

# MEMORANDUM

N° 43/2018 | 07/05/2018

More than 2,024 Daily Memoranda issued from 2006 to end of 2017, with 24,401 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.

The Memorandum is issued daily, with the sole purpose to provide updated basic business and economic information on Africa, to more than 45,000 European Companies, as well as their business parties in Africa.

Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to [fernando.matos.rosa@sapo](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@sapo) or [fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be).

## **12 YEARS OF PUBLICATION**

### SUMMARY

UN mobilizes CFAf300b for Burkinabe development plan	Page 2
Kenya negotiates with China to fund US \$5.4bn Naivasha-Malaba SGR line	Page 2
World Bank approves \$180M for Kenya's energy sector	Page 2
KenGen increases hydropower production as water levels rise	Page 3
Cabo Verde TradeInvest provides a platform for companies to promote themselves	Page 4
Cocoa experts warn Ivory Coast on plans	Page 4
Majority of Angola's working population works in the informal economy	Page 5
Algeria completes construction of trans-Saharan highway project	Page 5
Angola's Public Investment Programme has financing from the United Kingdom	Page 5
Beaten, shot, abducted — but Mozambicans are determined to carry on talking	Page 6
Cabo Verde Electricity and Water Company to be privatised in 2019/2020	Page 7
Dagga gets green light in Zimbabwe	Page 7
Airbnb travel data shows growth across Africa	Page 8
Zambia Launches Plant a Million Trees Initiative	Page 9
Thanks to the EU, Industries in Morocco make a bid for resource efficiency	Page 11
Kenya ratifies Africa trade pact	Page 11
The European Commission releases the report on the state of EU-Algeria relations	Page 12
Quattara announces coalition government 'in coming weeks'	Page 13

## **UN MOBILIZES CFA300B FOR BURKINABE DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The United Nations System announced it has mobilized CFA300 billion francs (US\$555 million) for the process for sustainable transformation in Burkina Faso in 2018-2020.

According to the country's ministry of economy, it is in line with the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES), and the cooperation framework aims to provide "effective responses to vulnerabilities and risks of all kinds" in the country, and thus contribute to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The UN System, through the Burkinabe government, intends to give priority to the Sahel area of the country, based on the Sahel Emergency Programme.

The agreement shows the UN working with the Burkinabe government to tackle the many challenges facing the country, the minister of Economy, Finance and Development, Hadizatou Rosine Coulibaly declared after the signing. (APA 30-04-2018)

## **KENYA NEGOTIATES WITH CHINA TO FUND US \$5.4BN NAIVASHA-MALABA SGR LINE**

Kenya has begun negotiations with China for the financing of the Naivasha-Malaba SGR (Standard Gauge Railway) line valued at US \$5.4bn.

While addressing the country in parliament, President Uhuru Kenyatta revealed that the country is discussing with china to fund the construction of the third phase of the SGR line.

China is currently financing the second phase SGR line from Nairobi to Naivasha which is valued at US \$1.50bn. The Construction work should be completed in December 2019 as per the government's expectations, but a review in the plans showed it will be completed three months before the set deadline. Both the rail and the special economic zone should be operational by the end of 2019.

The Standard Gauge Railway between Mombasa and Malaba will be part of the East African Community protocol for the development connecting the port of Mombasa to Kampala, Kigali and juba

"We cannot hope to attract investments and create jobs and prosperity without radical renewal and improvement in our infrastructure and connectivity," said Kenyatta

So far the first phase of the project from Mombasa to Nairobi is completed and since then over 700,000 passengers have boarded, whereas the SGR cargo services is currently loading 22,345metric tonnes a month.

The other four contracts set for developments include Naivasha- Kisumu, Kisumu-Malaba, Kisumu Port Development and Modernization and expansion of the Inland Container Depot at Embakasi in Nairobi.

The entire network is supposed to be in operation by December 2018 and member states are working towards meeting the timelines of the directive.(CRO 04-05-2018)

## **WORLD BANK APPROVES \$180M FOR KENYA'S ENERGY SECTOR**

The World Bank on Monday approved a \$180 million International Development Association (IDA) guarantee to mobilize private sector financing to strengthen the financial position of Kenya Electricity Generation Company Limited (KenGen), and build energy security for all Kenyans.

The project will build on Kenya's gains that have diversified the energy mix and significantly improved electrification bringing much-needed energy to millions of households and businesses.

The project seeks to lower the cost of electricity – critical to power Kenya's manufacturing and growth aspirations.

“Affordable and accessible electricity is essential to ensuring that Kenyan businesses remain competitive in the international market, allows women and youth to run their businesses safely late into the night within informal settlements and strengthens citizen contribution into growing Kenya’s economy,” said Diarietou Gaye, World Bank Country Director for Kenya.

“This is what Kenya needs if it is to achieve a middle-income economy status by 2030,” he added.

KenGen manages 70 percent of Kenya’s generation capacity of 1,631 megawatts making it one of the largest in East Africa.

The project supports KenGen in raising up to \$300 million in long-term commercial financing to be used to refinance an expensive portion of KenGen’s existing commercial loans, enhancing KenGen’s credit quality and promoting sustainable development of renewable energy in Kenya. (APA 30-04-2018)

## **KENGEN INCREASES HYDROPOWER PRODUCTION AS WATER LEVELS RISE**

Kenya has increased production of cheap hydropower following heavy rains that have filled up dams. According to Rebecca Miano, [KenGen](#) Managing Director, the overflowing dams will boost power generation in the country and also ensure stability of supply.

Currently, Masinga Dam, the largest dam among the Seven Forks, has risen to 1,045 metres. This is against a maximum level of 1,056 metres. “The ongoing rains will boost production in the eastern hydros of Masinga, Kamburu, Gitaru, Kindaruma, Kiambere, which draw water from River Tana,” she said.

### **Hydro capacity**

Hydro dams contribute about 52.04% of total national grid; with KenGen’s total installed hydro capacity currently standing at 820MW. At the beginning of this year, KenGen had scaled down generation from its hydros as a result of the severe drought that saw a reduction in water levels at the dams.

However, the dams might cause flooding in surrounding areas, following massive flooding in Tana River, which has been blamed on the spillage at the Masinga dam. “The dams actually control the flooding by holding much of the water from the rains, without which the effects of the floods would be much worse,” she said.

“At the moment, all these rivers are having heavy inflows which are likely to continue until the end of next month. Hopefully, the ongoing rains will sustain increased contribution from the hydro power stations,” she added.(CRO 30-04-2018)

## **CABO VERDE TRADEINVEST PROVIDES A PLATFORM FOR COMPANIES TO PROMOTE THEMSELVES**

The digital platform in Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) that allows export companies to sign up to the Companies and Service Providers’ Directory is now available, the chair of export and investment promotion agency Cabo Verde TradeInvest said in Praia.

Ana Barber said on the sidelines of the ceremony to sign a protocol between the Cabo Verde Music Awards, Cabo Verde TradeInvest and the Ministry of Tourism and Transport, that the main aim of the digital platform is the dissemination of the Cape Verdean market among investors and exporters “in a quick way.”

“CV TradeInvest intends to let the world find out about Cape Verdean companies, exporters and exporting powerhouses, by providing complete information about all the agents of what is an increasingly demanding market in terms of standards of professionalism and skills,” she said, quoted by the Inforpress news agency.

The Business Directory ([http://cvtradeinvest.com/diretorioempresas/ficha\\_empresa.php](http://cvtradeinvest.com/diretorioempresas/ficha_empresa.php)) is a tool hosted on the Cabo Verde TradeInvest website (<http://www.cvtradeinvest.com>), where companies can access a registration form.

The platform will make it possible to advertise and do free presentations of companies, products and services of Cabo Verde, organised according to their business area.

All industrial and service companies that have a minimum of 500,000 escudos (US\$5,433) in turnover and 10 jobs can register. (04-05-2018)

## **COCOA EXPERTS WARN IVORY COAST ON PLANS**

Ivory Coast’s move to halt the distribution of high-yielding seeds and other advanced tools to cocoa farmers could pave the way for problems with quality, more erratic production and the spread of diseases, industry sources warned.

Ivory Coast recently suspended programmes aiming to increase cocoa productivity in an effort to tackle oversupply, which in 2017 drove prices to their lowest in more than nine years and slashed farmer incomes by more than a third.

Output in Ivory Coast surged to a record 2-million tonnes in the 2016-17 season, from 1.2-million 10 years earlier.

Last season, it outstripped demand by about 300,000 tonnes, according to the International Cocoa Organisation.

"We have invested a lot of money and also other resources to develop productivity," said one pod counter for a major chocolate maker, estimating yields rose to 800kg per hectare, from about 350kg-400kg a decade ago.

Yet, industry sources say illegal cocoa in protected forests is the main reason for the supply glut and, as a result, halting productivity efforts will fail to make a significant dent in supply, while giving rise to quality issues and disease.

"The industry has developed the cocoa sector over the last 10 years by injecting millions of dollars," an Ivory Coast-based manager at a major trade house said. "But also the know-how that makes it possible to have beans of excellent quality." Once the schemes stop, farmers are likely to turn to the informal market for seeds, sources said. This could lead to the use of poor-quality varieties, since the planting material is less likely to be vetted and verified. (Reuters 02-05-2018)

## **MAJORITY OF ANGOLA’S WORKING POPULATION WORKS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY**

Angola is the Portuguese-speaking country with the biggest percentage of its active population working in the informal economy, with a rate of 94%, according to a report recently released in Geneva by the International Labor Organization (ILO).

After Angola, among the Portuguese-speaking countries included on the list, comes Timor-Leste (East Timor) with 71.8%, followed by Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) with 46.5% and Brazil with 46%.

The same ILO report places Portugal as the Portuguese-speaking country where the informal economy comprises the smallest percentage of the population, at just 12.1%.

Entitled “Women and Men in the Informal Economy: A Statistical Approach,” the ILO report states that more than 60% of the world’s working population, or 2 billion people, work in the informal sector.

The paper notes that the transition from the informal economy to the formal one is one of the conditions for achieving “decent work for all.”

Jornal de Angola reported that the informal economy in the country has a weight in the Gross Domestic Product that varies between 25% and 65% and between 30% and 90% in the creation of non-agricultural jobs, citing statements by the senior economist of the International Monetary Fund Marcos Miguel during a conference on “Regional Economic Perspectives” organised by the National Bank of Angola (BNA) in partnership with the IMF. (04-05-2018)

## **ALGERIA COMPLETES CONSTRUCTION OF TRANS-SAHARAN HIGHWAY PROJECT**

Construction of the 1,600km Trans-Saharan Highway project in Algeria is complete. The Secretary General of the Trans-Saharan Liaison Committee, Mohamed Ayadi revealed the completion of the highway project in Algiers during the the 68th session of the committee.

In order to carry out its realization as soon as possible, the meeting focused on the review of the highway project progress and the consultation on future steps that need to be taken.

The continental-scale infrastructure passes through six African countries, namely Niger, Nigeria, Algeria, Tunisia, Mali, and Chad.

Apart from the completed Trans-Saharan Highway, construction work is in progress on another 200km road in south Algeria which is expected to be complete within a short period of time.

According to Abdelghani Zaalane, Algeria’s Minister of Public Works and Transportation, as a fundamental factor for economic activity, growth, trade and investment, Algeria has renewed its priority interest in the completed infrastructure.

### **Interconnection and integration**

Additionally, the highway project plays an important role in the interconnection and integration of Africa and the improvement of living conditions for the people.

In the presence of representatives from the Commission of the [European Union](#), [Arab Bank for Economic Development](#), the [Islamic Development Bank](#) (IDB) and the [African Development Bank](#), the committee discussed about the countries’ infrastructure concerns.

The Trans-Saharan Highway links Algiers in Algeria to Lagos in Nigeria. Moreover, the highway is expected to contribute to the commercial development exchanges through roads as well as promoting regional integration across Africa(CRO 02-05-2018)

## **ANGOLA’S PUBLIC INVESTMENT PROGRAMME HAS FINANCING FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM**

A financial agreement worth 500 million euros, to be entered into between Angola and UK Export Finance, was approved in a presidential order published in the country’s official gazette, Diário da República.

Signed by the President of the Republic, João Lourenço, the document justifies the approval with the need to guarantee the execution of projects included in the Public Investment Programme whose financing has not been secured, within the scope of the investment policy for the country’s economic and social development.

The same order instructs the Finance Minister to sign the financing agreement and all documentation related to it on behalf of the Republic of Angola, according to the Angop news agency.

The Secretary of State for the Budget and Public Investment of the Ministry of Finance, Aia Eza Silva, recently said in Luanda that the Public Investment Programme for 2018, which includes a total of 1,893 projects nationwide, worth 890.12 billion kwanzas, has no secured funding due to the fiscal deficit of the General State Budget for 2018.

Silva also said that the increase in the budget deficit by half a percentage point, from 3.0% to 3.5%, due to the increase in funds allocated to the Health, Education, Higher Education and Construction sectors, totalling 96.5 billion kwanzas, meant the Public Investment Programme no longer had secured funding. (04-05-2018)

## **BEATEN, SHOT, ABDUCTED — BUT MOZAMBICANS ARE DETERMINED TO CARRY ON TALKING**

'We have a generation of young people who did not know the one-party era.... Using social networks above all and the press, people will continue to talk'

Abductions, beatings, surveillance, threats and even fatal shootings — critics of the government in Mozambique say that voicing dissent is increasingly dangerous.

The latest victim is media commentator Ericino de Salema, who in March was bundled by gunmen into a vehicle outside the offices of the Mozambican Union of Journalists in Maputo.

Two hours later, he was dumped on the outskirts of the city with a broken arm, fractured legs and severe bruising.

Salema, who had received threatening phone calls, is an analyst on Pontos da Vista (Points of View), a leading show aired by the private STV channel, on which he often criticises government policies.

His assault came less than two years after another commentator on the programme, Jose Jaime Macuane, was abducted, shot four times in the legs and also dumped outside Maputo.

"Is it coincidence that these two people are victims of brutal violence and abandoned in the same area, without anything stolen from them?" Jeremias Langa, the programme's moderator, told AFP.

"The most visible cause is their public opinions."

Salema is still recovering in hospital abroad and unable to discuss his ordeal but Macuane spoke out against his attackers.

"I was the victim of my words," Macuane, a politics professor at Eduardo Mondlane University, said.

"My kidnappers said that 'We have orders to make you lame'. Of course, life cannot be the same for me, but I continue to go about my life in public."

The police investigation of Macuane's attack soon ground to a halt — as in several other similar cases.

"There was no progress. Investigators recently asked me for my medical report and nothing else was done," he said.

Other cases include the fatal shooting of French-Mozambican lawyer Gilles Cistac, a law professor at the same university.

He was gunned down in 2015 as he caught a taxi outside a cafe in the centre of Maputo.

Cistac was a vocal critic of the government and had recently spoken on STV in favour of political decentralisation — attracting harsh criticism from government supporters.

Paulo Machava, editor of an independent news website, was also shot dead in 2015 while he was jogging along a busy street in the capital.

Activists have demanded that police halt the attacks and investigate and arrest the perpetrators.

President Filipe Nyusi recently made a rare comment addressing the issue.

"I do not want to say that Mozambique is a country where human rights are fully observed," he admitted during a speech in London last month.

"[But] we have many radios, many televisions, many private newspapers that write and do everything."

For the opposition Renamo party, his words disguise what it alleges are murky links between the assaults and Nyusi's Frelimo party, which has ruled since 1975.

"There are political motivations," Jose Lopes, a Renamo legislator, told AFP.

"There can be no freedom when people are abducted, beaten and killed for expressing their thoughts." Mozambique had one-party rule in the first 15 years of independence between 1975 and 1990.

Private newspapers were not allowed until after the new 1990 constitution was adopted.

Edmundo Galiza Matos, a Frelimo MP, told AFP that Mozambique "has one of the best laws on the press".

But Freedom House, a US-based watchdog, has said that "self-censorship by journalists is pervasive" in Mozambique due to fear of government spies.

After Salema's assault, Human Rights Watch said it had evidence of activists forced to move home and use different cars after vehicles without number plates followed them or parked outside their houses.

"I feel that everything I say is carefully listened to — that makes me measure my words," said Fernando Lima, a veteran journalist and chairman of the private Mediacoop group, which consists of two newspapers and a radio station.

"The attacks will not stop," he said. "But we have a generation of young people who did not know the one-party era, where nobody could speak.

"Using social networks above all and the press, people will continue to talk." (AFP 02-05-2018)

## **CABO VERDE ELECTRICITY AND WATER COMPANY TO BE PRIVATISED IN 2019/2020**

Cabo Verde's (Cape Verde's) electricity and water company Electra will be privatized in 2019/2020, in the way that will be defined by a study that has yet to be carried out, the Cape Verdean deputy prime minister and minister of Finance said on Tuesday.

Olavo Correia, at the end of his visit to Electra's premises in Gambôa and Palmarejo, accompanied by the Minister of Industry, Trade and Energy, Alexandre Monteiro, said that the company's privatisation process would be studied, decided and executed.

The deputy prime minister and finance minister, quoted by the Inforpress news agency, said the government had already received proposals from several interested parties, but stressed that the key now is to work on an appropriate privatisation model.

"We have several models under analysis and we will define what best allows us to be independent in relation to fossil fuels, to use renewable energy increasingly to supply electricity, to reduce energy bills, combat technical and commercial losses and to produce enough energy to supply all of Cabo Verde's islands," he said.

Correia said that 20% of the electricity produced in the archipelago is based on renewable sources and that "despite being at the top in Africa it has room to grow much more by drawing up a regulatory framework that allows private companies to invest in the sector, thus reducing dependence on fossil fuels." (03-05-2018)

## **DAGGA GETS GREEN LIGHT IN ZIMBABWE**

It's the second country in Africa to legalise the cultivation of the plant, after Lesotho

Zimbabweans can now apply for licences to grow cannabis for medical and research purposes, the government has said in a legal notice, making the Southern African nation the second country in Africa to legalise cultivation of the plant.

Lesotho announced last year the continent's first licence to grow cannabis legally.

Until now it has been illegal to grow, possess or use cannabis in Zimbabwe, with offenders facing up to 12 years in jail.

Health Minister David Parirenyatwa published new regulations on Saturday, allowing individuals and companies to be licensed to cultivate marijuana, known locally as mbanje.

The five-year renewable licences will allow growers to possess, transport and sell fresh and dried cannabis, as well as cannabis oil.

Applications should include plans of the growing site, quantity to be produced and sold and the production period.

A licence can be refused when information has been received from a "peace officer, a competent authority or the UN, that an applicant was involved in the diversion of a controlled substance or precursor to an illicit market or use", the regulations said.

"The Minister may not oblige if the issuance, renewal or amendment of the licence is likely to create a risk to public health, safety or security." (Reuters 30-04-2018)

## AIRBNB TRAVEL DATA SHOWS GROWTH ACROSS AFRICA



Airbnb travel data shows growth across Africa.

Data released by the hospitality community, Airbnb, reveals that guests are travelling off the beaten track, to towns and cities others often overlook. According to the data, Bloemfontein, South Africa's judicial capital, has tripled the number of guest arrivals in an Airbnb listed home compared to summer 2016/2017. As expected, South Africa is still the country with the most guest arrivals on Airbnb with a 60% increase in inbound guests compared to last summer.

Pretoria saw a 177% increase in guests on Airbnb while Grahamstown went up by 155%, proving that inland travel in South Africa is giving coastal destinations a run for their money. That said, Cape Town still reigns supreme with the third-most guests of any city in the southern hemisphere, behind only Sydney and Melbourne.

New Year's Eve was not only the biggest night for Airbnb globally but also for South Africa. Roughly 40 000 guests booked an Airbnb home somewhere in the country to ring in the New Year in style – a new record for SA.

But it's the tale of the rest of Africa that illustrates accommodation sharing's true impact on the continent. Egypt saw a 134% increase in guest arrivals compared to last summer, with two of its cities seeing the biggest percentage growth. Egypt's pristine coastline seems to be a favourite on Airbnb, too, with Hurghada with its long stretch of beach seeing a 220% increase in guest arrivals and neighbouring El Gouna also more than tripling in guest numbers.



**Growth % in guest arrivals by country:**

Egypt 134%  
 Reunion 84%  
 Kenya 69%  
 South Africa 60%  
 Tanzania 53%  
 Morocco 50%

Africa's second-largest economy, Lagos, also saw a massive boost with guest arrivals up by 188%

**Top trending regions:**

Hurghada, Egypt 220%  
 El Gouna, Egypt 215%  
 Bloemfontein, South Africa 190%  
 Lagos, Nigeria 188%  
 Pretoria, South Africa 177%  
 Accra, Ghana 169%  
 Grahamstown, South Africa 155%

With home sharing growing across the continent more hosts can create economic opportunities for themselves, their families and the communities in which they live.

Hosts keep up to 97 percent of the price they charge for a stay in their homes. About 42 percent of guests' spend occurs within the neighbourhoods they stay in. The financial benefit of home sharing can be significant for emerging travel destinations.

Airbnb now has more than 100 000 listings across Africa. Combined with the \$1 million investment through 2020 to promote and support community-led tourism projects in Africa, the company's vision to empower communities through home sharing and to promote people-to-people tourism that benefits local families and their communities is on course to be realised. (ITNA 01-05-2018)

**ZAMBIA LAUNCHES PLANT A MILLION TREES INITIATIVE**

President Edgar Lungu just before planting a tree during the launch of Plant a Million Trees Initiative in Chinsali District

As global climate experts meet in Bonn this week to discuss how to take climate action forward, Zambia counts itself amongst the leaders as President Edgar Lungu officially launches the Plant a Million (PAM) trees Initiative.

In fact, the initiative is even more ambitious than its name implies, and aims at planting at least two billion trees by 2021. According to President Lungu, the initiative is in line with the country's Seventh National Development Plan whose aim is to diversify the economy from copper dependency.

President Lungu says the initiative, which targets young people through schools, colleges and universities, will be used as a vehicle for mindset change among Zambians to begin to value the importance of planting trees as a tool for economic diversification.

"This initiative marks the beginning of growing money through trees and government stands ready to support it and ensure that it succeeds," he said during the launch at Kapasa Makasa University in Muchinga Province, Northern Zambia.

In line with the country's commitments to international treaties, especially the landmark Paris Agreement on Climate Change, President Lungu said government envisages not only creating a tree-based economy, but also mitigating climate change through the initiative.

He is particularly concerned with the country's alarming deforestation rate of 276,021 hectares per year, making Zambia one of the most deforested countries in Africa.

"The Plant A Million initiative will significantly contribute to reducing deforestation which has earned Zambia a bad name of being one of the most deforested countries in Africa as a result of uncontrolled harvesting of trees," he said.

The Zambian president added that he was impressed with the youth involvement model through schools, colleges and universities, saying it will help push the agenda of mindset change because "when our learners appreciate the importance of trees, it will in turn create a positive impact in families and the communities at large."



President Edgar Chagwa Lungu planting a tree while Minister of Lands and Natural Resources looks on.

Speaking earlier, Higher Education Minister Nkandu Luo said her Ministry would use the initiative to redefine the education system from exam-based to real-world practices.

"Over the years, the thinking in our school system has been that education is passing exams but we are redefining this thinking, so that people know that education is total transformation of a human being, and this programme is one of the ways to do it," she said.

As one of the brains behind the initiative, Professor Luo said that Zambia was aiming to break the world record of planting the most trees, which is currently held by India. Last year, Volunteers in [India](#) planted more than 66 million trees in just 12 hours in a record-breaking environmental drive.

About 1.5 million people were involved in the huge campaign, in which saplings were placed along the Narmada river in the state of Madhya Pradesh throughout Sunday.

India committed under the Paris Agreement to increasing its forests by five million hectares before 2030 to combat [climate change](#).

"We are aiming to beat the world record, to go above 66 million trees done by India. We aim to plant at least a billion trees by 2019, and another billion plus by 2021; and I am positive that with universities' involvement, it is doable," she said.

Meanwhile, Minister of Lands and Natural Resources Jean Kapata is optimistic that the initiative will not only add value to people's livelihoods through income from the sale of fruit and other forest products, but also contribute to the country's ambitious mitigation targets as set in the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC).

“As you may be aware, tree planting plays an important role in addressing impacts of climate change, and mitigating effects of climate change. In this regard, the Zambia Plant A Million initiative is also responding to national efforts of reducing greenhouse gas emissions,” she said.

Zambia has undertaken, and is still implementing, several tree planting and preservation projects across the country. Central to such initiatives has been the goodwill of the country’s first president, Dr. Kenneth Kaunda, who was a pioneer of tree planting during his time in office.

And according to Emmanuel Chibesakunda, PAM initiator and project manager, the initiative wants to build on this foresight and activism of the 94-year-old freedom fighter and founding father of the nation.

“I am pleased to announce this morning that Dr. Kenneth Kaunda has kindly agreed to be the goodwill ambassador for this initiative,” announced Chibesakunda amid thunderous applause from those who gathered to witness the ceremony in a district which is also home to Dr. Kaunda. “Dr. Kaunda did not only lead our country into independence, but also pioneered tree planting in Zambia.”

Chibesakunda shared his inspiration for the initiative, which he said was from his father who taught him that talent was like a seed which needed to be planted in the right soil to germinate into beautiful fruit. This led to his passion for trees, and especially the involvement of children and young people.

“My father told me that we all have talents, but what matters is where we plant them,” he told the gathering. “And my desire for this project is that we plant the knowledge in the young generation, let us put the future into their hands.”

So far, tree nurseries have been set up at 12 schools in Lusaka, and the project expects to reach 720 schools in the next two years in 60 districts across the country.(IPS 03-05-2018)

## **THANKS TO THE EU, INDUSTRIES IN MOROCCO MAKE A BID FOR RESOURCE EFFICIENCY**

On the 10 of May, results from SwitchMed’s MED TEST II project will be presented on a national dissemination event in Rabat.

Savings, investment opportunities and best practices from the participating companies will be presented to government officials, industry stakeholders, the Delegation of the European Union to Morocco, and interested businesses. UNIDO, together with 22 industries, will present the so far achieved outcomes of the project and also shed some light on the developed national action plan for resource efficiency. This event will be an excellent opportunity for businesses interested in producing more with less.

Is your company interested in doing better and more with fewer resources? Join the event in Rabat on the 10th of May. (EEAS 03-05-2018)

## **KENYA RATIFIES AFRICA TRADE PACT**

Kenya’s parliament has ratified the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement and arrangements are underway to submit it to the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, State House in Nairobi announced on Sunday.

State House spokesperson Manohar Esipisu expressed optimism that the continental trade pact will lead to an accelerated pathway to integration, adding that Africa is better off increasing trade with itself.

“As you know, it was the President’s absolute delight to be in Kigali not too long ago, joining fellow heads of state in signing the AfCFTA. The AfCFTA will create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of people, goods and services,” Esipisu told a press briefing in Nairobi.

Rwanda and Ghana have both already ratified the agreement, and now the race is on which country is first to officially submit that ratification.

The instruments are expected to be lodged with the AU Commission Chairperson Moussa Faki as a sign of Kenya’s commitment to the economic integration of all the 54 African states.

At the moment, Esipisu noted, intra-Africa trade is estimated to be around 12 percent which is relatively low compared to other regions of the world.

“Intra-European trade is estimated to be around 60 percent while that of Asia is around 40 percent. The establishment of the AfCFTA is expected to boost intra Africa trade to 22 percent by 2022. All this will provide substantial economic and social gains to Kenya,” he said.

The AfCFTA will lead to the creation of a wider and expanded African market, with a combined population of over 1.2 billion people and a growing middle class, as well as a combined gross domestic product of more than US\$ 3.4 trillion.

The African continental population is expected to reach 2 billion by 2050.

Esipisu pointed out that Kenya attaches significant importance to the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) and the AfCFTA because of the huge market and investment opportunities that they will present to Kenya.

The TFTA brings together member states of COMESA, EAC and SADC. At the moment, Kenya exports to Africa constitute 40 percent of total exports - the bulk of which are value-added products.

“On the way forward, Kenya will continue to participate in the negotiations on the outstanding technical issues both at the Tripartite FTA and AfCFTA to secure Kenya’s trade and economic interests and realize the dream of a single continental free trade area,” he said. (APA 06-05-2018)

## **THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION RELEASES THE REPORT ON THE STATE OF EU-ALGERIA RELATIONS**

Between March 2017 and April 2018, the EU and Algeria demonstrated their desire to deepen their political dialogue and cooperation in all partnership areas.

That is the conclusion of the [progress report on the state of EU-Algeria relations](#) published on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2018 by the European Commission services and the European External Action Service with a view to the 11th EU-Algeria Association Council in Brussels on 14 May 2018.

The report identifies the progress made by Algeria and the European Union in the areas of mutual interest identified by their Partnership Priorities since they were adopted in March 2017: i) governance and fundamental rights; ii) socio-economic development and trade; iii) energy, environment and climate change; iv) strategic and security dialogue; and v) the human dimension, migration and mobility.

By means of this report, the European Union reiterates its willingness to boost the EU-Algeria partnership still further and support Algeria in these numerous areas. (EEAS 04-05-2018)

## **OUATTARA ANNOUNCES COALITION GOVERNMENT ‘IN COMING WEEKS’**

President Alassane Ouattara of Cote d’Ivoire announced on Saturday his intention to form a government from the RHDP, the ruling coalition, “in the next few weeks.”

He was speaking at the 4<sup>th</sup> extraordinary congress of the Rally of Republicans (ruling RDR), which adopted the project of a unified Rally of Houphouetists for Democracy and Peace (RHDP).

The party called ‘Union pour la Cote d’Ivoire’ (UPCI), which is a signatory of the political agreement of a united RHDP party, did not wish to adopt the project.

“It is its right, so this party will not be part of the RHDP government, which I intend to form in the coming weeks,” Ouattara declared.

“We are waiting for the validation of the political agreement and status to form a government within RHDP, which will include all parties, gathered in RHDP, as it has been the case in the past,” he added.

“I am very clear; RHDP will be formed with those who want it; it is not an obligation. Yes, RHDP will be formed with those who want it. I therefore take note of the decision of UPCI not to be part of RHDP as of today,” Quattara continued, indicating that the UPCI has got some “time off” to reconsider its decision.

After the unanimous adoption of the unified RHDP Party, Ouattara, who is the honorary president of the RDR Party, asked the RHDP management to deposit the founding texts at the Interior Ministry for the establishment of RHDP and the consolidation of the ruling political alliance.

He also called for “a constitutive congress of RHDP as soon as possible, to allow RHDP to set foot in all regions of the country.”

The Democratic Party of Cote d’Ivoire (PDCI), RDR’s main ally has not yet held a congress.

The 4<sup>th</sup> extraordinary congress of RDR, held under the theme: “Mobilized RDR for Unified RHDP,” took place at the Sports Palace of Treichville (south of Abidjan) and brought together 30,000 participants. (APA 06-05-2018)

-----

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, Corporate Council on Africa, CIP-Confederation of Portuguese Enterprises, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABC- Netherlands-African 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), CIP,HTTC,NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



[www.acp.int](http://www.acp.int)



[www.camaratenerife.com](http://www.camaratenerife.com)



[www.ccafrica.ca](http://www.ccafrica.ca)



[www.corporatecouncilonafrika.com](http://www.corporatecouncilonafrika.com)



[www.cip.pt](http://www.cip.pt)



[www.helafrican-chamber.gr](http://www.helafrican-chamber.gr)



[www.htcc.org.hu](http://www.htcc.org.hu)



[www.nabc.nl](http://www.nabc.nl)



Fernando Matos Rosa

[fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt)  
[fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be](mailto:fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be)

