MEMORANDUM

N° 217/2015 | 19/12/2015

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 1,455 Memoranda issued from 2006 to Jun 2015. More than 17,300 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 – 2015, 9 Years devoted to reinforce Europe – Africa Business and Development

Extra Edition -- Season's greetings

SUMMARY

EU provides €5 million in humanitarian aid for the Burundian crisis	Page 2
Angola's Sonangol to supply oil to Chinese group Sinochem	Page 2
Angola's oil production overtakes Nigeria's	Page 2
AU seeks 5,000 peacekeepers for Burundi, says diplomat	Page 3
Botswana witnesses decrease in imported electricity	Page 4
Mali to disburse FCFA 60bn to enhance justice system	Page 4
MTN pays \$196m to buy licences in Ivory Coast and Ghana	Page 4
EU confirms €300.000 to support Ugandan's mediation in Burundi crisis	Page 5
Angola is main market for Portuguese construction companies	Page 5
Supporting agriculture: second phase of ENPARD programme kicks off in Egypt	Page 6
Uganda gets \$8m Swedish funding to boost women empowerment	Page 6
Libyan hotel in Guinea-Bissau reopens in January 2016	Page 7
Mozambique caps overseas credit-and debit-card spend	Page 7
Kenya and Britain ink deal in new military agreement	Page 7
IOM, UNHCR appeal for \$94mn to support refugees fleeing Yemen conflict	Page 8
Why nurturing talent is hard in Africa	Page 9
Nigeria: Unions poised for minimum wage showdown	Page 10
Communications from the International Monetary Fund	Page 14

EU PROVIDES €5 MILLION IN HUMANITARIAN AID FOR THE BURUNDIAN CRISIS

The European Commission has today released €5 million in new humanitarian assistance to help the increasing number of Burundians affected by the ongoing instability in the country.

The European Commission has today released €5 million in new humanitarian assistance to help the increasing number of Burundians affected by the ongoing instability in the country. The additional support brings total Commission humanitarian aid to help the Burundian people to €14 million in 2015. More than 220 000 people, over half of whom are children, are estimated to have left the country since April this year to neighbouring countries such as Tanzania, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Uganda.

"The humanitarian situation affecting Burundians is worsening. The refugee numbers are rising, with almost a quarter of a million people having now fled their homes. This is extremely worrying – both for Burundi, and for the neighbouring countries whose hosting capabilities have been stretched to the limit. Hosting government's efforts in welcoming those who fled the violence are commendable. This additional EU funding will help address the refugees' most pressing needs, notably in Tanzania. It will also contribute to humanitarian protection activities inside Burundi." said EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos **Stylianides**.

The most urgent humanitarian needs to address remain shelter, water and sanitation, as well as health assistance to stop the possible surge of diseases and epidemics, notably cholera.

Background:

Following the announcement on 25 April 2015 that President Pierre Nkurunziza would seek a third mandate, provoking serious political division, Burundi has undergone a sustained political and security crisis - this crisis brought with it a surge in the number of refugees.

Tanzania has received the highest number of Burundian refugees so far (nearly 117 000) mostly to the Nyarugusu refugee camp, which was already hosting some 60 000 Congolese refugees. Nyarugusu has consequently become one of the largest and most overcrowded refugee camps in the world. While two news camps are under construction to decongest Nyarugusu, living conditions there continue to be dire. Hundreds of people still live in overcrowded mass shelters months after their arrival, while wet floors and cramped conditions increase risks of respiratory infections and waterborne diseases.(EC 17-11-2015)

ANGOLA'S SONANGOL TO SUPPLY OIL TO CHINESE GROUP SINOCHEM

Angolan state oil company Sonangol will supply oil to China's Sinochem Corp group, under a 10-year agreement signed Wednesday in Beijing, said the Chinese group in a statement on its website. The agreement was signed by the presidents of Sonangol and the Chinese group, Cai Xi, and the ceremony was attended by Angola's Minister of Finance, Armando Manuel and the President of the China Development Bank, Zheng Zhijie.

The statement issued by the Chinese group did not give financial or quantitative details but sources cited by the Reuters news agency reported that Sinochem Corp would receive five shipments of Angolan oil per month.

Sonangol already has a contract with the China International United Petroleum & Chemicals Co.,Ltd. (UNIPEC), under which provides an average of 15 shipments per month. The new deal is the first one signed between Sonangol and Sinochem Corp. (17-12-2015)

ANGOLA'S OIL PRODUCTION OVERTAKES NIGERIA'S

Angola overtook Nigeria in November with regard to oil production, according to data provided directly to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

The OPEC monthly report for December said that in November Angola produced 1.722 million barrels of oil per day, a monthly drop of 40,000 barrels per day, while Nigeria lowered output by 205,000 barrels per day to 1.607 million barrels per day.

The monthly downturn (November compared to October) registered in daily production in Nigeria was the highest among the OPEC member countries, followed by Saudi Arabia, the largest producer in the cartel, with 90,000 fewer barrels.

However, if production is based on secondary sources, the same report also said that in November while Angola produced 1.722 million barrels per day, a monthly increase of 24,400 barrels, Nigeria produced 1.925 million barrels per day, 25,000 fewer barrels than in October.

Angola, like other oil-producing countries, has been affected by the fall in world oil prices, the main varieties of which, Brent and West Texas Intermediate, are currently priced at less than US\$40 a barrel, the lowest price since 2009. (17-12-2015)

AU SEEKS 5,000 PEACEKEEPERS FOR BURUNDI, SAYS DIPLOMAT

The African Union's (AU) Peace and Security Council has proposed sending 5,000 peacekeepers to Burundi, invoking for the first time a rule which allows it to deploy a force without a country's consent, a diplomat said.

Burundi, which United Nations (UN) officials say is on the brink of civil war, has said there was no need for a peacekeeping mission.

Asked about the latest proposal, one minister said he understood it was still a draft and so would not comment at this stage.

The AU decision, drawn up late on Thursday, needs approval from the UN Security Council, which has been considering options to resolve the crisis including sending peacekeepers.

"We have authorised the deployment of a 5,000-man force for Burundi whose mandate includes the protection of civilians," a diplomat from a member country of the council told Reuters.

UN officials and Western envoys have expressed alarm at the escalating violence in Burundi, which only emerged from an ethnically charged civil war in 2005 after 12 years of fighting.

The UN said at least 400 people have been killed since April, when unrest erupted after President Pierre Nkurunziza said he would seek a third term in office. The crisis pits opponents of the president's reelection against loyalists.

The violence has unnerved a region that remains volatile two decades after a genocide in neighbouring Rwanda. Unrest has mostly centred on capital Bujumbura, where insurgents attacked military bases on Friday. Almost 90 people died in the clashes.

Diplomats fear a prolonged conflict in Burundi could reopen old ethnic rifts. The civil war had pitted the army, which was at the time led by minority Tutsis, against rebel groups of the Hutu majority, including one led by Nkurunziza.

"This (AU) resolution marks the first time the African Union decided to invoke its charter's Article 4," the diplomat said.

According to Chapter 4, the AU has the right to intervene in a member state "in respect of grave circumstances, namely: war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity." The diplomat said the mission, labelled the African Prevention and Protection Mission in Burundi, would be comprised of the East African Standby Force. The force would seek to protect civilians and create conditions for dialogue.

The AU council asked the AU Commission's chairwoman, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, to submit within a week a list of individuals who would face sanctions.

Burundi's presidency said on Thursday it was open to "broad-based inclusive dialogue". Opponents have dismissed similar pledges in the past, saying the government has not been willing to discuss core issues such as the president's new term. (Reuters 18-12-2015)

BOTSWANA WITNESSES DECREASE IN IMPORTED ELECTRICITY

Botswana's imported electricity registered a decline during the third quarter of 2015 as compared to the figure registered during the second quarter of the same year, a report by Statistics Botswana showed here Friday.

The report states that electricity imports decreased by 3.1 percent (11, 821 MWH) from 376, 248 MWH during the second quarter of 2015, to 364, 427 MWH during the third quarter of the same year.

The year-on-year comparison of the physical volume of imported electricity however, shows an increase of 65.7 percent (144, 505 MWH), from 219, 922 MWH during the second quarter of 2014 to 364, 427 MWH registered during the same quarter in 2015.

During the period under review (third quarter 2015), the volume of electricity distributed declined by 5.0 percent (49, 814 MWH) from 1, 006, 224 MWH during the second quarter of the same year to 956, 410 MWH.

The year-on-year comparison of electricity distribution for the third quarter of 2015 and the third quarter of the previous year, shows a decrease of 7.7 percent (79, 977 MWH) from 1, 036, 387 MWH to 956, 410 MWH.

The volume of electricity generated during the third quarter of 2015 stood at 591, 983 MWH, showing a decrease of 37, 993 MWH (6.0 percent) as compared to 629, 976 MWH generated during the second quarter of the same year.(APA 18-12-2015)

MALI TO DISBURSE FCFA 60BN TO ENHANCE JUSTICE SYSTEM

Mali will disburse FCFA 60 billion to strengthen its judicial system, as part of an emergency program due to run from 2015 to 2018, the Justice minister, Aminata Mallé announced Friday in Bamako. According to the minister of Justice, the program aims to improve the quality and credibility of the judicial system and enhance the efforts to fight against corruption, impunity and financial crime.

This program, she said, will provide the means and resources necessary for the justice system to move towards a far-reaching shift so as to meet the expectations of the people based on trust.(APA 18-12-2015)

MTN PAYS \$196M TO BUY LICENCES IN IVORY COAST AND GHANA

MTN Group has paid \$196m in total for operating licences in Ghana and Ivory Coast, it said on Thursday, cementing its position in west Africa, where it also faces problems in Nigeria over a hefty fine. Africa's biggest mobile phone operator said it has paid \$124m to extend its operating licence in Ivory Coast, where it provides services to more than a third of the country's population of about 25-million. The money is 75% of the total cost of renewing the licence and is above the 50% down payment, which was due by December 15, MTN said in a statement. It did not say when it would pay the remainder. MTN also said it would pay \$67.5m to Ghanian telecoms authorities to buy a 15-year radio frequency spectrum that would enable it to roll out high-speed networks to meet surging demand for data as consumers use their devices to browse the internet and stream videos.

Shares in MTN, which have been hammered in recent months as it negotiates to reduce a fine in Nigeria, jumped 7.6% to R139.92 by 11.08am GMT.

Investors have shunned MTN after Nigerian authorities handed it a \$5.2bn fine for failing to cut off users with unregistered users. The stock is down about 25% since the fine was first announced on October 26. Since then, MTN had been in talks with the Nigerian Communication Commission (NCC), lobbying for the fine to be reduced. The NCC did cut the fine by 25% earlier this month to \$3.9bn and gave the company until year-end to pay it, but MTN is seeking a further reduction, a source close to the company has told Reuters.

Rating agency Moody's downgraded MTN's rating on Wednesday to Baa3, or just one-notch above junk — citing uncertainty around the outcome of the fine in Nigeria, MTN's biggest market.

The licence renewal in Ivory Coast gives MTN a regulatory permit to remain in one of Africa's fastest-growing economies for another 17 years. MTN launched services in Ivory Coast in 2005. (Reuters 17-12-2015)

EU CONFIRMS €300.000 TO SUPPORT UGANDAN'S MEDIATION IN BURUNDI CRISIS

The European Union (EU) has committed €300.000 to facilitate Uganda's mediation role in the Burundi crisis, reports said on Thursday.

In a meeting with EU and UN, Uganda's minister for Defence Crispus Kiyonga, who was speaking on behalf of Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni who was tasked by the East African Community to mediate between President Pierre Nkurunziza and the political opposition in Burundi, said Uganda is willing to mediate but is constrained by lack of facilitation.

However in a letter to Museveni EU High Representative Federica Mogherini confirmed the EU support.

She said the money will be channeled through the early response Mechanism of the African Peace Facility managed by the African Union.

Swift launching of a political process can still reverse the current negative trend and avoiding further bloodshed in Burundi that would affect the whole region, the letter reads in part.

It is further stated in the letter that the EU is looking forward to working with Uganda for peace in Burundi just like they have together in Somalia, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

The protests in Burundi stemmed from President Pierre Nkurunziza's decision to seek for a third term in office.

Thousands of Burundians have fled the country following the protests.

More than 80 people were reported killed after three military sites were attacked, in what human rights activists have warned could turn into genocide. (APA 17-12-2015)

ANGOLA IS MAIN MARKET FOR PORTUGUESE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES

In 2014 Angola was the main market for Portuguese construction companies operating in Africa, with works worth 1.915 billion Euros, according to the Association of Construction, Public Works and Services (AECOPS).

Second is Malawi, with 506 million Euros and third is Mozambique, with works amounting to 400 million Euros, according to the publication "Notebooks on Internationalization" (Cadernos da Internacionalização) by that business association.

The publication was launched by AECOPS in 2012 to summarise the presence of the Portuguese construction sector in foreign markets and provide contextual information for companies that already operate there or intend to do so.

Overall, Portuguese construction companies posted turnover of more than 5.6 billion Euros abroad in 2014, a figure that represents an increase of 6 percent compared to 2013 and about 3 percent of GDP and 8 percent of Portugal's total exports.

AECOPS stressed that Africa (especially Angola, Malawi and Mozambique) remained the main destination for Portuguese construction companies (63 percent of total turnover equivalent to 3.6 billion Euros). (17-12-2015)

SUPPORTING AGRICULTURE: SECOND PHASE OF ENPARD PROGRAMME KICKS OFF IN EGYPT

The second phase of the EU-funded ENPARD South Support Programme (ESSP II) has been launched in Egypt, at a seminar co-organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reclamation of Egypt.

The meeting brought together 25 participants representing different categories of stakeholders, including representatives from ministries, researchers, NGOs, unions, agriculture cooperatives and others.

Throughout the exchange, the themes raised in the preparatory meeting in September 2015 were discussed and accepted as the main issues to focus on for the year to come:

- Good Agricultural Practices and preservation of the environment;
- Contract farming;
- · Extension services.

ENPARD has been designed to support the EU's Southern Neighbourhood countries in their agricultural and rural development. The initiative aims to support the formulation and implementation of renewed public policies in order to meet the challenges of food security, diversification of rural economies and governance in agriculture and management of rural areas. (EU Neighbourhood 08-12-2015)

UGANDA GETS \$8M SWEDISH FUNDING TO BOOST WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Sweden has donated approximately \$8 million to UN women in Uganda to support gender equality and women empowerment programs, reports said on Wednesday.

According to the Swedish ambassador to Uganda, Urban Anderson, the money is aimed at developing women's political participation, economic recovery and fighting violence against women. Other areas include increasing access to justice and women's participation in peace and security.

According to Anderson, although Uganda has made significant progress in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, much of the policies have remained on paper and women have continued to suffer.

He says despite the fact that the number of women in parliament has risen from 18 percent in 2000 to 35 percent in 2011, higher poverty levels and illiteracy level coupled with a male dominated political structure still continues to hamper women's political participation.

Hodan Addou, the UN women's representative in Uganda says the project will be implemented in Northern, Eastern, Karamoja and Kampala regions of Uganda.

The money is part of a three-year partnership between the Swedish embassy in Uganda and UN Women, to support women development.

The partnership was announced on Tuesday during the celebrations of women's participation in peace and security in Northern Uganda.(APA 09-12-2015)

LIBYAN HOTEL IN GUINEA-BISSAU REOPENS IN JANUARY 2016

The Ledger Plaza Hotel Bissau, a formerly the Líbia Hotel, reopens its doors in January 2016 following extensive repairs, said Monday in Bissau the Director of Human Resources, Nozolino Mendonça.

The hotel, formerly known as Hotel Sheraton, later Hoti Bissau Hotel and finally as Líbia Hotel, was acquired from the Guinean state in June 2004 by the Libyan African Investment Authority (Laico). The hotel, which originally opened in 1990, closed eight years later due to a political-military conflict that destroyed many of its facilities.

The Ledger Plaza Hotel Bissau has 116 rooms, 18 suites, two of which are presidential, two conference rooms, a swimming pool, night club, gym and a restaurant, Nozolino Mendonça told.

In addition to this hotel, the Libyan African Investment Authority owns 11 hotels in Africa, in Gambia, Tunisia, Uganda, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Tanzania, Central African Republic and Republic of Congo (Brazzaville). (16-12-2015)

MOZAMBIQUE CAPS OVERSEAS CREDIT-AND DEBIT-CARD SPEND

Mozambique will set the limit for citizens using credit and debit cards abroad at 700,000 meticals (\$13,600) a year as it seeks to curb foreign-exchange outflows amid a slump in commodity prices, the central bank said.

Bank of Mozambique governor Ernesto Gove said last month that the cap was necessary because depressed commodity prices have put the economy under strain. The metical has plunged 37% again the dollar this year.

The southern African nation exports coal, gas, sugar and cotton and has gas finds in the offshore northern Rovuma basin that could help turn the country into the world's biggest liquefied natural gas exporter in a decade.

Credit-and debit-card transactions by Mozambicans abroad jumped to \$800m last year from \$300m in 2012, and equivalent to more than half of the country's 2014 exports of about \$1.5bn, according to Mr.

A global decline in commodity prices has cut Mozambique's revenue from exports of coal, gas, sugar and cotton and the currency's plunge against the dollar makes it Africa's second-worst performer this year. (Bloomberg 08-12-2015)

KENYA AND BRITAIN INK DEAL IN NEW MILITARY AGREEMENT

Kenya and its former colonial master - Britain on Wednesday signed a new five-year defense cooperation agreement that extends a deal that allows British troops conduct military training in the East African country.

The new agreement brings to an end a long running stalemate between the two countries, resulting into strained diplomatic relations after Britain objected to Kenya's demand that their soldiers be tried in Kenyan courts if they are engaged in criminal acts.

Speaking following the signature in Nairobi, Kenya's Defence Minister Raychelle Awour Omamo said that the soldiers will be dealt with and subject to Kenyan law and constitution.

"The UK is Kenya's longest-standing defence and security partner, and both our countries want to see the relationship continue and grow. This new agreement is based on mutual respect for each other's sovereignty, the Kenyan Constitution and the shared interest of our military relationship," said the British High Commissioner to Kenya Nic Hailey.

For decades British soldiers have prepared for harsh hot-weather warfare on Kenya's arid highlands.

About 10,000 soldiers train in Kenya's arid highlands every year including, in the past, troops on their way to Iraq and Afghanistan.

The agreement will now go forward for ratification in the UK and Kenyan parliaments. (APA 09-12-2015)

IOM, UNHCR APPEAL FOR \$94MN TO SUPPORT REFUGEES FLEEING YEMEN CONFLICT

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) on Wednesday in Nairobi jointly launched an inter-agency appeal for US\$94,13 million to provide protection and assistance, in 2016, to refugees, returnees and migrants fleeing the conflict in Yemen.

An estimated 80% of the population requires protection and assistance, including 2.3 million people internally displaced.

Meanwhile, around 170, 000 Yemenis, refugees and third country nationals have fled to Djibouti, Ethiopia, Somalia, Sudan and some Gulf countries.

"The suffering that this conflict is inflicting on the people is heart-breaking. I hear first-hand accounts of it whenever I speak with women, children and elderly people who have made the perilous crossing to reach Djibouti, Ethiopia and Somalia," said UNHCR's Regional Refugee Coordinator for the Yemen, Ms Claire Bourgeois.

Bourgeois commended neighbouring countries for providing asylum and assistance to the refugees, returnees and migrants, and the donors for offering support, concluding, "But the bottom line is that refugees must ultimately regain their rights and lead a dignified life in asylum".

IOM's Permanent Observer to the United Nations in New York, Mr Ashraf El Nour stressed the need for IOM and UNHCR to engage jointly with governments for a comprehensive response and inclusive dialogue in order to capture the migration and humanitarian dimension of the crisis.

"The Horn of Africa remains among the hottest spots for mixed migration, including refugees, stranded migrants and food-insecure people. Yet, for 2015 less than 50% of the response plan for new arrivals is funded," he said.

"This might further fuel displacement as the conflict drags on. With no peaceful solution in sight, and humanitarian needs overwhelming the capacities of affected nations, it is time to give a regional dimension to preparedness and contingency planning," he added.

The inter-agency appeal aims to give nine participating agencies and 48 partners the capacity to

continue delivering food, shelter, water, sanitation, protection, emergency education and other assistance to people arriving in the Horn of Africa from Yemen. It anticipates 164,000 arrivals by December 2016. (APA 09-12-2015)

WHY NURTURING TALENT IS HARD IN AFRICA

Africa is hailed as a major growth market for global businesses, but as global companies expand there, they are having a tough time finding leaders to run their operations.

That is the conclusion of a new report on executive talent by Russell Reynolds Associates, which surveyed 230 senior leaders and recruiters in Africa. Recruiters say companies are eager to recruit good hires in the region, but find that candidates with traditional management skills — such as the ability to drive change or build teams — are in short supply.

The report focused on the talent markets of Kenya and Nigeria, whose economies are growing rapidly, and SA, the continent's most developed economy, yet the issues are common to many nations in sub-Saharan Africa, the authors note.

The issues will become more acute as more businesses expand in Africa, where gross domestic product growth is projected to strengthen to 4.5% this year and 5% next year, according to the African Economic Outlook 2015 report.

Driving the talent shortage is Africa's dearth of high-quality business schools, according to Simon Kingston, who leads the global development practice at Russell Reynolds. In countries such as Kenya and Nigeria, many with management aspirations tend to leave for school or work abroad, and persuading them to return home for their career is a challenge, recruiters said.

In the absence of traditional management training ground, companies such as Coca-Cola, Diageo and Heineken have developed their own programmes to nurture Africa-based leaders.

McKinsey & Co trains promising young Kenyan professionals in critical thinking and quantitative analysis, as well as people skills such as co-operation and consensus-building, with an eye on developing talent for the firm, said Mutsa Chironga, a McKinsey partner based in Johannesburg.

The management-consulting firm turns away many local hires in Kenya and Nigeria who attended top local schools, Mr. Chironga said, because those schools often fail to adequately prepare young people for work in global corporations. Local candidates also lack the internship or work experience and global exposure of some of their counterparts hailing from other regions, he added.

So far, global firms have relied on imported talent to fill local roles but relocating people is costly and doesn't strengthen the local talent pipeline, said James Newlands, who leads the Americas-Africa business centre at EY.

"It's not a sustainable solution to run your business on expat management," Mr. Newlands said. Retaining managers in the region is difficult because compensation tends to be lower than in other global areas, the study found. In Kenya and SA, some professionals are forgoing global companies' management-development programmes in favour of local firms, which often provide a faster path to senior ranks, according to the survey.

To provide emerging leaders with international experience and training, more multinationals are trying rotation programmes that send Africa-based talent abroad with the plan that they will return later, said Mr Newlands.

Eulicia Govender, a South African national and second-year MBA student at the University of the Witwatersrand Business School, said she plans to work abroad for a few years in financial services before ultimately returning to SA to found a for-profit enterprise with a social mission.

"I want to bring back knowledge to SA with me, and see how I can make these ideas work in the South African context," she said.

Businesses are hoping that young Africans such as Ms Govender stick with their plan.

Some 39% of Kenyan executives, 39% of Nigerian executives and 41% of South African executives surveyed see the diaspora as a key source of leadership talent over the next five to 10 years, yet only 32%, 29% and 13% of them felt local talent would be willing to return home. (WSJ 09-12-2015)

NIGERIA: UNIONS POISED FOR MINIMUM WAGE SHOWDOWN

Fifty-six unions under the umbrella of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC) have put their members on the alert Saturday to resist plans by 36 state governors to jettison the national minimum wage. The national minimum wage in the public service which is currently equivalent to \$78 monthly income was implemented six years ago.

Aside the federal government, only a few states have implemented the minimum wage.

At a time the labour was agitating for upward review to what it described ``a living wage' the governors have come up with plans to reduce the minimum wage.

The governors hinged their decision on inability to pay due to dwindling revenue.

They warned that staff rationalization would be alternative.

The Congress put all its state councils and industrial union affiliates on alert on Saturday to ensure that they respond speedily and promptly to any action by the governors to carry out their decision.

NLC President, Mr. Ayuba Wabba, said in a statement that the path of the governors could only lead to a collision with workers and the Nigerian people.

He cautioned the governors against the mass sacking of workers and warned that the decision would throw the already beleaguered country into an industrial chaos.

"The principle behind minimum wage is that it is the minimum salary a worker is envisaged to earn to sustain himself or herself and his or her legal or legitimate dependents, over a daily or monthly period.

"The current minimum wage cannot pay the transport fare of workers. It is not take home pay," NLC said.

The Chairman, Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF) who is also the governor of Zamfara state, Alhaji Abdulazeez Yari, had earlier declared that with the nation's economic reality, states were left with the option of reviewing the minimum wage or downsize their workforce.

"Most states of the federation do not have enough internally generated revenue (IGR) to supplement their monthly allocations from the federation accounts," he said.

He said the price of crude oil, the nation's mainstay, has continued to drop at the international market with revenues accruing to the states currently at the lowest level.

According to him, the minimum wage law was passed by the National Assembly when the price of crude was at about \$118 per barrel but such could not be sustained now that the price has fallen to \$41 per barrel. (APA 12-12-2015)

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Benin - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15569.htm

Cote d'Ivoire - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43461.0

Guinea - http://www.imf.org/external/french/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15562f.htm

Kenya - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15565.htm

Mali - http://www.imf.org/External/NP/LOI/2015/MLI/110915.pdf

Mali - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43460.0

Mauritius - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15564.htm

Mauritius - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15576.htm

Morocco - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15568.htm

Niger - http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/cat/longres.aspx?sk=43462.0

Senegal - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15549.htm

Swaziland - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15556.htm

Tunisia - http://www.imf.org/external/np/sec/pr/2015/pr15574.htm

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 by the Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), ELO and NABA, to their Members.









Fernando Matos Rosa

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