MEMORANDUM

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12 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

SUMMARY

PROVIDING FINANCE TO EGYPTIAN SMES: EIB AND BANK OF ALEXANDRIA SIGN A EUR 20 MILLION LOAN IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL PRIVATE SECTOR

The European Investment Bank (EIB) and Bank of Alexandria (ALEXBANK) signed a financing agreement for EUR 20 million to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and midcaps in Egypt. The operation comes under the EIB's Economic Resilience Initiative (ERI), aimed at enhancing the prospects for more resilient and inclusive growth, fostering financial inclusion and creating sustainable employment opportunities in the country.

The finance agreement is the first EIB credit line for small and medium-sized enterprises provided through Alexbank, which will channel the funds at affordable rates to Egyptian businesses, thereby enhancing economic growth by catalysing and accelerating private investment.

Forming part of the Intesa San Paolo Group, Alexbank is one of Egypt's leading private sector banks. It provides financial and non-financial services to its clients, including innovative products aiming to support development of local SMEs and reaching out to traditionally underserved categories like women, young people and entrepreneurs in rural areas.

Commenting on the transaction, **Flavia Palanza, Director for EU Neighbouring Countries at the EIB**, said: *"We are pleased to join forces with a new important partner in Egypt. This partnership with Alexbank will contribute to speeding up the delivery of finance to support the investments of small and medium-sized enterprises in Egypt. SMEs play an important role in job creation, innovation and sustainable economic growth. As the bank of the European Union, our aim is to contribute to building a stronger and resilient economy in Egypt – as well as in the region – that creates more jobs. Private sector support in the European neighbourhood region is a priority under the EIB's Economic Resilience Initiative."*

Dante Campioni, Managing Director & CEO of ALEXBANK said: "*We are glad to start this cooperation with EIB whose aim is to feed the expansion of Egyptian SMEs, recognized backbone of Egypt's economic sustainable growth. This agreement marks our first cooperation with EIB in the SMEs field, enlarging the number of partnerships established by Alexbank with prestigious financial and non-financial entities, with the scope to consolidate joint efforts towards the support of this vital sector, main contributor to the job creation in Egypt."(*EIB 28-06-2018)

ANGOLA CONSIDERS SETTING UP A DEPOSIT GUARANTEE FUND

Angola plans to set up a Deposit Guarantee Fund, a public legal entity, according to a statement issued at the end of a Council of Ministers meeting held on Wednesday in Luanda.

According to the statement the aim of the Deposit Guarantee Fund is to guarantee the repayment of deposits at national banks if the banks themselves are unable to do so because of their financial situation.

Portuguese state news agency Lusa news said the intention dates back to 2015, following the approval of the Basic Law of Financial Institutions of Angola (law 12/15), which came into force on 17 June of that year.

Article 69 of Law 12/15 sets out the creation of the fund "in order to guarantee the reimbursement of deposits made in participating financial institutions."

The same article notes that it is the responsibility of the holder of executive power – the President of the Republic – to create it, but without defining rules for its operation or the amounts that will be guaranteed by the fund.

In November 2014, the then governor of the National Bank of Angola, José de Lima Massano, suggested that all commercial banks in the country could contribute an amount equivalent to 0.03% of each deposit portfolio.

The intention was to guarantee up to 3 million kwanzas (US$11,800 at the current exchange rate), according to Lima Massano, who resigned in January 2015, establishing conditions to protect 90% of depositors of the Angolan banking system. (26-07-2018)

BLUE ECONOMY MOVEMENT GAINS TRACTION IN AFRICA

A coastal city, Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, is an area where people have relied on the ocean for food and employment for as long as they have lived there. An increasing number of African countries are now embracing the blue economy for its potential to deliver solutions to their most pressing development needs.

An increasing number of African countries are now embracing the blue economy for its potential to deliver solutions to their most pressing development needs–particularly extreme poverty and hunger.

Countries, including Kenya, Tanzania, South Africa, Mauritius, Comoros, Madagascar and the Seychelles–which has already established the Ministry of Finance, Trade and the Blue Economy–are recognising the need to diversify their economies.

"The African Union has also adopted the blue economy, which is about exploiting resources such as oceans, lakes and rivers, into its 2063 development agenda for socio-economic transformation," Danson Mwangangi, an independent economic researcher and analyst, tells IPS.

He says that for agrarian economies like Kenya, "agriculture alone will not be sufficient to drive the economy since the sector is facing many challenges, including shrinking farmlands, pest infestations and unpredictable weather changes."

The blue world will only be a win for Africa if there are strategies in place to exploit and protect it. -- Caesar Bita, head of underwater archaeology at the National Museums of Kenya

In Kenya, for instance, World Bank statistics show that in 2017 alone maize production dropped 20 to 30 percent due to insufficient rains and army worm infestation. The country has an annual maize shortfall of eight million bags per year.

Against this backdrop, experts are urging African countries to diversify and look beyond land-based resources by exploring the blue economy as it presents immense untapped potential.

The World Bank and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in their 2018 policy brief make a strong case in favour of the blue economy.

Mwangangi says that it can significantly enable Africa to improve its volumes of global trade, achieve food security and meet its energy demands.

Ocean renewable energy has the potential to meet up to 400 percent of the current global energy demand, according to the International Energy Agency.

"Seventy percent of African countries are either coastal or islands, we need to harness such valuable coastlines," says Caesar Bita, head of underwater archaeology at the National Museums of Kenya.

He tells IPS that the blue world can significantly transform the lives of communities that live closest to those bodies of water since they lead very precarious lives.

According to John Omingo, head of commercial shipping at the Kenya Maritime Authority, very little has been done in the way of harnessing these vast water-based resources for economic gain.

"Africa's coastline is about 31,000 kilometres long and yet trade among African countries accounts for 11 percent of the total trade volume, which is the lowest compared to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Europe and America," he expounds.

Bita tells IPS that while Africa is the largest island on earth as it has the Atlantic Ocean on the west; the Indian Ocean on the east; the Antarctic ocean on the south, and the Mediterranean and Red Sea on the north, "there is very little shipping that is going on in Africa. African-owned ships account for less than 1.2 percent of the world's shipping."

Ahead of the upcoming Sustainable Blue Economy Conference, that will be co-host by Kenya and Canada this November, in Nairobi, economic experts are optimistic that the blue economy movement is gaining traction.

The high-level conference is expected to advance a global agenda on sustainable exploitation of oceans, seas, rivers and lakes.

One of Freetown's larger fishing harbours is Goderich Beach, less than 30 minute's drive from the city's downtown core. There, a single motorised boat can bring in as much as 300 dollars worth of fish in a single day.

"Holding the conference in Africa with Canada as a co-host is also very strategic and shows that the continent is coming into this agenda as an important partner. Some of the most important gateways for international trade are actually in Africa," says Bita.

Mwangangi says that African countries will need to assess their own individual capacities and interpret the blue economy in the manner that makes most economic sense to them.

"The concept is not a one-size-fits-all. Each country will need to evaluate what water-based natural resources are at their disposal," he says. "On the Indian Ocean side of the continent where we have South Africa and Mauritius, countries tend to embrace an industrial approach," he adds.

Research shows that South Africa's Operation Phakisa, a national development plan, also places a focus on the blue economy as it is expected to create one million new jobs by 2030 and add approximately USD13 billion into the country's economy.

Experts also point to Mauritius which is among the smallest countries in the world but has territorial waters the size of South Africa, making the small nation one the strongest blue economies in Africa. It ranked as Africa's wealthiest nation based on its per capita income in 2015. Bita adds that Mozambique, which lies alongside the Indian Ocean, is characterised by the highest species of diverse and abundant natural resources.

Kenya is among African countries that are developing strategies to mainstream the blue economy within its national economic blueprint. Bita says that this East African nation's blue economy includes maritime transport and logistics services, fisheries and aquaculture, tourism as well as the extractive industries such as the offshore mining of gas and oil, titanium and niobium.

Nonetheless, environment experts, including Bita, have expressed concerns that ongoing talks on the blue economy have largely revolved around full exploitation, in order for countries to develop rapidly in the next 10 years, and little on sustainability.

“This is a problem since there is evidence to show that oceans resources are limited. For instance, explorers have presented evidence to show that at least 90 percent of the largest predatory fishes have disappeared from the world’s oceans,” he cautions.

The blue world will only be a win for Africa if there are strategies in place to exploit and protect it, he adds.(IPS 16-07-2018)

GERMAN BANK OPENS 500 MILLION EURO CREDIT LINE FOR ANGOLA

German bank Commerzbank will open a credit line for Angola in the amount of 500 million euros, according to authorisation for the deal granted by presidential dispatch on 23 July, the international press reported.

The document approves the framework agreement for financing a credit line to be signed between Angola and the German bank, one month before Angolan President João Lourenço is due to make an official visit to Germany.

The Angolan government said last May a negotiation process was underway with Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft, Germany’s second largest commercial bank, to secure financing of 500 million euros to cover German exports to Angola.

Angola had already agreed at the end of May to obtain a US$700 million loan from Credit Suisse bank to cover strategic projects.

This financing is in addition to another similar one worth US$500 million dollars, authorised by a presidential dispatch of 2 May, with the UK Export Finance, for projects registered in the Public Investment Programme (PIP).

Earlier this month official announced Angola was negotiating to add US$500 million to the issue of US$1.25 billion in 30-year bonds issued in May, along with another issue of US$1.75 billion. (26-07-2018)

ZAMBIA, ZIMBABWE SIGNS US $5BN DEAL FOR BATOKA GORGE HYDRO ELECTRICITY PROJECT

Zimbabwe and Zambia have agreed on principles for the US $5bn Batoka Gorge Hydro Electricity project secured by Harare, paving way for a technical meeting this week between experts from two the countries.

Zimbabwe recently received an expression of interest from General Electric Africa to undertake the 1 600MW power project along the Zambezi River, co-owned with Zambia. The project will ease power shortages in Zimbabwe and Zambia, with a huge potential to supply other regional countries.

Zimbabwe’s President Mnangagwa said that three companies have already applied to do the project and they are assessing their capability. The project is going to create 6 000 jobs.

Surplus power

The development comes as Zimbabwe has set in motion a number of electricity generation projects. These will see the country produce surplus power in the next five years. President Mnangagwa recently launched the US $1.5 bn Hwange Power Station Unit 7 and 8 construction project which will add 600MW to the national grid.

The project comes after the successful completion of the Kariba South expansion venture that has an output of 300MW. Zimbabwe has also secured an investor for a coal-bed methane gas project in Matabeleland North Province.

Share electricity

The country is currently producing about 1 200MW of electricity against a demand of 1 400MW during peak period. Under the Batoka project, Zimbabwe and Zambia will share the electricity equally when generation commences.

Project specifications by the Zambezi River Authority show the scheme will be undertaken on a build, operate and transfer basis upstream of the Kariba Dam hydroelectric scheme. The scheme is designed as a run of the river scheme with an estimated average energy generation of 8 700GWh/year.(CRO 19-07-2018

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK FUNDS AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS IN ANGOLA

The African Development Bank (AfDB) will finance local projects in the Angolan agricultural sector starting in 2019, said on Wednesday in the city of Huambo the head of the delegation of the multilateral banking institution in Angola.

Jean Marie, speaking at the end of a hearing granted by the provincial vice governor, Maricel Capama, also said that priority will be given to projects that include agricultural production, industrial processing and marketing.

He said the funding will cover the country's 18 provinces, confirming that the feasibility studies carried out in recent years are being discussed with the provincial governments in order to find suitable strategies for the successful implementation of these projects.

David Tunga, director general of the Institute for Agrarian Development (IDA), said that the AfDB projects are part of a partnership established with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, which is essential to enable the development of a value chain in the sector, within the context of the diversification of the national economy.

To that end, he said, three regions were selected, the first being the north of Angola (Uige, Zaire, Kwanza Norte, Lunda Norte, Lunda Sul and Bengo), the second in the centre (Huambo, Bié, Moxico and Benguela) and the last in the south (Huíla, Namibe, Kwando Kubango and Cunene).

According to the director-general of the IDA, taking into account its location, projects have already started in Cabinda province independently with an estimated budget of US$101 million. (26-07-2018)

ABUJA AIRPORT'S NEW TERMINAL TO BEGIN OPERATION THIS OCTOBER

The Federal Government of Nigeria has revealed the new terminal at the Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport in Abuja is will commence operation in October this year.
According to Saleh Dunoma, the Managing Director of the Federal Airports Authority of Nigeria (FAAN), the terminal will be put to use in order to decongest the old terminal, which is now overstretched as a result of the increase in passenger traffic.

Dunoma, further added that by the end of August, work will be concluded at the new terminal and it will also be opened for service. The major works to be done will be to connect the new terminal to the old one in order to have seamless passenger movement, adding that even though, the new terminal was designated for travellers on international destinations.

“We are pressing the contractor to finish everything in August, so that by October we can start operation in the building. So, we are working together – both the contractor, FAAN and all those involved in the project, to ensure that we meet our target,” said Dunoma.

He said the structures, which inhibited the use of the new terminal like the fire service building located very close to the facility, and the control tower, which is blocked by the terminal would be removed in the second phase of the work. The terminal can also be put in use while plans are made to remove the structures.

Power supply

In order to have uninterrupted power and water supply to the new facility, the FAAN managing director said the minister of the federal capital territory had directed that the airport should be connected to the central electricity and water system, adding that government had already approved funds for independent power supply.

“We have started the process of connecting the power system. The Minister of Federal Capital Territory had instructed that the airport should be connected to the city mains electric system and power system. Also government has approved money for the supply of independent power supply for the entire airport. So, when these are completed by October the terminal will become functional. That is when we shall start using the terminal,” said Dunoma.

He explained that out of the five new terminals being built at the airports in Kano, Abuja, Lagos, Enugu and Port Harcourt, the Abuja airport will kick off first, followed by that of Port Harcourt, which is at the same level of completion with the Abuja facility.

“Abuja and Port Harcourt will start first. Their completion is at the same level but there is so much traffic in Abuja. It will ease traffic if we start Abuja first. So our intention is to start Abuja. Port Harcourt is gradually coming up,” he said.

The Abuja new terminal is one of the four airport facilities being built by the Chinese with US $500m loan secured by the federal government, which paid US $100m counterpart fund for the projects(CRO 18-07-2018)

CHINESE CREDIT SUPPORTS ANGOLAN STATE FINANCING NEEDS

Credit granted by Chinese banks will support the financing needs of the Angolan State Budget for this year, which should signal a multi-level policy shift for the country, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The IMF considers in its latest report on Angola that the financing needs of the Angolan state are “substantial” in 2018, but that “they seem to be manageable given the benign external environment.”

Funding needs, according to the IMF, will be met by domestic credit, but also “by external sources, including China and other bilateral creditors, multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank and African Development Bank, commercial banks, and issues of foreign currency bonds worth US$2 billion.”

External financing linked to public investment projects is “mostly secured,” but the greater reliance on domestic bank financing, “may be difficult to achieve as commercial banks report being close to their limits of domestic exposure to sovereign risk,” said the report.

The IMF added that it may be necessary to consider “exploiting the appetite” of the markets for more bond issues, which “would help further diversify the mix of sources of finance, ease the pressure on domestic debt markets and increase public debt maturity.”

The National Assembly approved a budget for 2018 considered prudent by the IMF and other international institutions, aiming at an improvement in the primary non-oil budget balance of 2% of GDP.

In the report, the IMF stresses that since the election in 2017, the government of President João Lourenço, “has started to implement policies aimed at restoring macroeconomic stability and improve governance,” including the fight against corruption.

Hit hard by the sharp fall in oil prices that began in mid-2014, the Angolan economy suffered, “an even greater erosion of budgetary and external buffers,” before the August 2017 elections due to the fixed exchange rate policy followed until then.

The overall budget deficit increased to 6% of GDP and public debt, including state oil company Sonangol, reached 64% of GDP in 2017, while gross international reserves fell to the equivalent of six months of imports and the difference between the black market and the official exchange rate rose to 150% in 2017, noted the IMF.

The new government launched a macroeconomic stabilisation programme in early January, which foresees fiscal consolidation, greater exchange rate flexibility, a 60% reduction in the debt-to-GDP ratio over the medium term, improved debt profile through the management of liabilities, settlement of arrears of domestic payments and effective enforcement of anti-money laundering legislation.

According to the IMF, “structural reforms are properly aimed at promoting private sector growth,” while the new government is making concerted efforts to improve the business environment.

Among the new measures highlighted in the report is a programme to diversify exports and replace imports, the Competition Law, which aims to end “monopolistic practices in key sectors such as telecommunications and cement production,” and the Private Investment Law, “which eliminates barriers to foreign direct investment.” (16-07-2018)

CAUTIOUS NIGERIA AGREES TO SIGN AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE-TRADE AGREEMENT

Nigeria would soon sign up to an African continental free-trade agreement, President Muhammadu Buhari said.

Buhari made the comment on Wednesday at a media conference during a visit by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The agreement was signed by 44 countries in March, with SA joining earlier in July.

Before leaving Nigeria for the Middle East on Wednesday Ramaphosa urged the Nigerians to join the free-trade agreement.

Ramaphosa said Nigeria should take its time to consult on the agreement before signing up, but shouldn’t "take too long".

"The continent is waiting for Nigeria and SA.

"By trading among ourselves, we are able to retain more resources in the continent," he said in Abuja on Wednesday.

At a joint media conference with Ramaphosa later in the day, Buhari said Nigeria was careful about signing the trade deal to avoid hurting its young industries. "I will soon sign it," he said.

Talks to establish the African Continental Free-Trade Area (AfCFTA) with a combined GDP of more than $3-trillion started in 2015, and in May Ghana and Kenya became the first countries to ratify the deal. Ramaphosa signed the agreement in Mauritania last week. SA would ratify it "soon", he said.

The AfCFTA is a project that is driven by the AU to eliminate tariffs on intra-Africa trade of goods and services and create a single continental market with free movement of businesspeople. It will only become effective once the parliaments of at least 22 members ratify it.

Nigeria could not rush signing the deal because it does not want to get things wrong, Finance Minister Kemi Adeosun said at the conference. Her government was talking to stakeholders, including manufacturers, she said. Ramaphosa and Adeosun were speaking at the African Export-Import Bank’s annual meeting being held in Abuja this week.

A free-trade area for the continent, if implemented according to schedule, could increase intra-Africa trade by at least half by 2022, a report by the African Export-Import Bank reads. (Reuters, Bloomberg 12-07-2018)

GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE SEEKS PARTNERS FOR COMMERCIAL EXPANSION OF AIRPORTS

The Mozambican government has launched an international public tender for the concession, construction, operation and development of commercial infrastructures at Maputo, Beira and Nacala airports, Mozambican newspaper Domingo reported.

Through the international public tender, the Ministry of Transport and Communications is requesting expressions of interest in the establishment of partnerships for the development and operation of hotel facilities, business and entertainment centres, and commercial and social activities.

At the Maputo International Airport there is the possibility of building a shopping centre, petrol and service stations, as well as business apartments.

In Beira, the government is seeking investments for the construction and operation of a three-star hotel and a car service station, while in Nacala, in addition to a hotel, there will be a shopping centre and a renewable power plant.

The president of Mozambican airport management company AdM, Emanuel Chávez, is quoted by the newspaper as saying that he is in the process of preparing master plans for the remaining airports in the country, as well as for the former aerodrome in the Costa do Sol area, in the city of Maputo.(25-07-2018)

MOTA-ENGIL LAUNCHES NIGERIAN JOINT VENTURE "AT JUST THE RIGHT TIME"

Manuel Mota (left) and Shoreline Group founder Kola Karim (right) sign the joint venture agreement

Mota-Engil, a Portuguese contractor with a strong presence in southern Africa, has formed a joint venture with a Nigerian oil company to target work in the country amid an uplift in the price of oil.
The joint venture with Shoreline Group will give it access to Africa's largest economy, which has ongoing plans to invest in infrastructure and accommodation for its 200 million people.

Under the new venture, Mota-Engil will hold 51% of Mota-Engil Nigeria.

Speaking to Bloomberg on the sidelines of the EurAfrican forum near Lisbon this week, Manuel António Mota, chief executive officer of Mota-Engil's Africa unit, said his company was looking at a wide range of projects.

"The projects in Nigeria that are currently on the table vary between €20m to €1.5bn. This could make a big difference to our order book," he said.

He added that the time was “just right” to enter Nigeria, owing to the recent rise in oil prices, which ought to increase the government’s spending power.

Oil makes up about 95% of the country’s export earnings and contributes around 40% to the public purse.

Nigeria’s GDP has increased twelvefold between 2000 and 2015, rising from $46bn to $560bn before falling back to $400bn in 2016 following the collapse of oil prices.

According to Mota-Engil’s figures for 2016, it undertakes projects in Europe (35%), Latin America (23%) and Africa (32%). It had a turnover of €2.2bn and an order book of €4.4bn, of which €1.7bn was in Africa.(GCR 13-07-2018)

DIAMOND MINING IN ANGOLA OPENING TO SOUTH AFRICAN ENTREPRENEURS

Angola is working to ensure that the biggest South African companies in the diamond mining sector can operate in the country, the head of strategic planning and mineral operations of Angola’s national diamond company (Endiama) recently stated in Luanda.

Laureano Paulo was hosting a delegation of South African entrepreneurs who visited Endiama headquarters. The participation of South African companies will be advantageous for the sector, given their experience in that activity, he said, as reported by the newspaper O País.

The 2018/2022 national development plan approved last April by the Council of Ministers projects a substantial increase in diamond production to 13.8 million carats per year. That major growth will be driven by the start of operations at various mines, especially the one at Luaxe.

The Endiama administrator explained that the sector is working on new projects, namely the exploitation of new kimberlites, and has turned to recognising the potentials of companies from South Africa, a country with a great deal of tradition in the diamond sector.

In 2017 Angolan diamond production reached 9.4 million carats, bringing in gross revenue of US$1.1 billion resulting from sales at an average price per carat of US$113.

Sociedade Mineira de Catoca contributed with 89.22 percent of total production, of which 70 percent was sold to the United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Belgium and Switzerland. (24-07-2018)

NIGERIA TO COMMISSION THE US $823.5M ABUJA LIGHT RAIL

Nigeria’s President Muhammadu Buhari is set to commission the recently-completed first phase of the Abuja light rail project and to flag-off the railway services signalling the commencement of operations of the long-awaited rail services in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Abuja.

A statement signed by the Chief Press Secretary to FCT Minister, Cosmas Uzodinma, stated that the 45.245 km standard gauge rail line from Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport to the Abuja Metro Station is the first of its kind in West Africa.

According to the statement, the project had been in the works for over 11 years. Mr. Cosmas added that the commissioning will mark formal commencement of rail service and the fulfillment of a long-awaited dream for a modern state-of-the-art mass transit system for the FCT.

Furthermore, the Transportation Secretary of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Kayode Opeifa, expressed optimism that most of the transport gridlock in Abuja would soon disappear with the commissioning of the rail system. Opeifa, a former Commissioner for Transport in Lagos State, also allayed the fears that the transport situation in Abuja could relapse into a worse state.

"The Abuja rail system is as advanced as any in the developed world and it is designed to provide speed and comfort to the passengers within the FCT and serve as a delight to tourists," said Opeifa.

Funding

Opeifa, disclosed that the project was financed through counterpart-funding with the China Export Import (Exim) Bank on the basis of 60% from the Chinese and 40% from the FCT administration,

He added that the project that took more than a decade to complete, having been flagged-off by the Olusegun Obasanjo administration in 2007, "will link 13 communities with 12 stations at the Abuja Metro, Stadium, Kukwaba 1 and 2, Wupa, Idu, Bassanjiwa, Airport, Gwagwa Dei-Dei, Kagini and Gbazango."

He said that the rail system has modern facilities that include ultra modern edifices, modern shopping centres and eateries with the prospect of springing up further economic activities along the tracks and overall positive impact on the growth of the FCT, among others.(CRO 16-07-2018)

ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES TO BEGIN OPERATIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE WITHIN TWO MONTHS

Ethiopian Airlines plans to begin operating regular domestic flights in Mozambique within two months, the head of the Mozambican Civil Aviation Institute (IACM) told the Maputo-based daily Notícias.

João de Abreu said the Ethiopian company had resubmitted the documentation needed to begin regular operations. The papers had been returned the first time for minor corrections.

The company registered under the designation Ethiopian Moçambique Airlines is currently in the third of the five stages needed to obtain an operator certificate in Mozambique. Abreu said it was the most important stage, entailing thorough verification of all required manuals and documents.

The next two stages consist of demonstrating the ability to comply with security procedures in an experimental flight and formal delivery of the aviation certificate allowing the company to begin flight operations in Mozambique.

Ethiopian Airlines' entry in the domestic passenger transport market stems from a tender launched in 2017 by the Mozambican authorities to grant routes in national airspace. (23-07-2018)

CONSTRUCTION WORKS OF BAMBURI CEMENT AT ITS NAIROBI GRINDING PLANT COMPLETE

Construction works of Bamburi Cement at its Nairobi Grinding Plant is now complete with the commissioning of the US $40m plant planned for the last quarter of this year.

This initiative will see cement production for the company with the new line injecting additional production capacity of 900,000 metric tonnes per year to increase total capacity at the Plant to 2.4 million metric tonnes per annum. Overall, the annual combined total capacity of Bamburi Cement's two plants (Nairobi and Mombasa) will increase to 3.2 million metric tonnes a year.

Production of two high strength cement brands

Also, the cement producing company will eventually start production of two high strength cement brands namely Power Plus and Power Max that were previously only produced at the Company's Mombasa Plant. The Nairobi Plant was only producing Tembo and Nguvu brands.

Company's CEO Mr. Seddiq Hassani confirmed the news and said that the very able contractor is on schedule and will soon be handing the project over to the company for full operation

"The contractor is on schedule and will soon be handing the project over to the company for full operation. Further, we are happy that the line has produced the first bag of cement three days ahead of the scheduled time. The next phase is to conduct tests on the system for efficiency and thereafter commission it," he said.

Vertical Cement Grinding Mill

The key components of the new production line that are already completed include the 140 tonnes per hour Vertical Cement Grinding Mill (VCM) complete with grid re circulation, process dedusting and hot gas generator, two new cement storage silos with a capacity of 1,500 tonnes each, new 120 tonnes per hour cement packing machine, power installation among other auxiliary equipment.

Bamburi Cement capacity increase comes hot on the heels of projected demand in both domestic and regional markets attributed to the investment in the construction sector mainly in the individual home builder segment and in major infrastructural activities.(CRO 18-07-2018

WORLD BANK SUPPORTS TWO PROJECTS IN ANGOLA

The World Bank has provided Angola with funding of US$280 million for the second Institutional Development Project for the Water Sector (PDISA2) and for the Commercial Agriculture Development Project, with a contract signed on Thursday in Luanda.

The document was signed by Finance Minister Archer Mangueira, the president of the Credit Guaranty Fund, João Júlio, and the World Bank representative in Angola and Sao Tome and Principe, Oliver Lambert, according to the Angop news agency.

Archer Mangueira said that the two financing agreements will make an important contribution to the Angolan economy, at a time when there are great challenges to economic diversification, and will be included in the 2018/2022 National Development Plan.

The Commercial Agriculture Development Project is part of a broader programme which, according to the finance minister, also has funding from the French Development Agency in the amount of 79 million euros.

The additional funding of US$150 million for PDISA2 will help to increase coverage of the drinking water supply in nine cities across the country, covering Lubango, Ndalatando, Dundo, Luena, Moçâmedes, Cuito, Huambo, Malange and Uíge, according to Lambert.

The representative of the World Bank pointed out that the funding will also increase the institutional capacity of provincial water and sanitation companies, the National Water Directorate, the Electricity and Water Regulatory Institute and the National Water Resources Institute of Angola.

The US$130 million to be invested in the Commercial Agriculture Development Project will, in turn, contribute to increased productivity and market access for eligible beneficiaries along two established road corridors.

The two corridors are Luanda-Bengo-Kwanza Norte-Malange and Luanda-Bengo-Kwanza-Sul-Huambo-North of Huíla, linking the main agricultural area of the central plateau to the most important urban markets in Luanda. (20-07-2018)

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Zimbabwe's President Mnangagwa said that three companies have already applied to do the project and they are assessing their capability. The project is going to create 6 000 jobs.

Surplus power

The development comes as Zimbabwe has set in motion a number of electricity generation projects. These will see the country produce surplus power in the next five years. President Mnangagwa recently launched the US $1.5 bn Hwange Power Station Unit 7 and 8 construction project which will add 600MW to the national grid.

The project comes after the successful completion of the Kariba South expansion venture that has an output of 300MW. Zimbabwe has also secured an investor for a coal-bed methane gas project in Matabeleland North Province.

Share electricity

The country is currently producing about 1 200MW of electricity against a demand of 1 400MW during peak period. Under the Batoka project, Zimbabwe and Zambia will share the electricity equally when generation commences.

Project specifications by the Zambezi River Authority show the scheme will be undertaken on a build, operate and transfer basis upstream of the Kariba Dam hydroelectric scheme. The scheme is designed as a run of the river scheme with an estimated average energy generation of 8 700GWh/year.(CRO 19-07-2018)

ANGOLA BUYS ELECTRICITY FROM THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

The Angolan city of Cabinda and the surrounding area will receive electricity from the Inga hydroelectric plant near the city of Matadi in the Democratic Republic of Congo under a bilateral energy cooperation agreement that came out of last February's meeting in Kinshasa, Angolan news agency Angop reported.

The agreement was signed by the Ministers of Energy and Water Resources of DR Congo, Igete Ifoto and of the Angolan Minister for Energy and Waters, João Baptista Borges, who on Monday met with the governor of Cabinda, Eugénio Laborinho, to prepare the reception of his Congolese counterpart.

Since 2006, the governments of Angola and DR Congo have been holding meetings to resolve the energy situation in the Angolan province of Cabinda, with the construction of an energy transmission line from the Inga hydroelectric dam.

The construction of the Inga transmission line, passing through the port town of Muanda, has an estimated cost of US$20 million.

The Inga hydroelectric facility currently has two plants with a production capacity of 1,800 megawatts each. Inga I started operating in 1972 and Inga II in 1982.

The province of Cabinda currently has three dual system turbines (gas and diesel), which provide 95 megawatts of electric power to the entire region, which is not enough for local demand.

Cabinda is a coastal province of Angola that is separated from the rest of the country by a strip of land belonging to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which borders it to the South and East, and to the north, the border is with the Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). (19-07-2018)

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