



MEMORANDUM

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EU ANNOUNCES €140M PACKAGE IN RESPONSE TO EBOLA VIRUS OUTBREAK

The European Commission has today announced €140m of funding for the countries currently affected by the Ebola virus in West Africa: Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Nigeria.

€38 million of the new package is specifically designed to help those governments bolster their health services (for example through reinforcing treatment centres or support for health workers), both during the crisis and in the recovery phase. It will also provide support in the areas of food security, water and sanitation, which are essential in terms of safeguarding the health of the population.

Announcing the support today during his official visit to Benin, European Commissioner for Development, Andris Piebalgs, said "The ongoing Ebola crisis remains extremely concerning; not just because of its obvious impact on health services but also due to the wider challenges it brings to the region in terms of economic stability, food security, water and sanitation. Our package shows that the EU continues to be committed to a strong, coordinated international response and will do all it can to help governments in those countries affected in the areas where it is most needed."

Kristalina Georgieva, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, said: "The situation is going from bad to worse, despite the brave efforts of humanitarian organisations and despite early and substantial assistance provided by the international community, including the EU. We are helping make a difference on the ground, but the needs are outpacing the international community's capacity to react. We need to pool our efforts and provide adequate air transportation and medical equipment to our partners in order to fight this menace."

The total package of €140 million will be split as follows:

- €38m to strengthen healthcare systems, including in the areas of healthcare provision, food security, water and sanitation.
- €5 million towards providing mobile laboratories for the detection of the virus and training health workers (as part of the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace, or IcSP).
- €97.5 million will be spent in Budget Support (BS) operations to Liberia and Sierra Leone, to reinforce governments' capacity to deliver public services – in particular health care - and macro-economic stability.

The fact that affected West African countries have seen a spiralling of Ebola cases reveals, among other things, the inadequacies of their current health systems. Contagion can be controlled with adequate measures and gear, but through active engagement of local and international partners. Any measures aimed at isolating these countries would only exacerbate the situation.

Several European specialist teams of the European Mobile Laboratory project for dangerous infectious diseases have been dispatched to Guinea and Nigeria (and one will arrive in Liberia next week), with mobile laboratories to support with viral haemorrhagic fever diagnostics, rapid analyses of samples and confirmation of cases.

The European Commission has been scaling up its response to the epidemic since March 2014 and has pledged a total of €11.9 million in humanitarian aid (including €8 million from the €38million mentioned above to strengthen healthcare systems). Humanitarian experts have been deployed in the region, monitoring the situation and liaising with partner organisations and local authorities.

This is the first Ebola virus outbreak registered in the region. Highly contagious, human to human transmission of Ebola occurs by contact with blood and body fluids.

The European Commission is also working closely with the EU Member States within the Health Security Committee to keep them informed about the latest developments and secure the synchronisation of measures. A travel advice leaflet has been endorsed by the Health Security Committee and is available in all EU languages.(EC 05-09-2014)

N'AJOUTONS PAS UN DESASTRE ECONOMIQUE AU DRAME EBOLA

La propagation du virus Ebola terrifie, bien davantage que celle d'autres pandémies : sur les quatre pays africains les plus touchés (Guinée, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria), déjà 1.600 morts d'après l'OMS, un taux de mortalité de 90 %, aucun remède connu à ce jour. Et un environnement africain particulièrement propice à la diffusion du virus : les habitudes de vie - contacts corporels, consommation de viande de chasse -, la forte proportion de population vivant en brousse ou en forêt, la faiblesse du système de santé, la défiance des citoyens vis-à-vis des dirigeants et la porosité des frontières terrestres. Tous les ingrédients sont réunis pour conduire à la psychose.

Depuis quelques semaines, on constate une sorte d'état de panique qui entraîne la prise de mesures extrêmes, inefficaces et pénalisantes pour l'économie telles que l'interdiction d'accostage ou la mise en quarantaine de navires, la suppression de liaisons aériennes (jusque entre la Corée du Sud et le Kenya, pays non infecté !), la demande de départ de certains ressortissants, la fermeture de frontières officielles alors qu'il existe des milliers de points de passage non contrôlés, ce qui pénalise les échanges formels sans améliorer la protection. S'y ajoutent des décisions irrationnelles parmi lesquelles l'annulation d'une visite sportive américaine au Sénégal à la mi-août, alors que ce pays n'était pas touché, et de missions économiques en Afrique du Sud, située à 5.000 kilomètres du premier foyer d'infection.

Les conséquences de telles décisions se font d'ores et déjà sentir. Les volumes d'affaires sont en forte baisse (dans le commerce, l'hôtellerie, la production locale) impactant l'emploi, la viabilité des entreprises et les recettes fiscales. On constate une pénurie de certains biens de consommation et des intrants nécessaires à la production locale, et une flambée des prix des biens de première nécessité. Enfin, ces mesures entravent directement la lutte contre le virus Ebola en faisant obstacle aux relèves des ONG et aux évacuations sanitaires, et en créant une défiance des familles. Donald Kaberuka, le président de la Banque africaine de développement, estime l'impact sur la croissance de la région à - 4 %.

Cette panique est en train d'ajouter une crise économique à la crise sanitaire, dans un continent considéré comme un relais de croissance mondial. La restriction des échanges ne réduira pas le risque de pandémie, mais au contraire rendra la vie des gens encore plus difficile. La psychose n'arrêtera pas le virus !

En dépit de l'ampleur du défi, ne cédon pas à la panique, ne dramatisons pas inutilement. Conservons notre calme et raisonnons logiquement, sans nous réfugier dans des postures politiques ou d'image. L'objectif de tous doit être de bloquer la propagation du virus, et non pas de se protéger d'éventuelles critiques ultérieures. Les décideurs, qu'ils soient publics ou privés, ne doivent pas chercher à s'exonérer de leur responsabilité en appliquant avec excès le principe de précaution. Ils doivent mettre toute leur énergie à informer et à sensibiliser les populations pour qu'elles prennent les mesures efficaces, simples et peu coûteuses connues de tous.

Le CIAN a interrogé les entreprises françaises implantées en Afrique dans les régions touchées. Elles ont toutes pris des mesures de bon sens qui ont permis la poursuite de leur activité et le maintien des effectifs, y compris des expatriés à leur retour de congés. Du fait de cette vigilance déterminée mais calme, nos entreprises n'envisagent pas de restreindre leur présence en Afrique, confirmant ainsi leur conviction en la capacité du continent à surmonter cette épreuve. **Etienne Giros, Président délégué du CIAN (05-09-2014)**

CHINA HYWAY DUE TO DELIVER ANGOLA'S MOÇÂMEDES RAILROAD IN OCTOBER

Completion and final delivery of the reconstruction project of the Moçâmedes Railroad (CFM), which began in 2006, is scheduled for next October, said Thursday the president of the management company, Daniel Quipaxe.

Quipaxe also told Angolan news agency Angop that reconstruction of the line connecting the provinces of Namibe/Huila and Kwando Kubango included the construction and modernisation of 56 stations, telecommunications systems and lighting along 860 kilometres of railway line.

"The contractor is almost in the final stage of the work and everything points the delivery of a large part of the rebuilt and modernised infrastructure will begin in October, after work that lasted nearly eight years," he said.

The president of Caminho-de-Ferro de Moçâmedes said that at present, Chinese company China Hyway is completing the construction of over 600 homes along the railway route between the city of Namibe (the current name of Moçâmedes) and Menongue.

Work to build the Moçâmedes railroad linking the coastal town of Namibe to Menongue, the capital of Kwando Kubango province in eastern Angola, began on 28 September, 1905 and was completed on 6 December, 1961.

The line is 860 kilometres long in total, including branch lines to the old mining areas of Jamba and Cassinga.

The contractor of this construction project is one of 16 subsidiaries of the group with the same name, based in Beijing, which operates in various sectors, particularly in construction of roads, railway lines and railway bridges. (05-09-2014)

GABON : CETTE PRIME DE PERFORMANCE QUE LES AGENTS S'ARRACHENT

Rentrée tendue dans la fonction publique gabonaise. Après le personnel hospitalier le 28 août, ce sont les agents des collectivités locales qui montent au créneau depuis le 29 août. Deux mouvements pour une même revendication : obtenir la nouvelle prime d'incitation à la performance.

L'exécutif gabonais s'est-il piégé lui-même ? Sous couvert d'instaurer une redistribution équitable des fruits de la croissance dans la fonction publique, Ali Bongo Ondimba, le président de la République, avait lancé en début d'année le principe d'une prime d'incitation à la performance (PIP). Sa création a été adoptée par l'Assemblée nationale le 19 juin dernier. Pour le gouvernement, elle réorganise la redistribution des primes de rendement "*dans un esprit d'équité, de justice sociale et de transparence*". Cet outil *a priori* de justice sociale s'est substitué aux "fonds communs", des primes versées à 9 389 agents des finances, du Trésor, des douanes et des cabinets des ministères économiques et financiers. Depuis juillet, la PIP, plafonnée à 100 milliards de francs CFA (168 millions d'euros) en 2014, a été distribuée à 21 000 agents sur les 47 000 fonctionnaires en activité au Gabon. Ce qui en exclut de fait plus d'un sur deux de la PIP. De quoi alimenter un courant de frustration et de revendications.

Effet boule de neige

Dans un premier temps, le gouvernement a justifié son choix en expliquant que les primes ne se cumulaient pas. La PIP doit profiter aux fonctionnaires "*n'ayant pas de primes spécifiques à leur métier*", a expliqué le ministre du Budget, Christian Magnagna. Ce qui écarte en théorie les enseignants, les policiers, les militaires et les métiers de la santé.

Sauf qu'après avoir essuyé un premier refus, les agents de police et les militaires ont eu gain de cause le 11 août. Ils recevront la PIP. De leur côté, les agents de santé ont obtenu le même résultat après une grève qui a duré du 6 juillet au 14 août. Mais comme l'État ne s'était toujours pas exécuté le 24 août, comme convenu lors de négociations, le Syndicat national des personnels de santé (Synaps) a relancé le 27 août "*une grève sauvage*" dans les hôpitaux et les centres de santé du service public. Selon le syndicat, 11 183 agents de santé devraient se partager plus d'1 milliard de francs CFA (1,5 million d'euros) de primes.

Certains ministres aussi

Dans la foulée, les agents municipaux membres du Syndicat des travailleurs libres des municipalités gabonaises (STLMG), réunis en assemblée générale le 29 août à Libreville, ont exprimé la même revendication. Pour la même raison, le 4 août, le Conseil économique et social était agité par un mouvement d'humeur de son personnel, le premier depuis sa création en 1959 !

Le gouvernement n'a-t-il pas ouvert la boîte de Pandore ? Alors que la PIP devait aider initialement les fonctionnaires les moins favorisés, le site GabonReview affirme que des ministres du gouvernement Ona Ondo s'octroient trimestriellement des PIP de "*18 millions, 24 millions, voire 90 millions de francs CFA*". Soit de 27 440 euros à 137 204 euros. Quant à savoir sur quels critères de performance ces primes sont attribuées... (Acteurs Publicques 03-09-2014)

GROWTH OF ANGOLA'S ECONOMY EXPECTED TO CONTRACT TO 3.9 PCT IN 2014

The rate of growth of Angola's economy is expected to decelerate to 3.9 percent in 2014 after posting growth of 6.8 percent in 2013, with the agricultural sector offsetting a loss of revenue from oil sales, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Wednesday.

According to tables in the report released by the IMF, the oil sector is expected this year to contract by 3.5 percent whilst the non-oil sector will see growth of 7.3 percent.

The IMF also projects a return to growth in both sectors in 2015, with 2.6 percent and 7.3 percent for the oil and non-oil sectors, respectively, and the GDP growth is projected to post growth of 5.9 percent.

The IMF also said that budget execution, which over the last four years has posted surpluses, in 2014 will post a deficit of around 4 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Noting that, despite economic growth over the past decade, poverty and income inequality remains a reality, the IMF said that in the long term Angola needs to reduce its dependence on oil in order to reduce its vulnerabilities to external shocks and achieve sustainable growth. (05-09-2014)

MTN IN NIGERIA MOBILE TOWER VENTURE WITH IHS

South Africa's MTN has agreed to form a joint venture with specialist tower company IHS that will own and operate MTN's 9,151 transmitter towers in Nigeria, IHS said on Thursday.

The deal was expected to close in the fourth quarter, subject to regulatory approvals, IHS said.

IHS did not reveal the deal's value, but a source familiar with the matter told Reuters it was worth about \$1.8bn.

MTN has a 46% share of Nigeria's mobile subscribers, according to the industry regulator, while India's Bharti Airtel has 20%, Globacom 19% and Etisalat Nigeria 15%.

Building and maintaining mobile communications towers in Africa is typically more expensive than in other regions because of security costs and electricity shortages, while revenue per user is often lower.

That has prompted many operators to sell or lease towers to specialist firms, which can reduce building and maintenance costs. It also allows operators to focus more on marketing and customer service, which become more important as differences in network quality between rival operators diminish.

"The new towers company will market independent infrastructure sharing services to other mobile operators and internet service providers in Nigeria," IHS said.

The new firm would invest more than \$500m over four years to upgrade towers, boost maintenance and improve service quality, it said.

On completion, Lagos-based IHS will manage more than 20,000 towers in Africa. This tower deal is the fifth between IHS and MTN following transactions in Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroon, Rwanda and Zambia in 2012 and 2013.

IHS aimed to manage more than 25,000 towers by the end of 2015, it said. (Reuters 04-09-2014)

FERTILIZER PLANT DUE TO BE BUILT IN SOYO, ANGOLA

Angola's Minister of Geology and Mines Thursday in Luanda announced plans for construction of a fertiliser factory in Soyo, northern Zaire province, in 2015, to produce the 400,000 tons of fertiliser that Angola consumes each year and to export surplus production.

Francisco Queiroz, when speaking at the opening of the III's Ministry Advisory Council, under the motto "Transparency, fairness and rigour for the growth and diversification of geological activity and mining in Angola," also said that phosphate exploration projects in Cabinda and Zaire are underway.

The minister also said that Ferrangol, a publicly-owned mining company, is negotiating partnerships for mining of iron, copper, gold and other minerals, especially gold in Chipindo and Mpopo, sales of artisanally-mined gold in Cabinda and the Cassinga and Cassala Quitungo Integrated Project, according to Angolan news agency Angop.

Queiroz summarised the implementation of the action programme for the sector since the 2013 Advisory Council, by reviewing the National Geology Plan, the Mining Code, institutional organisation and

operations, mining projects, the Kimberley Process and organisation of exploration of minerals for civil construction.

The National Geology Plan (Planageo) will collect scientific information on geological and mining resources, location and estimated quantities across the whole of Angola and, since it began last May, has overflowed 172,856 linear kilometres of land. (05-09-2014)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SEEK PRESENCE IN POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

The world's 370 million indigenous people, who say they were marginalised in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), want to play a key role in the U.N.'s post-2015 development agenda, which will be finalised next year.

"The world can still benefit from [our] knowledge by including us in the journey for the next 15 years. And we want this to be an equal partnership, we do not want to be beneficiaries," stated Galina Angarova, the New York representative of Tebtebba Foundation (the Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education).

In her speech at the closing session of the three-day conference of NGOs sponsored by the U.N. Department of Public Information (DPI) last week, she highlighted the need to include marginalised groups in development targets as well as in the on-going negotiations for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which will replace the MDGs in 2015.

"A lot of the corporations are eyeing [indigenous peoples'] territories for future profit. This is why free prior and informed consent is key. Because without it, they are just free to go and grab, and develop on those territories."

-- Galina Angarova, the New York representative of Tebtebba Foundation (Indigenous Peoples' International Center for Policy Research and Education)

Indigenous peoples continue to fight for their right to self-determination, which is not a reality yet, despite being granted by the [2007 U.N. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#), she added.

The outcome document of the DPI/NGO conference, drafted and amended through a participative process over the past months, will feed into the discussion about the post-2015 agenda and the SDGs in the General Assembly, the first [World Conference on Indigenous People](#) that will be held on Sep. 22-23, and into the Secretary General's synthesis report to be issued later this autumn.

Although this declaration is not legally binding, it has strong power in terms of accountability and review mechanisms, which are key points in the SDGs.

"The fact that the resource document is based upon officially submitted positions by major U.N. groups and stakeholders gives it quite a strong voice," Maruxa Cardama, co-chair of the conference declaration drafting committee, told IPS.

"I think that this document can take us very far if we understand the power of soft law and soft policy," she added.

This year marked the 65th edition of the DPI/NGO conference, which returned to New York after seven years, with an unprecedented attendance of at least 2,700 representatives from more than 1,000 international NGOs. Among those present, indigenous groups and organisations managed to work a strong case for their inclusion in the development agenda.

According to Angarova, indigenous peoples' territories cover 24 percent of the land worldwide, and host 80 percent of the world's biodiversity.

"A lot of the corporations are eyeing those territories for future profit. This is why free prior and informed consent is key. Because without it they [corporations] are just free to go and grab, and develop on those territories," she told IPS.

Indigenous people are then thrown into mainstream society without the means to survive.

Instead, advocates and representatives say they should be able to give their consent to any reforms that directly or indirectly impact governance in their community, or development in the lands they inhabit.

"This has to be done at all levels, starting from the sustainable development programmes; and then the national governments should derive the mandate from the U.N. level, from the multilateral level down to national government plans," Angarova stated.

Harnessing these policies into the development goals of reducing hunger and achieving food security also has great potential.

Indigenous people have lived in a sustainable way for centuries and passed their knowledge from generation to generation, feeding their people without damaging the natural environment. And this is one of the reasons why protecting their culture is crucial, she declared.

“Food sovereignty, with the rights and culture-based approach that it encompasses, is a pre-requisite for indigenous peoples’ food security,” Andrea Carmen, executive director of the International Indian Treaty Council (IITC), told IPS.

Not only must these communities be able to access the natural resources but they also have to ensure the learning curriculum for their children includes traditional education and allows kids to spend time with elders to learn about the cycle of life, nature, harvesting and farming.

Their challenge is now to preserve their knowledge and pass it on.

“The knowledge and understanding that we have is really vital [...],” Carmen continued. “Maybe the world will look at indigenous people and ask in a respectful way how to grow corn with no water.”

Myrna Cunningham, president of the Centre for Autonomy and Development of Indigenous People in Nicaragua, pointed out that indigenous people are not poor of their own accord, but have been impoverished as a result of the development paradigm that has been imposed on them.

For instance, about 600 indigenous languages have been lost in the past 100 years, roughly one every two weeks. As language is part of the biodiversity indigenous communities preserve, losing language means losing biodiversity. This is necessarily linked to a change in their relationship with the world.

Carmen explained to IPS that there is no translation in indigenous language for words like “intellectual property” or “human rights”, for example. These concepts have to be imported from a different culture. So things have been literally lost in translation. Paradigms from other languages and cultures have been imposed over a reality that was perceived in a different way for centuries.

Now it is time to revisit this paradigm, as the world prepares for a decade of inclusive and sustainable development. (IPS 04-09-2014)

PORT OF BEIRA, MOZAMBIQUE, POSTS ANNUAL GROWTH OF 15 PCT

The port of Beira is expected to post annual growth of 15 percent in processing cargo from countries such as Zimbabwe, Zambia, Malawi and DR Congo, as well as goods to and from Mozambique, said the CEO of Cornelder of Mozambique.

Carlos Mesquita said that in 2013 cargo processing rose by 17 percent compared to 2012, although there were some problems that were overcome with the commissioning of the Single Electronic Window – a scheme to reduce bureaucracy – according to the Mozambican daily newspaper *Correio da Manhã*.

The port of the capital of Sofala province last year handled 184,000 containers and 6.6 million tons of general cargo, including four million tons of coal from Moatize.

The rise in the amount of cargo handled was due to increased productivity from March onwards following the arrival of new equipment that increased container processing from 12 to 29 per hour and reducing the time ships spent at the port from six to two days.

Mesquita noted that the merit is also shared with the Tax Authority, which “is flexible in customs clearance processes,” and the delays that still occur are directly related to the influx of road traffic. (05-09-2014)

LE FONCTIONNEMENT DE L'ÉTAT DU LIBERIA AFFECTE PAR EBOLA

Bloquer la progression du virus sans déstabiliser l'État. C'est la ligne fragile de la Présidente Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Pour le deuxième mois consécutif, elle ordonne aux fonctionnaires “*non essentiels*” de

rester chez eux. Mais sa directive pour faire rentrer au pays les hauts fonctionnaires de l'étranger fait polémique.

Le 1^{er} septembre, un communiqué de la Présidente du Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, a renouvelé l'ordre donné aux fonctionnaires "*non essentiels*" de rester chez eux un mois de plus. La Présidente précise que "*cette mesure reste nécessaire pour désengorger les lieux de travail*" et elle réaffirme que les agents de l'État "*continueront à percevoir leur salaire pendant leur absence*".

Avec la Guinée Conakry et la Sierra Leone, le Liberia est l'un des principaux foyers de la fièvre Ebola.

Avec 624 décès depuis le début de l'année, le pays est aussi le plus touché par la fièvre hémorragique en Afrique de l'Ouest. Et face à ce fléau, le Liberia tente de contenir le virus sans trop se désorganiser.

Le 30 juillet, quelques jours avant d'instaurer l'état d'urgence – le 6 août dernier –, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, avait prononcé une déclaration officielle à la nation sur de nouvelles mesures à prendre pour lutter contre le virus. Pour contenir la progression de la fièvre hémorragique, elle annonçait qu'à partir du 1^{er} août, tous les agents de l'État "*non essentiels*" prenaient un congé de trente jours obligatoire et rémunéré. L'objectif : "*éviter de nouveaux cas*".

Après la mi-août, la présidence de la République avait renforcé les mesures de lutte avec une directive imposant "*des restrictions de voyages pour les représentants du gouvernement*". Des mesures extraordinaires nécessaires "*pour la survie même de notre État*", avait justifié Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. Elle avait laissé un délai d'une semaine aux fonctionnaires à l'étranger pour regagner le Liberia et s'impliquer dans la lutte contre le fléau. Sinon, ils seraient considérés comme ayant "*abandonné leur fonction ou leur poste*". "*Ceux qui violent ces mesures seront relevés de leurs fonctions*", avait-elle tranché.

Exceptions à la règle

Une mesure, toujours d'actualité, qui s'adresse à tous les fonctionnaires de tous les ministères, les organismes, les sociétés publiques, les commissions et les organismes parapublics. Elle concerne également les ministres actuellement hors du pays, que ce soit dans le cadre de leur mission ou d'une visite privée. Le ton ferme de la présidente Sirleaf avait été bien accueilli par la population.

Mais la montagne a accouché d'une souris. Le 27 août, un communiqué du palais présidentiel a précisé que "*des hauts fonctionnaires qui ont défié l'ordre*" de revenir au Liberia "*pour mener la lutte contre l'épidémie Ebola ont été licenciés*". Des hauts fonctionnaires et des membres de cabinets ministériels auraient été limogés. Mais l'exécutif a refusé d'en indiquer le nombre et l'identité, laissant entendre que les ministres, ou les fonctionnaires de niveau équivalent, avaient été épargnés.

À l'inverse, la Présidence a donné les noms de 7 personnalités autorisées à séjourner à l'étranger. Soit parce qu'elles ont bénéficié d'une autorisation spéciale reposant sur "*le témoignage d'un médecin leur prescrivant des soins médicaux d'urgence et spécialisés*" ou parce qu'elles réalisent une "*mission critique*" pour le compte de la Présidente Sirleaf.

Pression politique

Parmi ces personnalités se trouvent : Seward Cooper, président de la compagnie pétrolière nationale (NOCAL) depuis janvier 2014 et ancien conseiller d'Ellen Johnson Sirleaf ; James Verdier, président de la Commission anticorruption du Liberia ; Amos Sawyer, président du conseil d'administration du Centre africain pour le développement et le président de la Commission de la gouvernance du Liberia ; Yusador Gray, vérificatrice générale par intérim du General Auditing Commission (GAC) ; Richelieu Williams, directeur de la Liberia Aviation Authority (LAA) ; Cyvette Gibson, maire de Paynesville, et Rosetta Jackollie, ministre adjointe au Travail.

Mais sous la pression politique, le porte-parole de la présidence, Jerolinmick Piah, a assuré que la liste des hauts fonctionnaires limogés serait publiée prochainement. Pendant ce temps, Ebola décime la population du Liberia. (Acteurs Publiques 03-09-2019)

EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORTS CABO VERDE BUDGET

The European Union (EU) will allocate 55 million euros in aid to Cabo Verde's (Cape Verde's) state budget, under the 2014-2020 Indicative Cooperation Programme (ICP) 2014/2020, the Cabo Verde Foreign Minister Jorge Borges said.

The minister told the Rádio de Cabo Verde radio station the agreement was signed by himself and by the European Commissioner for Aid Development, Andris Piebalgs, on the sidelines of the Third Conference on Small Island Developing States.

Jorge Borges, accompanying the Cape Verdean prime minister, stressed that the readiness of the European Union to assist Cabo Verde showed that the establishment of the Cabo Verde/European Union partnership was “a good choice” by the Cape Verdean authorities.

This partnership, Borges said, was “the best way for Cabo Verde found to maintain a dialogue with the “European Union, since it make sit possible to plan projects with more quality and to better plan the development of the country.”

The government of Cabo Verde said the funding provided by the European Union would be applied to programmes of economic growth, combating poverty, and mobility, amongst others. (05-09-2014)

BID TO GAG ZIMBABWE VOTE REPORT CONTINUES

Despite suggestions from justices of the Supreme Court of Appeal to abandon an appeal, the Presidency stuck to its guns, in court on Thursday, in its bid to keep secret a report on the controversial 2002 Zimbabwean election.

The Mail & Guardian has been trying for more than six years to get access to the report commissioned by former president Thabo Mbeki and written by Deputy Chief Justice Dikgang Moseneke and Constitutional Court Justice Sisi Khampepe. Three presidents have fought the newspaper’s case.

The court case went all the way to the Constitutional Court via the Supreme Court of Appeal.

The Constitutional Court sent it back to the High Court saying that it should have taken a "judicial peek" at the report first before making its order, and it then went back again, on Thursday, to the Supreme Court of Appeal.

Before argument had even begun, Supreme Court of Appeal Justice Visvanathan Ponnar asked whether the appeal was not academic, given that there had been two elections since in Zimbabwe. Justice Mahomed Navsa added: "There may be a retrospective embarrassment value; but for the rest, isn't this just a fight about history?"

But after consulting with his clients, counsel for the Presidency, Marumo Moerane SC said he would persist with the appeal.

He argued that Judge Joseph Raulinga was wrong when he refused to entertain an affidavit by former president Thabo Mbeki, which said the object of justices Moseneke’s and Khampepe’s mission to Zimbabwe was to help with the formulation of policy.

Judge Raulinga’s refusal to admit the affidavit was “misdirection”, said Mr Moerane, because the judge had asked for submissions from the parties following his "judicial peek". But then, when he was given the affidavit as a submission, he would not entertain it.

But counsel for the Mail & Guardian Jeremy Gauntlett SC said the judge was right to reject the affidavit as it was a belated attempt to bring in new evidence. In any event, it "adds nothing" to Mr Mbeki’s case. (BD 05-09-2014)

AFRICA'S HIDDEN HUNGER

Though great efforts have been made to tackle hunger in Africa over the past decades, chronic malnutrition or 'hidden hunger' are not always visible, writes Ramadhani Abdallah Noor.

Just over 20 years ago, South African photographer Kevin Carter shocked the world with a [controversial photograph](#) of a famished young Sudanese child being watched by a vulture during a famine. Critics slammed the shot as “disaster porn,” calling it yet another example of how the international media sensationalise African problems.

But what disturbs me is not the photograph. Rather, it is that two decades later, the conditions that the photograph depicts remain basically the same. Every year, [3.1 million children](#) around the world still die of hunger.

As an African doctor, I know that the ravages of serious malnutrition and hunger are not always visible. They are not always as manifest as they are in the protruding ribs of ghostly children hooked up to feeding tubes, like those I used to see in hospital wards in Tanzania. Chronic malnutrition, or “hidden hunger,” shows itself in other ways – but it can be just as devastating and deadly. And while deaths from many other diseases, including acute malnutrition, have declined, hidden hunger remains pervasive.

In the last two decades, [astounding success](#) has been achieved in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. [New HIV infections](#) have dropped by as much as 50% in some countries in Africa, with AIDS-related deaths down by 30-48%; [TB cases have](#) declined by 40%, and [malaria cases](#) by 30%.

But the stunting of early childhood growth as a result of malnutrition remains high, [dropping by only about 1%](#) over the same period. In Africa, hunger remains the leading cause of death in children, accounting for half of all deaths of children under the age of five and killing [more than AIDS, TB, and malaria combined](#).

In fact, many scientific studies have shown that a malnourished child is much more likely to contract an infection, to suffer from other illnesses, and to suffer from them longer. Diarrhea, for example, is a deadly disease for severely underweight children, who are [12 times more likely to die](#) from an ailment that should be easily treated. And severely underweight children are [9.5 times more likely to die](#) from malaria as well.

Indeed, childhood malnutrition is now confirmed to be the leading cause of the global disease burden, with the World Health Organisation attributing to it [45% of all deaths under the age of five](#) in 2011. [Recent reports](#) from the war-ravaged Central African Republic indicate that more children there are dying from hunger than from bullets.

These numbers make the problem of malnutrition look insurmountable. But what works is no secret: vitamin A, iodised salt, and fortified foods. The lack of vitamin A alone results in blindness in [a half-million children every year](#), with half of them dying within 12 months of losing their sight. Similarly, half of all women of childbearing age in developing countries suffer from weakened immune systems, [owing to anemia](#) caused by iron deficiency.

The long-term damage caused by malnutrition has a domino effect, impeding educational achievement, and ultimately, hobbling national economies. Addressing this ongoing crisis requires money – [an estimated \\$10 billion per year](#) – and new and better strategies to bring life-saving solutions to the mothers and children who most need them.

But the cost looks far less daunting when one considers the cost of hunger. UNICEF estimates that the cost of Africa’s child malnutrition is [\\$25 billion a year](#). And this is not the whole story. Malnutrition costs an estimated [\\$3.5 trillion every year](#) to the global economy, owing to loss of productivity and higher health-care costs.

To meet this challenge, save lives, and improve economies, Africa needs a comprehensive strategy and increased investment in agriculture.

The Africa Union has declared 2014 the [year of agriculture and food security](#) in Africa, and the continent’s agriculture sector is expected to grow significantly. In theory, that should improve overall nutrition; but increased investment in agriculture is not a panacea. We need to concentrate on building nutrition-sensitive agriculture programs that include small-scale farmers, households, women, and children.

A big step would be to increase women's control over land ownership and farming decisions, along with access to agricultural credits and subsidies designed to encourage domestic food production through home gardening and cattle and poultry husbandry. Studies show that women are much more likely than men to [spend additional income on food and health](#). Increasing their farming income and decision-making power ultimately has a greater impact on children's health and nutrition.

Moreover, agricultural policies, subsidies, and investments have traditionally benefited cereal farmers. But policymakers need to concentrate on increasing access to more nutritious foods, such as meat, fruit, and vegetables, which are too expensive for the poor.

Malnutrition causes the greatest damage during the first thousand days of life, leading to grievous and irreversible changes in infant health. To make real inroads against hidden hunger, African governments, supported by global development partners, must act quickly. Childhood hunger in Africa does not have to be as dramatic as that depicted in Carter's 1993 photograph to be just as deadly. (IPS 04-09-2014)

AFRICAN MARITIME MANAGERS TO MEET IN KENYA OVER BLUE ECONOMY

African ports and maritime managers will meet in Kenya in November to seek ways of addressing challenges facing the two industries, organizers said on Thursday.

The [Nov. 16 to 19 conference](#) organized by the Pan African Association for Port Co-operation (PAPC) aims to enhance Africa Union's drive in achieving [African Integrated Maritime Strategy \(AIMS\) 2050](#) objectives of fully exploiting the continent's blue economy.

"It is a step towards attaining an in-depth awareness of the strategy and how PAPC can learn and synergize with their European peers from the International Association of Ports and Harbours platform through the Africa-Europe Regional Group," PAPC said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

The event comes as piracy which had affected the African maritime industry, along the Indian Ocean has sharply reduced, lowering the costs of shipping as insurance companies and private ship security companies lower their premiums.

The drop in piracy incidents is however a relief to shipping companies using the Indian Ocean that have been target of pirates often paying heavy ransom to secure release of their vehicles and the crew.

Shipping companies had been forced to hire private security companies to enhance the security of their vehicles, a fact that however has increased the cost of doing business.

The conference is a response to the continent's unimpressive share of global investments in the maritime industry despite its significant contribution to global maritime cargo and the renewed desire for strategic take-off in the maritime sector.

The three-day event which will be hosted by the Kenya Ports Authority is being organized by the PAPC Secretariat in conjunction with the three Port Management Associations – West and Central Africa, East and Southern Africa and North Africa.
(Tralac 04-09-2014)

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES OVER ETHIOPIA'S MEGA-POWER DAM

Egypt backs fresh environmental studies over Ethiopia's mega-power dam - Visiting Egyptian foreign minister Sameh Shoukry and his Ethiopian counterpart Tedros Adhanom have agreed to appoint experts to conduct studies about the environmental risks posed by Ethiopia's mega-electricity dam.

The foreign ministers of the two countries met in Addis Ababa on Thursday, where they announced Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El Sisi and Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, would hold a meeting on the dam project.

Egyptian, Ethiopian and Sudanese water ministers agreed to initiate fresh environmental studies after talks in Khartoum, Sudan, last week, to create a panel of experts, who would then identify a firm to conduct the environmental studies.

Egypt strongly opposes the construction of the US\$5 billion hydro-power dam, the Grand Renaissance Dam, to produce more electric power for export to the region.

Tedros said the firm to be identified would conduct studies on the environmental impact of the hydro-electric dam. Ethiopian officials say the dam would help reduce flooding downstream, affecting Sudan and it would not interfere with the water levels.

Egypt has long argued that the dam would affect the water volumes on River Nile, the country's lifeline, but Ethiopia insists the hydro-electric dam would not interfere with the Egyptian share of the River Nile waters.

'We have agreed to build confidence between our people to have trust in each other,' declared Tedros, a signal of the major thawing of relations between Egypt and Ethiopia, since Addis Ababa launched the construction of the dam.

At least 30% of the dam's construction has been completed. Ethiopian scholars insist the dam is Ethiopia's only chance to industrialize by generating adequate electricity for sale as a form of insurance to future investors wishing to invest in the country.

'We have agreed the technical team would identify firms to conduct transboundary environmental studies. This is a new spirit to our relationship,' said Tadros.

The two sides plan to launch a joint commission, a ministerial level meeting, to discuss agricultural cooperation.

Meanwhile, Egypt has welcomed the agreement reached by ministers of water from the three countries, to begin new negotiations on the sharing of the water resources.

'We are satisfied by the results of the technical meeting in Khartoum,' Shoukry told reporters after holding talks with his host before proceeding to a meeting with the Ethiopian Prime Minister, Hailemariam.

He said preparations were underway for the holding of the two countries' joint commission meeting. (Pana 05/09/2014)

GHANA SUGAR PLANTATIONS TO GAIN INVESTMENT FROM MAURITIUS FIRM

A Mauritian energy and manufacturing firm, Omnicane, is set to invest about US\$250 million in various sugar plantation projects in Savelugu in the Northern Region, following the conclusion of a test that proved the project's commercial and production viability.

The five-year project, which is planned to produce more than 100,000 tonnes of refined sugar annually,

is expected to yield job prospects for residents in one of the most poverty-endemic areas in the country. The Northern Regional Minister, Alhaji Mohammed Limuna Muniru, told the B&FT that a number of training programmes have been put in place to enhance the people's skill-sets ahead of the project's start.

"Efforts are being made to train more of the youths who will be engaged to discharge their duties well, ensuring that the raw materials produced from the region meet international standards to attract more investors that will contribute their quota to enhancement of the region," he said.

Sugarcane remains Mauritius' leading sector in terms of exports, employment and share of gross domestic product. Sugarcane is grown on about 90 percent of the cultivated land area of that country, and accounts for 15 percent of export earnings.

Alhaji Muniru observed that Omnicare's participation in the sugar plantation business will help Ghana develop its sugarcane industry.

(Afkinsider 04-09-2013)



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- 12. September: [Wirtschaftsgespräch DR Kongo, Berlin](#)
- 16. September: [Wirtschaftsgespräch Kenia mit Hon. Raila Odinga, Berlin](#)
- 17.-19. September: [Deutsch-Südafrikanischen Wirtschaftsforum](#)
- 23. September: [Wirtschaftsgespräch Somalia, Berlin](#)
- 30. September: [Wirtschaftsgespräch Botswana, Berlin](#)

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