MEMORANDUM

N°210/2016 | 24/10/2016

The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 4,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.
More than 1,556 Memoranda issued from 2006 to end of 2015. More than 18,350 pages of Business Clips issued covering all African, European Institutions and African Union, as well as the Breton Woods Institutions. The subscription is free of charge, and sponsored by various Development Organisations and Corporations.
Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to fernando.matos.rosa@sapo or fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be.

2006 – 2016, 10 Years devoted to reinforce Europe – Africa Business and Development

Due to technical reasons this issue of the Memorandum is delayed

SUMMARY

AFRICA’S MOST VALUABLE BUSINESS IS WORTH LESS THAN IT OWNS

Fifteen years ago, a South African media company invested $34m in an obscure Chinese internet developer. Today that stake is worth $88bn.

All Naspers, now Africa’s most valuable company, has to do is figure out how to make money from its other properties. The whole company is worth only $72bn, less than its stake in Shenzhen-based Tencent Holdings. Investors are not impressed with Naspers’s operations in pay-TV, newspapers and e-commerce in such countries as SA, Russia and India.

To win them over, CEO Bob Van Dijk has launched an aggressive push to sell some assets, invest in others and expand operations such as classified advertising into new markets. If it pays off, comparisons with Tencent could become more flattering.

The valuation gap was an "opportunity for long-term investors who have done their homework" on Naspers’s e-commerce components, said Ruan Stander, a money manager at Allan Gray, which owns Naspers shares. "The headline accounting numbers can mislead you into thinking these businesses are failing", yet they needed a period of loss-making to establish themselves in the marketplace, he said.

On Tuesday, Naspers said it would combine Ibibo, a travel business in India, with competitor MakeMyTrip to boost their presence in the South Asian country. Last week, Naspers agreed to sell Allegro, a Polish online auction site, for $3.25bn, saying the sale was "consistent with the group’s strategy to find and unlock value for shareholders". Shares rose after both announcements, bringing Naspers’s gains on the JSE this year to 7.1%.

The company also hired Citigroup MD Fahd Beg as deputy chief investment officer, people familiar with the matter said, a move that boosted the company’s team of executives scouring the planet for the next Tencent-style success story.

To make more money from its operations, Naspers will have to overcome a threat to its satellite TV business from new competitors and e-commerce activities that lost $693m in the past fiscal year. Companies such as classified-ad business OLX operate in 40 countries, yet only 10 are cash-generative, according to Bloomberg Intelligence media analyst Tal Smoller.

Naspers-owned Flipkart may be India’s biggest online shopping hub, yet the e-commerce market in that country was still nascent, she said.

"The key to Naspers doing more than merely tracking Tencent’s performance will be the extent to which they can successfully monetise these e-commerce assets," Anchor Capital chief investment officer Sean Ashton said.

Naspers, which started out as a newspaper publisher in 1910 before expanding into TV in the 1990s, bought the Tencent stake under then-CEO Koos Bekker in 2001. Since then, Tencent has developed WeChat, an instant messaging app that has 805.7-million monthly active users. Even China’s economic slowdown is not hurting its fortunes.

"More advertisers might choose to place ads with Tencent in times of downturn, since its platform might be more effective than offline channels," said Yu Jianpeng, a Hong Kong-based analyst at ICBC International Research. "One of Tencent’s biggest strengths is the traffic it generates as a social media platform, making it an attractive game distributor."

Although Tencent accounts for half of Naspers’s revenue and almost all its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation, the South African company does have some successful operations. Its pay-TV business, MultiChoice, has close to 10-million subscribers in 49 sub-Saharan African countries and broadcasts international sports and hit dramas like Game of Thrones and The Walking Dead.

Dubai e-commerce

Naspers has stakes in about 45 technology and media companies around the world, including US online-learning provider Udemy and Souq.com, known as the Amazon.com of the Middle East. The Dubai-based online retailer was planning to sell a block of about 30% that would give the company a value of at least $1.2bn, people with knowledge of the matter said last month.

"Our focus remains on delivering long-term value and sustainable profits," Meloy Horn, Naspers’s head of investor relations, said. "We expect sustained good results and increased contributions from our fast-growing e-commerce operations to rectify the discount" to Tencent.

But MultiChoice faces new competition from entrants such as Econet, owned by Zimbabwean businessman Strive Masiyiwa. StarTimes, a fast-growing Chinese rival, had also enjoyed "rapid growth on the continent by targeting the mass market with bouquets for as little as $3", Priscilla Tirvengadum, an analyst at Dataxis Africa, said.

Slowing sub-Saharan African economies are causing MultiChoice customers to cancel subscriptions that can reach about R1,200/month. Meanwhile, increasing availability of broadband has allowed Netflix to start in SA and Nigeria and given internet users the opportunity to access video over Google and Facebook. Naspers pay-TV CEO Imtiaz Patel said that was a concern because they were unregulated.

The video-entertainment unit, which includes MultiChoice, lost 288,000 subscribers in the 12 months to the end of March, while trading profit was down 17%. The poor performance of the video-entertainment business prompted S&P Global Ratings to revise to negative its outlook on Naspers's BBB- rating, only one notch above junk status.

Patel said Naspers planned to broaden its appeal to those who did not want to pay for premium packages. Last year, the company launched its answer to Netflix, an online video offering called Showmax.

"Our 2016 year was a tough financial year, especially with African currency devaluations, but we have reviewed the business strategy, moved the English Premier League football to our lower priced Compact bouquet and did not implement any price increase for the year," Patel said.

Yet, while Naspers grapples with pay-TV and e-commerce, Tencent goes from strength to strength. Net income soared 47% to a record 10.74-billion yuan ($1.6bn) in the second quarter, as the company splashed out on mobile games and content — prompting user numbers to mushroom and online advertising revenue to jump 60%. (Bloomberg 19-10-2016)

EU SUPPORTS EGYPT'S NATIONAL WATER RESOURCES PLAN WITH 1.9M EUROS

The European Union (EU)-funded project, "Support to the National Water Resources Plan", has convened its mid-term review on Monday, APA learns here.

This project is within the framework of the EU-funded "Water Sector Reform Program Phase II (WSRP II)" with a total budget of 1.9 million Euros.

Mr. Diego Escalona Paturel, head of cooperation with the EU Delegation in Egypt said that "the EU cooperation in the water sector has touched upon the lives of millions of Egyptians, stretching over a wide portfolio of programmes covering nine governorates and total of direct grant funds of nearly EUR 300 million, leveraging funds of nearly EUR 1 billion in the sector. The estimated end users benefiting from EU support reaches up to 9.5 million inhabitants.

The estimated direct permanent jobs created are 6000 and 150,000 jobs are projected during construction".

The Minister of Water Resources and Irrigation, Dr. Mohamed Abdel Aty, said: "Egypt is already taking many measures to cover the increasing water requirements related to the rise in population and the improvement of living standards as well as the expansion of agricultural land". He added that Egypt is in the gradual shift from a centralised and one-way-water-management system (top-down) towards the adoption/implementation of integrated water resource management approach within the country's national economic development (with water as an economic driver) aiming at coordination of actions between different sectors, administrations and at different levels".

During the event, the goals and objectives of the support to the national water resources plan project current stage and achievements of the project were also presented. With the support from this technical assistance, the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation is now taking the necessary steps to prepare the National Water Resources Plan - NWRP (2017 - 2037), in order to reach the most appropriate ways and means to secure Egypt's water resources in the future in terms of quantity and quality.

Outlining the best water management policies from an economic, social and environmental perspective, the Plan's pillars include securing new additional water resources, such as deep groundwater in the Western Desert and Sinai, harvesting of floods and rain water and the use of non-conventional water resources, and desalination of sea water.

The NWRP pillars include the rational use of existing water resources with emphasis in reducing the waste of irrigation water, the development and re-use of agricultural and household drainage flows, while addressing the protection of public health and environment, in addition to measures needed to reduce the pollution of waterways from both municipal and industrial origins.

This event was organized in close coordination and cooperation with the MWRI and the EU delegation to Egypt and was attended by a number of regional governors, the EU and other donors' representatives, in addition to a large group of experts and specialists in water resources management, under the patronage and in the presence of Minister Abdel Aty and Paturel.(APA 17-10-2016)

MOROCCO EXPERIENCES REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN ORGAN TRANSPLANT

Organ and human tissue transplant have been a remarkable evolution in Morocco with more than 4,000 organ transplants carried out between 2010 and 2015.
Thus, a total of 460 kidney transplants were carried out with a pace that has been accelerated considerably between 2010 and 2015 with 220 operations, a statement from the Ministry of Health published on the occasion to celebrate World Day of organ and human tissue transplant mark on 17 October each year.

This add to one heart transplant, 13 liver transplants, 90 transplants of organs from dead donors, 300 bone marrow and stem cells transplants, 63 cochlear implants to treat deafness and over 3,000 corneal transplant operations, the source added.

The Department of Health further noted that this is a remarkable development in Morocco. It also indicated that the costs of transplant operations performed in University Hospital Centers are covered by the Plan of basic medical coverage for the benefit of people enrolled in the Medical Assistance Plan.

On the organizational plan, the ministry reported the creation of a bank of organs and tissues in Marrakech and Rabat, underlining that the activation of several institutions, including the Advisory Council on transplant of human organs, the Committees of organs and human tissue donation and organs and tissues transplants coordination units within the hospital network.

These efforts are, however, insufficient, hence the need to encourage Moroccans to donate organs. This still depends on the intensification of sensitization programs with the involvement of different actors of civil society, the religious field and media and educational institutions. (APA 17-10-2016)

BREXIT MOTIVATES BRITAIN TO DEVELOP A PRO-DEVELOPMENT TRADE POLICY WITH AFRICA

Britain is expected to sharpen its African aid focus on economic and trade-related projects to promote prosperity on the continent in forging new partnerships after leaving the EU.
Priti Patel, the international development secretary, is said to be sympathetic to proposals by a panel of experts convened by MPs and peers that the UK should take advantage of Brexit to develop a "pro-development trade policy with Africa".
The government has yet to develop an Africa strategy, but Prime Minister Theresa May announced last month that countries in east Africa would be among the biggest recipients of extra British aid to keep illegal migrants out of Europe.
Patel will be May’s first minister to travel to Africa when she visits Kenya this week. Her trip is expected to take in Mombasa, the largest port in east Africa and a focus of British aid through TradeMark East Africa,

a programme to cut trade barriers and boost commerce.

Africa gets more UK overseas development assistance than any other region, £2.54bn in 2015. The proportion spent on aid-for-trade rose from 28.5% in 2012 to 37% in 2014, according to Financial Times analysis of figures from the government and the OECD, the Paris-based club of mostly rich nations.

Under UK law, the government’s international development spending must be focused on poverty reduction. Patel’s strategy of relying on recipient countries being "more open to conversations" about trade and her past hostility to the existence of the Department for International Development have alarmed some NGOs.

But members of the expert panel, who were assessing the previous government’s Africa Free Trade Initiative, insisted trade promotion was an integral part of development.

"An important role of aid is in disaster relief and that won’t go away," said Lord Green of Hurstpierpoint, a former trade minister and co-chair of the panel. "But everybody recognises that private sector activity is a crucial part of sustainable development."

He urged the government to take advantage of Brexit to "draw on the best of existing US, Canadian and other policy to drive trade with Africa".

British aid has, among other things, been used to cut the time to clear imports to Rwanda through customs from 11 to 1.5 days, helped modernise Dar es Salaam’s port in Tanzania and leveraged $684m in private sector investment in agribusiness in 12 African countries.

Lord Green said Mrs. May should appoint someone to "champion" British trade in Africa and "join up the various dots" between development assistance and trade policy.

Trade between the UK and sub-Saharan Africa rose nearly 25% from 2008 to 2014 but the UK’s share of the region’s trade with the world has stayed at 3%, according to the UN. Exports from Germany, France and Italy to sub-Saharan Africa were more than 50% higher than those of the UK in 2014. (The Financial Times)

DANGOTE ACQUIRES NETHERLANDS GAS PROCESSING COMPANY

The Dangote Industries Limited (DIL) has announced that it has completed the acquisition of Twister BV, a company in the Netherlands to realize its plan of meeting Nigeria's gas needs.

A statement by DIL on Sunday said that Twister BV would provide robust solutions in natural gas processing and separation to the upstream and midstream oil and gas sectors.

It explained that Twister's separation capabilities are designed to augment production and streamline processes to capitalise on high-yield gas processing for maximising revenues.

A local newspaper, the Punch reported that quoted the statement as saying that Twister BV was formally owned by Shell Technology Ventures Fund 1 before its recent acquisition by DIL and its partner, First E&P.

It added that the President, Dangote Industries Limited, Aliko Dangote, said: This was an important acquisition for us. Twister's cutting-edge gas processing technology is fundamental to delivering our strategy to unlock about three billion cubic feet per day of gas in order to meet Nigeria's gas needs.

We are delighted by the confidence that the DIL and First E&P have shown in Twister to be their core provider of gas separation solutions.

After very thorough due diligence, our technology has been recognised as a key enabler to reduce gas project costs, which is crucial in the current environment; we are excited to be part of the Dangote family of companies, the Chief Executive Officer of Twister, John Young, said.(APA 17-10-2016)

LE MAROC, 2EME DESTINATION LA PLUS SURE POUR LES TOURISTES EN AFRIQUE

Le Maroc est classé 2ème destination plus sûre en Afrique pour les touristes, selon le rapport du Forum économique mondial sur les voyages et la compétitivité touristique publié ce lundi.

Ainsi, dans ce classement qui englobe une liste de 141 pays, le Maroc est arrivé à l'échelle mondiale, à la 37e place, loin devant des pays comme l'Italie 48e, la Chine 58e ou la France 62e.

Au niveau du Maghreb, le Maroc est sans conteste le maître de sa région en matière de sécurité devant la Mauritanie 2e (87e mondiale), l'Algérie 3e maghrébine et 95e mondiale et la Tunisie 3e au Maghreb et 98e mondiale.

Sur le continent africain le royaume est 2ème derrière Maurice qui en première position et 33e mondiale.

Dans le monde arabe, le Maroc arrive 5e derrière le Qatar 2e pays au monde, les Emirats 3e au monde, Oman 9e au monde et l'Arabie 29e mondiale.

Le WEF a indiqué avoir établit ce classement en analysant pour chaque pays, des données de l'année 2015, concernant le coût économique de la criminalité, le coût économique du terrorisme, le nombre des attentats terroristes, le nombre d'homicides et l'efficacité des services de police.

A noter que selon ce classement, le pays le plus en sécurité au monde est la Finlande et le moins en sécurité est le Nigeria.(APA 17-10-2016)

KENYAN OPPOSITION CAUTIONS INVESTORS

Kenya's main opposition party cautioned transaction advisers and potential foreign investors against participating in the nation's next Eurobond offer as the party revived allegations that almost $1bn from a sale of the securities in 2014 remain unaccounted for.

"We caution the international markets that the government of the Republic of Kenya needs to account completely for the net proceeds of the Eurobond prior to the issuance of any new international sovereign bond," Raila Odinga, the leader of the Coalition for Reforms and Democracy, said.

Odinga, a former Kenyan prime minister, first alleged in 2015 that some of the proceeds from the sale of $2.82bn of Eurobonds two years ago were misappropriated. In May, the director of public prosecutions declined to investigate the allegations, citing a lack of evidence.

The government has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing and said the funds were used to pay off a $600m syndicated loan, finance road, rail and port construction and expand the country's electricity generation.

East Africa's largest economy is considering selling as much as $4.6bn of debt including Eurobonds to plug a budget deficit expected to widen to 9.3% of GDP in 2016 from about 7.9% in 2015. Kenyan treasury secretary Henry Rotich and principal secretary Kamau Thugge were not available for comment. (Bloomberg 18-10-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE AWARDS CONTRACT FOR 2D AND 3D SEISMIC DATA COLLECTION

French company CGG (http://www.cgg.com/en) has signed a contract with the National Petroleum Institute (INP) of Mozambique for the collection of scientific data in three areas, two of which at sea, Rovuma and Zambezi, the company said in a statement.

The contract includes collecting two-dimensional (2D) seismic data in the Rovuma area and three-dimensional (3D) seismic data in the Zambezi area and gravitational and magnetic onshore data in southern Mozambique.

The first zone covers an area of 6,550 square kilometres and the second 40 square kilometres, although the company did not provide any details about the area of the third zone.

This seismic data collection programme aims to collect geological information from those three regions in order to provide oil companies with in-depth information about Mozambique's potential.

Meanwhile, South African group Sasol announced it had completed the first 3D seismic data collection programme on the ground, covering an area of 115 square kilometres in the Inhassoro field under a contract signed with the government of Mozambique.

The vice president of Sasol E&P International, John Sichinga said that obtaining seismic data will allow the company to better understand the structure of existing oil deposits in the region and added that although the results seem promising, "it is too early to get into great detail." (17-10-2016)

LANCEMENT D'UN VASTE COMPLEXE TOURISTIQUE QATARI EN MAURITANIE

La société qatarie Ghanem Lehdeiffi a lancé lundi un vaste complexe touristique à Nouakchott pour un financement estimé à 16 millions de dollars américains, a-t-on constaté dans la capitale mauritanienne.

Ce complexe comprend la construction de plusieurs infrastructures touristiques sur une superficie de 25 hectares dont notamment deux hôtels, 386 résidences chics, des centres commerciaux et d'autres installations de loisirs et de sports.

Sa construction aura des retombées positives sur les domaines de l'hôtellerie et du tourisme en Mauritanie, a indiqué le porte-parole de l'investisseur qatari, El Khalil Ould Mohamed Yehdhih, dans un mot lors de la cérémonie de pose de la première pierre.

Il a ajouté que cette réalisation est le fruit de la coopération entre la Mauritanie et les sociétés qataries Ghanem Lehdeiffi et Diyar.
Les travaux seront achevés au bout de 20 mois.(APA 17-10-2016)

EGYPTIAN IMPORTS OF NON-DURABLE CONSUMER COMMODITIES RECORD E£54.7BN

The total volume of Egyptian imports of non-durable consumer commodities decreased by 2.4 percent during the first six months of 2016.

Egypt's bill of imported non-durable consumer commodities recorded 54.7 billion Egyptian pounds (US$6.1 billion) in January-June 2016 versus E£56.1 billion a year earlier.

The latest bulletin released by the state's main statistics body Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) on foreign trade clarified that the volume of imported non-durable consumer commodities recorded E£9.81 billion in June 2016 versus E£9.82 billion a year earlier.

The bulletin stated that Egypt's imports of refined sugar dropped by 85.7 percent during the first six months of 2016 to E£68.4 million from E£479.4 million at the same period of 2015.

Egyptian soap imports recorded E£650.4 million during the first half of 2016 opposed to one billion Egyptian pounds a year earlier, declining by 35.7 percent.

In January-June 2016, Egyptian imports of dairy products hit E£3.2 billion compared to E£4 billion in January-June 2015, making a 19.3 percent drop.

On the other hand, Egyptian imports of refined oils rose 117.1 percent during the first six months of 2016 to E£2.3 billion from one billion at the same period of 2015.

The bulletin showed that Egyptian imports of wheat flour increased during the first six months of 2016 to E£13.8 million from E£9.4 million at the same period of 2015, registering a 46.6 percent increase.

Egyptian imports of medicaments and pharmaceutical goods jumped by 2.1 percent in January-June 2016 to E£8.4 billion from E£8.2 billion at the same period of 2015, the bulletin showed.(APA 18-10-2016)

EGYPT'S EXPORTS TO NILE BASIN COUNTRIES UP BY 14.8% IN 2015

Egypt's exports to the Nile Basin countries in 2015 rose by 14.8 percent compared to 2014, said the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS) on Tuesday.

The agency added in a statement that the value of Egypt's exports to the Nile Basin countries amounted to 7.9 billion Egyptian pounds in 2015, compared to E£6.9 billion in 2014.

Sudan ranked first among Nile Basin countries that imported Egyptian products in 2015, recording an increase of 31.7 percent compared to 2014, according to CAPMAS.

The most important items that have been exported to Sudan were plastics, sugar and confectionery, and iron and steel products.

The statement added that Kenya ranked second, with an increase of 2.6 percent compared to 2014.

The statement noted that the most important items that have been exported to Kenya included soap, candles, and paper.

The value of imports from Nile Basin states fell in 2015 to E£2.7 billion, recording a decline of 31.8 percent compared to 2014.

Kenya ranked first with imports estimated at E£2.1 billion.

The statement said that Egypt imported from Kenya livestock, grains, medical plants, and fodder.(APA 18-10-2016)

ANTICIPATING SKILLS NEEDS: ETF PROVIDES GUIDES FOR PARTNER COUNTRIES

The European Training Foundation (ETF) has co-produced a series of '*how-to'* guides to help partner countries with skills matching and anticipation. Policymakers and employment and labour market experts from 24 partner countries were brought together to learn about the tools and methodologies developed by the ETF, the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop).

The week-long learning programme covered tracer studies, graduate and employer surveys, methods for collecting, interpreting and applying data to policy development, the role of labour market observatories and employment services, and forecasting skill supply and demand. Participants came from partner countries including Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Lebanon, Moldova, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia and Ukraine.

The course, which included site visits and simulations, was a new 'out-of-the-box' approach for the ETF, and one welcomed by participants. Egypt's Deputy Minister for Technical Education, Ahmed Elgeushey Hassanein, says the programme will help shape the future of technical and vocational education and training. "It was very useful because it provides the data, methodologies and tools to do the job and start the policymaking process."(EFT 19-10-2016)

ETF guides

European Training Foundation

RED-CARPET RECEPTION FOR MOROCCAN KING IN RWANDA

King Mohammed VI of Morocco arrived in the Rwandan capital Kigali at 9.40 pm on Tuesday to a red carpet reception in the first leg of a whistle-stop tour of East Africa that will take him to Tanzania and Ethiopia.
The Moroccan monarch, donning his trademark djellaba dress and red fez was greeted upon landing from the {Royal Air Maroc} by Rwandan President Paul Kagame, in the presence of a host of dignitaries, a clump of reporters and traditional drummers and dancers.

After receiving a full military salute, President Kagame and his royal guest shook hands with the array of dignitaries who had gathered at the airport to greet him and his retinue of advisers, before disappearing into the presidential lounge at the airport for a tête-à-tête.

King Mohamed VI is accompanied on the three-day working visit to Rwanda by an official delegation including Prince Moulay Ismail and two of the king's special advisers, Fouad Ali El Himma and Yasser Znagui.

The delegation also includes Interior Minister, Mohamed Assad, Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister, Salaheddine Mezouar, Endowments and Islamic Affairs Minister, Ahmed Taoufik, Economy and Finance Minister, Mohamed Boussaid, and Agriculture and Maritime Fisheries, Aziz Akhannouch, and Deputy Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister, Nasser Bourita, and several other civilian and military officials.

This is the first tour of its kind by the Moroccan monarch in the three East African nations.

Political consultations and the launch of closer economic partnership are the headline objectives of King Mohammed VI's latest Africa tour.

The royal visit will look to strengthen cooperation with African countries, a move seen as strategic to open up new opportunities, diversify partnerships, consolidate Morocco's position in the regional and international arena and create a model of an effective, inclusive and multidimensional South-South collaboration, and a win-win partnership.

According to economic circles, more than 30 cooperation agreements will be signed during the tour which is expected to lay the foundations of a consolidated bilateral economic partnership, as the kingdom adopts a South-South cooperation strategy.

A large delegation of Moroccan investors, consisting of several businessmen led by the president of the General Confederation of Moroccan Enterprises (CGEM) are accompanying the king in his tour.

CGEM representatives will hold meetings with their East African counterparts to conclude economic partnership in various sectors, including banking, public works, insurance, agribusiness, habitat and tourism, according to sources quoted by Moroccan news websites.

In recent years, Morocco has placed Africa as one of its topmost priorities for South-South cooperation and consolidated partnership in sectors such as infrastructure, banking, habitat and education.

The king's visit to Rwanda, Ethiopia and Tanzania is expected to lend new impetus to Morocco's long-stalled relations with African countries south of the Sahara. (18-10-2016)

U.S. BACKS NIGERIA'S DIVERSIFICATION PROGRAMME

The United States on Tuesday said that the efforts of the administration of President Mohammadu Buhari in diversifying the Nigerian economy into non-oil export would make the nation's export more attractive to America and the rest of world.

Peter Barlerin, Deputy Assistant Secretary, West Africa and Economic and Regional Affairs, who disclosed this at a news conference in Abuja, said the U.S. was considering increasing Direct Investment in Nigeria.

Berlerin said that the commencement of Shale oil and gas production in the U.S, in the last 10 years, had changed America's economy and it was no longer a major importer of oil, especially from Nigeria.

It (the revolution) impacted on the oil export from Nigeria, I think this gives an opportunity to Nigeria to diversify the economic and deepen our economic relationship in other ways, he said

Barlerin, who noted that the decline in the oil price had significant impact on Nigeria's economy, just like any other countries, commended Buhari's efforts in trying to improve the economic conditions.

We believe that such efforts would be helpful for the economy because it will make Nigerian export more attractive to the region, the U.S. and the rest of world.

It will help Nigerian economy as it would no longer depend on oil as it did in the past.

A number of sectors in Nigeria are promising; there are lots of promising exports potential in services industry, in fashion industry, agriculture and other sectors, he said.

The envoy said that the U.S. would try to increase two way trade and investments with Nigeria to deepen the trade relations between the two countries.

According to him, Nigeria is one of the most important countries for the U.S. in sub-Saharan Africa and it has the largest population on the continent and the second largest economy.

He said that U.S. and Nigeria had good relationship which would be made stronger and vibrant.(APA 18-10-2016)

SOUTH AFRICA SIGNS DEAL WITH ITALY AIMED AT TRANSFORMING SA'S WATER SECTOR

Ancient Romans were praised for their irrigation and aqueducts: now Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane is hoping modern-day Italy has the expertise to help SA improve its management of water resources.

She has signed a water co-operation agreement to work on joint projects that will enhance capacity building, technology transfer and technical assistance in the fields of water quality enhancement, water resource management, water service management and rural sanitation technology.

The government said in a statement that the projects would focus mainly on empowering previously disadvantaged groups.

"We have made it our goal to ensure that we transform the water sector by making it inclusive of women and youth, those who were previously excluded…. Our other area of focus as the country is food security and we hope that by coming into this agreement with Italy, the set objectives will be realised," Mokonyane said at the signing ceremony in Johannesburg.

Italy's deputy minister of environment, land and sea, Barbara Degani, who led the Italian delegation, was quoted in the government statement as saying: "Working together will be a great opportunity for transferring expertise to fight climate change. The idea is to implement this agreement to the benefit of the people of both countries, especially women and the youth".

The agreement follows a visit to Italy in September last year, where the departmental delegation, led by Mokonyane and her deputy, Pamela Tshwete, met various stakeholders in the water sector.

Subsequently, Mokonyane hosted an Italian delegation in April. This was followed by the Italian delegation's visit to KwaZulu-Natal, the Free State and the North West, where implementable joint projects were identified. *(*TMG Digital 19-10-2016)

MOZAMBIQUE PURSUES CHINESE FIRMS FOR INDUSTRIALIZATION

Mozambique's Institute for Export Promotion (IPEX) says it is pursuing Chinese firms to help industrialize the country and realize its dream as an invaluable exporter of goods and services required by an expanding global market.
In a statement to APA on Tuesday, IPEX Chief Executive Officer Joao Macaringue said to this end Mozambique is seeking more Chinese effort towards serious investment in industrialization in addition to constructing roads and railways to fulfill its potential as a major source of commodities and energy for China.

He said Chinese business interests keen on Mozambique should visit the country to confirm their faith in such an enterprise.

"It turns out that our ability to penetrate the Chinese market remains very low, so we intend to invest in attracting knowledge they have in the production, processing and export," Macaringue said.

The IPEX head has just returned from Macau where he participated at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

He noted that the trade balance between Mozambique and China is very unbalanced.

“China is one of the main countries from where most of the products we consume" he said.

The Mozambican delegation to the Macau Forum was led by Prime Minister, Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, with the participation of 14 local entrepreneurs from sectors such as agro-processing, tourism, consulting and other services.

On the sidelines of the forum the Mozambican entrepreneurs held over three meetings and reached agreements with their Chinese counterparts. (APA 18-10-2016)

E/AFRICA AND SENEGAL CLIMATE CHANGE NEGOTIATORS DISCUSS STRATEGY IN UGANDA

Climate change negotiators from eastern Africa and Senegal are currently meeting in Uganda to discuss how best to effectively participate in the negotiations ahead of the implementation of the Paris agreement on climate change.
The two day meeting which opened Monday in Entebbe has attracted negotiators from the five East African Community (EAC) member states of Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania as well as negotiators from Ethiopia and Senegal.

These are meetings with a major goal of enhancing their technical capacity to be able to actively and effectively participate in international climate change processes and to positively influence their outcomes.

The meeting comes ahead of the November 4th 2016 date when the Paris agreement on climate change is expected to enter into force.

Speaking on the first day of the meeting, a representative from Senegal El Hadji Mbaye Diagne noted a need for African countries to understand the Paris agreement before signing it so as to benefit all individuals without hurting their development initiatives.

He said; “We have to bear in mind that first priority is to improve the wellbeing of our population. Doing so and at the same time reducing emissions will be the best for the future."

Uganda is one of the countries which ratified the Paris agreement where signatories have committed to reduce emissions and keep annual global temperature rise below 2°C.(APA 18-10-2016)

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 - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO,HTTC ,NABA,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.

www.acp.int	www.aheadglobal.hu	www.bcafrica.co.uk
www.camaratenerife.com	www.ccafrica.ca	www.corporatecouncilonafrica.com
www.elo-online.org	www.helafrican-chamber.gr	www.htcc.org.hu
www.norwegianafrican.no	www.nabc.nl	www.swisscham-africa.ch

Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be