MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

BONGO RIVAL CALLS FOR CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE TO FORCE GABONESE LEADER OUT

Gabonese presidential candidate, Jean Ping who still claims victory in the 27 August poll, has called for civil disobedience aimed at forcing incumbent President Ali Bongo to relinquish power.
"Since Ali Bongo wants to kill Gabonese, I declare Gabon a dead country" Ping declared in a message published on social media on Monday directed at his supporters.

The 73-year-old however appealed to the Gabonese people not to resort to violence but to instead bring the country's economy to its knees by peaceful means.

"In order to preserve human lives, I ask you from now on to eschew violence but instead jam the country's economy" Jean Ping wrote.

The call for civil disobedience comes five days after Ali Bongo was declared by the Interior ministry as the winner of the polls with 49.80 percent of the vote, narrowly edging Ping who polled 48.23 percent.

In the capital Libreville, activities have been slow to resume with only few offices open and people queuing in front of banks to claim their salaries.

A Ping spokesman said the appeal by his leader for people to stay at home is informed by the fact that security is far from assured in the capital and other parts of the country.

Security forces are still very much in evidence in the streets of Libreville where the internet has been partially restored.

Seven people were killed in the post-election violence which followed the announcement of the poll results.

They include five in Libreville, one in Port-Gentil, the economic capital, and a policeman in Oyem (North). (APA 05-09-2016)

POST-ELECTORAL CRISIS: AFRICAN LEADERS POISED FOR CRUNCH NEGOTIATIONS IN LIBREVILLE

A high-profile delegation made up of African heads of state is poised to travel to Libreville to hold crunch negotiations with both parties to the post-electoral dispute in Gabon as soon as the right conditions are in place for talks, Chadian President Idriss Deby disclosed on Monday in his capacity as sitting chairman of the African Union.
Deby said the entourage will be accompanied to the Gabonese capital by officials of the AU Commission and the United Nations.

In a statement seen by the African Press Agency, President Deby claimed he was monitoring "with great interest the situation in Gabon, after the announcement of the results of the 27 August presidential election which declared incumbent Ali Bongo the winner."

The chair of the continental organization once again reaffirmed, the availability of the AU, with the backing of countries in the region and relevant partners to assist both sides of the Gabonese political divide to finding a swift resolution to the post-election crisis, in strict compliance with constitutional and legal provisions, and in light of the relevant AU tools on democracy and elections.

Gabon’s autonomous and permanent electoral commission declared Ali Bongo the winner of the presidential election with 49.80 percent of the votes, a victory later confirmed by Interior Minister, Pachomius Moubelet-Boubeya.

Jean Ping, Bongo’s main challenger polled 48.23 percent of the votes, according to the electoral body.

Ping, a former African Union Commission chairperson has been repeatedly claiming victory after the polls. (APA 05-09-2016)

GOVERNMENTS OF ANGOLA AND MOZAMBIQUE INCREASE BORROWING FROM DOMESTIC BANKS

The governments of Angola and Mozambique, faced with complicated economic and financial situations, have been forced to revise their respective state budgets, in both cases choosing to increase borrowing from domestic banks.

The problems in these two Portuguese-speaking countries, as with other African countries, are due the fall in commodity prices since 2014, which in Angolan’s case led to a fall in oil revenues and in Mozambique has resulted in a drop in investment and postponement of projects to extract raw materials.

Mozambique’s revised state budget, which was also intended to incorporate about US$1.4 billion of previously unbudgeted debt of public companies, projects growth of 4.5%, 2.5 percentage points lower than the first version and applies spending cuts in all areas, with the exception of Health, and a significant impact on public works is expected.

The Eaglestone Securities consultancy, in a recent analysis of budget amendments, noted that domestic revenues now had greater weight in terms of funding the Mozambican state, including through a “significant increase” in domestic credit, which will “almost triple” compared to the initial proposal.

Compared to the first version of the budget, tax revenue to total revenue fell by 1.9 percentage points to 59.4%, while domestic financing rose from 3.1% to 8.9%, to a total of 21.768 billion meticais.

External financing of 37.850 billion meticais, increased its weight from 15.1% to 15.6% of total revenues and foreign aid, which is currently suspended by partners following the disclosure of previously hidden debts has been reduced by 2.6 percentage points to 7.5%.

In the case of Angola, domestic financing, of 2.089 billion kwanzas, actually exceed external financing, of 1.384 billion kwanzas in the revised state budget.

Compared to the initial budget proposal, domestic funding increases by almost 50%, while external funding falls 8.8%, with the weight of both these components (3.474 billion kwanzas) is practically equal to tax revenues (3.485 billion kwanzas).

Commenting on the new Angolan budget proposal, which forecasts growth of 1.1%, a third of the figure included in the initial state budget, Eaglestone noted the government “believes that the country continues to have access to sufficient funding, including from international sources”, which is why it decided to do without the financial assistance of the IMF.

“However, it is clear that the level of Angola’s debt continues to rise at a very fast pace and therefore careful monitoring is required. This is particularly relevant given the increasing levels of debt denominated in foreign currency, as well as the possibility of further depreciation of the kwanza in the short term, which may make it more difficult for the country to honour its commitments”, Eaglestone warned.

In July the Angolan government announced it was in final negotiations for loans from other foreign entities in the order of US$3.3 billion.

Between November 2015 and June 2016, the state borrowed US$11.460 billion, including US$5 billion from the China Development Bank and US$2 billion from other Chinese banks.

Angolan state debt currently totals an estimated US$47.9 billion, including US$25.5 billion in foreign loans (excluding debt of public enterprises such as oil company Sonangol). (05-09-2016)

MOROCCO, 'LEADING ENERGY REVOLUTION' IN NORTH AFRICA

In light of the large scale projects to diversify its energy sources and reduce dependence on foreign suppliers, Morocco was branded as the Maghreb's "energy revolution leader" in an analysis recently published on About Oil website, an international news platform specializing in energy issues.

"Morocco is leading the energy revolution in the Maghreb," said About Oil in the analysis which highlights the Kingdom's efforts to unburden itself from dependence on foreign energy suppliers and satisfy a rising domestic demand on electricity through investing in shale oil, liquefied natural gas (LNG) and renewable energies.

Morocco's energy strategy is also geared towards satisfying a rising domestic demand on electricity as the country is projected to consume 65 TW/h by 2025, that is a 6.2% increase compared to 2016, said the website in the analysis signed by Arianna Pescini.

"The Kingdom's goal is to move from being a coal-dependent importer to a market in which clean energies and natural gas play an increasing role," Pescini quotes Riccardo Fabiani, senior analyst at Eurasia Group as saying.

The article highlights Morocco's political stability which offers conditions propitious for energy investment in a region plagued by turmoil as well as the Kingdom's ambition to move from an importer to an exporter of clean energy to Europe.

In this connection, the analysis sheds light on Morocco's LNG National Development Plan, approved in late 2014 to be completed for a total investment of 4 billion dollars. The plan features an LNG onshore terminal in Jorf Lasfar near El Jadida to be completed for a total cost of 4 billion dollars.

The terminal will have a storage capacity of 5 billion cubic meters of LNG per year, a fitted marine jetty, regasification plants and new high pressure gas transmission pipes.

The analysis shows that natural gas is the best solution for Morocco in its clean energy transition, adding that Morocco's LNG plan will also involve the cities of Safi and Tangier, through which Russia could distribute natural gas to countries like Chad, Senegal and Niger.

The article also echoes the latest statement by Sound Energy in which it confirmed the finding of "significant" commercially exploitable gas discovery in its first well in Tendrara, eastern Morocco.

Concerning renewable energies, the analysis underscores Morocco's endeavour to boost solar energy production citing the International Renewable Energy Agency's (IRENA) comments on Morocco becoming a "leader in the sector."

"Just consider Ouarzazate, in the Sahara Desert, which in 2018 will become the largest solar field in the world, supplying 580 MW of electricity to over one million people, or the three thousand villages across Morocco that are already receiving power from small-scale solar panel installations," says the article quoting IRENA.(North Africa Post 26-08-2016)

UGANDA ISSUES EIGHT OIL LICENCES

The Ugandan government on Tuesday announced it has issued eight petroleum licences to two major oil firms which can now commence plans for production.
Five licenses have been issued to a consortium led by Tullow Uganda while three others have been given to another consortium led by Total Uganda.

The licenses have been issued for a period of 25 years and can be renewed for an additional period of five years.

The companies are expected to make final investment decisions within 18 months and to begin production of oil by 2020.

The ministry of Energy and Mineral Development said the oil refinery to be built in Uganda will be the first option for the companies which are expected to invest up to $8 billion in the infrastructure needed for the production of oil from about 500 wells.

The ministry also said between 200,000 and 230,000 barrels of oil will be produced daily with 30,000 barrels being refined in Uganda.

The rest will be exported as the refinery is expanded.

Uganda is expected to earn $1.5 billion from its oil output annually for the next 25 years and the companies have been tasked with employing citizens of the country where possible.

The oil companies in a joint statement said the granting of production licenses now paves the way for the Joint Venture Partners and other stakeholders to make considerations for long term capital and infrastructure investments in Uganda.

The granting of the licenses comes after Uganda and Tanzania agreed to construct an oil pipeline to transport crude oil from Kabaale in Hoima to Tanga port for export. (APA 30-08-2016)

FUNDING FROM CHINA WAITS FOR GUINEA-BISSAU TO DEFINE PROJECTS

The Ambassador of Guinea-Bissau in China, Malam Sambu said in Bissau on Sunday the Chinese government had provided 82 million yuan (US$12.3 million) in funding and it was now up to the Guinean government to define to which projects the money will be applied.

The diplomat, speaking at the end of the Fourth Conference of Guinea-Bissau Ambassadors recalled the Chinese government had provided the aid to the Portuguese-speaking African country as part of Macau Forum, and its payment, which had already begun, was waiting only for the presentation of economically viable projects.

Without specifying dates, Sambu said China would finance a social housing project under construction in Guinea-Bissau.

The ambassador noted China was also funding 16 scholarships for Guinean students to study in higher education and that among the Portuguese-speaking African countries Guinea-Bissau had benefited most from short term scholarships offered by China as part of Macau Forum.

The diplomat also said there were Chinese companies seeking to invest in Guinea-Bissau, in sectors such as agriculture and agribusiness, fisheries and tourism.

For example, Sambu said China intends to carry out a project that will revolutionise the Biombo region in northern Guinea-Bissau, with the construction of a port, schools, roads and hospitals in order to transform the area into a duty-free area.

China plans, according to the ambassador's statements, to starting work in October, and is now waiting for the Guinean government to make a number of legislative changes, in particular those relating to the creation of free zones.

The diplomat said Chinese fisheries company Conapemac, a subsidiary of the China National Fisheries Corporation (CNFC), which has fished in Guinea-Bissau waters for many years, plans to acquire land to build a fish processing plant. (05-09-2016)

HOW WILL AFRICA HANDLE NEW TRADE DEALS?

The last few months have seen some significant developments for African trade and integration. These advances come at a crucial time for African countries, which have been particularly hard hit by the slump in commodity prices, China's economic downturn, and higher external borrowing costs. This has resulted in slower GDP growth than expected, currency fluctuations and reduced investment – particularly in resource-rich countries.

New dynamics are emerging because of two major developments: first, a set of agreements between regional African blocs and the European Union, as well as between African countries themselves. Second, Brexit may change the thrust of African trade with both the EU and Britain.

Combined, they are likely to have some positive economic implications for Africa.

Intra-African trade has comprised about 15% of Africa's total trade over the last decade. This compares with intra-regional trade rates of, for example, 17% in South and Central America, and 62% in Asia. African exports to the EU have increased substantially in recent years, from €85 billion in 2004 to more than €150 billion in 2014.

The recent trade and integration developments should raise economic activity and competitiveness in non-extractive sectors, leading to higher GDP growth and greater economic diversification. They are intended to boost intra-African trade, particularly in goods, and may increase African trade with the EU and Britain.

Trade to drive economic integration

In June, African leaders signed the Tripartite Free Trade Area agreement. This has created a free-trade zone stretching from Cape Town to Cairo, covering 26 countries and representing almost half of African Union member states.

The agreement unites three existing trade blocs – the Southern African Development Community, the East Africa Community and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa. At least half of the member states are expected to ratify the tripartite agreement within the coming year, enabling implementation to begin.

The tripartite agreement promises to remove trade barriers within this extended region and increase market size and economic activity. Critically, it will reduce the cost of goods traded within the affected zones. It is a key achievement in the rationalisation of Africa's trade agreement landscape.

Not all member countries will benefit equally from the agreement. Notably, countries with smaller economies and limited goods export capacity, such as Rwanda, may lose out to stronger regional economies where production centres may consolidate, such as South Africa.

Since member states will be required to remove protectionism from domestic industries, infant industries are likely to struggle to compete unprotected in the free trade zone. This may hamper industrialisation efforts in smaller economies.

A notable weakness is that the tripartite agreement does not cover trade in services, such as legal, accounting and IT services. Services represent more than 50% of exports in value-added terms and has been the largest contributor to GDP in 35 African countries.

Achieving greater integration through implementation of the tripartite agreement will require considerable investments in improving infrastructure and connectivity across member states.

This is essential to reduce transaction costs, which remain disproportionately high across much of Africa. It costs more in time and money to import and export containers of goods in sub-Saharan Africa than any other region. For example, it takes US$2,567 and 37 days to import a container in sub-Saharan Africa, compared to US$1,612 and 19 days in Latin America and the Caribbean.

The tripartite agreement is expected to form the basis of the Continental Free Trade Area negotiations, which are due to be completed by October 2017.

The continental agreement aims to join the 15 countries of Economic Community of West African States to the tripartite free trade area. Africa's economic powerhouses of Kenya, South Africa, Nigeria and Egypt recently pledged to consolidate their efforts in pushing for the finalisation of these negotiations.

Taking advantage of Brexit

The Southern African Development Community signed a new economic partnership agreement with the EU in June. This is to facilitate trade between some of the region's member states (Botswana, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, and Swaziland) and the EU. This deal was signed shortly before Britain voted to leave the EU.

The EU agreement with the southern African bloc appeared to yield a fairer deal compared to previous agreements. For example, flexible rules of origin were adopted, allowing for partial processing in more than one of the included southern African countries. This will contribute significantly to strengthening regional value chains.

In addition, for the first time, the Southern African Development Community agreement prohibits the EU from using agricultural export subsidies. This might ease constraints on African farmers' competitiveness.

While the Common Agricultural Policy has already undergone much reform, removal of the remaining protectionist provisions is likely boost GDP and reduce poverty in Africa, as shown in a case study on Uganda.

Pressure may be mounting for the EU to extend similar (or better) terms for the East African Community. A broadly similar revised EU agreement has been negotiated recently but its signing was recently delayed. Tanzania demanded a moment of pause citing turmoil in the EU after the Brexit vote.

It is too early to be certain, but this may be the first sign of African countries using Brexit to renegotiate and leverage fairer trade terms with the EU.

When Brexit finally takes effect, Britain will have no valid agreements with either African trade blocs or individual countries. New agreements with Britain will need to be negotiated. This may be a costly exercise for African countries but can be made easier by negotiating as regional blocs.

Britain's immediate concern will be trade negotiations with the EU and other large trading partners. African trade blocs are therefore unlikely to be addressed for some time, and the uncertainty created by this delay may be damaging to African exporters. This lack of clarity could be mitigated by an early signal from Britain as to its planned stance.

Brexit will have both positive and negative effects

On the negative side, British consumer demand for imports from Africa could drop as the pound weakens and the British economy goes into a mild, Brexit-induced recession. African countries more integrated into global markets will be most affected, notably South Africa, Kenya, and Nigeria.

On the positive side, Brexit could possibly result in fairer trade deals for Africa, with both Britain and the EU.

However, until Britain's post-Brexit trade policy is established, it is not possible to assess how progressive it may be. A weakened EU may be forced to compromise more, enabling African countries to secure fairer deals.

Despite some deficiencies with the trade blocs and agreements, these developments have the potential to significantly expand trade and economic growth in Africa. They may increase competition and strengthen regional value chains. Further gains will also be achieved if the free-trade zones are expanded to cover trade in services. (The Conversation 01-09-2016)

CHINESE FIRM SECURES OVER $1.8M LIGHT RAIL CONTRACT IN NIGERIA

Nigeria's Kano State Government has awarded a $1.8 million contract for the construction of the Kano metropolitan light rail to the China Railway Construction Corporation.

According to This day newspaper report on Tuesday, the Kano State Commissioner for Works, Housing and Transport, Alhaji Shehu Haruna Lambu, disclosed on Monday that the project would be executed through foreign investors of which 85 percent of the total cost would be sourced from the foreign investors, while 15 percent of the amount would be sourced locally.

He explained that the proposed light rail would spread across the metropolis and connect Janguza Barracks to Bata and Jogana to Bata.

According to the commissioner, the project which is expected to be completed within 24 months, will provide commuters in the metropolis a better and hitch-free access to transportation and enhance economic activities in the state.

The report said that the Managing Director of the Chinese firm, China Railway Construction Corporation, Mr. Wei Guo Qin, commended the Governor of Kano State, Alhaji Abduallahi Umar Ganduje for his people-oriented programmes.

He promised to comply with the specific guidelines of the contract, including the timely completion of the project. (APA 30-08-2016)

ANGOLA'S POSTAL SERVICE SETS UP POSTAL BANK

Angola's postal service Empresa Nacional de Correios e Telégrafos de Angola plans to set up a postal bank, Banco Postal, a limited liability company focused on attracting savings, the state company said in a statement issued on Friday.

The initial capital of Banco Postal was provided by Angolan public and private business entities, including the postal service itself Empresa Nacional de Correios e Telégrafos de Angola, state insurer ENSA Seguros de Angola, Grupo ENSA – Participações e Investimentos, EGM Capital and C8 Capital.

The financial institution will start operating in the final quarter of this year, through one of its three business units.

"Banco Postal will be the most recent institution in Angola's banking sector and aims to be a clear and decisive benchmark to build trust," the statement said. (05-09-2016)

CAN THE UK'S NEW TRADE OPPORTUNITIES DELIVER FOR AFRICA?

The Brexit vote has ushered in a new era of uncertainty for African economies due to forecast declines in investment and development assistance, as well as trade. But there may be an upside for Africa to the UK's historic decision to leave the European Union.

A key issue in the referendum was the UK's ability to independently negotiate trade agreements without having to conform to EU rules and regulations. The vote opens up the possibility of competition between the EU and the UK for African partnerships. Some have also argued that the Commonwealth (a grouping of former British colonies that includes Canada and Australia) could take on renewed significance as a trading bloc. This could bring benefits, but it could pose a number of challenges.

For one, the EU's bilateral trade policy – Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) – between the EU and Africa, include the Most Favoured Nation Clause (MFN). This prevents either party from granting a third party (the UK for example) more favourable tariff treatment. It means that any preferences afforded to the UK over and above those laid out in the EPA would need to be extended to the EU.

Another challenge is that African regional integration might suffer from a return to the Commonwealth framework for trade. The Commonwealth not only excludes nearly all of Francophone Africa but cuts across seven of the eight regional economic communities (RECs) recognised by the African Union. These already have a worryingly high overlap in membership, with only 12 out of 54 countries belonging exclusively to one REC.

Adding the Commonwealth to this already complex web of RECs may lead to increased competition for resources as well as fragmentation of markets. This consequently reduces the ability of RECs to pursue coherent integration programmes and complicates their relationships with partners outside the continent.

However, the Continental Free Trade Area, set to be concluded in 2017, could ease these integration concerns. This potential $3 trillion market will remove trade barriers for more than a billion people and is "a grand opportunity for Africa to reshape its relations with the UK and the rest of the world", according to Dr Calestous Juma, professor of the practice of international development at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Despite these limitations the silver lining is that Brexit could also be a unique opportunity to "take advantage of Britain's relative urgency to secure new economic relations … and for African countries to gain more favourable trading terms", according to Elliot Kratt, an analyst with the Economist Intelligence Unit. This will require a combined African effort to work closely with the EU and the UK in negotiations. If such unity can be achieved, the post-Brexit reality may turn out to be a positive one for Africa. (African Business Magasine)

BOTSWANA, MOZAMBIQUE AND ZIMBABWE PLAN TO BUILD RAILWAY

The governments of Botswana, Mozambique and Zimbabwe on Friday signed a partnership document for construction of a railway of over 1,700 kilometres through all three countries to facilitate trade, reported Zimbabwe's Chronicle newspaper.

The document was signed in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, by the Minister of Transport and Development Infrastructure of Zimbabwe, Joram Gumbo, the Minister for Transport and Communications of Mozambique, Carlos Alberto Mesquita and the Minister for Minerals, Energy and Water Resources of Botswana, Onkokane Kitso Mokaila.

Around 1,500 kilometres of the railway will be located in Zimbabwe and there will be 100 kilometres in both Botswana and Mozambique. Each government will provide US$200 million in funding and seek to establish a public-private partnership for the project given its size.
Joram Gumbo said he hoped the project will improve the distribution of regional traffic, increase regional integration and international cooperation and will be another part of a regional transport network.
The railway, which will end in Mozambique at Ponta Techobanine where a sea port will be built, should, according to the stakeholders, facilitate investment in mining, logistics and industry. (05-09-2026)

BOTSWANA POISED FOR NORMAL RAINFALL

Botswana's Department of Meteorological Services (DMS) has announced in a statement on Thursday that the 2016/17 season will generally be a normal rainfall season.
In its review of the rainfall prospects for the period October 2016 to March 2017, the department said most parts of the country are expected to be moderately wet during the start of the season with an exception over the southwest of Botswana, where it is expected to be moderately dry.

The department said that by mid season, an improvement of rainfall is expected over the southwest, whilst normal rains are expected over the rest of the country with likelihood to below normal.

"The last part of the rainy season is expected to be largely normal with a likelihood of above normal over most parts of the country," the statement said.

Overall, an increase in rainfall is expected over the country compared to the 2015/16 rainfall season.

This is mainly due to the expected weak La Niña conditions. (APA 01-09-2016)

EAST AFRICA: ETHIOPIA ENVISIONS TO GENERATE 17,000 MW FROM RENEWABLE ENERGY

Environment and Climate Change Minister Dr. Shiferaw Teklemariam said that Ethiopia looks to lead Africa in planing and constructing large hydro-power projects from solar, wind, geothermal and hydro power sources.

Opening a two-day International Conference and Exhibition on Renewable Energy with the theme: 'Powering Resilience with Renewables' here yesterday, the Minister said by the end of 2020, Ethiopia planned to generate about 17,000 MW energy from renewable energy sources.

Dr. Shiferaw also said that there has been a need to collaborate with countries facing similar challenges in environmental issues and in meeting energy demands. Public and private joint vision to power Africa must be the basis of all development cooperation, he stressed.

According to Dr. Shiferaw, Africa 2063 Agenda and SDG 2030 can be realized by powering Africa with renewable energy sources.

Commissioner for Infrastructure and Energy of African Union Commission Dr. Elham M. A Ibrahim on her part said that although Africa has a lot of hydropower resources, the sources from rivers, forests and biomass have been affected by climate change. "So, it shows how climate change affects the future, and forced us to look into ways of managing it," Dr. Elham said.

"Fortunately, our continent has very rich resources such as solar, wind, ocean, geothermal, we have to consider the climate change in our own design called climate resilient. Therefore, we have to work together to use it in the best way for the benefit of everyone," she added.

It was learned that renewable energy may satisfy half of the world's energy needs by 2050.

The event attracted electric utilities, financiers, researchers, energy leaders, officials, project managers and energy experts from the government and private sector, international organizations and academia. (Ethiopian Herald 02-09-2016)

CHINA BANKROLLS ABIDJAN SECURITY SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

The Ivorian government has ratified a loan agreement valued at over $57 million concluded last June with the export-import Bank of China (China Exim Bank) to finance a video surveillance project for the city of Abidjan.

This was revealed by Bruno Koné Nabagné, government spokesman who also doubles as minister for Digital Economy and the Post Office, at the end of a cabinet meeting chaired by President Alassane Ouattara on Wednesday.

According to him, this project based on telecommunications and information and communications technology aims to ensure better security for Abidjan and reduce crime rate in the city, particularly with a surveillance infrastructure and a road traffic control and regulation system.(APA 01-09-2016)

TANZANIA SIGHTS $30B LNG PLANT

The government is expected to start an environmental impact assessment (EIA) on land where a $30 billion liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant project will be located.

“We expect to finalise the implementation of the primary investigations by the end of this year. After the EIA is completed, we will then start compensating people whose land will be taken,” Modestus Lumato, the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) Principal Petroleum Engineer said.

Tanzania has more than 55 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves, and the site identified by the government is at Likong’o Village in Lindi region.

BG Group, being acquired by Royal Dutch Shell, along with Statoil, Exxon Mobil and Ophir Energy plan to build the onshore LNG export terminal in partnership with the Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC).

Lumato said the EIA is expected to start soon and will go in tandem with the Development Report Induction Plan. He said the two studies which will be conducted for three months to determine whether it is viable to put up the project on the area.

He said the government Chief Valuer had approved compensation for people who will be moved from their lands to pave the way for the project. Asked how much would be involved in the compensation, he said it would be known when the process starts.

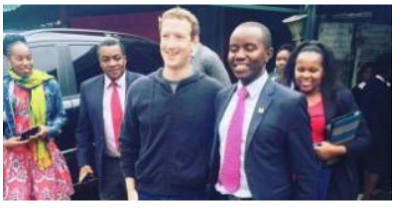
TPDC has to go through the report and determine how much will be paid. “We are first dealing with the EIA process before we endorse the compensation process.”

Reports show that TPDC owns a title deed for 2,071.705 hectares for constructing the project. Another 17,000 hectares will be for an industrial park.

However, he said several studies would be conducted before determining whether to go on with the construction or not. The first study is known as the Free Front End Engineering Design which would be followed by the Front End Engineering Design (FEED) that mostly entails an engineering design approach to control project expenses.

Lumato said the completion of the FEED process is important to determine the outcome of the project before jumping in for the final investment decision in order to commence with construction.
A University of Dar es Salaam senior lecturer, Prof Haji Semboja, believes the LNG project as viable to bring multiple opportunities. “The construction of the LNG project is a long process and is mostly funded by the multinational companies, and if they are ready to go along with the project, the government should fast-track the construction of the project to ensure we enjoy the opportunities available.”
Until 2014, it was estimated that the development of a $30 billion LNG plant would create over 10,000 new direct jobs and thousands more indirectly. (Business Week 28-08-2016)

FACEBOOK CEO VISITS KENYA’S MOBILE TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg is visiting Kenya this week on his first trip to Africa, using his time in the country to visit the iHub technology hub in Nairobi, meet with developers and partners, and explore how the country’s pioneering mobile money ecosystem is evolving.

Statement issued Thursday by Facebook says Zuckerberg is in Kenya to see how technology innovation is changing the country, learn more about what mobile entrepreneurs are doing with the latest technology, and find out how Facebook can better support small businesses, developers and content creators across growing markets.

Zuckerberg landed in Kenya on Wednesday after visiting Lagos, Nigeria. He was particularly excited to see how mobile money and social media are driving commerce in the region and creating new opportunities for entrepreneurs and communities.

One of Zuckerberg’s first stops in Kenya was iHub, an Innovation hub and hacker space started in March 2010 by TED fellow and entrepreneur, Eric Hersman where he met several developers and entrepreneurs.

Zuckerberg also spent some time hanging out with developers in The Community Space and marveling over the ingenuity of BRCK, an American-owned, Kenya-based start-up that built a rugged, self-powered, mobile WiFi device which connects people and things to the internet in areas of the world with poor infrastructure. (APA 01-09-2016)

JAPAN CHOOSES AFDB TO IMPLEMENT BOLD NEW INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN FOR AFRICA

Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has announced a bold new African infrastructure plan worth US $10 billion over the next three years to be implemented by the African Development Bank (AfDB), raising the stature of the Abidjan-based financial institution in achieving Africa's development.

The infrastructure investment package announced by the Japanese Prime Minister will focus on modernizing electricity, power and urban transport systems in order to improve the connectivity of Africa.

"Taking this initiative, Japan will appropriate approximately US $10 billion to Africa over the next three years for building infrastructure. A portion of this will be executed through cooperation with the African Development Bank (AfDB)," Prime Minister Abe told leaders from African states during the Sixth Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD VI) in Nairobi on Saturday.

The Japanese Prime Minister said the support package aims to increase the electricity generation capacity by 2,000 megawatts as well as increasing the geothermal power generation using Japanese technologies. The increased power generation capacity is focused to reach 3 million households by 2022.

"It will be necessary to develop roads and ports. This must be nothing other than quality infrastructure. At the Group of 7 Summit, we were united in our determination in this regard. This point was detailed in the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investment," Prime Minister Abe said.

Japan has pledged to work together with the African leaders towards achieving developmental objectives on a range of principles - quality, resilience and stability. The quality principle will focus on building the infrastructure elements based on Japan's preferred work ethos, known as kaizen, or "continuous learning".

This is a system aiming to advance Africa's industrialisation through higher economic productivity. The productivity element also focuses on working together to empower factory foremen and plant managers and leaders of worksites under a new plan to be known as the "African Business Education Initiative for Youth (ABE) Initiative." This will allow business executives from Africa to study in Japan. Japan aims to reach at least 1,500 experts.

Japan has also pledged to put the advances of its domestic education policies at the disposal of African industries. Japan hopes to provide access to its educational system to African students by promoting engineers to learn from its kosen, or "colleges of technology". This system aims to train at least 30,000 engineers to support the foundations of Africa's industrialisation.

The TICAD summit, being held for the first time on African soil in Nairobi, Kenya, has attracted several African leaders and heads of international development institutions, including Akinwumi Adesina, President of the AfDB.

President Adesina has been articulate on the need for a proper understanding of Africa's development challenges and the contribution that Africa's scholars should play in advancing development in various fields.

"Leadership is about knowing what is wrong. We have been discussing how to raise economic productivity across Africa in the agricultural value chains. What we are trying to do is to scale up production and we still need the political capacity. We must mobilize financial capacity," Adesina told a side event at the TICAD summit.

"The direction is very clear for Africa's development. The scholars in Africa need to move away from theories to practicality," the Bank President said.

The expert discussions at the TICAD VI summit have laid more emphasis on developing the agriculture sector to give Africa a chance to develop its industrial capabilities. There are concerns that the cost of developing the infrastructure remains more expensive and there is need to provide guarantees against political risks likely to be faced by investors. (AfDB)

GHANA TO UNDERTAKE $1BILLION PORT EXPANSION PROJECT

Ghana's Meridian Port Services (MPS) has secured a US$1billion facility to expand the Tema Harbour, APA learns here.

Tema Harbour, after the expansion works, is expected to become an ultra-modern port in West Africa, and enhance trade flows across the sub-region.

The Ghanaian Times on Thursday reports that the MPS and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, have signed a US$ 667 financing package while shareholders would provide the remaining US$333 million from a fresh equity.

The expansion works would allow the world's largest container ships to dock at Tema, and improve cargo handling services and capacity, and at the same time enhance the port's competitiveness.

The project involves the dredging of 120 hectares of land from the sea, four deep water berths (16 meters) and a 4-kilometer breakwater, among other things.

A press briefing was organised on Wednesday to announce the project, where Mr. Richard A. Y. Anamoo, Director of Ghana Ports and Harbour Authority (GPHA), assured environmental activists that the project would not enhance sea erosion as was being speculated. (APA 01-09-2016)

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