

MEMORANDUM

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JOINT STATEMENT ON THE WORSENING CONFLICT IN SOUTH SUDAN BY HIGH REPRESENTATIVE/VICE-PRESIDENT FEDERICA MOGHERINI AND THE COMMISSIONER FOR HUMANITARIAN AID AND CRISIS MANAGEMENT CHRISTOS STYLIANIDES

The armed conflict in South Sudan has intensified in recent days, exacerbated by a new military offensive in Unity State. Concerned by the humanitarian consequences of the fighting and the difficulties faced by relief organisations on the ground, HRVP Mogherini and Commissioner Stylianides made the following statement:

South Sudan's man-made crisis has caused one of the worst humanitarian disasters of recent years. The renewed fighting in Unity State is a serious breach of the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement, forcing thousands of civilians to flee their homes. It is essential that all parties respect the Cessation of Hostilities Agreement throughout the country in order to spare the suffering of innocent civilians and to facilitate the life-saving work of humanitarian organisations. All parties have an obligation to protect and respect civilians irrespective of their ethnic origin or political affiliation.

There can be no military solution to this conflict. Only a concerted effort by political leaders to reach a negotiated solution will bring an end to the suffering of the people of South Sudan and enable them to live in peace and allow the country to resume its development. Responsibility for this rests on the shoulders of those leaders. If they fail to make the necessary effort for peace, they will inevitably be held responsible also for the consequences. (EC 11-05-2014)

ZIMBABWE ASKS WESTERN LENDERS FOR FINANCE

Zimbabwe has asked for financial support from the West for the first time in more than a decade at a meeting of western diplomats and international lenders.

Western nations, who accuse President Robert Mugabe's government of election rigging and human rights abuses, have restricted funding to charities since 2002.

But Zimbabwean government officials met western ambassadors and representatives from the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and African Development Bank in Harare yesterday to discuss direct budgetary support.

"As we go forward and successfully build trust, we can channel development assistance through the vote of credit (budget) so we're able to plan more effectively and efficiently," Finance Minister Patrick Chinamasa told the gathering, which included US and European Union (EU) diplomats.

Donors, who fund health, agriculture and governance projects through UN agencies, have pledged \$468m this year, down from \$737m last year.

The EU gave Zimbabwe €234m this year after lifting sanctions in November, the first time it has given cash to Mr Mugabe's government since imposing sanctions in 2002.

Zimbabwe is one of the world's few developing countries that funds its budget from taxes because it does not qualify for international credit due to its foreign debt. (Reuters 07-05-2015)

CHINA INVESTMENT FUND STARTS SELLING "BELA" BEER IN ANGOLA

Bela beer, produced in Angola by the China Investment Fund (CIF) Luanda Brewery, entered the Angolan market a few days ago after investing US\$180 million, according to Chinese news agency Xinhua.

The brewery, which has been running tests since September 2014, is now starting the process of selling the beer to major retailers in Luanda, including shopping centres and supermarkets, said the Managing Director of the factory, Buhe Bater.

Bater also said that the beer produced under the Bela brand, in cans as well as in bottles and barrels, is due soon to arrive in the markets of Angola's 18 provinces and the factory has capacity to produce 100,000 tons of beer a year.

Buhe Bater said the beer was prepared with Angolan consumers' taste in mind "and is selling very well, especially as in Luanda there are no seasons when beer is not consumed due to the high year-round temperature."

The CIF Luanda Brewery LTD is one of the first factories with Chinese investors operating in Angola, whose government intends to accelerate the process of industrial diversification in order to reduce dependence on oil exports. (11-05-2015)

ZIMBABWE: RIOZIM TO BUILD 1,400MW COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT

Power utility Eskom would be willing to buy electricity from coal-fired power stations being planned in Zimbabwe, as and when the utility had a shortfall, but it would not provide assistance to finance those projects, spokesman Khulu Phasiwe said on Tuesday.

Zimbabwe Stock Exchange-listed mining company RioZim this week became the second owner of large coal deposits in Zimbabwe to announce plans to build a power station, to help alleviate the acute shortage of electricity in Southern Africa.

RioZim was considering a \$2.1bn investment in a 1,400MW plant using its deposit at Sengwa to supply its own needs and to sell to Eskom and Namibia Power Corporation, Reuters reports.

Last year Makomo Resources, Zimbabwe's biggest private-sector coal producer, said it was considering building a \$1.5bn, 600MW coal-fired power plant near Harare, to be financed partly by Chinese investors.

Both Zimbabwe and SA experience regular power cuts as their state-owned utilities have failed to invest timeously in adding new capacity to match economic growth.

This is creating opportunities for private-sector players. Later this year SA's Department of Energy is expected to invite bids from private companies for coal-fired power.

Neither RioZim nor Makomo could be reached on Tuesday to supply more details on their timeframes for delivering power or the price at which they expected to sell it.

Shaun Nel, an adviser to SA's Energy Intensive Users Group (EIUG), said building power stations to supply the region could be an opportunity for private-sector companies if they could finance them using their own balance sheets. However, most needed an offtake agreement with a utility such as Eskom to raise financing.

A number of South African companies had investigated building power plants to hedge against both supply interruptions and rising prices but the issue, particularly for mining companies, was that the cost of capital exceeded the returns from such projects.

Another hurdle for Zimbabwean power companies was the state of the transmission infrastructure in Zimbabwe, which was not designed for higher loads, Mr Nel said. Someone would have to pay to upgrade the transmission network if Zimbabwe were to sell power to SA.

Mr Phasiwe said Eskom had not signed any formal agreement with RioZim and price would obviously be a consideration. Eskom would not be willing to pay more for power from Zimbabwe than its own cost of generation, or more than it had agreed to pay independent power producers in SA. (BD 06-05-2015)

CHINESE COMPANY DUE TO FINISH MAPUTO RING ROAD, IN MOZAMBIQUE, IN DECEMBER

The Maputo rings road, whose construction was awarded to the China Road and Bridge Corporation (CRBC), will be ready next December and not in the first half of this year as previously expected, announced the Mozambican Minister of Public Works.

Carlos Bonete, who on Saturday paid a visit to the site, said the delay was due to several factors related to the nature and complexity of the contract.

Initially the road was planned to open in December 2014 but this deadline was exceeded due to problems with resettlement of families who lived on the area selected for construction.

The project, costing an estimated US\$315 million, includes construction of a 74-kilometre road that will create a new North/South axis (between Miramar Beach and the village of Marracuene), and will also involve building six bridges and three junctions that will allow traffic flow on National Highway Number One on the Zimpeto-Marracuene section.

The work was awarded to CBRC by the Empresa de Desenvolvimento de Maputo (Maputo Development Company), a public company that manages not only the construction of the Maputo Ring Road but also the bridge to Catembe and the Catembe-Bela Vista road. (11-05-2015)

SUPPORTING ONLINE MEDIA DEVELOPMENT IN THE SOUTHERN MEDITERRANEAN: 22 PROJECTS SHORTLISTED UNDER EBTICAR-MÉDIA 2015 CALL

A total of 22 projects have been pre-selected under the 2015 call for proposals of the EU-funded EBTICAR-Média project to support the development of online media in the Southern Mediterranean countries.

The final selection will take place from 2 to 6 June in Beirut as part of the tenth anniversary ceremony of the death of journalist Samir Kassir. Following this meeting, the best initiatives will benefit from the support of the French Media Cooperation Agency (CFI) and a financial support ranging from €30,000 to €60,000.

This call complements the first call launched in 2014, following which 11 projects were selected. All received a grant of between €35,000 and €75,000 and are being assisted in their development.

EBTICAR-Media ("ebticar" means "innovation" in Arabic, and also stands for "E-Booster for Technical and Innovative Contents in the Arab Region") supports the development and organisation of the online media in the region through the award of subsidies for the most innovative proposals. (EU Neighbourhood 07-05-2015)

MITSUI & CO GROUP REMAINS COMMITTED TO NATURAL GAS IN MOZAMBIQUE

Japanese group Mitsui & Co announced Friday it plans to keep its stake in the Area 1 block of the Rovuma basin, in northern Mozambique and that a final investment decision should be taken at the end of the year.

"We plan to make a final investment decision later this year and begin liquefied natural gas production in 2019," said Keigo Matsubara, financial director of the group, according to Reuters news agency.

The statements from the financial director of Mitsui & Co came after US group Anadarko Petroleum also announced it had no plans to sell its stake in the block.

The group controls a 26.5 percent stake in the Area 1 block of the Rovuma basin in northern Mozambique on the border with Tanzania, which has as partners Mitsui EP Mozambique Area 1 Limited (20 percent), BPRL Ventures Mozambique BV (10 percent), Videocon Mozambique Rovuma Area 1 Limited (10 percent), PTT Exploration and Production Plc (8.5 percent) and state-owned ENH (15%) during the exploration phase.

Natural gas reserves discovered so far in the Rovuma basin point to the existence of more than 200 trillion cubic feet, which may put Mozambique in the top five largest natural gas exporters in the world on par with Russia, Qatar and Australia. (11-05-2015)

MEDITERRANEAN: GEMM - LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS FOR DEMAND DRIVEN EDUCATION AND TRAINING

The [Governance for Employability in the Mediterranean project](#), also known as GEMM, took up residence in Turin this week, bringing together GEMM participants in the cross country knowledge sharing event of the project dedicated to the local pilot projects.

The four-day event focuses on three thematic areas local labour market information, skills anticipation and matching and career guidance. These thematic areas are a feature of the pilot projects undertaken by each participating country that are an important component of GEMM and through plenary sessions and working groups participants will share their expertise and learnings from their own pilot project.

Participants will also hear from representatives from the Piedmont Region who will provide their insights on local labour market needs analysis and the apprenticeship model. There will also be two local site visits to a technical school and business. In addition, participants will reflect on how local partnerships and institutional setting can better support the efficiency and relevance of VET at local level, as well as how pilot projects can be sustained and upscaled.

GEMM is an ETF project funded by the European Union that aims to improve governance of vocational and education and training (VET) to increase the employability of young people and women. The project covers the following countries: Algeria, Egypt Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine* and Tunisia.

For more information on GEMM and its pilot projects, click [here](#).(05-05-2015)

MONTEPUEZ RUBY MINING HOLDS FOURTH AUCTION OF RUBIES MINED IN MOZAMBIQUE

Montepuez Ruby Mining is due in June in Singapore to hold its fourth auction of rubies in the rough mined in Mozambique, company director Rami Raimundo Pachinuapa said cited by Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias.

Pachinuapa said this auction would provide revenue of US\$50 million, after a previous auction held in Jaipur, India of low quality rubies yielded US\$15 million.

The company was recently considered the largest taxpayer in Cabo Delgado province after it paid 320 million meticaais in taxes as a result of two ruby auctions it carried out.

The contribution of Montepuez Ruby Mining allowed the Mozambique Tax Authority in 2014 to collect total taxes of just over 1.6 billion meticaais throughout the province, which this year increase to over 1.8 billion meticaais, said provincial delegate João Pereira.

Montepuez Ruby Mining, which is 75 percent owned by British group Gemfields and 25 percent by Mozambican company Mwiriti Limitada, has two 25-year mining licenses in the province of Cabo Delgado. It started operating in the area in November 2012 and held its first auction in Singapore in June 2014. (11-05-2015)

SADC GEARS TOWARDS INDUSTRIALISATION

Following the Asia-African gathering in Indonesia, the Southern African Development Community (Sadc) council of ministers and heads of states last week gathered in Harare for an extraordinary meeting “to review the progress made with the process of developing the Sadc Strategy and Road Map”.

The gathering came under the shadow of xenophobic attacks in South Africa. Jacob Zuma briefed the meeting on the attacks. The summit “condemned” the attacks but “commended” the action taken by the SA government and “resolved” to work together to prevent a similar occurrence in the future. Such attacks should not be tolerated under any circumstance. Regional integration would also be jeopardised if xenophobic tendencies are tolerated.

The summit considered and approved the Sadc industrialisation strategy and road map. According to the summit papers, the strategy is anchored on three pillars, namely industrialisation as a champion of economic and technological transformation, competitiveness as an active process to move from comparative advantage to competitive edges, and regional integration and geography as the context for industrial development and economic prosperity.

This is a follow-up meeting to the Victoria Falls meeting held in August 2014, a meeting which resolved to discourage the export of primary goods but encourage industrialisation within the region to ensure that the grouping extracts maximum value from its resources.

Main intra-Sadc trade export items include oil and gas, agricultural products, electricity and some clothing and textile products. Main export items to the rest of the world consist of predominantly export of resources such as coal, ferrochromium, manganese ores, platinum, gold and diamonds, resource intensive manufactured goods, mainly for the automotive industry, and agricultural products mainly tobacco. Sadc statistics show that the highest share of total Sadc exports over time is to the Asia Pacific Market, followed by the EU market. Trade within Africa is the smallest and of this, the majority is intra-Sadc trade. Sadc imports also show a similar trend with a majority of goods coming from Asia Pacific market, followed by the EU, rest of Africa. Sadc's imports from the rest of Africa are only a small component of the total imports.

Sadc is a regional economic bloc comprising 15-member states within southern Africa. Originally established as a development co-ordinating conference (Sadcc), Sadc was transformed into its current format of being a development community in 1992. The bloc is focused on regional integration and poverty eradication through economic development and ensuring peace and stability within southern Africa. With rotational chairmanship, Sadc's current chair position is held by Zimbabwe. Through its original Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan (RISDP), a 15-year (2005-2015) framework for regional integration, Sadc outlined the key milestones to assist in measuring the progress towards regional integration. The RISDP time frame shows that Sadc aims to achieve a common market by agreeing common policies on production regulation area in 2015, monetary union through macro-economic convergence by 2016, a single currency and becoming an economic union by 2018.

While the Sadc Free Trade Area was achieved in August 2008, maximum tariff liberalisation was only attained by January 2012, when the tariff phase down process for sensitive products was completed. The proposed transition from the Sadc Free Trade Area to a Sadc Customs Union faces a number of challenges, the key one being the complication arising from the need to converge the different individual tariff policies into a single and uniform tariff regime.

The summit also explored and approved the revised RISDP, a blueprint that will guide the implementation of the Sadc programmes between 2015 and 2020, prioritising industrial development and market integration, infrastructure development, peace and security co-operation.

So key is the industrialisation theme that it will be front-loaded within the revised and reviewed RISDP ahead of the integration programme. The gathering directed that the industrialisation strategy be given top priority in the implementation of the Revised RISDP. The idea is to ensure that countries within the bloc achieve some levels of parity in terms of industrialisation as well as to ensure that the region transition to own beneficiation and processing, and then extract full benefits from exporting processed and manufactured goods. The industrialisation strategy is a long term plan covering the period between 2015 and 2063 and is aligned to the Continental Agenda 2063, a continental strategy whose aim is to optimise the use of Africa's resources for the benefit of all Africans.

As indicated in this column last week, Africa is rich with natural resources but lags behind in infrastructure and industrial development to fully benefit from these abundant natural resources. Africa has 60% of the world's arable land. Thirty percent of the world's oil and gas discoveries over the past five years were in sub-Saharan Africa. South Africa and Zimbabwe hold together the world's largest

platinum reserves. Infrastructure development in Africa is the key that will unlock economic and industrial development. The need for infrastructure development creates huge investment opportunities for both the private and public sector — opportunities for public-private partnerships (PPPs), infrastructure funds and fund managers (such as pension funds) looking for long term assets to match their long term liabilities. ((BD 03-05-2015)

ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT WANTS LARGE PUBLIC CONSUMERS TO BUY GOODS “MADE IN ANGOLA”

The government of Angola wants large public consumers to acquire the goods and services they need for their businesses in the local market, an advisor to the Economy Minister said Friday in Luanda. Licinio de Freitas Vaz Contreiras, who was speaking during a meeting with heads of public institutions to address questions about the duty of ministries to buy national products and obtain services in the country, pointed out that there were already 64 domestic producers that could supply goods to public services .

Vaz Contreiras also said that large commercial consumers, especially the Ministries of Defence, Health, Education, Social Welfare and Prison Services, would share a database with the Economy Ministry listing domestic suppliers in order to guide them in the procurement process and facilitate the purchase of products.

Cited by Angolan news agency Angop, the advisor to the Economy Ministry said there was a list of around 500 products made in Angola with enough quality to be consumed by the country's public services.

Vaz Contreiras said the meeting with representatives of ministries, local governments and other public entities followed a similar meeting with suppliers, in which complaints were submitted about the regularity of supply, as well as the quality and quantity of products.

The advisor said the main aim of the meeting was to make large public consumers give priority to domestic products, thus supporting producers in the sale of domestic production and avoiding the outflow of currency in order to import similar products to those already available in Angola . (07-05-2015)

ANGOLA TO JOIN SADC FREE TRADE ZONE IN 2017

The Trade Minister, Rosa Pacavira, said on Tuesday in Harare (Zimbabwe) that Angola is preparing all conditions to join in 2017, the Free Trade Zone of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC)

The minister was speaking to Angolan journalists during the Extraordinary Summit of SADC, which is taking place on Wednesday under the motto "Working on a regional industrialisation strategy and roadmap".

Rosa Pacavira explained that Angola is still in the stage of roadmap to join this zone for several factors related to the tariff quotas and some appropriate adjustments to the success of this action.

The first phase of the Free Trade Zone is not yet completed, which envisaged agreements in terms of goods and merchandise, but some countries are relatively late in this stage, which implies its completion in the first instance.

According to her, the Council of Ministers held on Monday decided that in the first instance, it must be completed the first phase with the signing of free movement of goods and services agreements, while the second stage will include those countries that are already comfortable to be able to pursue with it such as South Africa and Botswana,

These last two countries have already created their area of ??free movement of goods and services that is very advanced, intellectual property policy and consumer protection in cross-border trade.

Angola is still working on the first phase of the tripartite trade agreement, as well as issues related to the certificate of origin and the tariff offers. (BD 29-04-2015)

CABO VERDE PM MAKES OFFICIAL VISIT TO GUINEA-BISSAU IN JUNE

The Prime Minister of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) announced in Praia that he will pay an official visit to Guinea-Bissau on 2 June, when the air link between the two countries is due to be resumed following a suspension since the 2012 state coup in Guinea-Bissau.

José Maria Neves was speaking alongside his Guinean counterpart, Domingos Simões Pereira, after a meeting in Praia, where Guinea-Bissau's Prime Minister participated Saturday in the II Strategic Dialogue Forum, organised by the Pedro Pires Institute for Leadership.

On his official visit to Bissau – the last on was in November 2011 – José Maria Neves will lead a government and business delegation to implement cooperation outlined during a visit by Simões Pereira to Praia in January this year, according to Portuguese news agency Lusa.

The projects presented at the time were later the focus of an economic mission and Cape Verdean businesspeople to Bissau, led by Leonesa Fortes, Minister for Tourism, Investment and Business Development, who is also responsible for Trade Commerce, Industry and Energy, and the visit by Joseph Maria Neves seeks to put them into action.

Prime Minister Domingos Simões Pereira said, in turn, he had given Neves a copy of the Strategic Plan presented by Guinea-Bissau to donors at the Brussels meeting in March, when Bissau received pledges of financial support totalling 1 billion euros. (11-05-2015)

NEW OIL AND GAS PORT TO OPEN UP GHANA TO REGIONAL OFFSHORE MARKET

A 600 million-dollar oil and gas free port enclave to be built in Ghana will open up the country's oil and gas industry to the African regional offshore market.

Frank Hagan-Brown, Commercial Executive of Atuabo Free Port, told Xinhua in an interview that this would cut down the cost of operations and servicing for the companies operating in Ghana's oil and gas fields.

Construction work at the harbor to be located on a 2,000-acre land at Atuabo, 326 km west of the capital, will start by the third quarter of 2015 and be completed in 25 months.

Construction is to be carried out by the China Harbors Engineering Company (CHEC) which won the rigorous competitive bid out of 19 companies that submitted their tenders in a three-year process.

Hagan-Brown said the Free Port would create space for services that were critical to offshore and deep water exploration, development and production.

He was speaking to Xinhua at the company's exhibition stand during the just ended Sixth Ghana Oil, Gas and Power Summit and Exhibitions organized by CWC Group, an international oil, gas, energy and infrastructure company, in conjunction with KROS Ghana, a local oil and gas management group.

Currently, the closest place vessel and rig repairs can take place for International Oil Companies (IOCs) operating offshore Ghana are located either in Cape Town, South Africa, or Las Palmas in the Canary Islands, at a cost of 500,000 U.S. dollars per day.

"Atuabo Free Port will attract companies that carry out rig and vessel repairs and this will save the OICs the cost of 10 million dollars per towage because it takes 20 days for a vessel to reach South Africa or Las Palmas from the Ghanaian waters," the Commercial Executive said.

He explained that the ability to attract investors into the enclave was high because their imports would have a 70 percent duty free and tax free access.

"With these services being offered here, the jobs are retained, the revenue is retained, and knowledge and technology transfer is assured for local employees of the service companies," he stated.

According to him, the establishment of the port would also be a very critical breakthrough for Ghana because there were more job opportunities in the associated service sector of the upstream oil industry.

"This is so because the upstream oil industry offers jobs that require a lot of expertise but in the related services sector, there are more opportunities for technicians and other related artisans and service providers," Hagan-Brown indicated.

He urged local businesses to acquire lands for onward leasing for fabricating yards because, apart from the provision of the port and the handling of cargo as well as security by the Atuabo Free Port, the rest of the activities would be done on open market basis. "This will create a greater ability for best practice and the efficiency of scale, transfer of knowledge and technology and the opportunity to develop a local economy based on the support services such as catering and hospitality services, filling stations, business centers, malls, vehicle hiring services and schools, among a large pool of businesses," he added.

The official disclosed that a local human resource development company, Sominu, had been working with Atuabo Free Port to develop the business capacities of the locals. (Daily Times 08-05-2015)

THREE EUROPEAN COUNTRIES SUSPEND AID FOR BURUNDI'S ELECTION

Belgium, the Netherlands and Switzerland have decided to temporarily suspend their support to the electoral process in Burundi, diplomatic sources in Bujumbura told APA on Monday.

Belgium has also suspended its support to the national police, on the grounds that Burundian police shot killed 11 protesters without provocation from the demonstrations.

The protesters were among those who, for two weeks, have been peacefully calling for President Pierre Nkurunziza to renounce his third term bid to run for president in this year's elections.

Belgium has already released \$2 million towards funding the election and has \$2 million more to deposit.

The Netherlands and Switzerland announced their decision during a meeting held Monday between European Union, US and Switzerland ambassadors with the Government of Burundi. The diplomats have asked for an electoral calendar shift.

According to the Independent National Electoral Commission, the cost of the election is estimated at \$60 million.

The international community has pledged \$39 million with condition that elections must be inclusive, transparent, free and comply with national and international standards, in a stable and secure environment. (APA 11-05-2015)

GUINEA-BISSAU 'SHOWS IT IS ELIGIBLE' FOR IMF LOAN

Guinea-Bissau has made enough progress on economic reforms since the election of its new president last year to be eligible for a \$23.9m loan, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said on Tuesday.

"Political unity, a more favourable external environment and initial measures taken by the new government have helped restore macroeconomic stability," the fund's Guinea-Bissau mission chief Felix Fischer said in a statement.

The Washington-based lender said it could provide 17.04-million "special drawing rights" — an amount of IMF reserve assets that corresponds to \$23.9m — in support over a three-year period, with a final decision due to be made on the financial support in July.

The potential for the IMF support comes after the European Union (EU) pledged €160m (\$175m) in aid for the west African nation in March to bolster democracy and accelerate economic recovery.

The former Portuguese colony of 1.6-million people, one of the world's poorest countries that has seen a succession of coups since it gained independence in 1974, elected Jose Mario Vaz a year ago in elections that were judged by the EU as "free and credible".

"After two difficult years, Guinea-Bissau's economy has grown by an estimated 2.5% in 2014," Mr Fischer said in his statement, noting higher prices for the country's key export of cashews, as well as more reliable energy provision and increasing construction and telecommunications.

"The outlook for 2015 also appears encouraging," he added, projecting economic growth of 4.7% for the year. (AFP 06-05-2015)

BOTSWANA ANNOUNCES PLANS TO PUT ALL SEX WORKERS ON ARVS

The government of Zambia has announced an aggressive strategy to contain HIV/AIDS by putting all sex workers under HIV treatment irrespective of their viral load, the Monitor newspaper reports here on Monday.

According to the public relations officer of the implementing partner, the Botswana Family Welfare Association (BOFWA), Keitumetse Mariri, the association has already piloted the programme in the capital Gaborone and the city of Francistown in northern Botswana, and that they are not satisfied with the number of workers who come forward to get their services.

The paper also quoted the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health, Shenaz El-Halabi as saying that we are working hand in hand with BOFWA to pilot an initiative where every HIV positive female sex worker would be given the treatment in spite of their CD4 count; this is a way to help curb the spread of HIV/AIDS. She said sex workers like any other person had to have access to treatment.

Botswana wants to launch programmes that are packaged and could easily be accessed by sex workers.(APA 11-05-2015)

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