MEMORANDUM

N° 215/2015 | 17/12/2015

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SUMMARY

A EUROPEAN BORDER AND COAST GUARD TO PROTECT EUROPE'S EXTERNAL BORDERS

The European Commission is today adopting an important set of measures to manage the EU's external borders and protect our Schengen area without internal borders. Today's proposals will help to manage migration more effectively, improve the internal security of the European Union, and safeguard the principle of free movement of persons. The Commission is proposing to establish a European Border and Coast Guard to ensure a strong and shared management of the external borders. To further increase security for Europe's citizens, the Commission is also proposing to introduce systematic checks against relevant databases for all people entering or exiting the Schengen area.

European Commission First Vice-President Frans **Timmermans** said: *"In an area of free movement without internal borders, managing Europe's external borders must be a shared responsibility. The crisis has exposed clear weaknesses and gaps in existing mechanisms aimed at making sure that EU standards are upheld. Therefore, it is now time to move to a truly integrated system of border management. The European Border and Coast Guard will bring together a reinforced Agency, with the ability to draw on a reserve pool of people and equipment, and the Member States' authorities, who will continue to exercise day-to-day border management. The system we propose will allow for an identification of any weaknesses in real time so that they can be remedied quickly, also improving our collective ability to deal effectively with crisis situations where a section of the external border is placed under strong pressure."*

European Commissioner for Migration, Home Affairs and Citizenship, Dimitris **Avramopoulos** added: *"The current migration and security challenges know no borders, and require a truly European approach. Where Frontex used to be limited to supporting Member States in managing their external borders, the new Border Agency will go beyond this. What we are creating today is more Europe: to manage our external borders, to step up returns of irregular migrants, to allow our asylum system to function properly for those in need and to strengthen checks at the external borders of the European Union. The Border Package we are presenting today will increase security for our citizens and ensure high standards of border management."*

A European Border and Coast Guard

The European Border and Coast Guard will bring together a European Border and Coast Guard Agency built from Frontex and the Member States' authorities responsible for border management, who will continue to exercise the day-to-day management of the external border.

The new European Border and Coast Guard will have:

- **A rapid reserve pool of border guards and technical equipment:** The Agency will be able to draw on at least **1,500 experts** that can be deployed in under 3 days. For the first time the Agency will be able to **acquire equipment itself** and to draw on a **pool of technical equipment** provided by the Member States. There will no longer be shortages of staff or equipment for European border operations. The new Agency's human resources will more than double that of Frontex, to **reach 1,000 permanent staff,** including field operatives, by 2020.
- **A monitoring and supervisory role:** A **monitoring and risk analysis centre** will be established to monitor migratory flows towards and within the European Union and to carry out **risk analysis** and **mandatory vulnerability assessments** to identify and address weak spots. **Liaison officers** will be seconded to Member States to ensure presence on the ground where the borders are at risk. The Agency will be able to **assess the operational capacity**, technical equipment and resources of Member States to face challenges at their external borders and **require Member States to take measures** to address the situation within a set time-limit in case of vulnerabilities.
- **The right to intervene:** Member States can request joint operations and rapid border interventions, and deployment of the European Border and Coast Guard Teams to support these.Where deficiencies persist or where a Member State is under significant migratory pressure putting in peril the Schengen area and national action is not forthcoming or not enough, the Commission will be able to adopt an **implementing decision** determining that the situation at a particular section of the external borders requires urgent action at European level.This will allow the Agency to step in and **deploy European Border and Coast Guard Teams** to ensure that action is taken on the ground even when a Member State is unable or unwilling to take the necessary measures.

- **Coast Guard surveillance:** National coastguards will be part of the European Border and Coast Guard to the extent that they carry out border control tasks. The mandates of the European Fisheries Control Agency and the European Maritime Safety Agency will be aligned to the new European Border and Coast Guard. The three Agencies will be able to launch **joint surveillance operations**, for instance by jointly operating Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (drones) in the Mediterranean Sea.
- **A mandate to work in third countries:** The Agency will have a new mandate to send liaison officers to and launch **joint operations** with neighbouring third countries, including operating on their territory.
- **A stronger role in returns:** A European Return Office will be established within the Agency to allow for the deployment of **European Return Intervention Teams** composed of escorts, monitors and return specialists who will work to effectively return illegally staying third country nationals. A **standard European travel document for return** will ensure a wider acceptance of returnees by third countries.
- **Guaranteeing Internal Security**: The Agency will include cross-border crime and terrorism in its risk analysis and cooperate with other Union agencies and international organisations on the **prevention of terrorism**, in full respect of fundamental rights.

Systematic checks of EU citizens at external borders

To increase security within the Schengen area, the Commission is proposing a targeted modification of the Schengen Borders Code to introduce **mandatory systematic checks of EU citizens** at external land, sea, and air borders. Obligatory checks on EU citizens will be introduced against databases such as the Schengen Information System, the Interpol Stolen and Lost Travel Documents Database and relevant national systems, in order to verify that persons arriving do not represent a threat to public order and internal security. The proposal also reinforces the need to verify the **biometric identifiers** in the passports of EU citizens in case of doubts on the authenticity of the passport or on the legitimacy of the holder. Checks will now also be **mandatory when exiting the European Union**.

In principle, since controls on documents and persons can be carried out in parallel, authorities should be able to consult relevant databases without delaying border crossings. The rules provide for flexibility in cases where systematic checks could have a disproportionate impact on the flow of traffic at the border. In such cases Member States can, based on risk assessments, decide to carry out targeted checks at some land and sea borders crossings. The risk assessment shall be communicated to the Agency, which can assess the way the exception is applied in its vulnerability assessment.

The systematic checks in the databases are done on a 'hit/no hit' basis. This means that if the person does not present a risk then the check is not registered and no further processing of their data happens. Using the databases in this way means that personal data rights are only impacted to a very limited extent, and justified by the security objectives.

Background

The establishment of a European Border and Coast Guard, as announced by President Juncker in his State of the Union Speech on 9 September, is part of the measures under the European Agenda on Migration to reinforce the management and security of the EU's external borders. The European Agenda on Migration adopted by the Commission in May 2015 set out the need for a comprehensive approach to migration management. This objective has also been signaled by the European Parliament and endorsed in the clear orientations set out by the European Council on 23 September and 15 October.

In response to the recent tragic attacks in Paris and the growing threat from foreign terrorist fighters, the Commission has swiftly taken action to accelerate work and implementation of measures under the European Security Agenda. Today's proposal responds to the need to reinforce security controls at the EU's external borders, as called for by Interior Ministers on 20 November.

FACTSHEET: A European Border and Coast Guard (EC15-12-2015)

INVESTMENT FROM CHINA CAN MAKE SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE A BENCHMARK OFFSHORE DRILLING PLATFORM

São Tomé and Príncipe will be able to become the benchmark marine platform in West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea, with Chinese investment in the archipelago's deep-water port, according to researcher Gustavo Placido dos Santos.

In the commentary "São Tomé and Príncipe: A central piece of Beijing's chessboard" for the Portuguese Institute for International and Security Affairs (IPRIS), the researcher argues that China and the United States are both acutely aware of the strategic importance of the archipelago for trade and security in Africa.

The deep-water port, an investment of about US$800 million, "has the potential to make São Tomé and Príncipe a transshipment port for large ships, allowing the small archipelago to serve the region's economies" when "there is not yet a natural platform in West Africa and the Gulf of Guinea," said Plácido dos Santos.

In favour of its ability to take on this role, São Tomé has its geographical location, low frequency of pirate attacks and political stability and the authorities are keen to diversify sources of revenue at a time when cocoa and coffee represent more than 80 percent of total exports, with oil potential still unclear.

The prime minister of São Tomé, Patrice Trovoada, aims to refocus the country's economy on trade, following the model of Dubai as a "platform offering services to neighbouring countries."

"This is a vital region for trade and global energy security and composed of countries with high levels of economic growth. The archipelago's geographical location allows it to be an advanced monitoring and maritime safety surveillance station in the heart of the Gulf of Guinea," said Plácido dos Santos.

According to the researcher, the project in São Tomé is also relevant in the light of China's strategy of "Silk Road economic belt" and "Maritime Silk Route," which will benefit several ongoing projects in Africa.

China has actively contributed to the development of ports in the region and concluded the railway line linking the Atlantic coast of Angola (Lobito) to the border with the Democratic Republic of Congo, which will later connect to the line Angola-Zambia and TANZANIA- Zambia, for connecting the Atlantic Ocean to the Indian Ocean.

"São Tomé and Príncipe positions itself in this context as an important transit point for maritime trade between the Atlantic, Africa and the Indian Ocean," said the IPRIS researcher.

The transcontinental link, he argued, makes it possible to direct natural resource flows obtained in Africa to interconnection points, where they will be sent directly to China.

In addition to the resources, the Chinese interest in the Gulf of Guinea is justified to ensure the security and stability of maritime trade routes in a region that has deepened and expanded its economic and political presence.

"A presence in São Tomé and Príncipe allows Beijing to have greater capacity to monitor and control a maritime trade route with high and growing potential as well as monitoring the progress its increasing presence in the South Atlantic," said Plácido dos Santos.

"São Tomé and Príncipe is presented in this context as a piece of immense strategic value in a changing global chess game," he said. (14-12-2015)

CHARLESTRONG NEGOTIATES LOAN WITH MACAU BANK FOR PROJECTS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Charlestrong Engenharia, Tecnologia e Consultoria Ltd de Macau is negotiating with banks in Macau and Portuguese-owned banks in Mozambique to secure loans for the construction of 35,000 homes in the West African country.

The information was provided by Afonso Chan, vice president of Charlestrong during a meeting on investment opportunities in Mozambique promoted by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the Macau Forum.

In February 2016, the Macau company will conclude the contract for construction of 240 apartments of the second phase of Vila Olímpica in Zimpeto in Maputo.

By 2019, over 35 000 homes will be built, with Chan noting that despite the success of negotiations for this new venture “there are some difficulties related to the lack of bilingual staff and with getting credit from banks.”
During the initiative, the executive member of the IPIM, Glória Batalha Ung, said that if the entrepreneurs needed financial support the organisation is available to provide support, in particular by establishing contacts with banks to recommend projects which might be financed.
Chan said that in addition to construction, Charlestrong would invest in the development of infrastructure, the energy sector and manufacture of building materials in Mozambique. (15-12-2015)

ZIMBABWE: ZANU (PF) ENDORSES MUGABE FOR 2018 POLLS

Zimbabwe’s ruling party at the weekend publicly endorsed 91-year-old President Robert Mugabe as its candidate for elections in 2018 — but his visible frailty means that backstage the focus was on his successor.
Mr. Mugabe has stumbled twice in recent public appearances, and in September read a speech to parliament apparently unaware that he had delivered exactly the same address a month earlier.
These signs of weakness in a man who has ruled Zimbabwe with an iron fist for 35 years have injected new urgency into factional battles led by the elite within his ruling Zanu (PF) party.
"The focus is on retaining power or accessing power as a way of securing their gains and privileges," said Godfrey Kanyenze, head of the Labour and Economic Research Institute of Zimbabwe.
"They know if they lose power their farms and businesses will be undermined. That’s why we saw the First Lady (Grace Mugabe) joining in the fray."
Grace, 50, was appointed leader of the powerful Zanu (PF) women’s wing last year and led a vicious campaign that brought about the expulsion of Mr. Mugabe’s deputy president and possible successor Joice Mujuru.
Ms Mujuru is believed to be planning to form a new party to contest the next elections, but given Zanu-(PF)’s record of vote rigging analysts say the real battle for power lies within the ruling party itself.
Vice-President Emmerson Mnangagwa is seen as a front-runner, but there are signs that Mr Mugabe and his wife could be planning to keep power within the family.
At the party’s annual conference in Victoria Falls at the weekend, the women’s wing pressed for a quota system ensuring that one of Mr. Mugabe’s two deputies be a woman — a post which could go to Grace and put her in pole position to take over.
"The succession question is the mother of all problems bedevilling the party and it will continue to haunt the party until its resolved," said Eldred Masunungure, a political scientist from the University of Zimbabwe.
"National development is being sacrificed at the altar of political feuding."
Zimbabwe’s economy has been in crisis for 15 years since land reforms led to a collapse of agriculture, while hyper-inflation wreaked havoc, unemployment boomed and millions of Zimbabweans fled abroad.
At the same time, many within the Zanu-(PF) elite seized farms and enriched themselves — and it is these gains that they fear losing if they are on the wrong side of the succession struggle.
Grace Mugabe’s dairy company provided milk, drinks and yogurt to delegates at the Victoria Falls conference.
Mr. Mugabe, who has refused to name a successor, used the meeting to call for an end to factionalism.
"We don’t want to hear people saying ‘these ones belong to (second vice-president Phelekezela) Mphoko, these ones to Mnangagwa’. If all people belong to factions, who then are mine?"
It is a good question, and there is increasing suspicion that the answer lies with Grace.
Despite the infighting within the ruling party, the chances of an outsider winning the next election are seen as slim, and not only because of Zanu (PF)’s history of manipulating elections.
"The opposition is nowhere," said Mr. Masunungure.
"Ordinarily, you would expect them to take advantage of the deep and profound problems in Zanu (PF) but they are in a comatose state.

"That’s why Zanu (PF) can afford to engage in factional fighting because they know there is no strong opponent outside the party. As things stand the real rivals for Zanu (PF) are within Zanu (PF)."

Former trade unionist Morgan Tsvangirai led his Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) to victory in 2008 parliamentary elections and won the first round of the presidential vote.

But he backed out of the second round after 200 of his followers were killed in a wave of violence unleashed by Zanu (PF).

He later served as prime minister in a unity government brokered by neighbouring states, but his reputation suffered and his party has split several times. (AFP 14-12-2015)

ANGOLA BUYS RAILWAY ROLLING STOCK IN BRAZIL

The government of Angola has approved the acquisition of diesel multiple units (DMU) from Brazilian group Andrade Gutierrez to improve the rail service and suburban mobility in Luanda, according to a presidential order.

DMU’s are trains that do not need a separate locomotive engine as the diesel engine is incorporated into one or more carriages.

The order authorising the purchase agreement, signed by the Ministry of Transport with Andrade Gutierrez, does not specify the model of DMU to be purchased, only that they will be used in the suburban section of the Luanda Railroad (CFL), between the stations of Bungo and Baía.

The acquisition of these trains, for delivery in 2016, will cost Angola US$123.3 million, according to the order cited by Portuguese news agency Lusa.

The renewal of the rolling stock is considered a priority by CFL management, and currently consists of five operating locomotives and 189 Chinese-made units, including 87 wagons and 45 carriages, among others.

As well as the suburban area, CFL connects the centre of Luanda to Malange province in the north of Angola, over a distance of 428 kilometres built over a century ago and rebuilt in 2011 by Chinese companies with funding from China. (15-12-2015)

BANK OF MOZAMBIQUE RAISES BENCHMARK INTEREST RATES

The Bank of Mozambique has decided to increase the main benchmark interest rates, such as the marginal lending facility, which was increased by 150 basis points to 9.75 percent, the central bank said.

In a statement announcing the main decisions of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), the Bank of Mozambique also said the deposit facility rate was increased by 100 basis points to 3.75 percent and reserve requirement rate was unchanged at 10.5 percent.

The central bank said it also decided to intervene in the interbank market to ensure that money supply in December will not exceed 69.85 billion meticais.

To justify these decisions, the MPC mentioned risks and uncertainties regarding the recovery of the world economy, along with indications that the fall in international prices of major commodities may last for some time, as well as a strong dollar against most currencies. (15-12-2015)

SOUTH AFRICA: CHINESE CAR PLANT TO BOOST LOCAL INDUSTRY

A proposed R12bn Chinese car plant in SA could make an important contribution to the domestic motor industry’s achieving its ambitious production goals, says Nico Vermeulen, director of the National Association of Automobile Manufacturers of SA.

It will also be the first major new manufacturer to enter the South African market in more than 40 years, joining BMW, Ford, General Motors, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Toyota and Volkswagen.

Trade and Industry Minister Rob Davies announced last week that the local Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) had signed a deal with Beijing Automobile Works (BAW) to build BAW cars in SA. The R12bn deal was the largest in a package of South African-Chinese investment agreements totalling R94bn.

Apart from IDC CE Mvuleni Qhena’s saying the new plant would create 2,500 direct and 7,500 indirect jobs, few details of the project have emerged. Early betting, however, is that the plant will be in the Eastern Cape, where Volkswagen, Mercedes-Benz and General Motors all build vehicles and Ford has an engine-manufacturing plant.

Another Chinese company, FAW, has spent R600m on a truck factory near the Coega port outside Port Elizabeth. FAW has said it may eventually also build passenger vehicles. BAW already has a minibus-taxi assembly plant in Springs, east of Johannesburg. The IDC is also a partner there.

Mr. Vermeulen said the new venture was "not entirely unexpected". It is no secret that several Chinese motor companies have been eyeing SA as a possible African manufacturing base. He said that with BAW now committed, others would probably follow.

It is believed the investment has nothing to do with Mr. Davies’s recent announcement of changes to the government-administered 2013-20 Automotive Production and Development Programme.

From next year, the minimum annual production threshold at which motor companies will be able to claim incentives, will fall from 50,000 to 10,000. For R12bn, however, the new plant is expected to be capable of building well over 50,000.

Sources say the deal was agreed some time ago, but the announcement was delayed to coincide with last week’s state visit to SA by Chinese President Xi Jinping.

Local BAW officials have declined to comment, but it is understood the firm will start to import cars next year, to establish a market presence, while sources say construction of the factory may also begin next year.(BD 07-12-2015)

BOTSWANA DENIES BANNING PRIVATE MEDIA ADVERTISING

The Botswana government on Monday denied blacklisting or banning advertising in any newspaper especially the private media.

Answering a question in Parliament, Presidential Affairs Minister Eric Molale said the criteria used to select newspapers for advertising by the government has been determined by individual ministries on a case by case basis.

It may however, be noted that all newspapers receiving government advertising should have a trading licence, tax clearance, and registration with the Public Procurement and Asset Disposal Board (PPADB) Molale explained.

He said during the 2014/15 financial year the government had spent a total of about $403, 969.557 on advertising in private local newspapers.

The Member of Parliament for Ghanzi North (in western Botswana) Noah Salakae had wanted to know among others the criteria used to select newspaper for advertising by the government and whether there are any newspapers that a blacklisted from advertising by the government.(APA 07-12-2015)

IRAN MOOTS INVESTMENT IN S/LEONE OIL REFINERIES

Iran is planning to build an oil refinery in Sierra Leone as part of an investment targeting several foreign countries, APA learnt in Freetown.

Reports on Monday quoted the Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Engineering and

Construction Company (NIOEC), Ali Asghar Sajedi, saying the Persian nation had initiated negotiations with Sierra Leone officials for the building of a refinery.

In the first phase of negotiations, basic agreement had been reached to build an oil depot in Sierra Leone, he said. If the second phase leads to a conclusion, the feasibility studies for the construction of an oil refinery in the country will be carried out, he noted.

The move is Iran`s response to growing pressure by Western governments over its alleged nuclear ambition.

Mr Sajedi said buying shares in foreign oil refineries aims to ensure sale of the Iranian crude in the long run, adding that these investments would guarantee marketing of Iranian crude in different parts of the world for the next 20 to 25 years.

Iran said it had so far initiated similar negotiations with Brazil, South Africa, Malaysia, Indonesia and India.(APA 07-12-2015)

ARM AND BOTSWANA COPPER DEAL ON THE HORIZON

African Rainbow Minerals (ARM) and Norilsk Nickel Africa should conclude an agreement in the next two months to send nickel concentrate to SA’s neighbour for smelting, clearing the way for the next stage of a $337m deal.

State-owned Botswana Copper Limited is buying Norilsk Nickel’s stake in the Nkomati Nickel mine in Mpumalanga and Botswana mines minister Onkokame Kitso Mokaila is anxious for the transaction, unveiled last October, to be concluded.

Mr. Mokaila has written to SA Mineral Resources Minister Mosebenzi Zwane, asking him to expedite the transfer of mineral rights once ARM has made the application under Section 11 of the Mineral and Petroleum Resources Development Act.

ARM would be in a position to file the application once the concentrate agreement was in place, CEO Mike Schmidt said on Friday.

JSE-listed ARM, a diversified miner, was in talks with Norilsk Nickel about an agreement to send nickel concentrate for treatment at its Selebi Phikwe smelting complex in Botswana and those talks were well advanced, he said.

"We have to get technical and commercial agreements in place and we are far advanced.

"I’m of the opinion that in the next month or two, there should be an acceptable deal on the table," he said.

Each smelter is unique and part of the technical work is to ensure Nkomati’s concentrate is a good fit with Botswana Copper’s operations. Botswana Copper intends to build a nickel refinery to become a hub for treatment of the metal.

Nkomati did not have the critical mass or critical life of mine to sustain a refinery, Mr. Schmidt said, adding the mine had reserves for 10 more years of mining.

While there were resources to tap into, these would need an underground operation and higher nickel price, he said.

Nkomati Nickel produces about 20,000 tonnes a year of nickel in concentrate. It also produces about 110,000 oz a year of platinum group metals, 1,000 tonnes of cobalt and 9,000 tonnes of copper. (BD 07-12-2015)

KENYA, ETHIOPIA SIGN AGREEMENT TO END CROSS BORDER CONFLICT

Kenya and Ethiopia on Monday jointly launched a new initiative aimed at ending the perennial conflict between warring communities at their border where hundreds of people have been killed in the past few years.

The programme is meant to provide water, build infrastructure, especially roads, and connect communities to electricity and help transform the town of Moyale which is on the border of the two countries into the Dubai of the region.

Kenyan security forces have in the past accused members of the Oromo Liberation Front of persistent attacks on locals at the border, as well as security forces.

Last month, the Kenyan army and police were deployed along the border, in Sololo, Marsabit County after Ethiopian soldiers killed three Kenyan police officers.

The Ethiopian soldiers were accused of entering Kenyan territory and shooting dead the police officers, destroying a police vehicle and making away with four firearms in Marsabit County.

“The National government will build the infrastructure of Moyale town and will provide funds for that. The county government should set aside for the building of the town,” said President Uhuru Kenyatta who was joined by Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn.

An MOU between the two countries was signed by the two countries’ foreign ministers with the understanding of investing 20 billion shillings in the next five years and bring to an end the conflict along the border.

Communities living along the border will be helped to improve their living standards through trade under the deal dubbed “Marsabit County/Kenya-Borana Zone/Ethiopia Integrated Cross-border and Area-based Programme”.

The programme is sponsored by United Nations agencies. (APA 07-12-2015)

CHINA-AFRICA SUMMIT A SUCCESS

The chief political, information and cultural officer at the Chinese Embassy in Botswana, Tang Shenping on Monday described the just-ended Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) held in South Africa as a success.
Shenping said the summit was attended by Chinese President Xi Jinping and heads of state and government and representatives from about 50 African countries.

It reached consensus on lifting China-Africa relations to a comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership and adopted a declaration and an action plan for cooperation over the next three years.

China announced an offer of US$60 billion of interest-free credit facility and grants to African countries to push forward the all-round development of China-Africa relations by focusing on implementing 10 major cooperation plans covering various areas.

He explained that these included industrialization, agricultural modernization, infrastructure, financial services, green development, trade and investment facilitation, poverty reduction, public health, people-to-people exchanges, and peace and security. (APA 07-12-2015)

KENYA'S CENTRAL BANK BOSS DOESN'T DO IT FOR THE MONEY

Heads of central banks seldom achieve celebrity status, but residents of the Kenyan capital regularly stop Patrick Njoroge on the street to talk interest rates and the state of the economy, even to snap selfies.

The tall, slim governor of Kenya's central bank is a far cry from many of the continent's top officials. He evinces no interest in amassing personal wealth, and he's a numerary in the Roman Catholic group Opus Dei.

That means he has taken a vow of celibacy and lives with others of his religious rank in a group home, after declining to live in the regal Nairobi residence reserved for the country's central bank governor.

Six months into the job, the Yale-educated and former International Monetary Fund (IMF) official has become well known in Kenya for his efforts to protect the country's currency and for his perceived incorruptibility in a nation roiled by graft and economic uncertainty.

After moving aggressively to stabilize stabilise the Kenyan shilling, the confident, 54-year-old Mr. Njoroge is was this week gearing up for the expected increase of the Federal Reserve's policy rate." "We feel quite prepared," Mr. Njoroge said Tuesday as this week as he sipped tea in his office in the central bank building in Nairobi.

"We've gone out of our way to distinguish ourselves from the other economies" in Africa.

Kenya has built up dollar reserves of $6.7bn billion and has access to another $700bn billion from a special IMF fund should it be needed, he said.

East Africa's largest and most advanced economy, Kenya is currently beset by a series of scandals that have exposed again the long-standing graft and corruption running through the country's political and financial institutions.

Against this backdrop, Mr. Njoroge has emerged as a standard-bearer for cleaner, better government.

"Why do I need to have a fleet of cars at my disposal?" he said, referring to one of the perquisites of high office in Kenya. "I'm only going to drive one. What's the big deal?"

Mr. Njoroge's refusal to exploit public office for personal gain goes down well with Kenyans.

"He's clean, he's not here to eat or steal. Our prayers are with him," said Anne Kinuthia, a receptionist at a Nairobi beauty parlourparlor.

The efforts by Mr. Njoroge since June to halt the slide in the value of the shilling have won him widespread praise.

By spending $1bn billion to buttress the currency and hiking the policy rate twice by 150 basis points to 11.5% to stabilize stabilise the shilling, Kenya's currency has steadily recovered since hitting a four-year low in September.

Like other African economies, Kenya's economy, like other major African economies, has suffered this year from the impact effect of falling commodity prices, China's economic realignment and the strengthening dollar.

Yet while the government and the IMF have downgraded their expectations for the country's growth this year, Kenya is better placed to survive these troubles, the IMF says, because it isn't a net commodity importer of energy and commodities.

Also, it has a diverse economy and has benefited from low global oil prices.

Besides his efforts to stabilize stabilise the economy, Mr. Njoroge has also cracked down on some of Kenya's loosely-run banks.

He has strengthened central bank supervision and put Imperial Bank and Dubai Bank Kenya, two of the country's 43 commercial banks, into receivership for mismanagement and malfeasance.

"His focus on increasing oversight on the financial sector, particularly the banks in Kenya, is an example of him addressing what he sees as an internal risk to Kenya's economic outlook," said Ahmed Salim, a senior associate with Teneo Intelligence, a London-based consultancy.

Last month Mr. Njoroge took the rare step of imposing a moratorium on new banking licenses, to the dismay of some local investors who saw it as a move to consolidate the banking sector. He rejects the criticism: "We aren't forcing consolidation, pushing forced marriages. That I think would be risky."

He added, however, that he hoped the moratorium would lead to more effective central bank supervision and spur banks to examine their business models and consider consolidating. "There are banks that are one-trick ponies. This is a concern in the context not of profitability but of resilience. We don't want to rely on only one sector, so maybe there is scope for consolidation so they can be more resilient," he said.

Mr. Njoroge still faces tough challenges ahead.

Besides the Fed rate increase, Kenya's inflation rate is edging closer to the 7.5% upper limit set by the central bank because of a more turbulent drought-and-rain cycle that has increased food prices.

And whether he is judged a success in the long term will hinge on the country's treasury reining in spending and curbing domestic borrowing — an undertaking, Mr. Njogore said, over which he and the central bank have no direct control. But after two decades at the IMF, he doesn't regret taking on the job.

"I could have retired eventually anywhere in the world — gone to Greece, the Caribbean, the US. But this opening came, and it was a good time to see if I can help the country. I felt that I did have unique skills that would be very useful," he said.

His new celebrity status doesn't sit easy with him. "I am very independent. I live my life, I've chosen my life, and I'm the same person 24/7," he said. "My private life has been hampered."

He said he has also faced resistance from members of the Kenyan establishment who have never seen him as one of their own after spending so many years abroad. "Everyone said, 'You're an outsider. You're not from the political elite.' It wasn't a slam dunk," he said. (WSJ 06-12-2015)

GUINEA IMPOUNDS THREE CHINESE VESSELS FOR ILLEGAL FISHING

Representatives of the Guinean fisheries administration authorities boarded and searched and eventually impounded three Chinese vessels accused of illegally fishing on Guinean waters, even though they only hold licences to fish prawns, official sources said here Monday. According to the law on the subject, this offense involves "fishing profile change" and is liable to a fine of 700 million Guinean francs (about 70, 000 Euros).

According to the law on the subject, this offense involves "fishing profile change" and is liable to a fine of 700 million Guinean francs (about 70, 000 Euros).

The company that owns the three boats which were docked at the port of Conakry will therefore have to pay a cumulative fine of 2 billion Guinean francs and 100 million Guinean francs respectively, which together is about 210,000 Euros.

Guinea is one of the states still in the red zone because it still falls victim to such illegal practices. (APA 12-07-2015)

EUROPEAN UNION FINANCES TOURISM PROJECTS IN CABO VERDE

The European Union will provide 3 million euros to fund six tourism promotion projects in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde), to be implemented by non-governmental organisations, reported the pan-African news agency Panapress.

To this end, the European Union signed an agreement with civil society organisations and local authorities that will benefit from projects aimed at "preserving and improving the social, cultural and environmental heritage as a factor of diversification and development of tourism in Cabo Verde."

The projects will be implemented by Cape Verdean non-governmental organisations, in coordination with the Municipal Councils of Brava, on Maio Island, of Mosteiros and São Filipe (Fogo Island), Ribeira Grande (Santo Antão Island), São Vicente and Tarrafal (Santiago Island), in Cabo Verde. (15-12-2015)

HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS – NEXT YEAR WILL BE A ROCKY RIDE FOR AFRICA

China's promise last week to deepen partnerships with African countries and provide $60bn over three years to address constraints to development, was good news for a continent facing many headwinds as it rushes headlong into 2016.

Ironically, China's slowdown is one of those headwinds. But there are many other issues that will make next year a difficult one for sub-Saharan Africa.

The continent's petro-states have slashed budgets and put infrastructure projects on hold as budgets dry up, but they continue to reel from the effect of low oil prices.

Any hopes that this was just a brief cyclical blip have been dashed by the fact that 18 months since the oil price plunged, there is no sign of an upturn.

Oil industry executives speaking at the Africa Oil Week conference earlier this year confirmed the view that the "world of $50 oil" isn't going to change anytime soon.

At the same event last year, oil majors flagged ambitious exploration projects and mentioned the billions of dollars lined up for Africa's oil and gas assets. This year, the broad narrative focused on project pullbacks and how to negotiate this long, rocky road.

Oil is just part of the problem. Lower commodity prices in general signal that next year is going to be difficult for Africa.

Buffeted by global developments and internal weakness, currencies in Africa have lost significant value. Angola's kwanza, Zambia's kwacha and Nigeria's naira are among the main casualties. SA has not fared well either. Fitch Ratings has predicted that emerging markets will face another wave of ratings downgrades next year.

The benefits of lower oil prices for non-oil producers have not been realised in many cases.

SA, for example, is looking at growth rates of about 1.5% and a widening trade deficit. Despite this, there is little political leadership in addressing the looming macroeconomic and social crises.

SA, like many other African states, is facing the challenge of rising debt. The resort by a number of African economies to issue Eurobonds to fill fiscal voids is coming back to bite them.

Ghana and Zambia have already turned to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for help with growing fiscal crises caused in part by unsustainable debt levels. Angola recently raised $1.5bn in international markets and analysts predict that debt will make up nearly 40% of gross domestic product by the end of next year.

Sovereign bond sales in Africa doubled between 2012 and last year to a record $11bn. Fitch says that by the end of next year, sub-Saharan Africa's sovereign external debt burden is likely to have increased 38% from 2013.

Continental growth rates are also falling from highs of more than 5% for a decade to below 4% this year. The IMF predicts that this may inch above 4% next year, but will remain off previous highs for some time.

This is a testing time for Africa.

With the tide going out, long-term structural problems and embedded dysfunction that exist in almost every African economy are being exposed.

Security issues in some countries present specific challenges, and third-term bids by presidents presage possible political destabilisation next year and in 2017.

In the patchwork of countries that make up Africa, there are also positive stories.

Growth rates remain strong in Kenya, Ethiopia and Mozambique, for example. Nigeria is decisively tackling some of its deep-seated challenges, such as corruption, while Tanzania's new leadership is cutting back wasteful state expenditure.

This challenging environment is an opportunity for real structural change. However, this requires strong leadership — not heads of state driven by self-interest and political expedience.

It is not up to China to rescue Africa; it is the job of Africans themselves. But it is going to be a rocky ride. Time to hold on to your hats.(BD 07-12-2015)

UK DONATES £1MN TO UGANDAN CHILDREN AFFECTED BY EL NINO WEATHER

The United Kingdom government has provided one million pounds sterling to support emergency preparedness and response to children affected by the ongoing El Nino weather syndrome in Uganda.

A press release issued Monday by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) says that following the recent heavy and continuous rains across Uganda, many districts have been affected by flooding and water logging, exposing children and the rest of the population to a greater risk of disease outbreaks such as cholera, malaria, diarrhea, and typhoid, among others.

The money that will be channeled to Uganda's Office of the Prime Minister through UNICEF will be used for the provision of clean and safe water and promotion of proper sanitation and hygiene practices to prevent diseases like cholera, the release said.

The UNICEF Representative in Uganda, Aida Girma said the contribution will immediately help to reduce the damaging impact of the heavy rains on children in many parts of the country.

Speaking of the support, Jennie Barugh, head of UK's Department For International Development (DFID) Uganda, noted that the funding will ensure that UNICEF can reach the children and families who are in most need. (APA 07-12-2015)

AFRICA WILL NEGOTIATE FOR A NEW ERA OF GREEN INDUSTRIALIZATION

Africa can leverage opportunities from climate change to engineer a new era of industrialisation that can drive clean economic growth, create sustainable jobs and reduce poverty, according to the Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA).

A statement issued here Monday quotes Mr. Carlos Lopes, while speaking at the African Pavilion at COP 21, asserted that the rapid economic growth experienced by many African countries over the last decade comes despite major challenges that other continents have not had to face, such as complexities around intellectual property and more sophisticated trade regulations.

"Africa is industrialising in an environment where achieving growth is more challenging. Windows that were open for other continents, enabling them to industrialise quickly and easily, are now closed for Africa."

However, Mr. Lopes says in these seemingly adverse conditions lie clear opportunities which Africa can readily harness. As a latecomer, he said Africa can take immediate advantage of the new technologies that have been put in place over the last ten years.

He went on to assert that Africa has, for example, asserted itself as the leader in mobile banking technologies. In the same way, he said the continent is well placed to capitalise on new advances in renewable energy infrastructure and technologies.

"We have the potential to access renewable energy at a time when the price for producing this energy is comparable to fossil fuel production. Industrialised countries will have to retrofit older infrastructure to harness the sector's vast potential. Africa, however, is not married to any technological platform and is ready to leapfrog to these new, efficient and more sophisticated technologies."

Furthermore, Lopes said, with a rapidly growing population – set to reach 2 billion by 2050 – Africa will have an immense labour force ready to support this growth.

By capitalising on these new technologies, he said Africa is poised to be the first continent to industrialise through powering renewable energy potential.

"Our renewable energy potential is the best in the world, giving us a ticket for green industrialisation; a ticket to do things differently. Africa is here at the COP21 climate negotiations to clearly make this case. We are ready to negotiate hard for a climate deal that will allow the continent to pursue this pathway to a greener industrialisation that will not only further Africa's development but also make a significant contribution to global efforts to reduce emissions," Lopes concluded.(APA 07-12-2015)

The Memorandum is supported by the Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association and other organisations.
The Memorandum is also made available to all ELO Members.

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