



MEMORANDUM

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MOZAMBICAN MINISTER ASKS FOR HELP TO DEVELOP COUNTRY

Mozambican defence minister Filipe Nyusi, the frontrunner to become president after October 15 elections, invited investors to help develop a country in need of railways and roads to export its coal reserves.

"We will create solid platforms of mutual trust, investing in a situation by which each and every one of you can contribute to the growth of our country," Mr Nyusi said at a fundraising dinner for his Frelimo party in Johannesburg that was attended by President Jacob Zuma. "We will stabilise our countries because poverty destabilises us."

The ruling Frelimo named Mr Nyusi their candidate as President Armando Guebuza is barred from extending his two terms in office. The party has been in power since independence from Portugal in 1975 and it is estimated to win more than 60% of the vote in October, according to Mark Rosenberg, director for Africa at New York-based Eurasia Group.

Mozambique's 25.2-million people remain among the world's poorest. The country ranks 178th of 187 countries in the latest United Nations human development index. It is also the site of the biggest natural gas discovery in the past decade. The nation's coal deposits have drawn interest from companies including Rio Tinto and Vale.

Rio sold its Mozambican coal project after having to write down its value because it was unable to export the raw materials.

Investor caution

A conflict between the government and fighters loyal to the opposition Renamo party in the country's central Sofala province has added to caution from investors. After independence, Renamo, once backed by the white-minority governments of neighbours Rhodesia, now known as Zimbabwe, and South Africa, fought Frelimo until a 1992 peace deal.

Mr Nyusi, a trained mechanical engineer who worked as executive director of the country's northern railways, called for investment in developing the structure to export resources. "You're invited in areas of infrastructure," he said at the dinner on Thursday. "The opportunities are enormous, such as the construction of roads, bridges, rail lines."

Mozambique's legislators approved petroleum laws in August that open the way for new oil and gas bids, as well as tax breaks for offshore fields operated by Anadarko Petroleum and Eni.

"Our objective is that the wealth produced in Mozambique is distributed in a transparent manner," Mr Nyusi said.

He also stressed the importance of agricultural development. "The area that I really prioritise, because we cannot eat gas ... will be agriculture. Agriculture creates jobs," he said.

Earlier, Mr Nyusi wore mining overalls and spoke to workers from a portable stage with his image and 'Vota Frelimo' printed on the side, at a stadium near the Marikana site where 34 protesters were killed by police two years ago. South Africa draws migrant workers to its mines from countries, including Mozambique.

Lonmin CEO Ben Magara, who attended the Marikana event and subsequent dinner, said the company employed about 1,900 Mozambican workers. (Bloomberg 22-08-2014)

ANGOLAN GROUPS TARGET TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BANKING SECTOR IN CABO VERDE

Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) is the latest Portuguese-speaking country to attract the attention of major business and financial groups from Angola, which are expanding internationally and have gained prominent positions in telecommunications and banking in the archipelago.

According to a recent issue of the Africa Monitor Intelligence newsletter, Cabo Verde's telecommunications carrier CV Telecom, owned by the state and Portugal Telecom, is currently losing its market-leading position to Angolan-owned Unitel T+.

With an aggressive campaign to conquer the market, Unitel T+, controlled by Angolan businesswoman Isabel dos Santos, is making things difficult for the market leader, including at a profitability level, Africa Monitor said.

The Cabo Verde Prime Minister, José Maria Neves, recently announced a protocol between the government and Unitel T+, which included offering a smartphone to every worker in the public sector, a Unitel T+ customer, and management of the database created by the scheme.

The entry of Unitel in the market occurred by absorbing a small local company, T+, as was also the case in Sao Tome and Principe, and was underpinned by trips to both countries by its main shareholder, Isabel dos Santos, who was received by the countries' highest authorities.

Unitel and Portugal Telecom have been involved in a public dispute, the focus of which is the Portuguese operator's stake in the Angolan company (about 25 percent) and for the last few months a potential sale of this stake has been under discussion.

Alongside this, a telecommunications carrier in Portugal that is part-owned by Isabel dos Santos and is PT's main competitor in its home market, has recently merged with the market's third mobile operator, thus increasing its size and competitiveness.

In Cabo Verde, Africa Monitor Intelligence said, and the government is considering removing telecommunications infrastructure from the concession contract of CV Telecom, and in future the infrastructure will be managed by an independent company.

PT considers this to be a unilateral revision of the concession contract, implying a claim for compensation from the State or its withdrawal from the company.

In the banking sector, the arrival of a new competitor, Angola's BIC, similarly part owned by Isabel dos Santos, also promises to shake up the market.

BIC's arrival to the market is facilitated by large investments and may be carried out by converting a branch of the former Portuguese bank Banco Português de Negócios (BPN), operating as an "offshore" bank in Cabo Verde, into a retail bank.

BIC, which has a large presence in Angola, has been expanding in Portugal, particularly following BIC's acquisition of BPN, which had operations in Cabo Verde and Brazil, allowing BIC to expand its branches to 200 in the Portuguese market, with around 1,100 workers.

Africa Monitor said that the leadership position of the Caixa Económica bank could also be affected. The retail bank, along with CV Telecom, is one of the few public or mixed companies to distribute dividends.

Sonangol, the Angolan state oil company, was the first major Angolan investor in Cabo Verde and currently controls fuel distributor Enco in partnership with Portugal's Galp Energia, of which it is also a main shareholder.

In Sao Tome and Principe the presence of the Angolan oil company is also prominent, as it has major interests in fuel distribution, transportation, port activity and even oil exploration. (25-08-2014)

BUSINESS GROUP FROWNS AT US DICTATORIAL PRICE POLICY UNDER AGOA

Fourteen years after the introduction of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) by the US government to facilitate trade with the continent, a Nigerian business group has frowned at a situation whereby America is dictating the price of what they buy from Nigeria.

The local media Thursday quoted the Director General of the National Association of Chambers of Commerce Industries, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA), Mr. John Isemeye, as saying AGOA had not be quite beneficial to the country because the US, apart from insisting on certain standard, dictates the prices.

"For 14 years Nigeria has been on it but what has been the take home from AGOA; who has AGOA made millionaire in Nigeria?"

"I am not saying we should pull out; am not condemning it, however, for Nigeria to continue, we have to assess how did we start; where are we today; are we to go ahead with the old system or there will be some adjustments? That is where experts from the private sector and universities have to come in," Mr.

Isemede said.

He said NACCIMA frowns at a situation whereby America is dictating the price of what they buy from the country, which does not augur well for the members.

“If you are taking produce from Nigeria and we can’t meet your standard, you had better come and invest in Nigeria or bring your own experts to come and teach us the standard.

“You asked for ABCD products and you have every right to determine the quality and quantity but you don’t have every right to determine the price for what you don’t produce. What is the essence of determining quality when you have not even worked with our people?” the NACCIMA boss queried.

AGOA is a US preferential trade programme established in May 2000 to provide duty-free access to the US\$3 trillion U.S. market for thousands of products from eligible sub-Saharan African countries.

As of August 2014, 41 sub-Saharan African countries were eligible to participate in AGOA.

According to the 2013 AGOA data published by US Trade and Commerce Department, Nigeria exported products worth US\$5,403,000 compared to South Africa's US\$3,667,783.

Lesotho (US\$320,879,000), Mauritius (US\$199,268,000), Kenya (US\$342,502,000), Angola (US\$66,000,000), Cameroon (US\$21,650,000) and Ghana (US\$34,673,000) are some of the other figures. (Pana 22/08/2014)

MOZAMBIQUE HAS 170 TRILLION CUBIC FEET OF NATURAL GAS

Oil prospecting in the Rovuma basin, district of Palma in northern Mozambique, has confirmed the existence of 170 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, Mozambique’s Minister for Mineral Resources, Esperança Bias said in Pemba.

“That amount puts Mozambique among the 10 countries with the largest reserves of that energy resource,” added the minister, cited by Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias during the opening session of the 24th coordinating council of her ministry.

The two-day meeting, which ended Friday in the provincial capital of Cabo Delgado, served to take stock of oil and gas sector activities over the last five years.

According to the minister, in the period, alongside the discovery of natural gas deposits coal production also began in Moatize, Benga and Changara, all in the province of Tete, in 2011 and 2012, respectively, and to date has produced a total of 2.5 million tons of coal.

In 2013, according to the minister, the sector experienced increased production capacity at the Moma heavy minerals project, from 800 tons per year of ilmenite to 1.2 million tons per year. Alongside this heavy minerals production also began in Angoche district as well as the conversion of the Choipenga XI underground into an open pit mine.

The minister said she was concerned about low coal prices on the international market “that are a major challenge for the development of coal production in Mozambique, added to the need to increase rail transport capacity.”(26-08-2014)

SOUTH AFRICA GO-AHEAD FOR DRC PROJECT THAT COULD ILLUMINATE AFRICA

The wheels have been set in motion for a co-operative hydropower generation project that has the potential to light up Africa.

The government announced on Thursday it had approved the Grand Inga treaty with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Minister in the Presidency Jeff Radebe told a post-Cabinet briefing that the project on the Congo River was called grand because it was so big that when completed it would generate enough power for the entire continent.

He said Cabinet had approved the ratification of the project treaty which had been signed by President Jacob Zuma and his Congolese counterpart, Joseph Kabila. The treaty must now be ratified by Parliament and would be referred to the appropriate committee.

The project, which has seven phases, will harness the power of the Congo River. It also presents South Africa and her neighbours with an opportunity to move away from using fossil fuels to generate power.

Mr Radebe said: "The treaty provides the framework for the facilitation of power generation from the Grand Inga project and its delivery to the border between the (Congo) and Zambia. Ratification of the treaty enables development of phase 1 of the project, which will provide 2,500MW of electricity to South Africa and contribute to regional integration, energy security, access to energy and economic growth in an environmentally sustainable manner.

"The project has the potential to supply clean and affordable imported hydroelectric power to meet the needs of the (Congo), South Africa and surrounding countries," Mr Radebe said. The project would generate 40,000MW of electricity and "holds the potential to fast-track Southern African Development Community (Sadc) development, stimulate economic growth and facilitate infrastructure development".

"This represents one of the most ambitious projects ever undertaken on the ... continent, and one which will long be a resounding symbol of the rise of Africa and her people."

Mr Radebe said he was unable to say how much the project would cost but that it would be "billions", and international financial consortiums would probably have to fund it.

Energy and Power Systems Africa consulting manager Johan Muller said: "The short answer is that the process has been put in place to purchase half of the first phase of power generated from the project, namely about 2,500MW of power.

"I don't see this as a short-term answer to our dire energy needs, since the timelines will be highly speculative on this megaproject. But it is a step in the right direction to increase the investment attractiveness of the Sadc region."

The International Rivers website says the project would be in "one of Africa's most politically volatile and corruption-plagued countries. The ... dam is part of a greater vision by the international economic community to develop a power grid across Africa that will spur the continent's industrial economic development.

"But with a price tag of \$80bn, concerns are growing that foreign companies will gain vast economic benefits ... taking attention away from the development needs of Africa's poor majority." (BD 21-08-2014)

CHINESE COMPANY CMEC BUILDS COMBINED-CYCLE POWER PLANT IN NORTHERN ANGOLA

The China Machinery Engineering Corporation (CMEC) will build a combined-cycle power plant in Soyo in Angola's Zaire province, under the terms of a presidential order cited by the Angolan press.

According to the order construction of the plant will cost US\$985.2 million and its works contract will be signed by the Ministry for Energy and Water and the Chinese company.

The presidential order explains that the plant needs to be built based on "growth forecasts for electricity demand in the country," in the medium and long term.

It is therefore of "fundamental importance" to build the plant, which will produce electricity from Angolan natural gas and provide "multiple benefits and a significant contribution to economic and social development of the country," the presidential order says. (26-08-2014)

LABORATORY SERVICES IN QUALITY HEALTH CARE

African pathologists discuss role of laboratory services in quality health care - The presently inadequate number of pathologists in the East, Central and Southern Africa region should not deter efforts to institute quality assurance measures for improving the profession and laboratory services that go with quality health care, according to Zanzibar President Ali Mohamed Shein.

Addressing the 12th Biannual Conference of the Association of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (APECSA) in Arusha, Tanzania, Shein said the grouping had a crucial role of ensuring continuous professional development in all pathology disciplines.

"I believe pathologists should take a leading role in the delivery of quality health care services in all disciplines of medicine," said Shein, a medical biochemist by profession, stressing that the training of pathologists should go hand in hand with the development of services in health institutions, such as provision of modern well-equipped laboratories and trained personnel.

He called for resolute actions by development planners in the health ministries, planning commissions, higher education authorities and ministries of finance, among others, to realise the significant contribution of pathology services.

Shein urged the pathologists to re-dedicate their commitment as pathologists and laboratory scientists to reclaim their position as 'custodians of the practice of medicine', and hailed the theme of the meeting: 'Role of Laboratory Services in Quality Health Care'.

Also, the Zanzibar President has commended APECSA for its initiative to establish a College of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (COPECSA).

Organised by the Association of Pathologists of Tanzania (APT), the three-day (20-22 August) conference has brought together members of APECSA, the East African Division of the International Academy of Pathology; the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology and the Royal College of Pathologists-UK. (Pana 22/08/2014)

MBANZA CONGO, ANGOLA, TO HAVE ELECTRICITY 24 HOURS A DAY

The production capacity of the Quianganga thermal power plant, in Mbanza Congo, in Angola's northern Zaire province, will be tripled to 9600 kw, as part a programme by Angolan national electricity company Empresa Nacional de Electricidade (ENE), Angolan news agency Angop reported.

ENE engineer and coordinator of the project, António Afonso Dikizeko, said the power plant would four new generators of 1600 kw each, which is twice that of the two current generators.

Work is also underway to install six 1,600 kw transformers and of a synchronized and automated system that will allow the available generators to operate simultaneously.

This work, which started two weeks ago and should be completed within the next few days, will increase the number of people with access to electricity in the city of Mbanza Congo and its suburbs, from 8,000 at the moment to 12,000 and on a continual basis (24 hours a day).

To this end, the ENE engineer said the company is installing 13.5 kilometres of low voltage network and 10 kilometres of medium voltage network in the suburbs of the city, and plans to install another 10 kilometres of medium voltage line in the near future. (26-08-2014)

WILDLEAKS TO BLOW THE WHISTLE ON WILDLIFE CRIME

A picture taken on June 5 2014 shows Kenyan police officers looking at 302 pieces of ivory, including 228 elephant tusks, found and seized in a warehouse during a raid in the port city of Mombassa.

Poachers slaughtering Africa's elephants and rhinos with impunity are often shielded from police by the most powerful of connections, leading some conservationists to turn to tip-offs to stem the killing. It's called "WildLeaks", claiming to be the first secure, online whistle-blowing platform dedicated to wildlife and forest crime. Picture: AFP

POACHERS slaughtering Africa's elephants and rhinos with impunity are often shielded from police by powerful connections, but a group of conservationists has turned to the anonymity of tip-offs to try to stem it.

Founders of WildLeaks — a WikiLeaks for the environment — say it is the first secure, online whistle-blowing platform dedicated to wildlife and forest crime. While wildlife rangers face gun battles in national parks with poachers carrying out the slaughter, the online project hopes to target the top-end traffickers who cream off millions of dollars in profit.

"We got, for example, an interesting leak on a powerful individual in Kenya, linked to the government, who is behind the ivory trade," said founder Andrea Crosta, a former security consultant and longtime conservationist. This kind of person "will never be taken out from within. They're too powerful. You need help from outside. So right now we're trying to gather more evidence," he said in rapid-fire, Italian-accented English.

Poaching has risen sharply across Africa in recent years fuelled by rising demand in Asia for ivory and rhino horn, coveted as a traditional medicine and a status symbol.

Mr Crosta fervently believes the online platform can be part of the war against poaching.

Launched in February, WildLeaks got its first tip in 24 hours. Since then it has received more than 45 tips and leaks, with at least 28 deemed useful.

The information was from around the world including tiger poaching in Sumatra, illegal logging in eastern Russia and Mexico, and the smuggling of wildlife products into the US.

WildLeaks passed on some tips to law enforcement agencies, while others were shared with trusted conservation organisations that specialise in the area.

Some were investigated in-house. Two WildLeaks probes have been launched, with another two to begin in September.

It uses encryption and anonymity software to allow information to be sent safely.

It is a new way to tackle a long-standing problem, and other conservationists have offered a cautious welcome.

"It does appear to be a new approach within the wildlife crime sector," said Richard Thomas of TRAFFIC, the world's leading wildlife trade monitoring network. "It could prove its worth over time, if useful information is received and directed towards appropriate professional enforcement agencies for follow-up action." Representatives from the Conservation Group of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, which has partnered with WildLeaks to fight the sale of great apes in Central and West Africa, are also positive about the project.

"I think that it's a really smart idea," said Mimi Arandjelovic, a member of the group. But the problem with WildLeaks, Mr Crosta admitted, is that for the project to be successful, the public needs to know about it — and trust those involved.

WildLeaks has yet to receive a leak from Tanzania, even though the east African nation struggles with wildlife crime. A third of all illegal ivory seized in Asia has come through Tanzanian ports.

Mr Crosta, 45, has a background in both business and security consulting.

In 2011 he said he self-funded an 18-month probe, going undercover to find sources and meet traffickers. His probe led him to suggest ivory was providing funding for Somalia's al-Qaeda-linked Shebab insurgents.

While United Nations experts disputed the findings, many would back WildLeaks' message: stopping poaching requires action against the wealthy and influential bosses of often extremely well-connected organised crime gangs.

"Unlike others operating in the field... we are not after small-time poachers or traffickers, but the people who are above them, including corrupt government officials," he said.

No arrests have yet been made, but Crosta attributes this to the newness of the project and the fact that it is aiming for the bigger players in poaching networks. (AFP 26-08-2014)

TURKISH STATE COMPANY INTERESTED IN OIL EXPLORATION IN ANGOLA

Turkish state oil company, Turkish Petroleum Corporation (Türkiye Petrolleri Anonim Ortaklığı or TPAO), intends to invest in oil exploration in Angola, according to a recent edition of Istanbul-based English-language newspaper "Daily Sabah".

Citing a source close to the process, the newspaper said that TPAO plans to prospect for oil onshore, since offshore prospecting is very expensive in Angola and there are already a large number of international groups and companies involved in this activity.

The Turkish state company estimates it will invest US\$2.4 billion in 2015, over two-thirds of which will be invested abroad.

Beyond Turkey itself TPAO operates in countries such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Iraq and Libya, and has an ongoing oil prospecting project in Colombia.

Angolan state oil concessionaire Sonangol in 2015 plans to put 12 offshore oil blocks up for auction, which will be added another ten onshore blocks that are already in the bidding process, according to information provided in June by the company.

Of the new blocks to be auctioned in 2015, seven are located in the Namibe basin (southern Angola) and five in the Lower Congo (North).

As the national oil and gas concessionaire Sonangol is responsible for these tender processes and has an ongoing auction of ten other new blocks in the onshore basins of the Zaire and Kwanza rivers, which may account for over half of known reserves in the country. (26-08-2014)

CHINA ROLLS OUT RED CARPET FOR MUGABE

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe met his counterpart, Xi Jinping, in China on Monday, weeks after he was snubbed by US President Barack Obama at a summit of African leaders he hosted in Washington.

Mr Mugabe was welcomed with an honour guard outside the Great Hall of the People, where he received a 21-gun salute. He was then serenaded by three women playing traditional Chinese instruments before heading into closed-door meetings with Mr Xi.

Mr Mugabe's seizure of land owned by white farmers and a series of elections marred by violence and irregularities has made him a pariah to governments in the Western world. His country's ability to borrow from global institutions has also been undercut.

Yet China has long maintained close economic and diplomatic links, with Vice-Premier Wang Yang visiting in May last year on a two-day official visit.

"Mugabe's trip to China is to seek a last financial lifeline for his regime," Martyn Davies, CEO of Johannesburg-based Frontier Advisory, said on Monday. Frontier Advisory provides research on emerging markets.

However, he said, with China reforming its state-owned sector, Mr Mugabe's party would be "naive to assume that Chinese capital is as easy to get as it has been in previous years".

Mr Mugabe was seeking a \$4bn rescue package to stabilise a faltering economy, the Zimbabwe Independent reported earlier this month, citing sources it did not identify. Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa visited China in January and was told to come up with a plan, it said.

Economic growth in Zimbabwe, which averaged 10% between 2009 and 2012, is forecast at 3.1% this year, according to the International Monetary Fund.

Mr Mugabe, who is subject to US sanctions, was one of four African leaders not invited by Mr Obama to the summit earlier this month. The others were Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir, who is wanted by the International Criminal Court for war crimes, and leaders from Eritrea and Central African Republic. In April, Zimbabwe boycotted a European Union-Africa summit after Mr Mugabe's wife, Grace, was denied a visa to enter Brussels. Still, Mr Mugabe won endorsement from regional leaders this month when he was named head of the 15-nation Southern African Development Community (Sadc).

Mr Mugabe would "discuss infrastructural projects" with China that "add value" to regional products, he said last week at the end of the Sadc summit in Victoria Falls. He is also the frontrunner to lead the 54-nation African Union next year.

"Since countries in the region and the regional organisations endorse Mugabe and his legitimacy, China certainly does not stand alone or feel vulnerable," Yun Sun, a fellow with the East Asia Programme at the Washington-based Stimson Center, said in an e-mail.

China had long viewed Mr Mugabe as an African liberation leader, and supporting Western-style democracy in Africa was not a goal for China, she said. Mr Mugabe's chairmanship of Sadc meant he had great influence over the agendas of regional organisations, which China would like to participate in as much as possible.

Zimbabwe has the world's biggest reserves of platinum after South Africa. China Power Investment Corporation may buy a Rio Tinto coal mine in Zimbabwe and build a thermal generator that would double the country's capacity, Mr Chinamasa said in March.

Trade between the two countries has more than doubled to \$1.1bn between 2010 and 2013, China's ambassador to Zimbabwe, Lin Lin, said in an editorial last week in Zimbabwe's state-owned Herald newspaper. China's investment last year was \$602m, he said. (Bloomberg 26-08-2014)

ANGOLA TAKES ON LOAN OF US\$1.5 BILLION FROM RUSSIAN BANK

The government of Angola has approved borrowing of US\$1.5 billion from Russian bank VTB Capital, the investment bank of the VTB group, the Angolan press reported.

With this funding, the government will "implement the public investment projects identified in the National Development Plan" outlined in the General State Budget, including infrastructure, according to the presidential order approving the loan.

In recent months the Angolan government has taken on several loans for construction projects in the country, which have coincided with a drop in tax revenues from oil exports, which account for two thirds of total tax revenues.

Angolan weekly newspaper Expansão reported a few days ago that Angola's public accounts ended the first half of 2014 with a deficit of 615 billion kwanza (about US\$6.3 billion), which was almost the deficit of 630 billion kwanza expected for the entire year.

The deficit is the result of revenues of 1.942 billion kwanza, which fell 11.6 percent, due to a 21 percent drop in oil income, and expenses of 2.557 billion kwanza, which rose 47.7 percent driven by investment. (26-08-2014)

EBOLA COULD SINK AFRICA'S RISING DREAMS

An airlift of emergency supplies needed for those treating Liberians with the virus Ebola was launched last weekend by the U.N. children's fund, Unicef.

"The largest component of the supplies was chlorine," for disinfection, said Unicef's representative in Liberia, Sheldon Yetts. Other supplies in the airlift were oral rehydration salts and sodium lactate to help ensure people are rehydrated, and about 900,000 gloves for infection control.

"Health workers have suffered a disproportionate number of casualties from Ebola," said Yetts. "We need to make sure that health centers are disinfected and that people in Liberia feel safe to return to health centers."

Ebola, say some experts, is much less contagious than other more common diseases. The virus, much like HIV or hepatitis, is spread through blood or bodily fluids and is not airborne.

Still, some countries in Africa are rejecting the World Health Organization's advisory and are slamming their doors on visitors from West Africa. Travelers from Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone are banned from entering South Africa. Citizens returning home from these areas must undergo a strict screening process, a health ministry statement said.

Senegal has closed its border with Guinea, while Chad closed its border with Nigeria.

Air Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria's Arik Air, Togo's ASKY Airlines, British Airways, Emirates Airlines and Kenya Airways have together cancelled over 200 flights to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

Kenya Airways froze routes to Liberia and Sierra Leone after Kenya's ministry of health called the Ebola outbreak "vastly underestimated" and that it was "expected to continue for some time".

Only Brussels Airlines and Dutch airline KLM say they will continue flights. "Travelers are highly unlikely to be infected with Ebola, which cannot be transmitted under normal hygiene conditions", said KLM.

With apparently conflicting health advisories sowing confusion and fear, a Zimbabwe blogger penned her concern that the upbeat picture of "Africa Rising" was getting a black eye.

Writing in the Mail & Guardian's Voice of Africa, "blogger Fungai Machirori observed: "Over the last few years, meticulous work has gone into crafting the 'Africa Rising' narrative – namely rising economies (like South Africa and Nigeria), tech and innovation (think Kenya) and the growth of a middle class we might call 'post-African' – savvy, urban, cosmopolitan with no flies to swat off their faces and no begging bowls in their manicured hands.

"While the statistics do point to a truth, another truth still prevails," she cautioned.

"Across Africa I have seen the consumerist dream (high-end malls, cars, mansions and general financial exuberance) coexist with abjection, poverty and depleted social services. The rich do exist, but they are not the majority.

"The spread of Ebola shows up the Africa Rising narrative ... Quite instantly, Ebola has become 'the great leveler' among Africans, re-perpetuating stereotypes of barbarism and savagery; that Africans eat 'strange foods' like fruit bats and bush meat and other 'filthy creatures', that we are unclean, diseased and therefore dangerous.

"Ebola has opened up the way for the 'dark continent' narrative to re-emerge, if it ever really disappeared," she said. "Africa is collapsed into one territory, one country, one race, even if the fatality of Ebola represents about 0.15% of the continent.

A dominant global hysteria has emerged that lends itself to racial profiling and generalisations. I'm wondering how far, if at all, the discourse around blackness has progressed.

At the same time, "Ebola is serving to deepen regionalism (West Africa versus the rest of Africa) and the dangerous sort of nationalism that has often led to ineffectual collaboration across the continent...

"If Africa – given its wealth of human and natural resources – cannot contain Ebola, then we must sober up and accept that we haven't risen to where we should be, given the accompanying discourse of booming economies and commodity markets." (IPS 25-08-2014)

ANGOLA PREPARES MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR RIVER BASINS

A study is being carried out to draw up management plans for management of the Kubango, Kuvelai and Zambeza River basins, Angola's Minister for Energy and Water, João Baptista Borges said Monday in Malanje.

The minister also said another study was being prepared being prepared to draw up management plans for the Keve Longa river basins as well as the Bengo and Dande basins. The studies are carried out by technicians from the ministry.

Whilst opening the 4th Advisory Council of his ministry, the minister also announced the launch this year of tenders for drawing up integrated plans for the Cabinda and Kwanza basins and of a group of basins in Catumbela, Cubal da Hanha, Cavaco and Coporolo.

Baptista Borges also announced that the Ministry for Energy and Water is preparing projects to increase the rate of coverage of drinking water by 100 percent, in provincial capitals, and 85 percent in rural areas, by the end of 2017.

He said the sector also intends to increase the rate of sanitation coverage in urban areas by up to 80 percent by the end of 2017, thus meeting the targets of the 2013-2017 National Development Plan (PND). (26-08-2014)

EBOLA DELAYS AFRICAN MINISTERS' MEETING

A meeting of African health ministers scheduled for early September in Benin has been postponed because of the Ebola epidemic, an official said on Sunday.

Meanwhile, a Royal Air Force aircraft carrying a healthcare worker who contracted Ebola in Sierra Leone — the first Briton — took off from Freetown for the UK on Sunday. The UK department of health said the man was not seriously ill and it had decided to repatriate him after receiving clinical advice.

Benin had planned to host the 64th session of the World Health Organisation's (WHO's) committee of African health ministers from September 1-5.

"This important meeting ... has been postponed after consultations with (WHO) authorities," said Benin Foreign Minister Nassirou Arifari Bako, "to express full solidarity with the countries affected by Ebola." Delegations from more than 40 African countries had been expected.

Benin has not yet recorded an Ebola case, but sees a huge inflow of commercial traffic each day from Lagos, the economic capital of neighbouring Nigeria, which has registered 14 cases, including five deaths.

The outbreak of the haemorrhagic fever in West Africa — the worst since the disease was discovered in the jungles of Central Africa in 1976 — has so far killed at least 1,427 people, mostly in Sierra Leone, Liberia and neighbouring Guinea.

Two American doctors, who contracted Ebola in Liberia and were evacuated to the US, left hospital last week after receiving treatment with an experimental drug, ZMapp. (Reuters, AFP 25-08-2014)

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BANKS BES AND BES ANGOLA CLARIFIED SOON

The deputy governor of the National Bank of Angola (BNA), Ricardo de Abreu, has said that a definition of the relationship between Banco Espírito Santo (BES) Portuguese and Angolan BESA, the latter the subject of "reorganization measures," would be made in the "coming weeks,"

The former BES bank provided BES Angola with a loan of 3.3 billion euros, which was placed in Novo Banco, also known as the "good" bank following the emergency intervention of the Bank of Portugal in the BES bank.

As BESA has been the target of an intervention by the Angolan central bank since the beginning of August, with the appointment of an interim board of directors, payment of all loans has been suspended in accordance with Article 117 of the Angola Financial Institutions Act (Law 13/05).

This intervention, involving reorganization measures at the bank, which is 55.71 percent-owned by Portuguese BES, may extend for a year and, as the deputy governor recalled Monday, the solution was agreed between the two countries.

Information made public in Portugal and Angola in recent weeks points to non-performing loans at BESA amounting to US\$5.7 billion. (26-08-2014)



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