MEMORANDUM

N° 105/2017 | 22/06/2017

More than 1,811 Daily Memoranda issued from 2006 to end of 2016, with 21,732 pages of Business Clips issued covering all African, European Institutions and African Union, as well as the Breton Woods Institutions. The subscription is free of charge, and sponsored by various Development Organisations and Corporations.
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.
Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to fernando.matos.rosa@sapo or fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be.

11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION
News of Africa, as they are published

SUMMARY

ROBERT MUGABE ASKS 'GUCCI GRACE' TO STEP BACK FROM SUCCESSION RACE

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has moved to rein in his wife's ambition to succeed him, after the country's intelligence chief warned that her campaign may stoke political violence and opposition from within the military, three members of the ruling party's politburo said.

Mugabe asked his wife Grace to tone down her public criticism of veterans of Zimbabwe's independence war, who have supported the president since he took power in 1980, and back her main rival, Deputy President Emmerson Mnangagwa, according to the politburo members, who asked not to be named because they are not authorised to speak publicly on the matter.

While Mugabe, 93, is Zanu (PF)'s presidential candidate for elections due next year, he has grown increasingly frail and may not be able to see out another five-year term.

The intensifying battle over succession comes at a time when Zimbabwe, once one of Africa's richest countries, faces deepening unrest over widespread unemployment, the collapse of basic services and the need of about 4-million people, more than a quarter of the population, for emergency food rations.

Security apparatus

"Control of the military and the security apparatus is a key factor in deciding who holds the reins politically," Showers Mawowa, deputy director of the Southern African Liaison Office, a civil rights group, said by phone from Pretoria on Monday. "As things stand, it seems like Mnangagwa has the upper hand."

The warning to Mugabe about rising anger among the war veterans and the threat of unrest came from Happyton Bonongwe, who heads the Central Intelligence Organization, the politburo members said.

He also told the Joint Operations Command, a group of senior military and intelligence officers who support Mnangagwa, that serving troops oppose a faction of younger party officials known as Generation-40 that backs Grace Mugabe, whom critics call "Gucci Grace" for her allegedly extravagant lifestyle.

Bonongwe also said Zanu (PF) must mend relations with the war veterans, according to the party members.

The Central Intelligence Organisation does not answer questions from the press as a matter of policy, said an official at its headquarters who declined to give his name.

While the veterans accused the president of mismanaging the country and denounced him in July last year, they recanted last month following an intervention by Bonongwe and the military chiefs.

The National Liberation War Veterans Association view Grace's G-40 faction as "charlatans", its leader, Chris Mutsvanga, said in an interview.

Former spy chief

Mnangagwa, a former spy chief who played a key role in the independence struggle and was jailed during the war against the white-minority regime of Rhodesia, has previously denied that he leads a faction or desires to be president. He did not answer calls to his office.

Mugabe opposes the faction fighting, saying at a June 2 rally outside Harare that it was confusing the electorate and damaging the party's chances against a newly formed opposition coalition led by former prime minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

"The president has condemned factionalism across the board many times," Zanu (PF) chief spokesman Simon Khaya Moyo said.

Yet some analysts, such as Ibbo Mandaza, executive chairman of the Harare-based Southern African Political Economy Series Trust, believe the faction fighting plays into Mugabe's hands, making it easier for him to retain power.

"Mugabe thrives on chaos and confusion," Mandaza said in Harare. (Bloomberg 21-06-2017)

EBRD SUPPORTS RAIL MODERNISATION IN EGYPT

Millions of commuters across Egypt will benefit from a €290 million financing provided by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to support the Egyptian National Railways (ENR) in its fleet expansion and upgrade of services.

As part of ENR's locomotive renewal programme, the EBRD will finance the acquisition of up to 100 new diesel locomotives under a supply-and-maintenance contract outsourced to the private sector in accordance with the EBRD's procurement policy.

The ENR fleet of locomotives is very old with an average age of 30 years. This has caused a lack of availability, along with issues regarding carbon emissions and maintenance. The acquisition of the new locomotives will enable the railway company to provide a more reliable and higher quality service to its customers.

The new fleet will also contribute to lowering carbon emissions by replacing life-expired inefficient rolling stock, delivering additional revenues due to better locomotive availability, improving access to jobs and achieving significant operating cost savings through improvement in fuel consumption.

The EBRD will also provide technical assistance support to ENR to develop and implement a comprehensive freight reform programme and a commercialisation plan for the freight sector.

"This project will provide a better quality of life and economic development opportunities. It complements the EBRD's continued support for Egypt's development strategy of building new roads, highways, tunnels and connections across the country," said Dr Sahar Nasr, Minister of Investment and International Cooperation.

Egypt is a founding member of the EBRD and has been receiving funding since 2012. To date the Bank has invested €2.3 billion in 47 projects in the country. The EBRD's areas of investment include the financial sector, agribusiness, manufacturing and services, as well as infrastructure projects such as power, municipal water and wastewater services and support for transport services. The EBRD has also provided technical assistance support to more than 500 small and medium-sized local enterprises.
(ERDB 20-06-2017)

IVORY COAST AND GHANA IN TALKS FOR $1.2BN LOAN FOR COCOA OUTPUT

The cocoa regulators of the world's two biggest producers are in talks with the African Development Bank about a $1.2bn loan that will be used to increase output and mitigate against volatile prices, according to two people familiar with the matter.
Ivory Coast and Ghana want to build storage facilities for local processing and for the storing and release of stocks based on market demand, said the people, who asked not to be identified because they're not authorised to speak about the matter. The West African neighbours also want to pay farmers who need to replace old and diseased trees in order to boost output, the people said.
The initiative comes after Ivory Coast and Ghana said in May that they will work together to derive more value from growing beans after a slump in prices cut government revenue and incomes for hundreds of thousands of small-scale farmers. Cocoa futures in London fell last month to nearly the lowest in four years as a rebound in production left the global market oversupplied.

Ivory Coast, the top grower, had to reduce the price paid to farmers by 36% for the smaller harvest that started in April, and trimmed its 2017 budget. Ghana lost almost $1bn in export earnings because of lower prices, Joseph Boahen Aidoo, the CEO of the country's cocoa regulator, said in April.

Mariam Coulibaly Dagnogo, a spokeswoman for Ivory Coast's regulator, Le Conseil du Café-Cacao, didn't return a call seeking comment. Government spokesman Bruno Koné couldn't immediately comment when contacted by phone. Noah Amenyah, a spokesman for the Ghana Cocoa Board, declined to comment when contacted by phone. Ghanaian finance minister Ken Ofori-Atta and his deputy, Charles Adu Boahen, didn't answer calls or respond to text messages.

The African Development Bank's Ghana country office declined to comment on e-mailed questions.

(Bloomberg 21-06-2017)

CLEAN ENERGY MEDITERRANEAN CITIES PROJECT TO TAKE PART IN MEETING ON URBAN CLIMATE ACTION IN BARCELONA

The EU-funded Cleaner Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities project (CES-MED) will participate in a meeting on Climate Action in Urban Areas, which will be held in Barcelona on the 21-22 June 2017.

The two-day event brings together project beneficiaries of the EU LIFE programme for environment and climate action, relevant authorities and other stakeholders from across Europe to discuss specific actions to advance climate change adaptation and mitigation in the European and international urban context.

The **LIFE platform** meeting will be an opportunity for CES-MED to showcase the continuous efforts of the project to enhance the skills and knowledge of southern Mediterranean municipalities in energy planning, urban adaptation and mitigation to climate change.

The **"Cleaner and Energy Saving Mediterranean Cities" (CES-MED)** project is an EU-funded regional initiative set up to provide training and technical assistance support to local and national authorities in the southern Mediterranean region, with a view to helping them respond more actively to sustainable policy challenges.

CES-MED ensures that the actions proposed match with the objectives of the Covenant of Mayors: to reach and even go beyond the European objective to reduce CO_2 emissions by 20% thanks to the improvement of energy efficiency and the increased use of sustainable energy. (CES-MED 20-06-2017)

Life Programme

JACOB ZUMA: THE PRESIDENT WHO CAUSED A RECESSION

'The only factor is the political shenanigans, policy uncertainty and the lack of leadership, which has hollowed out confidence both in the consumer and the investment community'

The last time SA fell into recession, in 2009, it was because of the global financial crisis. This time around, economists and business executives agree, the cause is a person: the president.

There is no other factor to explain the recession

Jacob Zuma's erratic political moves are breeding policy uncertainty and reluctance to invest, helping explain why the economy of the continent's most industrialised nation contracted for a second straight quarter in the three months to end-March. Finance, property and business services shrank for the first time since the second quarter of 2009.

Business confidence has yet to recover after falling to a more than three-decade low in September and the rand has been the world's most volatile currency in the past year.

All the while, Zuma was waging a battle with Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan over how to manage the economy—until he fired him.

Companies across industries say the political and economic instability is cutting sales, hurting profit forecasts and even inducing consumers to gamble less.

"There is no other factor to explain the recession," said Iraj Abedian, CEO at Pan-African Investments and Research Services in Johannesburg. "The only factor is the political shenanigans, policy uncertainty and the lack of leadership, which has hollowed out confidence both in the consumer and the investment community."

Gordhan, who had been driving efforts to trim the budget deficit, improve state firms' performance and ward off junk credit ratings, was canned in a March 31 Cabinet shuffle, prompting two ratings downgrades to non-investment levels within a week and nationwide demonstrations.

All of us are disappointed by the firing of Gordhan, and the Cabinet reshuffle just breeds uncertainty and that's not what we want

Pioneer Food Group said it had ended talks about a potential transaction because of the downgrades.

Since April last year, companies including Old Mutual, the continent's largest insurer and which has a 173-year history in SA, packaging maker Nampak, and retailers including clothing and home furnishings specialist The Foschini Group and Dis-Chem Pharmacies, have warned that the political situation is clouding economic prospects.

"There's been a massive loss of confidence," Spar Group CEO Graham O'Connor said. "All of us are disappointed by the firing of Gordhan, and the Cabinet reshuffle just breeds uncertainty and that's not what we want."

Zuma spokesman Bongani Ngqulunga said that while other countries too had been struggling for growth and recovery from the financial crisis, there was little room for fiscal and monetary policy to support growth. SA's focus was structural reform, he said.

"Reforms usually challenge the status quo and are necessary to change the structure of the economy," he said. "There is very little doubt that once the reforms process is complete our economy will be set on a higher growth trajectory."

April was very tough. We put a lot of that down to a change in sentiment in the South African economy — everyone in SA got miserable

Companies were less optimistic. The "volatile sociopolitical outlook" would create more difficult trading conditions and, because many government departments and state-owned enterprises were in flux, "the finalising and closing of contracts is challenging", Bidvest Group - which employs 114,000 people across its automotive, services and freight businesses - said on June 8.

Signs of improvement in the economy were "washed away" by March's political events, Massmart, the retailer controlled by Wal-Mart Stores, said on March 25, noting the "unfavorable impact on sales" of discretionary products.

Nedbank, the lender controlled by Old Mutual, plans to reduce its full-year earnings forecasts, citing slower-than-expected revenue growth in the first quarter caused by the weak sociopolitical and macroeconomic environment, it said.

People were so discouraged they were even cutting back on betting, said Marcel von Aulock, CEO of Tsogo Sun, Africa's biggest gaming and hotel company and owner of the Montecasino and Gold Reef City entertainment complexes in Johannesburg.

"April was very tough," Von Aulock said, adding that the biggest impact was at casinos, where fewer people came to gamble. "We put a lot of that down to a change in sentiment in the South African economy—everyone in SA got miserable."

Fewer people had jobs, too: unemployment rose to a 14-year high of 27.7% in the first quarter. SA’s growth slowed to 0.3% last year, the lowest rate since 2009, after low commodity prices, the effects of the 2015 drought and weak demand for locally made goods weighed on output.

The country is likely to miss its 1.3% growth target this year and may have to curb spending to stick to its budget framework, Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba said on June 15.

This is despite growth in agriculture, which is improving as the country recovers from the 2015 drought. Prices of commodities, the nation's biggest export, are rising, but neither was enough to prevent the downturn.

Zuma, who is due to step down as ANC leader in December and whose term as the country's president ends in 2019, has survived a series of corruption scandals and presided over the party’s worst electoral performance since the end of apartheid in 1994 in municipal elections in August.

Zuma being replaced sooner rather than later will certainly help rebuild the confidence needed to turn the economy in a positive direction

In November, the graft ombudsman implicated Zuma in unethical conduct in a 355-page report about how the Gupta brothers, who are his friends and are in business with his sons, influenced his Cabinet appointments and contracts at state companies such as power utility Eskom.

Zuma, who has defeated numerous efforts to get him to step down, now is facing a no-confidence motion called by opposition parties in Parliament. The UDM has asked the Constitutional Court to order a secret ballot, which it hopes will enable ANC MPs, who occupy 62% of the 400 seats in the National Assembly, to vote against the president without fear of losing their jobs.

“Zuma being replaced sooner rather than later will certainly help rebuild the confidence needed to turn the economy in a positive direction,” Ivor Sarakinsky, a senior lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand’s School of Governance in Johannesburg, said on June 13. “Investors just aren’t going to bring in money in under this kind of uncertainty.” (Bloomberg 20-06-2017)

AFTER AGOA - SOUTH AFRICA MUST PREPARE FOR TWO-WAY FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH US

The Trump Administration has signalled its impatience to replace the AGOA preferential trade deal with Africa with normal two-way free trade agreements.

US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross says America's relationship with Africa "has to continue its transition from being 'AID-based' to 'TRADE-based'".

"To that end, having two-way trade agreements, not just temporary trade preferences, would create long-term, sustainable improvements to quality of life on both sides of the Atlantic," Ross told the Corporate Council for Africa's business summit in Washington on Thursday.

The temporary trade preference he was referring to is the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) which, since 2000, has given eligible African countries duty and quota free access to the US market, without having to reciprocate. In 2015 it was extended to 2025 but it is not clear that it will be extended again.

South Africa has benefited more than other African countries from AGOA but experts on US-SA relations said Ross's speech signalled that South Africa had better start negotiating with the US soon for a two-way free trade agreement to replace AGOA.

Ross said that bilateral trade agreements, rather than large, multilateral ones, could be very effective tools in meeting the long-term... (Daily Maverick 18-06-2017)

AIR TRANSPORT SUPPORTS 620,000 JOBS, CONTRIBUTES $3.2 BILLION IN GDP FOR KENYA

The International Air Transport Association (IATA) has released new data showing that the air transport sector in Kenya supports some 620,000 jobs including tourism-related employment while contributing $3.2 billion or 5.1 percent of the East African nation's GDP. These findings are conducted by Oxford Economics on behalf of IATA.

Muhammad Ali Albakri, regional vice president for the Middle East & Africa, IATA, said, "The study confirms the vital role that air transport plays in facilitating over $10 billion in exports, some $4.4 billion in foreign direct investment and around $800,000 in inbound leisure and business tourism for Kenya. However, by adopting policies that ensure a competitive operating environment for the airlines, Kenya could reap even greater dividends from aviation."

Infrastructure, ease of travel and cost competitiveness are the three main components which play a vital role in the development of the region. According to executives surveyed by the World Economic Forum, Kenya's transport infrastructure quality score places the country 6th out of 37 African countries surveyed and 78th globally. Kenya ranks 10th out of 37 African countries for visa openness. Kenya ranks 31st out of 37 for cost competitiveness in the air transport industry, based on air ticket taxes, airport charges and VAT.

Around 130,000 aircraft land and take off from one of Kenya's five main airports every year. Nairobi's Jomo Kenyatta International is the key gateway and handled over 5.8 million passengers in 2014.

"While Kenya's air transport infrastructure ranks highly among African states, it is important that heavy fees, taxes and charges do not hold aviation back. We are very encouraged by the news that the Kenya Airports Authority has embarked on a study to review Airport charges downwards," concluded Albakri.(Logistics Africa 16-06-2017)

EU MINISTERS PLEDGE MORE EFFORTS FOR AFRICA PARTNERSHIP

EU foreign ministers in Luxembourg Monday (19 June) committed to working closely with their African partners for an "ambitious and successful" EU-Africa summit in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on 29 and 30 November, with "Investing in Youth" as the central theme.

Faced with an unprecedented migration crisis, ministers devoted part of their time in an effort to streamline policies aimed at building more resilient states and societies in sub-Saharan Africa, as well as creating more and better jobs, especially for young people.

The "Africa-EU Partnership: a renewed impetus" joint communication adopted last May stated that in the changing global context, it is in the EU's strategic interest to deepen and adapt its long-standing partnership with Africa.

A stronger political relationship is envisaged, as well as turning strategic objectives into actions and taking on board Africa's vision. A series of flagship initiatives has been spelled out.

The nine-page Council conclusions adopted yesterday stress that the EU and its member states are Africa's main partner in the fields of foreign investment, trade, place of origin for remittances, development and humanitarian assistance, and security and defence.

The general view is that better partnerships in all fields, from climate change to security, economic development, migration and humanitarian support are the best way to manage migration and prevent radicalisation.
Ministers said that they welcome initial proposals for actions focused on “more and better jobs, especially for youth”. However, the statements of support sound quite general.
Gianni Pittella, leader of the European Parliament’s S&D group, said the conclusions on the Africa-EU Partnership show that member states finally recognise that the EU has a genuine strategic interest in deepening and reinforcing its relations with its African partners. But he insisted that “a more constructive approach is needed based on a long-term strategy”.
“A new partnership means that Europeans shift their focus to development through investments, democracy, good governance, and education, whilst Africans also have their share of responsibility. To this end, the implementation of a long-term EU development plan for Africa is essential”, Pittella said.
The S&D leader also said that the EU and Africa must step up efforts to forge a partnership on migration. “It must start by addressing the root causes through creating better livelihoods and decent work in order to avoid that young people risk their lives attempting to flee to Europe”, he added. (EurActiv 20-06-2017)

EU MOVES TO ADDRESS MAJOR CRISIS IN NORTH-EASTERN NIGERIA

The Commission announced on Thursday (15 June) a €143 million support package for recovery and reconstruction needs in Nigeria’s Borno State, which is suffering from a worsening humanitarian crisis.
The situation in North-Eastern State risks slipping out of control. Last week suspected Boko Haram fighters attacked the city of Maiduguri, in the Islamist militant group’s most serious assault on the regional capital in a year and a half.
The raid comes six months after President Muhammadu Buhari said Boko Haram had “technically” been defeated by a military campaign that had pushed many jihadists deep into the remote Sambisa forest, near the border with Cameroon.
Maiduguri, in Borno, has been the epicentre of the eight-year fight against Boko Haram but has been relatively free of violence since the beginning of 2016, barring sporadic suicide bombs on its outskirts.
More than 20,000 people have been killed in Boko Haram’s campaign to establish a mediaeval caliphate in the Lake Chad basin. A further 2.7 million have been displaced, creating one of the world’s largest humanitarian emergencies.
The package announced today combines short term EU humanitarian aid with long term development. This reflects the Commission’s strategic approach to resilience, which was presented a week ago.
Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica said that the support package of €143 million committed on top of other assistance, will assist approximately 1.3 million internally displaced people and affected communities in and around Borno State.
“Our assistance will not only target the immediate needs of the people but, it will also help to restore basic services, stimulate employment and create livelihood opportunities, particularly for women and young people,” he said.
Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides said he has visited the country several times and seen the suffering caused by the victims of terrorism but also the strength and determination of the local people to rebuild their lives.
“It is this desire to rebuild a better future that the EU will support,” Stylianides said.
Nigeria is one of four countries across the globe experiencing or at risk of famine this year, along with Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. (EurActiv 15-06-2017)

MONEY FROM EUROPE A LIFELINE FOR NIGERIAN FAMILIES

Grace and Sunday Otoide’s house is the last one standing on Bata Road in Benin City, southern Nigeria. All the neighbours have left and the retired couple hope to do the same.

With the money their two children send from Italy, they want to build a new house.
Dozens of lorries used to pass along the road to get to the local shoe factory, once one of Benin City's industrial jewels.
But it's now no more than a track swallowed by swamps.
At the turn of the century, the leading shoe manufacturer that gave the road its name relocated its factory to Ghana, frustrated by constant power cuts. About 3,000 employees, most of them young people, lost their jobs.
Since then, the flood barriers surrounding the area have fallen into disrepair and the water has reclaimed the earth, flooding every dwelling and the factory.
"We have no nothing. No chop (food), not'in," says Grace in pidgin English from a large sofa that has seen better days.
Her husband's pension has also been hurt by the devaluation of Nigeria's naira currency.
Two of the couple's six children were smuggled into Italy several years ago.
They send back what they can, when they can, to help their parents build a new home. The current one threatens to fall down at any moment.
"I don't know what kind of job she do. But she dey work, she dey abroad, she's the one who must worry for me. If I dey young again, I go travel overseas," says Grace.

Money transfers
More than 37,500 Nigerians arrived on the Italian coast by boat in 2016, according to the International Organization for Migration. Most of them came from Benin City.
The city is riddled with human trafficking networks. Often the Nigerian women who end up in Italy become sex workers, while men are pushed into Italian mafia networks around the trade.
The phenomenon can be traced back to the time of the region's industrial collapse in the late 1980s, military rule and the structural adjustment programmes that killed the economy.
For nearly 30 years, Edo State, of which Benin City is the capital, has survived on the money sent back from across the Mediterranean.
Even small sums represent a real monthly salary for families – as long as the money is sent in foreign currency.
On the outskirts of the city, there are no roads, electricity or drainage, yet brick houses are mushrooming in the largely abandoned fields.
Emmanuel Otoide is building a large house for a client who left for Italy 10 years ago and has not come back.
On the walls, the owner's mother has stuck a notice from her Pentecostal church: "2017 My Year of Greater Light".
"The mother of the owner is (a) pure water seller, she is a street vendor," the construction engineer says, adding that without the money from overseas, building the house would be impossible.
Behind him, workers dig the foundations of another house by hand, sweating in the suffocating heat, 10 hours a day, for 3,000 naira (€8.5).

Remittances and savings of the diaspora can finance development
There are more than 230 million international migrants worldwide – more than the population of the world's fifth most populous country, Brazil. To help finance development, new "diaspora" financial instruments, or diaspora bonds, could be created, write Mahmoud Mohieldin and Dilip Ratha.
The appearance of economic development because of migrants from Edo state is "fake and non-sustainable", according to Kokunre Eghafona-Agbontaen, from the University of Benin City.
The money sent to often very poor and uneducated families is not invested in viable enterprises or to buy arable land to farm.
"The remittances are utilised on a personal and family basis, and there are no visible contributions to the development and transformation of the community," she says.
What's worse is that illegal migration has led to a fall in the level of education in Edo, Eghafona-Agbontaen says.
Young people, convinced that their professional future will not be in Nigeria, now look to leave rather than continue their studies.
The deputy governor of Edo, Philip Shaibu, agrees, saying parents would look for the "best agent to transfer them to Europe" in the same way they might look for a good school.
"Now children want to go on their own. That trend we want to stop."

After years of political inaction, the new Edo state governor has promised to eradicate the "dangerous cartels" involved in human trafficking, and wants to reinvigorate industry and create 200,000 jobs.
It's a huge challenge and unlikely to be achieved in a country where energy problems are a major brake on development.
But since 2016 the European Union has put pressure on source countries of illegal migrants – "soft diplomacy" according to Shaibu, who wants politicians to recognise the problem.(EurActiv)

FIVE INDICATORS OF TOURISM POTENTIAL IN AFRICA

Africa is beautiful, but the future of the continent's economy is dependent on how the potential of tourism is properly harnessed. Jumia Travel shares five interesting indicators of tourism becoming the biggest contributor to Africa's economy.

Diversity of landscapes and cultural richness

The continent is one of the most beautiful destinations in the world. Some examples of the beautiful destinations include: Tsavo National Park in Kenya, Simien Mountains National Park in Ethiopia, Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, Olumo & Zuma Rock in Nigeria, Victoria Falls Bridge in Zimbabwe, Kasubi Tombs in Uganda, Cape Coast Castle in Ghana, Kruger National Park in South Africa, the Pyramids of Giza in Egypt, and Lago Rosa (Lake Retba or Lac Rose) in Senegal.

Young and urban population - part of the growing middle class

The youth are the future of any nation's economy. Surprisingly, the African youths are now part of the growing middle class. Traveling, to an extent, can be expensive. Only those with the required purchasing power can conveniently travel. According to the recently released hospitality report on Africa, the growing middle class, comprising majorly of youth, are found to travel more to these destinations in 2016. Since the future of the African economies lies with the youth, tourism is bound to thrive.

Growing uptake of e-commerce, enabling rise of tech startups

The rise of e-commerce companies in Africa has propelled more and more tech startups in the continent. As e-commerce continues to experience a gradual boom, additional employments will be created, more people will have the means to travel and explore the continent.

Infrastructure improvements

As much as there's a deficit of infrastructure development in Africa, there's still hope after all. Government institutions in each country are now making frantic efforts to provide an enabling environment for tourism to thrive, such as the provision of good roads, building world-class airports (and rehabilitating old ones), ensuring 24/7 power supply, and much more. These improvements will ease the stress of travelling to or within the continent.

Increasing interest in the continent

Organisations are rising up to invest in the continent, considering how much potential it has. More and more airlines are being introduced almost every year; international hotel chains are expanding into Africa and many event organisations are tapping into Africa. (BD 08-06-2017)

COTE D'IVOIRE : LE COMMERCE EXTERIEUR PASSE AU NUMERIQUE

Terminal à conteneurs du port d'Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire, en mars 2016

La Côte d'Ivoire vient de mettre en place une plateforme digitale permettant d'effectuer toutes les procédures douanières, comme les déclarations et les règlements, en ligne. Ce module a été développé par la société Webb Fontaine, via le guichet unique du commerce extérieur.

La Côte d'Ivoire continue sa marche vers le tout numérique. Souleymane Diarrassouba, le ministre du Commerce, des PME et de l'artisanat a lancé, le 8 juin à Abidjan, le module e-paiement, via le guichet unique du commerce extérieur (Guce). « À partir du 1 août, tous les droits de douanes concernant le commerce extérieur se feront en ligne » explique-t-il.
La nouvelle plateforme permet de faire les déclarations en douane et d'effectuer les règlements en ligne. Les paiements s'effectuent par virement, par carte bancaire ou par Paypal.

Quatre banques parties prenantes
Quatre banques ivoiriennes, Société Générale (SGBCI), Nsia Bank, Banque Nationale d'Investissement (BNI) et la Banque Atlantique de Côte d'Ivoire (Baci) sont parties prenantes au nouveau système. Mais, seul NSIA Bank a créé une interface avec le Guce.
Toutes les opérations d'importation et d'exportation franchissent ainsi le cap de la dématérialisation. Une innovation qui sera synonyme de l'amélioration du rang de la Côte d'Ivoire au classement Doing Business 2018 de l'environnement des affaires.

Fin du contrat de concession de Webb Fontaine
Cette nouvelle plateforme est l'une des dernières initiatives de la société Webb Fontaine, qui a mis en place et qui gère le Guce. Le contrat de concession de cinq ans de la société avec l'État arrive à échéance en 2018.
« Notre concession prend fin, comme prévu par le contrat. Il s'agissait d'aider les douanes à maîtriser leur cœur de métier. Ce que nous avons fait par la mise en place de toutes les procédures et par la

formation des douaniers. Nous allons nous reconvertir et allons proposer nos services dans la sous-région », affirme Guy Serge Manouan, le directeur général de Webb Fontaine.
Les flux financiers annuels du commerce extérieur sont estimés à 15 000 milliards de F CFA (20 milliards d'euros) en Côte d'Ivoire. Les douanes, principale bénéficiaire du Guce, devrait percevoir des recettes fixées à 1 600 milliards F CFA en 2017. (JA 09-06-2017)

COMMISSION IS WRONG TO PROMOTE PRIVATE SECTOR IN EU AID POLICY

The European Commission has engaged in a dangerously mistaken defence of the role of public private partnerships (PPPs) in EU development policy, warns Jan Willem Goudriaan.
Jan Willem Goudriaan is secretary general of the European Public Services Union (EPSU).
In an interview with EURACTIV.com on 6 June and an opinion piece on 7 June, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, gives a dangerously mistaken defence of the role of public private partnerships (PPPs) in EU development policy. He wants the private sector to play a larger part in the EU's development policies and invest massively in projects of public interest. This, he claims, will be to the benefit of people in developing countries and so the EU should therefore facilitate PPPs.
EPSU, the European Federation of Public Service Unions, does not agree. Based on our experience with PPPs, promoting the private sector through such projects is wrong and costly for people in developing countries.
There are several reasons for our view. Firstly, the well-documented experience with PPPs across the world should make the Commission refrain from promoting them. PPPs tend to be expensive for public coffers, loading countries with more public debt. The experience in the EU itself provides a glimpse of this. One of the first things the IMF/EU/ECB 'Troika' did in Portugal and Cyprus was to identify PPPs as a contributory cause of those countries' fiscal problems. No new PPPs were allowed. It was recognition that they trap public authorities in long-term contracts that divert resources away from developing public services and addressing people's needs.
Another concern is that PPPs lead to issues with corruption. Again the EU's experience sheds light on this with a European Commission report on corruption identifying public contracts as one of the areas of most concern for EU countries. Meanwhile, the European Parliament's report on the modernisation of public procurement was equally critical of public-private partnerships, their finance and financial risks to governments. It would be wrong to ignore this and continue promoting PPPs in developing countries.
There is more. Research shows that PPPs do not bring the expected efficiency gains to running public services when compared with public sector solutions. The IMF has suggested a basic approach that when "considering the PPP option, the government has to compare the cost of public investment and government provision of services with the cost of services provided by a PPP." There is no indication that the European Commission is taking this into account.
The problems that EU member states and candidate countries are experiencing as noted in the EU's anti-corruption report are exacerbated by the lack of good governance, weak democratic, administrative and judicial systems and underfunded public authorities which do not have sufficient and qualified staff and capacity for control and monitoring. This is an issue in many developing countries and especially in

the poorest ones. If the EU's focus is on eradicating poverty, contributing to this via PPPs rather than strengthening democratic institutions is the wrong focus.
The Commissioner acknowledges that PPPs service private interests, including profit maximisation. He is wrong to downplay this. As the World Bank underlines, PPPs, that means the private sector involvement in development, are all about "closing the financial viability gap between costs and expected revenues, using public resources complemented by legislative and institutional provisions supporting private financing of infrastructure".
This has a perverse influence on a country's development. The focus on facilitating PPPs and the role of the private sector diverts scarce resources away from developing public services and infrastructure. Public funds are siphoned off to meet the interests of private companies and their shareholders while the people, and that includes the poor, are asked to contribute to the profit margins of these operators and their rich shareholders. That is plainly wrong.
Finally, there is widespread and broad opposition to PPPs and privatisation of public services such as water, health and education. Many municipalities across the world are abandoning the private sector option to run their public services. Again this is the experience in the EU in capital cities like Berlin and Paris. So rather than promote PPPs the Commission should assist developing countries in how to get out of such contracts. The Commission has experience with alternatives. It promoted Public-Public Partnerships under the ACP-EU Water Facility – Partnerships Initiative. This allowed public companies in an EU and in an ACP country to develop their expertise and knowledge to improve the running of public services. It has been very popular but presumably for ideological reasons was not extended and expanded.
EPSU does agree with the Commissioner's support for strengthening the capacity of tax administrations in his opinion piece. Countries can build up revenue to support public services. But before we encourage the private sector, let us ensure the EU has its house in order to prevent tax avoidance. Public country-by-country reporting for multinationals so they indicate what taxes they contribute including in developing countries and closing tax havens are just some of the measures needed.
The interview says the Commissioner is a member of the Party of European Socialists. PPPs are a recipe from the neoliberal cookbook favouring profits over people. They are not a solution to the problems people face. Progressives should stop supporting them and join the resistance to these Partnerships for Private Profit. Believing we can somehow unleash the powerful profit maximisation motive to run our public services and at the same time tame it in contracts is one of the big mistakes of social democracy. Tax avoidance is just one of the many ways how this motive works. (EurActiv 09-06-2017)

REPORT WARNS AGAINST PUBLIC-PRIVATE AID 'BLENDING' OVER TRANSPARENCY FAILURES

Girls at a school in Senegal for the blind and sighted, partially-funded by the EU

A key plank of future aid funding to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) has come under fire in a report which warns against all 'blending' partnerships until a raft of alleged failures are fixed.

The study – by the International Trade Union Confederation – warns that the so-called public-private blending instruments are largely non-transparent, usually favour enterprises in the donor's country, lack monitoring and often fail to ensure decent working conditions.
The damning analysis comes as this year's EU Development Days conference gets underway in Brussels, with the theme "Investing in Development".
At least half a dozen events at the two-day 'Davos of Development' event are themed around the so-called 'blending' financial instruments, which sees donor countries, and bodies such as the EU, providing guarantees to the private sector in order to 'pump prime' investments in Africa and the Caribbean and Pacific developing world.
But the 62-page analysis by the Trade Union Development Cooperation Network (ITUC-TUDCN) finds a host of problems with such financial instruments, which have been widely adopted by the development community, as a way of easily and cheaply increasing initial headline investments.

Mimica: Private sector has a key role in reaching the SDGs

The massive need for investment in projects of public interest in developing countries cannot be met by the public sector alone, this is why the involvement of the private sector in reaching the SDGs is key, the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development told EURACTIV.com in an exclusive interview.
The report – entitled 'The Development Effectiveness of Supporting the Private Sector with ODA Funds' – warns starkly: "Development Financial Institutions (DFIs) in the sample are ill-equipped to manage aid flows in line with existing best practices.
"In view of this, it seems sensible for donors to avoid channelling aid through DFIs until they put systems into place to address the shortcomings identified…"
The review looked at projects from Belgium, the UK, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, the US, France and Sweden, and found that in all cases the blending instruments tended to avoid the participation of recipient governments and social partners.
They also found that in six out of the nine samples, there was a "poor performance" in monitoring the results of the aid, and the same result in terms of 'transparency' of the aid.
The authors, Javier Pereira and Paola Simonetti, state that "DFIs do not have adequate systems in place to guarantee the ownership of development projects by developing countries' governments and stakeholders.
"Our assessment shows a general bias towards donors' economic interests and businesses, which is an outcome of … an explicit mandate to support national enterprises, a biased overarching policy framework (namely, the tendency to operate in less risky countries), and in some cases, the co-ownership of the DFI by private-sector actors.
"Moreover, DFIs are under no obligation to consult with developing countries' governments or actors in order to align projects with national development strategies and priorities."
That criticism echoes the complaints of Oxfam last year, which found similar biases in 'blending' mechanisms towards to the donor countries.

[Oxfam questions ‘blending’ financing in SDG delivery]
Oxfam has taken aim at the increasing use of ‘blending’ private sector investment with foreign aid, in a wide-ranging report looking at the future of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)s.
Whilst not opposed in principle, the NGO warned that “it is driven by market incentives, and thus cannot be expected to replace aid”.
According to the OECD, in 2013 some $98bn of aid worldwide was allocated in support of leveraging private sector investment in developing countries.
Oxfam said “it remains to be seen what role public institutions, particularly at local level, will have in oversight and accountability for the arrangement”.
And they concluded that rule changes that allow ‘blending’ are “complicated and unsupported by evidence”.
“The blending of aid with private finance makes it much harder to track and measure impact,” Oxfam concluded.
“A major risk is that a greater share of ODA (Overseas Development Assistance) is diverted to support firms in donor countries with dubious development results, at the expense of aid that could be better spent by developing country partners.”
Those criticisms call into question the central thrust of EU aid policy – the world’s largest aid donor.
In his ‘State of the Union’ address last year, Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker announced a leveraged, ‘blending’ initiative, called the EU External Investment Plan (EIP), focussed on Africa.

[How EU wants to leverage €3.35bn into €88bn in investment for Africa]
The European Commission announced in Jean-Claude Juncker’s ‘State of the Union’ speech a new initiative on Africa – the EU External Investment Plan (EIP), which looks at helping the private sector in Africa and the European Neighbourhood.
The Commission hopes that the €3.5bn initially put into the pot by Brussels would be leveraged up to some €44bn by investment from the private sector.
Part of the rationale for the EIP was to reverse the decline since the financial crisis of 2008 in some member states’ foreign direct investment in developing nations.
Another rationale for helping pump-prime private sector investment was that the cost of setting up a business in the most fragile African countries is three times higher than in non-fragile African states.
Under the EIP, the EU will put in €3.35bn. Through guarantees, that should be leveraged to mobilise €44bn. If the 28-member states, and other private sector match that €3.35bn – so a total of €6.7bn – then the total leveraged funds available will reach €88bn, the Commission hopes.
The backdrop to the call on the private sector to invest in Africa, and the ACP countries in general, is the United Nations’ [17 Sustainable Development Goals], adopted in 2015 to replace the better-known Millennium Development Goals, and intended to be met by 2030.
Then UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, specifically called on the private sector to step up to the plate when launching the SDGs, saying “Now is the time to mobilise the global business community as never before.
“The case is clear. Realising the Sustainable Development Goals will improve the business environment
(EurActiv 06-06-2017)

BOOSTING CLINICAL TRIALS IN AFRICA

With less than three percent clinical trials in the continent, the Association for Good Clinical Practice in Nigeria (AGCPN) in collaboration with National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC) has called for the sustainable increase participation in global clinical trials, to build capacity for African indigenous scientists to creatively harness natural products with medicinal potentials for global consumption.

AGCPN under the guidance of Prof Ifeoma Okoye, Consultant Radiologist University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH) on Tuesday kicked off the first all Africa Clinical Trial Summit, which would be concluded today, June 8,2017.

Okoye at the summit, with the theme: “Next Frontier for Growth and Revolution in Clinical Trials: Africa is ready” said it is necessary to collaboratively partner with stakeholders to potentiate its next phase of activities and foster a mutually beneficial collaborative partnership that speaks to meet the initiative. .

Okoye added: “Africans have come to conclusion that the low volume of drug research and development is counterproductive to the vision to healthy Africa. As has been widely recognized, the health status of the African population remains behind that of populations in Europe and North America, as well as many other developing regions with similar affluence. There is overwhelming evidence that demonstrates that meeting Africa’s development goal in healthcare and access to medicine requires that we build sustainable platform for health innovation in Africa.”

Acting Director General, NAFDAC, Mrs. Yetunde Oni said the country is evolving from its economic challenges as well as being confronted with the challenge of curtailing public health emergencies in some parts of the country.

She added: “The African continent has been, in the past few years, faced with challenges of combating threats of disease outbreaks, especially with the recent Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) in West Africa. This Ebola virus outbreak exposed the lack of capacity in many countries to provide oversight for clinical trials for all medical products, but simultaneously, it showed the contribution of the African Vaccine Regulatory Forum (AVAREF) to building expertise and facilitated the timely review of candidate vaccines.”

Oni continued: “This swift pace of product development has challenged regulatory systems globally, especially those of resource-constrained Sub-Saharan African countries, to come to terms with the reality of pooling their efforts together and attract medical research to the continent.”

She urged all stakeholders to be committed in their various fields of endeavour and be equipped for the challenges ahead. “NAFDAC in its quest to achieve international best practice in all its regulatory activities, has given priority to enhancing collaboration and cooperation to ensure availability of good quality, safe and efficacious drugs and other regulated products. The Agency, in its effort to contribute to this goal has positioned herself through its legal mandate to regulate food and drugs in Nigeria. Clinical Trial Regulations and guidelines have also been put in place to give effect to these laws,” said Oni.

President, Bioresources Development Group (BDG) Prof. Maurice Iwu said, the clinical trial is the ultimate proof of efficacy and safety products and they take it serious.

He added: “We exchange ideas find out how best to do it and listen to what is going on. It is a way of taking stock of what happened from last year summit to this one but much more importantly is to exchange the ideas to how the best we will do it and we learn few things and also talk to colleagues in various areas to know how we can improve the clinical trials and also those who are in medical practice how they can also learn one or two things all for the betterment of the nation.”

Iwu continued: “There are few trials, but only organisation like ours that are able to sponsor it. It is a very expensive undertaking but without it we are not really sure the product that we are making is as effective as we claim to be. Both the cost, the human resources and the material resources are involved for example before you can make a drug that can be used for clinical trial it must be prepared in a certain manners that meets certain standard. Networking is going on people are talking to people at the end of the day some of collaboration will be set up. Suchstudies are done quietly without much publicity at certain stage so we are hopefully as the network is going on ultimately some problem will be resolved(The Guardian 08-06-2017)

LUANDA IS THE COSTLIEST CITY IN THE WORLD FOR EXPATS

Angola’s capital Luanda has overtaken Hong Kong as the costliest city in the world for expats, Mercer’s annual survey reported on Wednesday.

Dethroned last year by the Chinese city, Luanda regained the dubious honour despite the depreciation of the local kwanza currency against the dollar, according to the survey by the Mercer consulting group.
While Hong Kong is bounced back down to second place it remains the most expensive Asian city "because of its currency's link to the dollar, a factor which makes local housing more expensive", the report said. After topping the Cost of Living report for three consecutive years, Luanda was pipped by the Asian city in 2016, owing to a stronger Hong Kong dollar.
This year, Tokyo completes the podium, moving up from fifth place last year because of the yen's appreciation and "the dynamism of the housing market" in Japan.
The survey compares the cost of more than 200 items in more than 200 cities, including housing, food, transport and entertainment. It takes New York (in ninth place this year) as its base for comparison and measures currency movements against the dollar.
The study is closely followed by governments and international businesses which take the rankings into account when they calculate the costs of sending their employees abroad.
Some Russian cities leapt up the table in the new survey, with Moscow reaching 14th place from 53rd last year, and Saint Petersburg leaping to 36 from 116 "under the twin effects of the rise in the rouble and the cost of goods and services".
Main cities in Australia, Brazil and India also marched up the expat costs list.
Lots of European cities were on the way down, particularly in Britain due to the weakness of the pound. Paris, Vienna and Rome also became less expensive for the expat purse.
At the bottom of the table were the Macedonian capital Skopje, Kyrgyzstan capital Bishkek, and Tunisia's capital Tunis. (AFP 21-06-2017)

MAROC : LE SECTEUR AUTOMOBILE EN PLEINE EXPANSION

La chaîne de production de Renault Tanger. Le Maroc accueil chaque année une dizaine de nouvelles usines

Pour renforcer son rang, le royaume, deuxième exportateur de voitures derrière l'Afrique du Sud, met le turbo afin d'élargir son écosystème de sous-traitants.

Une de plus ! Inaugurée le 8 mai par le ministre de l'Industrie, Hafid Elalamy, l'usine du groupe allemand Leoni, à Bouznika, 2 000 salariés à terme, s'ajoute à la longue liste des sites automobiles du Maroc. Fait peu banal, cette unité de faisceaux avait fermé en 2013 sur fond de conflits sociaux. « Le Maroc est une bonne localisation. Il y a du business sur le marché local et à l'export, cela justifie notre décision, assez unique », explique Ralf Maus, vice-président de Leoni, qui exploite au total trois usines au Maroc, avec environ 6 500 salariés, et prévoit de passer à 11 000 d'ici à cinq ans. Comme Leoni, américains (Lear, Visteon, Delphi…), japonais (Denso, Sumitomo, Yazaki…), français (Faurecia, Plastic Omnium, Valeo, Saint-Gobain…), mais aussi coréens ou espagnols investissent au Maroc.

À Tanger, surtout, mais aussi à Casablanca, à Kenitra, ou même à Meknès. Tous les ans, le pays accueille une dizaine de nouvelles usines ou des agrandissements de sites existants. Parmi les derniers arrivés, Acome (câbles), Mecaplast (plasturgie) et le canadien Linamar sur un futur gros site de fonderie moteur.

Du coup, avec 345 000 véhicules produits en 2016 et 6 milliards d'euros de chiffre d'affaires, dont 85 % réalisés à l'étranger, l'industrie automobile est devenue le premier secteur exportateur du royaume, devant les phosphates. De quoi conforter sa place de numéro deux sur le continent face à l'Afrique du Sud, qui a assemblé 599 004 véhicules en 2016 (– 2,7%).

10 milliards d'euros d'ici à 2020

Une révolution au pays d'OCP ! Et ça n'est pas fini. La filière vise 10 milliards d'euros d'ici à 2020. Un objectif réaffirmé par le ministre Elalamy lors du Salon de la sous-traitance de Tanger, à la fin d'avril, « stupéfait de ces performances » et poussant, en bon businessman, le secteur à accélérer le tempo, alors qu'il compte déjà une centaine d'opérateurs et environ 150 usines.

Après l'inauguration, en février 2012, de l'usine Renault de Tanger (capacité : 400 000 véhicules), le site PSA de Kenitra va remettre du carburant dans le moteur ! Annoncée en juin 2015, l'usine, qui ouvrira en 2019, est en pleins travaux. Pour ce projet, les recrutements ont été lancés et, surtout, les équipes achat sont à pied d'œuvre.

Il y aura de l'ouvrage : PSA Kenitra, qui doit initialement produire 90 000 véhicules, passera vite à 200 000 unités. Bref, dans cinq ans, le « site Maroc » affichera une capacité de 650 000 véhicules, y compris la « petite » usine Somaca de Casablanca, détenue à 80 % par Renault (72 000 Logan par an). Logique, donc, que le pays agisse comme un aimant. Narguant même ses voisins.

Une belle longueur d'avance pour le Maroc

Malgré ses ambitions dans l'assemblage, l'Algérie reste loin des volumes du Maroc. Le pays est notamment handicapé par la clause 51/49, alors que Rabat n'impose aucun partenariat local. Quant à la Tunisie, à la tradition de sous-traitance pourtant ancienne, son instabilité a un effet repoussoir, illustré par la fermeture, en 2016, du câbleur Lear à Ben Arous (600 emplois), dont la production aurait migré vers ses quatre sites du Maroc.

Et demain ? Il y a le rêve d'un troisième constructeur… pour l'instant une Arlésienne. En attendant, l'enjeu pour le royaume est l'approfondissement du secteur, avec encore de nombreux manques à combler en matière de composants – pneus, jantes, mécanique ou encore acier.

En 2015, dans l'accord qu'il a signé avec l'État, PSA s'est engagé sur 65 % d'intégration locale dès l'ouverture et, fait majeur, fabriquera localement les moteurs En avril 2016, dans un « deal » très médiatisé signé devant le roi, Marc Nassif, PDG de Renault Maroc, a promis pour sa part de porter son *sourcing* local hors moteurs à 65 % d'ici à 2023 et de réaliser 3 milliards d'euros d'achats par an, soit trois fois plus qu'en 2015. Un challenge.

Nous restons tendus vers ce but, et nous l'atteindrons

« C'est, il est vrai, très ambitieux, indique Marc Massif à *Jeune Afrique.* Mais nous restons tendus vers ce but avec nos fournisseurs. Et nous l'atteindrons. » Le Maroc mise pour cela sur une politique industrielle incitative articulée autour du trio État-constructeurs-fournisseurs réuni autour de la très active Association marocaine des industriels et constructeurs automobiles (Amica). Et cela dans une logique dite d'écosystème. Imaginé par Hafid Elalamy en 2014 dans son Plan d'accélération industrielle, ce concept consiste à faire travailler les entreprises en « grappes ».

Outre les subventions habituelles, déjà généreuses (jusqu'à 15 % d'un investissement), un Fonds de développement industriel (FDI), doté de 250 millions d'euros par an, permet d'appuyer notamment les métiers « pionniers ». Et les acteurs du secteur doivent s'organiser et faire des propositions au ministère. Dans l'automobile, une demi-douzaine de ces écosystèmes existent déjà (emboutissage, intérieurs, câblage…).

« L'approche, indique Tajeddine Bennis, vice-président de l'Amica, consiste à identifier les facteurs qui limitent la croissance et à trouver des solutions : montée en compétences, formation, démarchage auprès de fournisseurs étrangers. Nous travaillons finement en ce sens, jusqu'aux sous-traitants de rang 3 ou 4 et aux entreprises de maintenance, d'automatismes ou de moules. C'est ce qui nous donnera une assise durable. »

Lune de miel

Il s'agit aussi d'inciter les capitaux marocains à miser sur le secteur. Car, à l'ouverture de Renault Tanger, les puissants conglomérats familiaux chérifiens s'y sont peu intéressés. Trop de contraintes en matière de qualité ou de *supply chain,* sans doute… Une poignée d'entreprises (dont Socafix et Tuyauto) faisaient pâle figure face au déferlement de capitaux étrangers.

Mais c'est en train de changer. Afrique Câbles (groupe Ynna) a obtenu de Renault à la fin de 2016 la validation de son usine de batteries, lesquelles sont montées sur les Logan « made in Morocco ». La société a pour cela investi 9 millions d'euros dans le recyclage du plomb. Le fabricant de literie Dolidol (groupe Palmeraie) a, lui, été qualifié pour des garnitures.

Quant au sidérurgiste Maghreb Steel, après des années d'efforts, certains de ses aciers plats viennent d'être certifiés Renault. Enfin, dans un accord marquant, le verrier japonais Asahi (AGC) a choisi de s'appuyer sur le marocain Induver pour construire à Kenitra un site de vitrage de 190 millions d'euros.

Reste une inconnue : le rôle futur des entreprises chinoises. PSA Kenitra produira des véhicules compacts sur sa plateforme CMP (Common Modular Platform) développée avec Dongfeng. Beaucoup anticipaient l'arrivée massive de sous-traitants chinois, d'autant que Mohammed VI est en pleine lune de miel avec Pékin et qu'une vaste cité industrielle « chinoise » est en projet au sud de Tanger. Mais, de ce côté, rien à signaler. Pour l'instant.(JA 06-06-2017)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Transcript of IMF Press Briefing

IMF Staff Concludes Visit to Benin

IMF Executive Board Approves US$642 Million Extended Arrangement Under the Extended Fund Facility (EFF) for Gabon

If Not Now, When? Energy Price Reform in Arab Countries; April 2017 Rabat, Morocco

IMF Staff Completes Review Visit to Guinea-Bissau

IMF Executive Board Completes Ninth Review under Malawi's ECF Arrangement and Approves US$ 26.9 Million Disbursement

IMF Video:Tunisia: Path to Prosperity
Description:Tunisia is back on a path to economic growth. But some serious challenges stand in the way. Taking bold steps today can lead to even bigger gains. The IMF is a partner with Tunisia to attain those goals.

IMF Executive Board Completes First Reviews Under the ECF and Extended Arrangements for Côte d'Ivoire and Approves US$133.8 Million Disbursement

IMF Executive Board Concludes 2017 Article IV Consultation with Seychelles

IMF Staff Completes 2017 Article IV Visit to South Africa

IMF Staff Completes 2017 Article IV Visit to Swaziland

IMF Staff Concludes Visit to Zambia

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.
The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.

www.acp.int www.aheadglobal.hu www.camaratenerife.com

www.ccafrica.ca www.corporatecouncilonafrica.com www.elo-online.org

www.helafrican-chamber.gr www.htcc.org.hu www.nabc.nl

www.swisscham-africa.ch

Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be