

# MEMORANDUM

N°163/2016 | 23/08/2016

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## SUMMARY

African health ministers agree to act on 14-year global strategy	Page 2
Spain's CaixaBank opens credit line for Angola	Page 2
Price of raw materials leads to closure of companies in Mozambique	Page 2
Cameroon to introduce new measures to reduce prison overcrowding	Page 3
Gambia expands seaport by 18,000m to accommodate cargo	Page 4
Ethiopia: US announces nearly \$35m additional humanitarian assistance	Page 4
Germany provides €1.2m for food security in drought-hit Mozambique	Page 4
Tanzania mulls over increasing fuel import to lower prices	Page 5
Sitarail to upgrade Abidjan - Kaya railway	Page 5
Tanzania to ban plastic bags early next year	Page 6
Mozambican companies may pay their Chinese suppliers directly in renminbi	Page 7
Discorde autour de l'accord commercial UE-Afrique de l'Est	Page 7
Moody's warns that Mozambique is a credit risk	Page 8
Cameroon injects over CFA9bn into agric research	Page 9
Facebook celebrates Africa's young creatives	Page 9
WHO endorses new Africa strategy to end malaria	Page 10
Angola certifies over 10,000 SMEs in 2016	Page 11
Nigeria: Inactive telephone lines on the rise in 2016	Page 11

## **AFRICAN HEALTH MINISTERS AGREE TO ACT ON 14-YEAR GLOBAL STRATEGY**

African ministers of health have agreed to step up actions to implement a global strategy on women's, children's and adolescents' health over the coming 14 years.

The ministers from 47 African nations announced their consent on the new strategy during the 66th WHO Regional Committee for Africa meeting underway at the UNECA in Addis Ababa.

The ministers committed to ensure the implementation of the strategy in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) along each country's health development plan and goals.

"This strategy aims to ensure that women, children and adolescents not only stay alive but also thrive and live transformed lives free of extreme poverty and other disabling situation," said WHO Regional Director for Africa, Dr. Matshidiso Moeti while addressing the gathering.

"The global strategy provides on opportunities to countries to back with action previous commitments and resolutions and step up towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)."

She added: "it is imperative that member states move to action and build strong partnerships across and within sectors."

The global strategy focuses on some areas that were previously neglected including adolescents' health, equity and universality. It also applies a multi-spectral approach, working with core sectors such as nutrition, education, water and sanitation, according to the director.

The global strategy calls for the government ownership and leadership of programs and initiatives including ensuring that women's, children's and adolescents' issues are prioritized in national development and political agenda.

The global strategy proposes that countries need to reduce maternal mortality to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births and newborn and under-five mortality to less than 12 and 25 per 100 live births, respectively, by 2030.

The strategy envisions that by 2030, every woman, child and adolescent in every setting realizes their rights to physical and mental health and well being. (APA 20-08-2016)

## **SPAIN'S CAIXABANK OPENS CREDIT LINE FOR ANGOLA**

Angola will have access to a credit line of 400 million euros opened by Spanish bank CaixaBank, pursuant to an order of the President of Angola approving the financing framework agreement.

The order quoted by Portuguese news agency Lusa said granting of the credit line is justified by the need to "diversify sources of funding to cover public investment projects for economic and social development", taking into account the financial crisis brought on by the drop in oil revenues.

This credit line with CaixaBank, about which the presidential order provided no details beyond the value, is also justified by the need to implement projects under the Public Investment Programme and "other national interests." (22-08-2016)

## **PRICE OF RAW MATERIALS LEADS TO CLOSURE OF COMPANIES IN MOZAMBIQUE**

Three mining companies have closed in Nampula province, northern Mozambique, due to the economic and financial crisis facing the country and the drop in the price of minerals on the international market, said the provincial director of the sector.

Olavo Daniasse, provincial director of Mineral Resources and Energy of Nampula, said a fourth mining company will reduce activity from September, with all of them arguing that production costs continue to grow and sales are not offsetting that.

One of the mining companies which has closed is Indian-owned Damodar Ferro Lda, and there are others struggling, including China's Hayiu Mining Company, which despite being in a difficult situation has not yet announced the dismissal of workers, according to the Mozambican press.

Further south, in Zambezia province, the economic and financial crisis and political and military tension led to the closure of 88 companies in Zambezia province and the consequent dismissal of 319 workers. Eugénio Selemene, of the Provincial of the Organization of Mozambican Workers Secretariat, told the Morning News, Maputo, that the sectors most affected by the redundancies are construction, industry, trade, bakery and transport, mainly in the districts of Quelimane, Mocuba, Milange Gurué and Alto Molócuè, regions that have some economic activity.

In the neighboring province of Tete workers have been dismissed in much larger number, about 4,000, but for reasons linked to the fall in the price of coal, the main product exported to international markets. Vale Moçambique, a subsidiary of Brazilian group Vale, was the company that fired most Mozambican workers, with 2,348 of the 3,937 jobs lost.

In the same period the company fired 520 foreign workers, of a total of 535 involved in coal mining throughout the province, according to the head of the Department of Mineral Resources of the Tete Provincial Directorate of Mineral and Energy Resources, Protásio Aurelius. (22-08-2016)

## **CAMEROON TO INTRODUCE NEW MEASURES TO REDUCE PRISON OVERCROWDING**

Cameroonian to introduce new measures aimed at reducing prison overcrowding, reports said on Saturday.

This is to be materialized at the end of the annual meeting of heads of courts of appeal and regional delegates of prison administration which opened on Thursday in Yaounde, the capital, to define fines and other alternatives.

The new legal provisions stipulate that fines and imprisonment can be mitigated through community service and restorative sanctions for offenses punishable by less than 2 years imprisonment or a fine.

Alternative sentences will be enforceable in favor of a public legal person, or a public legal person in charge of public service mission or a body certifying to implement community service, after the guilty verdict and prior consent of the accused.

For the Minister of Justice, Laurent Eso, the adoption of alternative sentences reflects authorities' concern to reduce as far as possible, the ruling of short jail sentences or fines likely, too, to cause short stays in prison following the practice of arrest and detention, consecutive to non-payment of fines by defendants sentenced to that penalty.

In September 2015, the Government indicated that the country's prisons housed 26,702 inmates with an installed capacity for 17,000.

According to the 2014 report of the Ministry of Justice on the State of Human Rights in Cameroon, published last October, the mapping which ensures the prison status stated that, out of the 25,908 prisoners, 15,853 were on remand and the rest were presented as convicted persons. (APA 20-08-2016)

## **GAMBIA EXPANDS SEAPORT BY 18,000M TO ACCOMMODATE CARGO**

Gambia Ports Authority (GPA) has expanded its container storage space by 18,000 square meters to accommodate the increasing cargo shipped to the port, GPA confirmed in a report seen by APA on Saturday.

According to the report, the move is aimed at improving the capacity and efficiency of the Port of Banjul; transform it into one of the best in the sub-region.

It said, the new Container Terminal was constructed at a tune of about \$5 million by Guangxi Construction Company.

The expansion of the Port's Container Terminal was necessitated by the increasing global trend for the use of maritime containers for the transportation of goods.

GPA's 2014 audited activity report also indicated, that imports which constitute about 73 percent of throughput, are dominated by traditional commodities such as cement, rice and containerised goods. "PORO vehicles also contribute significant percentage of the import figure", the report stated.

It said containerized cargo of manufactured goods, textiles and food stuff including bulk rice, sugar and flour accounts for about 72 percent of the import figure.(APA 20-08-2016)

## **ETHIOPIA: US ANNOUNCES NEARLY \$35M ADDITIONAL HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

The United States announced nearly \$35 million additional humanitarian assistance to drought affected people in Ethiopia where more than 10 million people are affected by the El-Nino induced drought. In a statement it released on Saturday, US embassy in Addis Ababa said the funding include more than 6,000 metric tons of supplementary and therapeutic foods to help an estimated one million malnourished people mainly in Afar and Somalia states of the country.

The new funding will also be used to increase access to safe water and sanitation facilities and promote hygienic practices to drought-affected communities, the statement

With this round of funding, the United States is providing nearly \$774 million since 2015 in humanitarian assistance and continues to be the single largest humanitarian donor to the people of Ethiopia.

USAID's Mission Director in Ethiopia Leslie Reed said with this year's theme being One Humanity, USAID stands in solidarity with the people of Ethiopia, to help them mitigate the worst impacts of the drought.

Mobilizing a robust and coordinated global response will be critical to protect the country's development gains and ensure early recovery, the director added.(APA 20-08-2016)

## **GERMANY PROVIDES €1.2M FOR FOOD SECURITY IN DROUGHT-HIT MOZAMBIQUE**



The German Government has provided €1.2 million to support to families affected by drought in the southern Mozambique province of Inhambane, APA can report on Saturday.

A media statement from the Germany embassy in Maputo says the amount will be managed by two non-governmental organizations, including CARE and Welthungerhilfe (German Agro Action), which have expressed interest to support to victims of drought in the country.

"The German Government has made available to CARE and Welthungerhilfe 700,000 euros and 500,000 euros, respectively, to support the neediest families in Inhambane province," reads the press release.

In Mozambique, it is estimated that 1.4 million people are in a state of food insecurity and 43 percent of children suffer from chronic malnutrition.

In addition to the Inhambane province, also in the south, the provinces of Gaza and Maputo are affected by drought and in the center, Zambezia, Sofala, Manica and Tete.

"People have no possibility to reserve savings for difficult times or to prepare to deal with climate change. In this, the German government also supports projects aimed at better responding to climate change," the statement said.

Mozambique is not the only country in Africa that is being affected by drought.

East Africa, as well as southern, of which Mozambique is part, have been affected by drought caused by an El Niño weather pattern.

This natural phenomenon is considered one of the worst of the last 35 years, leaving 40 million people in the world in food insecurity conditions. (APA 20-08-2016)

## **TANZANIA MULLS OVER INCREASING FUEL IMPORT TO LOWER PRICES**

Tanzania's Minister for Energy and Minerals, Sospeter Muhongo says it is planning to reduce the price of fuel in the country which has remained high due to having few companies importing the product, reports said on Sunday.

He said that the only solution is for the government to increase the number of companies importing oil in Tanzania.

Muhongo explained that despite purchasing oil in the same market with other countries at the same price, price of oil in Tanzania has proved to be high compared to neighboring countries

He explained that the country has been facing the problem because there are few companies importing the product thereby reducing the competition and therefore increases the price.

In view of this, he underscored the fact that the government hired experts to find out the problem and solution.

"We only have four companies importing oil in the country, and if the price has to go down, we need more companies," he said.

Muhongo said that, his government is in the process of awarding oil importing licenses to more companies to increase competition and eventually reduce the price of oil.

Tanzania will be adversely affected in case of shortage of oil in the world market, therefore the government needs to put up an oil reservoirs which can be on standby to help the country during oil crisis period.(APA 21-08-2016)

## SITARAIL TO UPGRADE ABIDJAN - KAYA RAILWAY



The governments of Ivory Coast and Burkina Faso have signed a revised operating concession with Sitarail, part of the Bolloré Group, to include responsibility for the infrastructure of the 1260km railway linking the two countries.

The agreement was signed during the first visit to Ivory Coast by the president of Burkina Faso, Mr Roch Marc Christian Kaboré. Sitarail has operated the railway for the last 22 years and will now become responsible for maintaining and renewing the infrastructure including stations and workshops. A key element of this will be a €400m project to completely refurbish an 852km section to increase capacity and line speeds. Work will start in September and is expected to take five years to complete.

The metre-gauge railway runs from Abidjan in Ivory Coast via Ouagadougou to Kaya in Burkina Faso and has 59 stations. The line carries around 180,000 passengers and 900,000 tonnes of freight a year comprising mainly fuel, containers, fertilizer, cotton, local produce and cement. Once the line has been upgraded it should be able to carry 5 million tonnes of manganese ore per year from Tamboa mine in northern Burkina Faso, which is operated by Pan African Minerals Mining Group.

“The signing of this new agreement marks a key step which is fully in line with the significant efforts made by the Bolloré Group since the creation of Sitarail,” says Mr Eric Melet, chairman of Bolloré Railways. “The attractiveness of the railway will be considerably strengthened to accommodate new traffic, such as ore, induced by the long-term growth of the sub-region.”(International Rail Journal)

## TANZANIA TO BAN PLASTIC BAGS EARLY NEXT YEAR

Tanzania’s Permanent Secretary in the Vice-President’s Office says his government will phase out the use of plastic bags by January next year, due to failure of plastic bags to decompose and therefore affecting the environment.

The government says it has given a four month public notice that should be adhered to by manufacturers and procurers of the commodity.

According to him, the four month grace period is to give time to manufactures of plastic bags to invest in an unusual bags and plastic waste recycling services.

“The government has come to the decision following the effects of the plastic bags on the environment as they are left to litter the streets and cause blockage of sewerage and drainage infrastructure,” he said.

In view of this, he stressed that as of January 1, next year any undertakings on production, importation, sale and use of plastic bags and sachets will be barred in the country.

The PS underscored the fact that the plastic bags have been affecting the ecosystem and biodiversity especially during rainy seasons and because they are left to litter the streets have been contributing to the death of animals after having consumed them as well as endangering human health when used as packaging materials for food in particular hot food, poisonous gaseous and when used as fuel to light charcoal.

In 2006, the government said it would outlaw the importation, selling and using of plastic bags, a move that aimed to curb environmental damage. (APA 28-01-2016)

## MOZAMBICAN COMPANIES MAY PAY THEIR CHINESE SUPPLIERS DIRECTLY IN RENMINBI

Mozambican companies can start paying their Chinese suppliers through their banks in China following the introduction of a new CNH clearing service launched by the Société Générale Moçambique, the bank said in a statement.

The CNH, or offshore yuan, is the international code for China's currency (CNY) that can be traded outside the country, mainly in Hong Kong, which tends to be worth slightly more than the currency in circulation in China as its value changes based on demand, whilst the domestic value of the currency is based on national exchange rate policy.

Launched in August, the new service makes it possible to make payments "quickly and safely at a low cost" and to carry out transactions all over the world, with the support of the bank's headquarters, in Paris.

The statement also said that the service had been created due to growth of trade between Mozambique and China and based on statements from China's President, Xi Jinping, when in December 2015 at the China-Africa Summit in Johannesburg he announced financing for Africa of US\$60 billion.

Société Générale Moçambique also said it had recently hired a Chinese business manager who would focus exclusively on management of customers in China, as well helping them develop their business in Mozambique. (24-08-2016)

## DISCORDE AUTOUR DE L'ACCORD COMMERCIAL UE-AFRIQUE DE L'EST

La récente décision de la Tanzanie et de l'Ouganda de ne pas signer l'accord de partenariat économique (APE) met toute la région d'Afrique de l'Est sous pression.

Depuis 2002, les pays de la Communauté de l'Afrique de l'Est (CAE) dialoguent avec l'UE sur des accords économiques qui leur permettrait d'être exemptés de frais de douanes pour l'exportation de produits dans les pays européens. Ces accords prévoient une révision annuelle. Cette année, l'UE a fixé cette révision au 1<sup>er</sup> octobre.

À l'origine, l'accord devait être signé fin juillet, en marge de la Conférence des Nations unies sur le commerce et le développement (CNUCED) à Nairobi. Or, les pays pour lesquels la signature de l'accord représente un enjeu important comme le Kenya, accusent à présent la Tanzanie et l'Ouganda de saboter leur économie.

La Tanzanie a été la première à exprimer sa réticence face à l'accord. L'État souhaite avant tout examiner les conséquences du Brexit sur l'économie nationale et cherche par ailleurs à protéger l'industrie tanzanienne, en plein essor, de la concurrence extérieure croissante.

Quelques jours plus tard, l'Ouganda a déclaré que l'APE était devenu trop compliqué et qu'il était donc nécessaire que les présidents signent l'accord, et non les ministres, comme prévu auparavant. « Nous ne signerons pas cet accord tant que nous n'aurons pas discuté ces points. Il serait judicieux que l'ambassadrice de la Commission européenne ne se montre pas trop optimiste », a affirmé le président de l'Ouganda, Yoweri Museveni, lors de la fête nationale française à l'ambassade, où la majorité des invités étaient européens.

Les sociétés civiles et les ONG, qui estiment que l'accord favorise trop l'UE, soutiennent largement la position des deux États africains. Les conditions exigeant que la CAE dépasse un taux de libéralisation de 65,4 % et, ainsi, permette une ouverture de 82 % du marché d'ici 2030 font l'objet des principales critiques. Les détracteurs pensent que le délai est trop court pour mettre en œuvre l'industrialisation des espaces économiques nationaux. L'UE veut, en outre, imposer des frais de douanes sur les produits de

la CAE avant même qu'ils ne soient exportés. Une disposition qui pourrait s'apparenter à une violation des accords de l'Organisation mondiale du commerce (OMC), et qui risque de limiter les exportations des pays africains.

L'UE, quant à elle, estime que l'accord économique est équitable : il favorise le système harmonisé de la CAE, c'est-à-dire son tarif douanier commun, encourage le projet d'intégration régional et stimule le développement de la région.

Actuellement, les quatre États membres de la CAE appartenant aux pays les moins développés de la région, la Tanzanie, le Burundi, l'Ouganda et le Rwanda, bénéficient d'un accès privilégié aux marchés de l'UE, grâce à l'initiative « Tout sauf les armes ». Cette initiative leur fournit l'accès au marché de l'UE sans douane et sans quotas pour tous les produits, sauf les armes et les munitions. Un accès qu'ils conserveront, même si l'APE n'est pas ratifié le 1<sup>er</sup> octobre.

En revanche, le Kenya, qui est le seul État de la CAE ne faisant pas partie des 49 pays les moins développés de l'initiative « Tout sauf les armes » serait particulièrement affecté. L'UE représente une région stratégique pour l'exportation des produits agricoles kenyans, notamment les fleurs, le thé, les légumes ou le poisson. En 2015, par exemple, 40 % des fleurs kenyanes ont été exportées dans l'UE, représentant une valeur totale d'environ 1,2 milliards d'euros.

« À la lumière des derniers développements, il n'est pas prudent de se concentrer sur cet accord commercial. Je pense que nous devons trouver d'autres solutions. Dans le cas contraire, des millions d'agriculteurs kenyans souffriront », a expliqué la représentante de l'UE, Marie Arena (S&D), pendant la CNUCED.

Pour sauver l'économie du Kenya, les ministres européens ont suggéré que l'État demande un délai pour la ratification de l'accord, de sorte que les États membres de la CAE puissent discuter plus en détails de leurs doutes. Une alternative serait que le Kenya soumette sa candidature au système de préférences généralisées. Ainsi, le pays africain profiterait d'une exemption de douanes sur environ deux tiers de ses produits. D'autres États, tels que le Pakistan, jouissent déjà de ses réglementations spéciales. Cependant, les conditions entre les pays donateurs européens et les pays en développement ne sont pas négociées et le traitement de faveur n'est pas réciproque.

Le Kenyan Douglas Mbikana, membre du East African Business Council (EABC, Conseil des affaires de l'Afrique de l'Est), aussi très impliqué dans les négociations de l'APE, a jugé qu'ils se sont « investis activement pour la signature de [cet accord] parce qu'[ils y voient] un profit pour l'ensemble de la région. Les arguments invoqués par certains États, comme le Brexit, ne sont que des prétextes. Il reste 27 autres États dans l'UE avec lesquels faire du commerce. Si l'accord n'est pas signé, cela n'affecterait pas seulement l'économie d'exportation, mais aussi, sur le long terme, l'appartenance des États à la CAE. Nous faisons partie de cette union depuis plus de dix ans et avons évolué en tant que région. S'opposer à cet accord avec de telles excuses est hypocrite. »(EurActiv 17-08-2016)

## **MOODY'S WARNS THAT MOZAMBIQUE IS A CREDIT RISK**

Institutional frailty, strong currency devaluation and a drop in foreign reserves have increase the credit risk of Mozambique, said credit rating agency Moody's in an annual report published on Tuesday.

The report warns that Mozambique is facing "several short term challenges," mainly related to gaining enough liquidity to pay the debt of state enterprises, which took on huge state-backed loans.

At the end of April the Mozambican government admitted that US\$1.4 billion in loans, which it said were needed for security and construction of strategic infrastructure, had been excluded from state accounts. It

Noting that the latest report was a market update rather than a further risk assessment, Moody's said the negative outlook for Mozambique "reflects the risk of litigation" that could result in a prolonged period of difficulties for the government in terms of debt servicing and may affect other types of debt beyond the state guarantees.

The credit rating agency said it may lower Mozambique's rating if government defaults on direct debt show likely losses of over 35%. (24-08-2016)



## CAMEROON INJECTS OVER CFA9BN INTO AGRIC RESEARCH



Cameroon will allot CFA9.4 billion this year to improving its agriculture, the Agricultural Research and Development Institute (IRAD) disclosed after the 35th ordinary session of its Board on Monday. The rise of about CFA3 billion from last year, should allow IRAD to continue and expand its research in agriculture.

This comes just days after the development of 12 new varieties by IRAD, and the marketing of improved cassava cuttings, and other discoveries that aim to improve Cameroon's agricultural productivity.

In addition to food crops and garden produce, IRAD also intends to lay emphasis on improving the cash crop, which should result in new types of seed for the cultivation of oil palm and cocoa.

Moreover, the board congratulated the company for its participation in the 44th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva, Switzerland in April 2016.

There IRAD was distinguished by the quality of its results, winning four gold medals with the four research products presented, showcasing Cameroon's efforts internationally. (APA 22-08-2016)

## FACEBOOK CELEBRATES AFRICA'S YOUNG CREATIVES



According to social media network Facebook, it celebrated the creativity and excellence of young African creatives at The Loerie Awards for 2016.

In addition to sponsoring The Loerie Student Awards for 2016, Facebook hosted a range of events aimed at young creatives in support of Loeries Creative Week (15-21 August, Durban).

Facebook announced that it will work with the Loeries and advertising schools across the country to develop and promote young creative talent on an ongoing basis. This will culminate in the Facebook Challenge, which will become an official Loerie Award in the Student Category from 2017.

One of the highlights of the week was the partnership between Facebook and the Nelson Mandela Foundation to run the first student Hack for Good at this year's Loerie Awards.

Twenty of the country's top students competed in a 48-hour hack to create a world-class video campaign, speaking to the theme of "Tolerance" and "Living the Mandela Legacy". Facebook will sponsor the production and flighting of the campaign on 5 December, the second anniversary of Madiba's passing.

“If we want to be more creative, we have to connect – with each other, the industry and the world,” says Nunu Ntshingila, Head of Facebook, Africa. “For Facebook, the Loeries is a perfect opportunity to celebrate how Africa’s dynamic creatives are using mobile to make human connections and tell compelling stories. Mobile is the creative canvas of our time and young African professionals will define how it is used in the years to come.”

**Facebook’s participation in Loeries Creative Week and beyond included:**

**Facebook Made on Mobile workshop** – a full-day workshop in partnership with KCap (Kwamashu Community Advancement Projects) aimed at equipping disadvantaged youth with the skills to create marketing campaigns for small businesses using only their phones.

**Student Portfolio Day** – Facebook supported the Adams and Adams Student Portfolio Day, giving students the tools to build online creative portfolios, and promoting these to the industry using Facebook Canvas Ads.

Supporting The Loeries Creative Futures Scholarship, which unearths and nurtures creative talent from previously disadvantaged communities.

Ntshingila added: “We want to go beyond sponsorship to truly helping develop young, diverse talent, through programs and activities such as Made on Mobile and Hack for Good. We believe that any teen with a phone can become a marketing expert or an entrepreneur. Facebook sees a future of mobile-entrepreneurs in Africa, and we will help them unlock their creativity with the power of technology.” (IT News Africa 22-08-2016)

**WHO ENDORSES NEW AFRICA STRATEGY TO END MALARIA**



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The WHO Regional Committee for Africa Monday endorsed a new malaria framework for the continent and a strategy to control non-infectious diseases.

The endorsement came after African Health ministers agreed to work towards a malaria-free Africa and intensify control of non-communicable diseases including oral health issues across the Africa region.

“Oral health conditions have an impact on the quality of life of the affected, whereas treatment is costly for individuals, communities and countries,” said Dr Matshidiso Moeti, WHO Regional Director for Africa.

The strategy was endorsed in the ongoing 66th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Africa conference underway at the UNECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

“Yet, there are efficient and affordable interventions that could be brought to the people where they live. Preventive actions can be carried out in schools, communities, and primary health centers by frontline health workers” he added.

The number of people with oral health conditions is currently high in the region, the director elaborated, adding that ninety percent of those conditions are not treated.

Oral health contributes to the growing burden of non-communicable diseases, hence it is increasingly being recognized as a major public health challenge in the African region, she indicated.

Meanwhile, an estimated \$66 billion will be needed to eliminate malaria from the African continent by 2030.

The new “African region free of malaria” initiative will guide countries on the continent on the ways of implementing the global technical strategy (GTS) for malaria in the region.

“Malaria is no longer the leading cause of death among children in Sub-Saharan Africa,” declared the director at the conference.

“We have made substantial progress in controlling malaria within our region since 2,000 malaria death rates have plunged by 60 percent translating into 6.2 million lives saved” Moeti said.

Between 2000 and 2015, the number of malaria cases and deaths within the African region declined by 42 and 66 percent, respectively.

Dr. Moeti said despite the significant progress made, malaria continued to be a major health and development problem in the region.

Globally, the African region still bears the biggest malaria burden with approximately 190 cases (89 percent of the global total) and 400,000 deaths (91 percent of the global total) in 2015 alone.(APA 22-08-2016)

### **ANGOLA CERTIFIES OVER 10,000 SMES IN 2016**

The Angolan National Institute of Small and Medium Enterprises (Inapem) has certified 10,500 companies across the country so far this year, the institute’s president said on Tuesday in Lubango. António Francisco de Assis also told Angolan news agency Angop that through certification micro, small and medium enterprises are able to access subsidised loans, lower interest rates, reduced industrial tax and stamp duty exemptions.

“Inapem will continue to increase its methods of support, improve dialogue with the business sector because entrepreneurs sometimes have problems and close themselves off, but should instead discuss (the situation) with the government and present suggestions and proposals that may solve the problems,” Assis said.

The director of Inapem noted that the main problem was taxation, with entrepreneurs “forgetting that they have to pay tax” and when they come to make back payments in order to receive certification from Inapem they are faced with a high tax bill.

Assis noted that Inapem is a natural partner for private businesses and is a state body that helps solve the problems facing companies. (24-08-2016)

### **NIGERIA: INACTIVE TELEPHONE LINES ON THE RISE IN 2016**



According to a report, via [TelecomPaper](#), the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) has revealed that inactive lines in the country's telecommunications industry have increased from 65.19 million in May 2016 to 67.33 million in June 2016.

According to the report, the regulator had said that there was an additional 2.14 million inactive numbers within the period, upping the number of unused lines to 67.33 million in June 2016. The regulator said that of the 217.15 million connected lines, only 149.82 million numbers were still active.

The report stated that of the 67.33 million inactive numbers, the GSM networks had a share of 63.93 million. CDMA had a share of 3,210,489; while the Fixed Wired/Wireless networks had a total of 182,662 unused telecommunications lines. NCC said that the teledensity of Nigeria's telecommunications industry also climbed to 107.01 percent in June 2016, compared to 106.32 percent in May 2016. (IT News Africa 22-08-2016)

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The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTCC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

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[www.acp.int](http://www.acp.int)



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[www.nabc.nl](http://www.nabc.nl)



[www.swisscham-africa.ch](http://www.swisscham-africa.ch)

## 25TH OF AUGUST: NABA-NORWAY ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



NABA members are invited to the NABA Annual General Meeting on Thursday 25th of August at the Yara International HQ, Drammensveien 131. As last year, Norwegian Ambassadors posted in African countries will be invited to the AGM reception, and Yara International will present their current activities on the continent. A formal invitation and more information will be sent our members early August. Any questions related to this year's AGM can be sent by email to [dw@norwegianafrikan.no](mailto:dw@norwegianafrikan.no) The AGM will be followed by a reception including Norwegian Ambassadors present on the African continent.

Fernando Matos Rosa

[fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt)

[fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be)