

# MEMORANDUM

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## **11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION**

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## **NIGERIA CONFIRMS WITHDRAWAL FROM OVER 90 INT'L ORGANISATIONS**

Faced with the harsh economic realities in Nigeria, the Federal Government says that it is withdrawing its membership from 90 international organisations in order to meet its obligations to these organisations.



Nigeria's Minister of Finance Kemi Adeosun told journalists after the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting on Wednesday in Abuja that Nigeria was spending over \$120 million every year as a member of 310 international organizations.

She lamented that the government was no longer meeting up with its obligations to these organization.

The minister explained that a committee was set up by government to review the rationale of Nigeria's continued membership of such a large number of international organisations and the financial implications of such membership.

According to local media reports on Thursday, Adeosun noted that in many cases Nigeria was not actually paying its financial obligations and subscriptions, thereby causing some embarrassment to the country and its image abroad.

"In particular, it was discussed that there are some commitments made to international organisations by former presidents which were not cash backed. So when our delegations turn up at those organisations we become very embarrassed. So that was what drove the committee.

"The committee made some recommendations. That out of the 310 organisations, 220 organisations should be retained and the rest we should withdraw membership from," she said.

She explained that the council directed that more work needed to be done to determine how much is owed since subscriptions are in arrears in a number of major organisations. (APA 28-09-2017)

## **SOUTH AFRICA AND CUBA SIGN AGREEMENT ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Deputy of Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms. Pamela Tshwete, recently signed an agreement to extend the RSA-Cuba Cooperation Agreement to 2023. The agreement is between the ministry and Cuba's Institute of National Hydraulic Resources (INHR).

The Committee Meeting served the purpose of review and evaluation of the Agreement Cooperation in the field of Water Resource Management and Water Supply. The meeting also focused on identifying areas of improvement on the same. As a result, the two countries agreed to extend the contracts of the Cuban engineers.

The agreement makes provision for the Department of Water and Sanitation and the Institute of National Hydraulic Resources to co-operate in the areas of geo-hydrology and engineering services.

Furthermore, the implementation of this program has been on-going for the past eighteen months. In

addition, specialists have been placed in different clusters in all nine provinces where future engineers are undergoing mentorship.

### **Registration with ECSA**

The Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA) said they will speedily process requests from Cuban engineers. The requests are for recognition as professional specialists. This is because currently, ESCA does not recognize the Cubans' qualifications. This also includes their type of work in the country.

Ms. Tshwete said South Africa will forever be grateful to Cubans for their generosity in sharing their knowledge and skills in the water sector. INRH Vice President, Mr Bladimir Matos Moya, said they will assist South Africa improve water supplies to the next level. According to him Cubans have directed South Africa to identify its specific training needs for attendance. (CRO 27-09-2017)

### **EU-EAC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP NEGOTIATION UNDERWAY IN BRUSSELS**

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni who is also the current chairman of the East African Community (EAC) arrives on Thursday in Brussels, Belgium with a delegation from the EAC member states to discuss the issue of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) with European Union (EU) that has stalled.



As Chairperson of the Community, President Museveni will lead talks between member states and the European Union over the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs).

The EU Commission President, Jean Claude Juncker, will lead his bloc in the talks.

In May, as he assumed the EAC chair in Dar es Salaam, other heads of state tasked President Museveni to lead a regional delegation to Brussels to discuss the issue of EPAs and sanctions over Burundi.

President Museveni also promised to raise the issue of the EU threatening to impose sanctions on Kenya, which had signed the EPAs but could not enforce them because other countries in the region were yet to come on board.

EAC heads of State have expressed the need to resolve disagreements regarding EPA including EU sanctions on one of its members Burundi which were imposed without consulting the regional body and the decision by the United Kingdom to exit the EU.

The UK is among leading investors in EAC and in Africa.

Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) are trade and development agreements negotiated between the EU and African, Caribbean and Pacific partners engaged in regional economic integration processes.

The EU-EAC EPA covers trade in goods and fisheries as well as development cooperation that aims to reinforce cooperation on the sustainable use of resources.

Further negotiations are ongoing to include services and trade-related rules in the future.

The deal bans unjustified or discriminatory restrictions on imports and exports, which contributes to the EAC's efforts to eradicate non-tariff barriers in intra-EAC trade. It supports the EAC's regional integration agenda and has what it takes to foster development. (APA 28-09-2017)

## BOTSWANA RECORDS ONE PERCENT RISE IN GDP IN 2017 Q2

Botswana's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) increased by one percent in the second quarter of 2017 compared to an increase of 3.9 percent recorded during the corresponding period in 2016, according to official figures from Statistics Botswana.

Statistician General Annah Majelantle revealed on Thursday that the marginal increase was attributed to real value added of the water and electricity, transport and communications, and finance and business services sectors that rose by 6.0, 5.9 and 5.6 percent, respectively.

She said all other industries recorded positive growths of more than 1.2 percent, with the exception of mining and manufacturing whose output declined by 13.8 and 0.2 percent, respectively.

The increase of 5.6 percent in the real value added of the finance and business services industry was mainly due to the rise in the value added of business services and real estate by 8.3 and 6.4 percent respectively.

The decrease in the real mining value added of 13.8 percent was because of the closure of copper and nickel mines during the fourth quarter of 2016.

Diamond value added increased by 12.9 percent during the quarter under review. Diamonds production in carats increased by 12.9 percent in the second quarter of 2017 compared to a decrease of 12.1 percent recorded in the same quarter of 2016. (APA 28-09-2017)

## MALAWI'S COMMUNAL FIGHT AGAINST DEADLY AVIAN DISEASE



A poultry farmer from Lumbwe village in Malawi hands her chickens to Lydia Katengeza to administer a vaccine against Newcastle Disease

Lydia Katengeza, a community vaccinator with the Nathenje Community Vaccination Association (NCVA), wakes up as early as 5 a.m., ready with her I-2 vaccine vial in a storage container in her hand. She moves from one house to another, visiting each poultry farmer. All of them are alerted a day in advance so that they don't release their free-range chickens in the morning.

The first farmer she visited when an IPS reporter accompanied her on her rounds was Maxwell Panganani, who owns 30 chickens. The whole flock was given the vaccine, which protects poultry from the deadly Newcastle Disease (ND) and costs four cents per chicken. This means Katengeza collected 1.24 dollars from this farmer.

Raised by 80 percent of local farmers, poultry is the greatest contribution to household food and nutritional security of all livestock species in Malawi.

She moved on to other households: Makalani Kumapeni, whose 51 chickens were given the vaccine; Chipiliro Kanamwali with 11 chickens; Peter Lumbwe with 24 chickens; Zeze Lumbwe with 14 chickens, Frank Thamisoni with 12 chickens and Samuel Asipolo, who just owns one.

Raised by 80 percent of local farmers, poultry is the greatest contribution to household food and nutritional security of all livestock species in Malawi. Farmers use chickens during weddings, funerals and other rituals, and for sale or as gifts. They are also bartered for other products.

However, despite the important role that chickens play in supporting households in rural areas, there is a major constraint to the expansion and increased productivity of poultry – the frequent devastation of flocks, up to 90 percent, according to the Department of Animal Health and Livestock Development (DAHLD). This damage is caused by ND, which strikes during the hot, dry months of August through to November annually.

The virus presents primarily as an acute respiratory illness, and is one of the most serious of all avian diseases. It is also transmissible to humans.

“We were first trained as farmer field facilitators in 2014 under a CARE Malawi programme. Later CARE linked us with Inter Aide, a French organization that provided us training in the procedures of how to be a community vaccinator,” says Katengeza, who is also village head woman of Chizinga in Traditional Authority Kalumbu, Lilongwe district.

According to Katengeza, the knowledge and procedures learnt during vaccine administration have been of great benefit to her as a farmer. As a result of the training, her chickens no longer die of ND. And as a ripple effect, she has also managed to help her fellow farmers to overcome the disease.

“I now have 10 goats, harvested 70 50-kg bags of maize this year, moulded bricks and built a good house. I am also able to pay school fees for my kids. As a family, we have sustained access to proteins as body-building foods from chickens once slaughtered,” says Katengeza.

She said CARE and Inter Aide have changed her life and that of other farmers.

Another farmer, Eveless Makalani, with a flock of 51 birds, has worked with community vaccinators for some time. She learned about them during the farmer extension meetings they conduct in the village.

“My family gets help from these chickens, especially during funerals and weddings, but also in the event of problems. We sell some of them as they are in high demand on the market, unlike hybrids.”

Malakani adds that the money earned from selling one chicken pays for the vaccination of over 50 chickens from ND – making it a viable business.

Yolomosi Tifere, a male community vaccinator who serves farmers in the Nathenje area, said the project should be expanded to include other health supports.

“This vaccine is for ND fine and good. However, we also need other drugs to address bacteria, cough, intestinal worms so that these problems are also taken care of,” Tifere said in an interview during the field visit.

Graça Archer, Programme Officer for Inter Aide Newcastle Disease Control Programme, said each ND campaign is systematic and runs for four months.

“During the first month, community vaccinators go house to house to do poultry registration, like how many chickens to vaccinate, how many vials are needed. The second month is for the actual vaccination of the chickens and the fourth month is for review of the success and challenges.” Archer explained in an interview.

The peak of the campaign takes place in July because the risk of an outbreak is high. This is when farmers have more money and exchange more chickens and there is a greater probability for them to become infected with ND.

“There is more acceptance from the farmers in July than the two other campaigns. For instance, last year we vaccinated 590,800 chickens,” says Archer, who expressed concerns about the erratic supply of the drug from CVL.

In order to ensure sustainability of the programme, NCVA was formed to strengthen local participation in the fight against ND. Meanwhile, the Global Alliance for Livestock Veterinary Medicine is working in partnership with Inter Aide to improve the nutrition and livelihoods of smallholder livestock producers, and enhance family farm productivity and resilience in an increasingly changing climate.

“The I-2 vaccine is thermal tolerant demand driven, people see the benefit of vaccinating chickens so there is exponential growth for the vaccine need. However, production is not managed as an enterprise due to shortage of financing of the drug, hence its erratic availability,” Archer explained.

Gilson Njunga, Officer in Charge at the CVL, says they produce 3,000 bottles of the vaccine per month which translates to about a million dosages administered to chickens, as each bottle accommodates 300 chickens.

“Production of the vaccine vial is at 3,000 bottles monthly because we produce the vaccine within a diagnostic laboratory and not an independent vaccine lab. As such, the production process has to pass through quality control before being certified for use by farmers to ensure they are not contaminated,” Njunga told IPS.

Meanwhile, as a further step towards attaining food and nutritional security, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the Malawi Government agreed on a Country Programme Framework estimated at 24.3 million dollars. The rationale for the proposed CPF priority areas is derived from the analysis and the enabling environment for Food and Nutrition Security and Sustainable Agriculture.

The analysis demonstrates that while the country is making good progress in food security and staple crop production, it remains vulnerable to shocks – many climate-related – that impede increased agricultural production, productivity and profitability. (IPS 27-09-2017)

## **S/AFRICA DROPS IN GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS INDEX**

Brand South Africa, the agency set up to promote the country’s economic activities abroad, on Thursday expressed concern at South Africa's poor performance in the 2017-2018 World Economic Forum Global Competitiveness Index (WEF GCI).



According to Brand SA, the country now ranks 61 out of 137 economies assessed in the annual survey published here.

In the survey, the WEF's GCI found Switzerland to be the world's most competitive economy, narrowly ahead of the United States and Singapore.

Brand SA chief executive Kingsley Makhubela said the country's declining competitiveness profile could be attributed to low Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

"South Africa's declined competitiveness profile can be attributed to low GDP growth forecasts at just 1% in 2017 and 1.2 % in 2018 due to persistent low international demand for its commodities," Makhubela said.

In comparison to the last survey, South Africa regressed 14 positions from the 2016-2017 WEF GCI results. Following on two years where the country made strong progress in the global competitiveness rankings, this year's results are a wake-up call to the nation, he said.

Makhubela said it was concerning that the financial sector has been affected by uncertainty. (APA 28-09-2017)

## **GERONTIC MUGABE LIKENS SOME OF HIS PARTY RIVALS TO JUDAS**

On Thursday, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe accused unnamed officials of his own party of trying to push him into retiring and likened them to the biblical betrayer Judas.

The 93-year-old Mugabe, one of the world’s oldest leaders, has been in power since 1980. He intends to seek another five-year term at elections due next year. In public, his party, Zanu-PF, has rallied behind

its aging leader, but in private its members are deeply divided over his continued leadership and who will eventually take over from him.

Mugabe, who has repeatedly said his party will choose his successor when the time comes, said he was going nowhere and accused some party officials of supporting him during the day while plotting against him behind his back.

"Others are like those that Jesus spoke about during his last supper, when he said 'Some of you eating with me here shall betray me'. The Judas Iscariot. They are here among us," Mugabe said during the burial of a party member. "They want to cause leadership change ... for the president to step down. I did not grab power. I was chosen by the people. It's the people's throne," he said to loud cheers from some party members.

Zanu-PF is divided into two factions. One backs vice-president Emmerson Mnangagwa to immediately succeed Mugabe. The other is rallying behind Mugabe's wife, Grace, and also wants the aging ruler to be president for life.

"When the day comes, I will say thank you to my Zimbabwean family and I will step down so you can choose my successor. But for now I am the one in charge," Mugabe said.

Zimbabwe is in the grip of a shortage of foreign exchange that has forced some businesses to buy US dollars on the black market, a situation blamed for a recent spike in prices and shortages of some basic goods. But Mugabe, without providing evidence, accused some of manipulating the currency to "trigger inflation and cause panic buying" (Reuters 28-09-2017)

## **BUSINESS BETWEEN ANGOLA AND CHINA EXCEEDS US\$10 BILLION IN 2017**

The value of the new projects developed in 2017 under the cooperation agreement between Angola and China exceeded US\$10 billion, the Chinese ambassador to Angola said on Thursday in Luanda.

Ambassador Cui Aimin, speaking at a ceremony commemorating the 68th anniversary of the proclamation of the People's Republic of China on 1 October 1949, said that the amount quoted had been applied to various infrastructure projects.

The projects covered by the cooperation agreement include the Technology Demonstration Centre and the Institute of International Relations, both in the process of being finalised, as well as the fourth medical team that recently arrived in Angola.

In his speech to guests, mostly diplomats posted to Angola, the ambassador said that Angola is a strategic partner for China, with which cooperation "is steadily deepening," according to Angolan news agency Angop.

The ambassador, after emphasising that companies are the basis of cooperation between the two countries, called on them to explore new areas of intervention and called on the Angolan government to continue to provide support to Chinese companies, particularly in terms of investment protection. (29-09-2017)

## **MIDDLE EAST QUARTET WELCOMES EFFORTS BY EGYPT OVER GAZA PEACE**

The Envoys of the Middle East Quartet from the Russian Federation, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations have welcomed efforts, including those of Egypt, to create the conditions for the Palestinian Authority to assume its responsibilities in Gaza.



In a statement, the Quartet urged the parties to take concrete steps to reunite Gaza and the West Bank under the legitimate Palestinian Authority. *“This will facilitate lifting the closures of the crossings, while addressing Israel’s legitimate security concerns, and unlock international support for Gaza’s growth, stability and prosperity, which is critical for efforts to reach lasting peace.”* The Quartet Envoys stand ready to engage with Israel, the Palestinian Authority and the region in support of this process. (EEAS 28-09-2017)

### **ANGOLA TO REMAIN DEPENDENT ON OIL TO GROW, EIU SAYS**

Angola’s economic growth will remain dependent on oil in coming years due to weak economic diversification, with the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecasting an average growth rate of 2.5% in 2017-2021, compared with a 4.7% increase between 2011 and 2015.

The EIU’s latest report on Angola said that after zero real growth in 2016, the growth rate of the Angolan economy will fluctuate between 2.7% this year and in 2021, 2.4% in 2018 and 2019 and 2.5% in 2020.

The document added that with Angola’s economy still adjusting to a low oil price environment, the economic growth recorded will be the result of increased public spending and private consumption.

The EIU noted that the implementation of investments outside the oil and gas sector will continue to be hampered by the absence of reforms, the high level of bureaucracy and the “apparent increase in arrears to companies providing services to the State.”

EIU analysts pointed out that economic growth could be higher if the new President of the Republic approves structural reforms as suggested by International Monetary Fund experts.

“This scenario should, however, be unlikely, given that it would tend to cause disenchantment among the ruling elite and pose a long-term threat to social stability,” the report said. (29-09-2017)

### **TENSIONS IN KENYA AS LAW IS CHANGED AHEAD OF ELECTION RE-RUN**

On Thursday, Kenya’s opposition called for demonstrations against the government after the ruling party moved to change the electoral law ahead of next month’s presidential election re-run.

After a case brought by opposition leader Raila Odinga, Kenya’s supreme court annulled last month’s presidential election, won by Uhuru Kenyatta, citing widespread mismanagement by the electoral commission. Odinga said the proposed changes to the election laws were an attack on democracy and the constitution that must be resisted.

“I call on this generation to resist, to rise up and resist. We are calling our people to action,” he told a press conference in Nairobi. “Enough is enough. On Monday we will begin the demonstrations,” Odinga said, reiterating a call for biweekly protests, every Monday and Friday. “Kenya is bigger than Uhuru Kenyatta and William Ruto,” he said, referring to the country’s deputy president.



This week, MPs from the ruling Jubilee Party introduced a bill seeking to resolve "ambiguity" in the electoral law, a move opposition leaders say is designed to render legal some of the "irregularities and illegalities" cited by the supreme court in its ruling.

James Orengo, a senior official in the opposition National Super Alliance (NASA), described the proposed constitutional amendments as an effort to change "the rules of the game" ahead of the re-run, due on October 26. "They have reached a level where they feel they can do anything, and change anything, including the constitution through the back door," Orengo said after leading a walk-out from Thursday's meeting with Jubilee and the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC) in protest at the proposed changes.

The proposals were being debated during a special sitting of the Jubilee-dominated parliament on Thursday.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2017 proposes reducing the powers of the chairman of the election commission, having manual tallying supersede electronically transmitted results and making tally forms count even if there is "a deviation from the requirements of the form".

In August's vote, held under the current law, manual tallying served as the back-up to the electronic system put in place after Kenya's violently disputed 2007 election in which over 1,100 people died. The supreme court had also criticised the lack of prescribed security features on tally forms in its ruling ordering the annulment.

Church groups joined the opposition in criticising the proposed amendments. "This is an unacceptable path since it will lead to mutilation of the constitution and weakening of institutions," said Archbishop Jackson Ole Sapit, head of the Anglican church in Kenya. After the collapse of Thursday's talks, IEBC chairman Wafula Chebukati questioned the necessity of changing the law: "We don't need any other law to move forward with elections."

Tensions are set to grow still further with the opposition's call for widespread anti-government demonstrations. On Monday, a few hundred opposition supporters protesting outside the IEBC headquarters in central Nairobi were dispersed by police using tear gas and batons. (AFP 28-09-2017)

## **INSURANCE MARKET CONTINUES TO GROW IN ANGOLA**

The insurance market in Angola has grown steadily and the current challenge is to sustain this trend, the president of the Angolan Insurance Regulatory and Supervision Agency (Arseg) said recently.

Aguinaldo Jaime, speaking at a ceremony commemorating the fourth anniversary of the agency on Wednesday, said this year the focus would be on applying the law on Import Insurance of Goods and the entry into operation of the National Reinsurance Company (AngoRe).

"The study carried out by Arseg and the African Reinsurance Corporation (Africa Re) is ready and has already been submitted to the Ministry of Finance for consideration," said the president of the Angolan regulator, according to Angolan state daily, Jornal de Angola.

Jaime noted that the agency will continue to adopt measures to make the insurance and pension funds market increasingly efficient and guarantee protection of consumers and third parties.

More than 10 insurance companies received authorisation to operate in 2015 and 2016, including Providencial Royal Seguros, Fortaleza Seguros, Glinn Seguros, Stas Seguros and Master Seguros.

The most recent insurer to be authorised was Sol Seguros, linked to Banco Sol. The Angolan market has over 24 insurance companies licensed by Arseg. (29-09-2017)

## **TWINNING PROJECT SUPPORTS INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF WATER RESOURCES IN MOROCCO**

The closing conference of an EU-funded twinning project on the governance and integrated management of water resources in Morocco takes place on 28 September. The two-year project enabled

the transfer of know-how in the field of integrated water resources management in line with the EU Water Framework Directive.



The project worked with the responsible Moroccan institutions, providing them with planning and organisational tools, and building capacity in technical aspects related to the implementation of the Directive, which applies to all European countries.

In addition, the project developed a methodology for the establishment of a management plan meeting WFD criteria for the Sebou river basin, with the lessons learned and actions developed being shared to be replicated on other Moroccan river basins.(EEAS 28-09-2017)

[EU Water Framework Directive](#)

### **FORMER PORTUGUESE BANKER TO MANAGE ANGOLA' SONANGOL HOLDINGS E INDÚSTRIA**

The former chairman of Banco de Fomento Angola and former director of Portuguese bank Caixa Geral de Depósitos (CGD) Emídio Pinheiro will take over the management of Sonangol Holdings e Indústria, as chief executive, the Angolan state-owned company announced on Thursday in a statement released in Luanda.

The statement from Sonangol said, “Emídio Pinheiro will take on the responsibility in the areas that are not the main business of Sonangol, namely the management of Holdings e Indústria, bringing 30 years of experience gained in the banking and insurance sectors.”

In addition to Pinheiro, Sonangol’s board of directors will be joined by Ivan Sá de Almeida to take on a role in the areas related to production and exploration and Susana Almeida Brandão, to coordinate the legal area.

In June 2016, businesswoman Isabel dos Santos became chairwoman of the Sonangol group’s board of directors, with the mission of restructuring the oil company, which is Angola’s largest business group. (29-09-2017)

### **CONSTRUCTION OF STATE OF THE ART SHOPPING MALL IN ANGOLA ALMOST COMPLETE**

The construction of Kero shopping mall in Angola is almost complete; this is according to the Assistant Director of the works, Mr. Francisco Fernandes.

The mega mall whose location is in the outskirts Huambo city is in its final stages of construction as brick-works and technical networks are being installed. This is good progress since the developer commenced building the mall in March this year.

### **What to find in Kero shopping mall**

The shopping mall is being built in area of 11.000 square metres and will comprise of among other things, three cinema rooms, restaurants and a supporting office. Kero shopping is a departmental store and miscellaneous shop which also sells arts and crafts.

With entrance in operation of the center, the region foresees a growth in the commercial network. Additionally, creation of jobs for local inhabitants will materialize through the initiative.

### **Construction of shopping malls in Angola**

Construction of shopping malls in Angola is a sign of the rising middle class. The southwest African nation's economy has grown rapidly in the last decade thanks to its large oil resources (CRO 28-09-2017)

## **TANZANIA SIGNS CONTRACT TO CONSTRUCT LARGEST MEDICAL FACTORY IN AFRICA**

Tanzania plans to construct the largest medical equipment manufacturing factory in Africa. The Government has signed a contract with [Neusoft Medical Systems Company Ltd](#) from China.

### **The new factory**

The new development will be capable of designing and manufacturing a wide range of medical products. The products will nevertheless help diagnose, monitor and treat diseases and conditions that affect humans.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly and Children, Dr Mpoki Ulisubisya signed the contract with the Chinese company on behalf of the government.

"We have agreed with them that they will build a medical equipment manufacturing facility. Moreover, The facility should be capable of manufacturing Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), X-ray machines, among other things," he said.

### **Largest in Africa**

He further pointed out that, the factory will be the largest in Africa. It will not only manufacture medical equipment but also offer training to local medical specialists.

Additionally, this initiative will benefit the country in terms of the new technology that the Chinese company have. Manufacturing of the medical equipment will take place in Tanzania and buyers will be able to buy the equipment directly at lower prices.

### **About Neusoft Medical Systems Company Ltd**

[Neusoft Medical](#) is a leading manufacturer of medical equipment and service with its world headquarters in China.

Founded in 1998, Neusoft Medical has been authorized as the support organization of National Digital Imaging Research Center. Keeping the development of software technology at its core, Neusoft Medical has become China's uncontested market leader in three areas; medical equipment, medical IT solutions and healthcare services.

Their ability to share this leadership is made possible with the establishment of international branches in the United States of America and the United Arab Emirates. Currently, they export their products to more than 90 countries, serving more than 5,000 customers worldwide. (CRO 28-09-2017)

## **EBRD FINANCES SOLAR POWER PLANT IN EGYPT**

The EBRD is continuing to roll out its [US\\$ 500 million framework for renewable energy](#) in [Egypt](#) by providing a US\$ 28.5 million (€24 million equivalent) loan for the construction of a 50 MW solar plant in

Egypt's Aswan province. It will be built by Alfanar Energy, a Saudi-based construction and electric manufacturing company.



Following the signing of two [projects](#) last month, this is the third project under the EBRD's framework, which is expected to finance a total of 16 such projects, delivering 750 MW of solar power. The new solar plant is located at the Benban complex in Upper Egypt, which upon completion will be the largest solar installation in the world with a planned total capacity of 1.8 GW.

The EBRD loan will be complemented by a parallel loan of up to US\$ 28.5 million from the Islamic Corporation for the Development of the Private Sector (ICD).

Harry Boyd-Carpenter, EBRD Director, Power and Energy Utilities, commented: *“We are delighted to work with Alfanar Energy and to support them in such an important investment. The EBRD has been a firm supporter of renewable energy development in Egypt, providing policy advice, technical assistance and financing. We are very pleased to take another step forward in this area, and to continue our successful cooperation with ICD as well.”* (EBRD 02-10-2017)

[European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#)

## COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

[Transcript of IMF Press Briefing](#)

[IMF Staff Completes 2017 Article IV and First Review under the ECF Visit to Benin](#)

[Egypt: The Economy Is Gathering Strength](#)

[Country Report No. 17/290 : Arab Republic of Egypt : First Review Under the Extended Arrangement Under the Extended Fund Facility and Requests for Waivers for Nonobservance and Applicability of Performance Criteria-Press Release; Staff Report; and Statement by the Executive Director for the Arab Republic of Egypt](#)

[Transcript of Press Briefing on Egypt's Economic Reform Program Review with Subir Lall IMF Mission Chief for Egypt, Middle East, Central Asia](#)

[IMF Staff Completes 2017 Article IV Visit to The Federal Republic of Ethiopia](#)

[IMF Staff Completes Mission to Review Progress of Madagascar's Economic Program](#)

[Rwanda Implements the IMF's Enhanced General Data Dissemination System](#)

[IMF Board Appoints the High-Level Panel for The External Evaluation of the Independent Evaluation Office](#)

[IMF Staff Completes Mission to the Seychelles](#)

[IMF Staff Completes Review Mission to Senegal](#)

[IMF Staff Completes Review Mission to Sierra Leone](#)

[IMF Staff Completes 2017 Article IV Visit to Sudan](#)

[Country Report No. 17/273 : Uganda : Technical Assistance Report-Strengthening Cash Management](#)

[Country Report No. 17/271 : Uganda : Technical Assistance Report-Managing and Preventing Expenditure Arrears](#)

[Country Report No. 17/272 : Uganda : Technical Assistance Report-Strengthening Cash Management and Reviewing the Treasury Single Account](#)

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Wirtschaftskammer Schweiz Afrika  
Chambre Economique Suisse-Afrique  
Camera Economica Svizzera-Africa

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)

