

MEMORANDUM

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Daily news of Africa, without comments, as they are published

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EU BOOSTS AID TO DROUGHT AFFECTED COUNTRIES IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Additional humanitarian assistance of €60 million will help scale up the response in the three countries worst affected by drought in the Horn of Africa.

The European Commission has announced additional humanitarian assistance of €60 million to help people in Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya, who have been facing critical levels of food insecurity due to severe drought.

This additional assistance brings EU humanitarian aid to the Horn of Africa region (including Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda, Djibouti) to nearly €260 million since the beginning of the year.

"The situation in the Horn of Africa has drastically deteriorated in 2017 and it keeps getting worse. Millions of people are struggling to meet their and their families' food needs. The risk of famine is real. The European Union has been following the situation closely since the very beginning and progressively increasing aid to the affected populations. This new package will help our humanitarian partners scale up the response further and keep bringing lifesaving assistance to people in need," said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides**.

The Horn of Africa region has been affected by prolonged drought, particularly severely in south-eastern Ethiopia, northern Kenya and in Somalia where a pre-famine alert has been issued. Some 17 million people are in urgent need of food to survive, while the countries' coping capacities are exhausted. In addition, all three countries are hit by a cholera outbreak, which has a severe impact on the most vulnerable.

The newly announced EU assistance will support humanitarian partners already responding to the needs of the affected populations to step up emergency food assistance and treatment of malnutrition. Projects addressing water supply, livestock protection and response to outbreaks will also be supported. The bulk of the funding (€40 million) will go to help the most vulnerable in Somalia, while €15 million will go to Ethiopia and €5 million to Kenya.

Background

Millions of people in the Horn of Africa are affected by food insecurity and water shortages. Vegetation is sparse. Livestock deaths, high food prices and reduced incomes are being reported. As a result of the poor performance of the ongoing rainy season, the next harvests will be much reduced and the situation is expected to worsen in the coming months.

The drought comes on the heels of the erratic weather caused by the El Niño phenomenon in 2015-16. In Ethiopia, it prompted the biggest drought response operation in the country's history.

The region also hosts 2.3 million refugees, notably from Yemen, South Sudan and Somalia account for the majority of refugees, and is struggling to meet their increasing needs.

The EU has allocated over €1 billion in humanitarian aid to its partners in the Horn of Africa since 2011. EU funding has helped provide food assistance, health and nutrition care, clean water, sanitation and shelter to those whose lives are threatened by drought and conflict.

However, aid for the drought-affected populations is complicated by the remoteness of certain areas, as well as by the ongoing violence in Somalia. All parties to the conflict are therefore urged to provide unimpeded access to people in need. (EU 07-07-2017)

FIRST COTTON HARVEST IN ANGOLA AFTER INDEPENDENCE WILL PRODUCE 242 TONNES

The first cotton harvest under Angola's production recovery programme is scheduled for July in the provinces of Malanje and Kwanza Sul with a symbolic result of 200 tonnes in the first province and 42 in the second, Angolan news agency Angop reported.

Following independence, in 1975, cotton production virtually ceased due to the civil war, which ended in 2002.

The Ministry of Agriculture staffer and coordinator of the cotton production recovery programme, Carlos Canza, said that an area of 242 hectares was planted, and each hectare will produce one ton of seed cotton, which is insufficient to meet the needs of the textile industry in the country.

For the next 2017/2018 crop year, which will require an investment of 530 million kwanzas, 1,500 tonnes of seed cotton are expected to be harvested in those two provinces in February 2018, after planting 30 tonnes of seeds.

Agricultural engineer Carlos Canza said it was also expected that a Japanese company, which he did not identify, would invest in cotton production at the Capanda Agro-industrial Hub (Malanje) in an area of 10,000 hectares.

This project, he added, is expected to produce 50,000 tonnes of seed cotton in each agricultural season, around 5 tonnes per hectare, which will help to meet demand from the Angolan textile industry.

Canza also mentioned another cotton production project in an irrigated perimeter of Kwanza province in which US\$67 million will be invested in a shared financing deal between the governments of Angola and South Korea.

Cotton cultivation in Angola dates back to 1926, with production increasing significantly from 1968, when it reached 15,000 tonnes, to 31,000 tonnes in 1971 and a peak of 86,000 tonnes in 1973.

The revitalisation of the cotton value chain began with the reconstruction and modernisation of Angola's three textile factories, Textangue II (Luanda), Satec (Kwanza Norte) and Africa Têxtil (Benguela), engaged in spinning, weaving and sewing garments, respectively. (07-07-2017)

FORTE MOBILISATION DE LA BEI POUR SOUTENIR LE SECTEUR PRIVE ET LA FORMATION SUPERIEURE AU MAROC : 105 MILLIONS D'EUROS DE NOUVEAUX FINANCEMENTS SIGNES

Lors de sa visite officielle au Maroc, Román Escolano, Vice-Président de la BEI en charge des activités de la Banque au Maghreb, a signé **deux financements d'envergure pour soutenir les secteurs privé et d'enseignement supérieur** au Maroc pour un montant global de **105 millions d'euros**.

Un premier financement de 35 millions d'euros a été signé ce jeudi 6 juillet 2017 avec la société Diana holding et un deuxième d'un montant de 70 millions d'euros est signé ce vendredi 7 juillet 2017 avec l'Université Euromed de Fès. Ces deux nouveaux financements portent à **3,8 milliards d'euros, le montant total des projets signés par la BEI au Maroc entre 2007 et 2017**. Cette forte mobilisation de la BEI a été principalement axée sur le soutien aux secteurs clefs de l'économie marocaine tels que le transport et la transition énergétique, l'éducation et la formation de jeunes, l'eau et l'assainissement, le soutien aux PME et aux micro entreprises.

« Ce sont des financements emblématiques, les premiers pour la BEI dans des secteurs hautement stratégiques pour le Maroc : le secteur privé avec la filière agro-industrielle et la formation des jeunes au sein d'une université d'Excellence : l'Université Euromed de Fès a déclaré Román Escolano, Vice-Président de la BEI lors de son déplacement. Et de rajouter : « Ces financements reflètent le rôle majeur qu'est appelée à tenir la BEI dans la région méditerranéenne avec notamment l'Initiative de résilience économique pour stimuler la croissance et l'emploi, accompagner le développement des entreprises pour une meilleure compétitivité à l'international, soutenir la construction d'infrastructures de formation au cœur de cette région afin de donner plus de chances de réussite aux jeunes. »

Premier financement direct à un groupe entièrement privé

Convaincue que les entreprises sont un véritable moteur de croissance et d'emploi, la BEI a décidé de financer à hauteur de 35 millions d'euros la société Diana Holding dans l'objectif de soutenir son développement et sa compétitivité en Afrique comme à l'international.

Ce premier financement de la BEI dans le secteur de l'agro-industrie marocaine permettra notamment à la holding de moderniser ses méthodes de production et de distribution, et ainsi d'augmenter sa capacité d'embouteillages des boissons non-alcoolisées. Il sera également un précieux concours à la construction d'une station de conditionnement et de distribution de produits agricoles

Avec la création de plus de 700 nouveaux emplois directs et indirects, ce projet s'insère pleinement dans le cadre de l'Initiative de résilience économique. La mise en œuvre de cette nouvelle initiative va permettre de renforcer notre action au Maroc et dans un certain nombre de pays voisins du Sud et des Balkans occidentaux avec à la clef des financements supplémentaires pour soutenir la croissance et la création d'emploi. L'objectif étant de mobiliser jusqu'à 15 milliards d'euros d'investissements supplémentaires sur l'ensemble des pays concernés.

Une université d'excellence : l'éco-campus de Fès

L'objectif du financement de la BEI en faveur de l'éco-campus de Fès est de soutenir un projet d'Excellence universitaire salué en ces termes par le Vice-Président Román Escolano : « *La BEI est particulièrement fière de financer ce projet d'Excellence qui sera à même d'accueillir plus de 6 000 étudiants représentant plusieurs nationalités de la région euro-méditerranéenne et de l'Afrique subsaharienne. Il est prévu que 80 % du corps étudiant bénéficie d'opportunités de mobilité internationale, avec à la clef l'obtention d'un double diplôme reconnu en Europe. C'est un projet phare pour l'Union pour la Méditerranée qui contribuera à renforcer l'intégration et la stabilité régionales à travers le dialogue interculturel et la coopération dans les domaines de l'enseignement supérieur, de la recherche et de l'innovation.* »

Ce nouveau campus universitaire développé en partenariat avec plusieurs institutions d'enseignement supérieur et de recherche au sein l'espace méditerranéen offrira aux étudiants des formations conformes aux standards européens, ainsi que des diplômes reconnus officiellement en Europe. Seront ainsi développés une activité de recherche de pointe, ainsi que des programmes spécifiques répondant aux besoins socio-économiques de l'emploi des jeunes au niveau régional, national et de l'espace euro-méditerranéen. Des bourses seront également accordées aux étudiants méritants, issus de familles à revenus modestes.

En pleine adéquation avec les objectifs de la COP22, une attention particulière sera enfin portée à la protection de l'environnement et à l'efficacité énergétique des bâtiments avec notamment l'installation de panneaux solaires qui couvriront une partie des besoins électriques du site.

Aux 70 millions de financement de la BEI s'ajoute également l'appui financier de l'Union européenne qui via la Facilité d'investissement et de Voisinage accorde une subvention d'investissement de plus de 13 millions d'euros venant d'être approuvée.(EIB 07-07-2017)

BOTSWANA RECEIVES ITALIAN SPONSORSHIP ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

Italy has on Wednesday sponsored Botswana with €2 000 000.00 to support the Southern African country in the area of climate change Enable the environment for private investments on renewable energy in Botswana.



This follows a memorandum of understating that the two countries had signed to cooperate on Climate Change Issues.

Speaking at a press briefing Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment and Renewable Energy said besides the money from Italy, a number of projects are starting, inclusive of the greening of the Metrological Services.

He said the objective of the sponsorship is to identify at least 6 concrete innovative RE projects in the country.

For her part, Senior Investment Promotion Expert -Ms. Elizabeth Chavolla Sanchez said the structure of energy with the implementation of renewable energy is changing since requires the participation of the different actors such as providers of Energy, Private Sector, Users and Civil Society. (APA 05-07-2017)

NIGERIA TARGETS 40BN OF OIL RESERVES BY 2020

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, says plans to grow the nation's crude oil reserves to 40 billion barrels by the year 2020 have received a major boost.

The Group Managing Director of the NNPC, Maikanti Baru, said this in Abuja on Thursday in a statement by Ndu Ughamadu, the Corporation's Group General Manager, Public Affairs Division.

Mr. Baru, at a tripartite signing of agreements, said this target would be realised between the NNPC/FIRST Exploration & Production Joint Venture (JV) and Schlumberger for the development of the Anyalu and Madu fields in the Niger Delta under Oil Mining Licence, OML 83 and OML 85, offshore Nigeria.

He explained that under the agreement, Schlumberger would provide the over \$700 million development cost of the Anyala and Madu fields, which would generate 193 million barrels of crude oil into the current reserves of 37.2 billion barrels.

Also, an additional 800 billion cubic feet of gas would go into the nation's proven gas reserves, which currently stand at 197 trillion cubic feet of gas.

"In terms of daily production, the fields will yield 50,000 barrels of crude oil per day and 120 million standard cubic feet of gas per day by early 2019.

"The approach to funding JV operations in response to the challenging economic environment was novel and aligned wholly with the government's aspiration to increase crude oil and gas production, reserves growth and monetisation of the nation's enormous gas resources.

"Apart from serving as a test case for future funding mechanism, the approach adopted was in sync with the realisation of the corporation's 12 Business Focus Areas (BUFA) which is to ramp up crude oil production and reserves growth, amongst others.

"The projected increase in production of gas would come in handy as the Corporation strived to sustain the supply of gas to the existing power plants as well as the planned power projects billed to come on board within the period," Mr. Baru said.

The Managing Director, FIRST E&P, Ademola Adeyemi-Bero, who signed on behalf of FIRST E&P, remarked that the partnership between the NNPC/FIRST E&P JV and Schlumberger would "infuse a novel asset development model which combines FIRST E&P's local knowledge and market position as an indigenous operating company, with Schlumberger's financing and broad technical capabilities".

He added that the joint project team would strengthen FIRST E&P's project delivery abilities and the model would offer the upstream subsector a credible alternative funding and technical partnership model for growing production and add reserves.

Also speaking, Patrick Schorn, Vice-President, Schlumberger, who signed on behalf of Schlumberger traced the advent of the multi-national oil fields servicing company in Nigeria to the first commercial oil find in Oloibiri when Schlumberger played a role in Shell's drilling effort.

He noted that the partnership with NNPC and FIRST E&P would provide Schlumberger the opportunity to leverage on its reservoir knowledge, oilfield services and project management expertise to lower development costs and maximise value for the partners.

The OMLs 83& 85 are in shallow waters 40 kilometres offshore in the Niger Delta.

NNPC holds 60 percent interest in the licences while, FIRST E&P, the operator of the JV, holds the remaining 40 percent interest.

Apart from providing funding for the development of the fields, Schlumberger would also provide other Oilfield Services to the JV on a limited exclusive basis.

A joint project team would be established to drive technology transfer whilst leveraging on the global technical expertise of Schlumberger and the extensive local knowledge of the JV partners. (Footprint to Africa 03-07-2017)

AFRICAN COUNTRIES CREATE OWN INTERNET DOMAIN

African countries on Tuesday created an internet domain fully owned by African countries, which they named DotAfrica, APA can report on Wednesday.



This happened in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at the 29th ordinary session of the African Union Assembly. “DotAfrica will bring the continent together as an internet community under one umbrella and create an opportunity to forge a unique online identity which will associate products, services and or information with the continent and the people of Africa,” read a communiqué. The domain is an African initiative created by Africans for Africans and the worldwide audience of companies, organisations and individuals interested in, associated with and connected with the African community and markets. It was said that the objective of the launch was to mark the commencement of the DotAfrica operational phase by setting up a road show starting at the AU headquarters. The idea of DotAfrica was conceived in 2000 when some African internet professionals argued that DotAfrica should be operated by Africans for the benefit of the entire continent. (APA 05-07-2017)

AFRICAN, CARIBBEAN AND PACIFIC COUNTRIES SHOULD RE-EXAMINE TRADE POLICY WITH THEIR EU COUNTERPART-MULUSA

Lucky Mulusa Minister of National Development and Planning Lucky Mulusa has called on the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries to re-examine trade policy with their EU counterpart. Mulusa who is leading a high-power Zambian delegation to the European Development Days (EDD 2017) Conference in Brussels, Belgium said it was time developing countries migrated from rhetoric to discussing issues that are more practical with potential to create wealth for least developed Countries. He said although trade remains a key component in discussions surrounding EU-ACP relationship post-Cotonou Agreement, it was critical for Africa to emphasise value addition as one of the drivers of job and wealth creation. Mr. Mulusa called for an end to the existing trend of exporting raw materials among developing nations as doing so was synonymous to exporting jobs to developed countries while importing unemployment and poverty. “This phase of discussions provides us with the opportunity to re-examine our trade policy and have a common denominator”, he stressed. Mulusa expressed hope at the future of the ACP group in light of the willingness demonstrated by EU Member States in negotiating the framework around which the new partnership agreement will be anchored. And the Zambian Minister said it was encouraging to see how unified countries are in support of the Paris Climate Change Agreement. He said the fight against Climate Change requires countries’ combined efforts as the phenomenon has the potential to cause untold human catastrophe globally. The European Development Days conference is organized by the European Commission: each year brings together key development actors from around the globe to discuss new ideas and share experiences in ways that inspire new partnerships, bolster innovative ways of finding solutions to most pressing challenges of the time. This year, the development community has gathered to shape the debate around the main theme, “Investing in Development”. (Lusaka Times 05-07-2017)

AFRICA RECORDS ROBUST GROWTH WITH INTERNATIONAL TOURIST ARRIVALS, TOURISM REVENUES

Africa has recorded robust growth with international tourist arrivals and tourism revenues growing at 6 percent and 9 percent respectively each year between 1995 and 2014, over the last two decades, UNCTAD said on Wednesday in a report.



In its Economic Development in Africa report 2017, the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) said tourism in Africa is a flourishing industry that supports more than 21 million jobs.

The report said tourism attracted capital investment of \$26 billion on average in 2011-2014 to the African economy, and that this amount represented 1.8 percent of total GDP of the continent.

It added that international tourist arrivals in Africa increased to 56 million in the period 2011-2014, from 24 million in the previous one (1995-1998), and that the figure is forecast to grow to 134 million by 2030.

Tourism export revenues have more than tripled, increasing from \$14 billion to approximately \$47 billion, between 1995 and 2014. As a result tourism is now estimated to contribute about 8.5 percent to the continent's gross domestic product (GDP), it further stated.

Some four out of 10 international tourists in Africa came from the continent, the UNCTAD Economic Development in Africa report continued.

The first 10-year implementation plan of the African Union's Agenda 2063 aims at doubling the contribution of tourism to the continent's GDP. (APA 05-07-2017)

AFRICA'S TRADE AGREEMENTS WITH THE EU 'SKEWED'



Germany is calling for the renegotiation of some of the European Union's trade agreements with Africa, terming them unfair.

Some African countries have been calling for a review of these agreements, which they term as skewed to promote EU interests on the continent.

Speaking at an event for non-governmental organisations in Hamburg, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said that some of the trade contracts between the EU and Africa were "not right."

"We'll speak again at the EU Africa Summit in November about how we need to renegotiate them," Chancellor Merkel said, as she sought to drum up global support for African development. She was hosting African leaders on June 19, ahead of next month's Group of 20 Summit.

African governments and NGOs have said that some of the trade contracts between the EU and Africa do not support development but rather increase hardship on the continent.

Tanzania has called for renegotiation of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that the EAC signed with the EU, terming it skewed and exploitative.

The region's EPA negotiations hit a deadlock after Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi refused to sign it. Kenya and Rwanda have signed and ratified the EPA, but being a Single Customs Territory, the other EAC members must assent to the agreement to make it enforceable.

Tanzania says that signing the trade deal in its current form will have negative implications for the country's industrialisation strategy.

In January, the EAC Secretariat wrote to the regional members' tax authorities and statistics agencies, to provide data up to the end of 2015 on tax and trade.

EAC Deputy Secretary-General Jesca Eriyo asked member states to include descriptions of products they are trading in, value of the imports, source of the products (exporting country) and the tax rates.

"We therefore request you to liaise with your respective revenue authorities and bureaus of statistics to urgently provide the EAC Secretariat with the trade input data for the 10 years," Ms Eriyo said in her letter.

Kenya's Industrialisation and Trade Principal Secretary Dr Chris Kiptoo said Chancellor Merkel's comments were timely because some of the agreements that the continent has with the EU are not beneficial.

"The Cotonou Agreement is due to lapse in 2020. Now that the EU has tasked the former World Trade Organisation director general Pascal Lamy to start the post-Cotonou talks, we need to look at the context and scope of the new negotiations," Dr Kiptoo said.

The Cotonou Agreement is a treaty between the EU and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. It expires in February 2020. (East Africa 07-07-2017)

NEW UEMOA COMMISSION CHAIRMAN VISITS BISSAU

The new chairman of the Commission of the West Africa Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA), Abdallah Boureima, arrived in Bissau Wednesday to thank the Bissau Guinean authorities for their support in his recent election to the post.

After meeting with Guinea Bissau President José Mário Vaz, Boureima told the press he informed Vaz that the new UEMOA leadership is already in office, following the instructions received from UEMOA heads of state and government.



“We have also discussed the intervention of our organization at the community level, and are ready to continue the activities undertaken with the government of Guinea Bissau in carrying out the ongoing projects.”

UEMOA finances several projects in Guinea Bissau related to agriculture, the environment and health.

Abdallah Boureima, a Nigerien national, also held talks with the speaker of the National Assembly and other authorities in the country.

Boureima, who took over from Senegalese Sheikh Hadjibou Soumaré, was Minister of Economy and Finance of Niger from 1993 to 1996.

The Commission is UEMOA's executive body and ensures its proper functioning, and works to promote the general interest of the union in keeping with powers conferred on it by the January 1994 treaty.

UEMOA has eight member states namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali, Niger, Senegal and Togo. (APA 05-07-2017)

AGOA: UNE QUARANTAINE DE PAYS ATTENDUE AU FORUM DE LOME



Dédé Ekoué, la présidente du comité d'organisation

Le Forum de la Loi sur la Croissance et les Opportunités en Afrique - Africa Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) réunira de hauts fonctionnaires des États-Unis et de 38 pays d'Afrique subsaharienne à Lomé du 8 au 10 août prochains. Il permettra de discuter des moyens de renforcement de la coopération économique et le commerce entre les États-Unis et l'Afrique. Les communautés économiques régionales seront également représentées. Une délégation américaine vient d'achever une mission à Lomé dans ce sens.

Du 19 au 23 juin derniers, une délégation de fonctionnaires des États-Unis, y compris des représentants du Bureau du Représentant Commercial Américain, du Département d'État, du Département du Commerce et de l'Agence Américaine pour le Développement International, a séjourné au Togo pour finaliser les préparatifs du Forum.

La délégation est conduite par Constance Hamilton, représentant intérimaire du Commerce des États-Unis pour l'Afrique. Durant son séjour, elle a rencontré la Ministre du commerce, Legzim-Balouki et Dédé Ahoéfa Ekoué, la Présidente du Comité national d'Organisation et Point Focal du Forum AGOA. Des séances de travail ont été également tenues avec tous les comités et sous-comités du Forum AGOA, des représentants du secteur privé et des membres de la société civile. L'idée est de finaliser la

logistique, le protocole et les aspects techniques de l'événement.

Le Forum de Lomé est placé sous le thème : « Les Etats-Unis et l'Afrique : Partenariat pour la Prospérité à travers le Commerce ».

Selon le comité d'organisation, le Forum 2017 explorera comment les pays peuvent continuer à maximiser les avantages de l'AGOA dans un paysage en rapide évolution économique et souligner le rôle important joué par les femmes, la société civile et le secteur privé dans le développement du commerce, la promotion d'une croissance économique inclusive et durable et la prospérité des pays. Des représentants du secteur privé, de la société civile et du Programme d'Entrepreneuriat des Femmes Africaines - African Women's Entrepreneurship Program (AWEP) - parrainé par les États-Unis participeront aussi aux activités du Forum.

Les plénières ministérielles se dérouleront du 9 au 10 août, réunissant de hauts fonctionnaires des États-Unis et des pays Africains bénéficiaires. Une foire d'exposition se déroulera tout au long du programme officiel.

Robert Lighthizer, le Représentant de Commerce des États-Unis est annoncé à la tête de la délégation des États-Unis.

Soulignons que la loi AGOA améliore l'accès des pays éligibles d'Afrique subsaharienne, au marché américain. Elle est la pierre angulaire de la politique commerciale du gouvernement des États-Unis en Afrique subsaharienne depuis 2000. (Togo BN 25-06-2016)

DROUGHT AFFECTS MORE THAN 1 MILLION PEOPLE IN ANGOLA

More than 1 million people have been affected by the drought in Angola over the last five years, with higher incidence in the provinces of Huíla, Cunene and Namibe, Agriculture Minister Marcos Alexandre Nhunga said in Rome on Wednesday.

Speaking at the 40th conference of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which runs from 3 to 8 July in the Italian capital, he stressed that the government, with the support of national and international partners had organised a major operation to support the affected population.

Angola estimates that US\$464.5 million are needed to recover from the effects and impacts of the prolonged drought that has affected over one million people over the past five years, according to a report on Drought in Angola between 2012- 2016 and the Post Disaster Needs Assessment.

This recently released report was drafted by the National Civil Protection Commission, with support from the United Nations Development Programme, the European Union and the World Bank.

At the Rome meeting, Minister Marcos Alexandre Nhunga announced that Angola is preparing, with FAO technical support, to carry out the first general agricultural and livestock census after independence (1975) and to create a permanent system of agricultural statistics, according to Angolan news agency Angop. (06-07-2017)

SOUTH AFRICAN EXPRESS FACES LIQUIDATION APPLICATION

Solenta Aviation has approached the courts, but SA Express says it will oppose the move, as it disputes the R87.3m Solenta says it owes

Cash-strapped state-owned airline SA Express is facing an application for liquidation because it cannot pay its debts.

The application has been brought in the Gauteng High Court by aircraft leasing company Solenta Aviation on the basis of the nonpayment of R87.3m and would be heard on August 11, if it is not opposed.

But SA Express acting CEO Victor Xaba said the airline did intend to oppose the application because of a dispute over the amount owed.

He said the airline was engaging with legal counsel and Solenta in a bid to find an amicable solution, and gave the assurance to creditors, customers and stakeholders that SA Express was in not in financial distress and was able to pay its debts.

The application for liquidation comes hot on the heels of South African Airways' inability to repay a R2.3bn loan to Standard Chartered Bank, which required Treasury to step in with a cash injection for this amount.

SA Express also experienced a cash crunch in February, when it was unable to repay bank loans of R150m, and it was only through government intervention that agreement was reached on a repayment plan.

The airline has been in the financial doldrums for several years and made an unaudited loss of R234m loss in the 2016-17 financial year.

Solenta Aviation director of flight operations Stephen Jolly says in his affidavit that SA Express owes the company R87.3m for the lease of aircraft and other services provided between October 2016 and June this year, and that the airline "is unable to discharge its indebtedness".

He said Treasury and the Department of Public Enterprises had been informed about this nonpayment but they had merely noted receipt of the information.

Jolly said SA Express's failure to pay the monthly lease costs of about R12m dated back to September last year.

Solenta gave SA Express notice on March 1 that its three aircraft would be grounded which meant the termination of further flights until the money was paid. It stressed, however, that this notice did not mean the termination of the lease agreement.

According to Jolly SA Express wrote to Solenta on April 5 saying that by issuing a grounding notice, Solenta had terminated the lease agreement as of March 4, but Solenta did not accept this.

On May 17 SA Express proposed a payment plan of nine equal monthly instalments, starting end-May until end-January, to pay its debts — which Jolly said was an acknowledgment of indebtedness and an act of insolvency under the Insolvency Act.

The lease agreement was for the lease of three aircraft and supply of personnel between June 2016 and December 2016, with an additional aircraft being available for lease on an ad hoc basis until November last year. This agreement was extended until January by mutual consent and was extended for a further period from February 1 to end-July.

SA Express agreed to pay a fixed monthly amount for 150 guaranteed flight hours of \$300,000 under the initial agreement and \$270,000 for the current agreement.

Over and above this an additional amount of \$1,200 per hour under the initial agreement and \$1,300 per hour under the current agreement was payable for hours above the guaranteed 150 flight hours per month.

Payment was to be made on a monthly basis or within 30 days.

In March Public Enterprises Minister Lynne Brown told Parliament that a dedicated war room had been created within the Department of Public Enterprises to nurse the loss-making domestic and regional airline back to health. She said it needed R121m in working capital and a further extension of its state guarantee of R1bn.

Over the years SA Express has struggled to convince the auditor-general of its status as a going concern. Acting CEO Victor Xaba who was seconded from Denel Aerostructures and took over in April after the departure of former CEO Inati Ntshanga. (BD 07-07-2017)

KENYA LEADS AFRICA IN DOMAIN MARKET



The KENIC Chairman Sammy Buruchara officially launches three 2nd level internet domain

High Internet penetration and the vibrancy of the .ke domain are among the factors that have seen Kenya ranked as the second most successful African market for the registration of web addresses. South Africa was the only country that performed better, according to a report released by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) this week.

The study was the first of its kind to assess the state of the domain name system (DNS) market in Africa. DNS is used by the Internet to convert the names of websites (for example. Businessdailyafrica.com) into numeric IP addresses.

ICANN attributed the high performance in Kenya and South Africa to Internet ecosystems that are mature, relative to other countries on the continent.

“Domain name registration by African entities takes place mainly in countries where the local hosting industry and web development sector has developed sufficiently to create demand for local domains,” says ICANN.

The report focused on country code top-level domains (ccTLDs) which indicate an association with a specific country or sovereign state (for instance URLs that end in .ke indicate an association with Kenya).

Kenya and South Africa earned points for the state of their Internet infrastructure, data affordability as well as policies that have made it cheap and simple to register websites.

ICANN estimates that the African DNS market is worth about Sh5.4 billion (\$52 million) and that it will grow at a rate of about 33 per cent. However, Africa has a ways to go before it can catch up with the rest of the globe.

The continent only accounts for about one per cent of generic top level domains (gTLDs) such as .com; .org; and .net.

Part of the challenge lies in the overall challenges facing Internet access on the continent. Beyond this, there are countries that need to simplify the policies around registration and slash the associated fees. Another way to drive the growth of African websites might be to promote content in local languages. (28-06-2017)

OVERDUE LOANS IN ANGOLA ACCOUNT FOR 17.6% OF TOTAL IN 2016

Overdue loans in the Angolan banking system totalled 639.071 billion kwanzas (US\$3.833 billion) at the end of 2016, an amount equivalent to 17.6% of the total credit granted by the system to the country's economy, the governor of the central bank said on Wednesday in Luanda.

Valter Filipe, governor of the National Bank of Angola (BNA), said at the opening ceremony of the conference on Banking Regulation and Supervision in Angola, held in Luanda, that total credit to the economy in the period stood at 3.619 billion kwanzas (US\$21.7 billion), with the 29 banks operating in the country having reached 10.1 trillion kwanzas (US\$60.5 billion).

A year earlier, overdue loans stood at 355.6 billion kwanzas (US\$2.132 billion), according to a report by Deloitte, which was presented in November 2016 in Luanda.

The governor said there are 29 banks in operation, out of the 30 authorised banks, that the utilisation rate for banking services stood at 59% at the end of 2016 and that the banking system had 6 million customers. (06-07-2017)

LES AGENCES AFRICAINES DE PROMOTION DE L'INVESTISSEMENT SE CHERCHENT ENCORE



Le port de Kinshasa, capital de la République démocratique du Congo

Pas moins d'une quinzaine de ces agences nationales africaines, censées ramener au pays des investissements étrangers, étaient représentées début juin à Paris. Dans les faits, la majorité d'entre elles peine à atteindre les objectifs fixés.

À l'image de la baisse des investissements directs étrangers arrivés en Afrique en 2016, [annoncés en baisse par la Cnuced début juin](#), les agences africaines chargées de les attirer peuvent mieux faire. C'était tout du moins l'avis de plusieurs investisseurs et responsables financiers interrogés, de façon anonyme, à la sortie de la deuxième conférence annuelle du Réseau international des agences francophones de promotion des investissements (Riafpi). Pour eux, l'immense majorité de ces agences peinent à atteindre leurs objectifs faute d'expertise ou de moyens.

Ainsi par exemple de [l'agence burkinabè qui été créée voilà quatre ans](#) espérant promouvoir la stabilité politique du pays, une fiscalité avantageuse ou les exonérations à 5% des droits de douanes. Objectifs : porter la contribution de l'investissement privé au produit intérieur brut à 20% voire 25% d'ici à 2020 contre une part de 9% en 2012. Dans le contexte politique agité de la chute de Blaise Compaoré, l'Agence pour la promotion des investissements du Burkina Faso (API-BF) n'a pas réellement porté ses fruits et s'apprête à faire peau neuve.

La création de ces agences « est un phénomène mimétique », regrette un capital-investisseur. Un autre financier pointe leur éloignement du secteur privé. « Elles ne fonctionnent pas mis à part dans quelques pays, au Rwanda, en Côte d'Ivoire ou à Maurice », assure-t-il.

Ces agences doivent travailler dans un contexte compliqué : celui d'une défaillance des États et d'une défaillance des marchés

« Ces agences doivent travailler dans un contexte doublement compliqué : celui d'une défaillance des États et d'une défaillance des marchés », a aussi indiqué lors de la rencontre [Kako Nubukpo](#), l'ex-ministre togolais de la Prospective et de l'Évaluation des politiques publiques, directeur de la francophonie économique et numérique au sein de l'OIF.

Des difficultés d'expertise et de financement

Morne bilan que le Riafpi, créé en 2014 et qui compte désormais 18 agences membres – quasi exclusivement africaines à l'exception du Liban –, reconnaît également. « Les agences font régulièrement face à des difficultés d'expertises et de financement de leurs activités », notait ainsi le réseau à l'occasion de sa deuxième conférence annuelle au siège de l'Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) à Paris.

Une quinzaine de ces agences avait fait le déplacement début juin. « Le réseau a été créé en réaction à une prédominance des réunions anglophones sur les IDE », dit [Emmanuel Esmel Essis](#), le directeur général du Centre de promotion des investissements en Côte d'Ivoire (Cepici) qui occupe la présidence du Riafpi.

Le Cepici compte 140 personnes à bord et « quelques millions d'euros » de budget de fonctionnement alloués chaque année par l'État ; il prospecte dans plusieurs pays pour les intéresser aux mérites ivoiriens. Même mission pour Robert Moustafa, le directeur général de l'Anapi (Agence nationale pour la promotion des investissements) de Kinshasa dont les équipes (53 salariés) étaient récemment en missions de prospection au Brésil, en Chine et en Turquie.

Avec un million d'euros de budget de fonctionnement chaque année, l'agence revendique d'ailleurs des résultats en hausse : 66 projets d'investissement enregistrés en 2016 cumulant des investissements de 3 à 5 milliards de dollars qui s'étaleront sur 3 à 5 ans, contre 55 projets pour 2,5 milliards de dollars en 2015. (JA 28-06-2017)

MORE THAN 20 YEARS AFTER GENOCIDE, RWANDANS STILL LIVE IN A CLIMATE OF FEAR

Rwandan President Paul Kagame is seeking re-election amid a climate of fear that is the result of two decades of crackdowns on political opposition, the media and human-rights defenders, says Amnesty International.

A report from the London-based group released on Friday noted that freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly had all been restricted since the Rwandan Patriotic Front came to power, in the wake of the East African nation's 1994 genocide.

Opposition politicians and journalists are among those who've been jailed, attacked or forced into exile or silence, Amnesty said.

"Rwandans have faced huge, and often deadly, obstacles to participating in public life and voicing criticism of government policy," Muthoni Wanyeki, Amnesty's regional director for East Africa, said in a statement. "The climate in which the upcoming elections takes place is the culmination of years of repression."

Rwanda changed its constitution in 2015, enabling Kagame, who's led since 2000 and taken credit for the tiny, landlocked nation's economic success, to seek a third term at the August 4 election.

Annual GDP growth has averaged more than 7% since the turn of the millennium. When asked for comment, justice minister Johnston Busingye said by phone that he had not seen the report

Five opposition and independent candidates submitted nomination documents to authorities in June, with the final list of presidential candidates due to be announced Friday, Amnesty said.

Only Kagame and the Democratic Green Party of Rwanda's Frank Habineza made a provisional list of qualified candidates published June 27, it said.

Amnesty urged the government to prevent harassment of opposition candidates and their supporters in the upcoming vote, and also start reform to open up political space before the 2024 elections to allow genuine debate. (Bloomberg 07-07-2017)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

[Country Report No. 17/188 : Botswana : Technical Assistance Report - Public Investment Management Assessment](#)

[Country Report No. 17/185 : Cameroon : Request for a Three-Year Arrangement Under the Extended Credit Facility-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Cameroon](#)

[IMF Executive Board Approves New US\\$ 312.1 Million Arrangement Under the Extended Credit Facility \(ECF\) for Chad and Cancels the Current Arrangement](#)

[IMF Executive Board Reviews Noncomplying Disbursements for Chad](#)

[Country Report No. 17/179 : The Gambia : Request for Disbursement Under the Rapid Credit Facility, and Proposal for a Staff-Monitored Program-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for The Gambia](#)

[IMF Executive Board Completes Third Review Under the ECF Arrangement with Guinea-Bissau and Approves US\\$ 4.1 Million Disbursement](#)

[Country Report No. 17/184 : Malawi : Economic Development Document](#)

[Country Report No. 17/183 : Malawi : Ninth Review Under the Extended Credit Facility Arrangement and Request for Waivers for Nonobservance of Performance Criteria-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Malawi](#)

[IMF Executive Board Completes Seventh Review under the ECF Arrangement for Mali, Approves US\\$43.96 Million Disbursement, and Augments Access and Extends Arrangement](#)

[Country Report No. 17/189 : South Africa : 2017 Article IV Consultation-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for South Africa](#)

[IMF Executive Board Concludes 2017 Article IV Consultation with South Africa](#)

[IMF Executive Board Concludes 2017 Article IV Consultation with Zimbabwe](#)

[Country Report No. 17/196 : Zimbabwe : 2017 Article IV Consultation-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for Zimbabwe](#)

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