

MEMORANDUM

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The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

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LAUNCH OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF THE EU'S PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES

The High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and the European Commission have launched today a public consultation on the future of the partnership between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries after 2020.

Today, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica **Mogherini** and the European Commission have launched a public consultation on the future of the partnership between the European Union and African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries after 2020, when the current [EU-ACP Cotonou Agreement](#) will expire.

The Cotonou Agreement is the most comprehensive partnership agreement that the EU has to govern the relationship between the EU and the 78 developing countries in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific. It includes a political dimension, an economic cooperation and trade dimension, as well as development cooperation which is, in turn, linked to a financial instrument called the [European Development Fund \(EDF\)](#).

Different stakeholders and interested parties are consulted on more than 40 questions, going far beyond development cooperation and trade issues. Questions like peace and security, the fight against terrorism and organised crime, sustainable and inclusive growth, migration, political cooperation and many others are on the agenda for consultation and reflection. This consultation will run for 12 weeks from now.

High Representative / Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica **Mogherini** said: *"The relationship between the EU and ACP countries has moved beyond development cooperation and trade over the last two decades. So it's time to assess our cooperation to identify new ways for our partnership on the common challenges and interests that we all share."*

European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven **Mimica**, added: *"By launching the public consultation, we are opening a debate to see on which issues a future partnership could focus on and how this could be turned into an effective vehicle to promote our common interest, given the so many challenges we are confronted with."*

This consultation will be a major component of the analysis the Commission will carry out in 2016. It will assess the strengths of this Partnership Agreement as well as the possibilities for improvement.

Background information

Relations between the EU and the ACP are long standing, dating back to 1975 and the first [Lomé convention](#). The latter was a successor to the first [Convention of Yaoundé](#) in 1963, binding the then European Economic Community and former colonies of some of its Member States. Successive partnership agreements have shaped the relationship up to the present time.

The current EU - ACP Partnership Agreement was signed on 23 June 2000 in Cotonou, Benin. Since then, it has been the framework for the EU's relations with 78 countries from Sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. It was revised in 2005 and 2010, in accordance with its provisions. It was concluded for a twenty-year period and will expire on 29 February 2020. The Agreement is a legally binding instrument which establishes joint institutions and provides a framework for dialogue with each of its members. In addition to its political dimension and economic and trade cooperation dimension, the framework provides for development finance cooperation, attached to which is the European Development Fund (EDF). This is a multiannual intergovernmental fund composed of direct contributions from EU Member States, and is the only external aid instrument that does not fall directly under the EU budget.(EC 06-10-2015)

COUNCIL OF EUROPE INTERCULTURAL CITIES NETWORK OPENS UP TO MOROCCO AS PART OF EU PROGRAMME

The Council of Europe Intercultural Cities Coordinators (ICC) network held a meeting in Lisbon on 14-15 September 2015, which saw, for the first time since its creation, the participation of a Moroccan delegation. As part of the EU-CoE Joint Programme South II, Moroccan participation aims ultimately at facilitating the introduction of the intercultural cities concept in Morocco.

The Lisbon meeting helped enhance local ICC experts' understanding of the Intercultural cities' models of migrant inclusion and diversity management, as well as to exchange information on the tools used to support intercultural cities in developing inclusion strategies.

Besides the bilateral and multilateral exchanges, discussions also helped identify themes with the potential to interest future ICC member cities from Morocco.

The EU-CoE Joint Programme “**Towards strengthened democratic governance in the South Mediterranean**” – **South Programme II**, 2015-2017 – funded with a budget of €7.4 million - aims to contribute to the reinforcement of democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean region by supporting the development of new constitutional and legal frameworks; contributing to the creation and expansion of a common legal space between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean and fostering regional co-operation in the field of human rights, Rule of law and democracy.

Co-operation activities under the South Programme are primarily directed to Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan and open to other countries from the Southern Mediterranean, through regional activities or targeted bilateral activities. (EU Neighbourhood 05-10-2015)

NIGERIA WON'T CHANGE FOREX RULES TO PLEASE PORTFOLIO INVESTORS

Nigeria's Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo has said the country cannot change its foreign exchange rules to satisfy portfolio investors.

In an interview aired by a private television, Channels TV, on Thursday, Osinbajo said that the government wasn't "unduly worried" by a decision from JPMorgan Chase & Co to remove the nation's bonds from its emerging-market bond indexes.

Nigeria's inclusion in the indexes in 2012 had attracted "hot money" into the economy, which has now reversed, he said.

The naira's plunge to a record low in February following a slump in oil prices prompted the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Governor, Godwin Emefiele, to extend restrictions on trading and introduce bans on purchases of dollars by certain importers.

"We need short-term foreign exchange controls even at the risk of delisting at JPMorgan," Osinbajo said.

"The restrictions have really been successful. They have led to a situation where our foreign-exchange reserves have stabilised and our current-account deficit has narrowed, which is good in the short term, but it can only be short term," he said. (APA 02-102015)

WORLD BANK GRANTS LOAN TO MOZAMBIQUE FOR FINANCIAL SECTOR

The World Bank granted a loan of US\$25 million to Mozambique to support the government's strategy for financial sector development, the World Bank said in a statement released recently.

This loan, the second in a series of financial support packages to the sector, "is channeled through the Programmatic Operation for Financial Sector Policy Development (DPO), to strengthen financial stability, support the improvement of supervision and regulation of banks and network security," said the statement issued by the World Bank.

The operation, the World Bank added, "also supports reforms to promote financial inclusion, branchless banking and mobile banking, consumer protection, payment systems and the framework for insolvency cases," as well as helping to promote "long term financial markets by supporting reforms in capital markets, particularly public debt markets."

The Director of the World Bank for Mozambique, Mark R. Lundell, cited in a statement, said that these loans had three main aims – to increase financial inclusion, improve financial stability and strengthen Mozambique's long-term financial market. (06-10-2015)

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA GROWTH TO SLOW TO 3.7% IN 2015, SAYS WORLD BANK

Sub-saharan Africa's economic growth will likely decelerate from 4.6% last year to 3.7% this year, its lowest level since 2009, the World Bank says

The World Bank released its biannual Africa Pulse report on Monday, which looks into the economic outlook for the region.

Slowing growth meant sub-Saharan Africa would be the only developing region to miss global poverty reduction targets, said World Bank acting chief economist Punam Chuhan-Pole.

"Much needs to be done to accelerate the pace at which poverty is being reduced," Ms Chuhan-Pole said.

Growth is forecast to accelerate to 4.4% next year and to 4.8% in 2017.

In SA, ongoing power and infrastructure bottlenecks made worse by "difficult" labour relations had weighed heavily on economic growth, the report said.

The economic growth slowdown in China, lower commodity prices, and electricity supply challenges in countries such as SA and Zambia were among factors responsible for slower growth in the region, Ms Chuhan-Pole said.

She said countries whose finances had been depleted from investing to support the economy should raise domestic resource mobilisation methods such as increasing tax-to-revenue ratios, reforming the tax administration, and simplifying tax processes.

Governments also needed to be more transparent about public spending and budgeting processes, and boost productivity in sectors such as agriculture, the report said.

According to the report, countries in the region whose economies would grow by 7% and above included Ethiopia, Mozambique, Rwanda and Tanzania, mainly because of large-scale investments in infrastructure by their public sectors, and continued investment in the resources sector and consumer spending. (BD 05-10-2015)

NIGERIA: SHELL DECLARES FORCE MAJEURE ON EXPORTS FROM FORCADOS TERMINAL

Nigeria's crude oil export for November may have been slightly affected, as Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd (SPDC) operated Joint Venture declared force majeure on exports from Forcados Terminal, thereby shutting-in about 150,000 barrels per day.

The Corporate Media Relations Manager of SPDC, Mr. Precious Okolobo, said in a statement on Thursday that the force majeure was effective 15:00hrs, Nigerian time on September 30, 2015, following a leak that was detected on the Trans Forcados Pipeline (TFP).

The leak, according to him, has therefore affected crude receipts into Forcados Terminal, which is operated by the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC.)

Nigeria's Guardian newspaper on Friday said that although, the statement did not disclose the amount of crude shut-in, Forcados has the capacity to export about 150,000 bpd.

It added that this is coming as indications emerged that Nigeria's crude oil exports may fall by about 10 percent in November, as loading were assessed to be on the lower scale.

The provisional loading programmes showed that Nigeria plans to export a total of 56.66 million barrels of oil, or 1.89 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in November, which is a decline from the 63.1 million barrels, or 2.04 million bpd, planned initially for October loading.

Shell had earlier on September 2nd lifted the force majeure on its Bonny Light grade, thereby recovering about 320,000 barrels per day (bpd) of the nation's oil exports after about one week delay.

The two major trunk lines-Trans Niger Pipeline (TNP) and Nembe Creek Trunkline (NCTL) earlier shut by the oil multinational was immediately repaired and operations resumed to aid October export programmes.

Shell has continued to record oil leakages in its operational area, leading to incessant oil spills that trigger community agitations. (APA 02-10-2015)

CABO VERDE REMAINS IN 2ND PLACE IN THE IBRAHIM INDEX OF AFRICAN GOVERNANCE FOR 2015

Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) remained in second place, Sao Tome and Principe was ranked 13th and Mozambique 21st in the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, whose 2015 edition was released Monday in London.

The two other Portuguese-speaking African countries – Angola and Guinea-Bissau – came in at the bottom of the ranking in 43rd and 45th places respectively in the index that analyses a set of governance parameters for 54 African countries.

Cabo Verde had a total of 74.5 points on a scale of 0 to 100, 0.8 points less than last year, but remained above the overall average of 50.1 points and the West African regional average of 52.4 points .

The second best ranking for a Portuguese-speaking was for Sao Tome and Principe, despite having fallen one place compared to 2014, and it was also the country with the best classification in the category of good governance in Central Africa.

In the first half of the Ibrahim Index of African Governance 2015 Mozambique rose to 21st place (22nd in 2014), although the overall rating worsened slightly since last year.

Angola improved marginally, but went down three places, now occupying 43rd place out of a total of 54 countries.

According to this year's report, produced on the basis of 2014 data, governance in Angola scored 40.8 points, 0.1 points more than last year.

Finally, Guinea-Bissau moved up three places (45th), but remains in the group of 10 worst countries, with a score of 35.7 points, 3.8 points more than in 2014.

Mauritius continued to lead the index, followed by Cabo Verde, Botswana, South Africa and Namibia.

Created in 2007 by the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, the Ibrahim Index of African Governance annually measures the quality of governance in African countries by compiling data from various sources, and assessments of four categories – Safety and Rule of Law, Participation and Human Rights, Sustainable Economic Opportunities and Human Development – split into 14 subcategories. (06-10-2015)

CONGO REPUBLIC TO HOLD REFERENDUM ON THIRD PRESIDENTIAL TERM

Congo Republic's government announced on Tuesday it would hold a referendum this month on constitutional change, in a move that could allow veteran President Denis Sassou Nguesso to extend his decades-long rule.

The 71-year-old former military commander has ruled Congo Republic, an oil producer, for all but five years since 1979. He won his previous terms in disputed elections in 2002 and 2009.

While Mr. Sassou Nguesso has not officially declared his candidacy for the June 2016 presidential election, he is widely expected to seek a third term. The constitution of 2002 limits the number of terms to two and excludes candidates older than 70.

"The government is charged with putting the constitutional project at the disposition of the Congolese so that its contents can be widely diffused and debated," said government spokesman Thierry Lezin Mougalla late on Monday. The vote will take place on October 25.

Clément Miérassa, leader of the Congolese Social Democratic Party (PSDC), which is part of a coalition of opposition parties, called the announcement a "constitutional coup".

"We will use all possible democratic means to block this project which is a blow to Congolese democracy," he told Reuters by telephone, renewing an earlier call for peaceful protests.

African leaders' term limits

With several long-time African leaders approaching term limits in the coming years, the political manoeuvring in the former French colony is being closely watched.

A move by Burkina Faso a year ago to change the constitution to allow President Blaise Compaore to run for a third term led to a popular uprising that toppled him after 27 years in power.

In neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, street violence erupted in January amid suspicions the president was seeking to extend his mandate.

Mr. Mougalla said the ruling Congolese Labour Party's (PCT) campaign will run from October 9-23. That will leave little time for the opposition to organise a counter-campaign, said Control Risks senior analyst Christoph Wille.

"This is highly likely to play in Sassou's favour," said Mr. Wille.

"The opposition is weak and has huge funding constraints while the president has so much control over the electoral process and the media."

Still, critics of Mr Sassou Nguesso appear to be growing in confidence. Tens of thousands of people rallied in the capital to oppose constitutional change last month in the largest public protest since the end of the civil war in 1997.

Mr. Wille added that there was a risk of localised unrest in the traditionally stable country, especially in the opposition strongholds of Pointe-Noire and Brazzaville. (Reuters 06-10-2015)

NAMIBIAN PRESS FOCUSES ON WATER PLANT SUSPENSION, OTHERS

The government halts Rössing water plant, Africa migrant crisis, Kudu gas project and early sexual initiation are the major headlines in Namibian newspaper this morning.

In its lead story, The Namibian say Environmental Commissioner Teofilus Nghitila has blocked plans by Rössing Uranium to build a N\$200 million (about US\$14 million) seawater desalination plant at the coast after the agriculture ministry objected to the plans.

The paper said the rejection is motivated by fear of competition as the Government is contemplating on buying a seawater desalination plant from French energy giant, Areva near the coastal resort of Swakopmund.

Africa needs to work out coherent policies and sustainable programmes to deal with migrant crisis say Nigerian ambassador to Namibia Sidi Abdullahi Ladan.

New Era quoted the diplomat as saying that Africa need to learn a lesson from European countries inability to cope with the refugee crisis.

The state-owned daily reports about the government dilly-dallying about the viability of the envisaged N\$14.8 billion (\$1.2 billion), 1050 megawatt (MW) Kudu power plant. New Era quoted the new National Petroleum Corporation of Namibia chief executive Immanuel Mulunga saying the project that is expected to lift Namibia from electricity quandary, is feasible and bankable, contrary to Finance Minister's objection that it will drain the government coffers.

“Sex starts at 13 in Namibia” is one of main stories in Namibian Sun.

The Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education Arts and Culture, Sanet Steenkamp as saying the government is developing a fully integrated sexual manual to address the spiralling rate of teenage pregnancy in the country.

According to the report, regional statistics hat Namibian schoolgirls become sexually active by the age of 13.(APA 02-10-2015)

WORLD BANK DONATES US\$13 MILLION TO SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

The World Bank (WB) will grant Sao Tome and Principe a donation of US\$13 million to support the state budget and investments in the energy sector, a World Bank official said in Sao Tome.

The announcement was made by Elizabeth Huybens, new director of World Bank operations in five African countries – Angola, Cameroon, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Sao Tome and Principe – according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

At the end of an audience granted by the acting president of the National Assembly of Sao Tome and Principe, Levi Nazaré, Huybens said that US\$3 million was earmarked for the state budget while the remaining US\$10 million would be invested in 2016 on repairing the hydroelectric facility on the Contador River. (06-10-2015)

GHANA SUSPENDS JUDGES OVER BRIBERY ALLEGATIONS

Ghana has suspended seven high court judges, in addition to the 22 junior judges and magistrates already sanctioned over graft allegations, after an undercover journalist claimed he had filmed them taking bribes.

Last month, 22 circuit judges and magistrates were suspended, and 12 high court judges were placed under investigation, after they were accused of being bought off.

"On the advice of the judicial council, the Vice President, Kwesi Bekoe Amissah-Arthur ... on Friday, October 2 2015 suspended from office with immediate effect, seven out of the 12 justices of the high court on grounds of stated misbehaviour," the judicial service said in a statement.

It said the vice president had acted on the order of President John Dramani Mahama, who was on a visit to France. The president asked the country's chief justice to establish a prima facie case against the judges after the alleged corruption was exposed by a local newspaper.

The newspaper claimed that court officials and judges were accepting money from clients for everything from giving appointments to ruling in their favour. On September 22, hundreds of Ghanaians flocked to watch a public screening in Accra of the incriminating footage shot by the journalist. Some of the judges implicated tried in vain to block the broadcast, which lasted several hours. (AFP 06-10-2015)

NIGERIAN PRESS ON EX-MINISTER'S GRAFT CASE, OTHERS

Nigerian newspapers on Sunday went to town with reports about the visit by a team of British detectives to Nigeria to investigate a former petroleum minister, attacks blamed on Boko Haram insurgents and the fallout from this year's hajj tragedy in Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

The Punch reported that the British National Crime Agency has dispatched a team of detectives to Nigeria who are now working with the operatives of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission to

probe Diezani Alison-Madueke, a former Petroleum Minister.

The Vanguard said there were indications that Allison-Madueke, arrested and released in the United Kingdom, on Friday, on money laundering allegations, may be charged to court, later this week.

The Nation meanwhile claimed more ministers of the Goodluck Jonathan era are facing possible arrest in the aftermath of Friday's detention of ex- Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Alison-Madueke, in London for alleged corruption.

This Day reported a palpable panic at the weekend in Nigeria's oil industry following news of the arrest in London.

The National Mirror reported the killing of 23 people in separate attacks that hit Maiduguri and its environs by suspected female suicide bombers.

The Guardian featured a reported quoting Emir of Kano Alhaji Muhammad Sanusi II as saying in order to avoid future casualties among Nigerian pilgrims in Mecca, he would recommend that they do not participate in the stoning of the devil.(APA 04-10-2015)

UGANDA: EU WARNS AGAINST 'MONETIZED' POLLS

The European Union (EU) ambassador to Uganda, Kristian Schmidt has raised concern about the increasing use of money in the politics of the East African country ahead of the 2016 general elections. Schmidt raised the concern during a meeting in Kampala on Monday with the Deputy Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, Jacob Oulanyah.

Despite acknowledging that money is an indispensable resource in European politics, Schmidt warned that the high levels of commercialization of politics in Uganda should alarm the country's local and international well-wishers.

His concern was re-echoed by the Deputy Speaker, Jacob Oulanyah who told the EU delegation that the commercialization of politics in Uganda was getting worse in every election and should be reexamined to restore sanity in that domain.

Oulanyah further cited instances where people in Uganda have used a lot of money, sold houses, or even borrowed heavily from banks but still lost elections.

He however made it clear that not all aspirants succumb to the use of money to achieve political offices.

In his response to questions about the efficacy of laws to fight the commercialization in politics in Uganda, Oulanyah said the right legislations exist but are not being fully implemented.(APA 05-10-2015)

FACEBOOK TO LAUNCH SATELLITE TO EXPAND INTERNET ACCESS IN AFRICA

Facebook said it would launch a satellite in partnership with France's Eutelsat Communications to bring Internet access to large parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

The satellite, part of Facebook's Internet.org platform to expand Internet access mainly via mobile phones, is under construction and will be launched in 2016, the companies said on Monday. The satellite, called AMOS-6, will cover large parts of West, East and southern Africa, Facebook chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a Facebook post.

"To connect people living in remote regions, traditional connectivity infrastructure is often difficult and inefficient, so we need to invent new technologies," he said.

The Internet.org platform offers free access to pared-down web services, focused on job listings, agricultural information, healthcare and education, as well as Facebook's own social network and messaging services.

Growth in the number of people with access to the Internet is slowing, and more than half the world's population is still offline, the United Nations Broadband Commission said last month.

Facebook has nearly 20-million users in major African markets Nigeria and Kenya, according to statistics it released last month, with a majority using mobile devices to access their profiles.

The company opened its first African office in Johannesburg in June.

Tech news website The Information reported in June that Facebook had abandoned plans to build a satellite to provide an Internet service to continents such as Africa. (Reuters 06-10-2015)

AFRICA GOVERNANCE PROGRESS STRUGGLING - MO IBRAHIM FOUNDATION

The progress of governance in Africa has struggled in the last four years, according to the Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG) 2015 published on Monday.

Published annually, IIAG provides a thorough assessment of the state of governance in each of the 54 African countries.

From 2011 to 2014, the average overall score of governance in Africa has marginally increased by 0.2 percentage points to reach 50.1 out of 100, with noticeable performance variations, both in the countries and the groups.

The IIAG 2015 index includes 93 indicators grouped under four categories: Safety and Rule of Law, Participation and Human Rights, Sustainable Economic Development and Human Development.

In 21 countries, five of which are among the ten leading countries in the ranking, the overall result has deteriorated since 2011.

Only six countries recorded an improvement in each of the four categories of the IIAG: Cote d'Ivoire, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia and Zimbabwe.

The general trend at the continental level masks contrasting performances at the regional level, leading to a growing gap between the different regions.

Southern Africa remains the best performing region, with an average score of 58.9, followed by West Africa (52.4), North Africa (51.2) and East Africa (44.3).

Central Africa is both the region recording the lowest score (40.9) and the only area whose level has deteriorated since 2011.

The marginal improvement in overall level of governance of the continent is driven by progress in only two categories: Human Development and Participation and Human Rights (respectively 1.2 and 0.7).

The other two groups including Sustainable Economic Development and Security and the Rule of Law for their part recorded a deterioration (-0.7 and -0.3, respectively).(APA 05-10-2015)

FALTERING PROGRESS IN AFRICA WORRIES GOVERNMENTS, INVESTORS

Faltering economic and political progress in Africa is a worrying sign to governments and foreign investors counting on the continent to serve as the next engine of global economic growth, one of Africa's most prominent businessmen said on Monday.

"Things are stalling," said Mo Ibrahim, who earned billions of dollars installing some of Africa's first mobile phone networks. "We can't pat ourselves on the back and pretend everything is hunky-dory; it's not."

An annual index of economic, political and developmental indicators compiled by Mr Ibrahim's philanthropic foundation and released on Monday showed that the security and business environment in many of Africa's 54 nations is not improving as rapidly as a decade ago, when the continent was hailed as the next great global economic frontier.

This year's rating of 50.1 on a 100-point scale, while up from 46.5 when the index was first issued in 2000, is down from a peak of 50.4 in 2010. Under the Ibrahim Index of African Governance, 100 represents a prosperous, democratic utopia.

"We really need to work a little bit harder to keep moving forward," Mr Ibrahim told The Wall Street Journal.

Some of the malaise emanates from slumping commodity prices, which underpin the continent's biggest economies. Dipping revenues from Nigerian oil, South African platinum and other raw materials are expected to slow economic growth across sub-Saharan Africa to 3.3% this year from 5% in 2014, research firm Capital Economics said.

When commodity prices were high and government coffers were flush, officials in Angola, Zambia and other countries did not invest enough in improving education, health care and roads, said the Mo Ibrahim Foundation's executive director for research and policy Nathalie Delapalme.

With funds now drying up, even the most well-intentioned of the continent's governments will have a harder time lifting their citizens out of poverty. "They could have been better positioned to confront the crisis that is in front of them," Ms Delapalme said.

The torpor affecting Africa's largest economies and the sinking value of their currencies are tearing at the social fabric, economists warn, especially in countries where life was already often punishing for most people.

In South Africa, already high rates of violent crime are escalating, and a quarter of those available to work, some 3-million people, have no jobs. Liquidity crunches have sparked fuel shortages in Nigeria and food shortages in Angola. Copper mining companies in Zambia are threatening to lay off thousands of workers.

"Our people are beginning to lose patience," opposition Economic Freedom Fighters party leader Julius Malema told the American Chamber of Commerce in Johannesburg last week.

Mr. Malema's style of confrontational, populist politics is gaining ground in South Africa, as the ruling African National Congress fails to repair chronic problems with the country's power grid and to improve labour relations. Other African countries could see similar calls to nationalise businesses and distribute government resources to the poor if they fail to provide for their citizens, said Johannesburg-based economist Thabi Leoka.

"Many countries that most need economic takeoff aren't getting it because their politicians don't support widespread growth," Ms Leoka said. "We don't have exemplary leaders to tell other leaders they should be doing well."

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation's annual report indicates that even the continent's recent success stories face daunting challenges.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo has climbed more than five points on the foundation's scale of sustainable economic opportunity since 2011. But huge hurdles remain. The largest cities of Congo, a country the size of Western Europe, still are not connected by roads.

Congo is scheduled to hold national elections next year, and, if a referendum measure is approved allowing President Joseph Kabila to seek a third term in office, his party will be pitted against more than 400 rivals.

The prospect of continued political dysfunction and stalemate has caused some Congolese to talk openly about attacking the country's parliament and other government buildings, as protesters did last year in Burkina Faso.

Not all is bleak and uncertain on the continent, the foundation's report suggests. Mid-sized African countries are making strides towards more widespread economic growth and better governance. Ivory Coast, which only four years ago was mired in civil war, climbed furthest in this year's index.

Kenya's economy is also growing swiftly. Authorities have made improvements to the rule of law, even as officials confront the menace of al-Shabaab terrorists from neighbouring Somalia.

Still, the portrait of a continent stumbling represents a reckoning for those who assumed Africa's ascent inexorable, said Ms Leoka. (WSJ 06-10-2015)

"The whole Africa rising story is in question."

BOTSWANA, NAMIBIA SIGN AGREEMENT ON RESEARCH

Botswana Institute for Technology, Research and Innovation (BITRI) and Namibia's National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise their research collaborations, the Dailynews reported here Monday. BITRI CEO, Prof. Nelson Torto is quoted as saying that formalising a working relationship with NCRST was a great opportunity because the two countries had common issues that affected their citizens.

He said through the MoU, BITRI wanted NCRST to facilitate introduction of solar streetlights in Namibia. He noted that BITRI was involved in solar technology and planned to increase its efforts by producing solar streetlights in its facilities.

"We hope to see an expansion in terms of our market for solar streetlights and we are hoping that through our colleagues in Namibia, we can be able to have access, not only in Namibia, but also to research around those areas," he said.

For his part, NCRST CEO, Dr Eino Mvula is quoted as saying that a detailed action plan that would allow for implementation of the agreement would be developed.

"We could have an opportunity for collaboration in accessing some of the state of the art facilities that we have here, and vice versa, so that we allow for the movement capability of researchers between the two countries," he said. (APA 05-10-2015)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Comoros - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15432.htm>

Gambia - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15430.htm>

Kenya - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43297.0>

Madagascar - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15431.htm>

Malawi - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15444.htm>

Mauritius - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15454.htm>

Namibia - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15435.htm>

Senegal - <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43308.0>

Senegal - <http://www.imf.org/External/NP/LOI/2015/sen/060815.pdf>

Zimbabwe - <http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15456.htm>

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