MEMORANDUM

N° 07/2018 | 05/02/2018

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12th YEARS OF PUBLICATION

SUMMARY

EU LEADS INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ENSURE EDUCATION FOR ALL

Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica, attends today the Global Partnership for Education Conference in Dakar, Senegal and calls on global leaders to step up their investment in education.

Leaders from donor and developing countries are expected to commit to substantially increase their financing to accelerate progress towards achieving quality education for all.

Commissioner **Mimica** calls on the international community to reverse the current trend of declining financing for education: *"I am pleased to see so many political, corporate, philanthropic and civil society leaders here in Dakar to make the Global Partnership for Education stronger. Investing in quality education is key for addressing various sustainable development challenges, including health, sustainable growth, job creation and long-term peace and stability. I proudly recall the European Union's early commitment to the GPE replenishment and invite all leaders to join us in shaping a better future while leaving no one behind."*

The EU's announcement in December 2017 to replenish the Global Partnership for Education with an additional €100 million is a clear sign of EU's determination to help ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and to promote lifelong learning opportunities for all, thus contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals achievement. This announcement came on top of €375 million already committed in 2014.

Through EU support, the GPE managed to achieve that:

72 million more children were in primary school in 2015 compared with 2002.

76% of children in GPE partner countries completed primary school in 2015 compared to 63% in 2002.

The primary school completion rate for girls went up to 74% in 2015 compared to 57% in 2002.

78% of GPE partner countries maintained or increased their education budget at or above 20% of public expenditure in 2015.

Background

The EU as a whole is the biggest contributor to the Global Partnership for Education, providing 63% of its overall funds. *The EU is also a global leader in supporting* education in emergencies *through its humanitarian aid programmes, supporting millions of children in 50 countries around the world.*

Furthermore, the EU supports developing partner countries with bilateral support programmes for education worth around €3.4 billion, as well as €300 million for Vocational Education and Training and €1.4 billion for higher education (Erasmus+).

Many countries have made historically unprecedented progress in increasing enrolment. For example, Niger increased primary completion rates from 20% in 1999 to 69% in 2015.

In Ghana, GPE helped to improve policy and planning, and to strengthen school supervision and teacher training. The most recent grant targeted 75 of the most deprived districts helping to institutionalise in-service training and provide small grants to schools to upgrade their facilities and learning materials.

In Yemen, GPE supported the development of new science and math curricula, buy 35,000 school kits for distribution in areas where drop-out rates for girls are highest, train nearly 600 education specialists and social workers, create a recruitment strategy for female teachers to encourage girls to go to schools, and provide basic school furniture and supplies for 37,380 children. (EC 01-02-2018)

GOVERNMENT OF ANGOLA RECEIVES MORE THAN 60 PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF REFINERIES

The commission created by the Angolan government to analyse the technical, economic and financial proposals for the construction of refineries in the country received 63 proposals from both national and foreign companies, state oil company Sonangol said on Thursday in Luanda.

The statement also said that the committee met on Wednesday at Sonangol's headquarters in Luanda, with representatives of companies interested in investing in the oil refining sector, to present the procedures to be observed by interested parties.

The government's decision that led to the launch of the tender for construction of refineries in Cabinda and Lobito took into account the fact that the country's current refinery production, by the Luanda Refinery, covers just 20% of the market's needs.

Angola imports 80% of the refined oil products its uses and the costs of this are unsustainable. Sonangol is building a refinery in Lobito to cover part of this deficit.

The completion of the projects will lead to the construction of a refinery in Lobito, by 2022, with a capacity to process up to 200,000 barrels of oil per day and another in Cabinda with an as yet unspecified capacity, that will be defined following studies.

Sonangol has signed a contract with Italian oil company ENI to optimise the Luanda refinery within 24 months, which will allow it to process oil in excess of its current nominal capacity of 65,000 barrels per day.

These projects are aimed at making Angola self-sufficient in the production of refined products, stopping the export of foreign currency by importing these products, adding value to Angolan crude oil, creating conditions for the development of the petrochemical industry, with potential to become an anchor for development from a wide range of national industrial activity.

Along with this, the new refineries will raise foreign exchange by exporting surpluses to regional markets and beyond, and promote local content in raw materials and the creation of employment.

The interested companies will be able to improve their proposals, according to the information and criteria that were presented by the commission, until 10 February, and should demonstrate proven technical and operational capacity, experience in the refining sector and financial capacity and suitability. (02-02-2018)

INVESTING IN AFRICA: THE EU AND BILL & MELINDA GATES FOUNDATION COMMIT A FURTHER €100 MILLION

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation today announced their commitment to contribute to the EU's External Investment Plan.

The Gates Foundation will contribute $50 million (€40.9 million) in financing, as well as an additional $12.5 million (€10.2 million) in technical assistance, to investment projects in the health sector in Africa through the EU's framework to improve sustainable investments in Africa. This pooling of resources is designed to encourage additional private investment towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and will allow successful projects to be scaled up more rapidly. The European Commission welcomes this strong support to its efforts towards sustainable development in Africa, and will match this contribution with another €50 million.

European Commission President Jean-Claude **Juncker** said: "*The EU accounts for a third of foreign direct investment into Africa – this is now helping create jobs and growth on both of our continents. But we must do more to improve the business environment and provide a platform for African innovators to grow. This requires the full involvement of the private and philanthropic sectors, and I am grateful to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for their much needed engagement. This is an investment in our shared future. Europe's partnership with Africa is one in which we support each other, help each other to prosper and make the world a safer, more stable and more sustainable place to live.*"

Bill **Gates** said: "*Improving health outcomes allows a society to become more prosperous and productive. There has been a lot of progress in this area in sub-Saharan Africa since 2000, but we need to do more to incentivize research and innovation that benefit the poor. It is fantastic that the European Commission, in partnership with African countries, is leading the way in reducing deep-seated inequities in global health. This commitment will create opportunities that will help people lift themselves and their communities out of poverty.*"

This new partnership on health follows a first joint initiative with the EU, announced on 12 December 2017 at the One Planet Summit in Paris, to support the development of tools and techniques to benefit smallholder farmers in developing countries. Through that initiative, the Commission will provide €270 million, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation $300 million (€244.7 million), to finance agricultural research to help the world's poorest farmers better adapt to increasingly challenging growing conditions brought about by climate change. France, Germany, Italy, Spain and other EU Member States will also take part in this programme.

Background

The European Union and Africa are working together to tackle the common challenges of today, from investing in youth, fostering sustainable development and strengthening peace and security to boosting investment in the African continent, supporting good governance and better managing migration.

The EU's External Investment Plan was adopted in September 2017 to help boost investment in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood, in particular with a new €1.5 billion European Fund for Sustainable Development (EFSD) Guarantee.

This ambitious initiative supports innovative financial instruments such as guarantees to boost private investment. With an input of €4.1 billion from the EU, it will help mobilise up to €44 billion of private investments by 2020. Such investments are mainly targeted at improving social and economic infrastructure, for example municipal infrastructure and proximity services, on providing support to small and medium-sized enterprises, and on microfinance and job creation projects, in particular for young people. (EC 25-01-2018)

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

MOZAMBICAN GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REOPEN TEXTÁFRICA TEXTILE FACTORY IN CHIMOIO

The Mozambican government is looking for solutions to reopen Textáfrica do Chimoio, a textile company that has been closed for more than 25 years, leading to more than 3,000 workers losing their jobs, the Mozambican prime minister announced on a visit to Manica province.

Carlos Agostinho do Rosário said he had visited the factory’s premises at the request of the President of the Republic, in order to meet with the provincial government, managers, and others involved in the process. “To understand the situation and take whatever measures seem pertinent with a view to reanimating the sleeping monster, in the sense that it comes to labor and employment,” he said.

The meeting, which included the Institute for State Participation Management (Igepe), “marks the beginning of a process that will allow us to see what is the solution to be adopted to get the factory to resume work,” said the prime minister, cited by Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias.

Textáfrica closed its doors more than 25 years ago and, in order to wind up the company and the pay compensation to the workers, the board used the Millenium bim bank for a US$1.1 million loan, using the houses the company owned in neighbourhoods A and B of the city of Chimoio as collateral.

The bank threatened to evict the workers and sell the houses and other assets of the company as a way to recover the loan. Following this threat, the government decided to intervene in order to find a negotiated solution to ensure that the bank received the money and the company would start operating again. (02-02-2018)

THE EIB EXTENDS A USD 40 MILLION FINANCING FACILITY TO I&M BANK LTD

The European Investment Bank (EIB) today agreed a new US $ 40 million financing facility with I&M Bank Ltd that will support investment by businesses across Kenya. Backed by the new EIB facility I&M Bank’s SME, Corporate, and Institutional customers around the country will benefit from cheaper loans.

The new credit line was signed in Nairobi by Kihara Maina, CEO I&M Bank Kenya and Robert Schofield, responsible for EIB business financing outside Europe. The signature ceremony was attended by Stefano Dejak, Ambassador of the European Union to Kenya and senior executives from I&M Bank Kenya and the European Investment Bank.

Under this credit line, I&M Bank Ltd will advance loans in US Dollars to eligible borrowers up to a maximum of 50% (fifty per cent) of the total cost of each of the projects, which comply with the EIB eligibility criteria undertaken by qualifying private enterprises and public sector entities in Kenya.

Commenting on the agreement, Kihara Maina, CEO I&M Bank Kenya noted, “I&M Bank anchors its business model on being a partner of growth for all our key stakeholders. We believe that the funding line from EIB will help our SME, Corporate and Institutional Customers accelerate their business growth and support their expansion efforts.”

I&M Bank has a strong focus on Corporate, Institutional and Business banking solutions ranging from Trade Finance and Debt Finance to Business Transaction Services with a suite of Cash Management Services, Corporate Internet Banking, E-Commerce, Foreign exchange, Salary Processing, among other services and products.

The financing facility from EIB will complement I&M Bank’s strategic initiatives for its Corporate, Institutional and Business Banking segments.

“The European Investment Bank works in partnership with leading banks around the world to support business investment. This enables thousands of companies to expand, explore new business opportunities and create jobs. We welcome this new cooperation with I&M Bank that will boost business investment across Kenya and look forward to working with I&M across East Africa in the future.” said Robert Schofield.

Witnessing the signing of the agreement, the EU Ambassador to Kenya, His Excellency, Stefano A Dejak, noted, “Kenya has a strong and vibrant private sector which is a key driving force of economic growth and employment in the country. The EU gives great importance in dialogue and engagements with this sector, and I believe that by supporting the private sector, we shall help the Kenyan government support the big four plan for economic prosperity.”

“We are honoured to receive this facility from the European Investment Bank, which affirms our position as a development partner of choice for the SME and Corporate sector aimed at facilitating the country’s economic growth,” concluded Kihara.

The European Investment Bank works with leading banks across Africa to support private sector investment. The lender has previously worked with I&M Bank Rwanda on a similar initiative and will continue to partner with I&M Bank Kenya in future.

The European Investment Bank is the world’s largest international public bank and over the last five years have provided more than EUR 1.5 billion for business investment through credit lines with partner banks in sub-Saharan Africa. (EIB 01-02-2018)

I&M BANK REGIONAL FINANCING FACILITY

CEMENT PLANT IN MOZAMBIQUE WORKS AT A THIRD OF ITS CAPACITY DUE TO LOW DEMAND

A cement plant, which opened in October 2016 in the Metuge district of Cabo Delgado province in northern Mozambique, is operating at a third of its installed capacity due to a lack of demand, according to independent television channel STV.

The Chinese-owned plant, which required an investment of US$24 million, has the capacity to produce 1,000 tons per day but is producing just 300 tons.

Paulo Wang, one of the unit’s directors, told a delegation of the Confederation of Economic Associations (CTA) of Mozambique that the main problem is low consumption and low demand for cement in northern Mozambique.

Wang said that this situation could improve when companies involved in the exploration of natural gas in the Rovuma basin – Italy's ENI and US company Anadarko Petroleum – start construction of facilities in the district of Palma.

“When natural gas reaches Pemba, we expect to go from daily production of 300 tons to 800 tons,” said Wang.

Osman Yacob, the owner of a hotel under construction in the city of Pemba, told the CTA delegation led by its president, Agostinho Vuma, that he was waiting for the arrival of natural gas, as the current hotel occupancy rate is “frightening.”(02-02-2017)

AFRICAN COUNTRIES HAVE TAKEN THE FIRST MAJOR STEP TOWARDS CHEAPER CONTINENTAL FLIGHTS

Almost three decades after it was first proposed, African countries have finally taken a major step towards opening the continent's skies.

Yesterday (Jan. 28), 23 African countries launched the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) initiative by the African Union (AU). The initiative is largely based on the agreements of the Yamoussoukro Decision of 1999 (pdf).

An immediate benefit of the single air market will be enhanced connectivity between African nations and a reduction in flight ticket prices. Consequently, this is expected to result in more regular direct flights between African countries rather than trips which previously involved stopovers in the Middle East or Europe. The bigger picture however, is littered with the promise of job creation, improved intra-African trade and freer movement of people. As shown by a 2014 study by the International Air Transport Association (IATA), liberalizing routes for 12 key African countries will boost economies on the continent with more than 150,000 additional jobs and an extra $1.3 billion to the continent's annual GDP.

The launch of the single air market follows closely on moves by several African countries to relax visa rules for African nationals. In addition, liberalized airline routes on the continent will likely result in a boost to the long-touted potential of intra-African tourism. Last year, a United Nations Conference on Trade and Development report showed that between 1995 and 2014, while the total number of international tourist arrivals to Africa more than doubled, Africans accounted for only four in every 10 visitors. Making it easier for Africans to visit African countries without the hassle of long, paperwork-laden visa applications or expensive, long-winding air travel will inadvertently boost the Africa's tourism revenues even further.

But while launching the single air market with 23 countries is “an important step forward,” Rapahel Kuuchi, IATA's vice president for Africa says its benefits will not be fully realized unless there is “effective implementation” of the countries signed up and also increased adoption by the 32 countries yet to join. So far, 23 countries have signed up to the agreement. (Q. 29-01-2018)

ZIMBABWE CANCELS SECURITY DETAIL FOR GRACE MUGABE AND HER THREE CHILDREN

The state security detail provided by the Zimbabwe government for Grace Mugabe and her three children has been withdrawn, according to sources familiar with the developments.

The withdrawal was effective at the beginning of 2018.

It means that only former president Robert Mugabe now enjoys the provision of state security — a marked turn of events for the former first family.

The perks that Mugabe is entitled to enjoy have been gazetted under the Presidential Pension and Retirement Packages notice of 2017 and was issued in a government gazette in December.

Bona Mugabe, the couple's eldest child is in Singapore where she is expected to give birth to her second child with Simba Chikore, her husband.

Robert Mugabe Jnr and Bellarmine Chatunga Mugabe are in Johannesburg, were they are students at a local institution.

The withdrawal of state security is likely to force the Mugabes to turn to the services of private security companies to provide them with protection.

In particular, their sons are notorious within Johannesburg's party scene for their wild party lifestyles.

The removal of state security for individual members of the Mugabe household is largely seen to be part of the wider austerity measures that the administration under new President Emmerson Mnangagwa is set to implement.

Although presidential spokesperson George Charamba would not be drawn to comment on the matter, he told a local daily newspaper in Harare on Thursday that it would be "expensive for the government to provide security" for Mugabe's family.

"I think the idea is that security details and other benefits are accrued to the principal [Mugabe]. Other members now enjoy through the principal and not by virtue of their position or association," he said.

It is understood that Mugabe's former aide, Ray Ndhlukula, informed Grace Mugabe earlier in January that the government gazette was specific only towards the former president and had no mention of family members.

Ndhlukula did not respond to a request for comment. He said he "was in a meeting".

"It's embarrassing to say the least. Withdrawing security will expose them to people who might want to harm them. In other words if they are not with the former president at anytime, their security is not guaranteed. Its standard practice that every family member of former heads of state are protected by the state but what's happening now is sad," said an insider familiar with the developments.

The benefits Mugabe is set to receive include a state-funded domestic worker, a gardener, two drivers, a private secretary, a close security unit officer and two aide-de-camp officers.

Mugabe will also make use of a Mercedes-Benz vehicle, a TV set, a state office and a telephone in addition to medical aid and air travel allowances.

The former Zimbabwe strongman turns 94 in February and regularly travels to Singapore for medical check-ups. Since his resignation from office in November, Mugabe has largely been at his private residence in Borrowdale in Harare.

He left for a medical check-up in Singapore in December without his wife.

A persistent US dollar shortage in Zimbabwe that is now in its second consecutive year has seen Mnangagwa push for belt-tightening across the government, while he also embarks on a crusade against corruption.

From January, public servants older than 65 years are being made to retire, as the government attempts to reduce the size of its wage bill. At the end of last month, 538 public servants without qualifications were dismissed from work.

Meanwhile, a crackdown on high profile figures has persisted, and has drawn the public's eye to the attempts by the new administration to crack down against officials who face various charges. Those include former finance minister Ignatius Chombo, former sports minister Makhosini Hlongwane, former agriculture minister Joseph Made, former foreign affairs minister Walter Mzembi, former mines minister Walter Chidhakwa and former energy minister Samuel Undenge.(BD 11-01-2018

AN AFRICAN COUNTRY RECKONS WITH ITS HISTORY OF SELLING SLAVES

Less than a mile from what was once West Africa's biggest slave port, the departure point for more than a million people in chains, stands a statue of Francisco Félix de Souza, a man regarded as the father of this city.

There's a museum devoted to his family and a plaza in his name. Every few decades, his descendants proudly bestow his nickname — "Chacha" — on a de Souza who is appointed the clan's new patriarch.

But there's one part of de Souza's legacy that is seldom addressed. After arriving here in the late 1700s from Brazil, then a Portuguese colony, he became one of the biggest slave merchants in the history of the transatlantic slave trade.

In Benin, where the government plans to build two museums devoted to the slave trade in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution, slavery is an embattled subject. It is raised in political debates, downplayed by the descendants of slave traders and deplored by the descendants of slaves.
At a time when Americans are again debating how slavery and the Civil War are memorialized, Benin and other West African nations are struggling to resolve their own legacies of complicity in the trade. Benin's conflict over slavery is particularly intense.
For over 200 years, powerful kings in what is now the country of Benin captured and sold slaves to Portuguese, French and British merchants. The slaves were usually men, women and children from rival tribes — gagged and jammed into boats bound for Brazil, Haiti and the United States.
The trade largely stopped by the end of the 19th century, but Benin never fully confronted what had happened. The kingdoms that captured and sold slaves still exist today as tribal networks, and so do the groups that were raided. The descendants of slave merchants, like the de Souza family, remain among the nation's most influential people, with a large degree of control over how Benin's history is portrayed.

In building the new museums, the country will have to decide how it will tell the story of its role in the slave trade. Is it finally ready, for example, to paint de Souza as the slave merchant that he was?
"The tensions are still there," said Ana Lucia Araujo, a professor of history at Howard University who has spent years researching Benin's role in the slave trade. "In the past, the country had a hard time telling the story of the victims of the slave trade. Instead, many initiatives commemorated those who enslaved them."
Unlike some African countries, Benin has publicly acknowledged — in broad terms — its role in the slave trade. In 1992, the country held an international conference sponsored by UNESCO, the U.N. cultural agency, that looked at where and how slaves were sold. In 1999, President Mathieu Kérékou visited a Baltimore church and fell to his knees during an apology to African Americans for Africa's role in the slave trade.
But what Benin failed to address was its painful internal divisions. Kérékou's apology to Americans meant little to citizens who still saw monuments to de Souza across this city. Even Ouidah's tour guides had grown frustrated.

"These people don't know the history. De Souza was the worst person, and he's still treated like a hero," said Remi Segonlou, who runs a small business showing visitors around the city.

The memory of slavery emerges here in large and small ways. In the 2016 presidential election, one candidate, Lionel Zinsou, angrily pointed out in a televised debate that his opponent, Patrice Talon, who is now president of Benin, was the descendant of slave merchants. In villages where people were abducted for the slave trade, families still ask reflexively when they hear a knock on the door whether the visitor is "a human being" or a slave raider.
"Our anger at the families who sold our ancestors will never go away until the end of the world," said Placide Ogoutade, a businessman in the town of Ketou, where thousands of people were seized and sold in the 18th and 19th centuries.
When his children were young, Ogoutade told them they were barred from marrying anyone who was a descendant of the country's slave merchants.
Some of Benin's foremost scholars are battling the country's unwillingness to interrogate its messy past.

"This is still a country divided between the families of the enslaved and the slave traders," said Olabiyi Babalola Joseph Yai, a professor of history and linguistics who taught for years at the University of Florida and worked for UNESCO in Paris before returning to his native Benin. "But the elite don't want to talk about what happened here."
The Smithsonian Institution has signed a memorandum of understanding to provide help with the new museums, although details have yet to be worked out, officials said. Benin's government has also appointed several scholars, including Yai, to ensure the accuracy and credibility of the exhibits in one of the museums, in the city of Allada, about 20 miles from Ouidah. But even Yai questions the authorities' willingness to address the facts.
"Is this about reconciliation, or is it just about attracting tourists? That's something we need to be vigilant about," he said.
There are several reasons Benin's history of slavery was papered over or misrepresented for so long. First, when Benin was a colony of France from 1904 to 1958, the French didn't want to draw attention to

their own role in the African slave trade. Then, after Benin became independent, its leaders pushed for a sense of national, and even Pan-African, identity.
Since 1991, when Benin transitioned from a dictatorship to a democracy, the history of slavery has mostly been presented as a means of luring Western tourists.
“People here are trying to find work. They are trying to eat. They are surprised when they see tourists who come looking for their identity,” said José Pliya, the president’s adviser for tourism.
Pliya is directing the establishment of the two museums, one focusing on Ouidah’s history, due to open next year and funded largely by the World Bank, and the other in Allada, which will more broadly investigate the country’s role in the slave trade and is scheduled to open in 2020. The two sites are expected to cost $24 million in total.
The government is also planning to reconstruct the forts where slave merchants lived in Ouidah and the cells in which they kept their slaves.

The government acknowledges that if it wants to attract tourists, it will need to address concerns about whether Benin is whitewashing the actions of the slave trade’s architects. Advisers to the president said he plans to rename the Place de Chacha square in Ouidah, said to have been an open-air auction site for slaves. Authorities have not yet decided on a new name.
“This is a very delicate subject,” Pliya said.
Many members of the de Souza family are aghast at the idea.
“He was a man who helped modernize our nation,” said Judicael de Souza, 43, noting his ancestor’s role in expanding agricultural trade with Europe.
One member of the family, Martine de Souza, a tour guide, has urged the family for years to re-examine its history. “It’s time we accept the reality,” she said in an interview. But most others are cautious.
Late last year, the family appointed its new patriarch, or Chacha. He is a construction engineer named Moise de Souza who lives in a concrete apartment building with a poster-size picture of himself on the wall. He has light brown skin, a point of pride for a family that often boasts about its ties to colonialists.
In an interview, he acknowledged his ancestors’ role in the slave trade.
“It is something that makes me feel bad. We know it’s painful, and all I can do is apologize,” he said.
Still, he worried that members of his family would be livid if he shared that sentiment publicly in Benin.
He vehemently opposes any mention of de Souza as a slave merchant in the new Ouidah museum.
“It’s the reputation of our family,” he said. “We don’t want to be known for this dirty thing.”
In mid-January, he and dozens of other de Souza descendants made their yearly pilgrimage to the city of Abomey, the former capital of the kingdom of Dahomey, a major regional power in pre-colonial days.
A modern-day king of Dahomey, Dédjalagni Agoli-Agbo, still presides, even though the title is now a largely ceremonial one.
The meeting had an extraordinary subtext. The kingdom of Dahomey had sold hundreds of thousands of slaves to merchants like Francisco de Souza. The ceremony was about celebrating a relationship between two families that was originally forged over slaves.
On that humid morning, Moise de Souza stepped out of an SUV wearing a gold-trimmed shawl and cap.
He walked to the front of a dimly lighted meeting room, sweating in the heat. A group of American anthropology students, almost all of them white, had been allowed inside to watch.

Finally, the king arrived, surrounded by several wives wearing matching yellow-and-orange dresses. He shook de Souza’s hand. Glasses of champagne were poured.
“This ceremony reminds us of the connection between Dahomey and de Souza,” the king said, as a Beninese TV crew filmed.
“I wish good health, a long life and peace to the king,” de Souza responded.
Slavery was never mentioned.
“It’s a memory both families would prefer to forget,” said the professor escorting the students, Timothy Landry of Trinity College in Connecticut.
When the event ended, the de Souza family poured out of the building. (Q. 29-01-2018)

MINISTRY OF MARITIME ECONOMY OF CABO VERDE IS BASED ON THE ISLAND OF SÃO VICENTE

The Ministry of Maritime Economy of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) will be inaugurated on 22 January, the day of the municipality of São Vicente, in the city of Mindelo, the most populous city on the island and the second largest in the archipelago, Minister José Gonçalves announced on Wednesday.

The minister, who is in charge of two ministries, said he had been in Mindelo for the last two days to present the new Secretary of State Paulo Veiga and, at the same time, to deal with the "setting up and creation" of the Ministry of Maritime Economy.

Gonçalves, quoted by the Inforpress news agency, stressed the importance of installing the ministry in São Vicente, an island on which the Cape Verdean government is focusing on the development of the Special Economic Zone of Maritime Economy (ZEEEM).

The minister also said that the ministry will operate with an average of 60 to 70 members of staff and that the respective law is due to be published in the official bulletin next February.

The Secretary of State for the Maritime Economy, Paulo Veiga, who took office on 5 January, said that the maritime economy "has to become a national intention" because of the challenge it represents.

The minister recently accompanied a visit by a Chinese business delegation to the island, saying at the end that the representatives of Chinese company Shandong Hi-Speed Group Co. had expressed "great interest" in participating in the development of the ZEEEM.

Gonçalves also said that during the meeting held in the city of Mindelo it was agreed that a Cape Verdean delegation would go to China, during the first quarter of the year. (11-01-2018)

CAPE HOSPITALS IGNORE ZILLE'S PROMISES AND INVEST IN OWN WATER SUPPLIES

Private hospitals are not taking any chances regarding Western Cape premier Helen Zille's promise that water supplies will be maintained to their facilities in the event of Day Zero.

The three biggest hospital groups — Netcare, Mediclinic and Life Healthcare — are investing heavily in alternative water supplies from the sea and underground so they can run independently of the municipal grid in an emergency. Many of the measures they are taking in Cape Town are being rolled out in other water-scarce regions, such as the Eastern Cape.

The Western Cape is gripped by a such a severe drought that Cape Town's dam levels have fallen to 25.9% of their capacity. Should the dam levels fall to the critical 13.5% level, which the DA-led municipality says could happen by mid-April, it will switch off the supply to most of the city's taps. At this point, dubbed Day Zero, residents will be rationed to just 25l per person per day, which they will have to fetch from designated collection points.

"We are very concerned, hence our investments in water conservation and augmentation," said Jacques du Plessis, MD of Netcare's hospital division.

Netcare is installing a desalination plant in its flagship Christian Barnard hospital on the foreshore, which will yield enough fresh water for the group's five Cape Town hospitals, its Medicross primary healthcare facilities and its renal dialysis units, he said. The plant could also provide sufficient water for staff showers and drinking water in the event of Day Zero, he said. "Our first priority is service continuity," he said.

Netcare had also drilled boreholes on the grounds of three of its Cape Town hospitals, and was investigating using blackwater he said. Black water comes from toilets.

Netcare had cut water consumption at its Cape Town hospitals by 44% since 2015, Du Plessis said.

Mediclinic's GM for infrastructure, Kobus Jonck, said the group could not risk relying on promises that hospitals would be guaranteed water if Day Zero arrived. "We are all nervous as Day Zero gets closer," he said.

"We have started drilling boreholes and will transport water between facilities if need be. We are also looking at the need for extra security and are considering providing water to our personnel," he said.

Ten of Mediclinic's hospitals were directly affected by the water crisis in Cape Town, he said.

Mediclinic had steadily reduced its water consumption by, on average, 3.5% per year over the past eight years, and its Western Cape hospitals currently used 13% less than other hospitals in the group, he said.

Life Healthcare had sunk boreholes, which would be able to supply water to its Cape Town hospitals — Vincent Pallotti and Kingsbury — as well as its renal, rehabilitation and mental care units by mid-March, said its Southern Africa CEO Lourens Bekker.

"In partnership with provincial and local government authorities, special contingency measures will also be in place to allow Life Healthcare to assist in case of emergencies and to mitigate the risk of water resources being plundered during the crisis," he said.

The Saldanha Bay municipality had undertaken to tank water to Life Healthcare's hospital in Vredenburg should the municipal water pipeline be compromised in any way, he said.

On Tuesday, Zille assured residents that public and private healthcare facilities would be prioritised should the city fail to avert Day Zero. Even so, the provincial government intended to make sure 18 priority public hospitals could turn to borehole water should the municipal supply fail, she said. (BD 02-02-2018)

NIGERIA TO BUY UP TO 1.55-MILLION TONNES OF PETROL TO STAVE OFF SHORTAGES

Nigerian state oil company NNPC has issued a tender to buy up to 1.55-million tonnes of petrol from January to April in its latest effort to stave off shortages that have recently plagued Africa's most populous nation.

The tender, which was issued on Monday afternoon and closed on Tuesday, sought 42 cargoes of petrol, each 37,000 tonnes, on top of the volumes NNPC is taking via ongoing crude-for-product swap contracts.

Traders said the call for cargoes went only to the companies holding the swap contracts, dubbed direct sale, direct purchase agreements (DSDP).

NNPC is asking for pre-delivery of the petrol, with payment up to 45 days after delivery in either cash or crude oil. It is seeking 15 cargoes for delivery in each of January and February, and six in each of March and April.

Nigeria has been eagerly buying fuel since queues popped up across the country last month. December is typically the peak demand season in Nigeria, but traders said imports sagged in October, November and even December due to the structure of NNPC's oil swap contracts. The latest tender would mark a substantial addition to imports that are typically about 1-million tonnes a month.

"Even if full volumes are not ultimately delivered, this tender shows that NNPC is serious about rebuilding onshore and offshore stocks following dismally low imports in November and December," said James McCullagh, oil products analyst with Energy Aspects.

Queues are not uncommon in the oil producer that refines very little of its own petroleum, but petrol prices and shortages are a politically charged subject. Price caps at 145 naira per litre make it tough for many importers to profit on petrol, and NNPC has imported as much as 90% of the nation's petrol needs over the past year through its swaps programme.

Late last month, NNPC said it had more than doubled the daily supply of fuel, attributing the shortage to a "hiccup in the supply chain" after rumours of a planned increase in the petrol price led to hoarding. It said there were no plans to increase prices.

According to the country's ministry of petroleum resources, President Muhammadu Buhari also set up a special committee "to identify the immediate and remote causes of the fuel scarcity with a view to finding both immediate and long lasting solutions to the challenge". (Reuters 10-01-2018)

EU MONITORS SAY KENYA'S FLAWED ELECTION 'WEAKENED' THE COUNTRY'S DEMOCRACY

EU election monitors said on Wednesday that Kenya's flawed presidential poll had "weakened" the country's democracy in a critical report that triggered an angry government response.

President Uhuru Kenyatta won a second term in an October re-run after his initial victory was nullified by the country's supreme court. The opposition boycotted the fresh poll amid sporadic violence and divisive rhetoric.

"Kenyans went from high hopes for these elections to many disappointments and confrontations. Kenya remains deeply divided," EU chief observer Marietje Schaake, a Dutch member of the European parliament, told AFP.

The report was scathing in its criticism and, unusually, was launched in Brussels, rather than in the country where the election was held.

Schaake said Kenyan authorities were "not prepared" to receive her and her team for the launch. The EU monitors came under fire from both sides during last year's drawn-out and disputed poll. The bad blood continued on Wednesday with Kenya's ambassador to Belgium and the EU, Johnson Weru, accusing Schaake of issuing the report ahead of schedule and of "contemptuous political grandstanding".

The report found "the electoral process was damaged by political leaders attacking independent institutions and by a lack of dialogue between the two sides, with escalating disputes and violence".

Kenyatta's side threatened the judiciary after his August victory was overturned, while the opposition, led by Raila Odinga, repeatedly attacked the election commission. More than 90 people died in election-related violence, according to rights groups, most of them shot by police.

The report listed 29 recommendations — including legal and electoral reforms, strengthening of the election commission and improved technology — that could pave the way for better elections in 2022 when Kenyatta must stand down.

An electronic system for transmitting and tallying results was supposed to improve transparency after two previous disputed presidential elections, but instead the technology fueled opposition suspicions of fraud. "Technology cannot replace trust," the EU warned.

The observers also noted widespread "misuse of state resources at national and local levels" that tilted the playing field in favour of incumbents.

Kenya has avoided the bloodshed that followed the 2007 poll, in which more than 1,100 people were killed in post-election violence. The EU nevertheless concluded that the 2017 elections "were characterised by a protracted and damaging presidential race that cost lives and weakened Kenya's democratic functioning". (AFP 10-01-2018)

ZIMBABWE'S NEW LEADER TO EMBARK ON REGIONAL CHARM OFFENSIVE

New Zimbabwean President Emerson Mnangagwa is expected to make a one-day official visit to Namibia on January 15 during which he will hold bilateral talks with President Hage Geingob, the presidency announced on Thursday.

Presidential press secretary Albertus Aochamub said the Zimbabwean leader is expected to use the occasion to formally introduce himself.

This is one of the first working visits by President Mnangagwa since his inauguration in November 2017.

“The visit is being conducted in the interest of further strengthening existing excellent bilateral relations between Namibia and Zimbabwe and to consider new possible areas of cooperation,” Aochamub said.

Mnangagwa is introducing himself to the regional leaders ahead of general elections in his country later this year.

Before his visit to Windhoek, the Zimbabwean statesman is expected to pay a courtesy call to Angolan President João Lourenço on Friday.

Lourenço is the chairperson of Organ for Politics, Defence and Security of the Southern African Development Community.

The Angola news agency, ANGOP reported on Thursday that Mnangagwa was expected to brief Lourenço on the ongoing preparations of the presidential elections in his country.

Mnangagwa, former deputy to Zimbabwean long-time ruler Robert Mugabe, took over the reins late last year after the former resigned amidst pressure from the military and threats of impeachment by parliament.

Mnangagwa was initially sacked as deputy president by Mugabe just few days before the military on November 14 took over the capital in what it called an operation to weed out “criminal elements” surrounding Mugabe, who had been in power for 37 years.

He was installed as head of state on November 24 to serve out the remaining term of ex-president Mugabe that was to end in August this year.

The governing ZANU PF has picked President Mnangagwa as its presidential candidate for the upcoming presidential elections. (APA 11-02-2018)

START OF SCHOOL YEAR IN ZAMBIA POSTPONED AS CHOLERA DEATH ROLLS RISES

The start of Zambia’s school year has been postponed and all public gatherings banned to contain a cholera outbreak that has killed 61 people, officials said Tuesday.

Church services were canceled on Sunday and a night-time curfew has been imposed to limit movement in Lusaka’s densely-populated slum district of Kanyama, one of the worst affected areas.

Street vending has also been outlawed and nightclub hours reduced, while the army has been patrolling the streets for the last 10 days to ensure compliance with the tightened restrictions.

"The country has recorded 114 new cases in the last 24 hours bringing the total to 2,672 since the disease broke out. The cumulative death toll is 61," health minister Chitalu Chilufya told journalists on Tuesday.

The current outbreak began in late September. The school year was due to start on Monday and no date has been set for term to begin.

Cholera is a water-borne diarrhoeal disease that can kill within hours if left untreated, but is easily cured with oral rehydration, intravenous fluids and antibiotics. Clean water and sanitation are critical to controlling transmission.

President Edgar Lungu has said he was "deeply concerned" at the spread of the disease, blaming water from shallow wells, unsanitary conditions in residential and public areas and contaminated food. On December 30, he ordered the military to assist efforts to control the disease. (AFP 09-01-2018)

DIRECT FLIGHT BETWEEN KENYA AND US NOW A REALITY

Kenya Airways on Thursday marked a great milestone with the launch of a non-stop flight from Nairobi to New York, with the national carrier starting to sell tickets for the inaugural flight scheduled for October 28.

The national carrier now becomes the first the first airline to offer a non-stop flight between East Africa and the United States of America.

It will be the fastest connection from East Africa to New York, with 15 hours duration eastbound and 14 hours westbound.

The airline will operate its state-of-the-art Boeing 787 Dreamliner with a capacity of 234 passengers.

The flight will depart every day from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport hub in Nairobi at 23:25 arriving at JFK airport in New York at 06:25 the following day.

From New-York it will depart at 12:25 landing at JKIA at 10:55 the following day. Its duration will be 15 hours east bound and 14 hours west bound.

“This is an exciting moment for us. It fits within our strategy to attract corporate and high-end tourism traffic from the world to Kenya and Africa. We are honoured to contribute to the economic growth of

Kenya and East Africa," Kenya Airways Group managing director and CEO Sebastian Mikosz told a press conference in Nairobi.

The airline already serves Africa, Europe, Middle-East, Indian sub-continent and Asia.

The opening of the US route completes an essential piece for Kenya Airways' network, cementing its position as one of the leading African carriers.

With over 40 American multinationals located in Nairobi and many more across Africa, the launch of daily flights is expected to further spur trade between America and Africa. (APA 11-01-2018)

BENIN : LE GOUVERNEMENT ENTAME DES NEGOCIATIONS AVEC ADP POUR LA GESTION DU FUTUR AEROPORT DE COTONOU

Le président béninois Patrice Talon lors de sa rencontre avec son homologue français François Hollande, le 12 décembre 2016 à Paris

Le gouvernement béninois a décidé la création d'une société de patrimoine de droit public, pour la détention et la gestion des actifs aéroportuaires du Bénin, et l'ouverture de négociations avec le groupe ADP (anciennement Aéroports de Paris) pour la gestion de l'aéroport de Cotonou.

Le Conseil des ministres du Bénin du 22 décembre dernier a décidé d'entamer des négociations avec le groupe ADP (anciennement Aéroports de Paris), dans le but de lui confier la gestion de l'aéroport de Cotonou, via une société de patrimoine de droit public qui devrait être prochainement créée.

Via sa filiale à 100 % ADP Management, le groupe français gère une vingtaine d'aéroports dans le monde, dont celui de Conakry. ADP Management est aussi actionnaire à 35 % du consortium Ravinala Airports, qui gère depuis décembre 2016 et pour vingt-huit ans les aéroports malgaches d'Ivato (Antananarivo) et de Nosy Be – ses partenaires étant le groupe Bouygues (20 %), avec une parité entre ses filiales Bouygues Bâtiment International et Colas Madagascar, et la société Meridiam Africa (45 %).

Aéroport prévu pour 2020

Une autre des filiales du groupe ADP, ADP Ingénierie, avait déjà remporté, le 12 octobre 2017, une mission de maîtrise d'ouvrage déléguée pour la construction du nouvel aéroport de Cotonou situé à Glo-Djigbé (au nord de la capitale), pour une durée de trente-huit mois – la construction en elle-même étant gérée par le holding public chinois China Aviation Industry Corporation (Avic).

L'aéroport, projet phare du Programme d'actions du gouvernement béninois (PAG), doit être opérationnel avant la fin 2020. (JA 11-01-2018)

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Statement by the International Monetary Fund, Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, and Arab Monetary Fund at the Conclusion of the Conference on Promoting Growth, Jobs, and Inclusiveness in the Arab World

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Senegal-Fifth-Review-Under-the-Policy-Support-Instrument-and-Request-for-Modification-of-45558

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Statement by IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde on Meeting with South Africa Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa

Response to The Guardian Opinion Piece on Tunisia

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IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde Meets with President Emmerson Mnangagwa of Zimbabwe

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The Memorandum is supported by the ACP-African, Caribbean, Pacific Secretariat, Chamber of Commerce Tenerife, Corporate Council on Africa, CIP-Confederation of Portuguese Enterprises, Hellenic-African Chamber of Commerce and Development, HTTC - Hungarian Trade & Cultural Centre, NABC- Netherlands-African Business Council, SwissCham-Africa and other organisations.
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