MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

'SERVICES SECTOR IS HIGHEST CONTRIBUTOR TO NIGERIA'S GDP'

The services sector accounted for the largest share of Nigeria's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the second quarter of 2014, amounting to 8.5 billion naira (about 160 naira = US$1) or 53.15%, according to a statement from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS.

"Industry ranked second with a contribution of 4.2 billion naira or 25.96%, while agriculture constituted the smallest sector in the second quarter, representing 3.4 billion naira or 20.89% of the GDP,'' the statement added.

The latest GDP as released by NBS stands at 6.5% in the second quarter of 2014. The figure was 0.14% higher than the 5.40% recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2013.

NBS explained that in the second quarter of 2014, Nigeria's Nominal GDP (at basic prices) was estimated at 21.7 billion naira and16.1 billion naira in real terms.

In the corresponding quarter of 2013, nominal GDP was estimated at 19.9 billion naira and 15.1 billion naira in real terms.

The average daily crude oil production in the second quarter of 2014 increased to 2.21 Million Barrel Per Day (MBPD) from 2.11 MBPD in the corresponding quarter of 2013. This is an increase of 0.10 MBPD or 4.7%.

In addition, the US dollar price of crude increased significantly from an average price of 104.31% in second (Q2) 2013 to 112.25% in Q2 of 2014, representing an increase of 7.6%.

The Oil GDP was valued at 2.6 billion naira in nominal terms in the second quarter of 2014, compared to the 2.6 billion naira recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2013.

NBS said the non-oil real sector of the economy grew by 6.71% in the second quarter of 2014.

"This is a decline of 2.17 percentage points from the 8.88 per cent growth recorded in the corresponding quarter of 2013.

"Relative to Q1 of 2013, non-oil growth was also lower by 1.49 percentage points when growth was recorded at 8.21%,' the statement noted. (Pana 09/09/2014)

CHINA FUNDS RECONSTRUCTION OF FISHING PORT IN MOZAMBIQUE

The government of Mozambique Wednesday in Maputo signed a framework agreement with China with a view to granting a loan of US$120 million for reconstruction of the fishing port of Beira, in Mozambique's Sofala province.

Mozambique's finance minister, Manuel Chang, highlighting the importance of infrastructure for development of the central region of the country, said that framework agreement precedes a funding agreement with the Export and Import Bank (ExIm) of China, which is expected to grant the subsidised loan by the end of the year.

Chang said that the initiative is part of a portfolio of 11 projects for the 2013-2015 period, for which the Mozambican government has requested funding from China, and that is mainly focused on building infrastructure, with an overall budget of US$1.4 billion.

With this reconstruction and expansion work, Chang said, the fishing port of Beira will handle about 70,000 tons of fish per year, generating more trade and jobs in the region, as well as adding to equipment for "handling, refrigeration and storage," at the port.

The Chinese ambassador to Mozambique, Li Chunhua, noted the success of similar initiatives funded with Chinese capital, which "offers good prospects" for the agreement and further noted China's interest in, “expanding cooperation with the country and deepening the traditional friendship between the two peoples.”

China has been playing an increasingly important role in lending to Mozambique for infrastructure, including the construction projects of the international and domestic terminals at Maputo International Airport and Zimpeto National Stadium (completed), as well as the Maputo Ring Road and the Maputo/Catembe bridge, to a total value of over US$1 billion.

Figures on the Mozambican Ministry of Finance website show that in 2013 China funded construction projects to build the Presidency building and rebuild National Road 6 between Beira and Machipanda, in the amount of US$71.9 million and US$416.5 million, respectively.

Between 2012 and 2013 the loans granted by China to Mozambique rose from US$342.52 million to US$672.01 million, according to the Ministry of Finance. (11-09-2014)

BAN, WORLD LEADERS TO MEET ON EBOLA CRISIS RESPONSE

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will convene leaders gathering in New York for the upcoming high-level segment of this year’s UN General Assembly to highlight the urgent needs and required response to the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

UN spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, told reporters on Tuesday that the meeting will be held on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and will comprise leaders from Africa, US, Europe and other parts of the world.

According to Dujarric, Ban also spoke on Monday with US President Barack Obama and discussed the need to urgently scale up international efforts to combat the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

He noted that the UN chief has been making a series of calls to key countries and organizations to urge more support for countries affected by the disease.

Ban also informed Obama that he is planning to convene a high-level event during the General Assembly to highlight the needs and required response from governments, NGOs, the private sector and academic institutions.

The spokesperson also announced that the UN chief has requested Ms. Ameerah Haq, UN Under Secretary-General for Field Support, to postpone her departure from the UN, given the severity of the crisis and that she has graciously agreed.

'In addition, the Secretary-General has appointed UN Assistant Secretary-General for Field Support Anthony Banbury as UN Deputy Ebola Coordinator and Operation Crisis Manager, working out of the UN Operations Crisis Centre.

'Banbury will coordinate the operational work of the UN System, member states, NGOs and other stakeholders under a single platform and he will work closely with Dr. David Nabarro, Senior UN System Coordinator for Ebola and WHO Director-General Dr. Margaret Chan and her team in managing the overall response to the Ebola crisis,' Dujarric said.

The World Health Organization (WHO) on Tuesday said the number of Ebola cases topped 4,200 and reported that thousands of new cases are expected in Liberia over the coming three weeks.

WHO stated: 'Conventional Ebola control interventions are not having an adequate impact in Liberia, though they appear to be working elsewhere in areas of limited transmission, most notably in Nigeria, Senegal, and Democratic Republic of Congo.'

In a new update issued, WHO said that as of 6 September, 4,269 cases and 2,288 deaths have been reported in the current outbreak of Ebola virus disease in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

In Nigeria, there have been 21 cases and 8 deaths and in Senegal, one case has been confirmed.

Meanwhile, at UN headquarters in New York, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Liberia, Ms. Karin Landgren, briefed the UN Security Council, warning that the Ebola crisis has become complex, with political, security, economic and social implications that will continue to affect the country well beyond the current medical emergency.

Landgren said that Liberians are now facing the gravest threat since the war, one that would challenge any government or society.

She said that UN Under Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Herve Ladsous, is scheduled to travel to Liberia from 11-12 September.

During the visit, Ladsous is expected to hold meetings with national authorities and UN mission (UNMIL) personnel to discuss how the UN peacekeeping efforts can further support the fight against Ebola in Liberia.

In a related development, in Geneva on Tuesday, Dr. Sylvie Briand, WHO Director of the Department of Pandemic and Epidemic Diseases, in response to a question about risks associated with the Muslim hajj to Saudi Arabia said that Saudi Arabia had stopped issuing visas to affected countries and exit screenings were in place in the affected countries. (Pana 10/09/2014)

NCONDEZI ENERGY SELLS POWER TO MOZAMBICAN STATE COMPANY EDM

British company Ncondezi Energy has reached an agreement with Mozambican state electricity company Electricidade de Moçambique (EdM) for the sale of electricity produced in a future coal-fired power plant, the company said in a statement.

Under the contract, valid for a period of 25 years, the amount to be paid initially by EdM, which was not made public, shall be subject to adjustments during the expected lifetime of the plant.

The agreement is still dependent on a number of conditions to be met by the end of 2014, including approval of an investor by EdM and confirmation of the political and business coverage of the risk involved.

The board of Ncondezi Energy also said in the statement that the announcement was the result of negotiations between the company, EdM and the Mozambique Department of Energy on the viability of the project to build a coal-fired power plant in Tete province. (11-09-2014)

FIRSTRAND ON TRACK TO OPEN GHANA BANK

FirstRand, SA's largest bank by earnings and market capitalisation, hopes to set up a fully fledged bank in Ghana early next year and has R10.2bn in surplus capital to invest in its growing operations in countries such as Mozambique, Nigeria, Zambia and India.

In an interview on Tuesday after the banking group's full-year results, CEO Sizwe Nxasana said FirstRand had received a provisional banking licence in the West African country and the regulator expected it to put in $60m as part of the capital requirements.

"We have Nigeria that now continues to grow. We have Ghana where we have a provisional banking licence. We are hoping we are going to be up and running there early next year. Mozambique is doing very well for us. It needs a bit of support."

Asked what the plan was in Ghana, Mr Nxasana said: "We want to do everything and have a mini-FirstRand." The group understood the Ghanaian economy and had deployed capital in the West African country's real estate, oil and gas, ports and power industries.

The company was not actively looking for acquisitions, though.

Asked whether FirstRand was still after Nigeria's Mainstreet Bank or Keystone Bank, Mr Nxasana was noncommittal, saying only: "The big focus is on growing our platform. We would rather focus on our own business."

Mr Nxasana said an acquisition would be looked at only if it presented itself and met the group's criteria. In Nigeria FirstRand runs a merchant bank and is chasing after business from small and medium-sized enterprises through FNB Commercial.

Commenting on the surplus capital held by FirstRand, Jihad Jhaveri, investment analyst at Kagiso Asset Management, said: "If management are confident that they can deploy the capital in high return on equity businesses, then we would back them. Otherwise, obviously the cash should be returned to shareholders.

"FirstRand have taken a cautious approach to investing in the rest of Africa. Over the past two years they have seen considerable success from their established African countries, and newer businesses (such as Mozambique and Zambia), and I think this will give them confidence to deploy more capital into the region."

In its full-year results to end-June, FirstRand posted a 21% rise in normalised earnings to R18.6bn, so far making it SA's largest bank by earnings.

In its last full year Standard Bank delivered headline earnings of R17bn in its financial year to end-December 2013. (BD 10-09-2014)

GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA PLANS TO OPEN SEVEN TRAINING HOTELS BY 2015

Angola's Ministry of Hotels and Tourism plans to regain control of public hospitality and tourism schools and build seven training hotels by 2015, Minister Pedro Mutindi said.

"We stopped being responsible for the public tourism schools over 10 years ago and as a result, Angola no longer has enough qualified staff to meet the demand of hotel and tourism services," he said.

The schedule for construction of training hotels started with laying the first stone, at the end of August, for the Luanda Hotel School, in the commune of Ramiro, Belas municipality with an execution period of 12 months.

Estimated to cost 1.9 billion kwanza (US$19.4 million), the Hotel School will be built on an area of 1.5 hectares, will have 50 rooms, 12 classrooms, four residences for management staff and can accommodate 500 students at once, 96 of which as boarders.

Apart from Luanda, the programme will gradually benefit the provinces of Benguela, Huila, Uige, Moxico and Huambo.

"By building this facility, the foundations for a new era are laid, in line with government guidelines as part of the National Plan for Teacher Training," said Mutindi, cited by Angolan weekly newspaper Expansão. (11-09-2014)

EU RELEASES 140 MILLION EUROS TO FIGHT EBOLA IN WEST AFRICA

The European Union has released 140 million Euros to help countries affected by the deadly Ebola Virus Disease in West Africa, particularly Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria beef up their healthcare systems, it was officially announced here Friday.

In a press statement, the EU said that of the funds, 38 million Euros will go to strengthening health services and improvement of food security.

In addition, 5 million Euros has been set aside for supplying medical laboratories with essential material for detecting the Ebola virus and for training local medical staff.

According to the statement, 97.5 million Euros will support budget operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone in a bid to improve capacity in public services, with regard to health care and strengthening the macro-economic stability of those countries.

Specialist teams from the EU project of mobile laboratories arrived in Guinea and Nigeria this week to instal mobile laboratories. Other specialists will be deployed next week to Liberia with similar equipment. (Pana 07/09/2014)

ANGOLA'S LARGEST HYPERMARKET OPENS IN LUANDA

Angolan company Kero has opened Kero Gika, the largest hypermarket in Angola, with a total area of 14,000 square metres, a sales floor covering 10,000 square metres and offering 40,000 products.

Kero Gika is not only the largest hypermarket in Angola but also the largest investment made to date by the Kero company, totalling US$50 million.

"This is the largest facility of its kind in the country and a benchmark on the African continent and it means a large investment by the group in the country's capital," said managing director, João Santos.

Kero is an Angolan-owned private company dedicated to food and non-food sales and distribution through a chain of Kero branded stores, in the hypermarket, supermarket and convenience store formats.

Portuguese group Sonae, which plans to open a network of hypermarkets in Angola under a partnership with Condis, a company controlled by Angolan businesswoman Isabel dos Santos, has successively postponed the opening of the first store.

The partnership between Sonae and Condis for the Continente hypermarkets in Angola was established in April 2011, when the idea was to open four hypermarkets in Luanda, one in Huambo, a training school and a producers club, with the first store originally planned to open in 2013. (11-09-2014)

ZUMA PRODS LESOTHO LEADERS TO RENEW PEACE TALKS

Rival Lesotho leaders vowed to resolve an 11-day crisis that has spurred calls for regional military intervention in the tiny African nation, after South Africa brokered talks on Tuesday.

The sparring factions agreed to hold further negotiations and present a concrete date for reopening Lesotho's parliament to South Africa's President Jacob Zuma on Friday.

"We had very frank and good kind of discussions," said Mr Zuma after the three-hour meeting, aimed at keeping a week-old peace deal alive. "We're just about to get there," said Lesotho Prime Minister Thomas Thabane, who suspended parliament in June and has struggled to preserve his coalition government — a rarity in African politics.

But the parties remained silent on how to tackle the "renegade" Lesotho military commander Lt-Gen Tlali Kamoli, who is accused of triggering the crisis on August 30, one day after he was fired by Thabane.

Lt-Gen Kamoli allegedly attempted an early morning coup, including the botched abduction of Mr Thabane and an assault on several police stations. Mr Thabane fled to South Africa in the aftermath.

The general has refused to step down and last week led a circle of army loyalists in looting an armoury. Reports suggest he has hunkered down in military barracks outside the capital.

Mr Zuma has refused Mr Thabane's request to deploy troops from the 15-member Southern African Development Community (SADC).

"President Zuma is here to remind everyone of their political commitments from last week," said South African government spokesman Clayson Monyela. "Let's give diplomacy a chance."

Any thought of military action comes with the baggage of 1998, when SADC troops led by South Africa marched into downtown Maseru, Lesotho's capital, ostensibly to tame post-election violence.

That led to more than 60 deaths and vast property destruction.
Thesele Maseribane, a junior leader in Lesotho's coalition government, said he was cautiously optimistic after Tuesday's meeting.
"I can now see a light, that this can be done without bloodshed," he said. "Kamoli must calm down, come to his senses — and we'll listen to him too."
A statement from the party of former prime minister Pakalitha Mosisili, a Kamoli ally, ratcheted up tension, warning of "atrocities and bloodbath" should the general be arrested.
"General Kamoli is quite literally and without exaggeration, the last thread by which Lesotho's democracy is hanging," read the statement. "Mark our words."
Even if the talks lead to a concrete date for re-opening parliament, Lt-Gen Kamoli remains a wild card.
"We can't talk about moving forward politically when we have this prevailing security situation," Home Affairs Minister Joang Molapo told AFP.
"We hope (Zuma) will help us return our military command to civilian control. Until then, we can't take the option of military intervention off the table." *(*AFP 10-09-2014)

JAPAN GRANTS FUNDING TO COMBAT DROUGHT IN ANGOLA

The government of Japan will support the Angolan programme to combat the effects of drought affecting 1.8 million people since 2012 with a contribution of US$1.2 million , the first secretary of the Japanese embassy in Angola said in Lubango
Yoshiko Miura, who is on a three-day working mission to Huila province, said the funds given to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) were improving hygiene and sanitation in the provinces of Cunene and Huila, the two most affected by the drought that has also hit ten other provinces in the country in the last three years.
Miura said that the ongoing programme also promotes knowledge of safe hygiene and sanitation practices to prevent diseases transmitted by unsafe water and training locals involved in protecting children against child labour, truancy, neglect and violence.
In Huila and Cunene there are 543,000 people suffering the effects of drought, according to Angolan news agency Angop. (11-09-2014)

ECOWAS DEFENCE CHIEFS MEET IN ACCRA

West African military chiefs are due to meet in Ghana's capital, Accra, for three days starting Tuesday to review the general security situation in the region and determine adequate responses, the ECOWAS Commission said Monday.

The meeting, under the aegis of the ECOWAS Committee of Chiefs of Defence Staff (CCDS), will be held under the theme "Strengthening ECOWAS Military Cooperation for Peace, Stability and Development".

Among other issues, the defence chiefs will be briefed on the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak in West Africa, which the regional Mediation and Security Council - at its last meeting in March - characterised as a security threat to the region.

Ebola has claimed over 2,000 lives from more than 3,000 cases reported in four ECOWAS member states - Guinea, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Nigeria.

The disease has spread to another member state, Senegal, but has yet to claim any life there.

The meeting will also receive an update on the security situation in Northern Nigeria, where the Boko Haram sect has been waging relentless deadly terrorist attacks and kidnappings, and has recently been seizing towns and villages.

Other items on the agenda of the meeting include consideration of the Status Report on the ECOWAS Standby Force, updates on the new Peace Support Operation Division, the operationalisation of the Maritime Model Zone E, the Defence and Security Sector Reform Programme (DSSRP) in Guinea Bissau, and the review of the mandate of the ECOWAS Mission in that country (ECOMIB).

PANA quoted the Commission as saying that during the meeting, Cote d'Ivoire, which has chaired the CCDS for the past two years, will formally handover the mantle of leadership to Ghana, the current Chair of the Authority of ECOWAS Heads of State and Government.

Guinea Bissau hosted the last CCDS meeting in Bissau in February. (Pana 09/09/2014)

NAMIBIA BUILDS COMMERCIAL WAREHOUSE IN LUANDA, ANGOLA

The Namibian government plans to build a nine-storey commercial warehouse in Luanda, Angola having already acquired the land and submitted detailed plans to the Angolan authorities, according to press reports.

The warehouse is part of a memorandum recently signed in Luanda by Angolan minister of Trade, Rosa Pacavira and her Namibian counterpart, Calle Schlettwein to establish cooperation and design projects to promote and ensure the sustainable development of the economies and societies of both countries.

Rosa Pacavira said at the time that signing the memorandum was the result of a trade economic cooperation agreement signed by the governments of Angola and Namibia, in Walvis Bay, on 21 March, 2004.

The commercial warehouse or business centre, according to the minister, is intended to facilitate the exchange of goods between the two countries.

Namibia, she said, is interested in exporting industrial products, while Angola sees its neighbour as fertile ground for products from the primary sector, particularly horticultural products, honey and wood. (11-09-2014)

CBCMED: TECHNOLOGY PROMOTES CULTURE

Can shapes make sound? Can Islamic pattern designs be "heard" through contemporary electro-acoustic music? *Sonic ar(e/y)thmetic* is the title of a music performance based on the mathematical foundations that underlay traditional floor tiles designs in Islam, organised as part of a project funded by the EU under the Mediterranean Cross-Border Cooperation programme (CBCMed).

Dirar Kalash, a Palestinian artist, will be showing his work on Thursday 11 September during a live performance at New Gate, Jerusalem Old City, starting 7pm. He is convinced that floor tile designs are not something of the past, even though they are deeply rooted in a history of centuries. They still captivate us each time we look at them. To the point that we can try to make them sound… The EU funded "I AM" (International Augmented Med) project supports small initiatives to demonstrate the vast range of digital technologies which can be applied to the promotion of natural and cultural heritage.

The International Augmented Med (I AM) project focuses on the application of innovative multimedia technologies in the management of cultural and natural heritage. Visitors of the project's pilot sites will have the opportunity to rediscover various sites and monuments – such as the Library of Alexandria (Egypt) and the archaeological museum of Dar-es-Saraya in Jordan – under a new perspective thanks to the potentialities offered by 3D reconstructions, "Augmented Reality" installations or interactive illumination.

The **ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2007/2013** is a multilateral cross-border cooperation programme funded by the European Union under the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument. It aims at reinforcing cooperation between the EU and partner countries' regions located along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea. (Neighbourhood 10-09-2014)

MARRACUENE AND MAPUTO, MOZAMBIQUE, GET NATURAL GAS DISTRIBUTION NETWORK

The Gas Distribution Project of Maputo and Marracuene (PDGM), which is intended to supply natural gas to households and businesses in those areas, was inaugurated Thursday, according to Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias.

A concession for distribution and marketing of natural gas in those two regions was granted in November 2009 to state company ENH, which established the ENH-Kogas partnership with Kogas, of South Korea, the company that funded the entire project costing US$38.2 million.

Construction of the PDGM network began on 24 April, 2013, with an expected duration of one year, and was completed on 30 May, 2014. The project is expected to consume 6 million gigajoules of natural gas extracted in the Pande and Temane fields, operated by South African company Sasol.

The gas arrives through the pipeline of the Maputo Matola Gas Company (MGC), which is connected in Ressano Garcia to the pipeline that runs from Pande to Secunda in South Africa.

The MGC pipeline transports natural gas from to the Belulane industrial zone and the Matola industrial zone.

At the project’s inauguration, the President of Mozambique stressed that the distribution of natural gas will allow the State to save on fuel imports, which will obviously have an impact on the balance of payments and on gross domestic product (GDP).

With the inauguration of PDGM, President Armando Guebuza said, Mozambique now has another 50 MW of electricity available, which will help save about US$25 million on imports. (12-09-2014)

STATE MONOPOLIES STRANGLE AGRICULTURE GROWTH

The failure to rapidly grow the agricultural sector in Africa has been caused by weak and old-fashioned policies favouring state-run companies in the supply of agricultural produce, ministers said here this week. Nigerian agriculture minister Akinwumi Adesina, said at this week's opening of the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), that ending the government's monopoly over fertilisers, seeds and other inputs, was key to industrializing agriculture.

'What is important is to develop ways of effectively targeting support to reach farmers, while ensuring that the private sector, not the government, delivers farm inputs to farmers,' Adesina told the Forum in Addis Ababa in his keynote speech.

While insisting that African governments must boldly support their farmers, Adesina said the governments have a responsibility to ensure input markets work for farmers.

'Some may argue that supporting farmers in Africa via subsidies is not sustainable. I argue that poverty is not sustainable. Africa cannot become a museum of poverty. Poverty is not tradable and is not an industry. Africa must not grow poverty,' he said.

Nigeria ended its 40-year-old fertilizer sector corruption within 90 days under Adesina as the agriculture minister.

Part of the policy reforms introduced by Adesina, who previously worked for the Alliance for Green Revolution (AGRA), the conveners of the weeklong forum, was to target state support to farmers through the private sector.

The Nigerian government stopped the state monopoly in the buying and distribution of seeds and fertilizers and allowed a private sector-driven system to flourish.

'The role of government shifted to providing targeted farm support directly to farmers for seeds and fertilizers via electronic coupons on mobile phones or 'e-wallets',' Adesina explained. The new approach enabled 14 million farmers to receive farm inputs between 2012 and 2014, using electronic vouchers on their mobile phones.

The policy reforms also opened up the seed industry to the private sector. Spurred by the demand for seed through the e-wallet system, the number of seed companies in Nigeria rose from 5 to 80 within three years.

Rhoda Tumusiime, the African Union Commissioner for Rural Economy and Agriculture, said through new policy reforms, African countries could transform the agriculture sector and create wealth amongst poor women and the youth.

'The agriculture policies must be tailored to favour the sector and the farmers,' Tumusiime said. 'The agriculture sector has to lead to the transformation of Africa. We must get women to be active in agriculture and protect their rights to land.'

At the AGRF, talks focused on why African countries remained major food importers despite the presence of large tracks of farmland.

Michael Mack, President of Syngenta, a global agricultural research firm known mostly for the supply of seeds, said several factors 'conspired to make opportunities for the development of seeds in Africa by African companies really narrow'.

Most countries still import seeds from Russia and Asia. The ability to produce seeds for the growth of major agricultural crops, including sunflower, remain under utilized.

'We need enough people to mobilise action. Why do we still import vegetable seeds. The challenge is still what it will take to mobilise action. We must have the parties to do these investments,' said Mack.

Experts say with a large population to feed, all countries in Africa should be in a position to sunflower seeds and other vegetable seeds which are mostly imported. This would enable firms that produce cooking fat to operate in Africa to cut these imports.

In Kenya, Principal Secretary of the Livestock Ministry, Prof. Fred Segor, said monopolies in the seed and the animal feeds industry were still to blame for the high costs of the produce.

'The reasons of the high priced animal feeds are the monopolies. We are working towards liberalizing the sector to create good prices for the farmers,' Segor said.

Meanwhile, Kenya's Agricultural Finance Corporation (AFC), a state- run financial institution geared towards support for farmers, is to launch a pilot project to supply maize farmers with US$500,000 loan to build milling plants for maize.

AFC Chief Executive Officer, Lucas Meso, said the commercial Maize automation plant is a project to boost value chain by enabling farmers to control milling of their crop and its sale to the market. AGRA is jointly supporting the plan. (Pana 08/09/2014)

MAERSK OIL PLANS TO REDUCE STAKE IN OIL BLOCK IN ANGOLA

Maersk Oil, a subsidiary of the AP Moller-Maersk A/S group of Denmark, plans to sell a portion of its stake in the Chissonga deepwater oil project in Angola, Danish daily newspaper Jyllands Posten reported.

Chissonga is located in the sea at a depth of 1,500 metres, and Maersk Oil holds a 65 percent stake in the block where estimated reserves of 100 million barrels were discovered in 2009.

“We have a high stake in the block and it’s natural that we should want to reduce it in the long run,” said the CEO of AP Moller-Maersk Group, Nils Andersen in a conference call with analysts to present second quarter results.

Andersen gave assurances that the group remained committed to developing the Chissonga project but added that as the group’s stake was large “we will consider reducing it when the project is at a more advanced stage and when the moment is right.”

Danish newspaper Jyllands Posten did not mention what share of its 65 percent stake AP Moller-Maersk Group would put up for sale, according to financial news agency Reuters. (12-09-2014)

KENYA BOOSTS LIVESTOCK FARMING TO INDUSTRIALISE AGRICULTURE

Kenya is committed to meeting the African Union (AU) pledges to rapidly industrialise agriculture through the revival of collapsed agricultural corporations in an effort to boost livestock farming amongst the country's pastoralists. Prof. Fred Segor, the Kenyan Principal Secretary in charge of the State Ministry of Livestock, said increasing state financial allocation to key agricultural sectors, mainly livestock and fish farming, was key part of the government's strategy.

'We are committed to increasing the proportion of livestock and fisheries budget from the current 5% of the overall agricultural expenditure to 10%. It is our hope we will achieve this increment within four years,' Prof. Segor, told journalists in Addis Ababa.

Speaking on the sidelines of the African Green Revolution Forum (AGRF), a top-level meeting of agricultural experts from 80 countries around the world, Prof. Segor said the ministry was implementing plans to increase availability of pasture to pastoralists.

Kenya, with a livestock sector currently estimated at US$800 million, including 17 million cattle, 28 million goats and 3 million camels, plans to create disease free zones to enhance the chance of exporting live animals to the Middle East.

However, livestock ministry officials put the sector's contribution to the national wealth at a much higher figure, saying it accounts for 12% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which stood at roughly US$44.1 billion in 2013.

The East African country's livestock sector has been one of the most vulnerable to drought and famine, often resulting into huge loses of cattle amongst the pastoralist communities, mostly as a result of climate change.

Across the region, policymakers prioritise the need to focus attention on the farming communities and the pastoralists most affected by climate change as a means of ensuring food security in Africa.

But a recent African Union Summit challenged experts and government officials to refocus attention to ensuring investments into agriculture target its growth as a profitable sector and not merely as an investment into fighting poverty.

'We are making deliberate efforts to meet our own government's pledges to the pastoralist communities. We want to supply them with seeds so they can also engage in agriculture and provide water to enable them take care of their livestock,' Segor said.

The AGRF, the weeklong meeting, which opened 1 Sept. in Addis Ababa, focused on how to turn the largest portion of the world's poorest people into the wealthiest using agriculture as the platform for economic growth.

Segor said the Forum was important in inspiring discussions on how research bodies, investors, farmers and the youth could works together with donor organisations to ensure that Africa remains free from hunger and starvation.

The livestock sector in Kenya, the official said, was key to the growth of the economy and the industrialisation of Kenya.

According to the livestock ministry officials, the livestock sector is critical to the creation of a huge leather industry in Kenya and in East Africa, whose potential remains largely untapped.

Segor said the livestock sector would enable Kenya to generate the raw materials required to produce at least 38 million pairs of shoes, which the Kenyan market requires each year, yet the country's production capacity was at 4 million pairs.

'The way forward is to start hides and skin industries. We have 150 million people to be served every year in East Africa so we are looking at our livestock sector as a very profitable industry,' said the Livestock ministry official.

To help meet the needs of the pastoralists, Kenya plans to revive the collapsed state-beef canning plant, the Kenya Meat Corporation (KMC). The government plans to invest US$8 million to refurbish the stalled plant and to resume production, officials say.

The government also plans to revive cotton factories that collapsed as part of the agricultural revival plan, Segor said. (Pana 08/09/2014)

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"OPORTUNIDADES DE NEGOCIO e INVERSIÓN EN INFRAESTRUCTURAS

PÚBLICAS EN MARRUECOS”

Marruecos ha aprovechado su proximidad a Europa convirtiéndose en una economía abierta y en continuo crecimiento. Su nivel de desarrollo relativo, su estabilidad política, el bajo coste de mano de obra y una regulación no restrictiva lo convierten en una economía muy atractiva para el inversor extranjero.

Esta jornada pretende dar a conocer las condiciones económicas que ofrece Marruecos en el campo de las obras públicas y concretamente, en el sector de la logística y el transporte, de la mano de un representante del gobierno marroquí, que hablará de las oportunidades de negocio que en este país se abren a las empresas canarias en este sector. Abdellah Ismaili, director adjunto a la Dirección de Asuntos Técnicos y Relaciones con la Profesión del **Ministerio de Equipamiento, Transportes y Logística de Marruecos** explicará los planes estratégicos del gobierno para los próximos años en dicho sector, las oportunidades de las empresas para acceder a las licitaciones públicas, la reglamentación vigente, entre otros.

Las jornadas supondrán una oportunidad para las empresas y profesionales de acercarse a la realidad económica de Marruecos y conocer las oportunidades que ofrece para la internacionalización de las empresas de la isla.

Registration

17 de septiembre
De 11:00 a 12:30 horas

Cámara de Comercio
Santa Cruz de Tenerife

1,5 horas

Gratuita
previa inscripción

Inscríbete

Fernando Matos Rosa
Brussels

European Business Council for Africa and the Mediterranean
The European Private Sector Organisation for Africa’s Development
Rue Montoyer – 24 – Bte 5
1000 Brussels (Belgium)
www.ebcam.org Contact: info@ebcam.org