

MEMORANDUM

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12 YEARS OF PUBLICATION

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PRESIDENT JACOB ZUMA REFUSES TO STEP DOWN

President Jacob Zuma has refused to resign voluntarily during a meeting with the ANC's top leadership. Party officials were mandated by the ANC national working committee (NWC) last week to meet Zuma and ask him to step down, after a national executive committee (NEC) meeting earlier agreed that the officials should manage his exit.

The officials met Zuma at the Presidential Guesthouse on Sunday night.

Business Day understands that he told the officials he would not resign after he was told that he had a choice, either resign or face a recall from office by the party.

A special sitting of the NWC has been convened on Monday to take a decision on the way forward. This special meeting would include provincial leaders.

The NWC would have to make a recommendation for the recall of the president and call a special NEC. The NWC alone cannot take a decision to recall or remove the president.

The structure does not take decisions. A final decision will have to emerge from the NEC.

Zuma is expected to deliver what is likely to be his final state of the nation address on Thursday. (BD 05-02-2018)

ETHIOPIA REPORTS INTERCEPTING ARMAMENTS BEING SMUGGLED

The government of Ethiopia has announced the interception over the last two months of a huge number of armaments that were to be smuggled into Addis Ababa.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, the head of the National Security Council, Siraj Fegiessa, said the intercepted armaments include about 270 Kalashnikov rifles, 200 pistols, and 66,000 rounds of bullets.

The weapons were intercepted at the checking points of Assosa, Metema and Togowuchalie in Ethiopia, said Siraj who is also the country's Minister of Defence.

Ethiopia imposed state of emergency in October 2016, following anti-government protests mainly in Oromia and Amhara regional states where protesters demanded that the government to step down.

The minister claimed an increase in smuggled weapons after the state of emergency was lifted last in April.

The minister did not say whether the smugglers were arrested, but said the weapons were to aggravate the prevailing situation by inciting unrest and armed conflict.

However, there are still demonstrations by individuals in some areas of Ethiopia, who hold the flag of some groups that were designated as terrorist organizations by the House of People's Representatives (HPR), he added.

The east African nation has been facing unrest, including in higher learning institutions where, according to the Defence minister, the problems have been alleviated and the learning-teaching process has now returned to normalcy. "Those responsible for the problem are under prosecution", he said.

As regards ethnic clashes between Oromo and Ethiopian Somali nationals in the eastern part of the country, Siraj noted that national defense forces were deployed and they managed to control the situation along the border of ethnic Oromos and Ethiopian Somalis. (APA 11-01-2018)

CHINA 'HAD NO NEED TO SPY' ON AU HEADQUARTERS

Chinese ambassador defends Beijing's relationship with African leaders after reports of bugging at the AU's headquarters in Addis Ababa

The Chinese government had no need to spy on African leaders and if it wished to find out anything about Africa, it would simply ask. After all, the Chinese enjoy "sincere relations" with the leaders of the continent, ambassador to SA Lin Songtian has said.

Lin seethed at a specially convened media conference on Sunday, denying reports that the Chinese government bugged the headquarters of the AU in Addis Ababa — which China built — to keep tabs on the continent's leaders. He called the reports, which emerged in French publication *Le Monde* last week, malicious lies peddled by "the West" to undermine Chinese-African relations.

Former AU Commission chairman Erastus Mwencha also denied the claim and said the timing of the reports just after the conclusion of an AU summit was suspicious.

In 2012, China built the Addis Ababa headquarters as a gift to the AU. On Sunday, Lin described it as "the most modernised building in our continent to this point".

China, the largest developing economy, has also invested aggressively in infrastructure on the continent. Lin said he was not surprised by the reports from "western media" but was disappointed that African media repeated the claims "without question". (BD 05-02-2018)

ARMY 'THREATENED MUGABE WITH BLOODBATH' IN HIS LAST DAYS IN POWER

Zimbabwe's military leaders warned former president Robert Mugabe that there would be bloodshed if he resisted a military takeover that ultimately resulted in his removal from office.

This was revealed in documents sent by a new political party — the New Patriotic Front (NPF) — to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and African Union on February 2. The documents show that the Zimbabwean National Army warned Mugabe against using the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) to counter them while he was on lock-down during his last days in office.

According to a petition sent to SADC and the AU by the NPF, such a last-ditch effort to save Mugabe's presidency would have culminated in a bloodbath on November 15.

Among the information submitted through the party's lawyer, Johannesburg-based Marius van Niekerk, was a 79-page document containing minutes of all meetings between Mugabe's negotiation team and army commanders — documents that reveal tensions between the army and the other two security bodies.

The message was that retired air marshal Parrence Shiri had to fly back home from Dubai to join efforts for a counteroperation led by the police force.

"The president was informed that the 'Command Element' had made it clear that a counterforce against their operation would constitute an escalation which was bound to lead to a bloody outcome," read the minutes.

The NPF alleges that tensions between the police and army reached fever pitch when a message attributed to former intelligence boss Happyton Bonyongwe — who had just assumed the duties of minister of legal affairs in Mugabe's last cabinet reshuffle — to now retired air marshal Parrence Shiri was intercepted.

The message was that Shiri had to fly back home from Dubai to join efforts for a counteroperation led by the police force. This led to the withdrawal of the police from duties countrywide and as negotiations went on police commissioners were excluded from meetings.

Shiri is the new minister of land under Zimbabwe's new, unelected president, Emmerson Mnangagwa. A fortnight ago, senior police officers were retired along with senior CIO operatives accused of not supporting the new dispensation.

Speaking at his inaugural appearance at the AU, Mnangagwa assured delegates that the former leader was resting peacefully at home. But this was refuted by self-exiled former government minister Prof Jonathan Moyo, who, in an interview with the SABC, claimed that Mugabe's family was being harassed. This week Mugabe was said to be in contact with some opposition politicians, such as Joice Mujuru, raising fears that he would endorse a unified opposition against the Mnangagwa presidency during the coming elections. (BD 04-02-2018)

SITUATION IN DRC HIGHLY PRECARIOUS, UN WARNS

The political situation in DR Congo is “exceptionally fragile,” the UN Secretary-General has warned.

Antonio Guterres warned of a precarious climate through a quarterly report on the situation in the country presented to the Security Council, a statement to APA said.

One year after the December 31, 2017 political agreement, “it is clear that the implementation of this agreement remains partial despite the significant advances noted recently in the electoral preparations,” the report which was presented on Tuesday says.

Guterres is worried that “no real progress has been made in easing the political stalemate under the agreement.

In the report, Guterres notes that “107 political prisoners are still in detention and political actors and civil society activists continue to be harassed.”

He emphasizes that in this regard “no credible electoral process can take place in a climate of harassment and repression.”

Mr. Guterres adds: “In the current climate of polarization of political life, the risk is that the holding of the long-awaited elections is once again compromised.”

This risk will increase daily, if all stakeholders do not commit themselves to working for the organization of free, fair and credible elections, he wrote in his report before urging all the actors to collaborate in the implementation of the agreement, “which remains the only viable way out of the current political impasse.”

He also condemns the violent repression by the security forces of demonstrations organized by Catholic worshipers on 31 December 2017.

In this regard, the UN stresses that it is essential that the competent national authorities investigate such crackdowns and bring to justice the alleged perpetrators of human rights violations.

For the UN, “dialogue remains the only way to addressing the political challenges facing the DR Congo.”
(APA 10-01-2018)

EU SUPPORTS DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN TUNISIA



The first meeting of the International Assistance Working group was held in Tunis on 17-18 January, under the auspices of the EU Delegation to Tunisia. The creation of this working group was proposed by the implementing consortium of the EU-funded IPCAM2 project (Increasing Preparedness Capacities Across Mediterranean 2).

The Working group’s coordination is assigned to the Tunisian National Office of Civil Protection who is at the same time the partner and the beneficiary of IPCAM2. It is expected to develop and propose national

operational procedures to formulate an international assistance request in the framework of the European Mechanism of Civil Protection, the reception of international teams, their deployment and the follow-up of operations (Support of host country). To support the working group, the Department of the Italian Civil Protection, leader of the consortium, has sent two experts in the field of the European Mechanism and the Support of the host country.

The first day was devoted to the creation of the Group, the presentation of the initiatives that were already undertaken in this field, the lessons learned from the forest fire emergencies last summer 2017 and the identification of the aspects and the national procedures to develop in the framework of an international assistance request in case of forest fire.

In the second day, the technicians set the priorities to face and the detailed working programme in order to elaborate operational procedures for each involved institution and at the interinstitutional level.

One of the objectives of IPCAM2 is to support the development of measures to prepare to disaster management by the Tunisian Civil Protection through a stronger international cooperation. 75% of its total budget of 600,000 euros is provided by the European Union. It started in January 2017 and will last 24 months. The project is implemented by a consortium led by the Italian Civil Protection Department (DPC) and which includes the Tunisian Civil Protection National Office (ONPC), the German Agency for Technical Rescue (THW) and the German Federal Bureau for Civil Protection and Assistance in case of Disaster (BBK). (EEAS 22-01-2018)

EBRD DELIVERS STRONG SUPPORT FOR SOUTHERN AND EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN ECONOMIES IN 2017



The EBRD continued to deliver strong support for economies in [the southern and eastern Mediterranean \(SEMED\)](#) region in 2017, with investments in 60 projects worth more than €2.1 billion. Investments were made in the energy and renewable energy sectors, as well as in infrastructure, agribusiness and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Total EBRD investment made in the four SEMED countries of [Egypt](#), [Jordan](#), [Morocco](#) and [Tunisia](#) since 2012, when the Bank started operations in the region, has now reached over €6.5 billion in 169 projects. Seventy-two per cent of this financing has been in the private sector.

2017 was a record year for Tunisia, and for Egypt, which is now the second-largest EBRD country of operations by investment volume, with total projects to date worth over €3.4 billion.

The region also benefits from strong donor support, including from the [European Union](#), the [EBRD SEMED Multi Donor Account](#), the [Green Climate Fund](#), [Global Concessional Financing Facility](#), the [MENA Transition Fund](#) and other bilateral and multilateral donors.

Janet Heckman, EBRD Managing Director for the SEMED region, said: *"In line with the Bank's [Green Economy Transition](#) approach, 2017 was marked by our significant role in developing the renewable energy programme in Egypt and our projects under the refugee crisis response in Jordan. Targeting key sectors of the economy, the Bank's investments were accompanied by technical assistance and support for policy reform to improve the business environment and attract more private sector investors to the region."*(EBRD 23-01-2018)

[European Bank for Reconstruction and Development \(EBRD\)](#)

ZIMBABWE GETS TOUGH AT BORDERS TO TRY TO CONTAIN CHOLERA OUTBREAK

Zimbabwe has put screening mechanisms in place at the country's borders with Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and SA in an attempt to contain a cholera outbreak.

Health and child care minister Dr David Parirenyatwa said a national response team had put temporary holding camps in strategic areas, particularly on Zimbabwe's borders with Zambia, where 3,000 cases and more than 70 deaths had been reported. More than 155 cases had been reported in Mozambique.

"Multisectoral teams have been activated at border posts and they work round the clock," he said.

A record 8,500 cholera cases were recorded within a week in 2008 as Zimbabwe declared the country's worst outbreak in history a national disaster.

The outbreak spread to Mpumalanga and Limpopo, prompting SA's government to provide assistance on the Zimbabwean side of the border. Ten years later Zimbabwe is still vulnerable.

Pockets of typhoid and cholera-related infections were detected in Harare, where the government has recorded at least 2,000 cases and four deaths, as of January 30.

Outside the metropolitan capital, an intriguing case is one of Laita Mungulisia, whose death in Chegutu triggered more deaths in the area. Had it not been for alert health workers, some villagers may have attributed the deaths to witchcraft.

Three of Mungulisia's close relatives, who bathed her corpse, began vomiting and displaying diarrhoea symptoms soon after the burial. Two of them did not live to see the next day. At their funerals, the cycle of infections and deaths continued until the ministry of health intervened.

Afterwards, Chegutu general hospital admitted 18 people — seven women and 11 men — but health officials warned that there could be more people in need of cholera treatment.

"The infections could have spread far and wide so the nation should be alert," said Dr Portia Manangazira, the health ministry's epidemiology and disease control director.

As part of the containment measures, the ministry of health and child welfare is monitoring people's conduct during funeral wakes. Shaking hands, hugging or any close contact at public events is now strongly discouraged.

"People must avoid shaking hands at funerals. If you have to do it, please use a fist or elbow," said Parirenyatwa.

The World Health Organisation has chipped in with assistance. However, the organisation noted that Angola, Kenya, Malawi and Somalia had a similar crisis, largely attributed to government neglect and poor public sanitation, personal hygiene and waste management.(BD 02-02-2018)

SANAD AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT BANK PARTNER TO SUPPORT SMES IN EGYPT

The SANAD Fund for MSME has provided a senior loan of USD 10 million to the Export Development Bank of Egypt (EBE) to advance the bank's efforts in expanding its lending operations to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

One of the first banks in Egypt to target SME lending, the EBE today plays a vital role in serving Egyptian exporters, many of whom are SMEs. It is currently seeking to grow its SME portfolio. To this end, the SANAD investment will not only boost the bank's institutional capacity and lending infrastructure, the fund also aims to promote SME development in the region by offering technical assistance to the bank's small-sized customers.

SANAD Board Chairperson Dr. Daniela Beckmann said, *"With its focus on the export segment, the EBE's endeavours to expand its SME financing put it in a unique position to help the SANAD Fund reach our target groups in Egypt. We are glad to welcome the Export Development Bank of Egypt into our family of partner institutions, working together to promote economic development in the region."*

About SANAD

Established in 2011, the SANAD Fund for MSME finances micro, small and medium enterprises and low-income households in the Middle East and North Africa via qualified local lenders. SANAD thereby fosters economic development and job creation – including youth employment – agriculture, affordable housing, and innovations in finance and financial technologies. SANAD strives to meet these goals by providing debt and equity financing to its local partners. The SANAD Technical Assistance Facility multiplies the fund's development impact and outreach through capacity-building with partner institutions, developing financial infrastructures according to the principles of responsible finance and conducting much required R&D. SANAD's investors include the KfW Development Bank, which initiated the fund; the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ); the European Union; Switzerland's State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO); OeEB, the Development Bank of Austria; Germany's GLS Bank and GLS Treuhand; and the Dutch development bank FMO. A public-private partnership, the fund is advised by Finance in Motion GmbH, Frankfurt am Main, Germany. (SANAD 24-01-2018)

[SANAD Fund for MSME](#)

TUNISIA SIGN LANDMARK AGREEMENT TO STRENGTHEN TAX TREATIES

Ministers and high-level officials from Barbados, Côte d'Ivoire, Jamaica, Malaysia, Panama and Tunisia have signed yesterday the BEPS Multilateral Convention bringing the total number of signatories to 78. This Convention updates the existing network of bilateral tax treaties and reduces opportunities for tax avoidance by multinational enterprises.

In addition to those signed yesterday, Algeria, Kazakhstan, Oman and Swaziland have expressed their intent to sign the Convention, and a number of other jurisdictions are actively working towards signature by June 2018. So far, four jurisdictions – Austria, the Isle of Man, Jersey and Poland – have ratified the Convention, which will enter into force three months after a fifth jurisdiction deposits its instrument of ratification.

The Convention is the first multilateral treaty of its kind, allowing jurisdictions to integrate results from the [OECD/G20 BEPS Project](#) into their existing networks of bilateral tax treaties.

"Today's signing of the multilateral convention is another major step towards updating the international tax rules through the swift implementation of the BEPS package," said OECD Secretary-General Angel Gurría. *"Beyond saving signatories from the burden of re-negotiating thousands of tax treaties bilaterally, the convention results in more certainty and predictability for businesses, and a better functioning international tax system for the benefit of our citizens."* he added.

The OECD/G20 BEPS Project delivers solutions for governments to close the gaps in existing international rules that allow corporate profits to « disappear » or be artificially shifted to low or no tax environments, where companies have little or no economic activity. Revenue losses from BEPS are conservatively estimated at up to USD 240 billion annually, or the equivalent of up to 10% of global corporate income tax revenues. Almost 100 countries and jurisdictions are currently working in the

[Inclusive Framework on BEPS](#) to implement BEPS measures in their domestic legislation and bilateral tax treaties. The sheer number of bilateral treaties makes updates to the treaty network on a bilateral basis burdensome and time-consuming. (OECD 25-01-2018)

[The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development \(OECD\)](#)

US BANS EXPORT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES TO SOUTH SUDAN

The United States on Friday banned the export of weapons and defense services to South Sudan, stepping up pressure against President Salva Kiir to end the country's four-year civil war.

"The Department of State today announces that it is implementing restrictions on the export of defense articles and defense services into South Sudan," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement.

While the United States does not conduct arms sales with South Sudan, the move prevents any US company or citizen from providing military equipment or defense services to the country's warring factions.

The unilateral arms embargo is another signal by Washington that it is losing patience with South Sudan's leaders after ceasefires have been repeatedly violated.

In South Sudan's capital Juba, Kiir's spokesperson Ateny Wek Ateny declined to comment.

The Trump administration urged neighbouring countries and African groups, such as the eight-member Intergovernmental Authority on Development, to sanction South Sudanese officials who are aiding the conflict.

"We encourage IGAD and the African Union to consider sanctions measures against those who undermine the peace process," Nauert said in the statement.

Some top officials close to Kiir have already been sanctioned by the United States, including the once-powerful army chief Paul Malong, who was later fired and forced into exile when he quarreled with the president.

The African Union on Monday said it was open to imposing sanctions on leaders violating ceasefires in South Sudan, joining a chorus of officials who say those prolonging the conflict must be punished.

"We need to act against those who, with impunity, are continuing to massacre their peaceful populations," the head of the African Union commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, told reporters at the AU Summit held in the Ethiopian capital, Addis Ababa.

US ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley told the UN Security Council last week it was time to impose a UN

arms embargo on South Sudan. Haley visited South Sudan in late October and met with Kiir.

The Obama administration attempted in December 2016 to convince the United Nations to back an arms embargo against South Sudan.

Any US push for the U.N. Security Council to take further action against South Sudan is likely to be resisted by veto power Russia. The council sanctioned several senior South Sudanese officials on both sides of the conflict in 2015.

"The time has come to acknowledge the hard reality that the leaders of South Sudan are not just failing their people, they are betraying them. And so this Council is at a crossroads," Haley told the council last Wednesday. "We cannot stand by idly as innocent civilians are murdered and raped." WAR Oil-rich South Sudan has been wrecked by civil war since 2013, when troops loyal to Kiir clashed with troops loyal to then-Vice President Riek Machar.

The conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives since then, slashed oil production and driven about a third of the population of 12 million from their homes.

The European Union imposed an arms embargo on Sudan in 1994, which was amended to also apply to South Sudan when the country gained independence from Sudan in 2011.

Independent UN experts have reported to the UN Security Council that South Sudan's government has spent millions of dollars on weapons as the country slid into famine and an economic crisis.

In January 2016, UN experts reported that sources had told them: “Uganda either supplies South Sudan with its own stock or acquires the weapons and then transfers them to South Sudan, without necessarily involving or obtaining the consent of the primary seller.”

Last year, the UN experts said: “Weapons continue to flow into South Sudan from diverse sources, often with the coordination of neighboring countries.” (Reuters 02-02-2018)

MOROCCO-EU TWINNING PROJECT LAUNCHED IN THE JUDICIAL FIELD



The Moroccan Higher Judiciary Institute hosted yesterday the launching ceremony of the twinning project “Support to the institutional reform and capacity building of the Higher Judiciary Institute”.

This institutional twinning will last 24 months (November 2017-November 2019) with €1.2 million in funding provided by the European Union and managed by the Moroccan ministry of Economy and Finances.

The present twinning is the result of the cooperation between the Moroccan Higher Judiciary Institute and a consortium France-Belgium-Spain. It will allow to mobilize fifty experts from three countries and to benefit from the experience of their respective training institutes to build the Higher Judiciary Institute of the future, in accordance with the recommendations of the reform Charter of the Moroccan judiciary system, as well as with the European standards in terms of justice professionals training.

70 missions and 5 study trips are planned to help the Higher Judiciary Institute acquire the European and international best practices in terms of governance, training and communication.

This cooperation will lead to the development of technical fiches, practical guides, models and several other tools, created during the appraisals and translated in Arabic. (EEAS 01-02-2018)

EBRD SUPPORTS THE EXPANSION OF LEADING AEROSPACE SUPPLIER FIGEAC AÉRO IN TUNISIA AND MOROCCO

In addition to industrial sites in France, Mexico and the United States of America, the company also produces in Morocco and Tunisia, two countries of the EBRD’s southern and eastern Mediterranean (SEMED) region that have strong aerospace clusters and are looking to strengthen their integration into global industrial value chains.

By financing Figeac Aéro’s expansion the EBRD loan will support the transfer of skills and advanced technology and an improvement in local quality standards towards international levels. The creation of new jobs in countries with high levels of unemployment will also make a positive contribution to the

economies of Morocco and Tunisia. The investment will specifically address the issue of youth unemployment by offering young technicians and engineering students the opportunity to acquire skills and experience at the production sites in both countries.



Janet Heckman, EBRD Managing Director for the SEMED region, said: “We are extremely pleased to support the expansion in Morocco and Tunisia of Figeac Aéro, a group that under the leadership of its founder has shown a strong focus on growth and industrial excellence. We are convinced that these substantial industrial investments will have a positive impact on the local economies, and create opportunities for local small and medium-sized enterprises. These industrial clusters often form advanced and dynamic sites where new skills are put into practice that are crucial for competitiveness, integration and job creation.” (EBRD 19-01-2018)

[European Bank for Reconstruction and Development](#)

MOZAMBIQUE JOINS THE ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE EU AND SOUTHERN AFRICAN STATES

The Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) between the European Union and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) became the first regional EPA in Africa to be fully operational after its implementation by Mozambique. Mozambique was the last piece of the SADC-EPA jigsaw to fall into place. The other five countries – Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South-Africa, and Swaziland – have been implementing the agreement since October 2016. Implementing the EPA means that Mozambique will not have to pay customs duties on its exports to the EU. The EU is the largest export market for Africa. Exports to the EU represent 22% of SADC EPA countries' exports. The EU-SADC EPA provides opportunities for SADC countries to create jobs, attract more investment, industrialise, integrate into global value chains. On the EU side, European businesses are increasingly investing in the region. For its part, Mozambique will progressively, over the course of several years, reduce or eliminate customs duties for many of EU exports. Trade between the EU and Mozambique is currently about €2 billion annually. Mozambican exports to the EU include aluminium and raw cane sugar. (EC 29-01-2018)

TRANSPORT AERIEN : C'EST (ENFIN) PARTI POUR LE MARCHÉ UNIQUE

L'Open sky africain - ou du moins dans 23 dans 54 États du continent - a été lancé ce dimanche à Addis Abeba, en marge du 30e sommet de l'Union africaine. Il s'agit du tout premier des douze projets-phare de l'Agenda 2063 qui voit le jour.



Aéroport de Pointe Noire, en République du Congo

Les chefs d'État africains réunis à Addis Abeba dans le cadre du [sommet de l'Union africaine](#) ont procédé au lancement du marché unique du transport aérien sur le continent, ce dimanche. Une question discutée depuis la décision de Yamoussoukro, en 1999, et réaffirmée en 2013 dans le cadre de l'Agenda 2063, qui s'est concrétisée en 2015 par l'engagement solennel de onze pays (le Bénin, le Cap Vert, la République du Congo, la Côte d'Ivoire, l'Égypte, l'Éthiopie, le Kenya, le Nigeria, le Rwanda, l'Afrique du Sud et le Zimbabwe) à mettre en œuvre ce marché unique.

Depuis, les onze ont été rejoints par le Burkina Faso, le Botswana, le Gabon, le Ghana, la Guinée, le Liberia, le Mali, le Mozambique, le Niger, la Sierra Leone, le Swaziland et le Togo, ce qui porte le nombre total des États adhérant au marché unique à 23.

Des retombées pour l'emploi et le PIB

Ces 23 pays ont une population combinée d'environ 670 millions d'habitants, soit plus de la moitié de la population du continent, et ont également capté plus de la moitié des visiteurs internationaux sur le continent et près de 80 % du trafic intra-africain, selon l'Union africaine.

Initialement prévu en 2017, ce lancement a finalement eu lieu le 28 janvier dans la capitale éthiopienne. Il s'agit du premier des douze projets-phares de l'agenda 2063 à voir le jour. Parmi les autres points, figuraient notamment le [projet de barrage du Grand Inga](#), la fin des conflits armés d'ici 2020, le passeport africain ou encore le réseau intégré de trains à grande vitesse.

« Une étude réalisée par InterVistas en 2014 sur l'impact de la libéralisation dans douze pays a révélé qu'environ 155 100 emplois seraient créés dans les secteurs de l'aviation, du tourisme et de l'économie en général et qu'ils contribueraient à hauteur de 1,3 milliard de dollars au PIB annuel, ce qui représente environ 0,07 % du PIB annuel des douze pays », indique le document de travail de l'Union africaine, qui mentionne en outre « une augmentation de 75 % des correspondances directes » et « des économies tarifaires de 25 à 35 % » pour les usagers ». (JA 29-01-2018)

CAPE VERDEAN GOVERNMENT WANTS TO FORCE COMPANIES TO PUBLISH ACCOUNTS

The Cape Verdean government will introduce new rules into existing legislation to strengthen the requirement for companies, especially public companies, to publish their accounts, said Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva in Praia on Friday.

The prime minister, who was speaking at the opening of the 2nd Congress of the Professional Order of Auditors and Accountants, said the measure was part of a "very strong agenda" that the government has to promote transparent governance which, he stressed, began with the approval of the new law of the Court of Auditors.

"There is no culture of publication of accounts, although the law requires it. Even in public companies, few publish reports and accounts. I do not know if it is to save money on publication in the newspapers, but we must make that obligatory," he said, quoted by the Inforpress news agency.

Correia e Silva stressed the need to present this snapshot of the economic performance of companies, particularly those that have a strong implication in certain vital sectors, “so we will move forward with legal changes to reinforce this obligation.”

A system is also being prepared for the regular publication, on the Internet, of all public requisitions of goods and services, including public works and a specific site to publish all information on the restructuring and privatisation of companies underway, as well as the governance statistics manual.

Providing financial and budget information on the public expenditure, revenue, and public debt to enable citizens to keep up to date with the execution of the State Budget was another measure mentioned by Correia e Silva. (05-02-2018)

COTE D'IVOIRE : LE MARCHÉ DES VÉHICULES NEUFS DYNAMIQUE, EN PROGRESSION DE 9 %



Vue d'Abidjan en 2016.

Si l'année 2017 a été marquée par le rebond des ventes de véhicules neufs, le secteur reste toutefois dominé par les importations de voitures d'occasion.

Selon les statistiques du Groupement interprofessionnel automobile, matériels et équipementiers (Gipame), environ 9 800 véhicules neufs ont été vendus en 2017, contre 8 660 en 2016, soit une progression de 9 %. Cette dynamique résulte de l'embellie dans le secteur du BTP et de la hausse de la production de cacao, [Abidjan gardant une place importante dans la vente de véhicules neufs dans la sous-région, hors Nigéria](#).

Les marques japonaises restent leaders en représentant 50 % des ventes, tandis que les constructeurs chinois et sud-coréens ont connu un net recul, pour des questions de service après-vente. Plus de 1 800 berlines ont été écoulées, ainsi que 3 700 4x4 et 2 630 pick-up.

CFAO en tête

Comme l'année précédente, le trio de tête reste inchangé. [Le distributeur panafricain CFAO](#) a consolidé sa place de leader en s'arrogeant 40 % de part de marché, pour environ 3 800 unités écoulées, contre 3 444 en 2016, soit 2 % de progression annuelle.

La seconde place est occupée par Tractafric Motors, filiale du holding royal marocain SNI, qui est notamment le concessionnaire des marques Hyundai, Mazda et BMW. Ce concessionnaire a vendu plus de 1 900 véhicules, pour une part de marché de 19 %. Enfin, en troisième position, la Société ivoirienne de distribution d'automobile (Socida), filiale du groupe antillais Bernard Hayot (GBH), avec 17 % pour 1 610 unités cédées.

L'achat d'un véhicule âgé de plus de 10 ans bientôt interdit

Cette bonne performance des ventes de véhicules neufs en 2017 cache néanmoins une progression des ventes de véhicules d'occasion, malgré un décret présidentiel, qui sera appliqué dès le 1 avril prochain, interdisant l'achat à l'étranger de véhicules âgés de plus de 10 ans. « Cette nouvelle réglementation apportera un peu de souffle au secteur, mais il est clair que l'occasion continuera d'impacter le marché, malgré la baisse du prix du neuf sur certains modèles », explique un spécialiste du milieu.

En attendant l'entrée en vigueur de ce nouveau dispositif, le 1 avril prochain, les importations hebdomadaires sont passées de 800 véhicules en décembre à 2 500 pour le seul mois de janvier. Une menace pour les concessionnaires, qui ont contribué à hauteur de 50 milliards de francs CFA (76 millions d'euros) au titre de la fiscalité. Le chiffre d'affaires du secteur devrait approcher 300 milliards FCFA (457 millions d'euros) en 2017 contre 260 milliards FCFA en 2016. (JA 01-02-2018)

ANGOLA TELECOM LAUNCHES PRIVATISATION PROGRAMME ON STOCK EXCHANGE

A portion of the capital of state-owned Angola Telecom will be sold on the country's stock exchange, and the company is currently being valued ahead of the stock float, the chairman of the Capital Markets Commission (CMC) said at the CMC's 6th Annual Meeting.

Mário Gavião told Angolan news agency Angop that one of the advantages of privatisation through the stock exchange is to provide a wide dispersion of capital and access to a large number of investors, which will allow higher follow-up on the success and expansion of the target company and the gains from the process.

Gavião also said that the stock market float is the best way to establish the stock price of the divested company, allows it to improve its credit rating and its position on the business environment list, bolstered by gains in transparency.

The participants of the 6th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors, among other things, analysed the process of privatising public companies through the Angola Debt and Securities Exchange, in line with the provisions of the Government's Interim Plan and the Macroeconomic Stabilisation Programme (PEM).

Daily newspaper Jornal de Angola reported that the government intends to start a privatisation programme with the sale of portions of capital in stock exchange operations, quoting a spokesman as saying "there is a political will to move forward with the capital market."

The privatisation of public companies that are not profitable and are a "dead weight for the State" was considered to be one of the priorities of governance by the President of the Republic, João Lourenço.

In 2018 more than 30 public companies are due to be privatised in 2018, based on a decision made back in 2013 and later revealed to Bloomberg by the Minister of Economy from 2010 to 2017, Abraão Gourgel. (05-02-2018)

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