographical position, adding that the Cape Verdean government "expressed a willingness to participate in the "Belt and Road" initiative of the Chinese government.

This initiative includes a set of rail and road routes, pipelines and ports, which extend from China to Europe, with alternative routes that pass through countries in South Asia, India, Iran and Turkey and arrive in Africa. (22-05-2017)

## AU CAIRE, LA COMMISSION SALUE L'ADOPTION DE L'AGENDA URBAIN DE L'UNION POUR LA MEDITERRANEE

[L'Union pour la Méditerranée](#) (UpM), forum de coopération et de dialogue entre les Etats membres de l'UE et 15 pays au Sud et à l'Est de la Méditerranée, adoptera aujourd'hui au Caire une Déclaration établissant un Agenda Urbain pour la région. Véritable feuille de route pour un développement urbain durable dans le Bassin Méditerranéen, sa méthodologie reprend les principes fondateurs de [l'Agenda Urbain de l'UE](#) dont les autres pays se sont inspirés: [groupes de travail thématiques](#) sur les principaux enjeux urbains (qualité de l'air, logement et inclusion sociale, mobilité durable, entrepreneuriat...), gouvernance partagée et pleine implication des villes, ainsi que des partenaires de la société civile et du secteur privé. L'Agenda Urbain de l'UpM poursuit également [les objectifs de développement durable des Nations Unis d'ici à 2030](#), notamment [l'objectif 11 sur des villes durables](#), ainsi que les objectifs du [Nouvel Agenda Urbain](#) qui en découle, adopté par les Nations Unis en Octobre 2016. Assurant la co-présidence de la réunion ministérielle au Caire, la Commissaire à la politique régionale Corina **Crețu** a salué l'adoption de ce nouveau programme de développement urbain: *"Les villes et les acteurs locaux, y compris de la sphère privée, connaissent mieux que personnes les problématiques urbaines. Leur participation à l'élaboration des politiques qui les concernent directement ne peut que bénéficier aux millions de personnes qui vivent autour de la Méditerranée. J'espère ainsi que l'on saura tirer profit de l'expérience et des pratiques qui font le succès de l'Agenda Urbain de l'UE."* (22-05-2017)

## W/BANK PLEDGES \$4.9B TO ETHIOPIA OVER THREE YEARS

The World Bank Group says it will provide \$4.9 billion for land, watershed restoration and women entrepreneurship projects as well as the Productive Safety Net program in Ethiopia.



The money will be released over the next three years

The pledge was announced on Thursday by the World Bank Managing Director, Kristalina Georgieva after holding discussion with Ethiopia's Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonen on ways of further enhancing partnership toward eradicating poverty.

After the discussion on Thursday, the Georgieva told journalists that the World Bank is preparing a country partnership framework and the national envelope for Ethiopia is in the order of \$4.9 billion.

"I was reporting that the World Bank will be able to provide very sizeable support for Ethiopia for the next three years", she added.

The Managing Director noted that "together we have achieved tremendous progress in addressing the most important priorities of the government to make sure that poverty continues to decline."

Ethiopia has made huge progress in reducing the number of people living under poverty and to work in encouraging the entrepreneurship potential of this great country, Kristalina Georgieva said.

She appreciated the commitment of federal and local authorities in all of what she saw in the areas of cooperation.

Georgieva said "I also see that the results of these programs are incredibly positive", adding that "Ethiopia is moving up and we are proud to be partners in achieving very good results for people here".

Deputy Prime Minister Demeke Mekonen said the bank's support towards eradicating poverty and women entrepreneurship as well as infrastructure, education, health, among others, are encouraging.

The Deputy PM expressed his hope that the bank would continue its support to Ethiopia, especially in areas of risk management and climate change. (APA 18-05-2017)

## NEW VOLKSWAGEN ASSEMBLY PLANT TO BE CONSTRUCTED IN RWANDA

A new Volkswagen assembly plant is set to be erected in Rwanda this is after the signing of an agreement between the German carmaker [Volkswagen](#) and the Government of Rwanda.

President Paul Kagame received the Chairman of Volkswagen, Dr Herbert Diess, and Thomas Schäfer, the Chief Executive of Volkswagen South Africa where they got to sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the [Rwanda Development Board](#) (RDB) chief executive, Mr. Francis Gatere.

Mr. Schäfer confirmed the reports and said that the assembly plant is projected to produce at least 5,000 vehicles per year and could be set up by the end of 2017.

This initiative is part of Volkswagen's plan to develop markets in Africa and it came immediately after the firm inaugurated its third production facility in Kenya, which is the heart of the East African market, while two others are operational in South Africa and Nigeria.

"We are launching a concept that will foster individual mobility in this rapidly developing country and make the Rwandan market a further pillar of the Volkswagen brand's commitment to Africa," Mr. Schäfer said.

The agreement will permit Volkswagen to begin assembling cars in Rwanda that are easy to maintain and that are low on fuel consumption and gas emission while also making it easy for the citizens to access and use the vehicles.

The mega project will not only bring a plant to assemble Volkswagen cars but also service centres that will handle repairs and this is the kind of car people should start getting ready to buy.

In line with the company's commitment to Rwanda and the training of local people, Volkswagen has pondered the possibility of cooperation with other German companies to establish a local technical academy to ease transfer of technology and skills, its officials said in a media release related to yesterday's agreement with Rwanda.

Volkswagen is a German automaker founded by the German Labour Front and headquartered in Wolfsburg. It is the flagship marque of the Volkswagen Group and is the largest automaker worldwide. (CRO 03--03-2017)

## ETHIOPIA EARNS OVER \$164M FROM ELECTRICITY SALE

Ethiopia earned more than \$164 million from the sale electric power over the past 10 months, the country's Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity announced on Thursday.



More than \$49.4 million of the total revenue was made from power exported to Sudan and Djibouti, according to Bizeneh Tolcha, public relations head at the ministry.

The revenue was \$39 million lower than the projected \$204 million, he added.

In addition to meeting local demand, Ethiopia plans to sell electric power to neighbouring countries once the power projects being built are completed.

Ethiopia and Tanzania early this year had signed a power purchase deal, which allows the latter to buy 400MW from the Horn of African nation.

Kenya also showed interest to buy 200MW, and work on the construction of a power transmission line has been launched by the Chinese firm China Electric Power Equipment and Technology (CET).

With the projected cost of over 1.2 billion US dollars, the transmission line was financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB), and runs about 1,045km, with 445km in Ethiopia's territory and the rest in Kenya.

Ethiopia is investing billions of dollars to construct a number of power plants, including what would be Africa's largest dam, the Grand Ethiopia Renaissance Dam (GERD).

GERD is currently over 58 percent complete, and will have power generating capacity of 6,450 MW. (APA 18-05-2017)

## RAND RECOVERS LOSSES DESPITE RISK-OFF SENTIMENT

The rand was 1.2% firmer against the dollar on Friday afternoon, as it regained the losses it shed on Thursday. The rand weakened by nearly 3% on Thursday when emerging-market currencies succumbed to the political concerns in the US and Brazil.

Concerns over the ability of US President Donald Trump's administration to deliver the economic stimulus he promised during his campaign led to a softer dollar. Meanwhile, emerging-market contagion related to Brazilian President Michel Temer is compounding the effects of the growing risk-off sentiment. Investec economist Kamilla Kaplan said these political developments dampened risk sentiment and weighed on the performance of emerging-market currencies over the course of the week. "The broader economic backdrop remains favourable for emerging-market currencies, with global growth set to lift higher."

At 3.30pm, the rand was at R13.2627 to the dollar from R13.4244, at R14.8413 to the euro from 14.9179, and at R17.2712 to the pound from R17.3954. (BD 19-05-2017)

## ORANGE LAUNCHES BRAND IN LIBERIA

Orange, one of the world's leading telecommunications operators, on Thursday announced the launch of its brand in Liberia.



"As from today, Cellcom Liberia becomes Orange Liberia," a press statement said.

The acquisition of the Liberian operator, Cellcom was finalized by Orange, through its subsidiary Orange Côte d'Ivoire, on 6 April, 2016, allowing the Group to reinforce its presence in West Africa.

In line with its Essentials 2020 strategic plan, Orange has built up a considerable presence in this region, which offers strong growth potential and is a strategic priority for the Group's development.

Following this rebranding, Orange Liberia will join one of the world's most powerful brands and stands to benefit from being part of a large international group. Orange will provide its marketing expertise and world-class technical capability to further strengthen the operator's established network and enhance customer service in Liberia.

With over 1.6 million customers at the end of February 2017, Orange Liberia is the leading mobile operator in Liberia in terms of customers. Founded in 2004, the mobile operator has been a driving force in democratizing access to telecommunication services across the country, despite difficult market conditions.

It has always been a precursor in terms of network deployment and in 2012 was the first operator in Liberia to launch 3G (HSPA+) services followed by 4G-LTE services in 2016.

Bruno Mettling, Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the Orange Group and Chairman and CEO of Orange Middle East and Africa, said: "With this new presence in Liberia, Orange extends its footprint in West Africa. The launch of the Orange brand confirms our confidence in the country's ongoing economic recovery and our commitment to bring all the benefits of new digital services to Liberians."

Mamadou Coulibaly, CEO of Orange Liberia, said: "Even in 2017, an important part of the Liberian population is still waiting for basic telecom services. We will invest significantly in network roll-out across the entire country, develop e-recharge in order to ease the constraints of scratch-cards loading, launch Orange Money, a new robust platform to boost mobile banking services in the country.

"We will as well introduce new highly competitive offers and low cost Smartphones in order to boost digital inclusion. We intend to position Orange Liberia by 2020 as a true catalyst for the digitization of Liberian society."

Orange is present in 21 countries in Africa and the Middle East, where it has more than 120 million customers. Orange is one of the world's leading telecommunications operators with sales of 40,9 billion euros in 2016 and 154,000 employees worldwide as of 31 March 2017, including 95,000 employees in France. (APA 19-05-2017)

## **ZIMBABWE SIGNS \$63M AGREEMENT WITH SAKUNDA TO EXPLORE FOR GAS**

Zimbabwe and Sakunda Energy signed a \$63m agreement to explore for gas, the country's Mines Minister Walter Chidakwa said.

Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC), a state-owned company, will own 40% of the venture to explore in Lupane, 364km west of the capital, Harare, Chidakwa said in an interview on Friday. Sakunda will provide the equipment.

Previous efforts to extract gas there have failed because the government and its companies haven't been able to raise funds for the project, first mooted in 2010. "We know that there's a significant quantity of gas underground, with a purity of 95% to 96%," Chidakwa said. Sakunda has signed a non-disclosure agreement with ZMDC, he said.

Meanwhile, Zimbabwe may confiscate unused mining licences from companies and liberalise gold trading as ways to boost output. Large mines are "sitting on lots of unused claims", the country's Chamber of Mines said in a document outlining initiatives of the proposed Command Mining programme. Revisiting the Gold Trade Act "to allow for the ease of handling and transportation of gold to buying centres" and speeding up mine registration are among other recommendations.

Zimbabwe, whose economy has halved since 2000, is looking for ways to boost output growth to almost 10% next year, mainly through agriculture and manufacturing, and by giving more people access to banking services.

The country, which has the world's biggest platinum reserves after SA, is experiencing a liquidity crisis that's led to limits on daily cash withdrawals and resulted in civil servants being paid late last month.

A \$40m central bank fund will buy machinery for small-scale miners, while banks will be encouraged to accept gold-sale records and geological survey reports as collateral under Command Mining, the document showed. Gold producers in Zimbabwe include RioZim, Metallon and Caledonia Mining.

Zimbabwe also mines chrome, coal, diamonds and nickel, among other minerals. (Bloomberg 19-05-2017)

### **MOZAMBIQUE GETS \$6M AFDB FUNDING FOR WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT**

The African Development Bank (AfDB) says it has invested \$6 million in projects aimed at empowering women in Mozambique, APA can report on Thursday.

The director of the Fund for Support to the Rehabilitation of the Economy (FARE), Augusto Isabel, said of this amount, which covers the period 2016 to 2018, \$1.2 million was earmarked for the implementation of the women's empowerment project in the development of women's skills. Isabel, who was addressing a media briefing in the Mozambican capital late on Wednesday, said the project aims to provide financial assistance to a total of 601 revolving credit savings groups, covering close to 15,000 women in 20 districts in the provinces of Nampula, Niassa, Manica, Sofala and Inhambane.



The official explained that in Mozambique, 60 percent of the savings groups are women, which is why the project targets this social layer, in addition to being the potential managers of domestic savings. "This year, Ophavela in Nampula is implementing projects that have 134,834 members with 7,747 savings and revolving credit groups, and has accumulated savings of around 173.607.000 meticaais and with a revolving credit of around 11 million meticaais," Isabel said continued.

She added: "this is a lot of money outside the financial system that is not controlled."

Augusto Isabel called for the need to operate mechanisms in order to create conditions that ensure greater inclusion of women to access financial services.

To achieve this goal, FARE will sign five memoranda of understanding with the Association for Socioeconomic Development (OPHAVELA), the Manica Economic Development Agency (ADEM), M-MOLA (Electronic Money Financial Services of the mobile operator - Movitel) and Ayani-BV, Associations and NGOs that promote microfinance services for community-based rural savings, credit and social insurance.

The memorandum, which will be signed during the 9th Forum of Roving Savings and Loan Operators (OGPCR), aims to facilitate the mapping of the communities covered, as well as their capacity to use modern technologies for the conduct of electronic transactions.

The forum will take place in the Boane district, southern province of Maputo, on Thursday and Friday and will take place under the motto "Women's financial inclusion, challenges and opportunities." (APA 19-05-2017)

### **MOROCCO: RADIO STATION FOR SINGLE MOTHERS LAUNCHED AS PART OF EU PROJECT**

A community radio aimed at supporting single mothers was launched this week in Morocco as part of an

EU-funded project in partnership with the Ministry of Family, Solidarity, Equality and Social Development. Single mothers will be presenting the programmes themselves broadcast on "Mothers on air".



The radio is considered as an advocacy tool, allowing single mothers to have a voice in the public space, raise awareness among local actors about their exclusion and make their requests more visible. (EEAS 19-05-2017)

### **MALAWI SEEKS TO TAKE TANZANIA TO HAGUE OVER LAKE MALAWI**

A dispute between Tanzania and Malawi over Lake Nyasa might end in the International Court of Justice if mediation process fails, reports said on Thursday.



According to Reuters, Malawi Foreign Affairs Minister Francis Kasaila confirmed that they were planning to take Tanzania to the ICJ.

However Tanzania Foreign Minister Augustine Mahiga to confirm this.

Dispute started in 2012 between the two countries following discoveries of massive reserves of oil and gas, with Malawi, at the west of Africa's third largest lake, claims the entire northern half of the lake while Tanzania, to the east, says it owns half of the northern area. The southern half is shared between Malawi and Mozambique.

Gas finds in the region have made the 50-year-old row over territory between Tanzania and Malawi more intense.

"The government of Malawi has been committed to the mediation process and peaceful resolution of the dispute through contact and dialogue but we are now ready to take Tanzania to the International Court of Justice because they have been stalling the mediation efforts since 2012," Francis Kasaila said.

Kasaila told Reuters that Malawi was particularly worried by Tanzania seeking a postponement of mediation talks scheduled for this month, saying this delayed the conclusion of the matter.



Two former African presidents, Joachim Chissano of Mozambique and Thabo Mbeki of South Africa, are mediating. (APA 18-05-2017)

## AFRICA AND INDIA – SHARING THE DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY



Djibouti Port

Africa, like India, is a continent of rich and compelling diversity. Both continents share a similar landscape, a shared colonial history, and similar economic and demographic challenges. This helps both India and Africa work especially well with each other.

This cooperation is both a mutual privilege and priority. At the end of the 2015 India-Africa Forum Summit, Indian Prime Minister Modi announced very substantial credits and grant assistance which benefitted our relationship. In addition to an India-Africa Development Fund, an India-Africa Health Fund and 50,000 scholarships for African students in India were established.

India's bilateral trade with Africa has risen five-fold in the last decade, from \$11.9 billion in 2005-6 to \$56.7 billion in 2015-16. It is expected to reach \$100 billion by 2018. This is attributed largely to initiatives by India's private sector, and here again we are on the same wave length. We understand and appreciate that the private sector will be the critical element in Africa's transformation.

African countries are targeted by Indian investors due to their high-growth markets and mineral rich reserves. India is the fifth largest country investing in Africa, with investments over the past 20 years amounting to \$54 billion, 19.2% of all its total Foreign Direct Investment.



Akinwumi Adesina

At the same time a transformed Africa is taking shape. Despite a tough global economic environment, African countries continue to be resilient. Their economies, on average, grew by 2.2% in 2016, and are expected to rise to 3.4% this year. But the average does not tell the true picture. Indeed, 14 African countries grew by over 5% in 2016 and 18 countries grew between 3-5%. That's a remarkable performance in a period when the global environment has been impeded by recession.

By 2050, Africa will have roughly the same population as China and India combined today, with high consumer demand from a growing middle class and nearly a billion ambitious and hard-working young

people. The cities will be booming, as the populations (and economic expectations) rise exponentially around the continent.

This is the busy and bustling future that Africa and India must shape together in a strategic partnership. And nowhere is this partnership more needed than on the issue of infrastructure.

At the top of the list is power and electricity. Some 645 million Africans do not have access to electricity. It's why the African Development Bank launched the New Deal on Energy for Africa in 2016. Our goal is to help achieve universal access to electricity within ten years. We will invest \$12 billion in the energy sector over the next five years and leverage \$45-50 billion from the private sector. We plan to connect 130 million people to the grid system, 75 million people through off grid systems and provide 150 million people with access to clean cooking energy.

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The African Development Bank is also in the vanguard of renewable energy development and the remarkable "off-grid revolution" in Africa. We host the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative, jointly developed with the African Union, which has already attracted \$10 billion in investment commitments from G7 countries.

Universal access requires large financial investments. By some estimates, Africa needs \$43-\$55 billion per year until the 2030s, compared to current energy investments of about \$8-\$9.2 billion.

We must close this gap. And to do so, the mobilization of domestic resources will play a major role. Pension funds in Africa will reach \$1.3 trillion by 2025. Already tax revenues have exceeded \$500 billion per year. Sovereign wealth funds in Africa stand at \$164 billion.

To attract significant investment by institutional investors, infrastructure should become an asset class. The African Development Bank has launched Africa50, a new infrastructure entity, now capitalized by African countries at over \$865 million, to help accelerate infrastructure project development and project finance. Also, later this year, the African Development Bank will be launching the 'Africa Investment Forum' to leverage African and global pension and sovereign wealth funds into investments in Africa.

Moreover, the African business environment keeps improving, with easier regulations and more conducive government policies to attract the global investors. In 2015, Africa alone accounted for more than 30% of the business regulatory reforms in the world.

The fact is, we have already started to transform Africa. This is the territory of the High 5s: Light up and Power Africa; Feed Africa; Industrialize Africa; Integrate Africa; and Improve the Quality of life of Africans.

We can forge winning partnerships investing in power generation, energy, agro-aligned industrialisation and food processing. In doing so we can work on the synergies that exist between infrastructure, regional integration, the regulation of enterprises, employment, health and innovation.

In each of these areas I see the prospect for cooperation and collaboration with Indian partners. For example, we are partnering with the EXIM Bank of India and others to establish the Kukuza, a company based in Mauritius, to help develop and support public-private partnership (PPP) infrastructure project development and finance.

India is already one of the top bidders for Bank projects. This is a reflection of its immense expertise in a diverse range of areas from engineering to education; from ICT to railway development; skills development to regional integration; and from manufacturing to industrialisation.

It is our pleasure to partner with such an inveterate and committed investor in Africa. And may this investment be lucrative and justified, and may our mutual interest and cooperation continue for many years to come. (AdB 22-05-2017)

## **CAMEROON DEPLOYS NAVY PATROLS TO SECURE GULF OF GUINEA**

The Cameroonian authorities have accepted the deployment of four navy patrols off the coast of central and West African countries as part of the operations to fight terrorism and maritime piracy, and secure the Gulf of Guinea, security sources told APA Sunday.



Such a campaign, launched at the port of Douala and initiated by the Cameroonian navy, concerns four countries in this inaugural phase.

Consequently, four Cameroonian warships were deployed as follows: “the Sanaga” for Libreville, Gabon, the “Dipikar” in Pointe-Noire in Congo, “Le Ntem” was dispatched to Calabar, Nigeria, while the “Ebodje” set sail for Malabo in Equatorial Guinea.

Their mission “is part of a regional tour of the navy fleet and a campaign to promote maritime security and safety in the Gulf of Guinea.”

According to the sources, the regional space between the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), which extends from northern Senegal to the south of Angola, has a coastline 6,000 kilometers, covering a total area of about 11.8 million km<sup>2</sup> and a population estimated at 470 million inhabitants. (APA 21-05-2017)

## **VOLVO GROUP TO CONSTRUCT US\$ 24M ASSEMBLY PLANT IN KENYA**

Truck manufacturer [Volvo](#) Group is planning to construct a US\$ 24m assembly plant in Mombasa, Kenya as it seeks to expand its footprint in the East African region.

Volvo Trucks President Claes Nilsson confirmed the reports and said that the plant will be launched in the first quarter of 2018 targeting an output of 500 units per year and it will be the third assembly plant in Africa after plants in South Africa and Morocco.

“We see immense opportunities and trust that this part of Africa has the potential to grow substantially, it also has a lot of different resources due to the diverse production of unique products and natural resources,” Nilsson said.

He further explained that the firm will bring to the market top modern trucks that have specifications for the east African region.

Business conditions in the region suggest that you have to have a manufacturing plant for you to look like a serious competitor, hence one of the reasons for taking the initiative.

The plant will be done through a partnership with NECST Motors who are now the exclusive importers of Volvo trucks in the Eastern African region, where the firm eyes 20 percent market share in the next three to five years.

“We have been in East Africa for the last three decades and believe that there is a significant potential for the premium truck business as regional economies grow, infrastructure investments expand and the business environment remains investment friendly,” Nilsson explained.

Volvo Trucks regional office in Nairobi will be responsible for expanding the footprint of the brand in East Africa.

The company which has about 15 plants worldwide has over 20 percent market share in Morocco and 18 percent market share in South Africa.(CRO 18-05-2017)

## WORLD BANK PROVIDES CFA 60B LOAN FOR CAMEROON ROADS CONSTRUCTION

The World Bank Group (WB) through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has pledged a 60 billion CFA loan to Cameroon for road infrastructure, the Department of Public Works told APA.



The funds will be used to rehabilitate and build roads in the western, northwestern and western regions. These include repairing the 35-km-long Babadjou-Bamenda section linking the western and northwestern regions.

“Formerly, we crossed this road in less than 20 minutes. Now, it takes an hour and thirty minutes or even two hours,” a user said.

The loan will also cover development of a 5km bypass of the Bamenda cliff, as well as the urban crossing of this city over a 12 km stretch.

The total 52 kms of roads to be built will cost 40 billion CFA.

The remaining 20 billion will be allocated for the completion of ancillary works, including the construction of a weighing station, a toll station and two rest areas.

A 50 km secondary road, facilitating access to agricultural basins, markets and mini-systems of drinking water are also included in the project. (APA 21-05-2017)

## VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES: NEW WEBSITE OFFERS A WEALTH OF INFORMATION AND COMPARISON TOOL



The European Training Foundation’s (ETF’s) flagship programme ‘The Torino Process’ has had a digital facelift. The new [website](#) allows users to easily extract and compare facts, figures and trends on vocational education and training (VET) reform in countries bordering Europe, including those of the Southern Mediterranean shore.

The ETF’s Torino Process is a participatory analytical review that allows to track progress, updates and results achieved through the work of the ETF with partner countries bordering the EU to improve VET systems and outcomes.

The **Report Hub** section of the website allows users to browse through the 25 participating country reports, access summaries and key indicators from the 2016-17 Torino Process round. It offers a **Comparison Tool** that allows users to compare facts and findings contained in the country reports. The **Blog** features the stories behind the numbers.

It's a valuable tool for policymakers, researchers and other stakeholders seeking insights on the state-of-play of VET reform in ETF partner countries. Now, in a few clicks, users can extract the information that is of interest to them, for example regional or thematic trends and good practices contained in the lengthy reports.

The digital tool is launched ahead of the '*Changing Skills for a Changing World*' Torino Process international conference, to be held on 7-8 June. (EEAS 22-05-2017)

Torino Process [website](#)

## ANGOLA'S BIOCUM START SELLING ELECTRICITY

Angolan bioenergy company Biocom last week started the process of transmission of electricity produced through biomass processing to the country's electricity grid, managed by state-owned Empresa Nacional de Transporte de Electricidade (ENTE), said the company's production director.

Marcos Brandão, during a visit by the Japanese ambassador to Angola, said that after Cacusó, the provinces of Luanda and Malanje are expected to begin to receive the electricity produced by the company from the waste from sugarcane planted for sugar production.

Biocom's production director, cited by newspaper Jornal de Angola, announced the beginning of the harvest of 18,000 hectares of sugarcane in June, which is expected to produce 73,000 tonnes of sugar, 17,000 cubic metres of ethanol and 200,000 megawatt hours of electricity.

Biocom is a company that resulted from a partnership between Odebrecht Angola Produtos e Serviços, a subsidiary of Brazilian group Odebrecht, the Angolan company Cochan, with 40% each and the state oil and fuel company Sonangol, with the remaining 20%. (22-05-2017)

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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, HTTC, NABA, NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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## EU and 79 African, Caribbean, Pacific countries in joint push to defend and implement global climate deal



The European Union and 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific developing countries, who together make up more than half of the signatories to the Paris Agreement on climate change, today reaffirmed their strong and steadfast commitment to full implementation of the agreement, urging all partners to keep up the momentum created in 2015.

The EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) made the call at a UN climate change conference taking place in Bonn, ahead of the upcoming G7 and G20 leaders' summits and the next annual UN climate negotiations (COP23) in November, which will gather world governments to turn the global climate commitments into action.

The ACP Group and EU have agreed common positions on the next steps to implement the Paris Agreement and strengthened cooperation to promote low-emission, climate-resilient development. As an example of this increased cooperation, the EU has announced support of EUR 800 million for the Pacific region up to 2020, with around half earmarked for climate action. The EU will also provide EUR 3 million to support Fiji's COP23 Presidency.

European Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy **Miguel Arias Cañete** said: *"Today more than ever, Europe stands by its long-term partners most vulnerable to climate change. We, developed and developing countries together, will defend the Paris Agreement. We are all in, and our joint commitment to this Agreement today is as in Paris: irreversible and non-negotiable."*

ACP Secretary General **Patrick Gomes** said: *"The longstanding, ongoing cooperation between the ACP Group and the EU shows we are serious about addressing the impacts of climate change. Implementing the Paris Agreement is not only about ensuring the very survival of the 79 ACP countries, but also about building sustainable, resilient and prosperous economies and societies worldwide."*

The ACP Group and EU stressed the need to finalise the Paris Agreement work programme by 2018. This will be vital to ensure all countries can swiftly put their national climate plans into action, in order to contribute to the global goals. They also underlined the importance of making detailed preparations for the Facilitative Dialogue to be held next year. This dialogue will be a key moment to establish a shared understanding of the impact of all parties' contributions and the collective progress being made as well as to look into solutions that can allow us to achieve our collective goal.

The ACP countries and EU also gave their support to the consultations being held by the outgoing Moroccan presidency and incoming Fijian presidency. The discussions are aimed at developing a clear proposal on the design of the 2018 Facilitative Dialogue, to be presented at the COP23 summit. Both sides welcomed Fiji's political leadership as COP23 president, being a longstanding member of the ACP Group and the first Small Island Developing State in the role, to accelerate work on adaptation, agriculture and access to finance – particularly for vulnerable developing countries with special circumstances, needs and low capacities.

The UN climate conference is taking place in Bonn from 8-18 May to prepare the ground for the 23rd session of the Conference of the Parties (COP23), to be held on 6-17 November 2017 in Bonn. (ACP/EC 18-05-2017)

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