MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

EIB VICE PRESIDENT TO VISIT ETHIOPIA AND ANNOUNCE LARGEST EVER ENGAGEMENT

Later this week, from 29th to 30th June, Pim van Ballekom, Vice President of the European Investment Bank, will lead a high level delegation on his first visit to Ethiopia this year.

The European Investment Bank is the world's largest international public bank, owned directly by the 28 European Union member states.

"New investment is essential to enable small business across Ethiopia to expand, create jobs and harness new business opportunities. Over the last 40 years the European Investment Bank has supported crucial energy, water, communications and private enterprise across Ethiopia and our engagement in the country has been transformed since opening a permanent presence in Addis two years ago. As the Bank of the European Union the EIB is committed to supporting sustainable investment in Africa. This week's visit will ensure stronger engagement in Ethiopia in the years ahead." confirmed Pim van Ballekom, European Investment Bank Vice President, ahead of the visit.

During the two day visit the European Investment Bank is expected to announce new support for investment by private business across Ethiopia in partnership with the Development Bank of Ethiopia and discuss strengthened engagement to support economic resilience, infrastructure and financial services investment in the country with Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn and Finance Minister Dr. Abraham Tekeste.

The new private sector leasing and lending initiative to be announced during the visit represents the first international support for financial services in the country in many years.

The EIB Vice President will meet entrepreneurs at Blue Moon, Ethiopia's first youth agribusiness incubator, representatives of Ethiopia's first private equity fund, Cepheus, and see how mobile payments systems expected to be backed by future EIB support are transforming financial services across the country.

Meetings with the African Union Commission will enable an exchange of views on future cooperation to support infrastructure, energy, agriculture and industrial investment across Africa.

The European Investment Bank has operated in Ethiopia since 1976 and provided more than EUR 400 million (around BIRR 10 billion) to support long-term investment in energy, communications and water infrastructure, as well as private sector investment.

Over the last 5 years the European Investment Bank has provided around EUR 10.1 billion (around BIRR 253 billion) for investment in Africa.(EIB 28-06-2017)

POWER LINE TO CONNECT MOZAMBIQUE TO MALAWI

Construction of a power line linking Mozambique and Malawi could begin in 2018 as part of a 19-year-old project currently budgeted at US$120 million, the Mozambican press reported.

The project, which dates back to 1998 and is of interest to the current governments of both countries, according to Mozambican daily newspaper O País, was the subject of an economic feasibility study, the conclusions of which were presented on Tuesday in Maputo.

The first memorandum signed between the two countries on the interconnection of their respective electricity systems was signed on that date, but since then changes in the Malawian governments have postponed its implementation.

The session was attended by officials from the Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy and Electricity of Mozambique and a delegation from Malawi made up of senior officials from the ministries of Energy and Finance, from Escom – the company responsible for production and distribution of energy in the country – and the ambassador of Mozambique in Malawi.

The high-voltage power line with capacity to transport 200 megawatts of electricity, which is sufficient to power all of Malawi, will hbe 218 kilometres long, with 140 kilometres being the responsibility of Mozambique and the remaining 78 kilometres that of Malawi.

Mateus Magala, president of Mozambican state power company Electricidade de Moçambique (EdM), said he expects financing of the project to be completed within three years and that construction of the line will take three years, and most of the energy will be produced by the Cahora Bassa hydroelectric project. (28-06-2017)

EAST AFRICA'S NEW RAILWAYS LEAD LOGISTICS INVESTMENT

Sub-Saharan Africa is currently experiencing the biggest wave of transport infrastructure development in its independence-era history.

Railways are being built on a scale not seen since the early years of European colonial rule, with the focus overwhelmingly in East Africa. The biggest change to Kenyan logistics since independence was due to take place just days after African Business went to press, with the completion of the new standard gauge railway (SGR).

The line has been mainly built with funding from China's Export-Import Bank, with China Road and Bridge Construction acting as the engineering, procurement and construction contractor. It will run from the Port of Mombasa as far as Nairobi and is expected to be extended as far west as Kampala and then on to Kigali. Nairobi hopes that the completion of the line will see more cargo switched from road to rail.

In order to ensure that this happens, it has stipulated that at least 40% of all cargo travelling between Nairobi and Mombasa should be taken by rail to Nairobi Inland Container Depot (ICD) for clearance. The ICD's annual handling capacity is already being increased from 180,000 TEU – or standard sized containers – a year, to 450,000 TEU, in order to cope with demand.

Construction starts in Tanzania

The new line will greatly improve cargo transport between much of landlocked Eastern Africa and the Port of Mombasa. Given their rivalry, it was no surprise that the Tanzanian government responded by pushing ahead with the construction of its own new railway to Rwanda.

In April, a joint venture of Turkey's Yapi Merkezi and Portugal's Mota-Engil began work on the first 300km section between Dar es Salaam and Morogoro, following a tender, although the winning partnership was the only one of 40 interested parties that actually submitted a bid. Three more construction contracts are to be awarded over the next two years, again under competitive tender.

Given that trains will be able to travel on the route at up to 160 km/hour, there should be no difficulty attracting container and bulk business, providing sufficiently attractive tariffs are offered. Both of the new lines will carry some passenger services but the lion's share of their business – and the reason for building them in the first place – will be freight.

The construction of the new railways seems to be triggering other logistics investment in the region. For instance, a new logistics hub is to be developed at Gulu in Uganda to serve South Sudan and Democratic Republic of the Congo at a cost of $8.6m, of which $5.6m will be provided by the UK's Department for International Development and TradeMark East Africa.

Speaking at the Joint Oil and Gas and Logistics Expo 2017 in Kampala at the start of May, the director for transport in Uganda's Ministry of Works and Transport, Benon Kajuna, said: "In October 2016, we completed a pre-feasibility study for the project, with designs expected at the end of this year. Currently, a consultant is working on the proposed design for the project. We expect construction to commence by end 2018.” Road links to the various stations on the two lines are to be greatly upgraded over the next few years.

Expansion in Mozambique

Further down the coast, progress continues to be made on expanding Mozambique’s mining logistics capacity. The two rail routes from the Moatize coal mines to the port of Beira and Nacala have benefited from complete redevelopment, while coal export terminals are being developed at both ports.

Vale Moçambique is now transporting coal to the coast at an annualised rate of 13m tonnes a year. In March, plans for a third coal port at Macuse near the mouth of the River Zambezi were approved. The line is to be operated by a joint venture of China Civil Engineering Construction Corporation and Portuguese engineering and construction firm Mota-Engil.

Rather than expanding an existing port, the project will involve the construction of a brand new project on a greenfield site at Macuse. The port itself will be developed and operated by the Thai Mozambique Logistics (TML) consortium of Italian Thai Development (60%), Mozambique’s state-owned port and rail utility Portos e Caminhos de Ferro de Moçambique (CFM) (20%) and Zambezi Integrated Development Corridor (Codiza) (20%).

It will have initial handling capacity of 30m tonnes a year, which will make it Mozambique’s biggest coal terminal, rising in stages to 100m tonnes a year, which would make it even bigger than Richards Bay Coal Terminal, down the coast in South Africa.

At the end of March, Japanese firm Mitsui finally bought a 50% stake in the Nacala Logistics Corridor, which operates the railway between the Moatize mines and the Port of Nacala. It bought the equity from Vale alongside a smaller share in the Moatize mine for a combined $770m. The deal had been held up by low coal prices over the past three years. (African Enterprise 12-06-2017)

CRISIS DRIVES ANGOLAN HOTELS TO BANKRUPTCY

The economic and financial crisis in Angola has particularly affected the hotel industry, with hotels experiencing a fall in revenues of around 80%, driving many of them to bankruptcy, said on Tuesday in Luanda the president of the Association of Hotels and Resorts of Angola (AHRA).

Armindo César, speaking at a meeting on “Taxes applied to the hotel business”, carried out in partnership with the General Tax Administration, said that the crisis has seriously affected hotel units in the country since 2014.

“There is currently a sharp fall in occupancy rates for hotels, with many units operating below 20% of their capacity,” said the president of AHRA, adding that there are many establishments whose occupancy rate does not exceed 5.0%.

Cited by Angolan news agency Angop, Armindo César stressed that the situation worsened with the small number of tourists, resulting, in particular, “from the bureaucracy in granting entry visas into the country to foreigners.”

Given the seriousness of the situation, he said, the hotel units have lost capacity to honour the commitments made with the banking system, and there are currently bad credit situations, with huge complications for the sector.

Just as they cannot honor commitments with financiers and suppliers, hotels also say they are struggling to pay their tax obligations on time.

This situation has a greater impact on small units in the interior of the country, in suburban and rural areas, César said. (28-06-2017)

WE HAVE ENOUGH EVIDENCE FOR JACOB ZUMA’S REMOVAL, OUTA SAYS

Civil society group Outa says it has unearthed enough evidence for President Jacob Zuma’s removal.

In a dossier to be handed to National Assembly speaker Baleka Mbete on Wednesday, Outa says Zuma allowed himself to be influenced in his appointment of Cabinet members; appointed poorly qualified and incompetent individuals in decision-making positions (and retained them when he had ample reason and opportunity to remove them) and allowed corrupt individuals to benefit from state coffers or failed to institute action when he became aware of such conduct.

Out says Zuma mismanaged his cabinet in a manner that has had a detrimental effect on the country and the economy; used or manipulated state resources or appointments to avoid prosecution for at least 783 charges; wilfully and maliciously lied or misled Parliament and the nation and abused his position to enrich himself, his family, his friends and his cronies.

"The building of this case document has taken several months, with a team of experienced investigators, researchers and legal counsel," Outa chairperson Wayne Duvenage said at a media conference in Cape Town.

We believe we have compiled a compelling case document that pieces together the facts and evidence in a manner that places beyond doubt the veracity of the claims against him.

He said the dossier, titled No room to hide: a president caught in the act, set out a "compelling case showing there is no doubt about the truth of the claims of state capture".

He added: "It provides those in positions of authority with sufficient evidence for justifying the removal of Zuma as president of SA. It also provides a basis for potential removal from office and prosecution of a number of officials in key state institutions.

"While the evidence stacked against President Zuma has been substantive and sufficient, we believe we have compiled a compelling case document that pieces together the facts and evidence in a manner that places beyond doubt the veracity of the claims against him. This document was developed in the format of a court application encompassing strong and compelling legal arguments."

Duvenage said Outa had been advised that instead of turning to the courts, "we should present our case document to Parliament, with a view to requesting that it be tabled for discussion by the National Assembly.

"In doing so, we believe all MPs will be sufficiently empowered with substantive information about President Zuma's conduct to help them decide how to vote during the forthcoming vote of no confidence."

He said the case document, which had taken several months to compile, had been strengthened by the South African Council of Churches report of its Unburdening Panel, released on May 18, a report by a team of academics under the Public Affairs Research Institute titled, Betrayal of the Promise — How SA is being Captured, and by the Gupta e-mails.

"We recognise and thank the investigation teams at AmaBhungane, Scorpio and Times Media, who have trawled through the content of thousands of documents and e-mails obtained from a server within Sahara, a Gupta-owned company," Duvenage said.

Outa hopes to give every MP a copy of its dossier, and Duvenage said copies would also go to the ANC national executive committee, the Hawks, the police minister, the National Prosecuting Authority and the Public Protector.

"As the case document has also been prepared and compiled in a manner that makes it suitable for presentation in a court of law, Outa will contemplate turning to the Constitutional Court when convinced that it would meaningful to do so," he said.

"Removing President Zuma from power is the primary step that needs to be taken before SA can start the journey of redressing the devastating effect that his conduct and the situation of state capture has had in our country.

"We believe that others implicated in the report should also be removed from office and prosecuted; we are handing this document to law enforcement for this purpose," Duvenage said. (BD 28-06-2017)

CHINESE PROVINCE SIGNS FISHING AGREEMENT WITH SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

The Chinese province of Fujian and São Tomé and Príncipe will carry out studies on industrial fishing in the territorial waters of the archipelago, the director general of the São Tomé Fisheries, João Pessoa, told in São Tomé on Tuesday.

The studies are part of a fisheries cooperation agreement signed recently in São Tomé by João Pessoa and Lian Ching, head of a mission from that province of China.

After visiting “several points of fishing interest” in the archipelago, the Chinese technical team concluded that “São Tomé and Príncipe has great potential for the development of industrial fishing,” Pessoa said.

Commenting on the agreement signed, which includes training and research related to fishing, Lian Ching pointed out that there is great potential for development of fisheries between Fujian province and the São Tomé archipelago.

This is the first fisheries agreement signed by São Tomé and Príncipe and the People’s Republic of China following the signing last April in Beijing of the general agreement on cooperation between the two countries.

Dozens of European Union (EU) vessels fish in São Tomean territorial waters under a tuna catch agreement that earns the archipelago around US$1.2 million a year, with small vessels from São Tomé and Príncipe, “the canoes” limited to artisanal subsistence fishing. (28-06-2017)

TANZANIA: NEW LOCAL TOURISM TELEVISION CHANNEL IN THE PIPELINE

A new tourism television channel dedicated exclusively for the country’s attractions will hit the sky soon at the national broadcasting television.

This follows the signing of an agreement between the Tanzania Broadcasting Corporation (TBC), the Tanzania National Parks (TANAPA), Ngorongoro Conservation Area Authority (NCAA) and the Tanzania Tourist Board (TTB) in Dodoma on Wednesday.

The TBC Director General, Dr Ayub Rioba said at the signing ceremony that, the channel would run twenty four hours a day with a focus on the national parks, beaches, archeological sites, marine parks, game reserves, conservation, among others.

“I am very delighted for this milestone achievement giving TBC an opportunity to play its role as a national public broadcaster in the promotion of the tourism sector,” he said.

“TBC as a national public broadcaster has a role not just to inform but to help the country promote the tourism sector to boost the foreign currency reserves.” The introduction of the new tourism channel marks the first time in the country’s history for a local television station to reach out to diversified international markets.

The agreement also comes in the wake of President John Magufuli’s directive when he visited TBC mid last month that the national public broadcaster should introduce a tourism channel.

Under the agreement, TANAPA, NCAA and TTB will finance the project aimed at promoting the local touristic attractions across the country and to the outside world. Currently, tourism is the country’s forex earner, generating over 2.1 billion US dollars (about 5tr/-) annually.

TBC also runs TBC 2 Television channel and radio stations, namely TBC Taifa, TBC FM and TBC International. It is the fastest growing brand, according to the recent Geopoll study.

On her part, the TTB Managing Director, Ms Devotha Mdachi said that the partnership marks a new era in the promotion of the country's tourism sector. "This is a proof that our efforts of promoting tourism are winning support from all other players in the public and private sector", she said.
On his part, TANAPA Director General, Mr Allan Kijazi said his institution was excited about the partnership with TBC. "TBC has shown that we can use our own media to project the tourism attractions not only to Tanzanians but to the whole world," Mr Kijazi said.(Daily News 27-06-2017)

ANGOLAN BIOENERGY COMPANY EXPECTS PRODUCTION INCREASE IN 2017/2018 CAMPAIGN

The sugar production of Companhia de Bioenergia de Angola (Biocom) in the 2017/2018 year may reach 63,000 tonnes, an increase of 20% over the previous year, when it produced 52,000 tonnes, said the deputy director-general of the company.
Luís Bagorro Júnior, quoted by Angolan news agency Angop, also said that to achieve that level of production the company will process 601,000 tonnes of sugar cane, harvested in an area of 12,600 hectares, while in 2016 the company used 510,000 tonnes of sugar cane and the harvest area was 9,272 hectares.
In addition to sugar, Biocom is expected to produce 15,278 cubic metres of ethanol in this campaign, compared to 14,263 cubic metres in the previous year and produce 200,000 megawatts of electricity, compared to 57 megawatts last year.
The Deputy Director-General, who spoke on Tuesday about the 2017/2018 harvest, which starts on 29 June, said the company is working to achieve the production targets set for the project's maturity phase, in the 2020/2021 harvest, when 256,000tonnes of sugar will be produced, 33,0000 cubic metres of anhydrous ethanol and 235,000 megawatts of electricity.
Biocom is the first company in Angola to produce and market sugar, ethanol and electricity from biomass, with the main target being small, medium and large wholesalers in the Angolan market.
Biocom is a partnership between Odebrecht Angola Produtos e Serviços, a subsidiary of Brazilian group Odebrecht, Angolan company Cochan, with 40% each and state-owned oil company Sonangol, with the remaining 20%. (28-06-2017)

RUSSIAN TRUCK MANUFACTURER KAMAZ TO CONSTRUCT ASSEMBLY PLANT IN SENEGAL

A US$ 56m assembly plant is set to be constructed in Senegal by a Russian truck manufacturer-Kamaz; this is according to Chief Executive Officer Sergei Kogogin.
Currently Senegal's government is at the final round of talks with the Russian Agency for Export Credit and Investment Insurance (EXIAR) on state guarantee for deals planned by truck manufacturer, which exceed US$ 56m at the first stage.
According to Kogogin, the cooperation complies with top-level agreements. The Russian Export Center, or REC, plays an important role in the cooperation as it provides insurance of all transactions, adding that the government of Senegal has to extend a guarantee under a commercial loan of Russian banks for financing the deal under EXIAR's guarantee.
The government of Senegal has provided a building in an industrial park to Kamaz. Moreover, Kogogin said the company had made a contract on supplies of 400 cars with Senegal.
Kamaz is the largest automobile corporation in Russia.
The company produces trucks, trailers, buses, tractors, engines, power units, and different tools. The group of the process chain includes 11 large automobile plants.
Kamaz is 16th among the leading global producers of heavy tracks and 8th in terms of diesel engines output volume. The largest shareholding belongs to the state through state-owned Rostec (49.9%). Among other shareholders are Cyprus-registered Avtoinvest Ltd (23.54%), German auto concern Daimler (15%), Finance and Leasing Company Kamaz (3.72%). Kamaz shares are traded on the Moscow Exchange. (CRO 27-06-2017)

WITH EU SUPPORT, JORDANIAN FASHION LINE BREAKS ONTO EUROPEAN MARKETS

A Jordanian fashion line built up with the support of the EU-funded Creative Mediterranean programme is breaking onto European markets with its summer collection soon available at a showroom in Milan.

The new collection JO! by Creative Jordan is made up of 50 pieces for 29 different looks. It has been developed under the banner of Creative Mediterranean, by Creative Jordan, the local chapter of the project in Jordan.

The brand is the result of a collaboration among designers Dina Maqdah and Zein H Mango, embroidery specialist Aida Ghanem, industrial designer Tallaat Hadad and project designer Ibrahim Al Badareen. The group worked with design workshops, institutions and local fashion schools under the guidance of Caterina Filice, designer and expert from UNIDO, and the creative advice of Antonella Di Pietro, Global Creative Director for Tommy Hilfiger.

The line revolves around a simple idea: to defy the conventional ideas of Middle-Eastern fashion and to allow women to reinvent their role and express themselves through their creativity. The Design Coordinator of the initiative Giulio Vinaccia, explained: "*The idea was to provide young female designers the means to rediscover their traditions, and therefore their own history, and to reinterpret these through contemporary garments. The young designers involved had to reinvent themselves and claim back their confidence by creating their first collection*."

The collection was introduced last year is now under production; the first stock is expected to be available in the market in July 2017.

Samples have already been sent to agents in Milan, Italy, and the collection will be available in exclusivity in the Vigevano showroom.

Buyers can also make orders through the collection's website, www.jobycreativejordan.com, which will be launched soon.

The **Creative Mediterranean** project (Development of Clusters in Cultural and Creative Industries in the Southern Mediterranean) is implemented in the framework of the Private sector Development in the Southern Mediterranean Programme, and aims to foster entrepreneurial co-operation in the cultural and creative industry notably through the promotion of promising pilot initiatives demonstrating contribution to inclusive growth. (EEAS 27-06-2017)

Creative Mediterranean – website and Facebook page

CHINESE FUNDED ETHIO-DJIBOUTI WATER PROJECT TO BE INAUGURATED

The Ethiopia-Djibouti cross border potable water project according to Demelash Mulu, the project manager, will be finalized and commence operation in about three months.

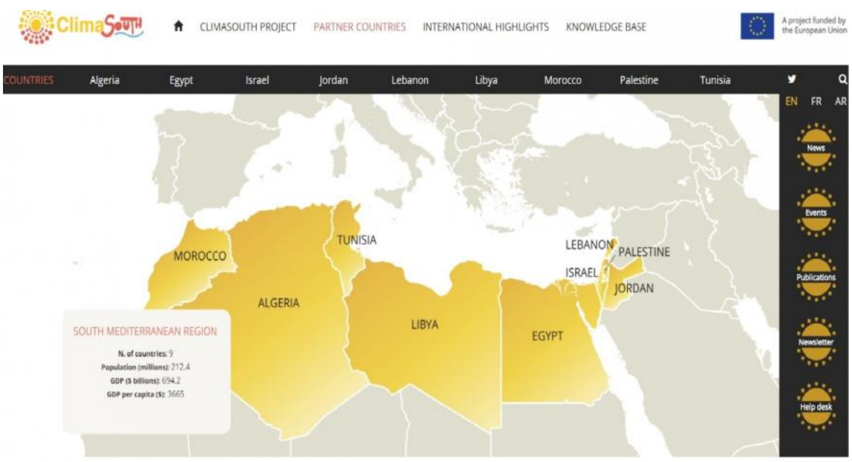
Funded by the Export-Import Bank of China, the project is under construction by the Chinese company CGCOC.

The project, which is expected to provide safe drinking water for more than 700,000 Djibouti nationals, was tested three weeks ago and proved successful.

Dubbed as one of the largest water projects in Africa, the Ethiopia-Djibouti cross border potable water project was launched in 2015 in a bid to solve the drinking water problem in Djibouti as well as to deepen ties between the two neighboring countries. The project, which includes the construction of water wells,

reservoirs, and installation of 102km water distribution pipeline, will supply groundwater from Ethiopia's Hadagalla town to Djibouti's key towns of Ali-Sabieh, Dikhil, Arta as well as the capital Djibouti.
The country's President Ismail Omar Guelleh, speaking during the project launching ceremony in 2015, hailed the existing partnership between his country and China as a major driving force in realizing the project.
With an annual average of 200 mm of rain water per year in most parts of its national territory, Djibouti has always been classified as a country in a chronic water stress situation.
The Djibouti government hopes that the project, which is expected to benefit the country with 100,000 cubic meters of water daily for the next 20 years, will serve in ending the perennial water problem in the horn of African country.(CRO 27-06-2017)

CLIMATE ACTION: PROJECT SURVEYS PROGRESS IN EACH MEDITERRANEAN PARTNER COUNTRY



ClimaSouth website: page on Partner Countries

The EU-funded ClimaSouth project has published a series of interviews with its National Focal Points (NFPs) in the Mediterranean partner countries. The main focus of the interviews is on the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) process in each country, what is being done to mitigate greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and how targets set out in the various countries are likely to be achieved.
The interviews also cover specific measures being implemented to enhance resilience to climate change and adapt to its present and future impacts. Finally, international partnerships are also discussed, and going forward, how these could be further enhanced to assist with the future implementation of climate action in each partner country.
The broad objectives and key work areas of the ClimaSouth project in both mitigation and adaptation are reviewed in an additional interview with Bernardo Sala, team leader of the project.
"One big area of work to be pursued is the continued support towards climate finance, making sure that the significant amount of money available is captured by partner countries," he says, adding it is important that climate change should move out of the Minister's chamber, allowing relevant experiences to be spread, replicated and up-scaled within each country and across the region.
The **Clima South project** seeks to enhance regional cooperation between the EU and its southern Mediterranean neighbours and among the partner countries themselves (South–South) on climate change mitigation and adaptation, mainly through capacity development and information sharing. The overarching goal is to support the transition of ENP South countries towards low carbon development and climate resilience (Clima South 27-06-2017)
Clima South – website

NIGERIA REQUIRES US$215.1M TO COMPLETE EAST-WEST ROAD

The commission and the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs need over US$215.1m to complete the construction of the East-West Road in Nigeria. Mr. Nsima Ekere, the Managing Director, Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) revealed.
However, the NDDC is looking to partner with its supervising ministry and private sector investors on the construction of the East-West road.
"Over N70 billion is needed to complete the road. So, the strategy will be to harness private sector collaboration to complete the road. The portions that have totally collapsed will be addressed immediately," said Nsima Ekere. He added that, the Eleme-Refinery junction section was in a very terrible state.
"It is so bad that a 10-minute journey on that axis now takes three hours. That section of the road has failed and we will get contractors to the site immediately," he said.
Nonetheless, the construction of the remaining sections of the East-West road will be handled by many contractors. The road, which is a strategic link to the oil and gas industry in Nigeria, connects Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River states.
The commission is embarking on a centralised e-project management scheme, which will reduce waste and costs on project management and rather improve on the project management capabilities.
NDDC projects will be managed from a central project management platform all over the region.
"The essence of this is to ensure a robust project management portfolio and reduce waste and costs," said Nsima Ekere. "We are determined to do things differently.
We are determined to leave behind a new and improved NDDC. We are determined to reform our systems to help us reduce the incidents of abandoned projects," he added. (CRO 21-06-2017)

MEDSTAT SUPPORT FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN MOROCCO AND PALESTINE TO REPLICATE STATISTICAL SOFTWARE

On 10-13 July, a Delegation of three experts from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) will visit the Moroccan capital Rabat to organise the duplication of an online dynamic tabulation software that has been developed by the Office des Changes of Morocco (OCM) in a meeting organised in the framework of the EU-funded MEDSTAT project.

Discussions regarding this transfer started some time ago and the parties have progressively set the parameters to ensure its success. They have discussed the technical requirements for the adaptation of the software to the specificities of trade statistics in Palestine and for its implementation as a regular tool of the PCBS. In the last few months the two countries have exchanged information regarding the specification of the system in Morocco and the characteristics of data collection and processing in Palestine.

At this stage of the exchange between the two countries, both sides have the information that is necessary to envisage a more concrete aspect of the transfer. The Palestinian specialists' visit to Rabat is a central element of the transfer, as they will be able to concretely work with their Moroccan counterparts in situ.

Once the tool is developed in Palestine, contacts will be continued between the two teams to fine-tune the transfer. Several more webinars may be necessary after the mission is completed.

The **MEDSTAT IV** project provides expertise and technical support to promote the harmonisation of statistics in line with EU and international standards in 6 domains: business register and business, trade and balance of payments, energy, labour market, migration and transport. It follows on the previous phase implemented over the period 2010-2013. (MEDSTAT 28-06-2017)

MEDSTAT IV website

MUSANZE HYDROPOWER PLANT IN RWANDA LAUNCHED

Musanze hydropower plant was officially commissioned last week with the ceremony presided over by Rwanda’s infrastructure minister. The plant, which is expected to inject at least 3.6MW to the national grid will be developed in stages.

According media reports, the public-private partnership (PPP) project will be constructed in two phases: Rwaza I and II to generate 2.6MW and 1MW respectively.

The plant is projected to reach completion in July next year having connected over 100,000 households to the grid.

Media reported that the public–private partnership (PPP) power project will be constructed on the Mukungwa River, Nkotsi Sector in two phases; Rwaza I to produce 2.6MW, and Rwaza II will start later along the same river to add one megawatt to the national grid. The plant is expected to be complete by July next year, connecting more than 100,000 households to the grid.

Rwanda’s DC HydroPower, identified and developed the project through the viability stage and signing of the Power purchase Agreement (PPA) with the Rwanda Energy Group. The firm’s CEO Chad Bannick expressed his optimism of being included in Rwanda’s initiative to reduce greenhouse gasses and provide clean, renewable energy to the citizens.

According to media reports, Frontier Energy Company from Denmark and ResponsAbility Renewable Energy Holding joined DC HydroPower as investment partners during the final stages of development.

The Musanze hydropower plant is being supported by the German and US governments as part of the US government-led electricity access initiative, Power Africa, and Germany’s state-owned development bank KfW.

It is reported that Germany injected $6m while the US was more involved in feasibility studies. The US ambassador to Rwanda Erica Barks-Ruggles assured Rwanda of USA’s support as far as their energy initiatives are concerned.

She also said that American companies will be driving investment into the company’s mini-hydro sector while pointing out the progress so far with an aim to reaching the set energy targets.(CRO 26-06-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA: ANGLOGOLD MAY CUT UP TO 8,500 JOBS

It may retrench workers at its unprofitable South African mines due to the ‘heavy and ultimately unsustainable losses they have incurred’

AngloGold Ashanti could cut up to 8,500 jobs at its unprofitable South African mines, reducing its workforce by nearly a third.

AngloGold, the world’s third-largest gold miner, said it has started talks with organised labour to reduce the size of its 28,000-strong South African work force at its local mines because of "heavy and ultimately unsustainable losses they have incurred".

"This is a difficult decision which follows a period of significant and — ultimately — unsustainable losses, and also the evaluation of the options available to return our South African business to profitability," said AngloGold CEO Srinivasan Venkatakrishnan.

Some of our older mines in the South African region have reached the end of their economic lives

"It is critical that we act to protect the long-term sustainability of this business and the majority of our workforce. We are mindful of the sensitivity that this situation demands, and are committed to supporting all our employees throughout this process."

The plans include putting the Kopanang and Savuka mines onto care and maintenance and folding parts of the TauTona mine into the nearby Mponeng mine.

TauTona’s all-in sustaining costs in the first quarter of 2017 was $1,737/oz and Kopanang was $2,399/oz against an average $1,216/oz received price in that time, this after the mines had incurred "sustained significant operating losses" in 2016.

"Some of our older mines in the South African region have reached the end of their economic lives, several decades after they started production," AngloGold said.

"These mines face systemic challenges, including near-depletion of ore reserves, increasing depth and distance from central infrastructure, declining production profiles, and cost escalations that have continued to outpace both inflation and a subdued gold price," it said.

Trade union Solidarity said AngloGold had cut 990 jobs recently and its deputy general secretary of mining, Connie Prinsloo, said this latest round of retrenchments could be followed by more job cuts in the mining sector after the publication of the Mining Charter, which mining companies and lawyers have rounded on as a deeply damaging document from the Department of Mineral Resources.(BD 28-06-2017)

BLACK TEA PRODUCTION IN KENYA TO RISE 20% BY 2020

Kenya, the world's biggest exporter of black tea, expects production of the leaves to rise about 20% by the end of the decade, as farmers harvest from new bushes, according to the industry regulator.

Output is projected to jump to 500,000 tonnes in 2020 from a projected 412,000 tonnes in 2017, after a drought damaged plants in most growing areas, said Samuel Ogola, head of the Tea Directorate. Most regions in Kenya received below 75% of their seasonal long-term average between March and May, according to the nation's meteorological department.

"There is a lot of replanting of tea by farmers, which could see us hitting 500-million in no time, most probably by 2020," Ogola said Tuesday in an interview in the capital, Nairobi. Farmers have been replacing old bushes with higher-yielding clones, he said.

Tea is Kenya's second-biggest source of foreign-currency earnings after remittances from citizens living abroad. The East African nation ranks as the world's third-largest producer of the leaves, behind India and China, and hosts the biggest auction of the crop, in the port city of Mombasa. Unlike India and China, it doesn't consume most of its output. Production is expected to decline from 2016 because of the worst drought in three decades, which has curbed farm output.

The nation grew a record 473,000 tonnes in 2016, which earned the country 120-billion shillings ($1.16bn) of export revenue.

To encourage more production, the Kenyan government is facilitating the participation of small processing and packaging companies at international trade shows, Ogola said. Ten such companies have been licensed and three are already processing and shipping to customers overseas.

Last year, 30 small-and-medium-sized enterprises exported 50,000 tonnes of tea, about 10% of overall shipments, according to the Tea Directorate. Most Kenyan exports are handled for multinational companies such as Unilever through the Mombasa auction. The company, known for its Lipton brand, is also one of the nation's biggest growers.

A fifth of the companies trading at the Mombasa auction, mainly multinationals, account for 80% of the business, according to Edward Mudibo, MD of the East African Tea Traders Association. The average price at the weekly sale increased by almost a quarter to $2.85 per kilogram at the latest sale, compared with a year ago.

The nation's Export Promotion Council is "aggressively promoting" tea, alongside agro-processing, flowers, leather and textiles to boost exports. Kenya needs to increase shipments by 14% annually to help halve its trade deficit by 2030, according to CEO Peter Biwott. (Bloomberg 28-06-2017)

INDIA COULD IMPORT MORE SUGAR AS GLOBAL PRICES PLUNGE

India, the world's biggest sugar consumer, could soon ramp up imports of the sweetener as a sharp drop in global prices and a stronger rupee make overseas purchases viable despite stiff tariffs, industry players said.

Rising demand from India, which typically churns out its own sugar to use in everything from fizzy drinks to sticky snacks, could support benchmark global prices that have been trading near 16-month lows.

However, it would put pressure on Indian prices, potentially making it difficult for mills that process sugar cane to pay farmers rates stipulated by the government.

"At the current (international) price level, refiners can import sugar for domestic consumption and make a profit," said Rohit Pawar, chief executive of Baramati Agro, which operates sugar mills in the western state of Maharashtra.

Dealers estimate the cost of sweetener produced from raw sugar shipped in from abroad, including the 40% import duty, is about 32,000 rupees ($496) per tonne, about 8% cheaper than local sugar at 34,600 rupees.

A stronger rupee also makes the dollar-denominated price tag on overseas cargoes more affordable for Indian mills. The rupee has risen more than 5% against the dollar this year. That comes after the government in April allowed the duty-free import of 500,000 tonnes of sugar by the end of June to keep a lid on prices after local production fell by a fifth from a year ago.

Nearly 60,000 tonnes of that 500,000 tonnes is yet to land in the country and the government is likely to extend the duty-free imports' period by up to two months, a government official, who declined to be named, said.

"Right now refiners are processing duty-free imports. From the next month they could start importing (duty-paid) sugar for local consumption," said a sugar miller based at Kolhapur in Maharashtra.

He declined to be identified as he was not authorised to speak with media.

Traders said predicting the scale of potential imports was tricky.

"It is difficult to estimate how much Indian refiners will import ... (while) paying tax," said a New Delhi-based dealer with a global trading firm. "The market has not anticipated additional imports. Once imports start, local prices could crash and could make larger imports unviable."

Local sugar prices have already fallen to their lowest level in three months in the wake of the duty-free imports and due to a cooler summer than usual, which curbed appetite for cold treats such as ice cream.

"There is a need to raise import duty on sugar to 70%. Otherwise imports will pull down prices further and make it impossible for mills to pay the government's fixed cane price," said Baramati Agro's Pawar.

India has increased by nearly 11% the price sugar mills must pay cane growers in the next sugar season beginning in October.

There is no immediate plan to raise import duty on sugar and wheat, the government official said.

"Mills cannot pay higher prices for cane unless they manage to sell sugar at higher prices," said Sanjeev Babar, managing director of the Maharashtra State Co-operative Sugar Factories Federation.

"There is a need to stop imports as next season we will be self-sufficient in sugar production."

India's 2017-18 sugar output is expected to jump a quarter from the previous year to 25-million tonnes.

(Reuters 28-06-2017)

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.

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REGISTER

Please contact Mr. Remy Moevi, Vice President, Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Togo, at r.moevi@ccit.tg, with any questions regarding exhibition opportunities.

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