

MEMORANDUM

N° 170/2015 | 20/10/2015

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SOUTH AFRICA: SABMILLER TAKEOVER REQUIRES APPROVAL

The proposed takeover of South Africa's UK-based SABMiller brewery company may require Finance Minister Nhlanhla Nene's approval for the deal to be closed, APA learnt on Sunday.

According to the National Treasury, such a proposal would need to satisfy several conditions and regulatory approvals in many countries prior to closure.

The National Treasury's assertions follow an earlier announcement that the US-based Anheuser-Busch InBev Company has offered to buy the SABMiller for \$106 billion and that it has won the SABMiller board's support for the offer.

The deal would make the new company the biggest brewery in the world.

From a cross-border financial flow perspective, the country's legislation requires that any significant cross-border transaction be approved by the finance minister, the National Treasury said.

There is no application to the South African Reserve Bank from SABMiller as yet, so it is premature to comment, the National Treasury said, in apparent reference to the need for the apex bank to get involved due to the foreign exchange currency that may be used to pay for the multibillion dollar deal.

For South Africa, once a formal application has been lodged with the applicable regulatory authorities, each authority shall consider the application on its merit, in terms of the regulatory framework, it said.

The minister of finance will apply his mind to any such application to ensure compliance with existing conditions and the impact on the South African economy, it added. (APA 18-10-2015)

INDIA APPROVES AGREEMENT WITH MOZAMBIQUE ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Indian government Wednesday approved an agreement with Mozambique to for two-way technical cooperation and promotion of investment in new and renewable energy, according to a statement issued in New Delhi.

"The Council of Ministers of the Union, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the memorandum of understanding between the Ministry of New and Renewable Energies and Mozambique," said the statement cited by the Press Trust of India.

The memorandum was signed by the ministers of New and Renewable Energy of India and the Minister for Mineral Resources of Mozambique on 5 August, during the state visit of the President of Mozambique Filipe Nyusi to India.

The Indian government has set a target to produce 175 gigawatts of renewable energy by 2020, including 100 gigawatts of solar energy, 60 gigawatts of wind power, 10 gigawatts of energy from biomass and 5 gigawatts of power through small hydro facilities. (15-10-2015)

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CLASSES MOYENNES AFRICAINES : QUI SONT CES NOUVEAUX CONSOMMATEURS ?

Environ 86% des membres de cette classe moyenne vont au moins une fois par mois au supermarché. CFAO a dévoilé ce jeudi les résultats de son enquête sur les classes moyennes africaines. Cette étude vise à identifier ces nouveaux consommateurs qui pourraient représenter 224 millions d'individus sur le continent africain à l'horizon 2040.

Le spécialiste de la distribution CFAO a réalisé, en partenariat avec l'institut de sondage IPSOS et le cabinet de conseil BearingPoint, une étude pour quantifier la classe moyenne en Afrique mais aussi pour mieux comprendre ses habitudes de consommation.

Pour obtenir ses données, les auteurs de l'étude se sont basés sur les résultats de plus de 4 000 questionnaires et des enquêtes sociologiques conduites auprès de 50 ménages, répartis dans cinq pays moteurs du continent : Maroc, Côte d'Ivoire, Cameroun, Kenya et Nigéria.

Contrairement à [l'étude de la BAD de 2011](#), qui comptabilisait dans la classe moyenne quiconque disposerait d'un revenu quotidien compris entre 2 et 20 dollars, l'étude publiée par CFAO adopte une approche différenciée selon les régions.

« Afin de vérifier que l'interrogé entre dans le cadre de l'étude, à savoir une classe intermédiaire entre riches et pauvres, des bornes en matière de revenus ont été déterminées, expliquent les auteurs du rapport. Ces bornes sont de 15\$ à 60\$ par ménage par jour (450\$-1800\$ par mois) pour la Côte d'Ivoire, le Cameroun, le Nigéria et le Kenya. Pour le Maroc, en raison du niveau de vie élevé, les bornes sont de 25\$ à 60\$ par ménage et par jour (750 – 1800\$ par mois) »

Selon les estimations du rapport de CFAO, cette tranche représente 14 % de la population totale du continent, soit environ 150 millions de personnes (en prenant en compte l'ensemble des membres du ménage).

Cumul

L'ambition de l'étude du CFAO est également de définir les caractéristiques communes aux personnes appartenant à la classe moyenne car « la compréhension de l'évolution des classes moyennes africaines constitue l'un des enjeux structurants du développement du continent ainsi que le principal réservoir de croissance de notre groupe », explique Richard Bielle, président du directoire de CFAO.

Cette étude montre que la classe moyenne est caractérisée par un revenu stable. Ses membres sont sortis d'une logique de survie, mais continuent de travailler dur.

Certains sont salariés, d'autres ont une activité indépendante ou entrepreneuriale et ils cumulent souvent emploi formel et informel, comme l'explique Eric qui vit à Abidjan, en Côte d'Ivoire : « Je travaille au Port comme machiniste mais j'ai des petites affaires de boulangerie ».

72 % des consommateurs de la classe moyenne épargnent

Ces nouveaux consommateurs se démarquent également par leur capacité à épargner. Environ 72 % déclarent réussir à mettre de l'argent de côté chaque mois. D'après l'étude, cela s'explique parce qu'ils aspirent à un avenir meilleur, et en particulier pour leurs enfants. Leurs investissements dans l'éducation représentent en moyenne 13 % de leur budget.

Ils épargnent aussi en raison d'une peur du déclassement. L'émergence des classes moyennes en Afrique se fait dans un contexte politique plus instable que dans d'autres pays en développement, ils se sentent obligés d'être plus prévoyants.

Sophistiqué

Autre constat, les classes moyennes ont une consommation plus sophistiquée. Elles ne consacrent que 25 % de leurs budgets aux produits alimentaires contre 50 % pour les populations plus défavorisées.

Elles développent ainsi de nouvelles habitudes de consommation. Même si elles restent attachées aux marchés et commerces de proximité pour leurs courses hebdomadaires, 86 % vont au moins une fois par mois dans un supermarché et 55 % vont au moins une fois par mois au restaurant.

Ces nouveaux consommateurs sont également très intéressés par tout ce qui touche à la technologie : 85 % d'entre eux ont un smartphone et 73 % ont un ordinateur chez eux.

Enfin, le projet immobilier est très important pour ces classes moyennes : 39 % sont déjà propriétaires et parmi ceux qui ne le sont pas, 68 % espèrent le devenir dans un délai de deux ans.

Capital

Comme le montre cette nouvelle étude, les habitudes de consommation ont déjà commencé à évoluer et ces données peuvent être capitales pour les entreprises qui veulent toucher ces nouveaux consommateurs, d'autant plus que CFAO estime que « les membres de cette classe de consommateurs seront au nombre de 224 millions d'individus en 2040 contre 78 millions en 2010 ».(JA 15-10-2015)

AT LEAST 580 000 NAMIBIANS REQUIRES URGENT FOOD AID-OFFICIAL

Namibia's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah on Tuesday revealed that about 580 000 people in the country are food-insecure and will require emergency food assistance by March 2016.

While addressing an event to commemorate the International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) in Windhoek, Nandi-Ndaitwah said: Due to lingering effects of the drought of 2013 and this year, the number of people experiencing food shortages has increased.

The event was held to raise awareness on the use of traditional, indigenous and local knowledge and practices to complement scientific knowledge in Disaster Risk Management.

Namibia is battling one of the worst droughts in history, caused by poor harvest due to poor rainfall during the last rainy season.

This caused the large portion of the 2.3 million population to be depended on government food relief especially in rural areas.(APA 13-10-2015)

CHINA LENDS US\$6 BILLION TO ANGOLA

Angola has taken on loans worth US\$6 billion in China, announced Thursday in Luanda the Angolan vice president, Manuel Vicente, when presented the annual state of the nation address to members of the country's parliament.

"Angola has taken on loans in China worth about US\$6 billion, intended for public investment in education, health, water, electricity and roads, and the government has already approved the operational plan to ensure implementation of identified projects in 2016 and in 2017," said Vicente.

Vice President Manuel Vicente was speaking to Members of the National Assembly at the beginning of the new parliamentary year in the annual state of the nation address, on behalf of the President.

The monetary value of the agreements reached during the state visit of José Eduardo dos Santos to China last June, had not been disclosed to date.

The speech from the head of state, read by the Vice President, also said that the value of Angola's public debt amounts to about 45.8 percent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) projected for 2015.

The same speech also announced a downward revision to 4 percent, of the GDP growth forecast, compared with the previous 6.6 percent indicated in the 2015 General State Budget, revised in March. (16-10-2015)

CHOPPIES PLANS AFRICAN EXPANSION

Choppies Enterprises, the Botswana-based supermarket chain that listed on the JSE in May, plans to open about 30 stores in the year to end-June and may also expand via acquisitions as it seeks to increase market share in the region.

"We will open stores through organic growth in Botswana, SA, Zimbabwe and Zambia," CEO Ram Ottapathu said on Thursday.

The retailer was also seeking to buy companies and may enter Tanzania and Kenya.

Choppies, which had 129 stores at the end of June, is expanding in sub-Saharan Africa to take advantage of rising household incomes, economic growth, a switch by shoppers to stores from outdoor markets, and an increasing demand for fresh food.

It competes with South African retailers such as Shoprite, Walmart Stores-owned Massmart and Pick n Pay, which are also opening outlets across the continent.

Choppies had no plans to expand beyond sub-Saharan Africa, Mr. Ottapathu said.

"In SA, it's very competitive, but we have been competing in Botswana with these other chains, so we are used to it."

Profit in the year to end-June has risen 21% to 202.8-million pula(R260.5m), Choppies reported on September 22.

The stock has climbed 16% to R5.70 on the JSE, valuing the company at R7.2bn. (Bloomberg 16-10-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE RECORDS DROP IN MALARIA CASES

Mozambique's health Ministry says the number of cases of malaria diagnosed in Mozambique in the first eight months of this year fell to 4,272,715 from 4,354,308, representing a decline of 1.8 percent compared with the same period in 2014, but rose in the two most populous provinces of Nampula and Zabezia, APA can report on Tuesday.

The Deputy National Director of Public Health, Benigna Matsinhe told a media briefing in Maputo on Tuesday that the drop was due to activities in preventing the spread of malaria such as the spraying of homes with insecticide, and the distribution of insecticide treated mosquito nets.

She said a spraying campaign was launched in September intended to reach over 3.1 million people, mostly in Maputo and Gaza provinces, but including Nampula city and the capital of Manica province, Chimoio.

For Zambezia, the spraying campaign begins next Monday, covering the two main urban areas, Quelimane and Mocuba, and the districts of Morrumbala, Dere, Milange and Mulombo.

According to Matsinhe, at the same time mosquito nets are being distributed.

"The Health Ministry advocates replacing the nets every three years and this is a continual process", said Matsinhe, adding that the health authorities are stepping up their efforts as the 2015-16 rainy season approaches.

Mozambique is prone to the mosquito transmitted disease among all southern African countries.(APA 13-10-2015)

ANGOLA'S SONANGOL TO BE RESTRUCTURED

The government of Angola has set up a commission to study the situation of the state oil company Sonangol and the oil sector, said Thursday in Luanda the country's Vice President Manuel Vicente. The Angolan Vice President and former chairman of Sonangol, who was giving a state of the nation speech to Members of the National Assembly on behalf of the President, said that the commission aims to propose the basis for restructuring and a more efficient and effective management model for the state oil company.

Vicente pointed out that the weight of oil production in gross domestic product had fallen from 46 percent and 58 percent in 2002 and 2008, respectively, to just 35 percent in 2014, a lower value than in many oil-producing countries due to the doubling between 2008 and 2014 of non-oil GDP growth rate.

However, he said, "the weight of oil tax revenue in overall tax revenues is still very large, accounting for two thirds of the total and about 95 percent of exports (...) and it is therefore necessary to intensify the implementation of the tax reform approved by this Assembly in 2014 in order to broaden the tax base and reduce the vulnerability of public spending to oil price fluctuations."

Forecasts for this year point to a growth rate of real GDP of 4 percent, with the oil sector growing 7.8 percent as a result of increased production and the non-oil sector by 2.4 percent, reflecting growth levels in agriculture (2.5 percent), manufacturing (2.6 percent) and market services (2.2 percent). (16-10-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE EXPORTS FISH WORTH \$80M PER ANNUM

The Mozambican Minister for the Sea, Inland Waters and Fisheries, Agostinho Mondlane has said his country estimated annual revenue of \$80 million from exporting fish, which has remained at an annual average of 250,000 tons.

The Minister was addressing the opening of the 7th Session of the Southwest Indian Ocean Fisheries Commission SWIOFC in Maputo on Tuesday when he said Mozambican fisheries production had remained stable and that the role played by the government had been to promote strengthening of domestic supply without losing sight of international markets.

According to the official, the fishing industry's contribution to gross domestic product (GDP) is currently around 1 percent but stressed that data was collected and processed by other institutions such as the Ministry of Economy and Finance, through the National Statistics Institute (INE).

At the five-day meeting, organised in partnership with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the member countries aim to address issues such as regional fish stocks, over-fishing and sustainable management.

Established in 2004, the Commission is composed of 12 member states namely South Africa, Comoros, France, Yemen, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mozambique, Kenya, Seychelles, Somalia and Tanzania. (APA 13-10-2015)

RELIEF AS RAND FIRMS AGAINST DOLLAR

The rand looks set to strengthen back to under R13 to the dollar as it continued its recovery on Thursday after breaching R14 to the dollar last month.

TreasuryOne chief currency dealer Wichard Cilliers said the rand rally was "one of relief" after gloomy US jobless claims data were released on Thursday.

The US Federal Reserve had indicated it would not be comfortable raising interest rates until the US inflation rate reached 2%, Mr. Cilliers said. Delayed US interest hikes were a positive for the rand in the short term, but they fuelled uncertainty and volatility, he said.

The fading prospect of a US rate rise this year also brought some relief to other beaten-down emerging-market currencies, such as the Russian rouble and the Turkish lira.

However, a strengthening rand tends to have an adverse effect on JSE-listed resources and rand hedges as it reduces their foreign earnings.

Inkunzi Investments senior trader Petri Redelinghuys said the market had struggled for most of on Thursday and traded in a confused manner, after firming somewhat at midday.

"We saw the local currency firming 1.2% against the dollar on the day after gaining 2.3% on Wednesday," he said.

This caused rand hedges to retreat, particularly affecting Richemont and SABMiller.

Mr Redelinghuys said resources had also lost ground.

Bloomberg reported on Thursday that weaker-than-estimated US retail sales on Wednesday had bolstered speculation that the US Federal Reserve would continue to refrain from raising the near-zero borrowing costs that had supported demand for riskier assets.

Odds that the Fed will increase rates in December dropped to 27% from 41% at the end of last month.

"The markets are taking hints from the recent US data, which has been weakish, and also the Fed comments," Aurelija Augulyte, a senior foreign-exchange strategist at Nordea Markets in Copenhagen, said.

"It is increasingly obvious the Fed is split in their views, maybe more than ever, which makes a 2015 hike close to impossible in the markets' view."

The developing markets index has lost 9.5% in 2015 and is trading at 11.4 times projected 12-month earnings, data compiled by Bloomberg show. The MSCI World index has declined 2.8% in the period and is valued at a multiple of 15.5.

All 10 industry groups in the emerging stocks measure rose, paced by technology and materials companies. Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing advanced 2.6% to the highest close in almost three months, leading gains among technology companies. AngloGold Ashanti climbed 2.7%, while GMK Norilsk Nickel PJSC added 1.6% in Moscow. Shares in Russia and Turkey increased at least 0.8%. The Shanghai Composite index surged 2.3% and the Hang Seng China Enterprises index rose 2.1%. (Bloomberg 16-10-2015)

ETHIOPIA'S PM CALLS ON FRANCE TO SUPPORT ENERGY DEV'T

Prime Minister Hailemariam Dessalgen on Tuesday called on French Senators to support Ethiopia in Renewable Energy Development, reports said on Tuesday.

In his discussion with a four-man Ethio-France Parliamentary Friendship Group here, the PM said Ethiopia has a goal of creating climate-friendly economic growth; and for this to happen it needs the assistance of France to develop its renewable energy resources.

Hailemariam called on both the Government of France and the private sector to support Ethiopia's goal of becoming a center of excellence in the renewable energy development as France is a country with a very good experience in developing the country's renewable energy.

The premier said Ethiopia is working to solve the challenges investors have been facing, including the construction of industrial zones.

He also briefed the delegation on the Second GTP and the plan to transform Ethiopia's agrarian economy to an industry-led one, urging France to support the endeavor.

President of the Ethio-France Parliamentary Friendship Group, Senator Louis Duvernois told reporters that his country has given great consideration for its economic cooperation with Ethiopia. (APA 13-10-2015)

ANGOLA ANNOUNCES RESUMPTION OF PROJECTS IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Angola will restart projects that it had in its portfolio in Guinea-Bissau following the inauguration of the new government led by Carlos Correia, the Angolan ambassador said Wednesday in Bissau.

Ambassador Daniel Rosa, after being received in an audience by the Guinean President, José Mário Vaz, stressed that what had hindered the implementation of projects in Guinea-Bissau, such as exploration of bauxite deposits, has been the reigning political instability.

"These are projects with very high costs that, because of that, can only be implemented when there is political stability," added the ambassador.

The diplomat said that with the current stability, which he believes will be lasting, Angola would resume contacts with Guinea-Bissau in order to, first, find out what guarantees the Guinean government will give, and then to start work.

Construction of the deepwater port in the locality of Buba in the south of Guinea-Bissau and bauxite mining in Boé, in the east, are the main interests of the Angolan government in Guinea-Bissau.

The ambassador also said the government of Angola welcomed the end of the political crisis that Guinea-Bissau has experienced in the past two months, following the dismissal by President José Mário Vaz of the government led by Domingos Simões Pereira. (16-10-015)

MOVING BEYOND AFRICA'S CRISIS OF INSTITUTIONS

This paper explains the dysfunctional state of African institutions and suggests possible interventions for effective and resilient institutions at the national, regional and continental level. It argues that institutional failure in Africa can be diagnosed at the conceptual and operational level. Conceptually, most African institutions are largely Western imports that do not reflect the socio-economic and cultural realities of modern African states. This mismatch not only results in institutional subversion by powerful interests but also accounts for the tension between formal state institutions, on the one hand, and informal and traditional institutions, on the other. In some cases, however, institutional dysfunction reflects the prevailing philosophy about political authority, espoused mostly by the old guard of African leadership, which is a carryover from Africa's colonial past and essentially at odds with the mechanisms of modern democratic governance. At the operational level, the dysfunctionality of African institutions can be explained by the dearth of responsible and ethical leadership on the continent, growing political alienation on the part of the African citizenry, inadequate state capacity to enforce rules, and limited economic opportunities, which encourages individuals and groups to subvert state institutions for rent seeking and the illegal accumulation of wealth. Against this backdrop, the paper makes the case for institutional designs that are responsive to local contexts, are adaptable to changing circumstances, and reflect a shared consensus and aspirations. Additionally, addressing the institutional malaise on the continent requires efforts to engender a new generation of African leadership that is not only skilled in the mechanics of modern democratic governance but also ethical and transformational. Safeguarding the integrity of Africa's political institutions will also benefit from encouraging greater civic engagement and harnessing the power and influence of civil society in its role as watchdog and ethical guardian of society.

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NUMBER OF ETHIOPIANS IN NEED OF EMERGENCY FOOD AID HITS 8.2M

Ethiopia's National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee has revealed that the number of Ethiopians in need of emergency food aid has reached 8.2 million as lack of rain continues combined with the El Nino weather phenomenon, APA can report on Tuesday.

Secretary of the National Committee Mitku Kassa said the government has allocated four billion birr (\$200,000) to support people needing emergency aid mainly in Afar and Somali states.

Secretary of the National Disaster Prevention and Preparedness Committee Mitku Kassa said the government has been working to raise the country's emergency food reserve to 100 million tons by purchasing food grains from local market and abroad.

According to the study carried out by local and international experts, the number of people needing emergency assistance confirmed to have increased. International aid agencies also verified this fact, he stated.

The government has allocated huge budget for the people who need emergency aid until coming December. The British government has also pledged to offer Â£45 million for this purpose, Mitku noted.

In addition to the emergency food aid, some beneficiaries will be embraced under safety net program in September 2016. Works are underway to improve the country's emergency food reserve for the effective implementation of the program, he said.(APA 13-10-2015)

PRIVATIZATION OF PORTS IN CABO VERDE ATTRACTS 11 FOREIGN COMPANIES

Eleven European and Asian companies have expressed interest in the privatisation of port activities in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) and more than half meet the technical requirements to proceed to the second stage of the tender, the chairman of state port management company Enapor said in Praia.

The chairman of Enapor – Portos de Cabo Verde, Carlitos Fortes, said the second stage of the tender was due to begin later this month and that the possible conclusion of the process, with the choice of one or more operators for the four main ports, could be as early as the first quarter of 2016.

Fortes, cited by weekly newspaper A Semana, also said that the state institution in charge of the privatisation – Unidade das Participações e Parcerias Público-Privadas – was in the process of selecting the companies that should carry over to the next stage and finalising the specifications of the port operations concession process, to submit to government approval.

The list includes companies from Portugal, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Philippines, Turkey, China and Singapore.

No Cape Verdean company put forward a proposal, either individually or in partnership, both for a lack of financial capacity to guarantee investments in four the international ports tendered and technical expertise to increase cargo flow.

Only operations in the ports of the islands of Sao Vicente, Santiago, Sal and Boa Vista are up for tender as they are the most profitable and the only ones with the capacity to receive international traffic. Cabo Verde's other ports will remain under the direct management of Enapor. (16-10-2015)

NIGERIA: FRANCE GRANTS U.S.\$170 MILLION FOR IMPROVED POWER SUPPLY IN FCT

France says it has granted 170 million dollars aimed at increasing the power supply for the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The French Ambassador to Nigeria, Mr. Denys Gauer announced this on Thursday in Abuja in a remark at the Nigeria Alternative Energy Expo 2015.

Represented by Mr. Georges Vanin, First Counsellor, Political Affairs and Communication, Embassy of France, Abuj, the ambassador said the power sector was one of the three priority sectors identified by the French Development Agency (AFD) in its 2014-2016 strategy in Nigeria.

"The AFD is contributing to the development of the electricity transportation network by supporting the public company Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN).

"On the occasion of a first project aiming at increasing the power supply for the Federal Capital city, Abuja, the AFD has granted 170 million of dollars to the Federal Government in 2013.

"This project is on-going. A second one is being considered for 2016," he said.

He explained that Nigeria was one of the first African countries targeted by the Sustainable Energy for All initiative.

"In September, Nigeria has indeed presented its objectives and plan of action for this initiative.

"The federal government has declared the access to power as its first development priority and has asked the AFD to play a role in addressing this challenge, especially in terms of transporting electricity.

"The AFD is willing to improve the efficiency of the private supply networks through a 150 million U.S. Dollars soft credit facility granted to two local banks.

"The credit facility is under final assessment by AFD for funding Distribution Companies investments."

According to him, in addition, AFD is working on another 150 million dollars credit facility to support the private sector initiatives in favour of clean and renewable energy.

"This model of credit facility, called SUNREF, has been very successful in East Africa.

"I have no doubt that it will also be a success in Nigeria where the private sector is pro-active," he said.

The envoy said AFD was also willing to support the reform of vocational training in the power sector through financing the National Power Training Institute of Nigeria (NAPTIN).

He identified the lack of labour force and qualified technicians as an obstacle to the success of the power sector reform.

Gauer, however, said NAPTIN was now keen to change its culture and governance models in order to satisfy needs of training from private and public operators.

He said the AFD Group would continue to be active in three key sections of the Nigerian power sector, namely, production, transmission and distribution. (NAN)

MEETING BETWEEN RWANDAN, RUSSIAN FOREIGN MINISTERS DOMINATE NEWSPAPERS

The Rwandan press on Wednesday dominated by reports of a meeting between the Rwandan Foreign Affairs Minister Louise Mushikiwabo and her Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov, in Moscow to discuss a broad range of issues aimed at strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The two countries have a long history of diplomatic relations dating back to 1963, while the Rwandan embassy in Russia was reopened in 2013 for the first time since the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis.

In economic news, Rwandan CEOs are complaining against unfavorable cross-border trade policies within the East Africa region.

A meeting in Kigali between members of the business community and their lobby organ, the Private Sector Federation, listed policies that hinder penetration into the EAC.

Resolutions from the meeting are expected to be handed to President Paul Kagame who is expected to attend the 11th Northern Corridor Integration Projects summit scheduled to be held on Saturday 17 October.

Another major headline states that the Science for Nature and People (SNAP) has announced the setting up of a new expert working group which will support the government of Rwanda's development strategy and international initiatives in natural capital accounting.

This follows the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in New York in 2012.

The SNAP Natural Capital Accounting Expert Working Group is expected to spend two years assessing Rwanda's development plans and modeling land use impacts in support of the country's economic development and poverty reduction strategies, biodiversity strategy and action plans, and poverty and environment initiatives.

In related news, the government has announced a new drive to integrate local and indigenous knowledge with science and technology in an effort to increase disaster resilience.

The announcement was made on Tuesday in Kigali by Seraphine Mukantabana, the minister for Disaster and Refugee Affairs, while addressing a news conference on this year's International Day for

Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDR).

In agriculture, Rwanda has opened collaboration with US-based research partners which is reported to have launched a three-year program aimed at enhancing production of quality coffee.

The program is expected to increase Rwanda's coffee exports from 17,000 tonnes exported last year to 20,000 tonnes by next year.

In sports, Rwanda's five-man cycling team will be hoping for a podium finish in the 15th Grand Prix International Chantal Biya cycling race that starts Wednesday in Yaoundé- Cameroon.

The five-day race, which is listed as a 2.2 race by the International Cycling Union (UCI) will attract over 70 cyclists from 13 teams.(APA 14-10-2015)

CABO VERDE STATE COMPANY ISSUES BONDS TO FINANCE ITSELF

Cape Verdean public company Imobiliária, Fundiária e Habitat (IFH) plans to carry out a bond issue worth 850 million escudos (US\$8.8 million), following an authorisation granted by the government through the Directorate General for the Treasury.

Justifying the operation, the government said that it intends to facilitate access to adequate housing for the most disadvantaged people, "one of the fundamental pillars of the economic transformation agenda for the country," according to weekly newspaper A Semana.

This is the second time that the Treasury has approved IFH raising funds through the securities exchange, to build housing for disadvantaged people.

The first operation took place in December 2013, when the government authorised the issuance of debenture bonds worth 1 billion escudos (US\$10.3 million).

To combat the housing deficit, especially of the most disadvantaged population groups, Cabo Verde launched the "Housing for All" programme and launched it by signing a credit line with Portugal, worth 220 million euros, with the government providing 10 percent of the funding.

With about 1,460 buildings built (economic, controlled cost and social housing), 1,450 houses refurbished and the state asset management of about 390 buildings, the IFH has taken actively taken on its responsibility of promoting and structuring urban areas in Cabo Verde. (16-10-2015)

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