

MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION
The 2017 AGOA Forum Private Sector on page 14

SUMMARY

Liberian ex-warlord, footballer and tycoon vie to replace Ellen Johnson Sirleaf	Page 2
Cameroon: CFA400bln earmarked for decentralization scheme	Page 2
Violent clashes break out in DRC as protesters demand end to Kabila's presidency	Page 3
Rwandan to move national institutions to emerging cities	Page 4
Johannesburg among top five cities where construction costs will increase	Page 5
USAID is changing its mission statement	Page 5
Chinese group CR20 makes temporary delivery of railway in Angola	Page 6
Mozambique departs 3,000 illegal immigrants in first half of 2017	Page 6
Construction market in North Africa is on the boom	Page 7
Ethiopia generates over \$3.3bn from tourism	Page 8
Chinese contractor to construct first phase of convention centre in Ethiopia	Page 8
Cabo Verde moves ahead with golden visas for investors	Page 9
President Barrow's Gambia-Senegal bridge plan arouses controversy	Page 9
AfriSam commissions new cement plant in Lesotho	Page 10
Indian firm to hand over 150 houses to Mozambique's resettlement victims	Page 10
Kenya to build Volvo truck manufacturing plant worth US\$24mn	Page 11
EAC observers arrive in Rwanda ahead of elections	Page 12
Djibouti opens most advanced port in Africa	Page 12

LIBERIAN EX-WARLORD, FOOTBALLER AND TYCOON VIE TO REPLACE ELLEN JOHNSON SIRLEAF

There is no obvious frontrunner among the 20 candidates in Liberia's presidential election race, but the cast of characters is riveting

Twenty candidates will contest presidential elections in Liberia in October, among them a former warlord, a footballer and a fashion model, as Ellen Johnson Sirleaf steps down after two terms, the electoral commission said Monday.

There is no obvious frontrunner to replace the Nobel Prize-winning Sirleaf as head of the fragile west African state she was elected to lead in 2005 following a long civil war, one that has left deep scars on its economy and social fabric.

Elections for the presidency and House of Representatives take place on October 10 — the first time since the end of the conflict in 2003 that Liberia will be holding a vote without the presence of UN peacekeepers.

Ahead of the opening of campaigning on Monday, the UN appealed for the ballot to go ahead smoothly, urging all "to spare no effort in their pursuit of peaceful elections".

Among the president/vice-president tickets put forward by political parties, key figures from the civil conflict loom large.

Senator Prince Johnson — a onetime rebel fighter filmed drinking beer during the notorious murder of former president Samuel Doe in 1990 — is standing for president for the Movement for Democracy and Reconstruction (MDR).

Football superstar and senator George Weah will stand for the Coalition for Democratic Change (CDC) with Jewel Howard-Taylor, 54, the former wife of Charles Taylor, as his vice-president pick.

Charles Taylor, once Liberia's most feared rebel fighter, is serving a 50-year sentence in a British jail for his role in fuelling neighbouring Sierra Leone's own long civil conflict.

Two prominent businessmen, Coca-Cola executive Alexander Cummings and telecoms tycoon Benoni Urey, are standing on pro-jobs and pro-growth platforms as they aim to bring corporate expertise to the presidency.

Meanwhile the only female presidential candidate, MacDella Cooper, is a former fashion model turned philanthropist who is promising "hope and reform" for the poor, largely rural nation.

Sirleaf's vice-president, Joseph Boakai, is hoping the record of keeping the peace will be enough to propel him to the top job, despite complaints the ruling Unity Party has failed to deliver on the economy.

The international community is preoccupied with electoral violence, however, as the underfunded Liberian security forces take over control of election security from UN peacekeepers.

"These elections, and the subsequent transition, will mark a significant milestone whereby a sitting President will hand over power from one elected President to another," the UN Mission in Liberia (UNmil), African Union, and regional body Ecowas said in a statement.

"We remind political parties of their obligations to peaceful campaigning in compliance with the country's electoral laws (and) international standards," it said. (AFP 31-07-2017)

CAMEROON: CFA400BLN EARMARKED FOR DECENTRALIZATION SCHEME

Funds put at the disposal of municipalities by the Cameroonian government as part of its decentralization policy amount to CFA400 billion, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Devolution (MINATD) disclosed on Monday.

It made the disclosure on the occasion of a forum held as part of the 6th Exhibition of Government Action (SAGO).

It said the monies cover the last seven years after the government decided to allocate them to municipalities since 2010, a date that heralded the transfer of powers to decentralized entities.



However, according to Emile Andze Andze, the President of Cameroon's United Towns and Cities (CVUC) such funds are insufficient to stimulate local development.

Andze speaking as a spokesperson for the forum said "the Achilles heel of decentralization today is its financing. And our plea is clear. We have asked that the state budget of Cameroon be 10 percent per year for local development. This advocacy has been going on for decades. Instead, the government has given us 10 percent of its budget, i.e. CFA400 billion since 2010".

Taking into account the difficulty of municipalities in Cameroon to generate funds, the official said it was time the government began providing CFA400 billion every year for their local operation.

This figure is relativized by the CVUC president on the grounds that "if we distribute these amounts between 374 municipalities in seven years, we will see that this is not enough to prop up local development, which entails providing water, energy, schools and health centers." (APA 31-07-2017)

VIOLENT CLASHES BREAK OUT IN DRC AS PROTESTERS DEMAND END TO KABILA'S PRESIDENCY

Clashes broke out on Monday in the east Democratic of Republic of Congo (DRC) city of Goma between police and demonstrators opposed to President Joseph Kabila's sustained grip on power and demanding elections.

The youth movement, Struggle for Change (Lucha), urged followers and sympathizers to turn out for "a peaceful march" around the country "to say 'No' to Mr Kabila's life presidency and demand elections before the end of this year".

Several opposition coalitions and prominent figures including Moise Katumbi, business leader and former governor of the southern Katanga province, expressed support for the marches, timed to mark the July 31 date given by the Independent National Electoral Commission (CENI) to conclude the registration of voters.

Police arrested a dozen demonstrators in Goma, the capital of North Kivu province, AFP's local correspondent reported. But protesters continued to throw stones at police and build makeshift barricades when the police fired tear gas to disperse them.

A priest in the North Kivu town of Butembo said that 11 protestors "were brutally roughed up, one was bleeding".

In Bukavu, capital of South Kivu province, demonstrators gathered on Independence Place but were dispersed by police using tear gas.

No arrests were seen among protesters, an AFP correspondent said, but at about 9am GMT police detained two journalists from the private television channel Canal Futur, impounding their equipment. A third journalist, from the local state TV station, was briefly held then released with his equipment.

In the national capital Kinshasa, a metropolis of more than 10-million people, riot police were deployed on the strategic Triumphant Boulevard and around the parliament buildings. Opposition leaders had called for a peaceful march to start at this point and proceed to the CENI headquarters.

Police were patrolling the surrounding area on foot and in vehicles.

When Kabila refused to stand down in September last year in accordance with the constitution at the end of his second elected five-year term, more than a dozen people were killed in Kinshasa protests. A political agreement was reached on December 31 2016 to hold elections by the end of 2017, under the aegis of the influential Roman Catholic church. On July 7, however, the CENI chairperson announced that it would not be possible to organise elections in the vast and troubled country in time for the end of this year. (AFP 31-07-2017)

RWANDAN TO MOVE NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO EMERGING CITIES

The Rwandan government is currently assessing the potential of all secondary cities as it seeks to distribute headquarters or key departments of parastatals across different parts of the country, reports said on Monday.



The move, according to Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA), aims at boosting economic activity in secondary cities that have been designated in different regions of the country.

The six secondary cities are Musanze in Northern Province, Nyagatare in Eastern Province, Huye and Muhanga in Southern Province, and Rubavu and Rusizi in Western Province.

According to Augustin Kampayana, the acting director general at RHA, before relocation, they will have to first look at the availability of infrastructure in the cities to accommodate the public institutions.

He said they intend to start with the National Industrial Research and Development Agency (NIRDA) this financial year.

NIRDA, along with the University of Rwanda, already have buildings in Huye District and other designated cities.

The move will contribute to addressing the issue of high rate of rural-urban migration and boosting economic activity in the cities, he said.

The potential of each secondary city means particular activities or socio-economic opportunities available in each city will be scaled up by the given government institutions.

According to the 2012 data from National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda, 60 percent of those who migrate in search of jobs end up in Kigali City due to easy accessibility to infrastructure, investment opportunities, and other socio-economic aspects.

Upon completion of the exercise, the proposed cities will double as economic poles of growth for the country with improved roads and water networks, electricity, tourism development, schools and health centers.

"The potential of each secondary city, what the relocating institution will take there, and what they will find there, will be among the factors to be considered," he said.

Commenting on the infrastructure package that each secondary city should have, Kampayana said; "Each secondary city should have affordable houses where the working population can be accommodated; and other offices serving as workplace, also healthcare facilities should be available." (APA 31-07-2017)

JOHANNESBURG AMONG TOP FIVE CITIES WHERE CONSTRUCTION COSTS WILL INCREASE

Johannesburg is among five cities where construction costs are projected to go high over the next year; this is according to [Turner & Townsend's 'International Construction Market Survey](#).

The survey further revealed that the cost of construction is set to rise about 7.5% over 2017/18, against a global average of 3.5%, building costs in the city could average at US\$848.3/m²

"In the lukewarm Johannesburg construction market, there is still relatively high inflation (of approximately 6%), which leads to pressure to increase trade wages and higher material costs and plant equipment. The weaker rand adds to import costs, which pushed up the cost of construction by 5.3% in 2016," the report read.

Markets are considered warmer as competition decreases and prices begin to rise. Hot and overheating markets have a higher number of projects and, consequently, there is less competition for tenders, which tends to drive up tender prices.

Normally, the markets described as hot and overheating can expect high construction cost inflation and those that are cold, lukewarm or warm should have low inflation but not always. In a cold market, the competition is intense among contractors for very little work, reducing cost pressures from previous levels.

"The construction sector has yet to recover to pre-2010 levels. Contractors continue to experience pressures on margins and a lack of liquidity. The office and industrial sectors are oversupplied and this casts doubt on the prospects for a pick-up in growth in these sectors this year," the report stated.

Further, it highlighted that with the natural resources and mining sector still suffering from the effects of weaker commodity prices, there was a lack of confidence to develop new projects.

However, the survey noted that with the government still prioritizing on infrastructure and power transmission projects with major projects currently under consideration including extensions to the Lesotho Highlands Water Project, and the next phase of the Gautrain extension to Soweto, Mamelodi and the West Rand, as well as a recommitment by government for [Eskom](#) to buy renewable energy from independent producers, the sector should receive a boost.

Economic growth continues to be negatively impacted by political uncertainty, weak global demand and the downgrade to sub investment grade. The gradual improvement in the world economy and a projected recovery in commodity prices may support the economy in the year ahead. (CRO 09-06-2017)

USAID IS CHANGING ITS MISSION STATEMENT

In an announcement to staff sent on Thursday and obtained by Devex, Acting Administrator Wade Warren asked for feedback on draft mission and vision statements USAID's leadership team has already written. The effort is part of a broader redesign effort that President Donald Trump's administration has initiated at the State Department and USAID. The new mission statement is meant to "guide and inform State and USAID at the start of a new Administration," Warren wrote. It is the second rewrite of USAID's mission and vision statements in less than four years.

"Secretary [of State Rex] Tillerson has asked the State Department and USAID each to take a corporate look at our respective missions and visions of success, and craft revised Mission Statements for our organizations," Warren wrote in the email.

This is the draft mission statement USAID's leadership has circulated for feedback through a survey that will remain open until Aug. 11:

"As the U.S. Government's principal leader, coordinator, and provider of international development and humanitarian assistance, USAID advances national security and economic prosperity, while demonstrating American values and goodwill abroad. Our investments save lives, foster inclusive economic growth, reduce poverty, and strengthen democratic governance while helping other countries progress beyond needing our assistance."

That statement would replace the agency's [current](#) — and much shorter — mission, which former USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah announced in a staff town hall in Jan. 2014, after a lengthy rebranding process.

The current mission states: “We partner to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity.”

The new draft comes while USAID is still waiting for the U.S. Senate to confirm Trump’s nominee to lead the agency, former congressman Mark Green. Last month [Green sailed through a committee hearing](#), but a Senate vote on his nomination still has not been scheduled.

The team working on the update has also drafted a new “vision of success.” It reads:

“We anticipate, mitigate, and respond to global challenges, standing together with people affected by poverty and disaster. The people we help achieve their own peace and prosperity and create stable institutions that respond to their needs. We are recognized as the world’s premier development agency. We are highly effective, efficient, accountable, and agile.”(DEV 28-07-2017)

CHINESE GROUP CR20 MAKES TEMPORARY DELIVERY OF RAILWAY IN ANGOLA

The China Railway 20 Bureau Group Co (CR20) on Thursday delivered a provisional 400-kilometre section of railway between Cuito and Luena to the board of the state-run Benguela Railway Company (CFB), Angolan news agency Angop reported.

The chairman of the company, José Carlos Gomes, said on the occasion that the delivery, which marked the handover of the railway’s management, represents the end of the contract awarded to CR20, which began in January 2008.

The total rebuilding of the line, which stretches 1,344 kilometres from Lobito to Luau, along the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, involved construction of 95 bridges and 67 stations, 15 of which are located on the section now handed over to the Angolan company’s management.

Gomes pointed out that since trains started circulation on the line again in 2014, the CFB has already transported more than 2 million passengers and 95,000 tonnes of food, construction materials and other products.

The CFB line starts in Lobito, crosses the provinces of Huambo, Bié and Moxico, to the municipality of Luau, where it links up with the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Through a connection with Zambia, which requires building an extension from Moxico to the border of that country, it is possible to travel onwards to the city of Beira in Mozambique, Dar es Salaam, in Tanzania, by the Indian Ocean, which gives the railway a continental dimension.

The work involved to build the links with the Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia that was the responsibility of Angola has now been concluded and the links now depend on those two countries. (31-07-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE DEPORTS 3,000 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN FIRST HALF OF 2017

Mozambique’s National Migration Service (SENAMI) says it repatriated 2,775 foreign nationals in the first half of this year, compared to 1,873 in the same period last year, representing an increase of 48 percent, APA can report on Sunday.



According to SENAMO spokesperson Cira Fernandes, the increase in repatriated foreigners results from the intensification of the inspection actions carried out by the institution.

"During the first semester of the current year, around 943 surveillance actions were carried out at the national level, in which 14,863 foreign citizens were questioned, of whom 2,914 were in illegal immigration situations," Fernandes said in a brief interview with APA on Sunday .

The official emphasized that the repatriation of those citizens was due to illegal immigration and the illegal stay in the country.

The source pointed out that contrary to the increase in passport applications, there was a reduction of around 85 per cent in orders, a reduction of around 85 per cent in Emergency Certificate requests, that is, 11,742 certificates were requested against 74,674 from the same period last year.

Mozambique has seen a high number of illegal immigrants in the last few years, many enroute to neighbouring South Africa. (APA 30-07-2017)

CONSTRUCTION MARKET IN NORTH AFRICA IS ON THE BOOM

The construction market in North Africa is booming due to several active high- value projects with approximately US\$473bn investment; this is according to a recent market report by [BNC Project Intelligence](#).

The report states that Egypt constitutes a majority of 71 per cent of the total project investments in North Africa this is after the announcement of some major projects on urban construction and utilities sectors, which have a combined value of nearly US\$300bn of all project investments in North Africa.

Some of the high-value projects in North Africa include Capital Cairo in Egypt of US\$45bn and the Industrial Park in Morocco of US\$10bn which all indicate a healthy pipeline of fresh investments in the country.

The BNC report further states that the construction market in the region has been advancing following a period of socio-economic instability in the year 2011, the GDP of North Africa has been growing since 2011 with a six-year estimated growth rate of approximately 20 per cent.

New investment opportunities are opening up as geopolitical tensions gradually ease and governments rebuild their economies to a large scale.

Given the environment of low oil prices, governments are focusing more on different sectors such as urban construction and utilities. An increasing population and urbanization are driving many of the construction projects in the region. The demand for infrastructure and housing is growing in highly urbanized countries such as Algeria and in densely populated cities such as Cairo.

This population increase drives the demand for construction activities in areas like infrastructure, residential and commercial properties, hospitality and healthcare.

Governments' investment in the utilities sector to address the pressing constraints of the existing powers systems such as planned outages and load shedding are set to develop the infrastructure system, thereby leading more investment in the construction market.

In addition, various technological innovations such as renewable power, energy become more economical and widespread use in the region, and add value to the growth of North Africa's construction market.

Also, governments' investment in tourism and hospitality diversify economic movement in North Africa, which, in a way, led to the development of construction business. Morocco invest in tourism sector with an aim to become a top-20 tourism destination by 2020, and Tunisia invest in areas of medical and cultural tourism and ecosystem, thereby attracting foreign investors and private contractors in the business of construction market in North Africa (CRO 06-06-2017)

ETHIOPIA GENERATES OVER \$3.3BN FROM TOURISM

Ethiopia has secured over \$3.3 billion from tourism in the country's last fiscal year which ended last June, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism disclosed.



Public and International Relations Director at the Ministry, Gezahegn Abate told reporters on Saturday that the revenue was obtained from more than 886,000 tourists who visited the country.

The plan was to earn about \$3.7 billion from one million visitors. The sector has created over 297,000 job opportunities during the specific period, Gezahagn said

Expansion of infrastructure at tourist sites is being underway as part of activities to attract more tourists and boost the income from the sector, he noted.

The east African nation plans to earn \$7 billion from the sector by attracting two million tourists during the current Ethiopian fiscal year. (APA 30-07-2017)

CHINESE CONTRACTOR TO CONSTRUCT FIRST PHASE OF CONVENTION CENTRE IN ETHIOPIA

A Chinese [contractor](#) CGCOC has been awarded a contract to build the first phase of a US\$120m convention centre in Ethiopia. The complex will be constructed in the capital Addis Ababa.

Once complete, the [Addis](#)-Africa International Convention and Exhibition Centre (AAICEC) is projected to cover 11ha and accommodate to 5,000 delegates.

Work on the convention centre in Ethiopia is being financed by the AAICEC's shareholders consisting of the city government and chamber of commerce, the Bank of Abyssinia as well as expatriate Ethiopians living in South Africa. The company is offering more shares to anyone who wants to invest in the scheme.

The first phase of the scheme will comprise of the centre itself, two exhibition halls, an amphitheatre, offices and restaurants. The second phase will add four exhibition pavilions and the final phase will conclude with a four-star hotel and a shopping mall.

"A world-class convention and exhibition center is one of the key urban infrastructures that Ethiopia is currently missing and which Addis needs to avail to the business community in order to affirm its regional and international position. Availability of a world-class venue in Addis Ababa is critical for the expansion of business, investment and export in Ethiopia," said AAICEC.

CGCOC, which was formerly known as the CGC Overseas Construction Group, was chosen out of a shortlist of 10 firms from China and Dubai, as well as major Ethiopian firms Teklebirhan Construction and Afro-Tsion.

The firm, which was founded by Chinese state-owned petrochemical group Sinopec, is active throughout Africa, and has previously undertaken large road-building schemes in Ethiopia, as well as the Nile bridge project.

The project is expected to take three years to be complete. (CRO 05-06-2017)

CABO VERDE MOVES AHEAD WITH GOLDEN VISAS FOR INVESTORS

A programme of gold visas for investors is one of the measures being prepared by the Cape Verdean government to attract foreign investment to the archipelago, the Cape Verdean prime minister told Macao Magazine.

In an interview with Macao Magazine in Praia, Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), Ulisses Correia e Silva said the concrete proposal for the investor visa programme will soon be submitted to parliament for approval. "It is an instrument designed to attract and promote investment that is selective for investors who invest in Cabo Verde, starting with a specific amount, but also open to those who wish to make their second home here, taking advantage of tourism," said the Cape Verdean prime minister, in an interview published in the latest issue of the magazine.

Reserving the disclosure of the investment amounts for visas to be granted for the proposal's presentation in parliament Correia e Silva said that, in addition to entering the archipelago, the measure includes, "access to a set of services, so that those who wish to invest feel that there is an additional instrument for making an investment, residing, having a second home or doing business in Cabo Verde."

Asked about the priority countries for his government in terms of attracting investment, Correia e Silva recalled that the European Union is currently the main economic partner, as well as the largest tourist market, but indicated interest in expanding relations with the United States and with "the Asian market, mainly China."

"We are not in favour of specific countries in terms of who wants to invest – we have an open economy, there is a level playing field for everyone," along with "a need to further diversify markets," he said.

After completing the first year of a 5-year term, the government of Ulisses Correia e Silva is moving ahead with a set of measures to stimulate economic activity and facilitate business activity, namely a tax reform, to be applied from the 3rd quarter of 2017.

"We want to change the framework that has been in place for many years, and it worked well for us, but it needs to become more attractive," he told Macao Magazine.

The head of the Cape Verdean government said that the current investment regime – exemption from tax during the company's launch period, rising from 0% (tax rate) to 5% and 25% – should lead to a more competitive regime, particularly for export-related projects, with low rates from launch to full operation, with a 2.5% to 5% tax on profit and import tax exemption on raw materials.

"We want to adopt these measures, particularly with regard to export-oriented industries and services, and I can guarantee that this change will be a reality," he said.

The Cape Verdean government is particularly interested in investments in infrastructure and renewable energy, in addition to the country's largest industry – tourism – and believes it has significant advantages over other countries in the region.

"All these sectors can in fact be developed taking advantage of Cabo Verde's advantages: stability, low political and social risk, confidence. This set of factors makes it possible to invest in Cabo Verde with a relatively low economic risk calculation and the possibility of approaching other markets, while being based here." (31-07-2017)

PRESIDENT BARROW'S GAMBIA-SENEGAL BRIDGE PLAN AROUSES CONTROVERSY

The new Gambia government's decision to construct a bridge over the river Gambia linking the capital city Banjul to the North bank town of Barra, have generated controversial reactions from the general public.

In an exclusive interview with APA on Saturday, one Biran Touray of Kunkujang near Serekunda said, the idea may have been lobbied by neighboring Senegal.

He said Senegal uses the so-called Senegambia brotherly ties to get their interest in the Gambia. "All they need is to access both side of their country through Gambia," he argued.

Malick Jobe a mechanic in Serekunda, welcomed the idea. He said the bridge will break the communication barrier between Banjul and the interior of the country and beyond. "I only doubt if that will not affect navigation in our river, especially ships coming to the ports of Banjul," he concluded.

"If there is a bridge at Banjul-Barra crossing point, I will stay in my village in Central Badibou District and come to work in Banjul every day", One Pateh bah said, adding that the crossing is always a problem, especially during festive occasions.

President Adama Barrow announced during a press conference on Thursday, that his government intends to construct a bridge over the seven kilometre Banjul-Barra crossing point.

He claimed that his government would be more serious in bridging crossing points on the country's river than the former Yahya Jammeh's regime who branded himself the title of "bridge builder".

Barrow said the bridge is intended to boost trade and communication between the Gambia and other countries in the sub-region including Senegal. (APA 30-07-2017)

AFRISAM COMMISSIONS NEW CEMENT PLANT IN LESOTHO

Leading cement supplier [AfriSam](#) recently commissioned a new cement plant in Lesotho to help in blending and packing a first in the country.

Lesotho's Prime Minister Dr. Pakalitha Mosisili, speaking at the official opening of new cement plant in Lesotho earlier on this year, hailed the plant as a 'significant milestone' for the region and a boost for local socio-economic development.

The capacity of the plant – over 200,000 tons a year of bagged cement – will meet the current local [cement](#) demand, while also being capable of producing specialised products for large infrastructure projects like the Lesotho Highlands Water scheme.

The main raw material for new cement plant in Lesotho plant – milled clinker – is railed to Maseru in bulk from AfriSam's Ulco facility near Kimberley. This is beneficiate with pulverised fuel ash (PFA) from Lethabo power station near Vereeniging in the Free State province.

According to AfriSam's manager – strategic projects, Gavin Venter, the plant includes a sophisticated dual batch weighing system to accurately dose the milled clinker and the mineral components to predetermined ratios in the manufacture of the different cement products.

The plant has been designed to produce the standard range of products most commonly used by local customers, including AfriSam High Strength Cement (52,5 N) for specialist concrete applications; AfriSam All Purpose Cement (42.5 N) for concrete work, block-making, plaster work and other applications; AfriSam Roadstab Cement (32.5 N) for road stabilization; and AfriSam Starbuild (32.5 N) for applications not requiring high early-strength development.

The plant's packing system is a 60 ton per hour, four spout in-line European design, utilized in series with a robotic arm palletizer to pack and stack the cement bags. Two stretch-wrap machines cover the palletized cement bags with a waterproof cover, so they do not need to be stored under cover; this also facilitates loading and unloading operations at the plant and larger customer sites.

Venter adds that environmental issues have been stringently addressed by equipping the plant with dust filters that prevent the generation of dust and create a dust-free operation.

During the construction of the plant – most of which was completed within six months – AfriSam made extensive use of local service providers and suppliers, including architects and civil contractors; local workers were also employed during the construction process. Looking ahead, the company has plans for the plant to become a significantly larger cement manufacturing facility. (CRO 05-06-2017)

INDIAN FIRM TO HAND OVER 150 HOUSES TO MOZAMBIQUE'S RESETTLEMENT VICTIMS

India's coal mining firm, is expected to hand over at least 150 houses to resettle some of the families who used to live in the mining areas in the western province of Tete. where it holds a concession in Chirodzi region, APA can report on Sunday.



According to state-controlled Radio Mozambique, there are 538 families to be resettled in the villages of Cassoca, Cassica, Luane, Dvinda and Gulo, who lost their houses and livelihood when their land was taken away and given to Jindal for coal mining.

The Maputo-based broadcaster quotes the head of Land, Environment and Rural Development Directorate in Tete, Victor Poio, as saying the first 50 houses will be completed by the end of this month, while the remaining 100 houses will be handed over by the end of December.

"For the first phase, all are 3-bedroomed houses. Other families will only be resettled by the end of 2018", said Poio said on Sunday.

The official added that Jindal grants all families yet to be resettled a monthly sum of \$33 to pay for rent.

Jindal has invested \$180 million in the Tete coal mine, as part of a project is covering 2,1540 hectares and directly employ 1,500 people, (APA 30-07-2017)

KENYA TO BUILD VOLVO TRUCK MANUFACTURING PLANT WORTH US\$24MN

Volvo group, a Swedish multinational manufacturing company, will construct a truck manufacturing plant worth US\$24mn at Mombasa in Kenya, with an aim to expand the company's truck manufacturing business in the East African region



The plant will be constructed through a partnership with NECST Motors who are now the exclusive importers of Volvo trucks in the Eastern African region.

The new plant will be Volvo's third assembly plant in Africa after two other manufacturing plants in South Africa and Morocco.

Claes Nilsson, the president of Volvo truck, confirmed that the assembly plant is set to be launched in the first quarter of 2018. According to him, the plant is targeting an output of 500 units per year, which will bring top class modern trucks with specifications for the East African region.

Nilsson explained that it becomes imperative to have a manufacturing plant in Kenya to look like a serious competitor in the entire region. This is one of the reasons of setting up the third assembly plant by the company.

“We have been in East Africa for the last three decades and believe that there is a significant potential for the premium truck business as regional economies grow, infrastructure investments expand and the business environment remains investment friendly,” he added.

The regional of Volvo trucks in Nairobi will be responsible for expanding the brand’s business in the East African region.

Volvo group, having about 15 truck manufacturing plant worldwide, has more than 20 per cent market share in Morocco and 18 per cent market share in South Africa. With this new assembly plant, Volvo truck eyes on having 20 per cent market share in Kenya in next three to five years. (Afr. Review 24-05-2017)

EAC OBSERVERS ARRIVE IN RWANDA AHEAD OF ELECTIONS

A team of 27 observers from the East African Community has arrived in Rwanda on Saturday on a mission that will see them assess the last few days of the campaigns and the subsequent presidential elections slated for August 4.



The team, headed by former Kenyan Vice President Moody Awori, is composed of 11 members from Tanzania, 11 from Uganda, five from Kenya and two from South Sudan.

At the official launch of the EAC Observer Mission, yesterday, Awori said that elections were a must for any country that believes in economic growth, peace and security.

“No country can attain economic growth, peace and security without the stamp of legitimacy of its government by its citizenry. That’s why we appeal for free, fair and transparent elections in all our member states,” he said.

Awori pointed out that the observers would be guided by different charters that observe democratic values and principles.

“In its assessment of the elections, the EAC elections observer mission will be guided by the democratic principles and values outlines in the African Charter for democracy, elections and governance,” he said.

“There is a lot that other East African countries can learn from Rwanda. There is no need for chaos,” he said.

The Director of Information, Education and Communication at the Ministry of Trade Industry and EAC Affairs, Flavia Salafina told the observers that government attaches value to their work and pledged the country’s commitment to the block’s principles of good governance. (APA 30-07-2017)

DJIBOUTI OPENS MOST ADVANCED PORT IN AFRICA

The official opening ceremony was held under the auspices of Djibouti’s President His Excellency Ismail Omar Guelleh, together with His Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Prime Minister of Ethiopia.

The new 690 hectare facility is equipped with ultra-modern facilities that can accommodate 100,000 dwt vessels. The USD\$590m project was started in 2015, and jointly financed by Djibouti Ports and Free

Zones Authority (DPFZA) and China Merchant Holding (CMHC). The state-of-the-art port equipment was all manufactured by the Chinese firm ZPMC. Vessels have already begun using the facility.

The port provides a world-class logistics platform for shipping. The new facilities will vastly improve the efficiency and ease of doing business in the Horn of Africa. The project cements Djibouti's position as a critical junction on the "Maritime Silk Road".



Djibouti has today opened the country's latest mega project – the Doraleh Multipurpose Port (DMP).

At the opening ceremony, Aboubaker Omar Hadi, Chairman of DPFZA remarked: "With this new world-class infrastructure, Djibouti confirms its position as a major trading hub for the continent. We are proud to show the world our capacity to deliver major infrastructure projects – some of the most technologically advanced on this continent."

DMP is the latest in a series of mega projects in Djibouti. These projects include four new ports, a Liquefied Natural Gas facility, an oil terminal, and two brand new airports. Together they will dramatically expand Djibouti's ability to serve as a platform and trade hub for the region.

The projects follow the completion of the Addis Ababa-Djibouti Railway, a new 752km track linking Ethiopia's capital with the Port of Djibouti.

Djibouti sits at the centre of world trade routes, connecting Asia, Africa and Europe. The port is a gateway to one of the fastest growing regions of the world with 30,000 ships transiting the port each year. Goods from Asia represent 59 per cent, with 21 per cent coming from Europe and 16 per cent from elsewhere in Africa. (Afr Review 26-05-2017)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, Corporate Council on Africa, CIP-Confederation of Portuguese Enterprises, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABC- Netherlands-African Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), CIP, HTTC, NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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PLEASE NOTE: REGISTRATION CLOSES TOMORROW, AUGUST 1, 2017, AT 5:00P.M. (EST)

TOP U.S. and AFRICAN DELEGATIONS CONFIRMED TO ATTEND

U.S. DELEGATION

Amb. Robert Lighthizer, U.S. Trade Representative, **USTR**

Peter Barlerin, Deputy Assistant Secretary, African Affairs, **Department of State**

Skip Jones, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Middle East and Africa, **Department of Commerce**

Matt Levin, Director, Office of Trade and Labor Affairs, **Department of Labor**

Kyeh Kim, Principal Deputy Vice President, **MCC**

Peter Ballinger, Managing Director, Africa, **OPIC**

David Wolf, Agriculture Counselor, **USDA**

Thomas Hardy, Acting Director, **USTDA**

Chris Runyan, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Africa, **USAID**

and more...

AFRICAN DELEGATIONS

Republic of Benin

Republic of Burkina Faso

Republic of Ethiopia

Republic of Ghana
Republic of Malawi
Republic of Mali
Republic of Niger
Republic of Nigeria
Republic of Rwanda
Republic of Senegal
Republic of South Africa
Republic of Togo
Republic of Uganda
Republic of Zambia
African Union

Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

and more...

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