



MEMORANDUM

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STATEMENT BY EU EBOLA COORDINATOR AND COMMISSIONER-ELECT CHRISTOS STYLIANIDES

Upon his appointment by the European Council as the European Union's Ebola response coordinator, at the initiative of President-Elect Jean-Claude Juncker, Christos Stylianides has made the following statement:

"I have been entrusted with an immensely challenging task. The Ebola epidemic, which is ravaging lives and societies in West Africa, is putting the entire international community to the test. We need to act with determination, swiftly and in a coordinated manner to save lives and turn the tide in the fight against Ebola.

In Europe, we are well equipped to stand up to this enormous challenge. We have the knowledge and the assets to make a difference. Our Member States are doing a fantastic job in sending medical personnel and equipment and helping the victims of the disease on the ground. What we also need to do now is to act as one. We must use all the tools at our disposal in a concerted manner: what the EU has to offer and what the Member States can bring to the table.

As European Union – Member States and Commission – we have to date mobilized over 600 million euros to fight the epidemic. We have sent medical and humanitarian experts to the affected countries, and deployed mobile laboratories. We are getting vital supplies shipped to the region. We are supporting local authorities and reinforcing national health infrastructures. And we have set up a system for the evacuation of medical workers from the region.

We have also been acting to protect European citizens, in close cooperation with the health authorities of the Member States.

We now need to shift into high gear and make sure these elements work as a common European response.

As EU Coordinator, I will draw on the European Commission's Emergency Response Coordination Centre. It will act as a clearing house for transport, equipment and medical personnel, and bring together all those in Europe – Member States and EU institutions – who are working on the fight against Ebola.

I intend to travel to the affected region early November. This will allow me to better assess the needs and gaps in our efforts and help decide our next steps. I will work closely with our Member States, with my colleagues in the Commission and the European External Action Service. And I will make sure our response is joined up with our international partners and the UN. An advance team of senior EU experts is being deployed to the region already this weekend." (EC 24-10-2014)

GRACE MUGABE HINTS AT PRESIDENTIAL BID, URGES DEPUTY TO QUIT

The wife of Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe accused his deputy of attempting to oust her husband and indicated she may be a candidate to succeed him.

Grace Mugabe said Vice-President Joice Mujuru should resign and accused her of wanting "to use money to topple President Mugabe," in an address to veterans of the war of independence from the white-minority state of Rhodesia in Mazowe, 48km northwest of the capital, Harare.

Ms Mujuru didn't answer calls to her mobile phone or office seeking comment.

Ms Mugabe, 49, has been holding rallies in several towns where she made similar accusations against the vice-president, without directly naming her. Her 90-year-old husband has ruled the southern African nation since Zimbabwe gained independence from the UK in 1980.

"Some say I want to be president. Why not? Am I not Zimbabwean, too?" she said. "People who support Mujuru may do so, but Zimbabwe has one leader who has one wife."

Ms Mujuru, 59, has served as vice-president of Zimbabwe since 2004 and is also vice-president of Mr Mugabe's ruling Zanu (PF) party.

Zanu split

Ms Mugabe was nominated to head the Zanu (PF) Women's League in August, a post she's expected to fill after it is ratified by the party's congress in December.

"The risk of Zanu splitting is now greater than ever before," David Moore, an independent political analyst who has worked at the University of Johannesburg as a professor of development studies, said on Friday by phone from Cape Town.

"As we approach the December congress, things will be very tense."

Zimbabwean newspapers including the state-controlled media have said Ms Mugabe has aligned with Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa, a long-time opponent of Ms Mujuru. Both Mr Mnangagwa and Ms Mujuru have been repeatedly named as possible successors to Mr Mugabe should he step down or die in office.

"It's impossible to say if Grace Mugabe's comments have Robert Mugabe's blessing," Mr Moore said. "It's possible the genie has come out the bottle and she has her own agenda." (Bloomberg 24-10-2014)

FRELIMO CANDIDATE NYUSI WINS MOZAMBIKAN ELECTIONS

Mozambique's ruling Frelimo party and its candidate Filipe Nyusi won this month's presidential and legislative elections, according to provisional results released on Friday, with votes counted from all provinces.

The initial full results of the October 15 vote will still need to be ratified by the Constitutional Court before becoming official and final.

A former Portuguese colony located on southern Africa's Indian Ocean coast, Mozambique is still one of the world's least-developed nations but is starting to tap huge coal and natural gas deposits with foreign investors.

The tally from the National Elections Commission (CNE) gave Mr Nyusi 57% of the votes, while Renamo's Afonso Dhlakama had just over 36% and Daviz Simango of the Mozambique Democratic Movement obtained nearly 7%. Frelimo, which has ruled Mozambique since its independence in 1975, also maintained its majority in the 250-seat parliament, but was expected to end up with some 50 seats fewer than it won in 2009 elections.

Mr Nyusi, 55, an engineer and veteran administrator of Mozambique's state railways, was selected by the ruling party as its candidate to succeed President Armando Guebuza, who is barred by the constitution from serving a third term.

Renamo, the main opposition party, and its candidate, former civil war rebel leader Mr Dhlakama, have alleged widespread fraud and irregularities, including ballot stuffing and pro-Frelimo bias and intimidation from the police and state media.

But last week's voting was endorsed as broadly acceptable by international observers. CNE spokesman Paulo Cuinica promised that all properly submitted complaints and protests would be investigated.

"We don't want any doubts to remain," he said.

Renamo still a political force

Mr Dhlakama, who has lost every major election to the ruling party since the end of a 1975-1992 civil war, nevertheless topped the vote count in several central and two Northern provinces, showing the former guerrilla commander, now 61, remains a political force.

He has called the elections a charade but has ruled out violence, which is reassuring for foreign donors and investors.

In the two years before the vote, Renamo partisans clashed sporadically with troops and police and ambushed traffic on a north-south highway. The Renamo leader only emerged from a bush hideout last month to ratify a deal with Mr Guebuza that reaffirmed a 1992 peace pact.

Mozambique is hoping revenue from its large natural gas deposits and its fledgling coal mining and export industry will help it emerge from years of poverty and aid dependence.

European Union monitors have expressed concern about delays in the vote tabulation and the United States — like Europe a major donor — has also called for all electoral protests to be cleared up by the relevant authorities under the law.

On Thursday, a week after the elections, Mozambique opened up 15 new offshore and onshore areas for gas and oil exploration and production in its north, centre and south.

The blocks on offer in the latest licensing round launched in Maputo and London included three new areas of the northern Rovuma Basin, where US oil major Anadarko Petroleum Corp and Italy's Eni are already developing multi-billion-dollar liquefied natural gas (LNG) export projects. (Reuters 24-10-2014)

MOZAMBIQUE SIGNS NEW CONTRACTS FOR OIL EXPLORATION IN 2015

New contracts on concession areas for exploration and oil production in Mozambique will be signed after April 2015, the Resource Valuation Director of the National Oil Institute (INP) said Thursday.

On the sidelines of the launch, in both Maputo and London, of a tender to award 15 blocks for oil exploration and production, José Branquinho said April 2015 was when he expected negotiations between the government and interested companies to be concluded.

Information provided on the occasion showed that offshore areas include the Rovuma basin, with three areas, Angoche, with two and the Zambezi delta, with six areas. Onshore areas included in the tender are in Pande/Temane, with three areas and Palmeiras, with one, to a total of 76,802 square kilometres. Branquinho said the deadline for proposals ends at 12 noon on 20 January, 2015, to be followed by a phase of clarification of the documents (February/March) and then the negotiation process, which will end with the signing of contracts.

The launch of this tender had to wait for new legislation, which came about on 18 August with the approval of Law 21/2014, when the National Assembly approved a new legal regime for oil operations in Mozambique and respective tax scheme through Law 27/2014 of 23 September.

Among several provisions, Law 21/2014 requires 25 percent of gas production to be reserved for the domestic market, requires local content development, and mandatory registration of oil companies on the Mozambique Stock Exchange. (24-10-2014)

GENDER POLICIES TO COME UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT AT MEDMEDIA CASABLANCA CONFERENCE

Around 35 women journalists and union activists will gather in Casablanca on 27 October for a conference focusing on gender policies in the workplace, organised by the EU-funded project MedMedia.

The event will be held ahead of an annual meeting for journalists' unions in the region hosted by the International Federation of Journalists. Topics covered will include gender equality policies in the media, recent employment trends and trade union recruitment as well as the representation of women in senior management positions.

Participants will come from countries across the Southern Mediterranean Region and will include a large delegation from Morocco. A plenary session in the morning will highlight regional trends whilst, in the afternoon, working groups will examine specific issues such as internal gender equality policies and guarantees provided through collective agreements.

The conference will be the first in a series of four gender-related events to be organised by MedMedia. It is anticipated that the next conference will focus on the portrayal of women by broadcast media in the Arab world.

The EU-funded **MedMedia project** aims to create an enabling environment for media reforms in the Southern Mediterranean region. It is part of the €17 million EU programme “Media and culture for development in the Southern Mediterranean” which aims at supporting the media and culture reform processes in the region.

MedMedia focuses on media legislation, regulation, programming, strategy and leadership with a view to helping state media fulfil their public service mandate and compete with the commercial sector. It will also work to build public trust by strengthening the media’s role as an independent watchdog and a forum for democratic debate (EU Neighbourhood 23-10-2014)

ADB DONATES US\$59 MILLION TO MOZAMBIQUE BUDGET

The African Development Bank (ADB) will provide a donation of US\$59 million to Mozambique, with the first tranche of US\$29 million earmarked for 2014 State Budget 2014, the local ADB representative said Thursday in Maputo.

Joseph Ribeiro said that the donation was part of the Economic Governance and Inclusive Growth Programme that the Mozambican government agreed with the ADB and provided support to the state budgets of 2014, 2015 and 2016.

Among the programme’s objectives, the Minister for Planning and Development of Mozambique, Aiuba Cuereneia, noted the “improved efficiency and transparency in management of natural resources and expansion of opportunities for creation of businesses and jobs,” especially for women and young people. Cuereneia also said that the Mozambican government would use the donation to boost its institutional capacity by supporting policies for management of public finance and regulation of natural resource management, which should be introduced through the Administrative Court and the General Inspectorate of Finance.

According to the ADB representative in Mozambique, the progress of the first phase of the programme follows “positive findings” of the Mozambican government and the group of the Programme Aid Partners (including the bank), about the Annual Review 2014 process, which assesses execution of the targets set by the government with organisations and donor countries.

The ADB also said the Mozambican government had made “notable progress” in mobilising resources and increasing tax revenues, which have grown steadily over the last decade, reducing the need for donor support to State management expenditure, currently around 30 percent of the total value, according to recent information from the government.

This is the sixth budget support operation of the ADB, which, in June, was involved in about 15 projects in Mozambique in the areas of development of road infrastructure, energy and irrigation, and other initiatives.

For 2014, the African bank opened a credit line of US\$60 million for Mozambique, especially focused on the development of infrastructure, with half the amount available in the form of donations and the rest through “interest-free loans.” (24-10-2014)

EBOLA OUTBREAK THREATENS FOOD CRISIS IN WEST AFRICA

The widespread outbreak of Ebola in West Africa, which has resulted in over 4,500 deaths so far, is also threatening to trigger a food crisis in the three countries already plagued by poverty and hunger.

Dr. Shenggen Fen, director-general of the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), told IPS the crisis is expected to be confined mostly to the countries directly affected by the spreading disease: Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea.

Asked whether the food shortages will also reach countries outside West Africa, he said Ebola is triggering a food crisis through a series of interrelated factors, including farmer deaths, labour shortages, rising transportation costs, and rising food prices.

“Within these countries, where undernourishment has long been a problem, the food crisis may persist for decades,” he warned.

And because Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia are all net food-importing countries, the Ebola-triggered food crisis is unlikely to spread to other countries in the region or beyond, Dr. Fan added.

Global food prices tend to have transmission effects on regional or national food prices, but for small markets (on a global scale) such as these three countries, the transmission effect of food prices is unlikely to pass beyond their own boundaries - so long as the disease itself is not transmitted, he said.

According to the latest figures released by the World Health Organisation (WHO), there are over 9,000 cases of Ebola, including 4,262 cases in Liberia, 3,410 in Sierra Leone and 1,519 in Guinea.

The death toll is highest in Liberia (2,484), followed by Sierra Leone (1,200) and Guinea (862).

U.N. Spokesperson Stephane Dujarric told reporters Monday the WHO has officially declared Nigeria free of Ebola virus transmission, after 42 days without a single case.

WHO called it “a spectacular success story that shows that Ebola can be contained”.

“Such a story can help the many other developing countries that are deeply worried by the prospect of an imported Ebola case and are eager to improve their preparedness plans,” he said.

Dujarric said the announcement comes only a few days after Senegal was also declared Ebola-free.

He said the trust fund set up by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to battle the deadly disease now has about 8.8 million dollars in deposits and 5.0 million dollars in commitments.

In total, 43.5 million dollars have been pledged and the secretary-general continues to urge countries to turn these pledges into action as soon as possible.

He expressed regrets over the Ebola-related death of a UN-Women staff member in Sierra Leone. His spouse is currently receiving treatment.

“All measures to protect staff at the duty station in Sierra Leone are being taken as best as possible under the current circumstances,” Dujarric said.

This includes decontamination of the U.N. clinic, disposal of the isolation facility and contact tracing, he added.

In a statement released Tuesday, IFPRI painted a grim picture of the situation facing all three countries. Schools in Sierra Leone have closed, shutting down critical feeding programmes for children. And restrictions on the consumption of bush meat, the suspected source of Ebola, have eliminated a traditional source of protein and nutrition from local diets.

“In addition, the costs of staple foods including rice and cassava are rising precipitously in the affected areas as crops are abandoned and as labor shortages grow,” the statement added.

Food that would be imported from these areas is not making its way to other regions, either.

“So, as we weigh the dangers of this dreaded disease, we must not forget the very real threats it poses to food security,” the group warned.

“The global community must come together to ensure that there are safety nets to protect not only those infected with the disease, but also those whose access to food is severely affected,” IFPRI added.

Asked to identify these safety nets, Dr. Fan told IPS social safety nets are needed to protect not only those infected with Ebola, but also those whose access to food is severely affected.

These safety nets, which could be in the form of cash or in-kind transfers (context-specificity is important here), should be accompanied with nutrition and health interventions.

For example, a conditional cash transfer programme linked to health can help improve access to nutritious foods, particularly when prices are high, while promoting health service use, he added. “This is important, because investing in the nutrition and health of vulnerable populations could lower the mortality rate of diseases like Ebola, as nutritional status and infection are intricately linked.”

In the post-Ebola era, Dr. Fan said, combined social protection and agricultural support interventions will be crucial to build resilience to future livelihood shocks.

Asked how many people will be affected by this impending food crisis, he said with Ebola claiming lives of thousands of people in Sierra Leone, Guinea, and Liberia, the mounting food crisis is impacting thousands more still.

Recent efforts by the World Food Programme (WFP) to provide food assistance to around 1.3 million people in these three countries indicate an idea of the scope of the current crisis.

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) is also providing food assistance to nearly 90,000 farming households to abate the food security crisis, he pointed out.

As the harvest season is beginning, labour shortages are putting the food security of tens of thousands of people at risk in particularly affected areas, he declared. (IPS 22-10-2014)

PORTUCEL GROUP NEGOTIATES SALE OF 20 PCT OF PROJECT IN MOZAMBIQUE

Portuguese group pulp and paper group Portucel Soporcel is negotiating with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank group, to sell a 20 percent stake in a project in Mozambique, the group's chairman said in Lisbon.

Diogo da Silveira noted that the partnership with IFC was a year old and added it could be enhanced with the World Bank subsidiary buying a 20 percent stake in Portucel Soporcel's Mozambican subsidiary, according to the Portuguese financial daily *Diário Económico*.

Presenting the group's results for the third quarter Diogo da Silveira said that negotiations with the IFC were not exclusive, and admitted the possibility of "other partners in the future."

Four years ago, when it launched the project with an investment of US\$2.3 billion, the chief executive of Portucel Mozambique, Pedro Moura, noted the group's intention of selling up to 30 percent to Mozambican investors.

Silveira said "the aim is to strengthen the commitment [of Portucel] in an integrated forestry production, pulp and energy projects that is underway and is now intensifying its forestry work and strengthening the operational base in Mozambique."

In the first nine months of the year, the group posted turnover of 1.138 billion euros, 0.1 percent more than in the same period last year, and profits fell 11.1 percent to 133.1 million euros. (24-10-2014)

LES POLICIERS ALGERIENS DANS LA RUE

Des centaines de policiers ont manifesté dans plusieurs villes d'Algérie, jusqu'à se retrouver dans la capitale, devant le palais présidentiel d'El Mouradia. Désarçonné par un tel mouvement, le gouvernement a lâché du lest sans céder sur l'essentiel des revendications politiques, économiques et sociales des forces de l'ordre. Du jamais vu en Algérie, dans un pays où manifester sur la voie publique exige une autorisation. Et alors que 500 000 fonctionnaires menacent d'une grève de trois jours à partir du 25 octobre, ce sont les agents de l'État chargés de faire respecter l'ordre qui sont finalement descendus dans la rue. Des policiers des "unités républicaines de sécurité" ont décidé la semaine passée de faire "une grève de la matraque" et de manifester à Ghardaïa, Berriane, M'Zab et Alger. Ils étaient ainsi plusieurs centaines de manifestants dans la capitale, démarrant leur périple du palais du gouvernement pour rejoindre El Mouradia, le palais de la présidence de la République.

Un cortège qui portait haut et fort une vingtaine de revendications adressées au Premier ministre, Abdelmalek Sellal. Parmi elles, des demandes très politiques comme le limogeage du patron de la police, Abdelghani Hamel, à la tête de la direction générale de la sûreté nationale (DGSN), le droit à la création d'un syndicat indépendant ou la réintégration de 6 000 policiers licenciés.

Leur cahier de doléances comprenait également un lot d'exigences économiques et sociales, comme une hausse du salaire de base de 100 % du policier pour le porter à 70 000 dinars mensuels (655,56 euros), le droit au logement, la réduction de la durée de service de trente-deux ans à vingt ans, l'adoption d'une prime mensuelle de 10 000 dinars (93,65 euros) par mois pour la femme de policier au foyer, etc.

Réunion interministérielle

Un mouvement de protestation qui a pris de court et inquiété le gouvernement. Si le Premier ministre a refusé de recevoir les grévistes, il a présidé, dimanche 19 octobre, une réunion interministérielle "consacrée à la situation socioprofessionnelle des fonctionnaires de la Sûreté nationale", dont le communiqué a été publié par l'agence de presse algérienne (APS) à 18 h 52.

Une réunion au sommet de l'État qui a évacué les questions politiques. Relevant des seules prérogatives du chef de l'État, l'exigence du limogeage du patron de la DGSN n'a même pas figuré à l'ordre du jour. Pour les autres points, le gouvernement a botté en touche. Concernant la revendication majeure des policiers de pouvoir se doter d'un syndicat indépendant, le communiqué propose ainsi *"la représentation des agents de la sûreté nationale au niveau de toutes les commissions et organes de participation avec protection des représentants dans ces commissions et organes"*. Quant aux policiers licenciés, le gouvernement condescend à examiner *"des recours de réintégration des agents radiés qui n'ont pas fait l'objet de décision de justice"*.

Les policiers protestataires sont davantage écoutés sur les sujets liés à leur pouvoir d'achat. Cela se traduit par la *"confirmation de la mise en œuvre d'une indemnité au profit des agents de la sûreté nationale, avec effet, à compter du 1^{er} novembre 2014"*, la *"revalorisation de l'indemnité de zone, actuellement servie aux agents de la sûreté nationale avec effet rétroactif à compter du 1^{er} janvier 2012"*, ainsi que l'*"octroi d'une indemnité de déplacement collectif par agent de la sûreté nationale effectuant des déplacements"* et l'*"attribution de la prime de spécialisation (conducteur, etc.) et de la prise en charge de la restauration des unités constituées"*.

"Allègement du système de travail"

Si les élèves stagiaires des écoles de formation de la DGSN verront leur bourse d'étude revalorisée, en matière de logement, le gouvernement s'est engagé à peu de frais à *"accorder une attention particulière à la satisfaction des demandes des agents de la sûreté nationale dans le cadre des dispositifs et programmes existants"*.

Les conditions de travail des policiers comportent par ailleurs quelques avancées, avec l'*"allègement du système de travail 3 fois 8 heures et le rapprochement des agents ayant des difficultés d'ordre social ou de santé de leur lieu de résidence"* et l'*"affectation des agents de la sûreté nationale à l'issue de leur stage au niveau des unités républicaines de sécurité pour une période de trois à cinq ans au maximum"*.

En conclusion, le communiqué interministériel a voulu *"souligner le rôle important joué par les services de sécurité dans l'accomplissement des missions de sécurité et de protection des personnes et des biens avec un sens élevé du devoir et de conscience professionnelle"*.

Difficile pour l'instant de savoir si ces mesures et ces paroles de réconfort feront rentrer les policiers dans leur caserne. (Politiques Publiques 22-10-204)

UNDP FINANCES MINI-HYDRO PLANTS IN SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will provide US\$6 million for the construction of mini-hydroelectric plants to produce 5 megawatts of electricity on the island of Principe, the president of the regional government said Thursday.

José Cassandra made the announcement after receiving UNDP representative, Mozambique's José Salema, on the island of Principe for a meeting as part of the programme to adapt to climate change in Sao Tome and Principe.

In order to produce renewable energy on Principe, replacing the thermal power for hydro power, the regional president said that work would begin in early 2015 and concluded within five years.

Cassandra stressed that "this funding comes as part of a programme of climate change adaptation for Principe," taking into account the fluvial potential of Principe, 150 kilometres from Sao Tome.

Currently, the Principe region's power production of 3 megawatts, produced at a thermal plant and supplied by Empresa de Água e Electricidade (EMAE) does not cover the island's needs.

With power demand of 15 megawatts, Sao Tome and Principe, through EMAE, is able to generate just 12 megawatts, 80 percent of which is produced by thermal power plants and the remaining 20 percent by hydroelectric plants along the Contadores and Guegue rivers, located in the extreme north and south of the island of Sao Tome. (24-10-2014)

AIRTEL PARTNERS WITH UNESCO TO IMPART IT TRAINING IN GABON

Bharti Airtel, India's leading provider of mobile services has partnered with the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) to impart technological skills to 5,000 people in Gabon, ETTelecom.com daily newsletter reported Wednesday.

Airtel said the three-year initiative, dubbed 'Train My Generation: Gabon 5,000', is the first of its kind that UNESCO has partnered with a private organisation in sub-Saharan Africa.

'It aims at offering a scientific and entrepreneurial training to 5,000 people (aged 18- 35 years) and high-school teachers in Gabon - through information and communication technology (ICT),' the company said in a statement.

The initiative will start with the establishment of 10 cyber centres equipped with servers and computers at schools in Libreville, Port Gentil, Oyem, Franceville, Bitam and Lambarene.

In the first phase of the project, 5,000 young people will receive basic ICT training, which will also provide training in online teaching to 100 secondary education science teachers.

The teachers will use their skills to provide online educational support to 15,000 secondary school students preparing their end of school exams, it said.

'Through this partnership, Airtel wishes to benefit from the expertise of one of the most important organisations of the United Nations system, UNESCO, whose programmes in Africa contribute to the promotion of innovation based on knowledge technologies,' Airtel Gabon Director-General Olivier Herve Njapoum said. (Pana 23/10/2014)

ANGOLA IMPORTS US\$1 BILLION A YEAR IN WINE

Angola spends US\$1 billion every year on importing wine, as national production is still small, according to figures issued Thursday in Luanda, at the inauguration of the second edition of the festival of the Angolan wine sector.

The director of the Angola Wine Festival, Miguel Pinho, noted that the figure was a good representation of a "very large business" in the country, which shows "the importance that wine has in Angolan life and cuisine, which is a unique situation in Africa."

This second edition of the Angola Wine Festival runs until 25 October to promote wine culture in combination with Angolan cuisine.

The event features 85 exhibitors representing 500 brands of wine mainly from Portugal, but also from countries such as Chile, South Africa and Italy, among others.

Miguel Pinho told Portuguese news agency Lusa that Angola is starting to have wine production projects, so the first Angolan producers may make their debut as soon as next year's edition of the festival.

Among other promotional activities, the festival includes wine themed dinners and guided wine tasting events, emphasising the importance of pairing wine with Angolan cuisine. (24-10-2014)

AIRTEL DEBUTS EAST AFRICAN CROSS BORDER MONEY SERVICE

Bharti Airtel plans to launch a cross border money transfer product in East Africa as a first in market initiative across the continent that will enable Airtel Money customers to send, receive and withdraw money from their Airtel Money wallets.

"This is a key milestone for Airtel Money customers because a big virtual barrier has been removed and our customers will be able to transact with ease, across national borders," said Chidi Okpala, Director and Airtel Money Head at the just ended 2014 East African Chief Executive Officer Business Summit in Kigali, Rwanda.

Following approval by central banks of Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, Okpala announced that the pilot phase of the service would kick off on 1 Nov. 2014 targeting the four countries.

He added: 'The service will extend convenience by way of cost efficiency and reach while facilitating remittances and small trades within East Africa.

"This will not only increase mobile money penetration amongst countries but will also create business opportunities. Mobile money remains a key element in boosting financial inclusion in East Africa. This is also a confirmation of the broader commitment of the governments of Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania in improving trade and commerce activities within the region."

According to the official, the next phase of this initiative will roll out the service to other Airtel operating countries within the next year.

The pilot project will also enable Bank of Africa (BOA) customers in Kenya and Uganda to send and receive money across the two countries.

Airtel Money is considered a secure and convenient mobile commerce service that allows customers to transfer money from one mobile phone to the other across all networks, top up mobile phone with airtime/data or another customer's mobile phone.

It also allows customers to pay utility bills as well as buy goods and services and withdraw cash at selected Automated Teller Machines (ATM)s. (Pana 23/10/2014)

WHO VOWS TO FIGHT EBOLA IN MALI, MAURITANIA

The World Health Organization (WHO) has said that Mali and Mauritania were part of its priority countries, among the 16 West African countries, in the fight to prevent the spread of Ebola disease in the region, a WHO communiqué says.

According to the communiqué, the two countries will benefit from significant aid from the WHO in terms of strengthening capacities for the prevention of the disease which has killed about 4,500 people, according to the organization.

WHO last week made public the list of priority countries which include the four countries sharing borders with the affected states -- Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Senegal and Mali -- as well as the 11 countries at risk -- Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Gambia, Ghana, Nigeria, Central African Republic, DR Congo, South Sudan, Togo and Mauritania.

It said the countries have been selected on the basis of the status of their respective health systems.

However, WHO said that it would not recommend the control systems established at airports to detect infected persons.

According to WHO capacity department director, Isabelle Nuttali, 'such an approach will give a false sense of security'. (Pana 23/10/2014)

KENYA COMMITTED TO GLOBAL DIGITAL AGENDA

Kenya is committed to supporting the global digital agenda activities espoused of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Information Communication and Technology Cabinet Secretary Fred Matiangi has said.

Speaking during the 2014 ITU Plenipotentiary Conference in Busan, South Korea, Matiangi said Kenya would work closely with fellow member states to advance digital agenda during “this epoch of rapid evolution of telecommunication technologies and services”.

He said the world was in dire need for solutions to narrow the gaps of exclusivity as well as inspire rapid growth in diversity of various ICT applications and services, Kenya's Foreign Ministry, said in a news dispatch on Tuesday.

He said the vision, “Connect 2020”, was very apt and should be individually and collectively embraced to achieve faster connectivity.

“ICTs is a key catalyst that can enable countries transform their economies and drive socio-economic progress,” said Matiangi.

He said the Kenya Government underpinned the significant role ICTs played in the transformation of the socio-economic development of countries.

It was for this reason that high emphasis had been placed on the utilization of ICTs as a key enabler in converting Kenya into a middle income economy by 2030, Matiangi said.

“To complement the public policy frameworks, the Government is investing in infrastructure roll-out and other Government-driven ICT initiatives through public private partnerships.”

Kenya was firmly in position to participate in the global information economy as attested in the proactive determination to roll-out ICT broadband infrastructure that would secure it as the hub for ICT businesses in the region, said the Cabinet Secretary.

Through the development of a conducive legal and policy framework, he said, the Government had inspired innovation, which had brought about diversification in applications and extensive use of ICTs in Kenya.

Matiangi cited the mobile money transfer service, M-PESA, as an innovation that had revolutionized the banking industry in Kenya, brought about high percentages of financial inclusion, and currently playing a major role in the promotion of e-commerce.

He also cited the Government's partnership with the private sector that had come up with innovative approaches in the delivery of public service.

Some of the projects include the Presidential Digital Transformation project that has led to the creation of a Citizen portal dubbed Huduma Centre; the implementation of the National Digital Registry Services; and the Government Shared Services project in areas such as procurement. (Pana 22/10/2014)

KENYA AIRWAYS BOOSTS FLEET WITH TWO NEW PLANES

Kenya Airways has received two new modern planes with state-of-the-art features, bringing the number of its active aircraft to 40. The airline's first next generation B737-800 touched down at Kenya Airways' hub at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi on 19 October at 1700 hours, while its sixth B787 Dreamliner landed on 20 October at 1100hrs.

Kenya Airways outgoing Group Managing Director and CEO, Titus Naikuni, said in Nairobi that delivery of the two aircraft was the continuation of the airline's ongoing fleet renewal programme.

"This year has seen tremendous growth in our fleet. This is the year we began adding our flagship aircraft, the modern Dreamliners, onto our fleet,' he said.

'This delivery marks a new chapter for us as we begin acquiring the newer model B737-800 to replace the existing ones. These new aircraft not only bring down the average age of our fleet significantly, but also boost our capability. This will enable us to introduce new flights, besides increasing frequency on existing ones," Naikuni said.

The chairman of the Kenya Airways Board of Directors, Evanson Mwaniki, who was on the B787 Dreamliner said: "I am excited to be witnessing this modernisation of the Kenya Airways fleet. This paves way for us to continue playing our strategic role of facilitating sustainable development in Africa by opening up the continent to the rest of the world and enabling connectivity among African countries."

Kenya Airways expects one more B737 aircraft this year, in addition to three more B787 Dreamliner aircraft in 2015.

The B737-800 is the first of the airline's such aircraft with Boeing Sky Interior. The airline expects four more such aircraft.

The Boeing 737-800 aircraft is the best-selling version of the successful Next-Generation 737 family. It is known for its reliability, fuel efficiency and economic performance. (Pana 22/10/2014)



EBCAM NEWS

NORWEGIAN-AFRICAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2014		THURSDAY OCTOBER 30 TH 2014 RADISSON BLU SCANDINAVIA HOTEL, OSLO		MAPPING THE AFRICAN INFRASTRUCTURE LANDSCAPE	
					
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NABA WELCOMES YOU TO THE NORWEGIAN-AFRICAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2014

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- - *Ms. Koosum Kalyan, Board of Director, Aker Solutions*
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- - *Mr. Reynir Indahl, Partner, Altor Equity Partners*
- - *Ms. Tove Stuhr Sjøblom, Senior Vice President Sub-Saharan Africa, Statoil*

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Best Regards,

Mr. Eivind Fjeldstad

Managing Director

Norwegian-African Business Association (NABA)



Le secteur privé salue la collaboration franco-allemande en Afrique

Paris / Berlin – A Abuja aujourd'hui, les Ministres des affaires étrangères français et allemand, Laurent Fabius et Frank-Walter Steinmeier, rencontreront ensemble le Président nigérian Goodluck Jonathan et plusieurs ministres. Au programme des réunions, les relations diplomatiques bilatérales mais aussi les échanges économiques entre les trois pays.

Le **Conseil français des investisseurs en Afrique (CIAN)** et **Afrika-Verein der deutschen Wirtschaft e.V.** (Association des entreprises germano-africaines) se félicitent de ce déplacement franco-allemand en terre africaine alors que l'épidémie Ebola qui sévit actuellement au Sierra Leone, au Liberia et en Guinée impacte l'image de tout le continent. En cette période difficile, aucun retrait n'est envisagé, entreprises françaises et allemandes maintiennent leurs activités, témoignant ainsi de leur solidarité historique avec leurs partenaires africains. Il est plus que jamais important d'attirer l'attention sur les opportunités qu'offrent l'Afrique et notamment le Nigeria, qui avec 175 millions d'habitants, un PIB estimé à 510 milliards US\$ et 7,4% de croissance en 2013, est désormais la première économie africaine.

A cette occasion, Etienne Giros, Président délégué du CIAN, et Stefan Liebing, Président d'Afrika-Verein, soulignent leur volonté de collaborer plus fortement et déclarent « *les relations politiques étroites entre la France et l'Allemagne sont un atout de taille pour nos entreprises, il est important d'en tirer parti pour se positionner sur des marchés africains de plus en plus concurrentiels* ». Les deux responsables envisagent une rencontre prochainement entre entreprises françaises et allemandes afin d'étudier les opportunités de partenariats économiques en Afrique et les moyens de renforcer la relation tripartite avec les décideurs africains.

Le CIAN, association loi 1901, est une organisation patronale privée française rassemblant les entreprises investies en Afrique. A travers leurs 1000 établissements et 80 000 collaborateurs sur place, ses membres réalisent un volume d'affaires de plus de 40 milliards €, soit 75% de l'activité française sur le continent. Il a pour mission la promotion et la défense des intérêts de ses sociétés adhérentes sur le continent africain. Grâce à un réseau de correspondants influents et une expertise africaine reconnue, il leur apporte un soutien et des solutions pragmatiques aux difficultés liées au développement de leurs activités. Le CIAN les incite, dans le cadre de leurs responsabilités sociales, à œuvrer pour un développement durable de l'Afrique (adhésion à la Charte du CIAN sur le développement durable et à sa Déclaration sur la prévention de la corruption).
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