

MEMORANDUM

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SUMMARY

Fault lines develop in Zimbabwe's army	Page 2
S/Africa's GDP rises 3.3 percent in 2016 Q2	Page 3
Swazi capital has only five percent water supply left	Page 3
Court rules inauguration of Zambian President Edgar Lungu can go ahead	Page 4
DRC: Independent candidate suggests Catholic Church could run transition, polls	Page 4
Mozambique moots \$770m industrial free zone	Page 5
Rob Davies tells of South Africa moves to position itself for Brexit	Page 6
Senegal airport: January-to-June passenger figures up by 2.2 percent	Page 7
South African delegation on investment mission to Sierra Leone	Page 7
Zimbabwe Denies Charges of Partisan Food Aid Distribution	Page 8
National Tourism Month kicks off in Malawi	Page 9
Nigerians facing desperate hunger accuse officials of stealing food	Page 10
Malawi: Gov't calls for disregard of Tanzania-issued map on Lake Malawi	Page 11
Nigeria offers three-year tax holiday to foreign investors	Page 12
Mauritius: Oracle continues to drive cloud adoption strategies in Africa	Page 12
Cameroon: Ecobank authorized to issue electronic money	Page 12
Malawi receives \$44 million grant to boost education sector	Page 13
CAR: BEAC governor praises GDP growth rate	Page 13

FAULT LINES DEVELOP IN ZIMBABWE'S ARMY



Zimbabwe's military is fracturing along generational lines in a potentially dangerous turn for the Southern African nation as President Robert Mugabe's ruling party splits over who will succeed him.

With Mugabe approaching his 93rd birthday and Zimbabwe's economy imploding, some top military leaders were choosing sides in faction fights of the ruling Zanu (PF), said four members of the party's politburo who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Veterans of the independence war against the white-minority state of Rhodesia mainly backed Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa against Mugabe's wife, Grace Mugabe, they said.

The splits threaten the cohesion of a military that has been a pillar of Mugabe's power base since the armed struggle that led to independence in 1980. With rising protests over an economy that has halved in size since 2000, who senior army commanders support in the ruling party may determine the country's next president.

"The generals are involved in a war of generations," said Alex Magaisa, a UK-based law lecturer and one of the authors of Zimbabwe's 2013 constitution. "The liberation generation wants to hold on to power against the post-liberation generation, which wants to wrest control of the party leadership."

Faction fight

Gen Constantine Chiwenga, the 60-year-old commander of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces, supports Mnangagwa, who has served in Mugabe's cabinet since independence. Maj-Gen Douglas Nyiakaramba, chief of administration, is backing a faction that has coalesced around Grace Mugabe.

Army commander Gen Philip Sibanda, who once led UN peacekeeping forces in Angola, had stayed out of the dispute, they said. The three officers were not available to comment, a telephone operator, who refused to provide his name, said on Wednesday when Bloomberg called army headquarters.

The Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association, once used to subdue opposition protests and spearhead policies such as the seizure of white-owned commercial farms, criticised Mugabe in July, saying he "presided over untold suffering of the general population for his own personal aggrandisement and that of his cronies."

Former vice-president Joice Mujuru, who was expelled from Zanu (PF) two years ago and now leads the Zimbabwe People First party, still enjoys sympathy among officers. She is the widow of former defence forces commander Solomon Mujuru, who died in a house fire five years ago. Joice Mujuru says the general, a hero to most Zimbabweans, was assassinated.

Mnangagwa, a 69-year-old former security minister, heads a faction in the ruling party known as Lacoste, taken from the French sportswear firm Lacoste's logo, a crocodile, Mnangagwa's nickname. Opposing it is a group known as Generation-40 [G-40], who are made up of generally younger supporters of 51-year-old Grace Mugabe, who critics call "Gucci Grace" for her allegedly extravagant lifestyle.

Older leaders

"G-40 is more civilian orientated; the generals look to older party leaders who actually carried guns in the war for the main part," said Showers Mawowa, a Zimbabwean researcher at the Southern African Liaison Office in Pretoria.

"Zanu (PF) has a history of military involvement in politics dating back to the 1970s that has never disappeared."

Mugabe has faced increased protests in recent months as an unprecedented liquidity crisis has led to civil servants, including military officers and troops, receiving salaries late and some private-sector workers being given goods instead of pay. That sparked a national strike on July 6 that shut down much of Zimbabwe. The country was also hit by riots as taxi operators protested against police harassment.

Freer atmosphere

"It seems that across the security sector, including the police, there's less inclination to clamp down on protest," Mawowa said. "The atmosphere is much more open now, even in the rural areas people aren't as afraid of Zanu (PF) as they were."

The older generation of officers would probably stick with the Mnangagwa faction because they have seen how Grace Mugabe's supporters orchestrated the expulsion of Mujuru, a war veteran, from the ruling party, Magaisa said.

"The generals are looking to their future; they know they'll soon leave active duty and must prepare for life after it," he said. "They've also seen how the G-40 approach is built around the erosion of the older war generation." (Bloomberg 12-09-2016)

S/AFRICA'S GDP RISES 3.3 PERCENT IN 2016 Q2

South Africa's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 3.3 percent in the second quarter of 2016, Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) deputy director-general Joe de Beer has said in Cape Town.

This development comes after the real GDP production decreased by 1.2 percent in the first quarter of this year, de Beers said on Tuesday.

The main contributors to the GDP growth rate were the manufacturing industry and the mining and quarrying industry, the deputy director-general said.

The primary sector grew by 8.8 percent, with mining and quarrying growing by 11.8 percent, while agriculture, forestry and fishing decreasing by 0.8 percent, he said.

De Beer said the increase in production in the platinum group metals was the main contributor of the growth in this mining sector, adding that the secondary sector grew by a rate of 5.3 percent, with manufacturing going up by 8.1 percent, construction by 0.1 percent, while electricity slumped by 1.8 percent.

Notable increases were reported by the petroleum and motor vehicles manufacturing divisions, he said, noting that all industries in the tertiary sector recorded positive growth rates, with finance increasing by 2.9 percent, transport (2.9 percent), trade (1.4 percent), government (1.2 percent) and personal services contributing a positive growth rate of 0.8 percent.

De Beers said in nominal terms, the GDP growth is estimated at US\$76 billion for the second quarter of 2016, which is US\$1.8 billion more than the first quarter of 2016. (APA 07-09-2016)

SWAZI CAPITAL HAS ONLY FIVE PERCENT WATER SUPPLY LEFT

Swaziland's capital Mbabane has only five percent of water left in the Hawane Dam which supplies city and surrounding areas, an official said Wednesday.

Swaziland Water Services Corporation spokesperson Nomahlubi Matiwane told the media that her organisation was doing all it could to make sure that residents had alternative supply of water should the dam run dry completely.

We are negotiating with the Swaziland Electricity Company to source water from one of their major dams which they use for producing electricity, Matiwane said.

The official said her company was currently preparing water tanks to be placed in strategic areas around Mbabane for residents to access clean water because there was no hope that the situation would

normalise any time sooner.

Water shortage in Swaziland is as a result of the persistent drought caused by El Nino which has been described as the worst in 35 years.

Its effects are already manifesting as hospitals in Mbabane have recorded cases of bilharzia due to lack of clean water.

Water rationing has also seen residents getting a supply of clean water for only 10 days in a month. (APA 07-09-20216)

COURT RULES INAUGURATION OF ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT EDGAR LUNGU CAN GO AHEAD



Zambia's Supreme Court has rejected an application by the main opposition party to stop President Edgar Lungu's inauguration, set for Tuesday after August's contested election, a lawyer for the opposition leader said on Monday.

The election row — which followed violence between rival campaign supporters in what is otherwise considered one of Africa's most stable democracies — could damage Zambia's ability to attract investment critical to reviving the economy.

"The court has declined to grant the application on grounds that as a single judge, he has no jurisdiction," Keith Mweemba, a lawyer for opposition leader Hakainde Hichilema told journalists.

Lungu's inauguration after the August 11 election was postponed because Hichilema challenged the result in court, saying the vote was rigged.

A law introduced in January says the winner of a presidential vote cannot be sworn in if their victory is contested in court.

On Friday, the Lusaka High Court threw out an attempt by opposition United Party for National Development (UPND) leader Hichilema to overturn a Constitutional Court decision not to give him more time to legally challenge Lungu's re-election.

Mweemba said his clients planned to file another application before the full bench of the Supreme Court. Zambia will press on with swearing in President Edgar Lungu for another five-year-term on Tuesday, after Lungu won 50.35% of the vote, according to the official results.

Prospects for resuming critical budget support talks with the International Monetary Fund have been dimmed by delays in swearing in a new head of state.

Lungu has been the head of the ruling Patriotic Front since leader Michael Sata died in 2014. He won the presidency the following year, defeating Hichilema in their first electoral confrontation. (Reuters 12-09-2016)

DRC: INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE SUGGESTS CATHOLIC CHURCH COULD RUN TRANSITION, POLLS



Monique Mukuna, an independent candidate in the next presidential elections in DR Congo has suggested that the country's political transition and the holding of elections be assigned to the Catholic Church.

In an exclusive interview with APA, Ms. Mukuna holds that this proposal, which is in no way motivated by her religious beliefs, is simply justified by the fact that the Catholic Church accounts for around 70 percent of the Congolese population.

According to her, this solution will move the country away from a constitutional crisis or "bloodshed".

Ms. Mukuna who has maintained her decision to snub the national political dialogue convened by President Joseph Kabila, under the auspices of the African Union said: "This dialogue as it is proposed, in no way responds to the expectations of the people who feel frustrated."

She opined that this conclave is only a logical continuation of a plot to deprive the Congolese people of their constitutional right, which is that of free and democratic elections in 2016.

Launched on September 1, 2016 for a period of two weeks, the national dialogue seeks to drive the DR Congo out of her current electoral crisis.

Questioning the legitimacy of the DRC's political players participating in the dialogue, she noted with regret, the "total chaos" in the meeting, "which was meant to be all-inclusive."

She inquired: "Siding with the opposition against an outgoing regime isn't it a way of perpetuating it?"

An economist by profession, Monique Mukuna, called for "an audit of the past management to ensure that a dynamic plan of our economic recovery is established with secure and verifiable values."

To this end, she said her "biggest challenge", if she comes to power, is to establish a "safe, effective and long-term" management system.(APA 07-09-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE MOOTS \$770M INDUSTRIAL FREE ZONE

Mozambique's cabinet spokesperson, Mouzinho Saide has said an industrial free zone to attract "structuring investments", increase and diversify the country's exports, promote technological development, and create jobs is in the works by the government.

Speaking on Wednesday Saide said the project is being planned for the Revobue region of the western province of Tete, as part of a strategy to establish industrial development facilities.

The official said a decree on the new free zone was passed late on Tuesday at the weekly session of the cabinet meeting.

"The development of projects in the extractive and mining industry in Tete has created the conditions for setting up poles of industrial development and the new free zone would lie between the districts of Chiuta and Moatize", Saide said.

According to the official, the anchor project will be an iron and steel factory, in which an estimated \$770 million will be invested but he did not reveal where the money would come from other than that it would be provided by private sources.

Tete has two of the crucial components for making steel, deposits of iron ore, and of high grade coking coal.

Coal mining in the province is currently in crisis due to the collapse of coal prices on the international market. (APA 07-09-016)

ROB DAVIES TELLS OF SOUTH AFRICA MOVES TO POSITION ITSELF FOR BREXIT



SA has told the European Commission and EU trade partners that Brexit should not reduce access to European markets for South African products.

With the timing and terms of Britain's exit from the EU still to be negotiated SA is positioning itself. Until Brexit, SA will continue trading with the UK in terms of its trade agreement with the EU. But Brexit will require SA to negotiate a separate trade agreement with the UK.

The main element of the economic partnership agreement signed last year between the EU and several Southern African states, including SA, was to determine a number of tariff quotas on products such as sugar and wine, which provided greater access for South African products.

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies told members of Parliament's trade and industry committee on Tuesday that he had been making the point to the EU that when new countries joined the EU, for example Croatia most recently, "the tariff quotas are not increased. So if there is an exit of Britain we don't expect the tariff quotas to be decreased.

"That is the message we have been sending around. So whatever we negotiate with Britain when it leaves will be different to what the arrangement ought to be with the remainder of the EU," Davies said. Of SA's trade relations with the US, Davies said US trade policy was likely to change whoever became the new president. Democratic Party candidate Hillary Clinton and Republican Party candidate Donald Trump "have a distinctly different stance on trade policy matters to the Obama administration".

Either of them was likely to have a major effect on the future of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (Agoa).

Davies will visit the US in two weeks' time for the last Agoa forum under the Obama administration. SA secured its continued participation in the preferential trade regime this year in exchange for granting greater access of American chicken to the domestic market.

Focusing on continental integration, Davies said he had been having informal dialogue with the trade ministers of Kenya, Egypt and Nigeria on how to add impetus to the process of uniting Africa in a free-trade area.

The Southern African Customs Union was involved in negotiations on tariff schedules with the East African Economic Community and Egypt and had set itself the target of developing tariff schedules — the guts of a continental free trade agreement — by the end of this year.

SA also hoped to conclude a motor industry agreement with Nigeria. The aim is for SA to support Nigeria's motor industry and in return be allowed to supply inputs and completely built-up units.

Davies said 20 black industrialists had so far been approved under government's black industrialist programme. Recipients were innovative entrepreneurs involved in productive activities, he said.

He conceded that the economy faced serious headwinds, but said it had demonstrated resilience. Manufacturing had performed credibly and showed that diversification and industrialisation were the way to address SA's economic challenges, he said.

Davies said his department's industrial policy action plan was having an impact on the performance of the manufacturing sector. The plan involved financial incentives and also localisation and the developmental tariff policy. (BD 13-09-2016)

SENEGAL AIRPORT: JANUARY-TO-JUNE PASSENGER FIGURES UP BY 2.2 PERCENT

The total number of passengers registered at Dakar's Léopold Sédar Senghor International Airport during the first half of 2016 was up 2.2 percent compared with the same period last year, the Department of Forecasting and Economic Studies (DPEE) revealed on Wednesday.

Relying on data from the Agency for Aerial Navigation Safety in Africa and Madagascar (ASECNA), the DPEE noted that the number of passengers had totaled 995,626 against 974,118 in the first half of 2015, suggesting an increase of 21,508 in absolute value.

This is due to both the number of arrivals and departures.

The number of arrivals increased by 8.1 percent to 441,732 against 408,470 in 2015.

The number of departing passengers grew by 5.3 percent to 487,485 against 462,981 in 2015.

However, the number of transit passengers fell sharply by 35.3 percent from 102,667 in the first half 2015 to 66,409 a year later.

The number of aircraft that touched down on the tarmac of the Dakar airport was down by 3.8 percent to 16,889 against 17,560 aircraft in the first half 2015.

As for total freight carried, DPEE data suggests an increase of 12 percent from 19,284 tons in 2015 to 21,591 tons in 2016. (APA 07-09-2016)

SOUTH AFRICAN DELEGATION ON INVESTMENT MISSION TO SIERRA LEONE

A high profile South African investment mission is in Sierra Leone to explore investment opportunities, APA learns on Wednesday.

The delegation met with President Ernest Bai Koroma on Tuesday, according to reports from the President's office.

Saidu Contong Sesay, the President's Chief of Staff, recalled in a statement that he recently authorized a small delegation to visit South Africa in response to interest expressed by the South African investor, ETN

Group, to invest in the West African country's telecommunications sector.

He said the visit to Freetown was a follow up to the first discussions.

According to details of Tuesday's meeting, the SA delegation is also looking to explore further opportunities, including tourism, health and agriculture sectors.

The visiting delegation comprises officials from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Industrial

Development Corporation and Telecommunication, said Mrs. Lulu Sinwana, South African High Commissioner to Sierra Leone, who is based in Ghana.

She said they were working on the establishment of an economic cooperation agreement for the two countries.

We will soon have an economic cooperation agreement or even a joint commission with possible cooperation projects that may drive development, the envoy said.

President Koroma welcomed the move as boost to South-South Co-operation.

He said before now there were no business exchange between Sierra Leone and South Africa, besides the involvement of South Africans in the country's mining sector.

Before now we have not had much cooperation with South Africa. But we are happy that we are looking at new opportunities, the President said. (APA 07-09-2016)

ZIMBABWE DENIES CHARGES OF PARTISAN FOOD AID DISTRIBUTION



Machinda Marongwe, Oxfam's director in Zimbabwe, says his organization is "deeply concerned" with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission findings that there is partisan food aid distribution in the drought-hit southern African nation.

In Zimbabwe, a human rights commission reports that the government is giving food aid to supporters and withholding it from opponents. A coalition of aid groups has voiced concern about the report, while the government has denied the allegations.

Last week, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission said it found evidence of political bias in the distribution of relief aid by the government. Areas that support the ruling ZANU-PF party were getting food, it said, while areas that support opposition parties were not.

The Ministry of Social Welfare denied the allegations Monday as "unsubstantiated and seemingly malicious." It said the charges denigrate a program that has the "keen interests" of President Robert Mugabe.

During the weekend, the 92-year-old leader weighed in on the issue.

"And the information, which some stupid people and stupid spokesman of is it Human Rights [Commission] put out, say grain is being distributed along party lines, is completely false, absolutely false," Mugabe said.

He added that Human Rights Commission chairman Elston Mugwadi had been influenced by Western countries who he said sponsor the commission.

Early this year, Zimbabwe made a plea for assistance to feed more than four million people -- nearly a third of the population -- after a severe drought reduced the harvest.

Oxfam's director in Zimbabwe, Machinda Marongwe, says his aid agency "was deeply concerned" with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission findings. He called for aid to be distributed according to principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality.

A coalition of more than 20 NGOs said it welcomed the "bold and timely intervention" by the Human Rights Commission, and called on the government to refrain from manipulating food aid as a way of gaining political support before Zimbabwe's next elections in 2018. (VOA 12-09-2016)

VOLKSWAGEN BACK IN KENYA TO RESTART VEHICLE ASSEMBLY

Volkswagen South Africa on Wednesday signed a deal with the Kenyan government to restart assembling vehicles in the country more than thirty years after it left. Under the agreement, Volkswagen will use the Kenyan vehicle manufacturers plant in Thika in the outskirts of Nairobi to assemble its popular brands beginning with the Volkswagen Vivo.

Making the announcement on Wednesday, President Uhuru Kenyatta said the plant will then expand into a fully fledged assembly operation producing a range of vehicles.

"I am happy to welcome back the Volkswagen Group, currently the largest car manufacturer in the world, back to Kenya," said President Kenyatta at State House, Nairobi, where he witnessed the signing of the agreement between Kenya and Volkswagen.

The German automaker used to operate in Kenya in the 1960s until 1977 and used to assemble Volkswagen vans and minibuses Kenyatta said the return of Volkswagen is a sign of the economic transformation in Kenya, adding that the venture will create jobs for many of his compatriots.

"This is a milestone in my administration's determined push to grow the manufacturing base and transform Kenya into an industrialized nation. We are in the early stages of transformation," he said in a statement.

"This is being welcomed by major investors such as Volkswagen who realize that Kenya is now a more competitive investment destination, and are responding by pursuing opportunities here," said Kenyatta.

Volkswagen South Africa CEO, Thomas Schafer said his company was excited to return to a rejuvenated Kenya.

"We were in Kenya in the 1960s and 70s and resuming operations here is part of our Africa strategy," said Schafer.

Schafer who said his firm will start operations immediately said Kenya has a huge potential to become a vehicle exporting country, serving the wider Eastern Africa region. (APA 07-09-2016)

NATIONAL TOURISM MONTH KICKS OFF IN MALAWI

Malawi has announced the launch on Wednesday of its National Tourism Month to compliment efforts aimed at turning the tourism industry into one of the most pivotal drivers of the economy.

Every year, the Malawi government designates September as the National Tourism month.

In 2014, tourism accounted for 4.5 percent of the country's GDP, providing 3.8 percent of Malawi's workforce.

Tourism in Malawi revolves around attractions such as Lake Malawi, the Zomba Plateau and Mulanje Mountain and national parks and wildlife.

Speaking in the capital Lilongwe during the launching of the various activities to mark the month on Wednesday, Trade, Industry and Tourism minister, Joseph Mwanamvekha said during the course of the month, stakeholders will raise public awareness about the importance of tourism to the health of the national economy.

“We would like to reach as many people as possible with various tourism messages in the country,” he said.

Some of the activities lined up during the course of the month include a lively interactive parade, a tourism street carnival and traditional dances among other things.

Malawi will also join the rest of the world to commemorate World Tourism Day on September 27. (APA 07-09-2016)

NIGERIANS FACING DESPERATE HUNGER ACCUSE OFFICIALS OF STEALING FOOD

Nigerian officials have been accused of stealing food from desperate people who are living in camps after fleeing the terrorist group [Boko Haram](#).

Camp residents, who fled their homes and have been living under flimsy shelters for years, have resorted to angry protests against “starvation”. They say trucks full of food have gone missing, and that government officials are diverting emergency food relief to their own homes.

UN accused of failing as north-east Nigeria at risk of famine

Médecins Sans Frontières says UN agencies failed to respond to warnings after Boko Haram devastated food production in Borno state

“In the night they load up vehicles with food and take it away to their houses,” said one man, who was shot by Boko Haram before finding his way to one of the camps in Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state, a year ago. “But I can’t complain. [A local official] said that if I complain he will tell soldiers that I am a member of Boko Haram and they will kill me.”

The murder, rape, kidnapping and pillaging that the extremist group Boko Haram has unleashed in north-eastern Nigeria since 2009 has forced [more than 2 million people](#) to flee their homes.

Nearly 4.5 million are urgently in need of food in Borno, Adamawa and Yobe states, of whom some 65,000 people have so little to eat that they have been [classified as being in famine](#), the most extreme phase of food insecurity.

The country is on the cusp of “a famine unlike any we have seen anywhere”, Toby Lanzer, the UN’s assistant secretary general, said last week.

With nothing but rainwater to drink, “living conditions in this camp have been no different to being dead”, said leather trader Mohammedu Abacha, 81, a resident of Bakassi camp in Maiduguri.

Another resident, Gana Zannah, said: “There is no food. There are people in there who have resorted to begging to survive. There are others who just cook leaves and eat and sleep, for two weeks now.”

There have been mounting protests in recent weeks. According to [local media reports](#), last week 6,500 people from one of the shelters, known as Arabic College camp, took to the streets saying they been given so little food that their children had died. Two weeks ago, several hundred angry protesters blocked roads and attacked cars.

Occasionally, small bags of semolina and stock cubes are distributed, protesters said, but not nearly enough to feed the many widows and children who make up the majority of the camps’ population.

Haruna Musa, a fish trader from Baga, said that as soon as Satomi Ahmad was appointed chair of the emergency effort in Borno, last September, “things went bad”. Musa said that, initially, the quality and quantity of food deteriorated – they often went without food for days, and when it was given out it was “as poor as a dog’s food”. Then things got worse.

“Now the camp officials divert food meant for us to their houses,” Musa said. “The officials collaborate with leaders in the camp to divert the food – they will give them money. Recently, we caught one of the camp officials with bags of rice in a vehicle trying to drive out of the camp. Pictures were taken and we reported it to the government, but nothing has been done. They are still stealing our food.” Some protesters have been expelled from the camps for making such accusations.

Nigeria on the brink of famine: ‘Children are dying from starvation’

Hajiya Gana Adamu, a mother of eight, protested after the 18,000 naira (£43) she was given to feed her family for a month ran out after 11 days.

Her family were well-off farmers in Bama. But two years ago they were threatened by Boko Haram members as they harvested their crops. Adamu gathered her family and fled, and later heard that the family house had been burned down and their cattle slaughtered.

At first her family was treated well in the camp, she said, but then rations began to dry up and officials began giving out small amounts of cash rather than food.

According to Médecins Sans Frontières, some 130,000 are living in Maiduguri’s 13 camps for displaced people. The town’s population, which was 1 million, [has grown to 2.5 million](#), according to a conservative estimate by the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, as so many displaced people are living among the local community.

Conditions for people living outside the camps may be even worse. The government does nothing to help the 1.4 million internally displaced people who are not living in shelters, and most aid agencies are also focused on the camps.

MSF has two health centres in Maiduguri, and most of the people who go there are internal refugees from outside the camps. More than half of the children that they see are malnourished.

For months, MSF has been [warning](#) that hundreds of thousands of Nigerians could die of starvation, but so far the UN has [only managed to raise 39%](#) of the \$279m (£210m) it says is needed to stem the crisis.

Even as the army claims to have [made gains against Boko Haram](#), people continue to flee their homes. Fatimah Mohammed was caught by members of Boko Haram two years ago in Bama. She was imprisoned with 20 other women, and the militants refused to give them any water to drink because, Mohammed said, “We [are] wives of infidels and we can go and die.”

She managed to escape with her four-year-old daughter, and walked for 18 hours to reach Maiduguri, where she found the rest of her family. The conditions in her camp were so bad, and the money she was given was so little to live on, that Mohammed said she would rather go back to Bama.

“If the government cannot take care of us, they should take us back to our town. It’s better to just face Boko Haram in our homes and die than suffer here like this,” she said. (The Guardian 13-09-2016)

MALAWI: GOV’T CALLS FOR DISREGARD OF TANZANIA-ISSUED MAP ON LAKE MALAWI

The Malawi Government on Thursday advised its controlling officers and the public to disregard any map showing that any portion of Lake Malawi as part of Tanzania.

Tanzania is currently promoting a new map that is showing part of the lake in northern Malawi lies in Tanzanian territory.

The Chief Secretary to the President, George Mkondiwa said in Lilongwe Thursday that Malawi should reject the use of any document carrying such misinformation.

“Malawi Government would like to call upon all government ministries, departments, agencies and the general public to be alert on this matter and continue to reject and refuse any map appearing in any form either in documents or in the media as adverts, calendar and diaries, among others,” he said.

Mkondiwa added that Malawi has never accepted that Tanzania owns part of the lake and that the claims are unacceptable.

However, Tanzania claimed that it has released the maps to show the new boundaries of its districts and regions. (APA 08-09-2016)

NIGERIA OFFERS THREE-YEAR TAX HOLIDAY TO FOREIGN INVESTORS

The Nigerian government says it will be offering a three-year tax holiday to prospective foreign investors in the country's mining sector. (APA 08-09-2016)

MAURITIUS: ORACLE CONTINUES TO DRIVE CLOUD ADOPTION STRATEGIES IN AFRICA

Exchange of best practices and gaining expert insights from top cloud strategists was the key focus for Oracle customers who took part in Oracle's two day long 'Africa Executive Summit' that concluded Thursday in Mauritius.

According to a statement issued here Thursday, dozens of Oracle customers gathered to understand various aspects of the cloud adoption process including capacity building, innovation, security and the ability to leverage Internet of Things (IoT) for driving business growth with Oracle cloud solutions.

Janusz Naklicki, Vice President of the Russia, Africa and Central Europe, Oracle commented: "Cloud adoption in Africa is growing at a rapid pace as organizations now realise that cloud offers them speed, value and better ROI.

Africa is a priority market for us and the Africa Executive Summit is in line with our commitment to further drive this interest and support our customers in Africa in their journey to the cloud".

The two-day summit included a host of information packed activities including panel discussions, customer testimonials and keynote addresses by top Oracle executives including Janusz Naklicki; Cherian Varghese, Cluster Leader, Sub Saharan Africa, Oracle and Deepak Mehra, Vice President – Cloud Architect, Oracle.

Cherian Varghese added, "Cloud technology will undoubtedly drive the next phase of growth for businesses in Africa and with our completely integrated cloud platform that spans all layers of the cloud, we are uniquely poised to help SMEs, large organisations and governments in Africa transition to the cloud". (APA 08-09-2016)

CAMEROON: ECOBANK AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE ELECTRONIC MONEY

The Bank of Central African States (BEAC) has granted Ecobank Cameroon permission to take up the business of electronic money by the establishment of a Visa Prepaid Card, APA learns Thursday from the Bank.

This ends a year of procedure as Ecobank filed its application in September 16, 2015.

Based on the BEAC decision, Ecobank Cameroon must use this authorization within twelve months from the signing of the decision otherwise it lapses.

After more than 12 years of activity in Cameroon, the local subsidiary of Ecobank ranks 4th among the best banks in the country, with total assets of 522.4 billion CFA francs in late 2015.

This represents an increase of 19 percent compared with 2014, an upward trend of total assets is consequential to the increase in customer deposits, which experienced an increase of 24 percent last year to stand at 439.7 billion CFA francs.

Ecobank Cameroon has earned a net profit of 6.386 billion CFA francs in 2015, against 6.05 billion CFA francs the previous year. (APA 09-08-2016)

MALAWI RECEIVES \$44 MILLION GRANT TO BOOST EDUCATION SECTOR

Malawi has received a grant of US\$44 million from the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) to boost its education sector.

Speaking to journalists on Thursday after an audience with President Peter Mutharika in the capital Lilongwe, the GPE Chief Executive Officer, Alice Albright said the funds will help programs that target on access and quality of education in the country.

“This grant will support the construction of new schools, sanitation facilities and training of staff like teachers in most disadvantaged districts of the country,” she said.

About 70 per cent of the grant is a fixed part which will focus on improving existing schools, construction of new schools and sanitary facilities while the remaining 30 per cent is a variable part which will be based on achievement of the results on selected indicators of equity, efficiency and learning which includes retaining girls to school, she said.

Malawi joined GPE in 2009. (APA 08-09-2016)

CAR: BEAC GOVERNOR PRAISES GDP GROWTH RATE

The Governor of the Bank of Central African States (BEAC), Lucas Abaga Ntchama has praised the growth rate of the gross domestic product (GDP) in CAR estimated at over 5 percent, noting that this level is more noteworthy because it exceeds that of other member states of the Central African Economic and Monetary Community (CEMAC).

Speaking at the second meeting of the BEAC national economic and monetary committee held Wednesday in Bangui, Mr. Ntchama said such performance is explained by the restoration of security in the country and the good relations that the CAR has woven with international financial bodies, not to mention the rigorous management of public finances.

During the meeting chaired by CAR Finance Minister, Marie Henri Dondra, participants reviewed the country’s macroeconomic situation.

Dondra took the opportunity to call on the armed groups to join the “Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Process” launched by the President to consolidate peace and definitive return to growth in CAR. (APA 08-09-2016)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO -

Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.

The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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Ruzizi III Hydropower Plant

The Ruzizi III Hydropower Plant project is part of the African Development Bank's general strategy to increase regional renewable energy projects. The AfDB will fund three components: Component A will be allocated about \$175 million for physical implementation of the hydropower plant and an 8.3km transmission line connecting the dam to Kyamanyola power dispatch center; Component B will be allocated roughly \$7 million in support of regional integration and other social objectives, while the remaining, \$4.3 million will go towards project management costs.

The project will help the DRC, Rwanda and Burundi to meet their growing energy needs and ensure reliable and affordable electric power. The Ruzizi III Hydropower Plant Project will increase the region's access to electricity by 300%. As a regional project, the electricity generated will also feed an additional 147 MW into the East African Power Pool (EAPP).

Estimated Costs: \$625 million

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