MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

NIGERIA: POWER FIRM ORDERED TO REFUND MONEY FROM OVERBILLING

The Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) has ordered the Abuja Electricity Distribution Company (AEDC) to refund excess monies from overbilling between the months of October and December 2014 to its customers.

In a statement in Abuja on Tuesday, the commission directed the AEDC to with immediate effect from the date of this order, commence the refund through energy credit of all excess charges billed its customers as a direct consequence of the adjustments in estimated methodology in some of the company's business units.

According to the NERC, this is following earlier notice of enforcement and subsequent investigation of instances of overbilling perpetrated by the company.

It accused the AEDC of tripling its customers' bills issued in September 2014 and issued it as bills for October 2014, without evidence of a commensurate increase in electricity supply within the same period.

It also accused the AEDC of failing to forward report of the estimated billings it issued in every billing circle as provided under section 9 of the Methodology for Estimated Billing Regulation 2012, in the format prescribed by the regulation.

The NERC, therefore, investigated the AEDC for arbitrary imposition of random figures on clusters of its customers ranging from 18 to 28 percent between October and December 2014 and in some cases 1,100 percent increase, which resulted in spike in customers' bills as against the provisions of the Methodology for Estimated Billing Regulations 2012. (APA 17-06-2015)

ANGOLA: PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS INVITES UAE ENTREPRENEURS TO INVEST IN ANGOLA

The Angolan President, José Eduardo dos Santos, expressed on Sunday in Abu Dhabi, the receptivity of country at the crossroads of interests between the private entrepreneurs of Angola and of the United Arab Emirates, for the development of both countries and improving the quality of life of their peoples.

José Eduardo dos Santos, who was speaking in a meeting with His Highness Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al Nahyan, stressed that he would like to count on the participation of the UAE in the creation of public-private partnerships between businessmen from both countries.

The Angolan President assured his interlocutor that Angola is a country with political, social and economic stability, thus needing to continue building its infrastructures and so as speed up the diversification of its economy.

Angola sees with great interest the possibility of expanding cooperation with the UAE and reinforce the complementarity of the two economies, said President José Eduardo dos Santos.

The Head of State thanked for the invitation of paying his first state visit to the United Arab Emirates, which he considered to be a great opportunity to show live the desire of promoting a multifaceted bilateral cooperation and win-win benefit with Abu Dhabi.

At the meeting, José Eduardo dos Santos recalled the preliminary contacts already made between the two states during the visit to Angola of the Foreign Affairs Minister of the United Arab Emirates.

At that time, both parties had identified potential areas of cooperation, namely in the fields of trade, finance, oil and energy.

On the diplomatic level, the President acknowledged that Abu Dhabi promotes a policy of peace and regional stability, which has contributed to the maintenance of international security.

According to the statesman, Angola also advocates internationally, the dialogue, peaceful and negotiated solution of the conflicts with a view to establishing a climate of peace and security throughout the world.

However, the Angolan President reaffirmed the desire to keep up with Abu Dhabi a permanent consultation on all issues affecting humanity and reiterated the invitation to Sheikh Mohammed to visit Angola in a yet-to-announce date to be determined through diplomatic channels.(BD 17-06-2015)

EU-ALGERIA TWINNING: ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ANIMAL DATABASE

By April 2016, the end date of the EU-Algeria Twinning programme in the veterinary field, Algeria will have a national animal database containing all information on livestock from birth to slaughter. Each animal will have its own unique record that will be known by all stakeholders in the veterinary field. This will facilitate the monitoring of animals.

Bejaia and Tlemcen wilaya are the two pilots wilayas (governorates) selected as part of this Twinning before the gradual expansion of the operation to other wilayas. Nine other pilot wilayas were selected:

- Constantine, Medéa and Tizi Ouzou for white meat
- Bouira, Mostaganem and Setif for eggs
- Blida, Batna and Tebessa for honey

The twinning programme, which has a budget of €1,492,000, and which brings together Algeria, France and Italy, is part of the EU programme to support the implementation of the Association Agreement - P3A. Over 24 months, it covers the organisation of 650 days of expertise in Algeria and eight study visits and internships in France and Italy for 37 officers of the Directorate of Veterinary Services. (EU Neighbourhood 15-06-2015)

SWIM PROJECT OFFERS ON-LINE COURSE ON NATURAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS

An online course aimed at building the capacity of water practitioners in charge of selection, design, and operation of wastewater treatment plants from ministries, municipalities, agencies, establishments, councils, and regulatory authorities working in the field of wastewater, has been made available by the EU-funded project Sustainable Water Integrated Management – Support Mechanism (SWIM-SM).

The course started on 6 May 2015 and will last 3 months. It is organized in partnership with UNESCO-IHE Institute for Water Education and includes the following modules:
- Wastewater Treatment
- Constructed Wetlands

- Ponds
- Anaerobic Systems
- Application

Sustainable Water Integrated Management (SWIM) is a Regional Programme launched by the European Commission to contribute to the extensive dissemination and effective implementation of sustainable water management policies and practices in the Southern Mediterranean Region. This is in the context of increasing water scarcity, combined pressures on water resources from a wide range of users, desertification processes and in connection with climate change.

The Programme, with a total budget of approximately €22 million, consists of two major Components, which are inter-related and complement each other:

· A Support Mechanism, funded with a budget of €6.7 million and
· Demonstration Projects funded with a budget of €15 million

(EU Neighbourhood 15-06-2015)

AUSTRALIA'S MUSTANG RESOURCES DISCOVERS DIAMONDS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Australian company Mustang Resources has discovered alluvial diamonds in a prospecting area next to the River Save, in what is the first time that quality commercial diamonds have been found in Mozambique, the company said in a statement.

In all, by 11 June the company found 16 diamonds visually identified as having commercial value and decided to increase the amount of gravel processed per day from 100 tons to 1,000 tons.

The prospecting area is located near the border with Zimbabwe, near the confluence of the Save and Runde rivers, which is downstream of the Murowa and Marange diamond fields in Zimbabwe. This suggests that the diamonds have been swept away by the rivers and deposited at the confluence, which is in Mozambique.

The 16 diamonds found are sized between 0.46 and 1.3 carats, together totalling 9.68 carats (1.936 grams). (16-06-2015)

EU LAUNCHES CONSULTATION ON LABOUR MIGRATION: CONTRIBUTIONS SOUGHT FROM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE EU

The European Commission has launched an online public consultation on the EU Blue Card and its labour migration policies, as part of the first package of measures in follow-up to the European Agenda on Migration, adopted on 13 May. The consultation is open to all citizens, organisations and third-country nationals, both inside and outside the EU, with a deadline to submit contributions of 21 August.

Contributions are sought from employers, employers' associations, non-EU migrant workers and entrepreneurs already legally residing in the EU, potential non-EU migrants and entrepreneurs outside the EU, private/public employment matching organizations, trade unions, ministries and employment agencies of Member States, regional and local authorities, statistical offices, media, academia, international organisations, organisations or authorities of the countries of origin, social partners and civil society in general.

The aim is to collect opinions on a range of issues related to economic migration with a view to contribute to the elaboration of a new European policy on legal migration and a review of the so-called "Blue Card" Directive. This is one of the priorities included in the European Agenda on Migration, adopted by the Commission on 13 May 2015.

Contributions to the public consultation can be submitted by filling out an online form. More information is available at a dedicated page on the website of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Migration and Home Affairs. (EU Neighbourhood 15-06-2015)

OBTALA RESOURCES GROUP ACQUIRES LOGGING CONCESSIONS IN MOZAMBIQUE

The Obtala Resources group plans to acquire two concessions for logging in an area of 35 hectares valid for 50 years in Mozambique, the group said in a statement issued Monday.

In the statement, the group also said that the two new concessions, still awaiting government approval, increases the total area the group has in Mozambique to over 314,000 hectares.

“The new concessions are located near our operational centre in the country and, together with those already held, ensure critical mass in relation to logging annually permitted by law,” the statement said.

Chairman Francesco Scolaro said the group plans to invest over US$300,000 in equipment to “improve our operational capacity and provide the local market with an increasingly wide range of wood products.”

The group also said in the statement the board of directors had approved a strategy that involves the sale of the forestry division to concentrate business in Mozambique on wood processing for the construction sector, particularly housing, “which is in rapid expansion.” (16-06-2015)

LOW PROSPECTS IN OIL-PRODUCING NIGERIA, ANGOLA TO PULL SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA GROWTH TO 4.2%

Prevailing low prospects in Nigeria and Angola, Africa’s richest oil producing nations, are projected to see economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) slow to 4.2 percent, less than earlier expected, according to the World Bank’s latest Global Economic Pros- pects (GEP) report.

Low oil prices have considerably reduced growth in commodity-exporting countries (Angola, Nigeria), in SSA, and have also slowed activity in non-oil sectors.

Even for South Africa, which ought to be one of the main beneficiaries of low oil prices, the World Bank fears that growth is now being held back by energy shortages, weak investor confidence amid policy uncertainty, and by the anticipated gradual tightening of monetary and fiscal policy.

“Growth in the region is forecast to slow to 4.2 percent,slower than previously expected.

“This mainly reflects a reassessment of prospects in Nigeria and Angola following the sharp drop in oil prices, and in South Africa, because of ongoing difficulties in electricity supply,” the Wold Bank notes in the report.

For 2016-17, growth is expected to be only marginally higher as these challenges partially offset stronger trading partner growth and the continued expansion in the region’s low-income countries.

Apart from the SSA region, the report worries that developing countries face a series of tough challenges in 2015, including the looming prospect of higher borrowing costs as they adapt to a new era of low prices for oil and other key commodities, resulting in a fourth consecutive year of disappointing economic growth this year.

As a result, developing countries are now projected to grow by 4.4 percent this year, with a likely rise to 5.2 percent in 2016, and 5.4 percent in 2017. “Developing countries were an engine of global growth following the financial crisis, but now they face a more difficult economic environment,” says World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim. In high-income countries, in contrast, recovery is gaining momentum, as growth in the Euro Area and Japan picks up and the United States continues to expand, despite a weak start to the year.

High-income countries are on course to grow by 2.0 percent this year, 2.4 percent in 2016, and 2.2 percent in 2017. The global economy is likely to expand by 2.8 per- cent this year, 3.3 percent in 2016, and 3.2 percent in 2017, the report further notes.

Risks to the outlook for emerging and developing economies continue to weigh on growth. Lower prices for oil and other strategic commodities have intensified the slowdown in developing countries, many of which depend heavily on commodity exports.

While commodity importers are benefiting from lower inflation, fiscal spending pressures, and import costs, low oil prices have so far been slow to spur more economic activity because many countries face persistent shortages of electricity, transport, irrigation, and other key infrastructure services; political uncertainty, and severe flooding and drought caused by adverse climate.

A special analysis in the report finds that low-income countries, many of which depend on commodity exports and investment, are vulnerable in the current environment. During the commodity price boom of the mid-2000s, their economies strengthened considerably with new discoveries of key metals and minerals, resource investment, and expanding commodity exports.(Business Day 13-06-2015)

PARTNERS PLEDGE FUNDING OF US$305 MILLION TO MOZAMBIQUE FOR 2016

Mozambique is expected to receive US$305 million from its Programme Aid Partners for the 2016 State Budget, an increase of 12 percent over the pledges for the current year, the Mozambican press reported.

The Swedish ambassador, Irina Schoulgin Nyoni, who is also a past president of the tripartite commission, indicated that Canada, Switzerland and Finland within the next few weeks would submit their commitments for next year, which would raise the total end value.

Irina Nyoni, cited by daily newspaper Notícias, said Monday that the partners “believe in the government’s determination to pursue reforms and combat corruption in order to increase the impact of the application of public funds on people’s lives.”

On Monday Sweden left the presidency of the Tripartite Commission, a position that was taken on by Portugal.

The Programme Aid Partners, better known as the G-19 or Group of 19, brings together the countries and institutions that support the Mozambican general state budget. (16-06-2015)

GHANA PORTS AND HARBOURS AUTHORITY RECEIVES $1.5 BILLION TO BOOST EXPANSION AT TEMA PORT

The Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority, GPHA has received 1.5 billion dollars for the expansion of the Tema Port.

The authority today signed a 35-year Concessionary Agreement with the Meridian Port Services, MPS to boost expansion activities at the port.

The first phase of the project, expected to be completed in 3 years would also create jobs for about 5000 people.

Board Chairman of the authority, Samuel Ofosu-Ampofo tells Joy Business the expansion works when completed would significantly ease congestion at the port.

“It would double or almost triple our ability to take more imports and exports. The over 5000 jobs that would be created, mostly would benefit Ghanaians. The sub-contracting that would be undertaken would benefit Ghanaians. We are all going to benefit enormously from this expansion project.”

“We are hoping that in the next 3 years, the first phase which is about two berths would be constructed. MPS would then move into the new berths whilst the existing ones MPS is using would be reverted to GPHA”, he added. (Joy on line 13-06-2015)

ZAMBIA SEEKS TO RECLAIM SHIPPING YARDS IN KENYA, TANZANIA

Zambia has started talks with Kenya and Tanzania to help repossess shipping yards it owns in the two countries, local media reported on Tuesday.

Citing a government official, journalists said Zambia used to operate two shipping yards in East Africa, but these were “taken away”.

Minister of Transport, Works, Supply and Communication Yamfwa Mukanga said the government was working to ensure the shipping yards in both countries were given back, the *Zambia Daily Mail* reported.

We could not establish who has control of the alleged shipyard in Mombasa.

“We used to have a shipping yard at Mtwara port in Tanzania and another at Mombasa port in Kenya years back,” Mukanga was quoted as saying by the paper. “We are in discussions… to have these two properties back.”

The two shipyards, he said, were lost during liberalization and privatization of State enterprises in the 1990s, adding that some properties could not be accounted for, while others could not be traced.(BD 10-06-2015)

ZIMBABWE: LIQUID TELECOM UNVEILS VOIP OFFERING

According to a report by newsday.co.zw, Liquid Telecom has begun to offer Voice-over Internet Protocol (VoIP) calling within Zimbabwe.

According to report, the telco is looking to maximise its fibre optic footprint within the country with the offering.

The report reveals that the new service will use a fibre optics network spanning 6400km, an investment that has cost Liquid $150 million since 2010.

Liquid Telecom will use the prefix 08677, which is a non-geographical number, and the service will also use videoconferencing. It will use per-second billing and will charge USD 0.10 per minute with local interconnections.(IT Africa News 15-06-2015)

TRADE BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES FALLS 28.23 PCT FROM JANUARY TO APRIL

Trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries reached US$29.675 billion from January to April, or a year on year drop of 28.23 percent, according to Chinese official figures published in Macau.

Figures from China’s Customs Bureau published by Forum Macau showed that in the first four months of the year China sold to the eight Portuguese-speaking countries goods worth US$13.411 billion (+0.34 percent) and imported goods worth US$16.263 billion (-41.88 percent).

With Brazil two-way trade in the period reached US$20 324 billion (-21.59 percent), with China selling goods worth US$10.169 billion (-4.33 percent) and purchased goods totalling US$10.154 billion (-33.59 percent).

Angola comes second in terms of total trade with US$7.135 billion (-46.49 percent) as a result of Chinese exports worth US$1.681 billion (+29.26 percent) and imports of US$5.454 billion (-54.68 percent).

Portugal appears a distant third with a bilateral trade of US$1.368 billion (-6.06 percent) as a result of Chinese exports worth US$894 million (-8.50 percent) and imports of US$474 million (-1.10 percent).

Fourth is Mozambique with trade of US$792 million (+36.19 percent), with Chinese exports of US$620 million (+47.23 percent) and imports of US$172 million (+7.19 percent).

Trade between China and the other Portuguese-speaking countries – Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Guinea-Bissau, Timor-Leste (East Timor) and São Tomé and Príncipe – in the period reached US$54 million. (17-06-2015)

EBRD AND EU SCALE UP SUPPORT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN TUNISIA

European Bank
for Reconstruction and Development

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is scaling up its support to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Tunisia with €10 million of additional funds from the European Union under the Programme d'Appui à la Compétitivité des Services (PACS Programme).

In coordination with the Tunisian authorities, the EBRD Small Business Support team will offer 475 enterprises, including 80 women-led SMEs, tailored advisory services. Tunisian entrepreneurs will benefit from technical support and business advice delivered by local consultants and international industry experts.

The Bank will also implement activities to strengthen the capacities of local institutions and SME support structures in addition to upgrading the service and building capacities for business associations.

Welcoming the launch of direct support to SMEs implemented by the EBRD, Christian Danielsson, the Director-General for EU Neighbourhood and Enlargement, pointed out that "this additional support falls within the broader framework of European Union initiatives to boost the economy and develop the private sector. Our ambition, with the establishment of this vast range of technical assistance for SMEs in the service sectors, is to start preparing Tunisian firms for the imminent opening of free trade negotiations on the service sector between Tunisia and the EU."

Madame Laura Baeza, the European Union's Ambassador to Tunisia, stressed that " over more than 10 years the European Union has already committed nearly 85 million euros to sustaining the development of the private sector in Tunisia: the industrial (PMI, PCAM) and research and innovation (PASRI) sectors in particular have already benefited from our support."

Hildegard Gacek, EBRD Managing Director for the Southern and Eastern Mediterranean, said: "Small businesses are the backbone of the Tunisian economy and are fundamental to the country's economy. Together with the EU we will work on improving the competitiveness of smaller companies to increase their contribution to the service sector and to the country's economic growth and job creation."

The Programme d'Appui à la Compétitivité des Services was established with the objective of reinforcing the service sector focusing on selected subsectors: information and communication technologies, transport and logistics, professional services, tourism and handicrafts – through the provision of advisory services and other interventions.

The EBRD has been investing in Tunisia since September 2012, providing financing to date of close to €250 million in 17 projects. The Bank has also provided technical assistance to more than 150 Tunisian SMEs.(EBRD 12-06-2015)

ITALY DISBURSES FCFA12B FOR SENEGAL FARMING SECTOR

Italy has put at the disposal of the Senegalese government CFA11.808 billion (about Eur18 million) to fund the New Senegal-Italy Agricultural Program (PAJS).

The paperwork for the funding of the project was signed on the sidelines of the official opening of Joint Annual Review of Italian-Senegalese Cooperation by Economy and Finance Minister, Amadou Ba and Roberto Colamine, Plenipotentiary Minister, also Director of the Africa Office at the Italian Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Ministry.

According to Mr. Ba, this convention buttresses the partnership between Italy and Senegal for the period 2014-2016.

"This program seeks to extend the sectoral intervention of Senegalese-Italian cooperation in the regions of Dakar, Kaolack (center), Kolda (south), Sedhiou (south), Thies (70 km south of Dakar), Diourbel (center) and Fatick (center)," the Minister said.

Ba added that PAJS would capitalize the National Agricultural Investment Program (PAPSEN-PNIA).(APA 18-06-2015)

CHINA TO HELP CABO VERDE COMPANIES TO DRAFT PROJECTS

China will set up a fund to finance feasibility studies for Cape Verdean business projects as part of the Public Development Assistance programme signed with Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), reported Cape Verdean weekly newspaper, A Semana.

The newspaper added that the fund was aimed at helping businesses and Cape Verdean promoters to access non-repayable funding from China, but which had never been able to benefit from it because of the cost and technical specifications of the studies required by Chinese financial institutions.

In addition, China expressed its willingness to grant loans to support the development of micro and small Cape Verdean companies, during the government mission by the Minister of Tourism, Investment and Business Development, Leonesa Fortes to China from 31 May to 5 June.

Speaking about the visit, which was intended to take stock of the economic and technical partnership between China and Cabo Verde and propose a model of cooperation now based on economic and business parameters, the minister said the fund "should allow the Cape Verdean companies yo present credible feasibility studies, which will allow them access to financing provided by the China-Africa Development Fund, the Fund for Cooperation for Development between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries and the China Development Bank."

As a result of the visit, China decided to provide financing to Cabo Verde with special conditions taking into account the country's debt level and was even willing to accept contract terms that might mitigate the foreign exchange risk to existing and future agreements.

The two countries, Fortes said, agreed to take this leap – official development assistance for economic-business partnership and extend two-way relations to strategic sectors of their economies – the sea, the air, renewable energy, information technology, tourism, finance and micro/small businesses. (17-06-2015)

MALAWI REQUIRES US$400M FOR DISASTER RECOVERY

Malawi has launched its Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) report with the cost recovery estimated at over US$400 million.

Speaking during the official launch of the report on Thursday in the capital Lilongwe, United Nations Administrator Hellen Clarke said the report would help government to identify priorities and allocate resources accordingly.

It would also help donors and partners to streamline the process by which it was determined and where support could be best provided.

\"The report is comprehensive in documenting recovery needs across the reconstruction of homes, transport, irrigation systems and issues around food security, agriculture, employment, livelihoods and disaster risk reduction,\" she said

Adding that the emphasis on strengthening disaster risk management was particularly important as it would build resilience to future extreme weather events.

Clarke said the UN system was firmly committed to supporting Malawi\'s recovery efforts and that they have developed recovery programming based on the findings of the PDNA.

UN agencies would be working with the Department of Disaster Management Affairs and other government departments to strengthen early warning and response systems, establish emergency operation centres and work with communities to improve irrigation systems, support agriculture development and provide livelihood grants, she said.

Malawi experienced heavy rains resulting to floods which affected over one million people across the country. (APA 18-06-2015)

EIB SUPPORTS EUROPAC'S LARGEST INVESTMENT IN MOROCCO

Promoting the international development of businesses is a major strategic objective of the European Investment Bank (EIB) designed to strengthen their overall competitiveness whilst fostering their economic integration.

As part of this policy of supporting the private sector the EIB has decided to lend **EUR 10 million** to MED Packaging, a subsidiary of Papeles y Cartones de Europa S.A. (Europac). The finance contract was signed on Wednesday 10 June in Rabat in the presence of Mr. Fernando ARANGUREN, Director of Europac's Resources Division, and Mr. Heinz OLBERS, EIB Director of Operations in Southern and Eastern Neighbouring Countries. The financing structure will be secured by the Spanish bank Banco de Sabadell, whose representatives were also present.

This is the Europac Group's largest investment outside the European Union. Specifically, it will serve to install an integrated packaging production unit in Tanger Automotive City, resulting in the creation of 120 direct jobs locally. This high value added industrial project in economic and social terms will, in particular, form part of the value chains of (i) the automotive sector and (ii) the agricultural and agrifood sector, and thus has major potential on the Moroccan packaging market.

The new production unit will also benefit from Tangier's new port and industrial zone facilities to import base paper and export packaged products in the agrifood and industrial sectors, specifically in the automotive and automotive components markets.

With this major investment outside the European Union, the Spanish group Europac, which has been supported by the EU bank in the past, is continuing its international growth on the strategic Moroccan market.

Heinz OLBERS, the EIB's Director of Operations in Southern and Eastern Neighbouring Countries, remarked: *"Capitalising on its experience and expertise, the EIB is demonstrating its conviction by continuing to support the private sector and help businesses to develop internationally. Our priority on both sides of the Mediterranean is to create conditions that are conducive to successful investment with a strong economic and social impact. The competitiveness of businesses and the younger generations' future depend on this!"*

Fernando ARANGUREN, Director of Europac's Resources Division, stated: *"The commissioning of the packaging plant in Morocco, scheduled for the third quarter of this year, will mark the successful completion of one of our current investment projects, so helping us to meet the profitability and financial strength targets that we set in the Strategic Plan 2015-2018." (*EIB 11-06-2015)

23 NIGERIAN STATES EARN OVER $3BN AS INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE

Nigeria's National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) has released a snapshot of the Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) profile of 23 Nigerian states, which generated N586.6bn (about $3bn) in total in 2014 fiscal period.

According to the NBS report, the IGR was earned from four major sources of Pay-As-You-Earn, direct assessment, road taxes and other revenues.

Nigeria's Punch newspaper report on Thursday said that Lagos State recorded the highest IGR of N276.1bn (about $1.4bn) in the period under review.

The N276.1bn generated by Lagos last year was 28.1 percent lower than N384.2bn (about $2bn) which the state earned as IGR in the 2013 fiscal period.

Further analysis revealed that the amount that Lagos earned in 2014 was also 47 percent of what all the other 22 states collected as IGR in the same period.

The report stated that while the figures for the other 13 states were still being expected, Rivers State, with a total IGR of N89.1bn, followed on the revenue chart.

The N89.1bn earned by Rivers State represented an increase of N1.19bn when compared to the N87.91bn for 2013.

Others are Akwa Ibom, with N15.6bn; Anambra, N10.4bn; Bayelsa, N10.9bn; Enugu, N19.2bn; Katsina, N6.2bn; Kogi, N6.5bn; Ekiti, N3.4bn; Osun, N8.5bn; Oyo, N16.3bn; and Imo, N8.1bn. The rest are Niger, N5.7bn; Plateau, N8.2bn; Zamfara, N3.1bn; Delta, N42.8bn; Benue, N8.2bn; Bauchi, N4.8bn; Kaduna, N12.7bn; Katsina, N6.2bn; Kebbi, N3.8bn; Nasarawa, N4.05bn; Ogun, N17.4bn; Sokoto, N5.6bn and Zamfara, N3.1bn.

The report listed the 13 states that had yet to provide details of their IGR for 2014 as Abia, Adamawa, Borno, Cross River, Ebonyi, Edo, Gombe, Jigawa, Kano, Kwara, Ondo, Taraba and Yobe. (APA 18-06-2015)

GUINEA-BISSAU IS WORLD’S LARGEST “PER CAPITA” CASHEW PRODUCER

Guinea-Bissau has become the world’s largest producer of cashew nuts “per capita” as a result of an annual production of over 200,000 tons, the economist and consultant to the Guinean government, Eduardo Fernandes said Monday

The economist was speaking at a seminar on business opportunities in Guinea-Bissau, held in the Portuguese town of Sintra, organised by the Association of Solidarity and Support for the Guinean Comunity in Portugal.

Fernandes warned, however, that cashew nuts cannot be the only product to sustain the economy of Guinea-Bissau, “because it makes the country vulnerable to sudden market fluctuations” and therefore invited Portuguese businessmen to invest in his country .

Fernandes explained in detail the economic plan that the Guinea-Bissau government presented at the Brussels roundtable for the next decade and identified four areas of priority investment – agriculture/agri-industry, fisheries, tourism and mining.

Speaking about the agricultural sector the consultant said that Guinea-Bissau needed to start introducing value in the chain of production of cashew nuts, including through both primary and secondary processing, rather than exporting cashew nuts in their raw state to India.

With regard to fisheries, Fernandes said the Guinea-Bissau government wanted to set up a fishing fleet, either nationally and in partnership, to replace the current system which is limited to the sale of fishing licenses to foreign shipowners.

The Guinean embassy attaché in Portugal, Mbala Fernandes stressed the “political stability” that Guinea-Bissau had achieved, the “confidence of international creditors” as shown at the donor meeting last March, which provided aid of 1.3 billion euros and “close relations between Portuguese and Guineans.” (17-06-2015)

CHINESE FIRM SIGNS SH96BN CONTRACT FOR LAMU COAL-FIRED ELECTRICITY PLANT

The consortium that won a tender to construct a coal-fired power plant in Lamu Monday signed a Sh96 billion ($1 billion) contract for the construction set to start in September.

Amu Power Company, a consortium bringing together firms like Gulf Energy and Centum Investment, said it had signed the deal with Power Construction Corporation of China.

The Chinese firm, part of the consortium, will be in charge of setting up the plant.

“We have signed the construction contract today (Monday),” Amu Power CEO Francis Njogu said on phone from China.

Construction of the 981.5 megawatt plant is expected to start on September 30 and will take 21 months to produce electricity at 7.52 dollar cents per kilowatt hour, almost a third of the price for diesel-fired plants.

The project is valued at Sh192 billion ($2 billion) and will be financed through debt which accounts for three quarters and shareholders' equity ($500 million).

Amu Power in February bagged a $1.2 billion (Sh1,013.2 billion) financing from the Industrial Commercial Bank of China and is negotiating with local banks for the remaining loan.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) will provide a partial risk guarantee for the coal plant, the largest in East and Central Africa.

The construction is expected to create thousands of jobs for machine operators, engineers and administrators and stimulate consumption of building materials like cement, steel and stones.

Its promoters are already working with the National Youth Service to train locals in technical skills.

Among the outstanding components of the project is the construction of a concrete and steel slab covering 100 square acres and a concrete tower reported to be the tallest in eastern Africa.

The plant is part of the planned Lamu Port South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport corridor and is set to place Kenya among nations which rely on coal energy such as South Africa, the US and China.

Kenya will initially import coal from South Africa and later turn to local supply from Kitui once mining starts.

The consortium has recently sought to win over Lamu leadership, amid claims by civil society activists that the coal project would damage the fragile ecosystem.(BD 08-06-2015)

BOTSWANA STRUGGLING TO SURVIVE �SURVEY

Scores of companies operating in Botswana are a frustrated lot as they endure a litany of challenges ranging from lack of demand for their products to poor electricity supply, a survey by Central Bank revealed on Thursday.

According to the survey, there is lingering pessimism, which has led to companies downgrading the country's future growth prospects.

The Bank of Botswana study, dubbed Business Expectations Survey, noted that it was also hard to get the right person for the right job in Botswana. This affected efficiency and profitability in Botswana.

The report, conducted between March and April this year, said most companies were complaining that demand in the domestic market is very low.

It stated that this was affecting production, forcing companies to scale-back on production.

Businesses are also complaining that government spending has declined. Most companies in Botswana depend for government tenders for survival. (APA 18-06-2015)

ADB MISSION IN ANGOLA TO HELP RAISE FUNDS

A mission from the African Development Bank (ADB) has begun a visit to Angola as part of the technical assistance programme in the country, particularly to seek international financial support, the Angolan Finance Ministry said Tuesday in Luanda.

Technical staff from the ADB met on Tuesday with the Secretary for the Treasury, Leonel da Silva and the visit, which will last until June 26, is intended to support the Angolan government “to secure additional financial resources in the international market. ”

It also aims to “assist the economic diversification programme” and assess the implementation of support programmes for reform of infrastructure, investment, trade, and public investment management, the Ministry of Finance said.

The Angolan government forecasts public debt for 2015 of around US$20 billion in order to ensure execution of the State Budget, offsetting declines in oil revenues. (17-06-2015)

HNA/HAINAN AIRLINES BUYS 6.2% OF SOUTH AFRICA'S COMAIR, ACCELERATING CHINA-AFRICA AVIATION LINKS

China's expansive HNA Group, including flagship carrier Hainan Airlines, is continuing its international acquisition strategy with a USD13 million investment for a 6.2% stake in South Africa's Comair, which operates a full-service brand under a British Airways franchise and a low-cost carrier, Kulula. Uniquely to recent airline acquisitions, Comair is well-run and profitable. The purchase has been made for less than half the cost of a narrowbody jet, making it perhaps relatively inexpensive.

The synergies between the parties are unclear. Comair does not fly outside of southern Africa while HNA no longer flies to Africa – and if it did, it probably would not need an investment stake to work with Comair, which is generally open to partnerships. HNA is an investor in Ghana's Africa World Airlines, but there are no network links (yet) between that airline and Comair.

The investment comes after HNA and Air China are understood to have looked at investing in South African Airways, although this was too politically difficult. Africa is a new theme for Chinese aviation, with growing air routes, airport infrastructure projects and placement of Chinese aircraft to African airlines and governments.

HNA investment in Comair another step in HNA's offshore excursions

HNA Group One BV, a Dutch company wholly-owned by China's HNA International, acquired 6.2% of South Africa's Comair, which operates as British Airways under a franchise agreement. HNA paid ZAR160 million (USD13 million) for the stake. The transaction occurred on 22-May-2015 and was announced on the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, where Comair is listed, on 26-May-2015.

HNA bought its shares from investment group Thelo Aviation, which has now fully disposed of its interest. Thelo bought into Comair in 2006 with a 16.1% stake valued then at ZAR137 million (USD21 million at the time). Thelo has reportedly made a ZAR160 million (USD13 million) profit on the deal.

Comair was the first investment for Thelo. Thelo and Comair anticipated that Thelo's ties could help Comair buy SA Express from the South African government, and to secure more of the South African government's travel budget. SA Express remains owned by the South African government. Thelo stated it would be a hands-on investor and was looking at long-term deals. "We have taken a view that we are going to be long-term shareholders and that we want to involve ourselves in the businesses which we invest in. We don't really want to be passive shareholders," Thelo part-owner Craig Lyons said at the time of the deal.

Locally in South Africa the deal has made some headlines in light of the government's recent changing policy on Black Economic Empowerment (BEE), which awards points to companies for their involvement with previously disadvantage races, notably blacks. Thelo selling its stake has not only left Comair without a BEE partner but introduced capital from HNA. Various African nations are growing wary of China's influence on the continent. Comair CEO Erik Venter told the *Sunday Times* the airline would not look for a BEE shareholder.

Ronnie Ntuli owns 87% of Thelo and is the deputy chairman of Comair. He told the *Sunday Times* of the deal: "There was a commercial offer [from HNA] which we negotiated and accepted. That's really it."

The British Airways (UK)-Comair arrangement is a franchise deal, although IAG (the parent owner of BA) had a 12.26% stake in Comair in IAG's fiscal 2014. The HNA-Comair deal does not immediately give HNA a direct partnership with British Airways. BA would certainly be familiar with HNA based on its experience in China. The HNA-Comair deal could make BA more familiar with HNA, but in terms of a partnership between BA and HNA, it seems BA is looking to work more closely with China Eastern.

Immediate links between HNA and Comair are unclear

Mr Venter told the *Sunday Times* that Comair would look to explore potential synergies with HNA. The immediate benefits are unclear.

Comair comprises the full-service British Airways and low-cost Kulula brands. They mostly operate in southern Africa's regional network. In the company's fiscal 2014 it carried 5.2 million passengers, comprising 1.7 million domestic British Airways passengers, 3.1m domestic Kulula passengers and 290,000 regional Africa British Airways passengers, according to its annual report.

Kulula only flies domestically while the British Airways brand flies mostly around southern Africa; it does not serve points outside of Africa, including any flights to China. HNA's flagship carrier, Hainan Airlines, is the only HNA carrier to serve intercontinental markets. It does not fly to Africa.(CAPA 02-06-2015)

NIGERIAN BILLIONAIRE ALIKO DANGOTE KEEN ON BUYING ARSENAL FC

Nigerian billionaire Aliko Dangote has insisted that he will soon have �enough time and enough resources�to buy Arsenal football club, whatever the price.

Dangote, 58, is Africa�s richest man, having amassed a fortune in the region of $18.4 billion. He is currently the 67th richest man in the world.

According to local media report, Dangote first spoke of his interest in purchasing the Gunners last month when he admitted that one day�he hoped to buy the club and that he already knew�his strategy to take them forward.

That day may arrive sooner than first expected, the report quoted Dangote as telling the BBC Hausa Service on Tuesday that completion of his proposed oil refinery in Nigeria would provide the funds necessary to launch a takeover of the club.

When we get this refinery on track, I will have enough time and enough resources to pay what they are asking for, he said.

There were a couple of us who were rushing to buy, and we thought with the prices then, the people who were interested in selling were trying to go for a kill, Dangote said.

We backtracked, because we were very busy doing other things, especially our industrialisation. They are doing well, but they need another strategic direction,�he added.

They need more direction than the current situation, where they just develop players and sell them,�he said.

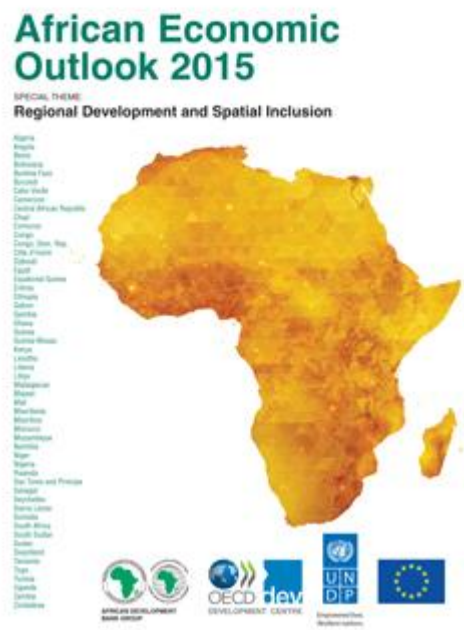
Stan Kroenke is Arsenal's majority shareholder, with the American owning 66.64% of the club's parent company, Arsenal Holdings Plc.(APA 18-06-2015)

AFRICAN ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Africa’s economic potential remains underutilised: the continent’s various regions hold a wealth of assets that are too often neglected by centralised policy-making systems. Unleashing that potential is essential for creating the 29 million jobs that new entrants in labour markets will demand by 2030.

To that end, the African Economic Outlook 2015, launched at the Annual Meeting of the African Development Bank in Abidjan in May, suggests place-based, participatory and multi-sectoral development strategies as one way forward.

Visit www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en/ or browse the publication:



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US POULTRY EXPORT DEAL WILL HELP SMALL FARMER SECTOR

The poultry export deal reached between South Africa and the United States does not only help secure Pretoria's inclusion in the African Growth Opportunities Act (AGOA) but will result in the development of the country\'s small-farmers sector, Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davis has said.

The deal in the long-standing dispute of the export of US chicken pieces to South Africa was struck recently in Paris (France) as part of the AGOA preferential deal in place since 2000 between Washington and sub-Saharan Africa.

Briefing the National Assembly on Wednesday, Davies said negotiations to a final compromise had to find a balance in that they had to ensure that the poultry industry could manage any negative impact on production and jobs.

This objective, the Minister said, has been reached.
Both the Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries have built a strong relationship with the poultry sector to continue to work with them on the transformation of the sector and the development of the small farmer sector, he said.

He added that the US offered to provide development support for the small farmers through investment, skills development and support with processing.

This offer will need to be concretised with requests for scholarships on poultry production, investment and transfer of processing technology, Davies said. (APA 18-06-2015)

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