

MEMORANDUM

N° 53/2017 | 27/03/2017

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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.

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11th Biennial U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT, See page 14

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THE EQUATORIAL GUINEA AND SOUTH SUDAN SEAL OIL DEAL



South Sudan and Equatorial Guinea on Monday unveiled an oil and gas partnership. The deal was announced in Juba following the visit of the Equatorial Guinea oil minister, Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima. South Sudan Oil minister Ezekiel Gatkuoth Lol in a press statement said that the new deal will pave the way for information exchange between the two countries.

According to him, Partnership is what fuels the oil industry, adding that South Sudan is proud to share its experiences with Equatorial Guinea, and to learn from the great work of a fellow African producer.

The sharing of resources and knowledge between African oil and gas countries is critical. Going forward, Equatorial Guinea will work closely with South Sudan for the benefit of the people and national economies.

Lima praised South Sudan for the new deal, stating that sharing of expertise between the two countries was vital.

He said the agreement signaled their dedication to investing in the sector as a driver for South Sudan's growth.

"The sharing of resources and knowledge between African oil and gas countries is critical. Going forward, Equatorial Guinea will work closely with South Sudan for the benefit of the people and national economies," he said.

South Sudan was working to more than double oil output to 290,000 barrels per day.

The young nation has relied on oil revenue to fund its projects since its independence in 2011.

The economy of the country was currently facing collapse after the outbreak of war in 2013.

Equatorial Guinea is nearing the close of its EG Ronda 2016 licensing round.

The EG Ronda will conclude at the Africa Oil & Power 2017 conference in Cape Town, South Africa where South Sudanese President Salva Kiir will deliver a keynote address and the ministers of both nations will meet investors and promote their oil and gas industries and projects. (Africa News 21-03-2017)

ANGOLA SIGNS FINANCING AGREEMENTS WITH CHINESE BANKS

Angola's Finance Minister Archer Manguerra, in Beijing recently signed financing agreements for projects in Angola with two Chinese financial institutions, according to a statement from the Angolan Embassy in China.

The agreement to finance the National Geology Plan (Planageo) was signed with the Export Import Bank of China, which will provide US\$65.3 million of the total US\$76.8 million needed.

The second agreement was signed with the Development Bank of China and focuses on the construction of a training centre, supply and installation of a database, a project of the Ministry of Energy and Water costing US\$41.5 million, of which the Chinese bank will provide US\$35.3 million.

The Finance Minister led a delegation which included the ministers of the Interior, Ângelo Tavares, Transport, Augusto Tomás, Energy and Water, João Baptista Borges, and Construction, Artur Fortunato, in addition to the chief executive of the Angola Development Bank, Carlos Panzo and technical staff from all five ministries.

The Angolan delegation also negotiated financing for the private sector and monitored the ongoing project portfolio in Angola under China's credit line as well as the degree of fulfillment of the projects included in the various financial facilities of different banks, namely China Development Bank, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China and the Bank of China as well as credit insurance company Sinosure.

"The Angolan delegation called on Chinese financial institutions to assist in the management of public debt and set up a partnership to finance projects in the productive sector, which requests were immediately accepted by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China," the Angola Embassy in China said. (21-03-2017)

RUSSIAN FIRMS TO CONSTRUCT REFINERY COMPLEX AND RAILROAD IN ANGOLA

The refinery complex and railroad will assist the African nation – a major oil exporter to finally cut its reliance on imported petroleum.

Angola has given two [Russian](#) companies the go-ahead to build a major refinery complex and railroad in Angola that will assist the African nation – a major oil exporter – finally cut its reliance on imported petroleum.

The \$12bn mega project is being put forward by companies Rail Standard Service and Fortland Consulting Company, which have set up a conglomerate with local partners.

Their plan is to build a 400,000-barrel daily refinery in the southwestern city of Namibe. The work will also consist of a rail link to the newly refurbished Benguela railroad.

An order signed by Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos on 9 March gives the Russian joint venture consent to develop 10 square kilometres of land, and consigns the Angolan government to buying 364,000 bpd of petrol and other fuels as production increases over an 11-year period.

The investors will profit from eight-years of tax exemptions and will be permitted to send home their profits.

The first stage of this project will be a petroleum desalination unit to be constructed over three and a half years.

The project is Angola's newest attempt to set up a refining and petrochemical industry to extort more value from its oil production, currently the leading in Africa at 1.7 million bpd.

Now the nation depends on the Refinaria De Luanda, owned by state oil company Sonangol.

This was built in 1955, and has a production capacity of something like 65,000 bpd. Products from this refinery are supposedly more expensive than imports. There is also the Chevron's Cabinda Refinery, but this make only 16,000 bpd.

The government announced in 2015 that it was teaming up with a Chinese conglomerate to construct a plant at Soyo, near Angola's northern border with the Democratic Republic of Congo. This \$14bn, 400,000 bpd scheme, to be called the Prince of Kinkakala, is now being "reassessed", according to the Angolan press. (CRO 20-03-2017)

W/BANK ANNOUNCES RECORD \$57B FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA



The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim Monday announced a record \$57 billion in financing for Sub-Saharan African countries over the next three fiscal years.

The bulk of the financing – \$45 billion – will come from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank Group's fund for the poorest countries.

The financing for Sub-Saharan Africa also will include an estimated \$8 billion in private sector investments from the International Finance Corporation (IFC), a private sector arm of the World Bank Group, and \$4 billion in financing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, its non-concessional public sector arm.

In December, development partners agreed to a record \$75 billion for IDA, a dramatic increase based on an innovative move to blend donor contributions to IDA with World Bank Group internal resources, and with funds raised through capital markets.

Sixty percent of the IDA financing is expected to go to Sub-Saharan Africa, home to more than half of the countries eligible for IDA financing, World Bank said in a statement issued in Nairobi on Monday.

"This represents an unprecedented opportunity to change the development trajectory of the countries in the region," World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim was quoted saying in the statement.

According to the World Bank, the assistance will support countries' development priorities, scaled-up investments will focus on tackling conflict, fragility, and violence, building resilience to crises including forced displacement, climate change, and pandemics and reducing gender inequality.

Efforts will also promote governance and institution building, as well as jobs and economic transformation, the Kim said.

"This financing will help African countries continue to grow, create opportunities for their citizens, and build resilience to shocks and crises," he added. (APA 20-03-2017)

MOZAMBIQUE ATTRACTS US\$107 MILLION IN TOURISM INVESTMENTS IN 2016

Investments in the tourism sector in Mozambique reached US\$107.8 million in 2016, a decrease of 44.1% over the amount recorded in 2015, said on Monday in Maputo the Minister of Culture and Tourism, Silva Dundero.

The minister, during a meeting to announce the Welcome Easter campaign aimed at tourists mostly from South Africa, said that last year Mozambique received 1.71 million tourists, an increase of 5% compared to 2015.

The Minister noted the government had recently approved measures to make it easier for tourists to enter Mozambique, including opening 18 border posts allowed to issue border visas, as well as granting tourist visas allowing two entries for a period of 30 days and extending the opening hours of some of these posts.

The major international sources of tourists to Mozambique are Germany, UK, Portugal, the United States, the Netherlands, France, Italy and the emerging economies of India, Pakistan, Brazil and China, which together accounted for 80% of the total in 2016.

The main source of regional tourism to Mozambique is South Africa, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Swaziland, which accounted for 64% of total African tourists who entered the country last year. (21-03-2017)

FITCH AGENCY WARNS THAT ZUMA'S POPULIST RHETORIC WILL SCARE AWAY INVESTMENT



President Jacob Zuma

President Jacob Zuma's populist rhetoric on land reform is likely to scare away investment, even though there is little chance of his words getting turned into action, BMI Research said in a note on Monday morning.

"Investor sentiment towards SA is already weak in the face of sluggish growth and some decidedly investor 'unfriendly' policies, most notably the mining charter amendment," the Singapore-based research firm within the Fitch group said.

"An embrace of more left-leaning rhetoric by the president will only weigh further on investor sentiment and reinforces our view that investment will be sluggish."

In his recent state of the nation address, Zuma outlined plans for "radical economic transformation". In early March, Zuma said he wanted to make changes to the Constitution to facilitate the process of land reform without compensation.

"In order to enact proposed changes, Zuma would need two-thirds of the legislature. While the ANC and the leftist EFF, who would also likely support more populist land reform policies, have enough votes to push such a policy through, we do not believe the entire ruling party is willing to back such policies," BMI said.

"Indeed, a discussion of land expropriation without compensation was notably absent from a recently released ANC policy document, which instead suggests 'just and equitable' compensation."

BMI also noted that Zuma's proposed "precolonial audit of land ownership, use and occupation patterns" was unlikely to be doable before his term as president expired.

"That said, while we do not envision near-term policy change, this shift towards more strident rhetoric will have consequences," BMI warned. (BD 20-03-2017)

CLOSURE OF BOTSWANA COPPER MINE WEIGHS DOWN ON MINING INDUSTRY



The closure of Botswana's oldest copper mine, BCL, last year has pushed the country's copper production to zero since the last quarter of 2016, Statistics Botswana said on Monday.

Data from Statistics Botswana showed that quarter-on-quarter changes in the index of mining production reflect fluctuating mining production series, owing to unstable market environment in the world economy. It stated that this is also due to the fact that the companies that were dealing with the products are undergoing liquidation, which has resulted in stopping of production at the affected mines.

"The production will remain at zero point until the liquidation process of the company is finalized. Silver and Copper in Concentrates continued to record zero production during the period under review and for the preceding quarter," reads the release.

This, the agency, is as a result of the provisional liquidation of the concerned company which necessitated halting of production at the respective mines. (APA 20-03-2017)

NAMIBIAN PRESIDENT CALLS FOR LAND EXPROPRIATION



President of Namibia Hage Geingob

Namibia's president said on Tuesday the government was considering radical land expropriation to spur the transfer of property to the country's black majority.

Speaking at Namibia's 27th independence celebrations, President Hage Geingob said the government should evoke part of the constitution allowing for land expropriation with fair compensation since the redistribution process has been slow.

"If we are committed to achieving further economic growth and maintaining peace, then everyone should be open to new approaches," said Geingob, Namibia's third president since the country gained independence from apartheid South Africa in 1990.

"This means we need to refer back to our constitution which allows for the expropriation of land with fair compensation and also look at foreign ownership of land, especially absentee land owners."

Namibia wants to transfer 43%, or 15-million hectares of its arable agricultural land, to previously disadvantaged blacks by 2020. By the end of 2015, 27% was redistributed, according to the Namibia Agriculture Union.

Geingob is under pressure from factions within his ruling party, the South West Africa People's Organisation (Swapo), to speed up the programme which many say has failed to adequately address the problem and is skewed in favour of whites.

Land reform is an emotive issue. In SA, President Jacob Zuma last month called for a review of laws to allow expropriation of land without compensation.

Expropriation would mark a radical policy departure for both Namibia and SA, shifting from an agreed buyer-seller approach to more provocative alternatives.

Zimbabwe's economy nearly collapsed after President Robert Mugabe's land expropriation policy saw most white farmers forced off their land without compensation. The country, once Africa's breadbasket, never recovered. (Reuters, with TMG 21-03-2017)

DECISIONS ON EXTRACTION OF NATURAL GAS IN MOZAMBIQUE DUE TO BE MADE BEFORE JULY



Major decisions concerning natural gas extraction projects in the Rovuma basin in northern Mozambique, will be taken before the end of the first half of this year, said the chairman of Mozambican state oil and gas company ENH.

Omar Mitha told daily newspaper Notícias, that Italian group ENI, the Area 4 block operator, will make a final investment decision this month and conclude the financial package by the end of the first half.

The chairman of ENH gave assurances that the commercial structure of the project is almost complete and financial institutions are now deciding what stake each will take. The project will cost US\$10 billion, of which US\$7 to US\$8 billion will be spent in the first phase.

The Italian group plans to install an offshore natural gas liquefaction platform with capacity to produce 3.4 million tonnes per year. It will be located in the Coral Sul field, where it is estimated there are at least 16 trillion cubic feet of gas.

With regard to Area 1, where the operator is US group Anadarko Petroleum, Mitha said that the project is well underway and is expected soon to begin construction of the housing project to resettle families currently living on land where the future natural gas processing plant will be built.

The plant, to be built onshore in the Palma region, will have two liquefaction units, each with a capacity of 6 million tonnes per year, which represents an increase of 1 million tonnes per year for each. (21-03-2017)

ANGOLA TURNS BLIND EYE TO BRAZILIAN FIRM'S CONFESSION THAT IT PAID BRIBES



Marcelo Odebrecht

Angola's authorities have ignored the admission by a Brazilian firm that it paid \$50m in bribes to secure contracts in the country, activists say, despite demands from watchdogs that it join international investigations into the corruption.

Brazilian engineering conglomerate Odebrecht admitted to the illegal payments in Angola as one part of a guilty plea in December in New York court, in which it confessed to paying \$788m in bribes, mostly across Latin America.

The company has been at the centre of vast corruption investigations in its home country and eight other Latin American states where it has admitted making the illegal payments. CEO Marcelo Odebrecht was jailed for 19 years in 2016 for paying bribes.

But in Angola, "there has been absolute silence", said anti-corruption campaigner Rafael Marques de Morais.

Angola and Mozambique are the only two countries outside Latin America on the list of places where Odebrecht has admitted paying bribes.

Marques de Morais demanded an investigation in Angola in January after the US court published the plea deal detailing the company's admissions, but said he was not surprised to receive no response from the authorities.

"The point is that there is no official interest in fighting corruption. Or even pretending that there is an interest in fighting corruption. The Angolan judicial system wants this to go away because of the involvement of senior officials."

Over the past two decades Angola has experienced some of the fastest economic growth in the world thanks to an offshore oil boom. But most of its 21.5-million people remain in abject poverty, while a small elite have prospered.

Odebrecht grew to become Angola's largest private-sector employer as it won contracts for projects ranging from construction and agro-processing to mining, including the 2,000MW Lauca hydroelectric project on the Kwanza river.

In Angola, it employs 7,300 people directly and a further 3,500 subcontractors. The company said the bribery case had no impact on its operations in Angola.

"Odebrecht continues operating normally in the country," a spokesperson in Brazil said.

Angola has no government spokesman. Attempts to obtain comment from the office of President Jose Eduardo dos Santos were unsuccessful.

When asked to for comment, Norberto Garcia, head of the UTIP government agency that handles major private investments in the country, said he did not know anything about the issue.

"I barely heard references about it somewhere," he told Reuters.

'Benefits'

Global anticorruption watchdog Transparency International describes Angola as one of the most corrupt states on earth, ranked 164th out of 176 countries on its index of perceived corruption.

The watchdog has called on the 11 countries where Odebrecht admitted paying bribes — nine in Latin America plus Angola and Mozambique — to work together to establish a joint investigation into the company's confessed crimes.

In one example cited in the plea agreement filed with a court in the Eastern District of New York, someone identified only as "Odebrecht Employee 6" was responsible for the company paying one Angolan official \$8m to secure an infrastructure project. The Angolan official was not named.

In another example, a top official in an Angolan state-owned and state-controlled firm received \$1.19m from Odebrecht to push business the company's way.

In return, Odebrecht secured about \$261.7m in "benefits" from the payments, the document said.

The plea agreement also detailed bribery in Mozambique, another former Portuguese colony in southern Africa, but the amounts described were far smaller: \$900,000 in corrupt payments made by Odebrecht officials between 2011 and 2014. As in Angola, the case is little discussed in Mozambique. Government officials there declined to comment.

Paula Cristina Roque, an Oxford University-based Angola analyst, said Odebrecht projects in Angola were often secured without having to go through a public tender process.

"Many Angolans believe the company enjoyed close ties to President dos Santos," she said.

Odebrecht is seeking plea agreements with various Latin American governments aggressively investigating its activities after details of the plea agreement were made public in December. Brazil's former president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva is facing five separate trials related to the investigations.

One accuses him of corruption charges related to Odebrecht winning Angola contracts and receiving low-interest loans from Brazil's state development bank to finance the work.

Angola's leader Dos Santos, a Soviet-trained oil engineer, has been in charge since 1979 but is not running in a presidential election this year.

However, his family is expected to maintain considerable influence over politics and the economy. His daughter Isabel was appointed chairperson of the state oil firm last year, while his son Jose Filomeno runs Angola's sovereign wealth fund. (Reuters 20-03-2017)

ANGOLAN BANK BPC WILL BE CAPITALISED AND RESTRUCTURED

Angola's largest bank Banco de Poupança e Crédito (BPC) will undergo a capitalisation and restructuring plan, recently approved by the Economic Commission and the Commission for the Real Economy of the Council of Ministers, reported the Angolan press.

The plan will be presented at the general shareholders' meeting, at which the Ministry of Finance, the majority shareholder representing the Angolan State, the National Institute of Social Security and the Social Security Fund of the Angolan Armed Forces will discuss the application of the different points included in the plan.

Last February, the government of Angola approved a capital increase of BPC of 67.5 billion kwanzas (US\$405 million) in cash raised by issuing Treasury Bonds.

The bank's chief executive, Zinho Baptista, announced in January that the bank would resume lending to the economy over the first quarter of 2017 after it was suspended in mid-2015.

The BPC, the largest State operator providing credit to businesses and households, has the highest rate of non-performing loans or loans overdue for more than 90 days in the entire Angolan financial system, amounting to US\$1.44 billion. (21-03-2017)

AFRICAN CEOS DISCUSS CONTINENT'S SLOW RECOVERY



The Africa CEO Forum kicked off in Geneva on Monday.

African economies were hit hard in 2016 by low commodity prices, but a modest recovery from slow growth is forecast for 2017.

Africa CEO Forum president Amir Yahmed said: "The two biggest economies — Nigeria and SA, which make up 45% — have been very hard hit. There's concern for the economic situation."

The conference barometer — a survey of the about 1,000 CEOs attending the conference — showed:

- 62% of CEOs said their companies had experienced the effects of the economic slowdown in the past few months;
- 71% were optimistic about business on the continent in 2017; and
- 92% expressed confidence in economic growth.

Yahmed said while progress had been made in the past 15 years, there was still a lot to be done. African states needed to fight against fraud and corruption while pushing for economic diversification and regional integration.

Global foreign direct investment (FDI) increased by 9% in 2016 but Africa accounted for only 7% of global FDI.

IMF director for Africa Abebe Amero Selassie said: "A lot of negative ideas are circulating in the region about a difficult economic climate and structure. Africa's potential is immense. So much progress has been made in the past 25-odd years."

Selassie said economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa had decelerated sharply over the past couple of years. Economic growth in Africa was below 2.5% while in sub-Saharan Africa growth was between 1.4% and 1.5%.

"It's reminiscent of previous lows in the region. There's a sense that Africa has been impacted by the fall in commodity prices and lower growth."

The medium-term growth rate was projected at 3.7%. (BD 20-03-2017)

MAURITANIA, EGYPT SEAL FISHERIES ALLIANCE



The Mauritanian Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy, Nani Ould Chrougha has spoken of a new impetus in cooperation between his country and Egypt.

This will cover trade, fisheries, investment, processing plants, training, the development of fisheries products and scientific research.

Ould Chrougha was speaking in Nouakchott on Tuesday at a meeting with Egypt's Agriculture Minister, Abdel Mounim Al Benna who has been on a two-day visit to Mauritania.

The meeting also included stakeholders in Mauritania's fisheries sector and maritime economy.

Relations between the two countries are "important for the development of our fisheries resources, through a partnership in investment and production" the Mauritanian minister emphasized.

For his part, Mr. Benna insisted on the need to encourage investment in fisheries, increase value-added for fisheries products, train technical staff and ensure coordination between the Egyptian Naval Academy and its Mauritanian counterpart.

During the meeting, some stakeholders in the fisheries sector and officials of the National Federation of Fisheries insisted on the importance of cooperation between the two countries.

They spoke about opening up the Egyptian market for the fisheries sector in Mauritania. (APA 21-03-2017)

ÉNERGIE : LE GEANT DE L'ELECTRICITE ABB PROJETTE SES AMBITIONS SUR LE CONTINENT



Ulrich Spiesshofer, PDG d'ABB

Pour Tobias Becker, le vice-président chargé du programme Afrique d'ABB, « le continent est aujourd'hui incontournable ».

Cela ne se reflète pas encore sur le chiffre d'affaires – le géant helvético-suédois de l'énergie ne réalise encore que 4,5 % du sien en Afrique, soit 1,5 milliard de dollars (1,4 milliard d'euros), en 2016 – « mais en matière de dynamisme et de potentialité », précise le responsable, évoquant « de nombreux projets miniers et industriels ».

Après quatre-vingt-dix ans de présence en Afrique, « [le continent n'a jamais été aussi important pour ABB](#) », assure-t-il. Implanté dans 23 pays et employant plus de 5 000 personnes sur place, le groupe d'ingénierie, spécialisé dans la distribution d'électricité, veut aujourd'hui aider l'Afrique à développer ses propres solutions en matière énergétique, « comme elle a su le faire dans le passé pour les télécommunications », explique Tobias Becker.

Miser sur les énergies renouvelables

Avec en ligne de mire la promotion des énergies renouvelables pour assurer le développement économique du continent. Et l'Afrique peut compter pour cela sur le savoir-faire d'ABB, l'un des principaux fournisseurs de turbines d'éoliennes du monde – déjà très présent dans les champs éoliens du Maroc. Le groupe suit également avec un grand intérêt le développement des puits gaziers du Mozambique et la création de véritables filières dans les engrais ou les polymères qui pourrait en découler dès l'horizon 2020.

« Dans dix ans nous verrons où en sera le continent et si notre stratégie d'accompagnement aura été la bonne », estime Tobias Becker, qui ne doute pas que son entreprise « sera encore en Afrique dans cent ans ». (JA 22-03-2017)

TWO CHINESE MEDICAL TEAMS ARE WORKING IN GUINEA-BISSAU

Guinea-Bissau is the only country that has benefited from the simultaneous presence of two Chinese medical teams, the Chinese ambassador in the country said at the end of an audience granted by the country's President, José Mario Vaz.

The two medical teams are working at the Central Military Hospital in Bissau and in Canchungo Hospital in the north of the country, providing consultation services and treatments at no cost to the Guinean state.

Ambassador Wang Hua said he discussed with José Mario Vaz projects carried out in the three years and seven months he had been in Guinea-Bissau, particularly consolidation, development and deepening of diplomatic, traditional and historical relations between the two countries.

The diplomat said he had talked with the President about how best to deploy cooperation projects, particularly in the agricultural sector and said the team of Chinese technicians working in Bafatá, in the east of Guinea-Bissau, has said it is possible to increase yields and production per hectare in the region. Wang Hua, who will stand down from his role soon, is the eleventh ambassador of the People's Republic of China in Guinea-Bissau since the country became independent in 1973. (22-03-2017)

NIGERIA: NNPC PLANS TO GENERATE 400MW OF ELECTRICITY



The state-run Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) has said that it will generate about 4,000 megawatts of power in the next 10 years to boost power supply in the country.

The Chief Operating Officer, Gas and Power of the NNPC, Mr. Saidu Mohammed, said that the corporation would achieve this by building independent power plants over the next three to 10 years.

A statement signed by NNPC Group General Manager, Public Affairs, Mr. Ndu Ughamadu, on Monday in Abuja said that the power plants, which would be built with joint venture companies, international power companies and Nigerian investors, would be structured after the Nigerian Liquefied Natural Gas business model.

“Power generation is a big business. As at today, NNPC has interest in two power plants, one in Okpai, Delta State and the other in Afam, Rivers State.

“Both were built by joint ventures with Nigerian Agip Oil Company and Shell Petroleum Development Company.

“These two power plants collectively generate up to 1,000 megawatts and they are the most reliable and cheapest source of power to the national grid in Nigeria today,” Mohammed said.

According to Mohammed, plans are underway to build Okpai Phase 2, Obite and Agura power plants to boost power generation in the country.

He said that the corporation had commenced the extension of its major gas pipeline infrastructure on Ajaokuta-Abuja-Kaduna-Kano axis and other robust network to connect various parts of the country. (APA 21-04-2017)

MOROCCO: EU PROJECT SUPPORTS TRAINING ON NATIONAL PREVENTIVE MECHANISM AGAINST TORTURE



The Council of Europe earlier this month launched the first training module on the Moroccan National Preventive Mechanism against torture (NPM), held in Rabat in the framework of the EU-funded South Programme II.

This five-day capacity-building workshop is the first in a series of five training modules developed by the Council of Europe, jointly with the Association for the Prevention of Torture (APT), for members and staff of the National Council for Human Rights (CNDH), as the institution in charge of carrying out the NPM mandate.

This first training on behaviour during visits to detention facilities was attended by 27 members and staff of the CNDH and a representative of the Tunisian NPM. The module, facilitated by international experts, took included presentations and case studies structured around contacts with the staff working in detention centres and people deprived of their liberty combined with visits to premises.

The EU-CoE Joint Programme “Towards strengthened democratic governance in the South Mediterranean” – South Programme II, 2015-2017 – funded with a budget of €7.4 million - aims to contribute to the reinforcement of democratic governance in the Southern Mediterranean region by supporting the development of new constitutional and legal frameworks; contributing to the creation and

expansion of a common legal space between Europe and the Southern Mediterranean and fostering regional co-operation in the field of human rights, Rule of law and democracy. Co-operation activities under the South Programme are primarily directed to Morocco, Tunisia and Jordan and open to other countries from the Southern Mediterranean, through regional activities or targeted bilateral activities. (EEAS 23-03-2017)

NAMIBIA'S AGRIBANK TO ROLL OUT NON-COLLATERAL LOANS TO FARMERS



The Agricultural Bank of Namibia (Agribank) Tuesday announced it will soon roll out a no-collateral loan facility without traditional forms of mortgage collateral and tailored for communal farmers earning a monthly salary.

The loans will enable communal farmers to acquire modern equipment and implements such irrigation equipment, boreholes, windmills, water pumps, harvesters, generators, tractors, fencing, millet threshers, processing and oil extraction equipment.

"The expansion of the loan scheme is indicative of the huge appetite for loans for communal farmers despite the restrictive nature as a result of the lack of collateral," Rino Muranda, Agribank's marketing and communication said on Tuesday.

He said the bank is currently finalizing the finer details of the loan scheme, which is expected to be launched and rolled out by end of March.

The state-owned bank is mandated to promote agriculture or activities related to agriculture by lending money to citizens of the country especially farmers. (APA 21-03-2017)

The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, AHEAD-GLOBAL, Business Council for Africa, Corporate Council on Africa, ELO - Portuguese Association for Economic Development and Cooperation, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABA - Norwegian-African Business Association, NABC- Netherlands Africa 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), ELO, HTTC, NABA, NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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Corporate Council on Africa
presents

11th Biennial U.S.-AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

June 13-16, 2017 | Washington, DC

Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert St NW
Washington, DC 20008

The U.S. Stake in Africa

A Call for Greater Economic Engagement

The African market is changing. In the last five years, a combination of factors including fluctuating commodity prices, government policy, and unprecedented political events have presented businesses and investors in Africa with significant new challenges as well as new opportunities. Simultaneously, U.S. policy towards the continent is shifting under a new administration.

The Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) will convene business and government leaders at its 11th biennial U.S.-Africa Business Summit in Washington, DC to discuss the challenges of doing business in Africa, proffer actionable solutions for businesses looking to seize opportunities, and begin to shape U.S.-Africa trade and investment policies. This year's Summit will feature three sub-themes on each day of the conference:

1. Navigating the African Market
2. Africa and the Global Supply Chain
3. Regionalization and the Future of Africa Competitiveness

Registration Rates

CCA Members - \$1,800
Non-CCA Members - \$2,800
Government - \$700

For more information and to register, visit www.ccausafricasummit.com

Fernando Matos Ros
fernando.matos.rosa@sapo.pt
fernando.matos.rosa@skynet.be