MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION
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SUMMARY

EU INCREASES HUMANITARIAN AID BUDGET FOR EDUCATION OF CHILDREN IN EMERGENCIES

Access to education for children in emergency situations is among the top priorities for the EU in its humanitarian funding.

The European Commission has announced today it will further increase the part of humanitarian funding dedicated to getting children into education in crisis zones around the world. In 2018, 8% of the EU's humanitarian budget will go to education in emergencies, which is far above the global average of less than 3%.

"The EU is a global leader in supporting education in emergencies. Concretely this means giving children in some of the most difficult situations in the world an opportunity for the future. As I have travelled to many crises zones, from refugee camps to areas devastated by natural disasters, it is always clear that education is much more than a human right or a basic need. It is safety, dignity and a shield against radicalisation. By supporting education we are making the biggest investment we can in the future of the most vulnerable. We are investing in peace." said Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides** during a High Level Education Event, organised in the margins of the UN General Assembly 2017 in New York.

The EU's contribution in 2018 of over €86 million will support access to formal and non-formal education, including life skills and vocational training, recreational activities and psychosocial support for girls and boys in crisis areas around the world. Several EU projects will be focussed on girls; giving them access to education and helping them learn life and vocational skills. Children will also benefit from the provision of school materials and the creation of new learning spaces. Teachers and parents will also be supported and benefit from training.

Commissioner Stylianides has made education in emergencies a priority since the beginning of his mandate, continuing to increase the EU's financial support to education projects for children affected by crises every year since he took office. EU support allocated to education in emergencies went from 1% of its humanitarian budget in 2015 to 6% in 2017 and will eventually go to 8% in 2018. This aid has reached 4 million children and teachers in 50 countries between 2012-2016.

The EU's humanitarian aid will be channelled through non-governmental organisations, United Nations agencies and International Organisations to reach the most vulnerable.

Background

Today, some 75 million children living in crisis-affected countries and forced displacement lack access to quality education.

By the end of 2016, nearly 4 million boys and girls in 50 countries around the world have benefitted from these in Afghanistan, Armenia, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Lebanon, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Myanmar, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, Venezuela and Yemen.

EU-funded educational activities are tailored to take into account the different needs of children based on their age, gender and other specific circumstances.

In March 2017, the EU launched its largest ever humanitarian programme for education in emergencies. This €34 million Conditional Cash Transfer Programme will enable some 230, 000 refugee children to attend school in Turkey. (EC 20-09-2017)

Factsheet on Education in Emergencies

The European Commission's European civil protection and humanitarian aid

BUSINESS PEOPLE FROM BRAZIL INTERESTED IN ANGOLA MEET IN SÃO PAULO

Business people from Brazil interested in doing business in Angola are meeting on Wednesday in São Paulo for the launch session of the Brazil x Angola Business Programme, which includes a panel and several lectures, reported the Brazilian press.

The programme's organisers stressed that Angola has consistent economic growth and is located in one of the most dynamic regions of the world economy and that it has great potential to absorb industrial goods.

Businesswomen Patrícia Duarte and Kátia Teixeira recalled that Angola is already one of the three main destinations for Brazilian exports in the African continent and that the time has come to increase this relationship even more, namely in the construction of infrastructure and the sale of industrial and food products as well as cosmetics and clothing.

The most recent figures on trade between Angola and Brazil – for 2015 – showed that this year it fell to US$680 million compared to US$2.4 billion in the previous year.

Angolan state newspaper Jornal de Angola also reported that trade between the two countries amounted to US$1.440 billion, US$1.510 billion, US$1.200 billion and US$2 billion in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, respectively.

Between 2002 and 2008, trade increased more than 20-fold, from US$211 million to US$4.2 billion, making Angola one of Brazil's main partners in Africa.

Angola signed strategic partnership agreement with Brazil in 2014, which include, in addition to the support provided by the Brazilian federal government, the involvement of private Brazilian companies, including Petrobras and construction companies Odebrecht, which became the largest company in Angola, Camargo Correia, Queiróz Galvão and Andrade Gutierrez. (20-09-2017)

KENYA'S ELECTION RE-RUN MIGHT BE POSTPONED DUE TO TECHNICAL CONSTRAINTS

Kenya's electoral commission is considering a proposal to postpone the re-run of last month's annulled presidential election because of technical constraints, the authority's spokesman said.

OT-Morpho, a Paris-based company that provided two electronic systems for the ballot, wrote to Kenya's Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission on Monday to say it's unable to provide a new results-transmission system by October 17, when the vote is scheduled to take place.

The company may also be constrained by the Kenyan supreme court's detailed ruling on the annulment, which will be announced on Wednesday and may comment on technical issues, it said by e-mail.

"They asked for more time beyond the 17th," commission spokesperson Andrew Limo said in an e-mailed response to questions. "Discussions were on the possibility of increasing resources to achieve the deadline. The commission will shortly announce the way forward after considering scenarios and implications."

The supreme court nullified the outcome of the August 8 ballot, the first time a presidential-election result has been legally overturned in Africa, after finding the commission committed unspecified "irregularities and illegalities" and failed to conduct the vote in line with the constitution. The detailed judgment is expected to provide reasons for its decision, as well as possible remedies.

The Star, a Nairobi-based newspaper, reported on Tuesday that the commission will propose October 26 as the new vote date. Limo didn't comment on when the election might be held.

The country's main opposition alliance urged the French government to investigate Paris-based Safran and its relations with electoral officials who it alleged may have "acted in complicity and connived to undermine the will of the people of Kenya". Safran sold its digital-security unit in May to Advent International, owner of France-based Oberthur Technologies, which renamed the company OT-Morpho.

Last week, OT-Morpho said its systems weren't tampered with to rig the outcome of the vote and said accusations against the company were an attempt to shift blame for the failed election. An internal audit of OT-Morpho's results-transmission system used in the vote showed that there were no traces of any suspicious activity, the company said on Tuesday. (Bloomberg 19-09-2017)

SOVEREIGN FUND OF ANGOLA MAKES PROFIT OF US$44 MILLION IN 2016

The Sovereign Fund of Angola achieved a positive result of 7297 million kwanzas (US$44 million) in 2016, the first in its history, reversing the trend of consecutive losses recorded in the reports and accounts of the previous years, according to a a statement released in Luanda.

Since it was established in 2012 with a financial endowment of US$5 billion, this is the first positive result for the fund, which in that same year reported negative results of US$17.4 million, with the figure rising to US$23.6 million in 2013.

In 2014 losses increased to US$154.2 million, recording a slight decline the following year to US$134.8 million.

The statement underlines that the positive result achieved is the result of a “prudent investment policy and a positive return on investments in agriculture and infrastructure.”

Total FSDEA assets increased from US$4.75 billion in 2015 to US$4.99 billion in 2016, an increase of 5.0%, with 58% in sub-Saharan Africa, 10% in North America, 12% in Europe and 20% in the rest of the world.

The chairman of the Board of Directors, José Filomeno dos Santos, quoted in the statement, highlighted that the Sovereign Fund of Angola has achieved financial profitability in less than three years of activity, “despite the difficult investment climate seen internationally since 2013.”(20-09-2017)

WORLD BANK SLASHES GROWTH FORECAST FOR ‘FRAGILE’ SOUTH AFRICA

SA's top five exports per technology type have changed little over the past seven years, and only 7% of exports are high tech

The World Bank has halved its growth outlook for SA and has flagged dwindling productivity as a major threat to growth.

Speaking at the presentation of the World Bank's 10th edition of the SA Economic Update on Tuesday, Sebastien Dessus, the World Bank programme leader said the bank had revised growth down to 0.6% for 2017. In January, the World Bank forecast GDP growth of 1.1%.

The downward projection follows the technical recession from which the economy has since emerged, and the credit rating downgrades earlier in 2017.

The bank expected growth to improve to 1.1% in 2018, and 1.7% in 2019 on better commodity prices and stronger household spend.

"However, this recovery prospect will remain fragile unless SA succeeds in bending the curve of productivity," Dessus said.

At least for four years in a row GDP growth will be lower than population growth. Slow growth in 2016 and this year is likely to further prolong a trend of increasing poverty recorded between 2011 and 2015, the World Bank said.

World Bank SA country director Paul Noumba Um said SA's productivity growth had diverged from global trends and SA risked falling further behind its peers, with productivity having fallen 6% since 2007.

Growth has been dragged down by productivity losses, which had cost the economy 0.7% in foregone GDP growth annually since 2008. Private investment in research and development (R&D) has declined 40% in SA since 2008. "And that's very worrisome," Dessus said.

R&D in SA is concentrated in manufacturing.

The study found that SA had been lagging in total productivity levels relative to its Brics peers since 2000.

SA is also an outlier among its peers in terms of the share of young firms in the total, with the proportion of young firms well below other emerging markets. There has also been almost no export diversification over the last seven years, reflecting SA's inability to break into new markets with innovation.

SA's top five exports per technology type have changed little over the past seven years: only 7% of exports are high tech.

However, the bank's economists argue that SA has untapped potential for innovation. "We believe that SA has strong assets it can leverage to enhance its competitiveness and respond better to the aspirations of its people," Noumba Um said.

The World Bank said productivity gains in gold, social housing and machinery equipment would have the most significant effect on job creation. A 1% gain in productivity would increase demand for jobs by 0.2%-0.25% and real wages by 0.9%-1.8%, the study found.

The Bank's economists said that though SA had emerged from recession in the second quarter, this would not be sufficient to restore positive per capita growth, with the economic growth rate set to fall behind the rate of population growth for the four years to 2018.

This is likely to prolong the trend of increasing poverty recorded from 2011 to 2015, with the bank's research showing that only 20% of SA's population had not been in poverty at all in the past eight years, while 40% were chronically poor and a further 40% were the "transient" poor, going in and out of poverty since 2008.(BD 19-09-2017)

GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE CHANGES RATES OF EXCISE DUTY

Tax charged on motor vehicles in Mozambique that are over seven years old will increase under a proposed law approved on Tuesday by the Mozambican Council of Ministers, the Mozambican press reported.

According to the spokeswoman for the session and Deputy Minister of Culture, Ana Comoana, the taxes levied on importing new cars will be taxed under the proposed law amending the rates of excise duty (ICE).

The spokeswoman said that under the proposed law, import duties on goods will vary according to specific criteria such as their superfluity or luxury in the case of cars or their alcohol content, in the case of beverages.

The government’s aim, she added, is to stimulate new investment, promote the emergence of new industries, encourage consumption of local raw materials, broaden the tax base and thereby increase revenue for the state and create new jobs.

A document distributed at the end of the session noted, for example, that the draft law increases the import surcharge on Portland cement from 10.5% to 20%, from 0.0% to 20% on frozen horse mackerel, and charges on goods for the printing industry will fall from 20% to 7.5%.

Comoana said that to draft the bill the government consulted the representative associations of the agricultural, industrial and commercial sectors as well as the Association of Sellers and Importers/Exporters of the informal sector of Mozambique (Mukhero). (20-09-2017)

TANZANIAN PAPER SHUT DOWN FOR TWO YEARS FOR ‘INSULTING’ PRESIDENT JOHN MAGUFULI

An independent Tanzanian newspaper has been suspended for two years, a government spokesperson said on Tuesday, accusing the publication of sedition and endangering national security.

The critical Mwanahalisi newspaper was shut after publishing a letter on Monday from a reader containing "insults" against President John Magufuli and his government, said spokesperson Hassan Abbasi.

Abbasi said the paper had received several warnings. The daily has been shuttered on several occasions in the past — for three months in 2008 and then three years between 2012 and 2015.

The offending letter said that Magufuli "claims to be a patriot but questions the patriotism of anyone who opposes him. This is hypocritical".

Mocking Magufuli's regular calls for people to pray for him, the article asks if one should not rather pray for opposition legislator Tundu Lissu, who was shot and injured earlier in September. His party, Chadema, has accused the government of being involved in the attack.

Abbasi said the letter was the latest in a long line of violations of "ethics [and] principles of the journalistic profession by the publication of false, seditious articles that endanger national security".

"Government is suspending printing and publication of the Mwanahalisi newspaper for 24 months," Abbasi said.

The ban comes just three months after the weekly Mawio was suspended for two years for linking two former presidents to dubious mining contracts.

Since his October election Magufuli has shut down newspapers, banned opposition rallies, switched off live broadcasts of parliamentary sessions and used a draconian "cyber crimes" law to jail critics.

His government is also increasingly targeting the gay community.

"This suspension is absolutely excessive and is yet another example of the repression that is being experienced by Tanzanian media," said Clea Kahn-Sriber of Reporters Without Borders. (AFP 19-09-2017)

SENEGAL, FRANCE TO CO-HOST EDUCATION FINANCING CONFERENCE

Presidents Macky Sall of Senegal and Emmanuel Macron of France have announced that they will co-host a high-level event on education financing*.*

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) says it is delighted that the governments of Senegal and France will co-host its financing conference, which will take place on 8 February 2018 in Dakar, Senegal. The announcement of the co-hosting was made by Presidents Macky Sall of Senegal and Emmanuel Macron of France at a high-level event on education financing held at the United Nations, which was attended by UN Secretary General António Guterres, several heads of state and leaders on global education.

"The Global Partnership for Education has made substantial investments in education helping to get 72 million more children into primary school since 2002, including in Senegal," Macky Sall said*.*

"We are honoured to host the next GPE Financing Conference in Dakar and look forward to continuing our close partnership with GPE."

This is the first time a donor and developing country co-host a GPE financing conference, symbolizing the spirit of true partnership, which is the essence of GPE, according to a GPE press release distributed by APO.

Macron stressed that one of his top priorities is to invest in education.

"I call on the international community to join us in February 2018 in Dakar for the Global Partnership for Education Financing Conference, which France will co-host with Senegal," Macron declared.

"The financing conference of the Global Partnership for Education is an opportunity for a much-needed step change, allowing donors and developing countries to show their financial commitment to education," said Julia Gillard, GPE Board Chair. Gillard is a former Australian prime minister.

“Senegal and France jointly hosting the GPE financing conference demonstrates the determination of both governments to help GPE expand its support for strong and sustainable education systems in developing countries.”

The event in Dakar will bring together donor and developing country governments, the private sector, philanthropic foundations, civil society and international organizations to announce commitments to support education in developing countries.

“This is an exciting and pivotal moment for GPE and for global education,” said Alice Albright, GPE Chief Executive Officer.

“This financing conference will put GPE on track to become a US$2 billion-a-year operation by 2020. At that level, GPE can have a far greater impact on providing better quality education to the world's children.”

GPE's financing conference seeks to raise US$3.1 billion for 2018 through 2020 to support the education of 870 million children in 89 developing countries that are home to 78% of the world's out-of-school population.

Currently, 264 million children and youths around the world are not in school, and six out of ten children and youths, a total of 617 million, are in school, but not learning at the level they need so as to break the bonds of poverty, poor health and social disadvantage. Though the share of overseas development aid to education has declined over the last six years, leaders around the world are now recognizing the urgency of turning that trend around.

France has been a donor to GPE since 2005. With GPE support since 2006, Senegal has shown great progress raising its investment in education as a share of domestic spending to 24 percent.

“Both France and Senegal are ideally positioned to urge other countries across the globe to increase investments in education,*” Ms Gillard* added.

“We believe that will make for a successful and productive financing conference, and ultimately benefit hundreds of millions of children in some of the poorest countries around the world.*”*

Both France and Senegal are ideally positioned to urge other countries across the globe to increase investments in education,” Ms Gillard continued.

“We believe that will make for a successful and productive financing conference, and ultimately benefit hundreds of millions of children in some of the poorest countries around the world.” (APA 20-09-2017)

KENYA AIRWAYS TO LAUNCH DIRECT FLIGHTS TO NEW YORK IN 2018

Kenya Airways (KQ) is eyeing the American market and has earmarked New York as its first destination when it starts direct flights to the US next year.

KQ received regulatory approval last week to commence direct flights to the US. It also received a foreign air carrier permit earlier in the month from the United States Department of Transportation to fly through this route.

It hopes to move an estimated 60,000 passengers in its first year of operation via this route.

“We are currently focusing on New York due to the importance of point to point traffic with Nairobi. However, we are also studying other options on the US territory as we may expand our network in the

US in the near future," Kenya Airways (KQ) Commercial Director Vincent Coste said in an interview with Business Daily Africa. (Foot Print to Africa 14-09-2017)

TOURISM GROWTH IN AFRICA OPENS UP OPPORTUNITIES FOR MOZAMBIQUE AND OTHER PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

Tourism is growing significantly in Africa and Mozambique is one of the destinations that has benefited from the increase in the number of foreign tourists, according to figures released by the Euromonitor International consultancy.

The Euromonitor study shows that international arrivals to Africa are growing by 6.5% in 2017 so far, reaching 18.55 million, compared to 16.351 million in 2012, with the number of visitors continuing to grow sharply and expected to reach 25 million in 2022.

South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Mozambique, Cameroon, Mauritius and Tanzania accounted for 70% of international travel to sub-Saharan Africa, according to the study presented on the sidelines of the 41st Annual World Tourism Conference in Kigali , Rwanda.

The growth can be attributed, according to the consultancy, to better connections to the continent and the diversification of destinations and types of supply, within the various countries.

Tourism is a way for African countries to diversify their economic base, in addition to the extraction of natural resources, with countries such as Angola prioritising the development of the sector, which is important for increasing revenues and foreign currency income.

Developing and emerging countries are the "stars" of the 2017 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report recently published by the World Economic Forum, which concludes that most of them "have significantly improved their performance since 2015" when the previous edition was published.

According to surveys by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), India will be the destination with the most growth in leisure travel between 2016 and 2026, followed by Angola, Uganda, Brunei, Thailand, China, Myanmar, Oman, Mozambique and Vietnam.

The tourism competitiveness report also highlights the sector's great growth potential, in particular due to the expected growth of the world middle class by 2031 – an additional 3 billion people, most of them in China, India and emerging countries.

Mozambique is one of the countries with the best performance, eight places above 2015, in 122nd place.

"The strengths of Mozambican competitiveness for tourism and travel continue to be its natural resources and its very open visa policy. (…) Although there is still no natural attraction on the UNESCO World Heritage list, Mozambique has slightly increased its protected areas and has managed to improve knowledge of its extraordinary natural resources, from safari parks to beaches and virgin islands," it said.

According to the World Economic Forum, Mozambican tourism potential is largely untapped, and investments in infrastructure, human resources and health and hygiene conditions are needed, which would enhance the competitiveness of the sector and the economy in general.

Cabo Verde climbed three places to 83rd place, with higher scores on the "air transport infrastructure" criteria (43rd, with the 2nd highest density of airports in relation to the size of the population), "Environmental sustainability" (44) and "price competitiveness" (49).

The Cape Verdean Government's programme aims to be among the 30 most competitive countries in the world and among the five in Africa in terms of tourism by 2021.

Portugal is the best-placed Portuguese-speaking country in 14th place, one place above the 2015 list, followed by Brazil in 27th, which also rose one place. (18-09-2017)

HUGE TUNISIAN SOLAR PARK HOPES TO PROVIDE SAHARAN POWER TO EUROPE

Developer TuNur has applied to build a 4.5GW plant in the Sahara and pipe enough electricity via submarine cables to power two million European homes

An enormous solar park in the Sahara could soon be exporting electricity to Europe if Tunisia's government approves an energy company's request to build it.

The 4.5GW mega-project planned by TuNur would pipe electricity to Malta, Italy and France using submarine cables in the grandest energy export project since the abandoned Desertec initiative.

Kevin Sara, TuNur's chief executive said: "If European governments take the Paris accord seriously and want to meet the less than two degrees target for global warming, we need to start importing renewables."

"60% of Europe's primary energy is currently imported from Russia or the Middle East. Does the EU really want to be investing in infrastructure that lasts 50 years but which just enables more fossil fuel use?"

The EU is already considering awarding priority status to an underwater cable linking Tunisia with Italy, and TuNur expects construction work on a €5bn plant to begin by 2019 in southwest Tunisia.

"We would target delivering power to the European grid via Malta by 2021," Sara said. The following year, the first of two cables to Italy could be laid, with a French connection up and running by 2024, he added.

The resulting solar complex would sprawl over an area three times the size of Manhattan, harnessing the power of the Saharan sun with several towers up to 200m tall.

Hundreds of thousands of parabolic mirrors would reflect sunlight onto these towers, heating molten salts within them that would in turn broil water, generating enough steam to power turbines that could electrify 2m European homes.

Up to 20,000 jobs could be created by the private sector initiative, which unites the London-based solar developer Nur Energie with Tunisian and Maltese developers.

But Chafik Ben Rouine, a spokesman for the Tunisian Economic Observatory, questioned whether the mega-project's gold would match its glitter.

"Our biggest concern is with TuNur's credibility as their website says they only have experience with two small solar projects," he said. "We have big concerns about their capacity to deliver this project and their financial ability to leverage it."

Four years ago, the €400bn Desertec initiative imploded, leaving dreams of a Saharan power battery for Europe in the dust – and a lasting regional wariness.

"It seems that a familiar 'colonial' scheme is being rolled out in front of our eyes," said Hamza Hamouchene, War on Want's North Africa and West Asia officer.

"Projects like TuNur deny local people control and access to their land, rob them of resources and concentrate the value created in the hands of domestic and foreign predatory elites and private companies."

TuNur says that it agreed to lease the project's land from a local tribe which remains "extremely positive" about the project.

Water usage will be restricted to wastewater from a local date tree plantation that would not otherwise be recycled, Sara said. The company also remains willing to supply electricity within Tunisia, which is itself facing power shortages. (The Guardian 07-09-2017)

NIGERIA TAKES STEPS TO BLOCK SOURCES OF FUNDS FOR SECESSIONISTS

Nigeria is taking steps to block the sources of funds for the pro-secession group, which have been identified.

The major pro-secession group, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), had been proscribed by the five governors of the South East, the region which the secessionists are declaring independent.

Information and culture minister Lai Mohammed said on Tuesday that although the terrorists did not publish their funding sources, but ``we know the countries that are supporting IPOB''.

"We know the sources of their funding, though I am not at liberty to disclose them here.

"We are taking steps to block them and we are also taking a lot of diplomatic actions in respect of the countries that are supporting them," he said.

The Minister said that most of the countries supporting the group were doing so based on ignorance.

He said they had been hoodwinked to believing that "Nigeria is a country where Muslims persecute Christians" and a country where there is genocide.

"As we speak today, IPOB has written letters to many Governments outside Nigeria, international parliaments, sending fake and cloned videos claiming there is genocide in Nigeria.

The minister charged the international community not to adopt double standard in dealing with IPOB and to be more diligent before making any pronouncements.

He said what the countries would never accept in their territories, should not be condoned or encouraged in Nigeria.

The minister justified the actions of the military for declaring IPOB a terrorist group as well as its proscription by the South-East governors.

According to him, what the military has done is to catalogue all the activities of IPOB, which are not different from that of terrorists groups.
Mohammed noted that IPOB has set up a para-military organisation, a parallel military group, Biafra Secret Service and Biafra National Guard.

He said the group was attacking army installations and soldiers at check points and extorting money from innocent people. (APA 19-09-2017)

DANGOTE CEMENT SIGNALS START OF BIDDING WAR FOR SOUTH AFRICAN RIVAL

Nigerian materials company Dangote Cement has followed Canada's Fairfax Financial Holdings and AfriSam Group in making a takeover offer for PPC, South Africa's largest cement maker.
Lagos-based Dangote has told the Nigerian stock exchange that it would like to buy PPC's entire share capital. It added, however, that it was still at the "the preliminary stage" of any deal.

PPC's deal with AfriSam is the revival of a merger that was first discussed in 2014. That deal was called off in 2015 over valuation disputes, but PPC made a statement in February that a "friendly" takeover was back on the agenda. Both companies are seeking to build up their balance sheet to compete in the fiercely competitive continental African market.

A “Transformers”-based advert for PPC

The company’s board made a statement last Thursday, saying: “The independent board of PPC is considering the indicative proposal and will make a further announcement in due course.”

PPC’s and AfriSam’s largest shareholder, the Public Investment Corporation, supports the deal with AfriSam and Fairfax, Bloomberg reports.

LafargeHolcim, the world’s biggest cement maker, is also said to be monitoring the situation, according to unnamed Bloomberg sources.

Dangote Cement is Africa’s eighth largest company with operations in 15 countries employing more than 14,000 people. Turnover is around $2.5bn a year, and its owner, Aliko Dangote, is reportedly Africa’s richest man.

PPC, formerly Pretoria Portland Cement, has 11 factories in South Africa, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Rwanda and Zimbabwe.(GCR 18-09-2017)

BOTSWANA, MAURITIUS, NAMIBIA FAIL TO BREAK INTO TOP 10 AFRICA INVESTMENT DESTINATIONS

Botswana, Namibia and Mauritius have missed out on the list of top 10 best investment destinations in Africa in 2018 but are seen as “investment grade” economies, according to a new report by South African-based Rand Merchant Bank.

The report, titled “Where to Invest in Africa 2018”, showed that Egypt has now replaced South Africa as the best investment destination on the continent.

South Africa lost its traditional spot at the top of the investment rankings. South Africa has ranked in the number one position for the past six years.

Surprisingly one of the biggest economies in Africa, Nigeria did not make it in the top 10 and was relegated to 13th spot.

Although Namibia, Botswana and Mauritius have consistently ranked in the top 20 of the RMB Where to Invest in Africa index, their inability to reach the top 10 is mostly due to the restricted size of their domestic markets.

Rand Merchant Bank said its Where to Invest in Africa 2018 Investment Attractiveness Index balances economic activity against the relative ease of doing business and the impact of the 2016 economic slump.

Commenting on the report, RMB Africa analyst and index co-author Celeste Fauconnier said over the past three years, some African governments have had to implement deep and painful budget cuts, allow multiple currency devaluations and adopt hawkish monetary policy stances – all as a result of a significant drop in traditional revenues. (APA 19-09-2017)

CHINESE COMPANY GRANTED RIGHTS TO OPERATE STRATEGIC MUSINA-MAKHADO ZONE

Trade and industry minister Rob Davies has approved the appointment of a Chinese company to operate the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ), a specialised energy and metallurgical district.

The company is South African Energy Metallurgical Base, a subsidiary of a Chinese conglomerate Shenzhen Hoi Mor Resources Holding Company. It is now authorised to develop, operate and manage the zone within the framework of the SEZ Act.

"The Musina-Makhado SEZ is strategically located close to the main land-based trade route between SA and the … African continent. This new development will certainly improve rail and road transport links between SA and the rest of the continent," Davies said on Monday.

He also said the SEZ had a least eight projects in the pipeline worth more than R40bn, including a power plant, steel plant, stainless steel plant, coking plant, ferrochrome plant, ferromanganese plant, ferrosilicon plant, pig iron metallurgy plant, and lime facility.

Davies said the projects would be implemented over the next 10 years and were expected to create more than 21,000 jobs.

He said the Musina-Makhado SEZ was designated in July 2016 to focus on energy and metallurgical processing, agro-processing, petrochemical and logistics. It was expected to accelerate economic growth, attract foreign and domestic direct investment, and enhance minerals beneficiation, creating employment in the region.(BD 18-09-2017)

S/AFRICA LOSES TOP INVESTMENT IN AFRICA RANKING - REPORT

South Africa has lost its long-standing top spot regarding investments in Africa, according to Rand Merchant Bank’s latest “Where to Invest in Africa” report for 2018, APA learnt on Tuesday.

This is the first time that South Africa has fell from grace since the report was initiated seven years ago, the report said.

Nigeria, on the other hand, has for the first time not featured in the Top 10 list due to the erosion of its short-term investment appeal by recessionary conditions, according to the report.

The report focuses on the main sources of dollar revenues in Africa, which allows it to measure the most important income generators and identify investment opportunities.

Egypt displaced South Africa largely because of its superior economic activity score, while South Africa has shown sluggish growth rates, which have deteriorated markedly over the past seven years.

While the report found that South Africa also faces mounting concerns over issues of institutional strength and governance, some things still count in the country's favour.

These included the rand currency, equity and capital markets, which the report pointed out were still "a cut above the rest" compared to many other African nations facing liquidity constraints.

The 2018 report also balances economic activity against the relative ease of doing business.(APA 19-09-207)

SIEMENS COLLABORATION WITH UGANDA IS PROGRESSING POSITIVELY

Siemens has made positive strides in collaboration with the Ugandan government and key stakeholders to identify opportunities to support some of the country's immediate and long-term energy and infrastructure ambitions

Sabine DallOmo, CEO of Siemens, Southern Africa

Speaking today on the opening panel at Future Energy Uganda, Sabine Dall'Omo, CEO of Siemens Southern and Eastern Africa commented that since the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding in May this year at the World Economic Forum in South Africa, there has been significant progress to pinpoint areas of collaboration.

"At a high-level we have identified priority activities to strengthen the transmission grid and create innovative business-driven solutions that are practical, affordable, reliable and sustainable to electrify Uganda's rural households," said Dall'Omo.

Uganda has one of the lowest electricity access rates by global and regional standards, with national access to grid electricity of less than 22 per cent and only 7 per cent of the rural population is currently electrified. Increasing electrification is a major drive to achieve national social and economic development objectives under Vision 2040.

The country has embarked on a massive grid expansion plan and according to the Electricity Regulator Authority, Uganda will require approximately US$2.5bn by 2026 to invest in both the transmission and distribution system.

"We know that a reliable and extensive power supply system is the fundamental pre-requisite for economic growth, while infrastructure and oil sector investments are likely to support growth in Uganda over the medium term. The potential exists for Uganda to diversify its economy and create opportunities for industrialisation that will increase electricity demand, create sustainable revenue streams and opportunities for job creation," added Dall'Omo.

Uganda's energy mix is currently generated from three main sources; hydro power contributing the bulk at close to 80 per cent while thermal (+/-22 per cent) and biomass (+/-3 per cent) contribute the balance. The country has the potential of generating power from other renewable sources like peat, solar PV, bagasse cogeneration, wind and natural gas, all of which can be supported by Siemens technologies.

The energy system worldwide is dramatically changing and becoming more agile. It is more open, transparent, adaptable, manageable, and lean systems, structures and strategies enable utilities to stay ahead of the challenges. Siemens is able to bring tried and tested technologies and years as a global leader in the field of energy and building management, we deliver end-to-end energy management – from consulting and planning to installation, software, services and financing.

The country has in recent years implemented the regulatory framework to boost private sector participation and investment in the generation and distribution space. Gaining access to low interest rate finance and deploying the best innovative and reliable technologies remain critical to sustainable infrastructure development.

Siemens is a company that invests for the long term and is optimistic about the long-term fundamentals of the Ugandan market. “We want to support sustainable development – with solutions and projects in Africa, for Africa and are actively reviewing the requirements for the organization to open an office in Uganda taking into consideration (BD 14-09-2017)

UK INVESTORS IRKED BY BUREAUCRACY IN UGANDA

Investors from the United Kingdom have told Uganda’s speaker of parliament Rebecca Kadaga that they face frustration due to bureaucracy and corruption as they seek to start up business in the country.

According to a Uganda parliament statement, this was revealed by Lord Dolar Popat from the House of Lords while hosting the Speaker in London on Monday.

Lord Popat is currently the British Prime Minister’s trade envoy for Rwanda and Uganda following his appointment in January 2016.

He said that Africa is endowed with all the natural resources in the world and the British investors are keen to focus more in the areas of trade and investment but expressed concern with the slow pace of doing business in Uganda.

“The only way we can create employment for the 70,000 graduates every year is through trade and investment. However, things in Uganda are still tough and people get frustrated and leave,” he said.

He cited an example of Rwanda that exploited the gap of the air route to London and started flights between Kigali and the UK following the exit of British Airways.

“When I met President Kagame and told him about this availability,in a few weeks, they bought two planes which are now flying this route. In Uganda, we have been talking of an airline for years. We have a problem; things get delayed,” he added.

Uganda’s Speaker said that she would take up the issue with the responsible ministries and address the problems that investors face in trying to start business in Uganda acknowledging that bureaucracy and corruption has to be tackled head-on.

“I met two investors at the Uganda-UK Convention who have been trying to get into Uganda for 10 years but have been frustrated. We shall see how to work on these matters,” Kadaga said.

Kadaga added that Uganda is interested in more investment that would create employment and not let the country continue being a market for imported products.

She however, called for fairness in the investment regime especially when it comes to the contracts that the foreign companies sign.

“On top of employing persons from their countries of origin,they decide to import everything and not buy any local products. How can a company like Tullow Oil import beef and tomatoes from Brazil and South Africa respectively,” she wondered.

The Speaker asked Lord Popat to urge the British government to ease the process of securing visas to the UK citing the high costs and long processing times.

“The cost has risen to over 200 pounds whether you get the visa or not. The conditions are not fair. We need equity. If you reject the application, refund the money,” she said adding that ‘when you apply for the visa, you have to wait for your passport for over a month making you a prisoner in your own country.’

Lord Popat said that he will push for a 48-hour turn around for business visas like has been done for Rwanda. (APA 19-09-2017)

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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