

MEMORANDUM

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Should a reader require a copy of the Memoranda, please address the request to fernando.matos.rosa@sapo or fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be.

12 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

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KENYA FLOODS: EU RELEASES INITIAL €1.5 MILLION TO HELP VICTIMS OF DAM TRAGEDY

In response to the recent devastating floods in Kenya, the European Commission has provided €1.5 million in emergency humanitarian funding to assist the most affected families.

The funding will help cover basic needs such as emergency shelter and basic household essentials, food and nutrition, drinking water and repair of damaged water and sanitation facilities as well as emergency health care and epidemics prevention.

“The European Union is saddened by the loss of life in Kenya from the dam burst in Solai and from extreme flooding in different parts of the country. The EU is doing its part to assist the most affected by this tragedy. Our new funding will help deliver emergency supplies. As members of one global family and humanity, we are committed to help people in crisis, wherever in the world they may be, and to bring relief to their suffering,” said Christos **Stylianides**, the Commissioner for Humanitarian aid and Crisis Management.

Background

Kenya has been facing ongoing floods, which have so far claimed the lives of over 170 people and displaced more than 300 000. On 9 May, the Patel dam in Solai area of Nakuru county, 190 km north-west of Nairobi, burst its banks after heavy rains, killing at least 40 people.

At least 40 counties have been affected by the flooding and over 8 000 hectares of farmland decimated, causing widespread damage to crops, livestock and food stocks. The current flooding is likely to continue as heavy rainfall is forecast to continue for the coming weeks in the region. (EC 12-05-2018)

CHINESE ENTREPRENEURS TO INVEST IN GRAPEFRUIT PRODUCTION IN MOZAMBIQUE

A group of Chinese businesspeople under the umbrella of the Jiangsu Huaxi Group consortium plan to invest 374 million meticals (US\$6.2 million) in a grapefruit agricultural project in the central Mozambican province of Manica, said the consortium president after the group was received in audience by the provincial governor.

Wu Xie'en, quoted by Mozambican newspaper Noticias, also said that the meeting with Governor Alberto Mondlane was to present the project and request an area of land for its implementation, which will initially require 2,000 hectares.

He said that the province of Manica has excellent conditions for growing citrus fruits, hence the consortium's investment in that province and added that this project is designed for three years, after which it will be assessed to see if it is worth continuing with the production of grapefruit in the province of Manica.

The president of the consortium said that production would be preferentially exported to Europe and to China, and contacts had already been made, which shows that, if the project is viable, the product has a guaranteed market.

In addition to grapefruit production, the Chinese consortium plans to explore new areas and investment opportunities in the agricultural and mining sector, with Wu Xie'en saying that grapefruit production is just the start of investments planned by Chinese entrepreneurs in Manica. (16-05-2018)

NIGERIA COMMITS TO TIGHTER OIL LAW AFTER TEN YEARS OF DEBATE

Nigeria's parliament aims to pass a long-delayed bill to overhaul the oil sector by the end of July, Senate President Bukola Saraki told Reuters.

The Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB), which aims to improve transparency, attract investors and stimulate growth, has been debated for more than a decade and was broken into sections to help it pass into law. The PIB was discussed for some 17 years before the governance bill was passed by both houses of parliament in January.

That unprecedented move, following the decision to break up the unwieldy PIB into smaller bills, raised hopes that the other pieces of legislation could be passed soon after.

Nigeria is an Opec member and Africa's largest oil producer.

Crude sales make up two-thirds of government revenue but the sector's development has been held back for decades by mismanagement.

Saraki said in an interview the aim was to ensure all three remaining parts of the legislation were passed by the National Assembly before it went on holiday in July.

"We go on the summer break in July. If we don't pass it by July, by the time we come back in September it is all going to be elections," said Saraki, referring to presidential and legislative polls scheduled to take place early next year. He said the break would begin in the third week of July.

Any bills passed by legislators would have to be signed into law by President Muhammadu Buhari.

The governance bill, passed in January, is awaiting Buhari's approval.

The other three parts — the fiscal, administrative and host community bills — are yet to be passed.

Saraki said the bills would be discussed at a public hearing between the first and third weeks of May before being returned to lawmakers.

"We are working on all three at the same time. The three should go at the same time," said Saraki on Tuesday, when asked about the order in which the bills would be passed.

Policy challenges

Antony Goldman, of Nigeria-focused PM Consulting, said "huge logistical and policy challenges" would have to be resolved for the legislation to be passed by the end of July.

"If they could get it done, it would be a very significant achievement," said Goldman. "If they fail, risk increases that the whole process might stall until well after the next elections."

Growth remains weak in Nigeria's economy as it continues to emerge from its 2016 recession, the country's first full-year contraction in 25 years. The recession was largely caused by low crude prices and militant attacks on energy facilities.

With economic growth still slow, there have been calls for parliament to complete its work on the record 8.6 trillion naira (\$27.39bn) budget that was presented to the legislature by Buhari in November.

Any changes made by lawmakers must be sent back to Buhari for approval. The central bank governor last month urged the swift passage of the budget to bolster the economy since it would enable the government to implement its spending plan.

] "It should be laid probably end of this week, latest Tuesday, and hopefully passed on Wednesday," Saraki said of the budget, during the interview in the National Assembly in the capital, Abuja.

He said the delay in passing the spending plan was largely due to a number of ministries and government agencies providing incomplete information.

Delays in passing budgets, amid wrangling between the executive and legislature, are common in Nigeria and hindered the implementation of Buhari's previous spending plans. (Reuters 09-05-2018)

ANGOLA'S SONANGOL HONOURS PAYMENT OF DRILLING SHIPS ORDERED FROM SOUTH KOREA

Angolan oil company Sonangol will honour financial commitments made with the commissioning of two drilling ships from South Korean company Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering Co., Ltd (DSME), the Angolan state-owned company said in a statement.

The statement said the understanding was reached last Thursday during a meeting held on the sidelines of the Maritime Technologies Conference (OTC) in Houston, Texas between delegations of Sonangol and the South Korean company.

Sonangol's chairman Carlos Saturnino agreed on the mechanisms to be used by the Angolan oil company to pay down the debt with the South Korean company, so that the ships could start operating in 2019.

In a statement issued in March 2017, Sonangol had said it was negotiating a new business model with its international partners that would enable two South Korean ships to be put into service shortly.

Information released at the same time by the South Korean press indicated that US group ExxonMobil could provide US\$879 million, needed for the Daewoo Shipbuilding & Marine Engineering shipyards to release the two ships commissioned by Sonangol for drilling. (09-05-2018)

DRC COMPLETING NEW MINING REGULATIONS, IGNORING COMPANIES' KEY CONCERNS

The Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) mines ministry said it was completing work on new regulations, as a draft document showed the government has so far ignored companies' key concerns about the reforms.

Miners, including Glencore and Randgold Resources, have demanded the government dial back aspects of the legislation approved by President Joseph Kabila in March. The ministry makes no mention of any of the major changes the companies seek, according to a draft document seen by Bloomberg that was verified by a member of a commission charged with revising the mining code, and by a mining company manager.

The document was circulated to mining companies on May 3.

"We are in the process of working so that there is a draft which must be examined by the government," Valery Mukasa, chief of staff to mines minister Martin Kabwelulu, said from the capital, Kinshasa. "We are first finishing the work and at that moment we will communicate on the whole text."

Miners argue the new code will drive investors away because it breaches title holders' rights, increases royalty payments on copper, cobalt and gold, and introduces new taxes. Two days before Kabila promulgated the code, mining executives met with the president, who declined to amend the law but indicated that drafting regulations which implement the legislation might alleviate the companies' concerns.

The mines ministry is required to submit a final version of the regulations to DRC's cabinet within 90 days of the president signing the code. Without extracting major concessions during the month that remains, mines controlled by Randgold, Glencore and the others could immediately be liable to pay the higher royalties and new taxes.

Seven mining companies, including Ivanhoe Mines and China Molybdenum, submitted a proposal to the mines ministry at the end of March that insisted the government re-insert a stability clause, contained in the 2002 code, which protected licence holders from complying with changes to the fiscal and customs regime for 10 years.

The miners also asked for the removal of a 50% tax on so-called super-profits and a new categorisation of "strategic substances", which have a 10% royalty rate. DRC's prime minister will be able to designate certain minerals as strategic via decree, according to the document. Addressing DRC's parliament in January, Kabwelulu said cobalt could become a strategic metal.

Surging prices

DRC's mines produced two-thirds of the world's cobalt last year. The price of the commodity, a key ingredient in rechargeable batteries needed to power electric vehicles, has almost quadrupled in the past two years.

The mining companies continue to negotiate with the ministry in the hope of making some gains. Miners advised in their proposal that the government introduce sliding royalty rates on copper, cobalt and gold, which they said will generate more revenue for DRC's state than the super-profit tax when commodity prices are high. The recommendation has not been accepted, according to the draft document.

(Bloomberg 09-05-2018)

NIGERIA, GENERAL ELECTRIC SIGN AGREEMENT ON \$45M RAIL PROJECT

Nigeria has signed \$45 million interim phase agreement with General Electric (GE) for the concession of narrow gauge rail lines in the country.

The Minister of Transportation, Mr. Rotimi Amaechi, said in Abuja on Tuesday that the total money to be invested in the project was \$2.7 billion after the whole agreement was concluded.

According to him, the interim phase include the rehabilitation of the rail lines, the management of the transportation and Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC) participation in commercial activities.

"We came to conclusion on the narrow gauge, the interim phase of the narrow gauge to enable us begin the initial rehabilitation of the rail lines, so that we can commence commercial activities.

"Both in terms of cargoes, freight and transportation, we have signed the initial and temporary agreement.

"We have also agreed on the main agreement which will cost \$45 million for the interim phase and \$2.7 billion for the entire project," he said.

Amaechi said with the interim agreement, GE would commence commercial activities for both cargoes and passengers before October.

He said that GE would be bringing in 10 coaches and 100 wagons, adding that additional 10 locomotives and coaches would be repaired.

According to him, GE intends to complete the whole interim process by January and move to the main phase.

Commenting on the issue of alleged racketeering at the Abuja-Kaduna rail line, the minister said that he would investigate the matter, stating that he would be surprised if it was on.

"I will investigate the matter because I will be surprised. We have provided additional coaches to increase the time they run, so I will be surprised, allow me investigate the issue," he said. (APA 08-05-2018)

GHANA NOT BENEFITING FROM ITS OWN MINERAL WEALTH, SAYS VICE-PRESIDENT

Ghana is benefiting little from its mineral wealth and needs a review of its mining code and tax policies, said vice-president Mahamudu Bawumia.

While the West African nation holds a 10% stake in most mines in the country, it has earned almost nothing in dividends since 2012, rendering the operations "virtually useless", Bawumia said at a conference in the capital, Accra, on Tuesday.

Ghana has to "re-examine our natural resources control and governance strategy; our resources fiscal regime, from exemptions to carried interest; and how to use our natural resources to build a better and prosperous economy," Bawumia said.

Hosting operations for gold producers from SA's AngloGold Ashanti to Kinross Gold, the continent's second biggest producer of the metal also mines bauxite and diamonds. An exporter of oil and the world's second largest cocoa grower, Ghana's government is driving policies to derive more benefit from its commodities and discourage unprocessed exports. (Bloomberg 09-05-2018)

ANGOLAN AIRLINE NEEDS US\$952 MILLION TO PAY DOWN PART OF ITS LIABILITIES

Angolan state airline TAAG needs the government to approve a capital increase of US\$952 million so that the carrier can pay down most of its accumulated liability in excess of US\$1.063 billion, the chairman of the board said on Tuesday in Luanda.

José Kuvíndua, who was speaking at a seminar on communication and marketing harmonisation at the Ministry of Transport, where he presented the company's strategic plan for 2018/2022, also said that the airline's cash position could deteriorate further due to aircraft leasing payments, planned engine overhauls and machine maintenance, despite positive predictions of operating performance.

"This is why the timely receipt of the fuel subsidy and a new capital application is important to eliminate the deficit on the balance sheet due to losses recorded in previous years," said the TAAG chairman quoted by state newspaper Jornal de Angola.

Kuvíndua called for applying a sum of between US\$100 million and US\$150 million over the next two years to improve working capital and facilitate the aircraft acquisition programme, granting of sovereign guarantees to the fleet renewal programme, providing foreign exchange to maintain services and provide passengers with basic services.

"The company needs to receive a minimum amount of US\$ 10 million a month," he said, adding that the shortage of foreign currency to meet regular expenses and the government's inability to capitalise the airline to reduce past losses restricted management's ability to make decisions to expand the business. (09-05-2018)

DRC DECLARES NEW EBOLA OUTBREAK WITH 17 DEAD IN THE PAST FIVE WEEKS

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) declared a new outbreak of Ebola in the north-west of the country, where 17 people died from viral haemorrhagic fever over the past five weeks.

The health ministry was informed of the fatal cases near the town of Bikoro in Equateur province on May 3 and subsequently tested five patients suspected of carrying Ebola, it said in an e-mailed statement on Tuesday. Two of the samples tested positive for the Zaire strain of the disease, it said.

"Our country is facing a new epidemic of the Ebola virus, which constitutes an international health emergency," the ministry said. "We have the human resources, well-trained in this matter, who have always been able to quickly control previous epidemics."

An Ebola outbreak in northern Equateur province in 2014 killed 49 people. The cases were unrelated to the epidemic in West Africa that year in which more than 11,000 people died. The viral disease, which has no known cure or vaccine, was first reported in 1976 in DRC and takes its name from a river in the east of the country.

This is DRC's ninth recorded Ebola outbreak, the last of which was in 2017. While the ministry said no new deaths have been registered since May 3, the World Health Organisation (WHO) said on Tuesday that more samples are being collected for testing.

The WHO is working closely with DRC's government "to rapidly scale up its operations and mobilise health partners using the model of a successful response" to the 2017 outbreak, the agency said in a statement.

The White House announced on Tuesday that it plans to proceed with its request to cut \$252m in Ebola response money from the US Agency for International Development's budget. (Bloomberg 09-05-2018)

CABO VERDE NEGOTIATES FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

The Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) government is negotiating a financial assistance programme with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) focused on public debt, Cabo Verde's prime minister Ulisses Correia e Silva said in Lisbon on Tuesday.

"We are working with the Fund on a programme to pay off a portion of the external debt, which will have to be negotiated with the partners later," the Prime Minister told Portuguese state news agency Lusa on the sidelines of his participation in the Horasis Global Meeting, in Estoril, Lisbon.

The aim, he said, is to "keep the downward trajectory of debt growth and get it to a sustainable level, below 100% and later to 60%, which has been set to ensure the macroeconomic stability of the indexation," of the Cape Verdean currency to the euro.

Ulisses Correia e Silva said that Cabo Verde does not have a debt servicing problem, but there is a problem of debt stock, given that much of the financing obtained for the construction of infrastructure was granted under favourable conditions, with interest at below-market rates.

The Cabo Verde archipelago has a level of public debt that the IMF estimates will remain at 124.7% of gross domestic product this year and increase to 126.7% in 2019, causing the country to have the second largest debt as a percentage of GDP in sub-Saharan Africa. (09-05-2018))

LE NIGER ET LA BELGIQUE RENFORCENT DAVANTAGE LEURS LIENS DE COOPERATION

Moins d'une semaine après l'accréditation de son chargé d'affaires en pied, la mission diplomatique de Belgique a inauguré lundi à Niamey le tout nouveau blason de sa représentation diplomatique, signe du réchauffement des relations de coopération entre Niamey et Bruxelles.

Selon le nouveau chargé d'affaires, Pierre Charlier, cette inauguration du blason et de ses plaques d'accueil qui intervient après la présentation de ses lettres de créances aux autorités nigériennes, rehausse la représentation belge au niveau d'ambassade, témoin de l'intérêt que la Belgique accorde au Niger.

La coopération au développement belgo-nigérienne a dans le passé couvert de nombreux domaines essentiels au développement, "mais l'évolution récente va vers une concentration dans un nombre plus restreint de secteurs pour diminuer la dispersion des moyens de façon à augmenter l'efficacité", a déclaré l'ambassadeur sortant de Belgique au Niger, avec résidence à Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso), Lieven De La Marche, présent à la cérémonie.

Ce changement, a-t-il précisé, "symbolise la volonté de mon pays d'affirmer de manière explicite son intérêt pour la République du Niger, qui se place dans un contexte d'un intérêt renouvelé pour la région de l'Afrique occidentale et notamment du Sahel".

Pierre Charlier est le chef de la mission diplomatique belge au Niger et représente pleinement son pays dans toutes les activités, indique une note d'information du ministère nigérien des Affaires étrangères et de la Coopération.

Cette cérémonie marque ainsi le retour officiel au Niger, après trente ans, de la représentation diplomatique de la Belgique. (xinhuanet 24-4-2018)

ANGOLA EXTRACTS LESS OIL IN APRIL AND NIGERIA REMAINS THE MAIN PRODUCER IN AFRICA

Angola's oil output fell by 7,800 barrels per day (bpd) in April to 1.515 million bpd, based on secondary sources, according to the monthly oil market report for May 2018 of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Nigeria also recorded a production drop of 8,300 bpd, but remained the main producer in Africa with 1.791 million bpd, also based on secondary sources.

According to direct communication, Angola increased production last April with a further 2,000 bps for a total of 1.498 million bpd, while Nigeria reported its production registered a monthly increase of 164,700 bpd to 1.724 million bpd .

Angola led oil production in Africa for almost the whole of 2016 and until May 2017, a position it has since lost to Nigeria, whose production had been affected between 2015 and 2016 by terrorist attacks, armed groups and internal political instability.

The same report, but in this case with March data, reports that Angola remained one of the top three oil suppliers to China, with a share of 10% of the total, behind Russia (15%) and Saudi Arabia (12%).

Figures released recently by the Ministry of Finance indicate that Angola's proven oil reserves amount to 6 billion barrels, which allows ten years of production at the current rate of extraction.

The same figures show that between 2013 and 2017, 3.7 billion barrels of oil and 850 million barrels of natural gas equivalent were discovered in Angola. (16-05-2018)

KENYA LEADS EAST AFRICA PEERS IN ELECTRICITY ACCESS

The electricity access rate in Kenya is the highest in East Africa according to the latest report from the World Bank tracking global achievements in sustainable energy for all.

Kenya Power noted in a statement, according to *The Energy Progress Report* that was released by the World Bank on 2nd May covering the period up to 2016, electricity access rate in Kenya stood at 56%, compared to Tanzania (32.8%), Rwanda (29.37%), Uganda (26.7%) and Burundi (7.5%).

The electricity access rate in the country stood at 73.42% as at the end of April 2018, owing to various national electrification projects that have been undertaken by Kenya Power such as the Last Mile Connectivity Project and GPOBA that targets informal settlements in urban areas and low-income households in the rural areas. Read more: [Kenya Power to drive regular audits to maximise production](#)

The national access rate has grown steadily in the last five years from a low of 32% in 2013 due to accelerated investment in the distribution network and increased investment in renewable energy generation.

According to the report, access to electricity among the rural population increased from 7.17% in 2010 to 48.39% in the period reviewed while that of the urban population grew from 58.2% to 77.6%.

Kenya has been listed among countries where much gains were made in ensuring that more citizens access electricity for lighting, cooking and driving businesses.

"Some of the strongest gains were made in Kenya, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, and Tanzania, which all increased their electricity access rate by 3% or more annually between 2010 and 2016. Sub-Saharan Africa's electrification deficit has begun to fall in absolute terms for the first time.

"Tens of millions of people now have access to electricity through solar home systems or connected to mini-grids," reads the Energy Progress Report.

The report comes at a time when Kenya Power is working towards achieving universal access to electricity by 2020.

To achieve this target, the Company intends to ride on the ongoing electrification projects as well as increase investment in the distribution network by building additional substations and associated lines to accommodate new customers and enhance the quality of power supply.

Kenya Power is also keen on riding on technological advancements to upgrade its systems in order to enhance service delivery to its customers.(ESI 09-05-2018)

AFRIQUE SUBSAHARIENNE : LE FMI S'INQUIETE DU POIDS DE LA DETTE PUBLIQUE SUR LE DEVELOPPEMENT



Christine Lagarde, la directrice générale du Fonds monétaire international en mars 2018

Le Fonds monétaire international prévoit 3,7 % de croissance en Afrique subsaharienne pour l'année 2018, après 3,4 % en 2017. S'inquiétant de la hausse des vulnérabilités économiques dans un contexte de progression de l'endettement public, l'institution internationale recommande aux pays africains de mieux maîtriser leurs budgets, d'améliorer la collecte de l'impôt et de créer un cadre favorable à l'investissement.

Ce sont des « Perspectives économiques » pour l'Afrique subsaharienne en demi-teinte que [le Fonds monétaire international \(FMI\)](#) a publiées, mardi 8 mai. Globalement les 45 pays de la zone connaissent une « accélération modeste » de leur croissance.

Redressement du cours des matières premières

Il est incontestable que le trou d'air (+1,4 %) de 2015 appartient au passé, puisque les économies africaines ont progressé en moyenne de 2,8 % en 2016, 3,4 % en 2017 et que le Fonds leur prédit 3,7 % en 2018.

Ce mieux est dû au redressement des cours des matières premières et à une accélération de la croissance mondiale dont profite une Afrique subsaharienne qui a amélioré son accès aux marchés. Mais le Fonds s'empresse de calmer l'euphorie qui pourrait naître de cette amélioration, car tous les pays ne profitent pas également d'un regain conjoncturel.

Les exportateurs de pétrole devraient croître lentement à l'image du Congo (+0,7 % en 2018), de l'Angola (+2 %) ou du Gabon (+2,7 %), alors que des pays non exportateurs de pétrole connaîtront un regain d'activité comme l'Éthiopie (+8,5 %), la Côte d'Ivoire (+7,4 %), le Sénégal (+7 %) et la Tanzanie (+6,4 %).

Si l'étonnement vient de l'atonie persistante chez les deux mastodontes du continent que sont le Nigeria (+2,1 %) et l'Afrique du Sud (+1,5 %), c'est sans surprise que l'on constate les ravages des conflits au Burundi (+0,1 %) et surtout au Soudan du Sud (-3,8 %).

Vulnérabilités économiques

Abebe Aemro Sélassié, directeur du département Afrique du FMI, met donc les points sur les « i » pour ceux qui n'auraient pas compris le message : « Les vulnérabilités économiques sont en hausse dans de nombreux pays qui tardent à assainir leurs finances publiques, déclare-t-il. Sur les 35 pays à faible revenu de la région, [15 sont aujourd'hui en surendettement ou risquent fortement de le devenir](#) ».

Il estime que la forte hausse du service de la dette qui en est résulté dévore des ressources qui font défaut à la santé, à l'éducation et aux infrastructures.

Et comme la conjoncture mondiale a toutes les chances de mollir en même temps que les taux d'intérêt vont monter dans le sillage du durcissement de la politique monétaire américaine, il ne faut pas que l'Afrique subsaharienne s'attende à ce que sa croissance annuelle dépasse 4% à moyen terme et la croissance par tête, 1%. « Ce qui est insuffisant pour que les pays parviennent à réaliser leurs objectifs de développement durable », conclut Abebe Aemro Sélassié.

Maîtriser les budgets, accroître les recettes, attirer les investisseurs

Les remèdes avancés par le FMI sont connus. En premier lieu, l'institution préconise que les gouvernements maîtrisent leur budget pour éviter une augmentation de la dette publique.

Ensuite, il conviendrait de mieux faire rentrer l'impôt qui pourrait apporter entre 3% et 5% supplémentaires au produit intérieur brut (PIB), un apport particulièrement précieux pour dégager des moyens pour les infrastructures et pour les dépenses en faveur des plus démunis.

Enfin, selon le FMI, des réformes s'imposent pour attirer l'investissement privé seul capable de créer les emplois nécessaires à l'immense jeunesse africaine, notamment en stimulant les échanges intra-africains et en développant l'accès au crédit. Autrement dit, pas question de relâcher la vigilance et les efforts(JA 08-05-2018)

CHINA SUPPORTS MOZAMBICAN AGRICULTURAL CAMPAIGN WITH US\$10 MILLION DONATION

China has donated US\$10 million to Mozambique to support the current agricultural campaign, the Chinese ambassador to Mozambique said in Boane, near Maputo, during a visit by the chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress of China, Li Zhanshu, to the Mozambique-China Centre for Research and Transfer of Agricultural Technology.

Ambassador Su Jian highlighted agriculture and food security as priority sectors of China's support to Mozambique and recalled that five major Chinese companies are present in the country, notably in agriculture, food security, infrastructure and access roads.

Su also said that Chinese companies have made a contribution to developing Mozambique, thereby helping the Mozambican economy to become sustainable.

The ambassador also said that the visit of the chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress of China is "of paramount importance, happening at a time when bilateral cooperation has been cemented at the highest level."

The first deputy speaker of the Mozambican parliament, António Amélia, stressed that China has already financed training for more than 50 parliamentary officials in areas such as parliamentary management and information and communication technologies. (15-05-2018)

ETHIOTEL VEUT SE DEPLOYER HORS D'ÉTHIOPIE



Entre 2006 et 2017, le chiffre d'affaires du groupe Télécoms Ethiotel a été multiplié par dix, passé à 1,3 milliard de dollars, pour un bénéfice de 785 millions de dollars.

L'opérateur Ethio Telecom détenu par Addis-Abeba a connu, grâce à son monopole, une croissance fulgurante ces dernières années. Il cible désormais une expansion dans les pays voisins. Mais le pari s'annonce ardu.

En une décennie, Ethiopian Telecommunications Corporation, devenu Ethio Telecom (Ethiotel) en 2010, a connu une transformation spectaculaire, passant de 2 millions d'abonnés à peine en 2006 (sur une population de 80 millions d'habitants à l'époque) à 57 millions de clients en septembre 2017, dont 7,5 millions gagnés en un an.

Le service s'est également amélioré. « Il y a quatre ans, la qualité du réseau était à vous rendre fou. Les appels étaient brusquement coupés. Et ne parlons même pas d'internet... », se souvient Alemayehu Geda, économiste à l'université d'Addis-Abeba. Le chiffre d'affaires d'Ethiotel a été multiplié par dix sur cette période, passé à 1,3 milliard de dollars (1,1 milliard d'euros), pour un bénéfice record de 785 millions de dollars.

Objectif : Géant d'Afrique

« Je ne connais aucun opérateur de télécoms africain qui ait connu une telle croissance de ses revenus, en valeur absolue », assure Richard Faber, directeur général du cabinet spécialisé TeleGeography. Un exploit réussi grâce au monopole, unique sur le continent, que lui accorde l'État, son actionnaire.

Cette révolution a été amorcée au tournant de la décennie, lorsque la gestion de l'entreprise a été confiée à France Télécom, entre 2010 et 2012. Une période de transition qui a vu la formalisation et la modernisation de l'entreprise. De plus, la compagnie publique a injecté 1,3 milliard de dollars ces dernières années dans des projets d'infrastructures et d'expansion.

« Nous n'avons peur d'aucun opérateur télécoms sur le continent. Nous sommes le géant de l'Afrique », avertit Andualem Admassie

Aujourd'hui, la compagnie nationale prépare sa « deuxième transformation », selon Andualem Admassie, son directeur général depuis mai 2013. Elle prévoit maintenant d'investir à l'étranger et vise une implantation au Soudan du Sud et en Somalie au cours des prochaines années. « Nous avons un plan pour investir à l'étranger. Nous examinons les faiblesses et les forces de nos voisins. Il s'agit de travailler ensemble, en tant que partenaires, car nous n'avons aucune expérience internationale. Nous devons donc trouver des entreprises qui peuvent travailler avec nous dans le Co-branding et le partenariat », avance Andualem Admassie.

Sur le plan domestique, l'entreprise vise d'ici à 2020 un taux de pénétration mobile de 80 % en zones rurales, une couverture 3G de 90 % dans l'ensemble du pays et le déploiement de la 4G dans toutes les grandes villes. Elle n'est disponible aujourd'hui que dans la capitale.

« Nous n'avons peur d'aucun opérateur télécoms sur le continent. Nous sommes le géant de l'Afrique », avertit Andualem Admassie, qui insiste pour qu'Ethiotel devienne le moteur du développement du paiement par mobile money en Éthiopie et s'allie aux pays voisins pour une connexion par câble sous-marin afin de rompre l'isolement du pays.

Novice sur un marché concurrentiel

S'ils saluent la percée remarquable réalisée par Ethiotel ces dernières années, nombre d'analystes restent sceptiques quant à ses nouvelles ambitions.

« Compte tenu de sa position de monopole en Éthiopie, il aurait été franchement surprenant que sa croissance soit autre que fulgurante. Mais est-ce que cela aurait été la même chose s'il y avait des concurrents ? », s'interroge Russell Southwood, directeur général de Balancing Act, cabinet spécialisé dans le secteur des télécoms africain.

Pendant qu'Ethiotel prospérait sur son immense marché domestique, [à l'abri de la concurrence, celle-ci n'a été que plus féroce à travers le reste du continent](#), où la réduction des marges depuis le début de la décennie a entraîné une forte consolidation des marchés.

Les faibles progrès enregistrés en Afrique de l'Ouest par Sudatel, contrôlé par Khartoum, devraient appeler à la prudence quant aux capacités de développement à l'extérieur des acteurs à forts capitaux publics. [Sa principale filiale au Sénégal, Expresso](#), voit ses parts de marché stagner autour de 21 % depuis quatre ans, malgré la valse de directeurs généraux. « Ils n'ont tout simplement pas les compétences nécessaires » pour s'imposer sur des marchés concurrentiels, avertit Russell Southwood.

Travail sous surveillance

Le Soudan du Sud, l'un des marchés ciblés par Ethiotel, reste attractif avec un taux de pénétration du mobile inférieur à 16 % en 2017, mais le marché compte déjà trois opérateurs de téléphonie mobile, dont [le sud-africain MTN](#) et le koweïtien Zain, qui disposent d'une forte expérience internationale.

Le gouvernement éthiopien bénéficie d'un accès quasi illimité aux enregistrements d'appels de tous les utilisateurs de téléphones et aux journaux de trafic internet

Chez son jeune voisin, Ethiotel pourra déjà capitaliser sur sa capacité à travailler avec un régulateur aux exigences drastiques comme il le fait à domicile. [Sous l'injonction du gouvernement éthiopien, en proie aux troubles politiques qui ont secoué le pays au cours des derniers mois](#), l'opérateur de télécoms a bloqué l'accès à la 3G dans toutes les régions, en dehors d'Addis-Abeba.

Le gouvernement éthiopien bénéficie d'un accès quasi illimité aux enregistrements d'appels de tous les utilisateurs de téléphones et aux journaux de trafic internet. Une méfiance qui a retardé l'expansion de l'accès à internet en Éthiopie. Une telle flexibilité, certes controversée, peut être un atout dans des pays tels que la Somalie et le Soudan du Sud, confrontés à des risques sécuritaires importants.

Mais certains blocages limitent encore les ambitions d'Ethiotel. Parmi eux, la grave pénurie de devises à laquelle sont confrontées les entreprises éthiopiennes et qui complique le remboursement des emprunts, l'achat de matériel à l'étranger et la réalisation des projets d'expansion. Bien que bénéficiant d'un accès prioritaire aux guichets de Commercial Bank of Ethiopia, Ethiotel a dû parfois patienter dix mois avant de recevoir sa quote-part de devises étrangères.

Appui extérieur ?

Depuis plusieurs mois, des rumeurs d'une prise de participation du géant kényan Safaricom ou d'une autre compagnie étrangère au capital d'Ethio Telecom (ou sur un périmètre plus limité comme celui de la mobile money) agitent le milieu des affaires. Cette hypothèse est démentie par Andualem Admassie mais pourrait se révéler tentante si le gouvernement éthiopien devait se retrouver à court d'argent pour poursuivre le développement de l'opérateur public.

Un appui extérieur pourrait aussi apporter une autre solution à la dépendance d'Ethio Telecom vis-à-vis de ses fournisseurs d'équipements pour gérer son réseau, les chinois Huawei et ZTE, qui l'ont accompagné ces dernières années et qui restent de solides candidats pour le faire lors de cette nouvelle phase de développement.

« Nous avons constaté qu'il n'y avait littéralement aucun transfert technologique ou de connaissances », signale Alemayehu Geda, qui a étudié l'implication de la Chine au début de la décennie dans le secteur des télécommunications.

57 millions de clients mobile

À la fin de 2017, Ethio Telecom a dépassé en nombre de clients mobile la filiale de MTN au Nigeria (53,1 millions). L'entreprise éthiopienne est ainsi devenue le plus gros opérateur d'Afrique présent sur un seul marché.

Mobile money, un objectif prioritaire

« Je me bats pour que le développement du paiement mobile en Éthiopie soit mené par les opérateurs de télécoms et non par les banques. Prenez [Safaricom : 30 % de son chiffre d'affaires provient de M-Pesa, sa solution de mobile money](#). Je veux que ce soit le cas également pour Ethio Telecom », insiste Andualem Admassie, son directeur général.

HelloCash, géré par le hollandais BelCash, domine le marché local du paiement mobile avec 2 millions d'utilisateurs (à peine 2 % de la population), devant M-Birr, développé par l'irlandais MOSS ICT. À titre de comparaison : 66 % de la population adulte totale du Kenya, du Rwanda, de la Tanzanie et de l'Ouganda utilisent régulièrement les solutions de paiement mobile. (JA 10-05-2018)

MOZAMBIQUE STUDIES CONSTRUCTION OF NATURAL GAS REFINERY

A study of the economic viability of a natural gas refinery in Mozambique is being carried out, said the president of state-owned Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH) recently, adding this project will "improve the purchasing power of Mozambicans," according to the local press.

Omar Mithá, who was speaking at the opening of the 3rd meeting of the Joint Cooperation Commission between ENH and the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) in the oil and natural gas sector, recalled that the respective public tender was launched last April.

The president of the Mozambican state-owned company said that the aim of this project is to import liquefied natural gas for further refining and subsequent export to neighbour landlocked countries, “while we wait for the gas that will be extracted in the Rovuma basin.”

The meeting, during which a memorandum of understanding was signed for ENH staff training, was aimed at strengthening the cooperation ties between the two companies. The Chinese delegation was led by CNPC Vice-President Hou Qijun and included representatives of some of the group’s subsidiaries.

During its stay in Mozambique, the Chinese delegation learned about the state of the oil and gas sector and visited the Maputo Power Plant, one of the country’s main natural gas consumers.

ENH and CNPC are partners in the Rovuma Basin Area 4 Block, where the Chinese group acquired an indirect stake in 2013 through ENI East Africa.

In May 2016, during the visit of the President of the Republic, Filipe Nyusi, to China, the two parties signed an agreement focused on strengthening their bilateral cooperation in the oil and gas sector. (15-05-2018))

COTE D’IVOIRE : LA PRODUCTION DE GAZ NATUREL A DOUBLE EN 2017



Usine de mise en bouteille de gaz de Pétro Ivoire

Selon le ministre de l’Énergie, la production de gaz a doublé en 2017, destinée en grande partie aux centrales électriques de Côte d’Ivoire, tandis que le gouvernement multiplie les initiatives pour répondre aux besoins croissants de l’économie ivoirienne en électricité.

La production de gaz naturel en Côte d’Ivoire a doublé entre 2016 et 2017, passant de 100 millions de pieds cubes par jour à 216 millions de pieds cubes par jour. C’est ce qu’a révélé Thierry Tanoh, le ministre du Pétrole, de l’Énergie et du Développement des Énergies renouvelables, en marge du lancement à Abidjan de la deuxième édition du forum des mines et [du pétrole de la Cedeao](#) prévu en octobre dans la capitale économique ivoirienne.

Un plan de développement de la production de gaz naturel a été lancé pour faire face aux besoins croissants du pays en électricité. « Nous avons commencé à intensifier la recherche et l’exploration en offshore profond sur plus de 3000 mètres, pour accroître la production de gaz et de pétrole. En 2017, nous avons attribué 14 blocs d’exploitation à des opérateurs majeurs », a expliqué Thierry Tanoh. Le gouvernement négocie en ce moment avec [le fournisseur Foxtrot](#), qui envisage d’augmenter sa production en gaz naturel. Des pourparlers sont également menés avec le groupe britannique Vitol pour lancer le développement du gisement « Gazelle », situé sur le bloc CI-202, au large de la ville balnéaire de Grand-Bassam.

Le gaz est destiné à la production électrique

Le gaz naturel extrait dans le pays sert exclusivement à approvisionner les trois principales centrales thermiques – Azito (440 mégawatts), Ciprel (556 MW) et Aggreko (210 MW) – qui représentent plus 80 % de la production électrique ivoirienne, dont environ 15 % est exportée dans les pays limitrophes. La

production de [gaz naturel](#) provient de quatre gisements offshore détenus par l'entreprise canadienne Canadian Natural Resources (CNR) pour les blocs CI-26 et CI-40, Foxtrot, la filiale de groupe français Bouygues pour le bloc CI-27 et la compagnie publique Petroci pour le bloc CI-11.

Parallèlement, le gouvernement a confié à un consortium d'entreprises, mené par le groupe français Total, la construction d'un terminal flottant de regazéification de gaz naturel liquéfié (GNL) d'une capacité de 100 millions de pieds cubes dans le port d'Abidjan, pour compléter la production en offshore de gaz naturel. L'investissement se chiffre à 200 millions de dollars.(JA 11-05-2018)

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Fernando Matos Rosa

fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt

fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be

