

MEMORANDUM

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12 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

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ZIMBABWEAN OPPOSITION MEMBERS IN COURT ON CHARGES OF POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE

Members of Zimbabwe's defeated opposition party appeared in court Saturday on violence charges, a day after President Emmerson Mnangagwa was declared winner of the historic first elections following the downfall of Robert Mugabe.

Mnangagwa, a former Mugabe ally, has called for unity after presidential rival Nelson Chamisa rejected the results, insisting he was the real winner of an election marred by a deadly crackdown on opposition supporters.

At least six people died after troops in the capital Harare opened fire on demonstrators Wednesday, sparking an international outcry and raising grim memories of post-election violence under Mugabe's repressive rule.

Mnangagwa has accused Chamisa's opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) of fomenting the unrest, but said he would set up an independent commission to investigate the killings. The 24 opposition members appearing in court were charged with "public violence" during the protests, accused of smashing windows at offices of the ruling ZANU-PF party and setting fire to vehicles.

They were remanded in custody until a bail hearing on Monday.

Defence lawyer Denford Halimani said the 16 men and eight women had been caught up in an "opportunistic dragnet" against the opposition.

Mnangagwa has insisted that Monday's landmark election was "free, fair and credible", hailing the vote as a fresh start as he pushes for an end to Zimbabwe's international isolation.

International observers praised the peaceful conduct of the vote, though EU monitors said Mnangagwa benefited from an "un-level playing field" including heavy state media coverage.

Mnangagwa won 50.8% against Chamisa's 44.3%, according to official results — just enough to avoid a presidential run-off.

Chamisa, a 40-year-old pastor and lawyer, has urged his supporters to refrain from violence as he prepares to challenge the results in court.

"We won but they declared the opposite. You voted but they cheated," he said on Twitter.

In the village of Chinamhora, northeast of Harare, a crowd of 200 mourners gathered to bury 41-year-old fruit seller Ishmail Kumire, one of the victims of Wednesday's crackdown.

Relatives said he supported ZANU-PF but was caught up in the violence and killed because he had stayed at the scene, trying to protect his wares.

"He supported the ruling party — but then it's the same ruling party that has killed him," said his brother Steven Matope.

"He was just selling his tomatoes." Mnangagwa, 75, has said Chamisa is free to dispute the election results through the courts, though such a move appears to have little chance of changing the result.

A former right-hand man to Mugabe, Mnangagwa was chosen to lead ZANU-PF after the brief military intervention last November that ousted the autocrat after 37 years in power.

Mnangagwa was allegedly involved in violence and intimidation during the 2008 elections when the opposition pulled out of the run-off following the deaths of at least 200 supporters in attacks.

Rights groups have expressed concern that heavy-handed policing to prevent more opposition protests is a sign of how he intends to govern.

Amnesty International said more than 60 people had been "arbitrarily arrested" in a post-election clampdown on the opposition.

Former colonial power Britain said it remained "deeply concerned by the violence following the elections and the disproportionate response from the security forces".

Seeking to lift Zimbabwe's pariah status, Mnangagwa is making a push for badly needed foreign investment, pronouncing the country "open for business" on Friday.

Mugabe left Zimbabwe's economy in tatters after presiding over the seizure of white-owned farms and hyperinflation. Anthoni Van Nieuwkerk, an international relations professor at Wits University in Johannesburg, said Mnangagwa was well aware that his recovery plan required "goodwill and support" from the international community.

"If they roll out the soldiers — beyond what happened on Wednesday — throughout the country to suppress dissent, and if more people are killed, then this will spell no good news for this new incoming president," he told AFP.

South Africa's President Cyril Ramaphosa has called on all Zimbabweans to accept the result, or take their grievances to court. The US urged the opposition to show "graciousness in defeat".

North Korea — a former close ally of Mugabe's — congratulated his successor, wishing Mnangagwa "good health and happiness". (AFP 05-08-2018)

MOZAMBIQUE'S ECONOMY EXPECTED TO GROW 3.5% TO 4% IN 2018

The short-term outlook for the Mozambican economy is a gradual recovery in economic activity and controlled inflation, with real GDP growth of 3.5% to 4% expected in 2018, and 4.0 % to 4.5% in 2019, according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The stronger-than-expected recovery in the agricultural sector, as well as mining production, allowed Mozambique's Gross Domestic Product to grow by 3.75% in 2017, an increase of 75 basis points over the previous forecast.

An IMF staff team led by Ricardo Velloso visited Mozambique from 25 July to 3 August 2018 to assess recent macroeconomic developments, update the macroeconomic framework for 2018/19 and provide input for the preliminary budget for 2019.

At the end of the visit, the mission issued a statement saying it expects this recovery to be supported by further reductions in interest rates based on the favourable inflation scenario, that inflation will remain low at 6.5% in 2018, that it will fall to 5.5% in 2019 and that international reserves will remain at comfortable levels in 2018 and 2019.

With regard to the State Budget for 2019, the IMF mission recommended the submission of a budget proposal based on realistic macroeconomic assumptions as well as prudent revenue and expenditure forecasts. (06-08-2018)

DRC SAYS IT DOESN'T WANT LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FROM UN FOR THIS YEAR'S ELECTIONS

The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) government said it won't accept logistical support from the UN for this year's elections, having already ruled out external financial assistance for the vote.

The country, which hasn't had a peaceful transfer of power since it gained independence almost six decades ago, is preparing to hold presidential and other polls in December, after a two-year delay. The electoral commission said in November that the presidential and parliamentary polls are expected to cost about \$420m and US officials have expressed doubt the body can organise the polls without UN-supplied hardware.

The UN Mission in the country, known as Monusco, said this week that it's set aside more than \$80m to deploy aircraft to distribute electoral materials around the vast country. This type of assistance was used by the electoral commission in previous votes in 2006 and 2011.

"We don't need anything" and the government is "not making a request" for logistical support, President Joseph Kabila's deputy chief of staff, Jean-Pierre Kambila, said by phone from DRC's capital, Kinshasa on Tuesday. "The president has said that we don't want financial help from anyone, whoever they are."

Election materials

Monusco is continuing to plan to contribute to logistics for the elections, according to Florence Marchal, the mission's spokesperson. Aircraft and helicopters have been reserved and are beginning to arrive in the country, she said in an interview in Kinshasa on Monday.

Logistical support for the polls is part of Monusco's mandate and "until we have evidence of the opposite, it's still in the resolution the UN Security Council wishes us to continue and be ready if the request is ever made", Marchal said.

Monusco transported 4,000 tonnes of materials last year to help the electoral commission, known as CENI, create an electoral register. The UN agency was also asked by CENI to submit a logistical support plan in November 2017, Marchal said.

US deputy ambassador to the UN Jonathan Cohen told the Security Council on July 26 that he "expects the DRC government to take advantage of the support" on offer. "We have not yet seen evidence of how the electoral commission would organise elections without Monusco's assistance," he said.

DRC is the world's largest cobalt producer and Africa's biggest copper miner. The government announced a \$6.4bn annual budget in December. (Bloomberg 07-08-2018)

EU AND US WARN ZIMBABWE ABOUT VIOLENCE AFTER CONTESTED ELECTION

On Tuesday, the EU and US condemned violent attacks targeting the Zimbabwe opposition since elections last week, as 27 supporters of the MDC party were released on bail.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa, declared winner of the country's first ballot since the downfall of Robert Mugabe, again vowed to protect rights, but the government has been accused of overseeing a brutal post-vote crackdown.

Last week's poll, which was marred by soldiers opening fire at a protest killing six people, was meant to relaunch Zimbabwe on the international stage and attract foreign aid and investment after the repression of the Mugabe era.

Mnangagwa won the presidential vote by a narrow margin, and the opposition MDC has accused him of rigging the result. "The eruption of violence... stands in sharp contrast to the high hopes and expectations for a peaceful, inclusive, transparent and credible election," said a joint statement from the EU, US, Canada and Switzerland. It called for the government "to ensure the Zimbabwean Defence Forces act with restraint, in full respect of international human rights norms".

The MDC has accused security forces of abducting and beating opposition activists and their families since the election result was declared early on Friday. "I've just finished going thru the evidence ... We WON this election emphatically," MDC leader Chamisa tweeted, alleging election authorities used falsified figures to ensure Mnangagwa retained power.

Mnangagwa, who says any fraud allegations should be raised through the courts, said on Twitter that "transparency and accountability remain paramount. And despite the naysayers, in this new Zimbabwe, freedom will reign".

Human Rights Watch reported several cases of beatings and harassment by soldiers in Harare's suburbs — MDC strongholds — with soldiers in groups of four to 10 attacking people in bars and restaurants. In the early hours of Sunday, six masked men broke into the house of MDC youth leader Happymore Chidziva, pointed a rifle at a woman's head and slapped and kicked her, it said.

The 27 MDC supporters arrested over alleged violence at last week's deadly post-election protests received bail out on Tuesday. "We are very pleased, obviously, that they have been released," defence lawyer Denford Halimani told AFP following the hearing at Harare's magistrates court.

Prosecutors had opposed bail, saying the accused — 19 men and eight women — were "linked" to the deaths of the six people when the army opened fire on opposition supporters protesting against alleged election fraud. At least five of the accused are polling agents who were visiting MDC headquarters to hand in polling returns and collect travel expenses, according to the defence.

The 27, who deny all charges, were required to post bail of \$50 and to report to Harare police station on Friday. "We have advised them to lay low and not to engage in any activities that might result in other charges. This system thrives on harassing people," Halimani said.

Mnangagwa, Mugabe's former right-hand man who took power with military backing in November, has accused the MDC of fomenting the unrest, but he also said he would set up an independent commission to investigate the killings.

The MDC is expected to soon launch a legal challenge over the election result, in which Mnangagwa won 50.8% of vote, just scraping in above the 50% run-off threshold. (AFP 07-08-2018)

DRC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL MOISE KATUMBI 'LOCKED OUT AHEAD OF POLL'

Campaign team of the self-exiled opposition leader says he has twice been refused entry to register for the December election

Congolese opposition leader Moise Katumbi was twice refused permission to return home to register for the December presidential election, says his campaign team.

The government has rejected the allegations.

Katumbi, in self-imposed exile since May 2016, had planned to fly to Lubumbashi, his home town in southeast Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), on August 3, but his jet was denied permission to land, according to his chief of staff, Olivier Kamitatu.

Instead, he flew to Ndola in northern Zambia and tried to cross the land border on Friday and Saturday, Kamitatu said.

The first attempt was thwarted by a closed border post, while on Saturday Congolese officials instructed their Zambian counterparts not to let Katumbi cross, Kamitatu said.

DRC Communications Minister Lambert Mende denied Kamitatu's allegations, saying by phone on Sunday it was "one more manipulation" and that Katumbi did not submit a request to land or present himself to border officials.

"Zambia's immigration officials said they have received instructions from authorities in the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo not to allow Mr. Katumbi entry," according to a bulletin on Zambian state television on Saturday night.

Registration ends on Wednesday for candidates seeking to run in the presidential and parliamentary elections scheduled for December 23.

"Everything is being done to prevent Moise Katumbi from entering his country and filing his candidacy," Kamitatu said.

Katumbi, a one-time ally of President Joseph Kabila and former governor of the copper-rich Katanga province, was convicted in absentia in 2016 of illegally selling a property.

He was sentenced to three years in prison.

Mende said last week that Katumbi, who lives in Belgium, would be detained as soon as he set foot in the DRC. Katumbi "must come back to put himself at the disposition of the public prosecutor", Mende said.

The DRC's constitution prevents Kabila from seeking a third term as president, but his continued refusal to exclude himself from the next election is fuelling opposition suspicions that he plans to change or reinterpret the rules. (Bloomberg 07-08-2018)

BRAZIL WANTS TO INCREASE THE VALUE OF TRADE WITH ANGOLA FOUR-FOLD

Brazil intends to return to the levels of bilateral trade it had with Angola in the first decade of the century when it was worth US\$4 billion, four times the current amount, the Brazilian ambassador to Angola said on Saturday in Luanda.

Paulino de Carvalho Neto also told Portuguese news agency Lusa that bilateral trade is currently worth almost US\$1 billion and estimated the financing guaranteed by Brazil to the Angolan economy in the last 20 years at US\$3 billion.

The ambassador said there was a need to diversify bilateral trade, avoiding the concentration of economic activities, either in investment or in import/export of goods, on just one or two products.

Carvalho Neto recalled that, until a few years ago, Brazil imported mainly oil from Angola, which has been declining because, in recent years, Brazilian oil production has also increased – currently producing around 4 million barrels per day, against the 1 million per day produced in Angola.

In the opposite direction, Brazilian exports to Angola are all from the agribusiness sector – meat, sugar and processed food. (06-08-2018)

BUHARI VICTORY AT POLLS NOT A SURE BET AS HIS SUPPORT BASE DRIES UP

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari's re-election bid is facing a growing challenge as members of his party defect to the opposition and support diminishes in a key region that has stood by him politically for 15 years: the north.

Home to about 40% of the West African nation's voters, Nigeria's northeast and northwest regions have long been Buhari's bedrock — he carried them in three failed bids for the presidency, before gaining enough supporters elsewhere in 2015 to win. Now, defections from the ruling All Progressives Congress have spread to prominent northerners, casting doubt on whether he can secure the 13 states' backing in February's ballot.

"The perception is that he has more 'automatic votes' than anybody in the vote-rich north," said Amaka Anku, head of Eurasia Group's Africa practice. The defection of a key governor last week shows "it may be possible to overcome that edge after all."

Buhari, 75, was the first opposition candidate in Nigeria's history to win power at the ballot box. Elected on a pledge to fix a declining economy, fight corruption and improve security at a time when Islamist group Boko Haram had killed thousands of people, he's facing trouble as the ruling party's bitter internal rivalries take a toll.

Important allies

The top official of Sokoto state last week became the first governor from the 13 key territories to defect, joining others from Benue and Kwara in the separate North Central region. Governors are important allies for a Nigerian presidential candidate due to "their ability to deploy all the resources to win votes," according to Habu Mohammed, head of the political science department at Bayero University in the northern city of Kano.

The loss of such backing may not be the only problem for Buhari, whose record for the past three years is disputed. Critics say his war on graft has been selective and lost credibility — Nigeria dropped 12 places on Transparency International's corruption-perceptions index this year — while recovery from 2016's economic contraction has been sluggish, with inflation still over 11%.

Insurgency, bandits

Although Boko Haram's reach in the northeast has reduced under Buhari, attacks continue and the humanitarian situation remains dire, with millions needing food aid and many schools closed. Bandits in the north's Zamfara state have also killed more than 300 people this year, and a conflict between crop farmers and herdsmen in North Central is now proving deadlier than the battle against the Islamists. Whether Buhari can again carry the north may depend on his linchpin: Kano state. It provided 1.9-million votes, or about 12%, of his 15-million nationwide total in 2015.

"Kano is a vote bank," said Idayat Hassan, executive director of the Abuja-based Centre for Democracy and Development in the capital, Abuja. Even there, the defection of two former state governors, each with a significant following, shows Buhari "has lost political clout," she said. "He might win Kano, but not by as many votes as he got last time."

The deputy governor of Kano, Hafiz Abubakar, resigned on Sunday. In a letter to his boss, governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje, he said his office had been disrespected. Abubakar did not say whether he was leaving the APC, according to the document, a copy of which was seen by Bloomberg.

Parties merged

In Nigerian presidential elections, a candidate needs a majority of overall votes and at least a quarter of ballots in 24 of the country's 36 states to win without a runoff. Buhari's northern base was boosted in 2015 when the Action Congress of Nigeria party, which has a strong following in the southwest, merged with Buhari's then-Congress for Progressive Change to form the APC.

Ayisha Osori, an Abuja-based independent analyst, estimates Buhari's northern base vote at about 12-million. "He's lost a lot of the additional three-million that he won in the last election — young professionals, people from the southwest and north-central," she said by phone.

Among the recent string of ruling-party defections have been its spokesman and Senate President Bukola Saraki, Nigeria's third-highest ranking politician.

All the same, no one's ruling out an APC victory in 2019. The main opposition People's Democratic Party is "still perceived as the party that brought the country into its current situation and also a party that's been associated with corruption," Mohammed said.

PDP plans

The PDP, which has yet to name its presidential candidate, says it also intends to field a northerner to try and prevent Buhari winning as much of the area's vote as he did last time.

The APC now faces the task of winning back the favour of voters over the next eight months — which may not be easy.

On the streets of Kano, textile trader Ghali Tanko says he's voted for Buhari every four years since 2003. Next time, he is not so sure.

"I had a belief that he could turn the country into a role model, do a lot of work in health, roads and education," Tanko said. "But I didn't see that in his three years." (Bloomberg 06-08-2018)

PROCESS OF LIQUIDATION OF PUBLIC COMPANIES IN ANGOLA IS UNDERWAY

The process of liquidation of state-owned enterprises that have been extinguished by the government due to financial incapacity is still ongoing, said the chairman of the State Assets and Stake Management Institute (IGAPE) in Luanda on Friday.

Valter Barros said these companies operated in the construction, transport, agriculture and industrial sectors, among others, and, without citing numbers, said that some had already been sold to private entities.

On Friday, Brazilian Finance Minister Archer Manguiera told the Angop news agency that the amount collected in this process is for the payment of arrears in workers' compensation, Social Security and General Tax Administration, as well as for paying off debts to the companies that supply goods or services.

Another challenge for IGAPE, he said, is the privatisation of some public companies, which is being led by a commission headed by the Minister of State for Economic and Social Development, Manuel Nunes Júnior.

"The process is underway and will be sent to the National Assembly soon, for consideration and voting," he said. (06-08-2018)

MOZAMBIQUE BONDHOLDERS WANT A PIECE OF THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE GAS REVENUE

The group of bondholders is said to have asked the government to pay them portions of future natural gas revenue as part of a restructuring of Eurobonds

A group of Mozambique bondholders proposed the government pay them portions of future natural gas revenue as part of a restructuring of the nation's Eurobonds, according to two people familiar with the discussions.

The so-called Global Group of Mozambique's Bondholders (GGMB) formally made the proposal to the southeast African nation, which also includes cash-flow relief until 2023, said the people who asked not to be identified because the plan has not been announced publicly.

The two main points of the proposal include:

- Instruments linked to fiscal revenue from gas production with a sliding scale, in which the government will always retain at least 97% of revenue. This includes royalties.
- Cash-flow relief to the government between now and 2023, when the \$727m Eurobonds fall due, of almost \$1bn. This includes both principal and interest payments and would equate to about 80% of what would be owed over the next five years.

Mozambique's Eurobonds due in 2023 gained as much as 1%, and were trading at 85.05c on the dollar by 6.37pm in London. The securities have climbed 3.4% since July 25.

Missed payments

The people declined to say when the proposal sets as the extended date for repayment of the principal amount, or for how many years the bondholders would receive a portion of gas royalties and taxes. The government forecasts \$49bn in revenues over three decades from the first two projects, which will start producing gas from 2022 and 2023.

Two years ago, Mozambique announced it was seeking to restructure external loans worth about \$2bn and has missed payments on all of them since, including the Eurobond. The restructuring proposal came after the government owned up to two other loans taken out by two state-owned companies for maritime security and ship-repair projects totalling more than \$1bn, which were previously undisclosed. That resulted in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) freezing funding for the government, while a group of 14 donors also halted direct budget support.

The proposal says nothing about the other two loans, the people said. This was previously a sticking point as the Global Group of Mozambique's Bondholders wanted favourable treatment that recognised they already restructured in 2016, when investors agreed to swap their loan to a state-owned tuna-fishing company into the Eurobond.

Fiscal constraints

A spokesman at Mozambique's ministry of economy and finance did not immediately respond to an e-mailed request for comment. Lazard Frères SAS, the nation's financial advisers for the restructuring, confirmed the ministry received a restructuring proposal from the group.

"The ministry is currently analysing the proposal with the support of its financial and legal advisers, Lazard Frères and White & Case, to assess if it achieves the objectives set out by the ministry in the March meeting with Mozambique's commercial creditors in London," it said by e-mail. "For any restructuring proposal to be acceptable, it must recognise and address the government's fiscal and developmental constraints and debt sustainability objectives."

Mozambique had in its March restructuring proposal said it wanted to write off 50% of the missed debt payments, while extending maturities of the debts and lowering interest payments until after it starts receiving gas revenue after 2023. Companies including Anadarko Petroleum and Exxon Mobil are planning mega-projects in the north of the country that will make Mozambique one of the biggest exporters of the fuel.

The Global Group of Mozambique's Bondholders has previously said it has the backing of holders of at least 80% of Mozambique's Eurobonds, including Franklin Templeton and New York-based hedge fund Greylock Capital Management. (Bloomberg 06-08-2018)

DIAMOND-PRODUCING COMPANIES IN ANGOLA CAN FREELY SELL UP TO 60% OF PRODUCTION

Companies that extract diamonds in Angola can freely sell up to 60% of production under the new "diamond marketing policy," which has brought an end to the previous "Preferential Customers" regime, daily newspaper *Jornal de Angola* reported.

The new "Diamond Marketing Policy" specifically provides for the restructuring of the former system of "Preferred Customers" (those who had the most advantageous conditions for the purchase of rough diamonds), into another more appropriate for the marketing policy, through contracts for the regular purchase of diamonds for an extended period of time (from one to three years), with special rules.

The document, authorised by a Presidential Decree of 27 July, stipulates that diamonds from artisanal mining, through small cooperatives, are acquired exclusively by the national diamond trading company Sodiam, based on market price and the official price list, to be approved by the government.

In the new system for the sale of rough diamonds the sale by producers to "indicated companies or companies owned by them," is possible, according to the "authorised quota of up to 60% of production," using long-term contracts, duly authorised by the government, as well as to cutting companies located in Angola.

Auctions are also planned for the sale of diamonds with special characteristics.

Angolan weekly newspaper *Expansão* recently reported that the diamond-producing companies operating in the country had lost estimated gross revenue of US\$5 billion with the business model adopted for the sale of diamonds since 2007, in which they were obliged to sell to the preferred customers imposed by Sodiam, which bought them at a 30% discount on market prices. (06-08-2018)

GOOGLE LAUNCHES WI-FI PROJECT IN NIGERIA

Google has partnered with Nigerian fibre cable network provider 21st Century to roll-out free Wi-Fi hotspots in five Nigerian cities, as part of Google Station Internet infrastructure project



Google will launch Wi-Fi hotspots in five Nigerian cities.

Google is expected to deploy about 200 Wi-Fi hotspots in places such as transportation hubs, shopping malls, universities and other public places in Nigeria by the end of 2019.

Speaking to the press, Juliet Ehimuan-Chiazor, country director of Google Nigeria, said, "Access to the Internet in Africa is growing but it's still limited." About 35 per cent of Africans have access to the internet, compared to 48 per cent in Asia, 67 per cent in Latin America, 85 per cent in Europe and 95 per cent in North America, Ehimuan-Chiazor added.

Therefore, Google's initiative focuses on bringing reliable internet connections to the people of Nigeria through these public Wi-Fi hotspots.

Google has launched similar services in India, Indonesia, Mexico and Thailand as well. In India, Google's new Wi-Fi spots are currently operating in 400 railway stations. (02-08-2018)

CABO VERDE OBTAINS A LOAN TO DEVELOP PRIVATE SECTOR

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has granted a 40-million-euro loan to Cabo Verde for the private sector competitiveness programme and local economic development, with half to be made available this year and the other half in 2019, the Cabo Verdean government has announced.

An official statement indicates that the first half of the loan was the subject of an agreement signed in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Those 20 million euros will be used to help implement measures to improve the business environment and favour policies to promote local development by decentralisation and strengthening local power, in line with key objectives of the 2017-2021 Sustainable Development Strategy Plan.

The government stresses in the statement that one main goal is to strengthen competitiveness of the economy, “bearing in mind the nature of the Cabo Verdean economy – fragmented, without scale and relatively undiversified.”

“The declared goal is to change this situation by increasing and strengthening the capacity to generate local resources to boost sustainable development of the Cabo Verdean business fabric.”

The agreement was signed by Cabo Verde’s ambassador in Côte d’Ivoire, Felino Inácio Rosa de Carvalho, and by the AfDB’s director-general for West Africa, Marie-Laure Akin-Olugbade. (07-08-2018)

SOUTH SUDAN’S LONG-AWAITED PEACE DEAL GRANTS REBELS KEY GOVERNMENT POSTS

South Sudan’s main warring parties signed a peace deal that will grant rebels key positions in a transitional government, the latest bid to end an almost five-year conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives.

The accord will restore rebel leader Riek Machar as President Salva Kiir’s deputy, while appointing four other vice-presidents and adding new posts for ministers and legislators.

Following the collapse of a similar pact in July 2016, it will be the second attempt at a power-sharing government since the start of the civil war in the East African nation.

Kiir and Machar signed the deal — which came after weeks of incremental agreements — on Sunday in Khartoum, the capital of neighbouring Sudan. Other opposition factions also took part in the ceremony.

The peace agreement is long-awaited in the nation that has faced economic chaos because of a decline in oil income and where 4-million people have fled their homes and some areas have been on the verge of famine.

Both government forces and rebels have been accused of atrocities, and the UN Security Council recently imposed an arms embargo.

Crude production at one of the country’s main oilfields in what was formerly known as Unity state will resume in September, Sudanese President Umar al-Bashir confirmed at the signing ceremony. The two countries are combining efforts to rehabilitate the production facilities and also agreed to conduct joint security patrols to protect South Sudan’s oilfields, he said.

South Sudan was producing about 350,000 barrels of oil a day in 2011, when it seceded from Sudan. (Bloomberg 06-08-2018)

PUBLIC TENDER FOR INTER-ISLAND TRANSPORTATION TO PROCEED IN CABO VERDE

The international public tender for the concession of maritime inter-island transportation in Cabo Verde will go ahead, Tourism and Transportation Minister José Gonçalves guaranteed on Monday in Mindelo, adding that the government would not wait for the decision regarding a possible injunction.

The Cabo Verdean company Palm Shipping Lines has announced that it plans to request implementation of a protective measure to suspend the international tender for the concession of inter-island maritime transportation.

This follows the ruling by Cabo Verde’s Public Acquisitions Regulatory Authority (ARAP) that an appeal lodged by the consortium comprising the Cabo Verdean company and the Dutch company Tschudi Ship Management was unfounded.

Gonçalves, cited by the Inforpress news agency, acknowledged that the company, excluded from the tender, has the right to do so. However, he said that the government had already sent the tender documents to the other companies, which have 45 days to submit the respective bids.

He added that the issue of inter-island maritime transportation needs to be resolved “as quickly as possible” because it is a sector with very uneven service. (07-08-2018)

GABON TO BUILD EIGHT HYBRID POWER SOLAR PLANTS

The Government of Gabon through its financial institution, Caisse des Dépôts et Consignations (CDC) has signed an agreement with ENGIE to construct eight hybrid solar power plants with a combined capacity of 2.2 MW in the country.

Construction of the project is set to begin in a few weeks and upon completion it will contribute to Gabon’s proactive policy of using renewable energy, solar and hydro power, to increase the country’s energy capacities.

Continuous access to energy

The implemented solution has been developed by ENGIE’s subsidiary, Ausar Energy in collaboration with CDC and the Gabonese energy and water company Société d’Énergie et d’Eau du Gabon (SEEG) and means that solar energy can be used in eight locations that are currently supplied by oil-fired thermal power stations.

Ausar Energy offers the African continent a hybrid solar power plant solution in line with ENGIE Group’s strategy of promoting decentralized generation and distribution of electricity from renewable sources, with or without storage facilities, with capacities ranging from 50kW to 2.5MW.

The project is set to save the country one million litres of fuel oil per year or 2,600 tonnes of CO₂ and reduce generation costs by 30%. This strategic priority is designed to ensure continuous access to energy in isolated areas that are not and cannot be connected to grids, as well as to limit the consumption of fuel oil, manage costs and reduce pollution. (CRO 06-08-2018)

GUINEA-BISSAU NEGOTIATING NEW JOINT RESOURCE EXPLOITATION CONTRACT WITH SENEGAL

Guinea-Bissau is negotiating with Senegal a new agreement on joint exploitation of petroleum resources and presented a set of proposals in the third round of talks held during the first three days of August in Dakar, the head of Bissau’s delegation said on Monday.

Apolinário de Carvalho, a high-level Foreign Ministry official and current ambassador of Guinea-Bissau in Brussels, stated that the Dakar talks had “gone well” and that the Guinea-Bissauan side had “explained to the Senegalese side that the historic mistake” of the division agreed in 1993 “has to be corrected.”

That decision allocated Senegal 85 percent and Guinea-Bissau 15 percent of revenue resulting from the eventual exploitation of hydrocarbons in the common area.

“We want a new agreement that reflects the interests of both countries,” de Carvalho said, cited by Lusa news agency. Guinea-Bissau “is nowadays better prepared” than in the past to defend its viewpoint, he stressed.

The delegations will meet again this coming 27, 28 and 29 August, this time in Bissau, to finish the draft revision of the new resource sharing agreement for oil, gas and fisheries, which will be signed later by the leaders of the two nations.

The area in question encompasses about 25,000 square kilometres of continental shelf and is managed by a cooperation and management agency based in Dakar, currently headed by former Guinea-Bissauan Prime Minister Artur Silva.

The joint maritime development zone is considered to be rich in fishery resources, with each state allocated 50 percent of the respective exploitation, and also in hydrocarbons (oil and gas), though still in the prospecting phase. (07-08-2018)

US \$1.2BN NEW WIND POWER PROJECTS SET FOR CONSTRUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

Wind power projects amounting to a whopping US \$1.2bn are set for construction in South Africa by The Enel Group's South African renewables company, signed with senior lenders Nedbank Limited and Absa[1] all project financing agreements of up to 80% of the overall investment of around US \$1.4bn on a portfolio of five new wind projects, totaling roughly 700 MW of capacity.

Five wind power projects

The five facilities set for construction, namely Nxuba, Oyster Bay, Garob, Karusa and Soetwater, have a capacity of around 140 MW each. The [Enel Group](#) is contributing around US \$266m in equity in the construction of the five wind farms. Following the signing of the agreements, also known as "financial close", construction of the first project, Nxuba, is expected to start by the end of 2018.

"We have reached an important milestone in South Africa by achieving financial close on five major wind projects which confirm our continuing commitment to the country's renewables sector, within a context of sustainable development. Enel Green Power will be supporting these processes by generating its emission-free energy in partnership with local shareholders and in cooperation with the local communities, according to our long-term vision of shared value creation," Antonio Cammisecra, Head of Enel's Global Renewable Energies Division Enel Green Power, commented.

The Garob, Karusa and Soetwater projects will be constructed in the Northern Cape Province, while the Oyster Bay and the Nxuba wind farms will be built in the Eastern Cape Province. The five wind farms were all awarded in round 4 of the South African government's Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Procurement Programme (REIPPPP). Each project is minority-owned by a local partner.

Construction dates

Following the start of construction of Nxuba, construction of Oyster Bay and Garob is expected to start by the first half of 2019 and construction of Soetwater as well as Karusa is expected to start in the second half of the same year. Nxuba is expected to be operational in the second half of 2020, Oyster Bay in the first half of 2021, while Garob, Soetwater and Karusa in the second half of 2021.

By 2021, all five new wind farms are due to be up-and-running, bringing Enel Green Power's total installed capacity in the country to more than 1.2 GW. Once operational, the five projects are expected to produce around 2.6 TWh each year, saving the annual emission of roughly 2.7 million tonnes of CO₂ into the atmosphere.

About Enel Green Power

[Enel Green Power](#) (EGP), the Renewable Energies division of Enel Group, is dedicated to the development and operation of renewables across the world, with a presence in Europe, the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania. Enel Green Power is a global leader in the green energy sector with a managed capacity of around 42 GW across a generation mix that includes wind, solar, geothermal and hydropower, and is at the forefront of integrating innovative technologies into renewables power plants. In South Africa, EGP operates more than 520 MW of wind and solar plants, namely the 88 MW Nojoli wind farm and the 111 MW Gibson Bay wind farm in the Eastern Cape province as well as the PV plants Paleisheuwel (82.5 MW, situated in the Western Cape province); Tom Burke (66 MW, in the Limpopo province); Upington (10 MW) and Adams (82.5 MW), both located in the Northern Cape province; and Pulida (82.5 MW), located in the Free State province.(CRO 06-08-2018)

MAIN DESTINATIONS OF ANGOLAN ORNAMENTAL STONE ARE ASIA AND EUROPE

Asia and Europe are the main markets for ornamental stone exported by Angola, which is shipped from the port of Moçamedes, the national markets and marketing promotion director of the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Petroleum recently said.

Gaspar Filipe Sermão did not indicate the specific countries that take in more than 90 percent of the ornamental stone exported. However, the newspaper O País reported that Poland in Europe and the United Arab Emirates in Asia are the main markets for that Angolan product.

Sermão made his comments on the sidelines of a meeting on the subsector organised by his ministry. He explained that companies involved in the business had exported 20,000 cubic metres of ornamental stone during the first half of 2018, earning revenue of 2 billion kwanzas (nearly US\$62 million).

Most Angolan ornamental stone comes from the provinces of Huíla and Namibe, which plan to improve both the quality and quantity of production, given current consumption trends in the country and in the international market.

Sermão acknowledged that several constraints limited exploitation and marketing activity, such as access routes to production zones, energy costs, port-related issues and the distance between major production zones and ports, as well as processing capacity.

Angola currently produces 64,500 cubic metres of ornamental stone per year. The target set for 2022 is 104,600 tons. (07-08-2018)

TUNISIA LAUNCHES PROJECT TO USE DRONES FOR AGRICULTURAL DATA COLLECTION

African Development Bank (AfDB) has signed an agreement with Tunisia to launch a pilot project that will use drones for agricultural data collection, aiming to enhance agri projects in the North African nation



Tunisia to use drones for data collection to enhance management of agricultural projects in the country.

The project, to be implemented over the next ten months, would receive technical management and assistance from South Korea.

The pilot project will focus on agricultural operations in Sidi Bouzid in central Tunisia, under the management of Busan Techno Park, a Korean government agency based in Busan, South Korea. The agency will provide equipment - drones and associated computer systems- training, as well as technology transfer.

The agency has already tested the drones for efficacy in managing similar urban projects. Korea is a leading country in the development and use of unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) for real-time data collection and processing. Drones have been used in agriculture to provide fast and accurate data, helping to improve decision-making at all stages of a project, from preparation to implementation and evaluation.

Zied Laadhari, Tunisia's minister of development, investment and international cooperation, said that the pilot was expected to benefit piloting and monitoring of irrigated areas, management of water resources, water tables as well as the effects of climate change in the pilot area.

A founding member of the AfDB, Tunisia was one of its first beneficiaries in 1967. Currently, the Bank's portfolio in Tunisia is worth more than US\$2.3bn covering more than 40 projects and programmes. (AF 31-07-2028)

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