MEMORANDUM

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11 YEARS OF UNINTERRUPTED PUBLICATION

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TANZANIA'S PROPOSED BAGAMOYO-MOMBASA HIGHWAY SET FOR CONSTRUCTION

The construction of East African's Coastline multinational Bagamoyo-Mombasa highway is now set to start after the study for the proposal was completed.
According to the officials from the Ministry of Transport the East African Community (EAC) is finalizing plans for the transnational highway, which measures 450 kilometer-long, and expected to cost 600 million US dollars.
According to the plans the highway is expected to pass by Malindi -Mombasa and Lunga Lunga and cross the Kenyan border and pass through Tanzania's (Tanga) – Pangani and Saadani to Bagamoyo.
The project was the centre of deliberations between EAC Secretary General, Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko and Executive Directors of the African Development Bank (AfDB) over the weekend when the high-powered delegation of 10 directors paid a courtesy call at EAC Secretariat here.
During the meeting held at EAC headquarters the AfDB directors also discussed the bank's collaboration with the regional block and said that they were willing to ensure that they fund the project that is expected to be one of the major land mark in terms of development in the region.
They said that initially there was an agreement that was done in 1998 that would ensure that the bank funds major projects that are geared towards improving the economy of the block.
The move will be a major milestone in terms trade and above all raise the standards of the transport and energy sectors in both countries.
The AfDB officials added that has they had agreed to fund the Malindi-Mombasa-Tanga to Bagamoyo Highway they expect it to kick off soon and the tendering process to be done competitively so that the state would identify the best contractor to carry out the project.
The road project will entail the rehabilitation of the 250- kilometre Malindi-Lunga Lunga Road and upgrading to bitumen standard the 175-kilometre stretch that links Tanga to Bagamoyo.(CRO 13-03-2017)

CABO VERDE RECEIVES OVER 644,000 TOURISTS IN 2016

Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) received over 644,000 tourists in 2016, a figure that represents an increase of 13.2% over that recorded a year earlier, according to the Tourism Statistics for the fourth quarter and for the whole of 2016 published by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

The number of overnight stays registered in hotel establishments throughout the year reached 4.09 million, 10.3% more than in 2015, INE also said, adding that UK tourists spent the most time in the archipelago, with an average stay of 9.1 nights.

The island of Sal is the most popular among tourists, accounting for about 45.6% of entries in hotels, followed by Boavista, with 31.6%.

The United Kingdom (20.5%) was the main source of tourists, followed by Germany with 11.1%, Portugal and France each with 10.1%.

Hotels were the establishments with the highest occupancy rate – 64% – followed by holiday villages and inns with 36% and 24%, respectively.

In the fourth quarter 2016 Cabo Verde received 182,700 tourists, 13.9% more year on year, giving rise to more than 1.1 million overnight stays, with an average stay of 6 nights. (01-03-2017)

CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION, A VOICE FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES IN EURO-MEDITERRANEAN RELATIONS

ENI CBCMED
Cooperating across borders in the Mediterranean

A report on cross-border cooperation was adopted by the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local (ARLEM), the body of the European Committee of the Regions in charge of Euro-Mediterranean relations, at its 8th plenary session held last week in Malta. The report focuses on the contribution of local and regional authorities to cooperation processes in a changing Mediterranean.
The participation of local and regional authorities (LRAs) in cross-border cooperation programmes since their launch in 2017 has been significant, representing almost 20% of the actors involved in the 2007-2013 ENPI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme.
While analysing the recent political transformations in the Mediterranean and the most crucial issues the area is facing – political tensions, conflicts, economic instability, migration flows, youth unemployment, environmental degradation – the report, designed following consultations with ARLEM members, EU institutions, Ministries, networks, civil society organisations and managing authorities of cross-border cooperation programmes, highlights the capacity of LRAs to transform challenges into opportunities by "reinforcing cooperation and working on innovative and shared solutions and approaches to sustainable and inclusive development".
While characterised by distinct policy objectives and geographical contexts, the report acknowledges that the participation of LRAs is "key to the successful implementation of cross-border programmes."
Regarding the ENPI CBC Med Programme – the largest Mediterranean multilateral initiative funded by the EU in the framework of the European Neighbourhood Policy - the report says that, despite being a first experience of cross-border cooperation also involving LRAs from both Member States and Partner Countries, the joint actions undertaken "could impact upon and influence Mediterranean policies".
ENI CBC Med, the second generation of the Programme, has the ambition to foster deep cooperation among Ministries, LRAs, universities, the private sector, and the civil society in view of addressing key economic, social and environmental challenges of the Mediterranean area. The Programme will continue to be managed of the Autonomous Region of Sardinia.
The ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme 2014-2020 follows the ENPI (European Neighbourhood Instrument and Partnership) CBC Med 2007-2013. Funded by the European Union and managed by the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy), the Programme will offer cooperation opportunities between partners from the Mediterranean area in fields of intervention such as economic development, education and research, social inclusion and environmental protection. (01-03-2017)
Draft Report on Cross-border cooperation in the Mediterranean region

BOEING TO OPEN OFFICES IN KENYA, S/AFRICA

The US-based aerospace outfit, Boeing International will open up two new offices in South Africa and Kenya, a senior official of the company has disclosed.

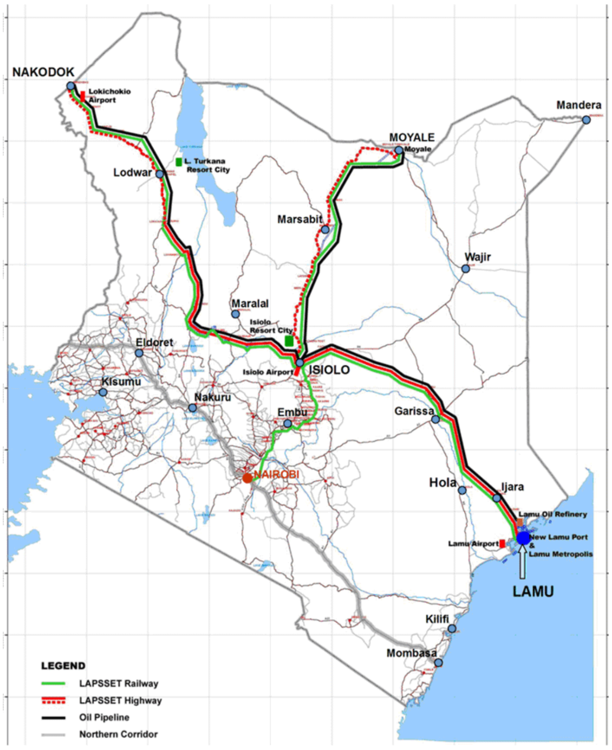
Joao Miguel Santos, Boeing's managing director for sub-Saharan Africa said in a statement issued in Nairobi on Wednesday that he will head the South Africa office, while Chamsou Andjorin, the company's director of government affairs and market development, will be based in Kenya.

Santos said: "Africa is not new territory for Boeing. Since the introduction of the jet airplane, Boeing aircraft have formed the backbone of the continent's commercial fleet and Boeing continues to be one of the largest U.S.-based companies doing business on the continent".

Meanwhile, Boeing’s most recent Current Market Outlook report forecasts that air traffic to and from Africa is expected to grow by about 6.1 percent annually over the next 18 years. (APA 01-03-2017)

KENYA’S $5BN LAMU PORT AWARDED FUNDS TO STUDY “BANKABILITY”

One of Africa’s biggest infrastructure schemes, the $5bn Lamu Port in Kenya, has received an important boost in the form of a $1.93m grant to study the “bankability” of the proposed 32-berth facility for international investors.
If built, the port would be east Africa’s first transhipment hub after Durban in South Africa, and is the cornerstone of an ambitious plan to open a road, rail and pipeline corridor through northern Kenya to Ethiopia and South Sudan – known as the Lamu Port-South Sudan- Ethiopia Transport (LAPSSET) Corridor.



Map showing the scope of the LAPSSET Project within Kenya

The $1.93m grant was made to Kenya’s LAPSSET Corridor Development Authority by a fund organised by the African Development Bank (AfDB) on 7 March.

It will help to revive hope in the grand LAPSSET plan, which was first inaugurated in March 2012, but has since struggled to make headway amid the collapse in the price of oil and resumption of conflict in South Sudan.

Work on the first three berths is ongoing, carried out by China Communication Construction Company in a $689m contract funded by the Kenyan government. The first of these is expected to begin operating next year.

To build the other 29 berths, Kenya will seek funding through public-private partnerships (PPPs). The grant is intended to help prepare the scheme for “bankability” to prepare it for investment by procuring transaction advisory services and related technical assistance.

The expected outcome of this work is a “Transaction Plan” mapping out project financing options, including defining the feasible transaction structure, project financing arrangement and scope as well as the project risks.

Organised by the AfDB with financial support from Canada, Germany, Spain, Denmark, and Norway, the fund is called the New Partnership for Africa's Development Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF). (GCR 13-03-2017)

TOKYO GAS GROUP INTERESTED IN NATURAL GAS FROM MOZAMBIQUE

The Tokyo Gas Group plans to buy natural gas extracted in Mozambique under a programme to diversify its providers, said on Tuesday in Tokyo the group's chief executive as he welcomed the President of Mozambique, who is on an official visit to Japan until Thursday.

"Currently we have 12 contracts with supply companies from different countries but we are interested in the project in Mozambique in order to diversify suppliers who annually sell us 14 million tonnes of natural gas," added Kentaro Kimoto, quoted by Mozambican news agency AIM.

The Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Leticia Klemens, who is part of the delegation of President Filipe Nyusi, told officials from the Japanese group about natural gas extraction projects in the Rovuma basin.

Also on Tuesday, the presidential delegation met with officials from Mitsui & Co, one of the shareholders of the Area 1 block of the Rovuma Basin, whose operator is US group Anadarko Petroleum.

In addition to a 20% stake in the Area 1 block, the Mitsui & Co group is involved in negotiations with Brazilian group Vale to acquire stakes of 15% in the Moatize coal mine and 50% of the Nacala Logistics Corridor.

The latest figures for this deal are from September 2016 when the Vale group announced new terms for the agreement originally signed in 2014, under which it will receive US$768 million from the sale of those stakes to the Japanese group. (15-03-2017)

HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF BRITISH AID 'WASTED' ON OVERSEAS CLIMATE CHANGE PROJECTS

The scheme is also backing solar power projects

Serious questions are raised today over hundreds of millions of pounds of British taxpayers' money being 'wasted' on climate change projects such as an Ethiopian wind farm and Kenyan solar power plant.

A Telegraph investigation shows little benefit so far from a £2 billion foreign aid programme to tackle climate change that was established eight years ago.

One scheme, costing £260m of UK taxpayers' money, has produced only enough renewable electricity to power the equivalent of just 100 British households - about the size of a typical street.

An Ethiopian wind far is one of the projects earmarked for funds from the British-backed scheme

Projects including solar parks in Kenya and Mali, a rubbish-burning power plant in the Maldives and wind farmer project in Ethiopia are all earmarked for funding from the scheme.

The Telegraph investigation raises major concerns over the use of international aid money to fund complex renewable energy schemes in some of the world's poorest countries.

It will also reignite the row over the Government's commitment, championed by David Cameron, to ring fence the £12 billion annual foreign aid budget, which is fixed at 0.7 per cent of national income.

Critics have accused the Government of "scandalously wasting" taxpayers' money on the schemes.

The current crop of climate change and renewable energy initiatives are showing strong signs of being the most negligently conducted and scandalously wasteful to date.

While officials insist publicly the climate change schemes are working and should only be judged in 2023 at its end point, the department for International Development (Dfid) has expressed concern over delays to projects and the management of them.

One senior source said ministers inside Dfid are questioning whether the money would have been better spent on humanitarian causes instead.

The complex set of schemes - known as the Climate Investment Funds (CIFs) - are run by the World Bank, with almost one-third of the £6.75 billion total funding provided by the UK government. No other country has put in so much cash.

The funds, consisting of four separate schemes, are intended to kick start green energy projects such as the building of large-scale wind and solar farms in poorer countries and environmentally friendly public transport schemes.

One of the four schemes - the £630 million Scaling Up Renewable Energy Project (SREP) - was set up with the help of £268 million financing from Dfid and the now defunct Department for Energy and Climate Change.

But at the halfway point of the project to provide renewable energy and improve energy access in 28 of the world's poorest countries, including Haiti, Ethiopia and Bangladesh, little appears to have been achieved by way of effective results.

To date, just three SREP-funded projects - two in Honduras and one in Nepal - are producing either green electricity or improving access to it. A further 20 approved projects are not making any positive impact, according to an annual report published at the end of last year.

SREP has so far produced just 276 MWh of electricity - which experts suggest is equivalent to powering about 100 British households. Its target by 2023 is to produce 2,600 GWh - meaning it is currently producing just 0.01 per cent of the electricity expected in six years' time.

SREP is currently providing 'improved energy access' - another of its key targets - to just 7,395 people, equivalent to the market town of Brechin in Scotland. The 2023 target is 4.9 million people, meaning it has so far achieved 0.15 per cent of its intended target.

The official figures also show the programme has succeeded to date in reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 251.3 tonnes of carbon dioxide - the equivalent to about 95 round trip flights from London to Australia. The programme's target is to cut emissions by 3.6 million tonnes by 2023. It is currently achieving 0.007 per cent of its intended target.

A second scheme - The Climate Technology Fund - to which the UK has contributed £1.2bn, is intended to deliver green electricity and reduce emissions in 'middle income' countries including gas and oil rich Kazakhstan as well as India, Turkey and Morocco. More than halfway through the scheme, set up in 2009, it is supplying about seven per cent of the renewable energy expected by 2023.

To date, only 26 projects out of 70 approved schemes under the CTF have reported any benefit. The vast majority of the projects do not record any figures at all.

Dfid's own annual review of the schemes reveals that in 2014 officials were concerned that the CIFs "had been slow" to put in place practices "on carrying out rigorous assessments through evaluation" of its projects. Dfid subsequently authorised spending of £6m "specifically for evaluation and evidence based learning" to address "this weakness".

A year later in 2015, according to the Dfid review, officials wrote to the World Bank "highlighting our concerns" with aspects of the management of the funds.

The Dfid review, published last year, also raises concerns over delays to projects and "the inability to demonstrate results".

It is understood that Priti Patel, the International Development Secretary, who was appointed last summer, has demanded some of the climate change programmes be more thoroughly investigated.

A senior Dfid source said: "Ministers have called in a number of climate programmes for close scrutiny to ensure they are on track and delivering."

The insider added: "The money would be better spent on our humanitarian response with proven results than some of the incredibly complex climate programmes."

Dr John Constable, director of the Renewable Energy Foundation, a charity strongly critical of British green energy policy, said: "Overseas development projects have long been plagued with expensive failures, but the current crop of climate change and renewable energy initiatives are showing strong signs of being the most negligently conducted and scandalously wasteful to date."

Nigel Evans, a Conservative MP and member of the international development select committee, said: "This is deeply worrying. It raises questions about whether we are spending the money in the right ways.

“We are supposed to be helping the most vulnerable people in the world and we ought not to be pumping money into projects that are not working.”

Alex Wild, research director at the TaxPayers’ Alliance said: “It’s bad enough that people are forced to pay inflated bills for hare-brained green schemes at home, let alone overseas.

“It looks like these projects are following the Dfid playbook to the letter: throw some money at a project and then when it fails to hit performance targets, throw some more at it. The countries involved would be well advised not to replicate the UK’s disastrous energy policies.”

The Government defended the funds’ performance.

A spokesman said: “The Climate Investment Fund is helping provide the world’s poorest people with stronger defences to extreme weather which can cause life-threatening crises such as floods, droughts and famine.

“The UK’s investment is already delivering results by producing reliable sources of food, improving infrastructure and giving people access to clean energy, and all programmes are on course to meet the published performance targets for 2023.”

Dfid said there had been some major successes and that the funds had reduced green-house gas emissions by the equivalent of taking three million cars off the road. Dfid said that the investment funds were further ‘enabling the building of the equivalent of over a quarter of the current global installed geothermal and concentrated solar power”.

The World Bank said: “The CIFs are a tried, tested, and trusted financing mechanism with over 300 climate smart investments in 72 developing countries around the world. Countries are now reaping the benefits from these investments in the form of cleaner and more reliable energy, new industries and markets, climate resilience and sustainable forestry. None of this would have happened without CIF involvement.”

The World bank said results were only published when projects were completed and fully up and running. It said that it can take six years for a large-scale solar power plant “to move from planning and site acquisition to full service”.(DEV 12-03-2017)

ANGOLA REMAINS THE BIGGEST OIL PRODUCER IN AFRICA

In February Angola remained the leading oil producer in Africa, surpassing Nigeria, according to the monthly report on the oil market released by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

After in 2015 Angolan oil production remained below Nigeria’s, with 1.753 million barrels per day compared to 1.861 million barrels per day, in 2016 Angola was consistently the main oil producer in Africa, and ended the year with production of 1.73 million barrels per day compared to 1.577 million barrels per day in Nigeria.

Production in February based on secondary sources amounted to 1.641 million barrels per day, a decrease of 18,200 barrels per day compared to figures from January, while Nigeria recorded 1.608 million barrels per day, with a monthly increase of 58,000 barrels per day.

Based on direct communication, Angola’s production amounted to 1.649 million barrels per day, an additional 34,000 barrels per day compared to January, while Nigerian production reached 1.526 million barrels per day, with a monthly breakdown of 6,800 barrels per day.

Oil production in OPEC member countries, according to secondary sources, fell in February by 0.14 million barrels per day on month to 31.96 million barrels per day, with Saudi Arabia, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates and Angola recording the largest drops and Nigeria the largest increase. (15-03-2017)

PORTUGUESE STATE BANK TO SELL MERCANTILE BANK IN SOUTH AFRICA

Portugal's largest bank, the state-owned Caixa Geral de Depositos (GCD), plans to slash its foreign assets by half by 2020, as part of an ongoing restructuring and will prioritise selling its Spanish and South African businesses, the lender said.

In a statement issued late on Friday, the bank, which posted a record 2016 loss of €1.86bn, said it expects to cut its international assets to no more than €12bn by 2020 from €23bn last year, while targeting a rise in return on equity from the operations to more than 15% from 13%.

CGD's total net assets at the end of last year stood at €93.5bn, down from about €101bn in 2015.

The lender said it planned to maintain operations "in markets with Portuguese affinity", which include Portuguese-speaking Angola, Mozambique and the Macau region in China, while selling or shutting down the remaining noncore international business.

"We will give priority to operations (to sell) in SA and Spain," CEO Paulo Macedo told reporters, adding that the bank's French unit was also likely to be sold.

Banco Caixa Geral in Spain has 110 branches across the country and employs about 500 people.

CGD's Mercantile Bank has a network of branches mainly in the Johannesburg region.

Most of CGD's businesses abroad made a positive contribution to last year's results, if smaller than in 2015, led by its Macau subsidiary, the French unit, which serves thousands of Portuguese emigrants, and Angola.

Burdened by massive bad loans, which now have largely been provisioned for leading to last year's huge loss, CGD is being recapitalised to the tune of €4bn.

The European Commission on Friday cleared the recapitalisation as it was carried out on market terms and therefore involved no new state aid.

It said the plan presented by Portugal to ensure the bank's profitability meant the state would receive a market-based return on its investment.

Mercantile Bank CEO Karl Kumbier said last week that the bank was rolling out a plan to target medical professionals.

"Other banks don't see medical professionals in private practice as entrepreneurs," Kumbier said.
*(*Reuters 13-03-2017)

MOODY'S AND FITCH ANALYSE ANGOLA'S RISK

Analysts from credit rating agencies Moody's and Fitch Ratings on Thursday in Luanda concluded working visits to Angola under the ongoing assessments of the economic governance and investment attraction programme, the Angolan Finance Ministry said.

The two missions, which began on 9 February, included talks with the Angolan authorities on issues related to recent developments of the country's main macro-economic indicators, said the ministerial statement issued in Luanda.

With these missions to Angola, the two agencies intend to analyse the performance of the oil sector, the production profile, new discoveries, auction blocks and reserve levels, the current state of commercial banking, monetary policy and its results, the balance of payments, development of the financial system, the exchange rate regime in the oil sector and foreign reserves.

The Moody's and Fitch Ratings teams along with the government's economic team analysed financing and management of public debt, the loan portfolio and the process of settlement of domestic arrears, the tax reform process and the programme to drive tax revenues in 2017.

The two agencies also reviewed the objectives of the State Budget and the risk factors that affect the sovereign rating of the Angolan State.

In September 2016 Fitch Ratings downgraded Angola's credit rating to "B" or non investment quality, with a negative outlook.

In February Standard & Poor's (S&P) kept its credit rating on Angola at "B" with a negative outlook for the next 18 months, despite the likely increase in the price of oil, according to a note sent to investors.
(15-03-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE PLANS TO RESTRUCTURE PART OF ITS PUBLIC DEBT

The government of Mozambique will request negotiations with creditors to restructure part of its debt, the country's Prime Minister said on Wednesday in Maputo.
Carlos Agostinho do Rosario, quoted by Mozambican news agency AIM, said that Mozambique intends to honour its commitments "to regain investors' trust."
Three public companies in Mozambique – Ematum (US$850 million), Mozambique Asset Management (US$535 million) and Proindicus (US$622 million) – borrowed more than US$2 billion, and the latter two were negotiated in secret.
The loan on to Ematum was restructured in April 2016, with the extension of the term of maturity and an increase in the interest rate of each coupon but Mozambique has since failed to pay an installment in the amount of US$59.7 million.
The Prime Minister also stressed that negotiations were underway with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) mainly focused on the question of reforms to be implemented with a view to economic recovery and the restoration of trust among cooperation partners.
In a meeting with the press, Carlos Agostinho do Rosario said there were signs of recovery in the economy, with key indicators recording an improvement, citing, for example, the stability of the Mozambican currency, the metical, which between October and now went from 80 to 70 meticais per dollar.
The Prime Minister stressed that foreign reserves had registered "a considerable increase" and are currently enough to cover five months of imports. (02-03-2017)

RUSSIAN FIRM CLOSES IN ON MOZAMBIQUE HYDROCARBON DEAL

Russia's hydrocarbon company Rosneft is closing in on a concession agreement with Mozambique's National Petroleum Institute (INP) in mid-2017 for the development of three offshore areas, the state institution revealed.

In a statement released on Friday, INP said it expects to sign new oil and gas prospecting contracts by June this year with the companies awarded rights to test for hydrocarbons across Mozambique.

It described talks to this end as progressive coupled with meetings with the winning bidders, a process expected to last for two to four months.

After the signing of these contracts, the winning bidders would start looking for oil and gas immediately.

Mozambique has some 85 trillion cubic feet of gas reserves, enough to supply Germany, Britain, France and Italy for nearly two decades.
But analysts say it will likely take at least five years after final investment decisions before gas production begins.

Mozambican officials expect more than $30 billion will be invested initially in the natural gas sector.

INP has awarded four blocks offshore Mozambique to oil majors, US's ExxonMobil, Rosneft of Russia and Italy's Eni in a fifth round of competitive bidding for exploration and production concession contracts.

Last year, Mozambique launched 15 new offshore and onshore areas for oil and gas exploration and production in its northern, central and southern regions.

The blocks include three new areas of the northern Rovuma Basin, where U.S. oil major Anadarko Petroleum Corp and Italy's Eni are already developing multi-billion-dollar liquefied natural gas (LNG) export projects. (APA 03-03-2017)

GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA REMAINS COMMITTED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF INDUSTRIAL COMPLEXES

The ministry is contacting the provincial governments to get them to provide land to establish industrial hubs, the Minister for Industry, Bernarda Gonçalves Martins said on Tuesday in Lubango.

The minister, according to Angolan news agency Angop, met with the provincial governor of Huíla, João Marcelino Tyipinge, as part of a quick visit to Lubango, said hubs had already been set up in the provinces of Cabinda, Benguela and Huambo.

Bernarda Martins said the government of Benguela province had already provided a plot of land with an area of 100 hectares to set up one of these hubs, regarded as one of the ways to develop Angolan industry through public-private partnerships.

“It is the State’s responsibility to provide supporting infrastructure for industrial hubs such as power grids, water and telecommunications, but it is not the government’s responsibility to build manufacturing facilities, which is something that should be left to the private sector,” the minister said.

Martins stated that, taking into account the lack of financial resources, what the government has done is to create conditions for the private sector to make its projects successful within the hubs.

The minister said that the ministry responsible is also putting together a rural industry development programme, which is already running in the province of Benguela, including the construction of small industrial facilities to be run by potential investors. (15-03-2017)

ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION PUBLISHES HANDBOOK ON INTERCULTURAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN THE EURO-MED REGION

The Anna Lindh Foundation has published an Education Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship in the Euro-Mediterranean Region. The publication, the first of its kind, was developed during 3 years by educators from the Mediterranean region and Europe.

The Handbook is a tool to support learning with young people focused on the knowledge and skills to play an active role in civic life at the local and international level. It covers both theoretical and practical aspects of intercultural citizenship learning, including practical case-studies from across the Mediterranean region.

The Anna Lindh Foundation for Inter-Cultural Dialogue promotes knowledge, mutual respect and inter-cultural dialogue between the people of the Euro-Mediterranean region, working through a network of

more than 3,000 civil society organisations in 43 countries. Its budget is co-funded by the EU (EUR 10 million) and the EU Member States (EUR 6 million). (02-03-2017)
Anna Lindh Education Handbook on Intercultural Citizenship in the Euro-Mediterranean Region

BOTSWANA RANKS FIRST IN AFRICA ON MINING POLICY SURVEY

Botswana has been ranked first in Africa and 12th in the world among mining jurisdictions in the 2016 Mining Policy Perception Index (PPI), which was contained in the Canadian based Fraser Institute's Annual Survey of Mining Companies, APA learnt here Friday.

Botswana's overall score in this year's survey was 91.79 up from 88.25 in 2015.
The Index, which is based on an annual global survey of 104 mining jurisdictions worldwide including sub-national jurisdictions in Canada, Australia, the United States, UK and Argentina, examines the extent to which government policies encourage or deter exploration and investment. In this respect it is said to further provide:
"A comprehensive assessment of the attractiveness of mining policies in a jurisdiction, and can serve as a report card to governments on how attractive their policies are from the point of view of an exploration manager."
It added: "Botswana is again the highest ranked jurisdiction in Africa on policy factors, ranking 12/104 in 2016, after ranking 14/109 in 2015. (APA 03-03-2017)

ACCORHOTELS SET TO CONSTRUCT AND MANAGE THREE HOTELS IN ETHIOPIA

AccorHotels which is a leading hotel operator in the world has entered into three partnerships with Ethiopian investors that will see them construct and manage three hotels in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
A 162 keys Mercure hotel which will be located in the environs of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa will be built by Tihnat Investments PLC, A 135 keys ibis Styles which has been signed with Metro Hospitality Services PLC enterprise will also be located near the UN headquarter and a 230 keys ibis also be managed by AccorHotels on behalf of Abay Technic Trading will be located 200 meters from the Africa Union.
The hotels are predicated to open in 2020, 2019 and 2021 respectively.
CEO and COO of AccorHotels for Africa & Middle East, Steven Daines and Olivier Granet confirmed the reports and said that the development will be constructed in accordance with the brand specifications, allowing room for an optimized use of space and a greater comfort for its clients.
Steven Daines added that they were very excited and grateful with the signing of the three projects that will represent more than 500 rooms that will enhance their relationship across different regions in Africa.
"We are very happy with the signature of these three projects representing more than 500 rooms that will help build a leadership for AccorHotels across regions on this promising and fast growing market by 2020, after the signature of a 330 rooms Pullman in 2014 and a 156 keys Novotel in 2015.
AccorHotels has high ambitions in enhancing their leadership in Africa by consolidating its position in West and North Africa and by advancing its development in East and Southern Africa," he said.
AccorHotels is a world-leading travel & lifestyle group and digital innovator offering unique experiences in more than 4,000 hotels, resorts and residences in over 2,500 of the finest private homes worldwide.

It operates in 95 countries with a portfolio comprising of internationally acclaimed luxury brands such as Raffles, Fairmont, Sofitel LEGEND, SO Sofitel, SOFITEL, onefinestay, MGallery by Sofitel, Pullman, and Swissôtel. Other popular midscale and boutique brands include Novotel, Mercure, Mama Shelter and Adagio, the in-demand economy brands include ibis, ibis Styles, ibis budget and the regional brands Grand Mercure, The Sebel and hotelF1.(CRO 13-03-2017)

PORTUGUESE CONSTRUCTION GROUP HIRED TO WORK IN ANGOLA

Portuguese construction group MCA has been hired to carry out work to protect and stabilise the slopes of the Boavista and Sambizanga areas in Luanda, a project that will cost the Angolan state US$219 million, the group said in a statement on Tuesday.

The contract, approved by an Angolan presidential decree of 1 March, is split into two phases, the first of which will build the protection and stabilise and build up the slopes of Boavista and Sambizanga, between the Miramar Cinema and Largo do Ambiente and between Avenida Kima Kienda and Rotunda da Boavista.

In the second phase, which will take 18 months, the company will complete the process of stabilisation and protection of the slopes, and then complete the roads that will link the Avenida Kima Kienda to Largo do Ambiente.

The MCA group added in the statement that this is the fourth project it has been awarded in Africa in the last few days. (15-03-2017)

GREEN TECHNOLOGIES: EUROMED INVEST HOLDS ROADSHOWS IN CENTRAL EUROPE TO PROMOTE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN

A delegation from the EU-funded project EUROMED Invest visited Prague and Budapest last month in order to present business opportunities in the green technology sector from the Southern Mediterranean countries. This delegation included two experts on the region and two entrepreneurs, one from Egypt and one from Algeria.

Each roadshow gathered around 40 local entrepreneurs interested to internationalise their business. The event was divided in two main discussions, the first session introducing the Mediterranean business environment of the green sector, the second one presenting best practices and successful business relationships between Central EU and the Mediterranean region.

Participants met young, dynamic and highly qualified Mediterranean entrepreneurs who presented their businesses and other opportunities in their region. After the general discussion a time for bilateral meetings was organised, local participants raised specific questions to Mediterranean experts and entrepreneurs on potential business opportunities and on EU funded projects in the region.

The aim of the EUROMED Invest project is to boost private business and investment within the Euro-Mediterranean region to contribute to inclusive economic development. The project's activities aim to empower Euro-Med business and investment networks to implement targeted strategies in support of SME development in specific sectors: agri-food, water and alternative energies, tourism, transport and logistics, cultural and creative industries. (Euromed 02-03-2017)

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Fernando Matos Rosa

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