

MEMORANDUM

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CAMEROON: CFA30BLN TO BE RAISED FOR NATIONAL AIR CARRIER BAILOUT



A bank syndicate led by Ecobank-Cameroon, the local subsidiary of the pan-African banking group could raise CFA30 billion to bail out national air carrier Camair-Co, the airline announced on Monday.

Initially planned for five years, the recovery plan will finally last a period of seven years and will be aligned with the duration of the financing of the bank pool, the company explained.

According to a statement to APA on Monday, the plan, with the help of experts from the American firm Boeing Consulting, will involve anticipating the deployment of cargo activity” with “A cargo Division”, which will include adding to the Camair-Co fleet a Boeing 737-400F freighter to generate new revenues by tapping into the potential of countries in the region.

With this in mind, Camair-Co announces an increase in the frequency of domestic flights from 70 to 100 per week, with an intensification of its service in the north of the country and the opening of the new routes.

With a view to successfully implementing this improved stimulus plan, Camair-Co just acquired two aircraft under lease, added to the implementation of a policy to reduce the company’s expenses.

From this standpoint, for 2017 the plan projects savings to the tune of CFA16 billion, which has begun to be realized through the “relocation of the company’s headquarters to its own premises, the temporary suspension of unprofitable services, the reduction of 21 percent of its payroll.”

Two years ago, Ecobank was already the leader of a banking pool that mobilized CFA25 billion for Camair-Co, a company still struggling six years after the launch of its operations.
(APA 27-03-2017)

BID OPENED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF AQAQI-QALITY STADIUM IN ETHIOPIA

A bid has been opened by the Addis Abeba Youth & Sport Bureau for the construction of a [Aqagi-Qality](#) stadium in Ethiopia.

This is the second time that the project has been floated for bids. The first bid was in 2013 was cancelled where the local construction company Tekleberhan Ambaye came out on top with an offer of US\$ 57m. The stadium is projected to sit on an 18-24ha piece of land and will be funded by the City administration. It will have a capacity of 50,000 seats, doubling that of the Youth & Sport Bureau’s five planned zonal stadiums, one of which will start construction this year.

Berhanu Bayu, Addis Abeba Youth & Sport Bureau marketing officer, confirmed the reports and said that the new stadium will help in giving Ethiopia a chance of hosting the CAF having a high quality of infrastructure.

“The construction of this stadium will help give Ethiopia a chance to host the CAF, with high quality of infrastructure for stadium building,” said Berhanu Bayu.

Aqaqi-Qality stadium will be uniquely designed by [YOHANNES ABBAY](#) Consulting Architects and Engineers and have outdoor shops, six elevators, a meeting hall, and facilities for disabled people. This news comes after the planning of the construction of five other stadiums located in Yeka , Nifas Silk, Lafto, Gullele and Aqaqe-Quality districts.

YOHANNES ABBAY Consulting Architects and Engineers is a category consulting firm which has incorporated Architects, Engineers, Construction Management Specialists, Surveyors, Data Collectors and Encoders, Draftsmen, Environmentalists, and other experienced professionals from several disciplines that has provided to the firm an integrated and diversified resource enabling it to adopt your project requirements from the start, analyzing and developing solutions to those requirements efficiently. (CRO 20-03-2017)

MOZAMBIKAN FARMERS TO BE ISSUED WITH FIVE MILLION LAND TITLES



Mozambican President, Filipe Nyusi says his government is looking to issue up to five million land titles known nationally as Direito de Uso e Aproveitament de Terra (DUATs) by 2019 to peasant farmers under the Secure Land project.

So far 540,000 DUATs have been distributed since the project was launched a year ago by the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development.

State-owned Radio Mozambique reported on Monday that the latest 15,000 DUATs were handed over to farmers on Saturday in Mocuba, in the central province of Zambezia, at a symbolic ceremony officiated by President Filipe Nyusi who delivered personally the first ten of the land titles.

Speaking at a rally which also marked the launch of the 2017 agricultural marketing campaign, Nyusi said that the mass issuing of land titles to producers is proof that agriculture, agro-processing and agricultural marketing are at the heart of the government actions.

"By issuing the titles, the government intends to ensure that land occupied by farmers is not usurped by other individuals, thus avoiding land disputes", President Nyusi said.

He said his government believes that delivering the land to peasant farmers is an indispensable condition for sustainable agriculture.

Those who hold DUATS have secure tenure over their farms, allowing them to produce more and better to guarantee their food and nutritional security, and to increase their income through the sale of surplus crops. (APA 27-03-2017)

NIGERIA'S LAGOS 4TH MAINLAND BRIDGE SET FOR CONSTRUCTION

The construction of Nigeria's Fourth [Mainland](#) Bridge is now expected to kick off in the coming weeks following the announcement that a suitable contractor for the project is about to be appointed. According to the government officials the project is expected to cost \$2.66b, including the cost of access roads. And currently they have issued operate transfer (BOT) model.

The officials added that in a week's time they will release the construction timetable for the construction project.

State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Steve Ayorinde, has suggested that construction could begin before the end of this year. Some of the funding for the project has been allocated in this year's Lagos State Government budget. The bridge will carry both passenger and cargo traffic.

He added that once the project is completed it will be able to decongest the City and give a quick solution to the problems facing the city residents and transport sector.

"The project may take longer time because we must ensure that a certain number of homes and other buildings, mainly in informal settlements, will have to be demolished and terms of compensation agreed with residents.

This is often a controversial process on infrastructural projects, partly because it can be difficult to determine exactly who lives in informal settlements" he added.

The official however told the local residents not to have any worries as the government will ensure that they are compensated before any demolition work is done to their properties.

He called upon them to cooperate with the government officials to ensure that the compensation is done right on time and adequately.

Those who will be compensated however will have to produce the right documents of ownership to the local housing and land offices.

The project will be funded by the local county government and some of the donors from unnamed states. (CRO 20-03-2017)

KENYA: EIB GRANTS €60M TO CONNECT MILLIONS TO NATIONAL POWER GRID



The European Investment Bank (EIB) has granted Kenya €60 million to connect 1.5 million households to the national electricity grid.

The deal which was signed on Monday in Nairobi between EIB Vice President Pim van Ballekom and Cabinet Secretary for the Treasury, Henry Rotich will see nearly 300, 000 Kenyan households connected to the electricity grid under the so-called Last Mile Connectivity project.

"Kenya is increasingly becoming a hub for the region on many levels. We as a bank must look at this from a very basic point of view, namely that there is a young and growing population with enormous potential, and that you need investments to support that momentum, both directly and indirectly," Ballekom said.

The €60 million EIB loan concerns a multiple scheme electrification project, targeting universal access to electricity for the Kenyan population by 2020.

It is part of a blended European financing package comprising a €90 million loan from the Agence Française de Développement and a €30 million grant from the European Union.

Ballekom who is on a three-day official function in Kenya will visit the Lake Turkana Wind Park, the largest windfarm in sub-Saharan Africa developed by the private sector, with EIB funding in 2014. (APA 27-03-2017)

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK BOOSTS PROPOSED LAMU PORT IN KENYA

The [African Development](#) Bank (AfDB) has offered a US\$ 2m grant to the Kenyan government that will help in the construction of the proposed [Lamu port](#) project.

The grant is set to cater for advisory services and technical support in developing a feasible plan for the port.

The funds that was offered through AfDB's New Partnership for Africa's Development Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility, will position the proposed Lamu port as an attractive venture for big investors.

Lamu port has 32 berths whose construction cost is approximated at US\$ 5bn and to break it down; the cost for the first phase is estimated to be US\$ 670m whereby the amount is expected to cover dredging and reclamation, construction of berths and yards, construction of revetment, causeway and road, construction of buildings and utilities and procurement of equipment and tug boats among other things. Construction of the first three berths is being funded by the Kenyan government while the remaining 29 berths will be financed through a public-private partnership under the build-operate-transfer model.

Lapsset authority CEO Silvester Kasuku confirmed the reports and said that the government is calling on the private sector to fund the project which will see the country have a second major sea port at Lamu.

"Lamu Port has an economic internal rate of return for the long-term development plan of 23.4 per cent, the projected demand forecast for freight and passengers for the years 2020 and 2030 illustrate that the total dry cargo throughput at Lamu port would be 13.5 million tonnes by 2020, and 23.9 million tonnes by [2030](#)," he said.

Lapsset is anticipating to lease the first berth of the project to the private sector by end of 2018.

The construction of the mega port headquarters and port police station are already complete with the electric power connection to the national grid and water reticulation networks in place. (CRO 16-03-2017)

THE DUTCH AIRLINE KLM HAS RESUMED FLIGHTS TO THE SIERRA LEONEAN CAPITAL, FREETOWN



The Dutch airline KLM has resumed flights to the Sierra Leonean capital, Freetown, after a 20-year absence, APA can report Monday.

The first KLM flight landed at the Lungi International Airport at 8pm on Sunday, twenty years after the route was suspended due to the eleven-year civil war in which rebels had threatened Freetown and other cities.

The national carrier of the Netherlands last flew to Sierra Leone in December 1996.

On board the maiden flight was Sierra Leone's Minister of Local Government, Mr Maya Kaikai, and the KLM Africa Director, Philippe Barbieri.

Negotiations to have it resume flights to Freetown were part of efforts by the Sierra Leone government to rebuild the country's aviation industry, said Transport and Aviation Minister, Leonard Balogun Koroma. Koroma was at the airport on Sunday to witness the landing of the first KLM flight which flew in directly, non-stop, from Amsterdam with 110 passengers.

The minister said the return of KLM to Freetown was the latest demonstration of the confidence the international business community was placing on a peaceful and economically resurgent Sierra Leone.

KLM becomes the third major European Airline to fly to Sierra Leone, after Air France and Brussels Airlines.

Civil aviation officials say it will fly to Freetown three times a week (Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays).

The Sierra Leone Airport Authority said in a statement that the inauguration of the Amsterdam route will reduce flying times either way and give the country great connection opportunities to destinations worldwide via hub of Amsterdam Schiphol. (APA 27-03-2017)

CONSTRUCTION OF ETHIOPIA'S GENALE DAWA III AT 91%

[Ethiopia's Ministry of Water, Irrigation](#) and Electricity (MWIE) disclosed the construction progress of [Genale Dawa III hydro](#)-electric power project to being at 91%. The power is expected to generate 254 Megawatts after its completion.

According to the Minister for Water, Irrigation and Electricity, Dr. Eng. Seleshi Bekele, installation of electromechanical works that will enable the plant to generate hydropower are in progress. Filling the dam, with a capacity of 2.57 billion cubic meters of water, is also set to commence soon.

Deputy Manager of the Project, Belachew Kasa, explained construction of the power house, water outlet and tunnels, drilling of caves and 12.4 kilometers of transmission were completed. The project adopted the use of earth drilling machine, abandoning its previous practice of using dynamites.

The project has also provided employment for the locals as 70% of the professional staffs hired by the project were Ethiopians. The project also was a proof of the university-industry linkage where many students got professional site skills and transfer of technology.

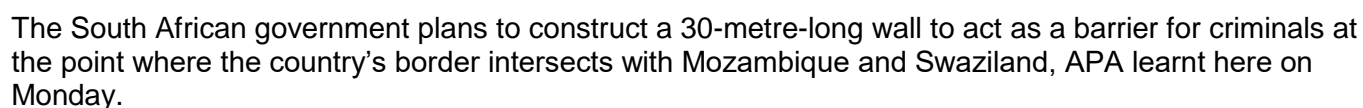
Genale-Dawa III dam will regulate the US\$13.7m Genale-Dewa V project downstream river flows to ensure reliable power production by the river.

The projects are expected to be completed within a period of 4 years, with evaluation of pre-qualified construction companies and selection of contractors near conclusion.

The Genale-Dawa River, which connects Ethiopia and Somalia with approximately half of its total length flowing through the rocky Bale, has the third largest catchment area, 74kmsq, with an annual discharge of 6,000,000,000m³.

The river has an estimated hydro-power generation capacity of 9,300GWh per annum and is expected to contribute about 5.8% of the country's total estimated potential.

A 400kv, 75km long, transmission line that had been included in the project design will extend from the Genale-Dawa VI to the nearest substation at Genale-Dawa III where the generated power will be connected to the national grid (CRO 16-03-2017)



The MEC said South Africa has a budget of US\$8.6 million for the project, which it believes would curb cross-border crime among the three countries.

She said the South African government has discovered that crime was rife along an 80-metre stretch that brings the three countries together and the authorities were doing this to reduce it so that it would not be easy for criminals to make their transactions.

Due to the scanty homes around the area crime syndicates from the three countries have identified this area as a perfect hub for their criminal activities which include the smuggling of dagga, illegal cigarettes and stolen vehicles. (APA 27-03-2017)

[Zimbabwean contractors](#) have raised concerns that they will not receive a 40% stake in the ongoing road projects in the country being funded by China.

The contractors fear that the Chinese contractor working on the US\$1 billion project to dualise the Beitbridge-Harare highway may sideline them.

[Zimbabwean contractors](#) said that they had agreed with the government to ensure that they get the share the project stake with their Chinese counterparts which have not yet been implemented up to date. Work on the first phase of the US\$2.7 billion 900-kilometre Beitbridge-Harare-Chirundu highway dualisation project (the Beitbridge Harare portion valued at US\$984 million) is expected to commence this month and players in the local construction industry have started jostling for their 40 percent share. Speaking at a city hotel the contractors called upon the government to ensure that they keep their word in the project so that they can be able to give the Chinese contractors the support they need to carry out the project.

The financier came onto the project with [China Harbour Engineering](#) (CHEC), a Chinese parastatal, as the contractor to do the actual construction work.

It is this 40 percent share of the first phase of the project, valued at about US\$400 million, that has caused excitement, anxiety and animosity among the local players.

The project is among the largest construction project ongoing in Zimbabwe and the government had agreed to ensure that the local contractors get the larger share.

This is the reason why ZBCA has started forming consortiums to work of the project because if it is left to become a free-for-all affair between players, it would be difficult for individual players to negotiate viable costing structures and this would present an opportunity for some fly-by-night companies with political connections to sneak in. (CRO 16-03-2017)

NIGERIA: SCIENTISTS SEEK SOLUTION TO CASSAVA FARM WEED



Agricultural scientists meeting in Nigeria say they have begun a project aimed at reducing the menace of weeds on cassava farms to minimize the burden on farmers, especially women and children.

The scientists disclosed this on Monday at the 2017 Annual Review and Work Planning Meeting of Cassava Weed Management Project, held at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), Ibadan.

The project leader, Dr Alfred Dixon, said the five-year project which started in 2014 was to address weed menace and how to increase cassava productivity.

He said the project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates' Foundation would minimise the drudgery of hand weeding by women and children.

Weeds were found to be major problems of cassava productivity, contributing between 50 per cent and 90 percent in yield losses for farmers worldwide.

"Weed control takes between 50 percent and 80 percent of labour budget; women account for 90 per cent of hand and hoe weeding.

Dixon said fighting the menace will go a long way to improving the agricultural sector and increase food production in countries such as Nigeria.

Dr Hauser Stefan, a member of the Project Team, said the project was employing the best agronomic practices and mechanical weed control options.

The project will apply safe and environmentally friendly herbicides, integrated weed control measures to address weed challenges. (APA 27-03-2017)

CONGO-BRAZZA : TOTAL DEMARRE L'EXPLOITATION DE PETROLE OFF SHORE A MOHO NORD

Le géant pétrolier Total a annoncé ce mercredi 15 mars avoir mis en production le champ pétrolier de Moho Nord, situé au large de Pointe-Noire, et dont il est l'opérateur majoritaire.

Le projet de Moho Nord, situé en mer profonde, à 75 kilomètres au large de Pointe-Noire, a une capacité de production de 100 000 barils équivalent pétrole par jour et constitue « le plus important projet pétrolier jamais réalisé en République du Congo », selon Total.



Vue du siège de Total à la Défense, en région parisienne

Ce champ pétrolier comprend 34 puits forés qui sont raccordés à une nouvelle plateforme à ancrs tendues, première du groupe en Afrique, et à une nouvelle unité flottante de production baptisée Likouf.

Premier producteur au Congo

Ce projet *offshore*, lancé par Total en 2013, vise à extraire le pétrole de gisements supplémentaires au sein du permis d'exploitation de Moho-Bilondo, où le groupe extrait déjà de l'or noir depuis 2008.



Vue des gisements du bloc Moho Bilondo, au large des frontières congolaises

L'exploitation de ces nouveaux gisements en mer profonde [a nécessité un investissement de 10 milliards d'euros de l'ensemble des partenaires](#), annonçait Total en 2013.

Premier producteur de pétrole en République du Congo, où il prend en charge la moitié de la production nationale, Total opère sur le projet de Moho Nord à hauteur de 53,5%, aux côtés de Chevron Overseas Congo Limited (31,5%) et de la Société nationale des pétroles du Congo (15%).

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NIGERIA ON TOP OF XENOPHOBIC CRISIS IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Nigerian Mission in South Africa says it is on top of the latest xenophobic attacks on Nigerians in Polokwane, Limpopo Province.

Mr. Martin Cobham, Nigerian High Commissioner in South Africa, said in a statement released in Abuja on Monday that the mission had visited the affected area and met with all the stakeholders.

Cobham said a senior staff of the High Commission travelled to Polokwane with national officers of the Nigeria Union in South Africa, following the recent attacks against Nigerians in the Province.



“Following the reported attack on Nigerians in Polokwane, Limpopo Province, I sent an officer to the area. He held meetings with the local taxi drivers, Nigeria Union and the police.

“The aim is to resolve issues and ensure cordial relationship between Nigerians and South Africans,” he said.

Cobham said the meeting set up a committee comprising the Nigerian community, South African police and taxi drivers to identify trouble makers and hand them over to the police.

“Nigerians in that community volunteered to point out trouble makers and hand them over to the police and with that intervention, peace has returned to Polokwane,” he said.

According to him, the committee is to report to the mission periodically, while the mission will take the report to the main body, the Early Warning Unit, set up by the Nigerian Foreign Affairs minister and his South African counterpart.

Cobham also said that the mission was on top of the situation and we assure our people that with the early warning unit in place, a lot would be achieved in this regard.

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Mr. Ikechukwu Anyene, President, Nigeria Union, said the meeting in Polokwane was fruitful.

He said that though no Nigerian died, two were seriously injured and were still in hospital (APA 27-03-2017)

ZIMBABWE TO PRODUCE MORE TOBACCO TO EASE DOLLAR CRUNCH



Zimbabwe is likely to produce 205 million kgs of tobacco this year, slightly more than 2016, with sales of its main export likely to improve dollar supplies in the cash-strapped economy, an industry official said on Wednesday.

Marking the start of annual tobacco auctions in Harare, Tobacco Industry and Marketing Board spokesman Isheunesu Moyo said output would climb from 202 million kgs in 2016 after more farmers grew the crop.

Tobacco earns more than gold and platinum.

Moyo said tobacco buyers had borrowed \$700 million offshore to purchase the crop from farmers. The merchants process the leaf before exporting it, mostly to China, the largest investor in the Southern African country.

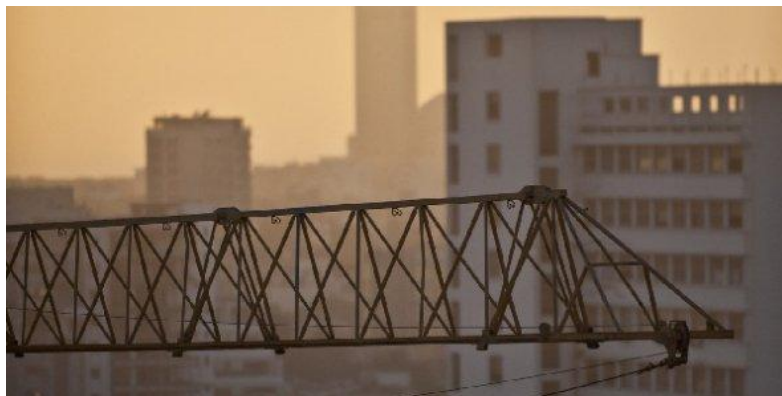
Zimbabwe is desperately short of dollars due to its moribund economy, although traditionally liquidity improves during the tobacco-selling season as cash is brought into the country.

Agriculture Minister Joseph Made said tobacco farmers would be allowed to withdraw \$1,000 from banks per day to allow them to purchase farming inputs for next season.

Cash shortages in the last 12 months have forced banks to impose daily maximum withdrawal for most Zimbabweans of sometimes as little as \$50 per day.

President Robert Mugabe's government blames the shortages on the illegal export of U.S. dollars, weak commodity prices and falling remittances from Zimbabweans in the diaspora. (Reuters)

LA BANQUE MONDIALE ALLOUE 150 MILLIONS DE DOLLARS AU MAROC



Travaux dans la ville de Casablanca, le 3 septembre 2012

L'institution de Bretton Woods va attribuer 100 millions de dollars à la création d'un registre qui cible les plus défavorisés au Maroc, et 50 millions de dollars supplémentaires à la création de start-up, première source d'emploi dans la région.

La Banque mondiale a approuvé le 13 mars l'attribution de 150 millions de dollars au Maroc. Ce financement doit [permettre au royaume chérifien de renforcer la protection sociale et l'inclusion par l'emploi](#) via deux types de mesures : l'identification des Marocains les plus pauvres et l'aide aux start-up. Une enveloppe de 100 millions de dollars sera ainsi attribuée à la mise en place d'un registre national d'état civil qui donnera à chaque individu un numéro d'identification unique. Mais aussi d'un registre social qui rassemblera des informations sur la situation socio-économique des individus et des ménages afin de repérer les plus défavorisés. Ce projet sera mis en œuvre par le ministère de l'Intérieur sur une période de cinq ans avec l'assistance technique de la Banque mondiale.

« Grâce à ce programme, environ 9,3 millions de Marocains issus des couches les plus défavorisées accéderont plus facilement aux programmes de protection sociale, estime Diego Angel Urdinola, économiste à la Banque mondiale. En se dotant d'un système d'identification mieux conçu et administré plus efficacement, le Maroc sera en mesure de mettre en œuvre des programmes sociaux mieux ciblés, avec des effets tangibles sur la population ».

Start-up et création d'emplois

Un deuxième projet, d'un montant de 50 millions de dollars, vise quant à lui à faciliter le financement des start-up. Selon la Banque mondiale, « des études montrent en effet que ce sont les start-up qui, dans la région du Moyen-Orient et de l'Afrique du Nord, contribuent le plus à la création nette d'emplois ».

Or ces petites entreprises peinent souvent à trouver des financements auprès des banques en raison du risque qu'elles représentent et parce qu'elles n'ont pas encore de rentrées de fonds durables.

« Ces deux opérations viennent soutenir les efforts menés par les autorités pour réduire l'exclusion sociale et promouvoir la croissance du secteur privé », estime Marie Françoise Marie-Nelly, directrice des opérations de la Banque mondiale pour le Maghreb.

En 2016, les engagements de la Banque mondiale au Maroc atteignaient 850 millions de dollars, contre 1,05 milliard l'année précédente et 1,09 milliard en 2014. (JA 14-03-2017)

POWER STATION IN MOZAMBIQUE RESUMES OPERATION AFTER INCREASING CAPACITY



The hydroelectric production capacity of the Mavuzi plant, in the central Mozambican province of Manica, has increased from 25 to 42 megawatts following completion of a modernisation project officially inaugurated on Monday, Mozambican state news agency AIM reported.

The work, the tender for which was launched in 2010 and work was launched in November 2013 by a Franco-Norwegian consortium made up of Cedelec and Hydrokarst Rain Power, included the modernisation of the Chicamba hydroelectric facility, also in Manica province.

The work carried out by the contractor in Mavuzi involved recovery of turbines and alternators, installation of new transformers, a new low-voltage auxiliary system, recovery of high-voltage equipment in the main substation, including new circuit breakers, gates, valves, as well as more than two kilometres of tunnels.

The newly reopened facility joins the Chicamba facility which, with an installed capacity of 90 megawatts, will also provide electricity to the neighbouring province of Sofala and to Zimbabwe, a project that cost US\$120 million.

Built 60 years ago, the Mavuzi hydroelectric plant is considered the oldest of the current energy production facilities of state power company EdM, which in November 2016 took over ownership of this plant and Chicamba along with related power transmission lines and substations, under a government decree.

The modernisation of the two facilities was funded by Sweden, which provided a donation worth around 36 million euros, as well as by France, through the French Development Agency (AFD), with a soft loan of 50 million euros and Germany with a commercial loan of 18 million euros. (28-03-2017)

TANZANIA GIVES COAL MINING LICENSE TO DANGOTE AFTER PRESIDENT'S ORDER

On Monday, the Tanzanian government awarded a coal mining license covering about 9.98 square kilometers in the Ngaka area to the local unit of Nigeria's Dangote Cement as part of plans to lower the

company's production costs and ease disruptions caused by energy shortages. According to the Tanzania's energy and minerals ministry, the process of allocating a coal mining area to the Dangote cement factory was completed last weekend.

Dangote wants to double Tanzania's annual output of cement to 6 million tons. As Africa's biggest cement producer, Dangote Cement has an annual production capacity of 43.6 million tons. It targets an output of between 74 million and 77 million tons by the end of 2019 and 100 million tons of capacity by 2020.

The Tanzanian president, John Magufuli, last week gave the government officials a seven-day ultimatum to allocate a coal mining area to Dangote within the mineral-rich Ngaka coal fields, which are licensed to another company. (Reuters)

NAMIBE ACADEMY OF FISHERIES IN ANGOLA DUE TO OPEN SOON

The Academy of Fisheries and Marine Sciences, located in Angola's Namibe province, will be inaugurated soon, said on Monday in Luanda the minister of Fisheries of Angola, speaking at a seminar on "Economy of the Sea, challenges, opportunities and risks."

During the seminar organised by the Ministry of Fisheries in cooperation with the University of Aveiro in Portugal, Victoria de Barros Neto said that the academy will be able to train senior technicians in various specialties related to the sea and fisheries.

Countries, the minister said, have been called upon to develop the blue economy, exploring the resources the oceans provide and developing marine industries, energy exploration, oil and gas, tourism, and transport, among others.

"Angola is no stranger to this challenge, while creating the conditions for better coordination of all activities related to the sea, to ensure its sustainable exploration, including greater awareness and inclusion of the private sector operating in these areas" she said, quoted by Angolan news agency Angop.

In her speech, the Minister of Fisheries said the Angolan government had ordered the construction of an oceanic research vessel to conduct marine biology studies as well as working as a "training ship." (28-03-2017)

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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www.swisscham-africa.ch



World Economic Forum on Africa – Durban, South Africa



3rd- 5th May 2017

NABA will be in Durban during the World Economic Forum on Africa in South Africa from the 3rd – 5th of May 2017.

Africa is facing a mixed outlook for growth. The economic growth forecast for the continent over the coming year is expected to be lower than the 5% average of the past decade. This is largely due to the dip in commodity prices and the economic slowdown in China. That said, a number of countries are growing above 6% per annum and foreign direct investment inflows continue to rise. Overall, the divergence of Africa's economies makes it imperative to address the challenges posed by a growing unemployed youth population and climate change, among others.

The impact of the headwinds for commodity-dependent countries has refocused attention on the urgency of economic diversification, revitalization of manufacturing and harnessing of human innovation in order to weather the economic storm. The Fourth Industrial Revolution offers new opportunities to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth by fast-tracking market integration in Africa through industrial corridors.

Several NABA members are also a part of the WEF community and will be present in South Africa 3rd – 5th of May. More information from the World Economic Forum's homepage: <https://www.weforum.org/events/world-economic-forum-on-africa-2017>

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