

MEMORANDUM

N° 140/2017 | 15/08/2017

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RAILA ODINGA CALLS SUPPORTERS TO GO ON STRIKE ON MONDAY

The loser in Kenya's presidential poll, Raila Odinga, has called on his supporters not to go to work on Monday, and to wait until he announces on Tuesday "the next step to follow."



"Do not go to work tomorrow (Monday). We have not lost yet. We will not give up. Wait till I tell you the next course of action, the day after tomorrow (Tuesday)," Raila Odinga said during a meeting held in the heart of the Kibera shanty town, one of his strongholds.

This was the first public statement of the Kenyan opposition leader, since Friday night when the Independent Electoral Commission declared outgoing president Uhuru Kenyatta winner of the election with 54.27 percent of vote against 44.74 percent for Raila Odinga.

Shortly after the announcement of the results, violence broke out in several popular neighbourhoods of Nairobi including Kibera, and in Kisumu County with people breaking into shops and clashing with the security forces, who reportedly fired live bullets.

According to reports on Sunday morning, 24 rioters have been killed, but the opposition is saying more than 100 people have been killed.

Shortly after he was announced the winner for a second term, President Kenyatta addressed the nation, and called his compatriots to return to work.

"We must team up, we must grow together, and we must make this country grow together. There is no need to resort to violence." (APA 13-08-2017)

KENYA ELECTIONS DEATH TOLL CONTINUES TO RISE

The atmosphere was still tense on Sunday in Kenya, where the violence which broke out since Friday evening, shortly after the official announcement of the results of the presidential election won by the outgoing president, Uhuru Kenyatta, has reportedly left 24 dead, according to an NGO.



The police said 11 have died in the post-poll violent protest, while the opposition said it deplores the death of at least 100 people at the hands of the security forces.

Most of deaths were recorded in the west of the country, in the county of Kisumu, and in Nairobi's popular districts of Mathiara and Kibera, where the opposition protests is particularly violent.

According to the Independent Electoral Commission, Uhuru Kenyatta polled with 54.27 per cent of the vote against 44.74 for Raila Odinga.

Reacting to the announcement of the re-election of Uhuru Kenyatta late on Friday, the inhabitants of these localities went on a looting spree, ransacking the businesses supposedly belonging to relatives and sympathizers of Kenyatta. In reaction, the police opened fire on the mob.

The Kenyan Human Rights Commission said at least 24 people died, most of them recorded in Nairobi, and called on the Home Affairs minister to stop the police firing on unarmed people.

"Kenyans have the right to express themselves by taking to the streets. But as citizens, they must respect the dignity of others, their lives and property. Similarly, the security forces have a mandate to protect life, property and human beings. They must contain the demonstrators, in accordance with the law and using reasonable force," Kagwiria Mbogori, chairman of the National Human Rights Commission said.

The country's National Council of Churches has called for restraint, while deploring a total of 18 deaths whereas the Supreme Council of Muslims, through its chairman, Sheikh Adan Wachu, lashed out at the police demanding them to stop shooting at the protesters.

Accusing the ruling party of a planned crackdown and poll rigging, the opposition said it is determined to continue the pressure for its candidate, Raila Odinga, to be proclaimed winner of the polls. (APA 13-08-2017)

KAGAME EXPLAINS ELECTION VICTORY MARGIN

Rwanda's President Paul Kagame has said his margin of victory in the 2017 presidential polls, winning by over 98 per cent, can be explained as part of the unique characteristics of Rwandan citizens.

Kagame was speaking on Saturday evening at a dinner hosted in celebration of the Umubano Project's ten years anniversary.

Umubano Project is a social action project that has been operating in the country in the areas of health, education, justice and private sector development, among others.

It was founded by former British prime minister David Cameron and former British International Development secretary Andrew Mitchell.

Speaking at the event, Kagame said following the recent elections, it has been questioned, mostly from outside the country, how a candidate could win a presidential election by almost 100 per cent.

This can be answered by understanding the uniqueness of the country, as well as the citizens' feelings about their governance.

Kagame won the 2017 presidential polls by 98.63 per cent of the 6.8 million votes.

"When the question becomes - in Rwanda how do you have somebody winning with almost 100 per cent. It is because Rwanda is different in that way. We are not special, but we are different.

"It happens in a way that respects everyone's views, and there are contexts that we have had to deal with that have not been our creation; they have happened and we have had to deal with them the best way we could," Kagame said.

He added that beyond the perceptions of outsiders, what matters most is that the wishes and desires of Rwandans was reflected in the outcome of the polls.

It shows that Rwandans are happy with the ongoing national building efforts; are also aware of challenges ahead, but are committed to work through them, he continued.

"The most important thing is that Rwandans said very loudly to everyone, and to themselves, that they are happy with what we are doing and what they are getting; they are aware that there are challenges to be dealt with, but we are united in that effort to get a better future."

He said the criticism often coming from outside the country is not a problem in the country's quest and efforts in social and economic development.

Rwandans are single-minded about their well-being and their progress, and will always do what is best for the nation without meaning to offend the critics, he continued.

“Yes, there has been criticism coming our way; it is not a big problem. We listen, we factor in what we have to do, and we learn lessons. But we can tell everyone that we are single-minded about our well-being given where we have come from and where we want to be; and we will always want to do our best for ourselves, and without meaning offence to anyone. We will take all the offence that can come our way,” Kagame added. (APA 13-08-2017)

NIGERIA: GROUP CALLS ON PRESIDENT BUHARI TO RESIGN

A coalition of civil society groups has demanded an end to President Muhammadu Buhari’s prolonged absence from office.



The group, which protested on Monday in Abuja marched from the Unity Fountain to the Presidential Villa in Asokoro district, promising to continue the exercise until their demands are met.

The protesters, which included popular Nigerian entertainer, Charley Boy, vowed to camp at Unity Fountain Abuja.

Buhari has since May 7, 2017, remained in London, where he is receiving treatment for an undisclosed ailment.

But in a swift reaction, the Presidency described the call by some protesters for ailing President Muhammadu Buhari to return to the country or resign as an irrational assault on the nation’s constitution.

The Senior Special Assistant to the President on Media and Publicity, Garba Shehu, said this in a statement on Monday in Abuja that all well-meaning members of the public should ignore the protesters, who he said over-stepped their bounds.

“I wish to respond to media enquiries following demonstration by a few citizens this morning in Abuja. The demonstration is in the exercise of their freedom under the constitution, which guarantees their right to embark on peaceful protests.

“So long as they remain peaceful, we have no problem with them. What is democracy if citizens can’t peacefully demonstrate?

“On the second issue, demanding the President’s return, or resignation or certain explanations, I would say that they have over-stepped their bounds.

According to him, the President has complied 100 percent with the constitution by handing over power to the Vice-President before proceeding on his vacation and that he has not breached any law or the constitution by staying away from office to take care of his health.

He added that there is nothing like a power vacuum in the country given the competence and general harmony with which the whole government is running and that any such calls as being made by this or any other group represent an irrational assault on the constitution and should be ignored by well-meaning members of the public. (APA 08-08-2017)

BUHARI WANTS TO RETURN HOME, WAITING FOR DOCTORS' RELEASE

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari is reported to be recuperating, and has said, "I feel I could go home, but the doctors are in charge. I've now learnt to obey orders, rather than be obeyed; I've learnt to obey my doctor's orders, rather than be the one issuing the orders. Here, the doctor is absolutely in charge."



According to Femi Adesina, special adviser to the president on Media and Publicity, Buhari wished to return home, but could only return to Nigeria based on his doctors' advice.

Buhari on Saturday at Abuja House in London received members of the presidential media team, and reassured them that there was tremendous improvement in his health.

This was announced in a statement issued in Abuja Nigeria on Saturday by Femi Adesina, who was with the team.

Other members of the team were Alhaji Lai Mohammed, Minister of Information and Culture, and Malam Garba Shehu, senior special assistant on Media and Publicity.

The team included Lauretta Onochie, personal assistant on Digital/Online Media and Abike Dabiri-Erewa, senior special assistant on Diaspora Matters.

Adesina quoted the president as saying that although he wished to return home, he could only return to Nigeria based on his doctors' advice.

"I've learnt to obey my doctor's orders, rather than be the one issuing the orders. Here, the doctor is absolutely in charge.

"I feel I could go home, but the doctors are in charge. I've now learnt to obey orders, rather than be obeyed," Buhari was quoted saying.

On how he felt hearing the speculation about his health, the president said he followed events at home closely, and lauded Nigerian television stations and the media for keeping him informed.

When told that prayers were going on for him, not only in Nigeria, but all over Africa and round the world, he said: "What we did in The Gambia early this year fetched us a lot of goodwill on the African continent. It gave us a lot of latitude. I thank all those who are praying. May God reward them."

President Buhari thanked all Nigerians, and expressed hope he would be with them soon.

Acting-President Yemi Osinbajo, state governors, the leadership of All Progressives Congress (APC) and some prominent Nigerians were among those who visited Buhari at the Abuja House in London in recent times. (APA 13-08-2017)

ETHIOPIA EARNS \$2.9BN FROM EXPORT PRODUCTS

Ethiopia fetched \$2.9 billion from export products in the concluded fiscal year, which is an increase by 1.7 percent compared to the preceding fiscal year, according to the country's Ministry of Trade on Tuesday.



However, the revenue fell short of the projected target, according to Gashaw Taddesse, Public Relations officer at the Ministry.

The plan was to earn \$4.75 billion US dollars, but the sector attained only 61.2 percent of its target, he told reporters.

Gashaw said the bulk of the revenue came from the export of agricultural products-coffee, oilseeds, cut flowers, vegetables, fruits, Kaht, dairy products, natural gum and incense.

The country also exported textiles, leather and leather products, chemicals, construction materials, molasses, tantalum, metals and electronic materials, he noted.

China, USA, the Netherlands, Germany, Saudi Arabia and Somalia were the markets for Ethiopia's export products. (APA 08-08-2017)

AFRICA OIL ANNOUNCE OIL DISCOVERY IN NORTHERN KENYA

Canadian firm Africa Oil announced on 17 May that the Emekuya-1 well in Block 13T, Northern Kenya has encountered approximately 75 m of net oil pay in two zones



Downhole pressure measurements and fluid samples suggest that the main oil reservoir is on the same static pressure gradient as the Etom-2 well which demonstrates that a major part of the Greater Etom structure is oil-filled. The reservoir sands encountered also appear to be extensive which further de-risks the northern play area and bodes well for future exploration in the region.

The rig will be moved to drill an up-dip appraisal well on the Etom structure. Tullow Oil plc operates blocks 13T and 10BB with 50 per cent equity and is partnered by Africa Oil and Maersk Olie og Gas A/S both with 25 per cent.

Emekuya-1 is located 2.5 km north of Etom-2 and had the objective of drilling a fault block on the flank of the Greater Etom structure. The well was drilled by the PR Marriott Rig-46 to a total measured depth of 1,356 metres and penetrated reservoir quality Miocene sandstones which correlate to those seen in the successful Etom-2 well.

Africa Oil CEO Keith Hill commented, "We are very pleased to continue our 100 per cent success rate in the current program as we continue to build resources to enhance our ongoing development program. (Oil Review Africa 18-05-2017)

BOTSWANA DIAMOND GIANT ASSISTS COMMUNITIES TO DIVERSIFY

De Beers Group of Companies has put measures in place to ensure that mining towns in Botswana do not turn into ghost towns following depletion of diamonds, APA learnt here Tuesday.



The diamond mining towns are Letlhakane, Orapa mines in central part of the country and Jwaneng mine is southern Botswana.

Debswana managing director Balisi Bonyongo told journalists here on Tuesday that through an Enterprise Development Programme, dubbed [Tokafala](#), small mining companies will be supported through business mentoring, advisory support and capacity building to access funding and markets.

Debswana is a 50/50 joint venture between De Beers and the Botswana government.

He said this will diversify the economies of mining towns as diamonds will not last forever.

Resident director of DeBeers Global Sightholder Sales, Neo Moroka said more than US\$4 million has so far been pumped into the programme since inception in 2014.

Moroka said the group made a deliberate effort to promote the growth of citizen companies by catalyzing the growth of small, medium and micro enterprises. (APA 08-08-2017)

ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES : « LE TOURISME TIRE DE PLUS EN PLUS LE TRAFIC ENTRE LA CHINE ET L'AFRIQUE »



Yared Berta, directeur régional d'Ethiopian Airlines en Chine

Avec 62 avions actuellement en commande, Ethiopian Airlines entend certes continuer à développer son réseau africain. Mais une partie de ces avions serviront également à soutenir son développement en Chine, où elle est présente depuis 1973, et où elle dispose désormais de 5 lignes vers Pékin, Shanghai, Chengdu, Canton et Hong-Kong.

[Engagée dans la dynamique des nouvelles routes chinoises de la soie](#), Ethiopian Airlines entend connecter hommes d'affaires, investisseurs, touristes chinois et africains grâce à son hub d'Addis-Abeba, et profiter des investissements croissants en Afrique, notamment dans les parcs industriels éthiopiens. Yared Berta, directeur régional de la compagnie en Chine répond depuis Pékin aux questions de *Jeune Afrique*.

Jeune Afrique : Vous avez lancé en mai dernier avec Chengdu votre 5e destination chinoise. Quelle est aujourd'hui celle qui marche le mieux ?

Yared Berta : [La Chine est notre plus gros marché](#) long-courrier en dehors de l'Afrique. Nous avons 35 vols passagers et 15 vols cargo par semaine à Shanghai, Canton et Hong-Kong. Toutes nos routes rencontrent du succès, y compris Chengdu lancée en mai dernier, avec 3 fréquences hebdomadaires. En termes de volume, c'est la ligne de Canton que nous opérons avec des 777, en quotidien, qui transporte le plus de passagers. Nous passons à 10 vols hebdomadaires en haute-saison. Grâce à un environnement propice aux affaires entre la Chine et l'Afrique, il existe encore un très gros potentiel

Prévoyez-vous de lancer prochainement de nouvelles dessertes ?

Nous lancerons prochainement une nouvelle desserte vers Shenzhen, que l'on peut considérer comme la Silicon Valley chinoise. Ce sera un réel défi pour nous, car Shenzhen se trouve à une très grande proximité de Hong-Kong et de Canton. Et on a vu dans le passé qu'il était parfois difficile de proposer des vols sur des destinations trop proches. Nous avons dû fermer Huangzhou, trop proche de Shanghai, par exemple.

Mais grâce à cet environnement propice aux affaires entre la Chine et l'Afrique, il existe encore un très gros potentiel pour développer le marché de l'aviation entre nos deux continents. L'année dernière, c'est plus de 700 000 personnes qui ont voyagé entre l'Afrique et la Chine. Nous nous basons sur un développement de notre trafic de 13% par an.

À ce rythme, vous pensez que vous pourriez opérer jusqu'à combien de lignes en Chine ?

Il y a une population d'1,4 milliard d'individus en Chine et d'un milliard en Afrique. [La connectivité entre la Chine et l'Afrique est en train de croître](#) considérablement. Cinq destinations, c'est donc très peu. Comme compagnie panafricaine, nous avons la responsabilité de mettre en place davantage de connectivité. Après Shenzhen, nous pourrions lancer à l'avenir Chongqing, à l'Ouest ou encore Zhengzhou au centre de la Chine ...

Après Shenzhen, nous pourrions lancer à l'avenir Chongqing, à l'Ouest ou encore Zhengzhou au centre de la Chine ...

Nous étudions comment le marché grandit et nous déployons ensuite nos routes, nous promouvons la Chine en Afrique et l'Afrique en Chine. Nous regardons les entreprises qui ont un intérêt en Afrique, la croissance qu'elles pourraient y obtenir et le trafic qui pourrait en découler pour nous. Mais nous voyons aussi quelles destinations pourraient intéresser les Africains, [dans quelle partie de la Chine ils pourraient faire des affaires](#).

On a pourtant l'impression en prenant votre vol Addis-Pékin que vous ne transportez que des voyageurs chinois ?

C'est que la nature des passagers n'est pas du tout la même entre le sud et le nord de la Chine. Pékin, Shanghai et Chengdu attirent surtout des voyageurs chinois, des hommes d'affaires, des investisseurs, des employés d'entreprises d'État ou de sociétés privées qui développent des projets d'infrastructures ou industriels en Afrique.

À Chengdu, le trafic est dopé par de grandes entreprises comme Dongfeng Electric Company, qui a plein de projets en Afrique et en Éthiopie. Plus de 260 entreprises du classement « Fortune » des 500 plus grandes entreprises mondiales ont ouvert une branche à Chengdu ou dans le Sichuan. De nombreuses machines-outils sont produites ici.

On note une hausse du nombre de programmes d'échanges entre universités africaines et chinoises

On note aussi une hausse du nombre de programmes d'échanges entre universités africaines et chinoises. La Southwestern Electronics and Technology University de Chengdu compte 750 étudiants africains. De nombreux étudiants chinois viennent faire du volontariat en Afrique. À l'inverse de Pékin et Shanghai, les vols vers Canton et Hong-Kong sont quant à eux surtout fréquentés par des commerçants africains.

Mais le trafic dont nous constatons aujourd'hui qu'il est en augmentation est tiré par le tourisme. Il y a une très forte demande en tourisme pour des destinations comme Le Caire, le Kilimandjaro, l'Afrique du Sud, le Kenya.

Comment comptez-vous vous préparer à l'afflux de touristes chinois en Afrique ?

Cela passe par la « customisation » de nos services, nous souhaitons être *chinese friendly*. Nous avons embauché une cinquantaine de Chinois dans nos équipages, disposons d'un centre d'appels en chinois, nous avons ouvert une plateforme d'achat sur l'application Wechat, très utilisée en Chine. Nous proposons de la cuisine chinoise à bord et avons ouvert un comptoir d'assistance à l'aéroport d'Addis.

Nous avons embauché une cinquantaine de Chinois dans nos équipages

Votre ligne Addis-Pékin est-elle plus rentable par exemple que votre ligne Addis-Lomé ?

Nous ne réfléchissons pas en termes de section Addis-Lomé ou Addis-Pékin. Nous sommes une compagnie de réseau. Nous calculons notre rentabilité en termes de Pékin-Lomé ou de Pékin-Nairobi, sur l'ensemble du trajet qu'utilisent nos voyageurs au travers de notre hub d'Addis. Nous desservons 56 destinations en Afrique. 30 à 50% de notre trafic s'arrête à Addis, le reste ne fait qu'y transiter. Actuellement, c'est l'ensemble de la route qui est rentable, ce qui nous permet de faire face aux pertes éventuelles. Car on a aussi le devoir d'opérer des dessertes non-rentables. (JA 08-08-2017)

MOZAMBICAN MINISTER DEMANDS POLICE STOP MISTREATING TOURISTS

Mozambique's Minister of the Interior, Basílio Monteiro, has said police must stop mistreating tourists as such practices are harmful to the country's image, APA can report. "We have registered many complaints from tourists about our agents' attitude, and must urgently rethink strategies aimed at ending these situations," Monteiro told a meeting of National Migration Service (SENAMI) staff, in Maputo on Tuesday.



According to the official, images of police extorting money from tourists or otherwise disturbing them have gone viral and generated a negative image of Mozambique as a tourist destination.

"These acts are often recorded using audiovisual means and then disseminated throughout the world with the speed that information and information technologies provide, creating an image that is unfavourable to the normal flow of tourists," the Mozambican Interior minister declared.

Monteiro added that agents of law and order who come in contact with tourists, should be guided by standards of good service and treat tourists courteously, always within the framework of Mozambican laws.

According to analysts, the corrupt practices of the traffic police is a vivid example of how widespread corruption has detrimental effects on the economy, increases costs, hinders growth and frightens foreign investors from engaging in business in the country.

Mozambique has a poor international reputation. It is a well-known hub for money laundering and is number 119 out of 175 countries on the most recent global Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI 2016) (APA 08-08-2017)

NEW HORIZONS FOR LIBYA'S HEALTH SECTOR

Six years of armed conflict and political instability have affected almost every part of Libya, claiming thousands of lives and leaving thousands more injured. Beyond the immediate casualties, the ongoing insecurity and violence has disrupted access to public utilities and services, with a dramatic impact on public health facilities.



According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) 2017 response plan for Libya, around 1.3 million people have limited access to health care services and resources. Forty-three out of 98 hospitals assessed by the WHO are either partially functional or not functional at all, due to an acute shortage of life-saving medicines, medical supplies and equipment, along with critical shortages of human resources. These shortages are more pronounced at the primary care level, says the WHO: *“As a consequence, referral and tertiary hospitals are overloaded with patients seeking help for common illnesses, and are unable to meet the demand.”*

This is the challenge that the EU is trying to meet, supporting Libya in its efforts to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of health service delivery across the country, with a series of ongoing programmes worth almost €15 million.

These programmes were at the heart of discussions held in Tunis on 5-6 April, as officials from Libya and the EU met to discuss improvements in primary and maternal child health care, psychological support services and mental health, and non-communicable disease management.

Doctors, specialists and medical students were given the chance to provide their opinion and discuss their vision through presentations about the challenges and proposed solutions to improve health delivery in Libya.

Primary health care, maternity and neonatal health

Salem Shenisheh, one of the young participants at the meeting, is a doctor, a PhD student and one of the beneficiaries of the EU's reform of the health sector, and in particular a four-year project to strengthen strategic planning, financing and management of health service delivery and human resources through targeted reforms.

“This project will help us improve our daily performance as doctors and increase our knowledge, which will be a rewarding thing for the whole society” said Dr. Shenisheh.

Shenisheh expressed his excitement at being a part of the project, saying it gave him the chance as a doctor and a student to participate in the process of raising the performance of the health sector. Through connecting different beneficiaries to the Ministry of Health, the project is able to set up priorities and put plans into action that will be implemented in the near future so that health services can reach all Libyan citizens.

Many lives could be saved by improving the quality of maternal and neonatal care and quality of services through a training of trainers, said Dr. Suhair Bek Derna, Chair of the Maternal Health Working Group of the Ministry of Health. And Dr. Muneera Aldughri, Head of Maternal and Child Health in the Primary Health Care Directorate, added that by focusing on the health of mothers and children, the number of deaths could be limited, and care improved in all other health sectors. *“We will be able to provide medicine and health products in primary health centres, improve the quality of services provided by doctors and nurses through the trainings and capacity building, in order to provide better quality services to Libyans”* said Aldughri.

Another of the projects, which is being implemented by the World Health Organisation, is strengthening the Health Information System and Medicines Supply Chain Management. This project aims to sustain

high quality health services in Libya. Through this project, the EU will rehabilitate warehouses that stock medicine across the country so that practitioners and patients can access medications in a timely fashion, according to Bettina Muscheidt, the Head of Delegation of the European Union to Libya.

Psychological support services and mental health

As for the psychological support services and mental health, Khaled Hamidi, executive manager of the Psychological Support Team NGO, explained the importance of giving more attention to the issue, highlighting the rise of armed conflict in Libya, which he says has harmed Libyans' psychological health.

In 2011, there were only 12 psychiatrists in all of Libya, according to Hamidi, and at a time when the country was going through a dramatic rise in violence, depression, post-traumatic stress disorders and trauma. In fact, this sector faces a huge shortage of facilities, medication and human resources. Approximately one percent or less of total health expenditure is targeted on this sector. Therefore, there is a call for action for a multi-sectoral approach for mental health and psycho-social support in Libya, according to Dr. Amjad Shagrani, focal point for Mental Health at the National Centre for Disease Control.

The role of the EU is crucial in supporting mental health and wellbeing to overcome these challenges. *"The conflict has brought with it trauma,"* said Bettina Muscheidt. *"And trauma can only be addressed by improving services on the side of mental health care and psycho-social care."*

Non-communicable disease management

In terms of non-communicable diseases, cancer is the third-leading killer in Libya with 6,000 cases diagnosed in 2016, according to Dr. Ismail Siala. A large factor in the prominence of cancer-related deaths is late diagnosis and lifestyle changes linked to limited physical activity and weight gain. The answer to the challenge lies in early detection and diagnosis, effective treatment, adherence to standards and protocols, and availability of cancer medicines. Nearly 45 percent of deaths in Libya are related to cardiovascular diseases. Therefore, by improving health services, there is a chance of a better quality of life.

As for EU support and ongoing projects, the overall objective is to improve the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of health service delivery in Libya.

"We, as EU, will make sure on our side that there is no health intervention in Libya happening outside of coordination mechanisms led by the Ministry of Health. As co-chair of the Health Sector Committee we will continue to strengthen coordination and pursue meaningful dialogue with our Libyan counterparts creating synergies between the different coordination platforms established in Tunisia and Libya." (EEAS 09-08-2017)

ASSETS OF ANGOLAN INSURANCE SECTOR TOP US\$1 BILLION

The assets of the Angolan insurance sector, with 26 licensed companies, surpass US\$1 billion, the head of the Insurance Regulation and Supervision Agency (Arseg) said on Tuesday in Luanda.

Aguinaldo Jaime said the sector had been experiencing a period of growth, adding that Arseg's concern was to make sure the growth was sustained, to thereby avoid risk for companies operating in the market and for consumers who use the sector to protect assets. He made his comments on the sidelines of a seminar focusing on challenges to the sector.

"It is necessary to guarantee operators' solvability because they are operating with the savings of private individuals. It is likewise important to guarantee that those who take on insurance to protect their lives and property are sufficiently protected," said Jaime, cited by Angop news agency.

Also on Tuesday, the president of Banco Sol formally presented Sol Seguros, an insurance company that will concentrate its activity in the Angolan market, offering “innovative solutions that meet real market needs and expectations.” (09-08-2017)

MAROC : LE PROJET D'USINE DE DESSALEMENT A AGADIR TRIPLE DE TAILLE



Dans l'usine-station de dessalement d'eau de mer de Boujdour, Maroc (Sahara occidental) en septembre 2006

La société espagnole Abengoa, spécialisée dans l'énergie, a annoncé dans un communiqué avoir signé un nouveau contrat de 309 millions d'euros avec le Maroc, plus important que le précédent signé en 2014, pour construire une usine de dessalement fournissant de l'eau potable pour la consommation et l'irrigation, dans la région d'Agadir.

Le Maroc et la société espagnole Abengoa, spécialisée dans l'énergie, [ont signé un nouveau contrat](#) pour la construction d'une usine de dessalement et le développement d'un projet d'irrigation dans la région d'Agadir. Le consortium mené par l'espagnol [Abengoa avait déjà remporté ce marché en 2014](#). Mais, le projet, qui prévoyait au départ la construction d'une station de dessalement d'eau de mer d'une capacité de production de 100 000 m³, a été revu à la hausse.

Consommation et irrigation

D'un coût de 309 millions d'euros, le projet comprend désormais la construction d'une usine d'une capacité initiale de 275 000 m³ d'eau par jour, qui pourra être étendue à 450 000 m³ par jour. Les infrastructures pourront être alimentées par l'énergie éolienne. L'eau sera utilisée pour la consommation, comme prévu en 2014, mais aussi pour l'irrigation, dans la région d'Agadir.

Dans le détail, 150 000 m³ par jour seront alloués à la fourniture d'eau potable, pour le compte de l'Office national de l'électricité et de l'eau potable. Les 125 000 m³ restant serviront à l'irrigation d'une surface de 13600 hectares, dans le cadre d'un projet soutenu par le Ministère de l'Agriculture.

Un contrat de concession de 27 ans

Selon le contrat, Abengoa assurera la construction, l'exploitation et l'entretien des infrastructures pour une durée de 27 ans. La société apportera également le financement, en partenariat avec le fonds marocain InfraMaroc, filiale de la Caisse de dépôt et de gestion.

Présent au Maroc depuis 1977, Abengoa possède des bureaux à Rabat et Casablanca. Le groupe a déjà développé des projets dans le royaume, comme la première centrale hybride d'Afrique, à la fois thermique et solaire, [située à Ain Beni Mathar](#). Il dispose d'une capacité installée totale de dessalement de 1,5 million de m³ par jour dans le monde. (JA 09-08-2017)

COBALT INTERNATIONAL ENERGY GROUP TRYING TO SELL OIL ASSETS IN ANGOLA

The American Cobalt International Energy group is negotiating with potential buyers of the two blocs it holds in Angolan pre-salt which are involved in an international arbitration process, states the document announcing the company's second quarter results.

The group also indicated that it hoped the conversations with potential buyers could help break the ongoing impasse with the state-owned Sociedade Nacional de Combustíveis de Angola (Sonangol) regarding the group's 40 percent stake in pre-salt blocs 20 and 21 in the Cuanza River Basin.

The arbitration tribunal is currently being constituted, the group reports, adding that during meetings with the Sonangol administration the parties announced their intention to resolve the existing dispute in a friendly manner. It arose when the Angolan state enterprise backed out of the agreed decision to pay US\$1.75 billion for the two stakes.

The group announced last May that it had attempted an arbitration action before the International Chamber of Commerce, demanding more than US\$2 billion from Sonangol for non-compliance of agreement.

The group argued at the time that cancellation of the agreement as well as uncertainty regarding the business meant it had been impossible to find a buyer for those two Angolan offshore oil holdings.

The two blocs' other partners, besides Cobalt International Energy with 40 percent, are the Angolan state enterprise and BP, with 30 percent each.

The group's second quarter 2017 accounts indicate the occurrence of a US\$186 million loss, compared to a US\$206 million loss in the same three-month period of 2016. (09-08-2017)

HILTON WORLDWIDE PLANS TO EXPAND IN EGYPT



Traders wear special vests for the Hilton IPO on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange

Hilton Worldwide ([HLT.N](https://www.hilton.com)) plans to nearly double the number of its hotels in Egypt within seven to 10 years as tourism returns to levels seen before a 2011 uprising, the company's deputy head for Egypt and North Africa said.

Tourism is one of Egypt's main sources of foreign currency and provides income for millions of Egyptians but it has suffered since the uprising scared some tourists away.

A plane crash in 2015 that killed 215 Russian visitors also led to some bans on flights to the Red Sea destination of Sharm al-Sheikh, squeezing the struggling industry further.

But Mohab Ghali, vice president of operations for Egypt and North Africa, expects occupancy rates to improve from last year, especially in Cairo and Alexandria, but also in Hurghada and Marsa Alam, helped by a devaluation of the currency making holidays cheaper.

"We're currently running 17 hotels in Egypt and we're planning to increase that number to 30 hotels in between seven and 10 years," Ghali told Reuters in an interview.

In 2010, before the uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak, 14 million tourists visited Egypt, bringing in some \$11 billion in revenues. The number of tourists has dropped since then, and stood at 9.3 million in 2015.

Ghali said Egypt held a special place for Hilton Worldwide, which is why none of its hotels shut even during the most difficult times.

"Egypt is a tourist destination ... It's not missing anything," he said.

"If things remain stable, within the next six months, in the 2018 winter season, we can see pre-2011 numbers returning, with more revenues now because of the devaluation."

The U.S. company, which runs thousands of hotels around the world, also plans to expand in Morocco and launch projects in Tunisia and Algeria in the next few years, he said.

"We run two hotels in Morocco and there are three others under construction. We're planning to get to 10 in the coming years," Ghali said.

"We will enter Tunisia with two or three hotels during the next five years, and we will have at least one hotel in Algeria within three years."

In Egypt, Ghali said Sharm al-Sheikh and Luxor were the tourist destinations that had suffered the most in recent years, though it was too early to assess the impact of last month's attack on tourists in Hurghada.

An Egyptian man with a knife killed two Germans and a Czech, and wounded four others in Hurghada in July, the first such attack on tourists since a similar stabbing in 2016.

"We already have the reservations until September, but of course we'll start seeing the impact, which I don't think will be major ... in the coming winter season," he said.

Egypt is fighting an insurgency against Islamist militants in the Sinai peninsula, where violence against security forces has become common since the ousting of Muslim Brotherhood President Mohamed Mursi in 2013.

Attacks in recent months have expanded to other parts of the country, targeting Coptic Christians, Egypt's largest minority, as well as the security forces. (Reuters '9-08-2017)

MANY KENYANS GO BACK TO WORK DESPITE OPPOSITION'S CALL TO STRIKE

Kenya's opposition called on people to stay away from work on Monday in protest at last week's declared election result, but response to the call was limited, with many businesses reopening after being closed during the tense election period.

Many shops opened again in the capital, Nairobi, and in the western town of Kisumu for the first time in days, and cars and buses were moving around on streets that had been deserted even before the result of the August 8 presidential election was announced.

In Kibera, Nairobi's biggest slum where opposition support is strong, minibuses and taxis were also plying their trade through the rubble-strewn streets, and some food stalls and phone and money outlets opened their doors.

But residents there said most people were observing the opposition's call to stay away from work in protest over the vote, which it says was rigged.

The election commission declared President Uhuru Kenyatta the winner by 1.4-million votes.

International observers said the vote was largely fair and a parallel tally by domestic monitors supported the outcome.

But protests erupted in opposition-supporting pockets of Nairobi and in Kisumu, where defeated opposition leader Raila Odinga has strong support.

Kenya is the economic motor of East Africa but most of its 45-million population rely on informal work to make ends meet.

Ken Nabwere, a Nairobi resident, said he had little choice but to return to work after days of inactivity, even though he supported the opposition National Super Alliance (Nasa) coalition, which called the strike.

"I was supposed to vote and [leave] the rest to the politicians because if I was to boycott work today those guys don't pay my bills," he said.

"I would advise others that unless you have permission from your boss, then you better go to work," he said.

"Nasa is not going to pay for our bills, I don't think it's a good move to tell people not to go to work actually ... we have been out of business for us for one week," said university lecturer Samuel Mukoma. "I think they should tell people, to go back to work and wait for their next move," he added.

Election commission figures showed Kenyatta won 54.3% of the vote, ahead of Odinga on 44.7%. Nearly 80% of the 19-million registered voters cast their ballots.

Though Odinga says the vote was fraudulent, his Nasa coalition has ruled out going to court and says it will announce its strategy on Tuesday.

A Kenyan human rights group said 24 people were shot dead by police in the violence. The police have put the number of dead at six and said those killed were armed criminals who attacked officers who were attempting to arrest them.

The Kenya Red Cross said on Saturday it had treated 93 injured people.

Many in the Kibera quarter of Nairobi were backing Nasa's strike call. "It's only a small portion of people who are working. People need food and money," said 32-year-old community health volunteer Thomas Ogoni.

Business activity had largely resumed in Kisumu, with some supermarkets open and motorcycle taxi operators out and about.

But opposition supporters said they remained determined to overturn the result.

"Even if we don't work for one or two months, no problem.

God will help our families survive, said Frederick Olando, a father of three in the western city of Kisumu. "We voted and we have to get our rights." Reuters (14-08-2017)

AFTER AN EASY ELECTION WIN, UHURU KENYATTA NOW FACES DAUNTING ECONOMIC ILLS

The Kenyan president will have to tackle falling growth, runaway government spending and an unemployment rate of about 40%

Winning a second disputed election may have been the easy part for Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta. Now he needs to tackle daunting economic challenges ranging from slackening growth and runaway government spending to an unemployment rate that tops 40%.

Kenyatta resoundingly won an August 8 rematch of a 2013 contest against former prime minister Raila Odinga, who alleged he was cheated of victory. Opposition protests largely fizzled out at the weekend after a security crackdown and Odinga's five-party coalition is still deciding whether they will challenge the results in court.

East Africa's largest economy boomed during most of Kenyatta's first term, expanding an average of 5.7% a year as it benefited from new road and rail links and lower fuel costs. Now a drought and slowing bank lending are taking their toll on growth and tax revenue, making it harder for the government to service the loans it took out to finance the new infrastructure and simultaneously meet a pledge to uplift the half of the population of 47-million who survive on less than \$2 a day.

"The immediate priority for the government will be to do more to support growth in the near-term, while still setting out a meaningful fiscal consolidation path," said Razia Khan, chief Africa economist at Standard Chartered in London. "The debt is sustainable, so long as there is growth. Weaker trend growth can very easily push the public debt to less sustainable levels."

The government forecasts GDP at 5.5% in 2017, down from 5.7% in 2016. The expansion rate eased to a three-year low of 4.7% in the first quarter.

Deepening debt

The ratio of public debt has burgeoned to about 54% of GDP, from less than 40% eight years ago, while the budget deficit exceeds 10% of GDP.

Kenya's economic expansion may come under further pressure because large parts of the economy ground to a halt during the election, which was marred by violence. The opposition said more than 100 people were killed by the security forces, while the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights put the death toll at 24. The police denied both claims.

The financial markets have shrugged off the prospect of ongoing turmoil, with the yield on Kenya's \$2bn Eurobond due 2024 falling 25 basis points to 6.34% since the day before the vote and the shilling remaining stable against the dollar. The country is the world's largest shipper of black tea and a regional hub for companies including Google and General Electric.

The rapid increase in Kenya's levels of indebtedness was "really worrying" and would weigh on Kenyan assets, especially if growth slowed more than expected, said John Ashbourne, Africa economist at Capital Economics in London.

'Less optimistic'

"I don't think that demand will dry up, or that investors would totally lose interest, but I do think the developing debt story will play a role in making people a bit less optimistic," he said.

While Odinga had pledged to cut the fiscal deficit to less than 3% of GDP, austerity did not feature in Kenyatta's election manifesto — he undertook to invest more in infrastructure, expand access to free healthcare and education and create 1.3-million more jobs a year.

The new government "will be faced with the dilemma of fulfilling election promises at a time when the fiscal deficit absolutely has to be reined in", Lisa Brown, a risk analyst at Rand Merchant Bank, said by e-mail. "With many debt repayments due over the next two years, there will be increasing scrutiny on Kenya in the bond and currency markets."

Khan said there were several options open to the government to shore up the economy, including reviewing a cap on commercial interest rates that was imposed in 2016 and had choked off lending. The ceiling was set at 400 basis points above the central bank's rate to lower borrowing costs, against the advice of the central bank and the treasury.

Mark Bohlund, Africa economist with Bloomberg Intelligence in London, said Kenyatta had the scope to backpedal on his spending plans given that he intended stepping down in 2022.

"Fiscal consolidation is very much more in line with the priorities of a second-term president than one seeking re-election," he said. "While Kenya is less fiscally constrained than peers such as Ghana and Zambia, the wide budget deficit still leaves it vulnerable to any economic downturn." (Bloomberg 14-08-2017)

RAILA ODINGA DEFIES PRESSURE TO CONCEDE DEFEAT IN KENYA

Kenyan opposition leader Raila Odinga on Sunday called for a strike to support his claim to the presidency and accused the ruling party of "spilling the blood of innocent people", despite growing pressure on him to concede election defeat.

The election commission on Friday declared incumbent Uhuru Kenyatta winner of the presidential poll by 1.4-million votes. International observers said Tuesday's election was largely fair but Odinga disputed the result, saying it was rigged, without providing evidence.

"Jubilee have spilt the blood of innocent people. Tomorrow there is no work," Odinga told a crowd of 4,000 cheering supporters, referring to the ruling party. He promised to announce a new strategy on Tuesday.

Senator James Orengo, one of Odinga's chief supporters, said the opposition would call for demonstrations.

"When we people call you to action, peaceful action, don't stay behind," Orengo told the crowd in Kibera, Nairobi's largest slum. He also called for a boycott of Nation television and newspapers, Kenya's largest independent media group, over their coverage of the election.

At the rally, Odinga made his first public speech since Thursday, and delivered the unequivocal message that he had no intention of renouncing his claim to be the winner of Tuesday's vote despite calls from the international community for him to concede.

There have been deadly clashes between police and civilians in his stronghold areas. Presidential spokesman Manóah Esipisu blamed the bloodshed on protesters.

"The violent protests are unlawful," he said on Sunday.

"The police will not tolerate breaches of the peace; instead, they will protect the lives and property of Kenyans; and they will restore law and order."

Reuters reporters have seen police repeatedly fire tear gas and bullets to disperse crowds of people in slums. Police have also detained and physically attacked journalists.

There have been at least 24 deaths in election-related unrest so far, a rights group said on Saturday, including that of a nine-year-old girl. The Kenya Red Cross said on Saturday it had treated 93 injured people.

By Sunday the violence had largely abated, to the relief of Kenyans who feared a repeat of the carnage that followed 2007's disputed election.

About 1,200 people were killed then and 600,000 displaced after Odinga called for political protests that sparked ethnic violence. Regional trade was paralysed and Kenya's economy — the region's biggest — took years to recover.

Some Odinga supporters are convinced that victory was stolen from them in the 2007 and 2013 polls, both marred by irregularities and problems. Odinga contested both, and lost, and his supporters say they will not back down this time.

"We are sick and tired of these people stealing the country from us. We need to split this country in two," said David Orwa, 44, his words hinting at the ethnic divide that underlies Kenyan politics.

Odinga is a Luo, an ethnic group from the west that has long felt neglected by the central government and excluded from power. Kenyatta is a Kikuyu, a tribe that has provided three out of Kenya's four presidents since independence in 1963. Diplomats and regional leaders are urging Odinga, a former political prisoner, to concede defeat. Their united stance leaves the 72-year-old opposition leader isolated if he chooses to maintain the allegations of election fraud and proclaim himself president.

"I want to congratulate Uhuru Kenyatta," said a Sunday statement by Federica Mogherini, foreign minister for the EU, which did more than \$3bn in trade with Kenya in 2016. Regional leaders have already congratulated Kenyatta.

"In line with the AU, the EU expects the opposition to respect the results and to use legal means available for appeals and complaints," Mogherini said.

A western diplomat said allies were not interested in revisiting the type of power-sharing deals that ended the postelection violence a decade ago. That avenue was "not an option", he said. "If you have evidence that the election was rigged, produce it ... Nasa has been changing its position in quite significant ways in the past week," he said, referring to Odinga's opposition coalition, the National Super Alliance. "Most of the stuff they are alleging is not accurate."

Initially, the coalition alleged the electoral commission's server had been hacked, and produced 50 pages of computer logs which security experts said were inconclusive at best.

It later said a secret source in the commission had passed it the true results. That two-page document was debunked by the commission, which pointed out basic mathematical errors.

Later, Odinga said paper forms from each polling station scanned and uploaded to the election commission website to support its electronic tally were fake. He has not produced alternative forms.

(Reuters 14-08-2017)

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.

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