

MEMORANDUM

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KENYA POLLS: KENYATTA WIDENS LEAD OVER RIVAL ODINGA

President Uhuru Kenyatta has widened his lead over archrival Raila Odinga with 7.9 million votes, with his main challenger trailing with 6.5 ballots.



Odinga has already rejected the provisional results released by the electoral body, dismissing the election process as a fraud. (APA 09-08-2017)

KENYA: ODINGA REJECTS POLL RESULTS, SAYS SYSTEM HACKED

Kenya's opposition leader Raila Odinga on Wednesday rejected the provisional results released by the electoral commission, dismissing the process as a fraud.



Speaking in Nairobi, Odinga said that the Independent and Electoral Boundaries Commission (IEBC) system were hacked on Tuesday and the results were tampered in favour of President Uhuru Kenyatta. He disclosed that the hackers introduced programmes in the IEBC servers and interfered with the streaming of all the results to the electoral body's servers.

Odinga further disclosed that the hackers hacked into the IEBC system using the log in details of the IEBC ICT manager Chris Musando who was murdered in cold blood last week.

Odinga said that he doesn't recognize the results that have showed him trailing by over one million votes, saying that President Uhuru Kenyatta 'must go home.'

According to the results trickling in Kenyatta is leading with 7.7 million votes, followed by Odinga who is trailing by 6.3 million votes. (APA 09-08-2017)

KENYAN POLL CHIEF DENIES ELECTION SYSTEM HACKED

Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) has denied claims by opposition candidate Raila Odinga that its electronics system was hacked and the results of the poll compromised in favour of the incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta.



Speaking at a press conference in Nairobi on Wednesday, the IEBC CEO, Ezra Chiloba said after reviewing Odinga's claims of a breach to the system, it was found out that they could not be farther from the truth.

He said the electoral body went out of its way to secure the IT system before the polls to ensure that it could not be breached, emphasizing that there was no breach as Odinga had claimed.

"There was no external interference of our system before, during and after the elections, our RTS system is secure" Chiloba maintained.

Presidential aspirant Odinga rejected the results of Tuesday's general elections alleging that hackers had broken into the system and manipulated the votes in favour of incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta.

Provisional figures from the IEBC suggest that President Kenyatta had widened his lead over Odinga with 7.9 million votes.

Odinga had polled 6.5 million.

There have been running battles in the streets of Nairobi and other towns across Kenya throughout Wednesday between his supporters and anti-riot.

There were similar clashes in the port city of Kisumu, western Kenya, an Odinga stronghold.

Three people were killed in the clashes, which are reminiscent of Kenya's post-electoral violence of 2007 in which over 1, 500 people died.

The Daily Nation quoting witnesses in Mugirango, Nyamira County west of the country said one man has been shot dead by a police officer during an altercation over the outcome of the polls. (APA 09-08-2017)

ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES ORDERS 10 ADDITIONAL AIRBUS A350-900S

Ethiopian Airlines, has ordered 10 additional Airbus A350-900s and set in motion a \$345 million airport expansion project to raise the annual passenger capacity at Addis Ababa's Bole International Airport from 7 million to 22 million, reports said on Wednesday.

In contrast with the poor performance of the African aviation industry over recent years, this expansion indicates the rude health of Ethiopian Airlines and its intent to dominate the African skies. The airline adds the A350-900s to a fleet of 92 aircraft.

It was the first in Africa to include A350-900s in 2016 and the first to operate Boeing 787 Dreamliners in 2012, the airliner said on Wednesday in a statement.



Similarly, the airport expansion project, backed by China's Exim Bank, is a move to rival South Africa's O.R. Tambo International Airport, which received around 21m passengers last year.

Ethiopian registered an 18 percent passenger increase in 2016, and despite tough market conditions, it made a record net profit of \$273m in the 2015–16 fiscal year ending June 2016.

Contrast this with Africa's overall poor aviation performance, which marked a loss of \$900m in 2015 and \$800m in 2016 according to the International Air Transport Association (IATA).

Non-African airlines operate 80 percent of intercontinental traffic between Africa and the rest of the world, with carriers such as Emirates and Turkish Airlines taking an increasing share, and there have been very few moves to address this imbalance.

Equally, many African governments only allow their state-owned carriers to operate domestic flights, leading to increased fares and a lack of competition and air traffic growth. In 2016 African airlines had the lowest load factor – the number of seats occupied by customers – in the world at 54.6 percent. (APA 09-08-2017)

EGYPT TO RATIONALIZE IMPORTS

Egypt's minister of Finance Dr. Amr al-Garhi said that his country is working to rationalize imports.



He added that the investment in treasury bills is faster than direct investment.

The issuance of dollar bonds is important to diversify the sources of dollar funding, he said, pointing out that the companies operating in Egypt have become export-oriented after the liberalization of the exchange price, which reduced the cost.

Garhi added that President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi insists on applicate economic reform decisions without considering their impact on his popularity.

He said "We will see Egypt as a completely different country in 3 years and the improvement will be gradual in the coming years". (APA 09-08-2017)

ETHIOPIA RANKED 4TH SAFEST COUNTRY IN AFRICA-RESEARCH

Ethiopia has been ranked the fourth safest country in Africa after 80 percent of its population said that they have confidence in their local police and feel safe walking alone at night, a research released by Gallup revealed on Tuesday.



Algeria has been ranked the safest country in Africa with 90 percent. Rwanda stood second with 84 percent, Egypt third with 82 percent, Morocco 5th with 80 percent and Mauritius 6th with 78 percent, the research said

Africans least likely in to feel safe walking alone at night are in Gabon with only 33 percent of the population saying they feel safe walking at night, Liberia at 35%, South Africa at 37%, Botswana at 38%, Congo Kinshasa at 39% and Mauritania at 39%.

According to the research, the insecurity has been attributed to soaring crime rates in these countries, reflecting a common problem among societies that have experienced uneven economic growth from industrialization or technological change and high levels of income inequality.

The research was based on telephone and face-to-face interviews with approximately 1,000 adults, aged 15 and older, conducted throughout 2016 in 135 countries. (APA 09-08-2017)

KENYA ELECTION: NGOS LEAN ON LOCAL INFLUENCERS TO TEMPER RISK OF VIOLENCE

In the months leading up to Tuesday's general election in Kenya, civil society organizations have been laying the groundwork to prevent the kind of violence that has erupted during elections past.

Amid concerns that tensions between communities could spill over into violence if the election outcome is not perceived as legitimate, organizations have been working in recent months to mitigate localized conflicts over issues such as resources, borders and land rights.

A key part of this strategy has involved reaching out to influential individuals in communities across Kenya to serve as violence mitigators.

Daniel Orozo is one of those individuals. In Kibera, one of Nairobi's slums, the government recently gave land titles to one group of inhabitants, causing tensions over land tenure for other residents. With the help of [Mercy Corps](#), Orozo — a Kibera native and founder of Lang'ata Youth Network — has been working to calm these tensions in the hope of transforming the bitter conversation between parties into understanding. As a trusted member of the community, he helped to organize three community forums at a local church to bring together people with opposing viewpoints to talk through their differences. The outcomes of the conversations were then broadcast over community radio. Heading into election day, Orozo is tasked with keeping a close eye on developments — ready to jump in and negotiate with parties where needed — and looping in Mercy Corps and the broader network of civil society, government and security representatives that has been established.

After a contested election in 2007, some 1,100 people were killed and 650,000 displaced. There are concerns that if the main presidential contenders — President Uhuru Kenyatta and Raila Odinga — don't accept the outcome, there could be violence again. The actions of local politicians could also play a role.

Mercy Corps has spent the months leading up to the election combing the ground for influencers in five counties in Kenya which have been identified as potential hotspots. Funded by the U.S. Department of

State, the program now has a network of around 2,000 individuals who will be able to report early to Mercy Corps' dedicated hotline if they notice developments that could turn violent. These individuals may try to step in and negotiate with conflicting parties, and can involve the right stakeholders if tensions escalate.

Mercy Corps is just one organization involved in this work. The [International Foundation for Electoral Systems](#), [ACT!](#), the [International Republican Institute](#) and [Saferworld](#) are all using similar tactics.

"When the messaging is coming from a source of authority, that is locally recognizable, it resonates differently with people. They follow these people because they know their track record, because they know they belong to those communities, because they know that a community has benefited from their work," said Marija Marovic, resident program director for Kenya for IRI. "If there is a certain conflict, these people can talk to both sides of [it]."

Identifying influencers

Shekh Ismail Haji Komora has been a trusted religious leader and mediator in the Eastleigh community of Nairobi for about 15 years. IRI and the Kamukunji District Peace Committee, a group of local stakeholders, tapped into this, asking Komora to speak at a series of community forums. In his trusted role in this predominantly Muslim community, he was able to speak to locals about religion and violence. As part of their broader strategy on conflict prevention ahead of the election, IRI held stakeholder meetings where it mapped out which individuals were best positioned to play a role in conflict prevention and information provision within each community.

Mercy Corps also mapped out networks of individuals in their hotspot zones through focus groups — identifying people with the capacity to rally people towards violence, and those with the capacity to steer them away from it. The "peacekeepers" have been trained on response strategies in the event of violence, and have developed scenarios based on potential outcomes of the election. They have also been brought into committees that include representatives of the police, the private sector, civil society, local government and others. The individuals are volunteers, but are provided with logistical support.

"Who are the right responders to deal with that particular situation?" asked Maurice Amollo, head of Mercy Corps' Kenyan Election Violence Prevention program. "Is it that influential lady, in that particular area, who when she arrives, the youth will listen to her? Then we strongly link her with Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission so if she calls, they pick up her call. They know, this is our person."

The tactic is used, in part, as a way to try to resolve problems before involving the police, which could escalate tensions. But it has its limitations.

"It will be as effective as the level of violent conflict. If it gets really bad, these individuals can't put themselves in harm's way — they can only do so much," said Amollo. "There is a level where it reaches that we will leave the security services to deal with [it]."(DEV 08-08-2017)

BOA BURKINA FASO RAKES IN CFA17 BLN AS NET INCOME



Bank of Africa (BOA) Burkina Faso, a subsidiary of the banking group of the same name, realized a net banking income of 17.258 billion CFA francs (about US\$27.612 million) in the first quarter of 2017, the Ouagadougou-based bank told APA on Wednesday.

Compared to the first half of 2016 when it stood at 16.132 billion CFA francs, this time income grew by 6.98 percent.

As for the bank's total balance, it stood at 752.9 billion CFA francs, up by 12 percent compared to June 30, 2016.

BOA Burkina Faso's overheads increased by 8.75 percent, from 6.786 billion CFA francs in 2016 to 7.379 billion CFA francs a year later.

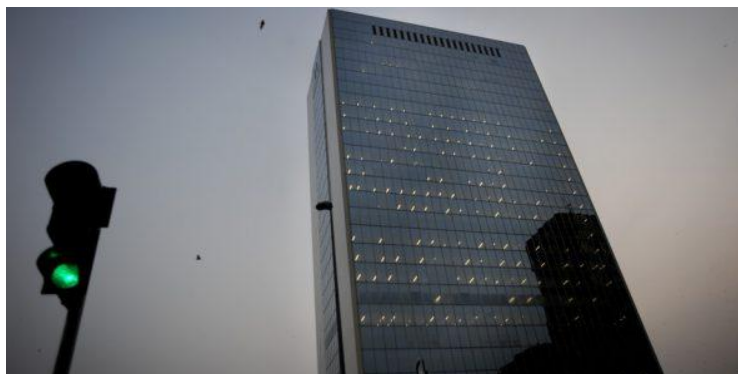
The bank's gross operating income grew by 4.56 percent to reach 8.745 billion CFA francs, compared to 8.364 billion CFA francs recorded at the end of June 2016.

On the other hand, BOA Burkina Faso saw its cost of risk sharply increase by 77.36 percent, standing at 2.130 billion CFA francs, against 1.201 billion CFA francs at the end of June 2016.

The bank nevertheless posted a profit of 6.575 billion CFA francs, against 6.003 billion CFA francs in 2016, representing an increase of 9.52 percent.

Looking ahead to the second half of 2017, BOA Burkina Faso managers expect to maintain and strengthen the position of the institution in the country's banking market, while preserving its profitability. (APA 09-98-2017)

FINANCE : L'AGENCE DE NOTATION FITCH S'INQUIETE DE L'ENDETTEMENT DE LA BAD



Le siège de la BAD à Abidjan, en janvier 2014.

Le 4 août dernier, l'agence de notation Fitch Ratings s'est inquiétée du rythme d'endettement croissant de la Banque africaine de développement (BAD), envisageant même un temps de passer sa perspective de notation sur la banque de "stable" à "négative". Ce qu'elle n'a finalement pas fait à l'aune de garanties nouvelles apportées par le management de la banque.

Dans une note datée du vendredi 4 août, l'agence de notation Fitch Ratings a certes conservé à la Banque africaine de développement son AAA, plus haut niveau dans l'échelle de notation financière de l'agence, tout en tirant la sonnette d'alarme sur la dette. « La dette nette [de la BAD] ne sera plus couverte par les capitaux de ses actionnaires notés AAA à compter de 2019, à moins qu'intervienne une augmentation de capital ou que les prêts ne soient revus à la baisse », écrit ainsi l'agence dans cette note.

« La BAD jouit d'un soutien solide de ses 80 États membres, qui incluent 26 États hors Afrique dotés de notations financières élevées. La part du capital de la BAD souscrite par ces États, notamment les États-Unis, l'Allemagne et le Canada, compte pour 21% du total. Ce qui couvre la dette nette de la banque à la fin 2016. Mais nos projections indiquent que ce ne sera pas le cas en 2019 », expliquent encore les économistes de l'agence.

Le management de la banque nous a fourni des garanties supplémentaires

À tel point que l'agence a envisagé de revoir à la baisse sa perspective sur la notation de la BAD, de « stable » à « négative ». Ce qu'elle avait fait dans une version préliminaire de la notation datée du 1er août, que *Jeune Afrique* a pu consulter, avant de se raviser dans la note finalement publiée trois jours plus tard. « Le management de la banque nous a fourni des garanties supplémentaires sur une augmentation de capital à venir avant 2019, à même de couvrir les prêts émis, et un ralentissement de ces prêts à partir de 2018 », explique un économiste chez Fitch.

Lors de la dernière conférence annuelle de la BAD qui a eu lieu en mai 2017 en Inde, le président de l'institution, [Akinwumi Adesina](#), a fait part de son [ambition d'augmenter les capitaux de la banque de développement](#). Une mission particulièrement difficile dans le contexte économique actuel : [la croissance du continent africain a chuté à 1,4% en 2016 et devrait s'établir à 2,6% cette année](#).

Adesina pense pourtant avoir montré de quoi il était capable, ayant déjà levé 10,5 milliards de dollars et décaissé 6,5 milliards de dollars en 2016, un record pour la banque. « Nous multiplions par quatre chaque dollars dépensé par la banque, grâce à l'effet de levier, à l'instar de notre prêt syndiqué avec neuf banques pour [construire une centrale d'Eskom à 1 milliard de dollars](#) en Afrique du Sud », déclarait Adesina en mai dernier. (JA 08-08-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE TO INVEST US\$60.5M IN POWER TRANSMISSION PROJECT

Mozambican power utility Electricidade de Mocambique (EDM) plans to invest US\$60.5 million in a project to improve the availability of electricity around the country, EDM distribution director Alberto Banze revealed on Wednesday.



According to Banze, the project would involve system reinforcement in the provinces of Cabo Delgado, Manica, Maputo and Tete.

This would entail expansion of electricity transmission and distribution networks, which would enable the connection to new consumers.

Banze said Maputo province would be allocated US\$25 million for network reinforcement works consisting of the construction of 42 kilometres of medium voltage lines, as well as 164km of low voltage lines and installation of 146 sub-stations.

Last year, Mozambique started building a US\$180-million gas-fired power plant expected to add 106 megawatts of electricity to the national grid. (APA 09-08-2017)

TIGO PROVIDES CONNECTIVITY FOR BUSINESS DISTRICTS IN GHANA

Telecom operator, Tigo has announced that it completed point-to-multipoint base stations in four major business districts across Ghana. Businesses and residents within the Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi and Sunyani central business districts now have access to wireless connectivity with speeds of up to 250Mbps.



Tigo completes point-to-multipoint base stations in four major business districts across Ghana.

According to the Chief Technology and Information Officer for Tigo, Amir Abdelazim, the service is fully deployable within 48 hours, and customers can run high-speed wireless internet services such as voice over IP calls, video surveillance, video conferencing, streaming and online gaming among a host of others.

He emphasized that meeting the increasing data demands of customers, both consumers and businesses, remains a priority for Tigo and they are committed to becoming a one stop shop for all connectivity needs.

Abdelazim hoped customers within the four business districts would take full advantage of the benefits of the dedicated internet. "This gives people control to ensure efficient productivity at all times – no sluggish connections during peak times," he said.

Additionally, he revealed that as part of Tigo's broader strategy, they are providing an in-building coverage solution for high rise buildings for both the public and private sector within the Greater Accra and Ashanti regions.

They have already provided 25 of such solutions and will roll out over 50 more by the end of the year. The In-Building Solution (IBS) provides significant improvements to indoor voice and data connectivity for high-value customers in key commercial locations.

In Accra, some of the locations with IBS include the Kempinski Hotel, Ridge Towers, NCA Towers, Alisa Hotel, Nester Square and Moevenpick Hotel just to mention a few. (ITMA 07-08-2017)

DISBAND S/AFRICAN AIRWAYS' BOARD NOW

Finance Minister Malusi Gigaba should remove the entire South African Airways (SAA) board because it has failed in its duty to ensure good governance in the state-owned airline, the National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) has said.



Numsa general secretary Irvin Jim on Friday said the union wanted the new board to consist of civilian, trade unions, labour and government representatives to ensure transparency and good governance at the financially troubled national carrier.

"That way the airline can work in the interests of the working class and the poor, who are the majority of the country. Numsa has lodged a dispute over these and other issues with the CCMA [Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration]. We are giving SAA seven days to respond positively to our demands.

"One of the biggest problems at SAA is that managers do not comply with the Public Finance Management Act, which leads to corruption and wastage," the statement read.

The union also condemned SAA Technical's suspension of two Numsa and eight South African Cabin Crew Association members for speaking out against corruption at the airline.

Numsa noted that the SAA had run out of cash and was effectively bankrupt, with fears that it might not be able to pay its workers' salaries in months to come.(APA 05-08-2017)

THIRD WAVE COFFEE COULD KEEP AFRICA'S SMALLER GROWERS IN BUSINESS

Sure, you could buy a \$2 [Dunkin Donuts](#)' coffee, but let's face it: you'd rather splurge on a \$6 cup of joe sourced from South Sudan's co-ops because that's what your [taste buds](#)—and your coffee snob sensibilities—compel you to do. And while you may be hurting your wallet with those expensive blends, your [hipster coffee habit](#) is breathing new life into the once-struggling African coffee industry, a new [Bloomberg report](#) shows.

In recent years, the African coffee market has suffered. As Bloomberg reports, four African nations dominated the coffee industry in 1975. But flash forward to today, and just two countries—[Ethiopia](#) and Uganda—compete in the landscape of the top ten producers in the world. Experts say the continent's coffee production has slowed.

"African production is under threat," Keith Flury, head of coffee research at Volcafe Ltd., told the newswire. He explains that as countries such as Kenya urbanize, coffee farms are sacrificed for modern structures. And, "in other countries such as Rwanda and Burundi, coffee is being replaced with subsistence crops as population grows."

But your (and others) renewed interest in African blends is helping [farmers](#) stake their claim in the industry, where cheaper coffee often prevails. "African beans may seem exotic to some coffee drinkers and that piques their curiosity," explained Karl Weyrauch, founder of Coffee Rwanda, which supplies Rwandan beans to the U.S. Additionally, an increased appetite for "single origin" coffee combined with this renewed interest in sub-Saharan beans means the best growth potential lies in serving a more selective market.

According to Bloomberg, African coffees stand out for floral, fruity flavors. And it's the OG home of coffee, too; beans were discovered there some 1,000 years ago.

In recent years, African coffee shipments to the U.S. and abroad have increase by about 37 percent as demand for these blends increases too.

For example, take food merchant Olam International Ltd., based in Singapore: last year, the company paid \$7.5 million for East African coffee alone, Bloomberg says.

So, it boils—or brews—down to this: if you dig African blends, it may be worth the few extra bucks to please your taste buds and help an industry and its workers stay in business.(Food&Wine 03-08-2017)

JITTERY KENYA ON KNIFE EDGE AHEAD OF FINAL RESULTS IN ELECTION MARRED BY VIOLENCE AND CLAIMS OF FRAUD

At least four people have died, and opposition leader Raila Odinga's supporters took to the streets as incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta took an unassailable lead

A jittery Kenya awaits final poll results on Thursday, with President Uhuru Kenyatta holding a strong lead after a vote marred by opposition claims of rigging and the death of four people in election-related violence.

The east African country, keenly aware of post-poll violence a decade ago that left 1,100 dead, was on a knife edge after a day of isolated protests in opposition strongholds.

The unrest broke out after opposition leader Raila Odinga claimed massive fraud as Kenyatta surged ahead in provisional results, with 54% against Odinga's 44.7%. Results from more than 96% of polling stations were in.

Two protesters were shot dead in the flashpoint slum of Mathare in Nairobi, where police also fired tear gas at crowds who burned tyres and blocked roads throughout the day.

An AFP photographer saw one of the victims, a young man with a massive gunshot wound to the head. Nairobi police chief Japheth Koome said the two who were killed had tried to "attack our officers with pangas and that's when the officers opened fire on them".

In the southeastern Tana River region, police said five men armed with knives had attacked a vote-counting station and stabbed one person.

"Our officers killed two of them and we are looking for others who escaped," said regional police chief Larry Kieng.

"We have not established the motive yet, we don't know if it is political or if it's a criminal incident but we are investigating and action will be taken."

The region is prone to attacks by al-Shabaab, a militant group linked to al-Qaeda.

Decrying a "sham" tallying process, Odinga detailed accusations of a major attack on the electronic voting system, saying hackers had gained entry using the identity of top IT official Chris Msando, who was found tortured and murdered late last month.

"This is an attack on our democracy. The 2017 general election was a fraud," said Odinga, claiming detailed evidence of the hackers' movements.

The 72-year-old, who is making his fourth bid for the presidency as the flag bearer for the National Super Alliance coalition, accused his rivals of stealing victory from him through rigging in 2007 and in 2013.

"You can only cheat a people for so long," he said.

Election commission chief Ezra Chiloba denied that the crucial electronic system — seen as key to avoiding fraud — had been compromised.

"Our election management system is secure. There was no external or internal interference to the system at any point before, during or after the voting," he told a press conference.

Odinga's claims led to isolated protests in his stronghold in the western city of Kisumu as well as in slums in Nairobi.

Responding to the tension, former US secretary of state John Kerry, an observer with the Carter Centre, expressed confidence in the electronic voting system and urged Kenyans "not to jump to conclusions".

"It is also going to be critical to the leaders of Kenya to step up and lead in the next days to give people confidence that this process is being worked carefully, thoughtfully and respectfully," Kerry said.

Aside from the alleged hacking, the opposition's main complaint was that results streaming in electronically had yet to be backed up by a scanned copy of the results from constituencies.

Chiloba gave an assurance that these forms were coming in and that candidates' teams were being given access to them.

The electoral commission has said the results on its public website should not be considered final until they have been cross-checked.

Raphael Tuju, secretary-general of Kenyatta's Jubilee party, urged the opposition to "look at the figures soberly" and accept the results.

Odinga urged his supporters to "remain calm as we look deep into this matter". But he added: "I don't control the people."

The heads of nine international observer missions released a joint statement calling on parties and their supporters to remain calm, and turn to the courts with their grievances.

"We appeal to all citizens of Kenya to remain committed to peace and the integrity of the electoral process," read the statement.

The contest between Odinga and Kenyatta was seen by pollsters as too close to call ahead of the vote.

It is the second time the two men have faced off in a presidential election, a dynastic rivalry that has lasted more than half a century since their fathers, Jomo Kenyatta and Jaramogi Odinga, went from allies in the struggle for independence to bitter rivals.

Kenyatta, 55, is credited with overseeing steady economic growth of above 5%. But food prices have soared under his watch, and several major corruption scandals broke out in his first term. (AFP 10-08-2017)

SUBMARINE CABLE LINKING ANGOLA AND BRAZIL TO BEGIN OPERATING IN JULY 2018

The fibre-optic undersea South Atlantic Cable System (SACS) that will link Luanda, Angola, to Fortaleza, Brazil, will begin operating in July 2018 and lower the costs of access to telecommunication services, the SACS project manager said on Wednesday.

The project, an initiative of the Ministry of Telecommunications and Information Technologies in partnership with the Angola Cables company, will make Angola the first country to establish a submarine cable connection between Africa and South America, with a length of 6200 km.

Project manager Clementino Fernando said that besides linking the two continents by sea, the SACS will help make Angola a telecommunications hub for the African continent, assuring an Africa/USA/Europe traffic route via the fibre-optic West Africa Cable System (WACS), which links eleven African and three European countries.

"Plans call for installation of the SACS to be completed in the first quarter of 2018. In June of that same year the Japanese group NEC will transfer the infrastructure to the managing entity Angola Cables," he added, cited by Angop news agency.

The submarine cable will be laid at depths of up to 7 km in the deep sea, avoiding damage that might result from shipping and marine resources, Fernando said.

The ceremonial initial laying of fibre-optic cable in water was carried out by Angolan Telecommunications and Information Technologies Minister José Carvalho da Rocha and witnessed by Science and Technologies Minister Cândida Teixeira and the Governor of Brazil's Ceará state, Camilo Santana.

Minister Carvalho da Rocha said on the occasion that the installation of this submarine cable will help attract investment to Angola, given the improved speed and quality of services that the infrastructure should provide to the telecoms sector. (10-08-2017)

CHINA'S GEZHOUBA GROUP CO. BUILDING ANGOLA'S BIGGEST HYDROELECTRIC DAM

The China Gezhouba Group Co. Ltd (CGGC) has been contracted to build the Caculo Cabaça hydroelectric complex on the Cuanza River in Cuanza Norte province, where the first stone was laid in place by the President of Angola on Friday, reports Xinhua news agency.

The group's deputy director, Ren Jianguo, said that the project is the biggest hydroelectric complex now being built by a Chinese firm in Africa. Plans call for it to be completed in 2023 and have an output of 2172 megawatts, 102 megawatts more than the Laúca Dam which officially opened last Friday, he added.

This project has an adjudication value of US\$4.5 billion and an execution deadline of 80 months. It will involve the contracting of more than 10,000 workers during the peak of construction.

The China Gezhouba Group Co. Ltd will also be in charge of maintaining the complex during a four-year period and training a group of technical personnel who will subsequently be responsible for operating the dam and the electric power production equipment.

China's ambassador in Angola, Cui Aimin, who witnessed the laying of the first stone, recalled that China is currently Angola's top trading partner and that Angola is China's second biggest on the African continent.

On Friday the Angolan President also officially launched the operation of the first of a set of six turbines at the Laúca hydroelectric complex, able to produce 334 megawatts.

That dam is 156 metres high and 1200 metres long, encompassing an area of 24,000 hectares, including the reservoir. It counts a main power station with six generator groups each able to produce 334 megawatts and a 65-megawatt ecological plant.

Laúca is located in Malanje province, on a section of the Cuanza River between the confluence of the Sevi and Catoco Rivers (border of Malanje and Cuanza Sul provinces). (07-08-2017)

RWANDAIR EXPANDS OPERATIONS WITH BENIN-RWANDA AGREEMENT



RwandAir has been granted the seventh freedom of the air by the Republic of Benin.

This privilege has allowed the airline to deploy two Boeing 737 aircraft in Cotonou. The operations at RwandAir's latest hub will commence in the near future.

"The launch of this hub will improve air transport on our continent because Rwandair will be able to reach more countries of West and Central Africa with better connections and more frequencies," shared Yvonne Manzi Makolo, Deputy Director General for Institutional of RwandAir, of the latest development.

The seventh freedom of the air means that RwandAir, the airline of the Republic of Rwanda, now has the right to operate outside its domestic headquarters. It also allows the airline to transport passengers or cargo without the attached duty of returning to their territory.

Apart from this privilege, both the governments of Rwanda and Benin agreed to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). This deal aims to ensure that a common airline between the two nations will be established. The said airline will be based in Cotonou, Benin.

"This will make Benin what we envisage in terms of civil aviation in order to make our platform a sub-regional hub. The airline will come to concretize the second part of our dream, benefiting from the Rwandan experience that will allow Benin to have its airline thus promoting the development of our

aviation and tourism,” disclosed His Excellency Hervé Hehomey, Minister Responsible for Transport and Infrastructures of Benin.

His Excellency Aurélien Agbenonci, the minister of foreign affairs of Benin, also shared the same sentiments. He stated, “I am pleased that our Rwandan brothers chose this day of the national holiday to celebrate with us this cooperation which will facilitate the establishment of the Benin – Rwandan airline by the end of the year.”

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Rwanda, His Excellency Louise Mushikiwabo, disclosed the government’s appreciation over the agreement and the potential positive effects they envision stemming from it in the future. He said:

“I wish to express on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Rwanda my deep appreciation to the Government of Benin for allowing this bold and serious economic initiative to take place; I am very pleased that the negotiations have resulted in a positive outcome for both countries.”

The joint airline of Rwanda and Benin is expected to handle passenger and freight lines to Conakry, Brazzaville, Dakar, Abidjan, Douala, Bamako, and Libreville. The operations of RwandAir between Kigali and Cotonou will continue as well. (05-08-2017)

BP GROUP HAS INVESTED US\$30 BILLION IN ANGOLA SINCE 1995

The BP group has invested at least US\$30 billion in Angola since 1995, BP Angola deputy director Hélder Silva said last week in Luanda, cited by Angop news agency.

Silva highlighted that the company had paid the Angolan state nearly US\$18 billion in taxes during that period. He made his comments at the official release of the company’s sustainability report.

BP Angola’s annual production has been 300,000 barrels, representing nearly 19 percent of the BP group’s global production. It is currently the main subsidiary with respect to contribution to the group’s net income.

The downturn in oil prices has caused the company to reduce its workforce by 25 percent, affecting Angolan and foreign workers and personnel with specific contracts, Silva said. It has also affected production, which this year should be around 207,000 barrels per day.

The BP group has been present in Angola since the 1970s. In the 1990s it acquired stakes in four deepwater blocs about 200 km northwest of Luanda.

In 2011 the group acquired other stakes in five new deepwater and ultra-deepwater blocs in the Cuanza and Benguela Basins south of the capital, making Angola one of the most important businesses in its portfolio. (07-08-2017)

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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