

MEMORANDUM

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RUSSIAN FIRM DELAYS ACQUISITION OF LIQUIDATED BOTSWANA MINE

Russian-based firm Norilsk Nickel is preventing Emirates Investment House from accessing Botswana's liquidated BCL Copper Mine, Yarona FM radio station reported here Wednesday.



Emirates Investment House is a Dubai-based company that has expressed interest in buying the liquidated BCL mines.

In 2014 the government approved that BCL acquire Tati Nickel Mine from Norilsk Nickel and their 50-percent shareholding at Nkomati mine in South Africa.

Norilsk Nickel has since filed a lawsuit against the government to try to recoup the US\$271 million plus damages it said it is owed from the aborted sale of the 50-percent stake in the Nkomati mine in South Africa.

BCL Mine pulled out of the deal to buy the stake in Nkomati Nickel Mine from Norilsk in October last year due to lack of funds.

Minerals Minister Sadique Kebonang said the lawsuit could delay protracted negotiations between the Botswana government and Emirates Investment House (APA 03-05-2017)

REFORMING THE AFRICAN UNION: THE VITAL CHALLENGE OF IMPLEMENTATION

There is no shortage of ideas within Africa about how to create prosperity for the continent's peoples, and there is huge potential. But making the most of the opportunities ahead will increasingly require Africa's economies to work together, and for its institutions to improve their governance and performance. The African Union (AU) has a key role to play in this, but it needs to be more effective. The institution has previously launched several reform initiatives that have eventually foundered because of a lack of implementation.

President Paul Kagame of Rwanda, who led a review of the AU in 2016 to which I was privileged to serve as a member of the Reform Committee, summed up the challenge neatly in a speech in Addis Ababa in January of this year. Noting that the AU has had a history of good intentions that have not translated into change on the ground, he said, "Serious problems were repeatedly identified. Solutions were found. Decisions were made to apply the solutions. And very little happened."

The latest review produced four key recommendations: (1) enable the AU to finance itself in the long term; (2) focus the organization on key priorities with continental scope; (3) realign AU institutions to deliver against those priorities; and (4) manage the business of the AU effectively in both political and operational terms.

Only through sustainable long-term financing can the AU follow an independent agenda that speaks to common priorities. Today, over 80 percent of the funding of the AU comes from donors, but in July 2016 a breakthrough AU proposal to charge a duty of 0.2 percent on the import of eligible items from outside Africa that would enable the AU to be self-financing was approved. This initiative—which is in the process of being implemented—is proof that AU decisions can be followed through and have real impact. The challenge now is to move on with implementation of the other three priorities.

The AU's proposed commitment to a smaller number of priorities—namely political affairs, peace and security, Africa's global representation and voice, and economic integration—represent a significant sharpening of the institution's focus versus the status quo. On the last of these, [research by the McKinsey Global Institute](#) (MGI) finds a huge economic and business opportunity *within* Africa, but one that can only be fully mined if the continent's current fragmentation is overcome.

The report found that household spending is expected to grow from \$1.4 trillion in 2015 to \$2.1 trillion in 2025. Spending by businesses is expected to grow from \$2.6 trillion to \$3.5 trillion in the same period. The research also found that Africa could nearly double its manufacturing output from \$500 billion today to \$930 billion in 2025. Three-quarters of that potential would come from manufacturing within Africa of some of the one-third of food, beverages, and similar processed goods that Africa currently imports. Meeting this demand affordably through imports in an environment of low commodity prices and weakening currencies may be challenging; meeting demand from home capacity makes more sense. However, Africa needs to overcome its current economic and political fragmentation to enable companies to tap these large opportunities. Consider that Africa today has eight different (partly overlapping) regional trade zones, but none of them includes more than half of Africa's countries. The two best-performing blocs are the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community, but they still only export 16 percent and 13 percent of goods, respectively, to trading partners within those blocs. For comparison, the equivalent figure in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is around 20 percent.

Regional fragmentation hinders business activity and creates a fragmented, unproductive business landscape. The continent has few manufacturing and services hubs, which require scale to succeed. While Africa has 400 companies with annual revenues of above \$1 billion, when one excludes South Africa, this number is only 60 percent of the number one would expect. The average large African company has annual revenue of \$2.7 billion compared with \$4 billion to \$4.5 billion in other emerging economies. No African company is featured in the global Fortune 500; Brazil and India, whose GDPs are similar to that of Africa as a whole, each boast seven companies on that list. Yet large African companies are, on average, growing faster and are more profitable than companies of the same size in the rest of the world—suggesting enormous potential. Increased integration would help Africa build more of these large companies, thereby raising competitiveness and productivity, and creating more of the formal jobs that the continent desperately needs.

A reformed AU can help. Today, Africans need visas to travel to more than half the countries within the continent—it is easier for North Americans to travel within Africa than it is for Africans. We have already seen the institution's ability to take practical steps that bring down barriers to doing business across the continent with the African Union passport. The new passport will help enormously and now needs to be made available to all eligible citizens as quickly as possible. Many more steps need to be taken, MGI has argued, including reducing the time it takes for goods to cross borders, continuing to lower tariffs between countries, and driving closer integration of capital markets.

The review recommends that the AU identify continent-wide services such as the provision of neutral arbitration and competition services, and a common technical platform for the data and analysis needed to assess progress toward Africa's development goals.

Africa faces many challenges, but will not meet any of them without capable leaders who have the vision, determination, skill, and commitment to implement reforms. Our own experience working with public-sector institutions across Africa persuades us that practical measures to ensure effective implementation should be the priority. The recommendations on reforms to the AU's leadership and working methods are therefore critical. First, the review recommended that the AU deputy chairperson and commissioners should be competitively recruited and that there should be a fundamental review of the organization's structure and staffing needs. Second, the AU's Heads of State Summits should focus on no more than three critical items, with other appropriate business being delegated to lower levels within the AU.

Three of the reform recommendations also acknowledge the need to overcome past challenges of implementation. These included recommendations to constitute a heads-of-state-level implementation supervision arrangement, to establish a reform implementation unit within the AU Chairperson's office, and to create a legally binding mechanism that ensures that member states honor their commitments to implement reforms.

Only with effective implementation will the AU play the vital role Africa needs and, as President Kagame put it, "set our people on a path to dignity and prosperity." (Dev 03-05-2017)

\$500,000 AFRICAN GREAT LAKES CONSERVATION FUND LAUNCHED

A U.S \$500,000 African Great Lakes Conservation Fund for major projects protecting the environment of Africa's Great Lakes was launched in Kampala Wednesday.



The fund will also support projects aimed at improving livelihoods and driving economic development for the 50 million people who rely on Africa's Great Lakes.

Uganda's president Yoweri Kaguta Museveni has pledged his support for the fund, launched at the ongoing 2017 African Great Lakes Conference in Kampala targets to protect seven lakes including Victoria, Albert, Edward, Kivu, Tanganyika, Turkana, and Malawi, also known as Nyasa or Niassa.

The conference is a once-in-20-years high-level gathering of global conservationists, business leaders and governments.

"I commend the establishment of the African Great Lakes Conservation Fund, a trans-boundary Lake initiative that will go a long way in helping to protect our Great Lakes. I pledge to continue supporting Lake management programmes? and I would be gratified if development partners indicated their support for this new fund," Museveni said.

The fund will focus on projects that deliver the priorities identified at the close of the conference, hosted by the government of Uganda with leadership from each of the 11 nations in the African Great Lakes Region, including Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia.

The African Great Lakes Conservation Fund, supported by the MacArthur Foundation and administered by The Nature Conservancy, is among the largest ever created for environmentally-sustainable development projects in Africa.

The region holds nearly one-third of the world's fresh surface water, supports livelihoods for 50 million Africans, and is rich in freshwater and terrestrial biodiversity.

It also faces high population growth rates, extreme poverty, and rapid unplanned development, all of which are driving related environmental impacts.

It is anticipated that all of the \$500,000-worth of grants will be disbursed before the end of 2017.

A senior advisory committee with leaders from each of the African Great Lakes Region countries will help consider applications. (APA 03-05-2017)

PROTESTERS FROM SEVERAL AFRICAN STATES PICKET AT DURBAN'S WEF ON AFRICA

On Thursday, a group of protesters from a string of African states picketed outside Durban's International Convention Centre as their leaders convened for the World Economic Forum on Africa.

One man, bedecked in a Zimbabwean flag, used a loudhailer to vent his ire for President Robert Mugabe, a guest at the conference. "Your people are beggars and you are a criminal," he jeered.

While the picket was organised by the Congolese Solidarity Movement (CSM), protesters from a number of African countries used the platform. A statement issued this week by the CSM drew attention to the

legacy of civil war in the central African country, which said: "The war created a humanitarian chaos in our country. The children worked as labourers in the mines. This is a form of exploitation that is taking place right now in the Democratic Republic of Congo."

"We, as the Congolese Solidarity Campaign and the [Congolese] community in Durban and others parts of the land of SA, have raised our voices and said 'no' to the continued destabilisation of our motherland," the statement said. "We call on all countries that respect and acknowledge the rights of the people in the world to come to our support when we say that all those who are involved, directly or indirectly, in the gross violation of human rights in our country to face the law." (TMG Digital 04-05-2017)

NIGERIA'S GROWTH PLAN TO ATTRACT \$50BN INVESTMENTS

Nigeria's Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Dr. Ibe Kachikwu, has said that the economic growth plan recently launched by the Nigerian government will provide strategic and economic partnerships in excess of \$50 billion.



Speaking at an event organised in Houston, U.S., by the Nigerian Content Development and Monitoring Board (NCDMB) on Tuesday, Kachikwu said: "The Federal Government of Nigeria has launched a National Economic and Growth Plan for the next four years. This is anchored on the Nigerian Oil and Gas Roadmap among other sectoral roadmaps.

"This roadmap presents exciting opportunities for financial and strategic partnerships in excess of \$50 billion (about N1.58 trillion)."

According to him, about \$13 billion - \$17 billion will go to the upstream for the development of upstream gas fields with a total of 37.4 trillion cubic feet.

He added that \$14 billion - \$17 billion will go to the Trans-Nigeria gas pipeline project, gas revolution industrial park at Ogidigben and three power plants for additional 3.2GW capacity in the gas and power sector.

A report by a Nigerian newspaper, the Independent on Wednesday quoted Kachikwu as saying that \$2.5 billion - \$5 billion will be invested in licensing and establishment of modular refineries, collocate refinery within Kaduna Refining and Petrochemical Company (KRPC) and rehabilitating/upgrading the three refineries.

"In the downstream sector, about \$3 billion - \$3.9 billion will go to revamping of liquefied petroleum gas, building of new Compressed Natural Gas plants across the country and to pipeline and storage tank constructions. In addition, \$0.7 billion - \$1 billion will be invested in ventures such as equipment leasing, development of multi-specialist hospital and cancer diagnostic and treatment centres," he added.

Kachikwu assured investors on President Muhammadu Buhari's stance that he would ensure that under his watch, the "old" Nigeria would slowly disappear while a new era would arise.

He also assured his audience of security and the new ease of doing business in Nigeria and that government had made progress on reforms in the sector.

The minister noted that part of progress made are the new policies and regulations like the new oil, gas and fiscal policies that are being developed and syndicated with all stakeholders and the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill.

He assured that the Bill will be passed by the National Assembly before end of the second quarter. (APA 03-05-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA GOVERNMENT CONTEMPLATES LEGAL BATTLE TO REVIVE ROSATOM NUCLEAR DEAL



South Africa's Koeberg plant, the only nuclear power station on the African continent

South Africa's energy ministry and Russian nuclear power giant Rosatom have indicated that they hope to press on with plans to build nuclear power stations in the country, despite the decision of the South African High Court that their 2014 cooperation pact was unlawful.

Rosatom said on Wednesday, 3 May, that it was still committed to taking part in a transparent and competitive bidding process to build plants. Meanwhile, the ministry indicated that it was considering an appeal against the judgment.

Rosatom said in a statement: "We are confident in our world class technology, unmatched safety standards and highly competitive solutions."

The two sides had concluded an intergovernmental agreement to build 9.6GW of nuclear capacity and reduce South Africa's dependence on coal. The scope of the deal covered the construction of nuclear plants, research reactors and a programme to train South African engineers at Russian universities.

The document was held to violate competition rules as it obliged the government to work exclusively with Rosatom without holding open tenders.

Speaking on Twitter, David Nicholls, Eskom's chief nuclear officer said after the court's decision: "To put the issue to rest I want to confirm that [@Eskom_SA](#) has terminated the Nuclear RFI."

Other companies in the race to build up to 10 reactors besides Rosatom are State Nuclear Power Technology of China, EDF of France and KEPCO from South Korea.(CGR 04-05-2017)

MALI EXPECTS 9.8 M TONNES OF CEREALS FOR 2017-2018 AGRIC. CAMPAIGN

Mali expects cereal production of 9.8 tonnes for the 2017-2018 crop year, with a budget of 287.6 billion CFA of which 53.5 billion is destined for the acquisition of agricultural inputs, President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita said.



The Malian head of state, who was speaking at the 7th session of the Higher Council of Agriculture, said “the state must disburse 153 billion CFA while the producers will pay 134 billion.”

In the last crop year, Mali had a record production of 8.7 million tonnes of cereals, a score of 100.6 percent compared to the forecast.

For the cotton sector, Mali came out as the “second most important African producer after Egypt, which produces irrigated cotton,” officials said.

These performances are partly due to the fact that the state has allocated 15 percent of its budget to agriculture, more than the 10 percent the African heads of state committed to invest in agriculture at their 2003 summit in Maputo. (APA 03-05-2017)

AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO FEEL WORST OF US HEALTH AID CUTS, REPORT SAYS

A community health worker discusses family planning with women at a village in Togo, where USAID supports health programs that empower women and men with voluntary family planning options. Photo by: [USAID](#)

African countries, and those where abortion services are legal, will likely feel the greatest impacts of the United States’ expanded “global gag rule” — also known as the Mexico City Policy — according to new findings by the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#).

The U.S. provided bilateral global health assistance to 64 countries in Fiscal Year 2016, and more than half of them — totaling 34 — were countries in Africa, the American health and policy research [non-profit organization reported Thursday](#).

Meanwhile, 37 of these 64 countries allow for legal abortion, in at least one case that would be permissible under the Mexico City Policy.

President Donald Trump reinstated and expanded the policy in January, requiring foreign NGOs to certify that they will not “perform or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning” with any funding, including that from the U.S. — or risk all U.S. global health assistance.

[About \\$8 billion in bilateral U.S. global health assistance](#) is at stake with the expansion of the “global gag rule,” which previously was tied to just U.S. family planning funding. But the Trump administration has yet to roll out detailed, expanded guidelines that also put global health assistance on the line.

[Trump administration cuts all future US funding to UNFPA](#)

The U.N. Population Fund has attributed the loss of funding from its second largest donor to the false claim that it supports work in coercive abortions and forced sterilizations in China.

“The main take-away from this analysis is that the impact of the Mexico City Policy is potentially far reaching — the policy prohibits legal activities in more than half the countries in which the U.S.

government provides bilateral health assistance,” Jennifer Kates, vice president and director of Global Health & HIV Policy at the Kaiser Family Foundation, told Devex.

“So, the extent that a foreign NGO wants to receive U.S. government health funding, they would, at the very least, have to certify compliance with the policy and, in some cases, discontinue legal activities,” she said.

Health providers and other organizations operating in the the 37 U.S.-aid recipient countries where abortion is legal may soon face the pressure of financial constraints to eliminate abortion services, despite the legal freedom they technically have to perform abortions. Yet even in countries where abortion is not legal, U.S.-aid recipients would not be able to provide other services, such as counseling.

“We have been asked by many stakeholders about the reach of this policy, especially given that the policy now applies to so many more foreign NGOs than ever before.”

— Jennifer Kates, vice president and director of Global Health & HIV Policy, Kaiser Family Foundation

About 90 percent of women of childbearing age in Africa live in countries with restrictive abortion laws. Lack of access to safe abortion can lead to unsafe procedures, which results in complications for an estimated [1.6 million African women](#) each year. While deaths during or after childbirth reduced by almost [50 percent from 1990 to 2015](#), unsafe abortions remain one of the largest killers for women.

While [President Ronald Reagan](#) first introduced the “global gag rule” in 1984, and President George W. Bush subsequently reinstated it, this is the first time that the Kaiser Family Foundation has worked to assess the scope of the policy. Kates led a team over the past few months, scraping public U.S. government data.

“We have been asked by many stakeholders about the reach of this policy, especially given that the policy now applies to so many more foreign NGOs than ever before (because of the expansion by the Trump administration to all of global health),” she wrote in an e-mail to Devex.

“This is especially the case for foreign NGOs in sub-Saharan Africa, since approximately 60 percent of the countries that allow for abortion in at least one instance not permitted by the Mexico City Policy are in this region,” she wrote. (DEV 05-05-2017)

AFDB PROVIDES \$1.1BN TO NIGERIA, OTHERS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved \$1.1 billion for five African countries, including Nigeria to fight climate change.



Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the President of AfDB

The other countries are South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia.

Dr. Akinwumi Adesina, the President of AfDB, said on Wednesday in Lagos that African countries should address climate change challenges.

Adesina made the promise in his goodwill message at the ongoing Feed Nigeria Summit in Lagos.

He said that the money would enable the country to build medium and long-term resilience to climate change challenges.

Adesina said that the fund would be used to address the current drought challenges arising from climate change in order to avoid famine in these countries.

“Over 4.5 million people in the northern part of the country suffer from risks of severe malnutrition due to droughts.

“Lake Chad is rapidly shrinking. That’s why I applaud and fully support President Muhammad’s Buhari’s leadership and efforts on rehabilitation of the Lake Chad basin.

”This is because climate change is affecting Nigeria, South Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia and Somalia,” he said.

Adesina said Africa should embark on agriculture industrialisation and its value chain to transform the continent’s economy.

Adesina urged governments to provide incentives to food and agribusiness companies located in rural areas through the establishment of staple crop processing zones.

According to him, staple crop processing zone, which are vast in agro industries zones, enabled with infrastructure, will encourage food industries’ operators to establish factories in rural areas.

Adesina said investment in these areas would reduce the cost of doing business, create huge market pool for farmers and reduce post-harvest losses.

These staple processing zones, according to him, will transform rural Africa into new zones of economic prosperity.

The AfDB chief stressed the need to approach agriculture as a viable business, adding that Africa has no business importing food.

The theme of the summit organised by AgroNigeria is Feed Nigeria to feed Africa. (APA 03-05-2017)

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS TAKE OFF AS EU-FUNDED PROGRAMME COMES TO AN END



Seed Euromed

The SEED EURO-MED programme supporting social entrepreneurs in North Africa and Europe has officially come to an end. After three years of successful exchanges and bootcamps for entrepreneurs, the EU-funded programme can boast a number of key achievements: cross-border partnerships between entrepreneurs are being developed, bootcamp participants are setting up business activities together, and new entrepreneurs are developing business plans after completing their exchanges.

Over its duration, the programme organised:

- 28 exchanges between (social) entrepreneurs involving:
 - o 56 entrepreneurs
 - o 15 EU countries + 3 Maghreb countries
- 3 social entrepreneurship bootcamps in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco, involving:
 - o 75 New Entrepreneurs from North Africa
 - o 7 experienced European entrepreneurs from 5 countries
 - o 17 local & international experts

Funded by the EU as part of the New Euro-Mediterranean Initiative for Youth Employment Promotion, SEED EURO-MED supported the development of social entrepreneurship across Europe and the Mediterranean, aiming to develop strong, sustainable and inclusive growth and jobs in the Mediterranean region and Europe through entrepreneurship and social entrepreneurship. (EuroMed 05-05-2017)

SEED EURO-MED [website](#)

ETHIOPIA HOPES MOROCCO'S AU RETURN WILL SPEED FRESH WESTERN SAHARA TALKS

Ethiopia has added its voice to calls for Morocco and the Polisario Front to amicably resolve political issues relating to the independence of the Western Sahara, reports said on Wednesday.

Ethiopia's permanent representative on the Security Council, Ambassador Tekeda Alemu, was speaking during a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) session in New York.

This comes after the UNSC voted unanimously last Friday, to restart talks between the two differing sides and extend its peacekeeping mission in the territory for another year.

Ambassador Tekeda said that it was key for both parties to commit themselves to resuming the fifth round of negotiation in good faith and without any condition, a move supported by the African Union (AU).

"The latest development have underscored the need to exert renewed efforts for the resumption of talks between the parties to find a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution to this long standing issue on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions.

"This is something we have always supported based on our conviction that it will provide for the self-determination of the people of Western Sahara in the context of arrangements consistent with the principles and purposes of the UN charter," he stressed.

According to him, the involvement of the African Union in the latest round of talks allied with the return of Morocco to the fold was positive signals relative to the new talks.

"The resumption of direct and serious talks between the parties without preconditions also, is what the African Union has been calling for and fully supported.

“Now that Morocco has returned to the African Union family – which is a very important development, which we welcome; we hope it might facilitate the speeding up of the process of finding an amicable solution to this long-standing dispute and that the African Union will have a supportive role to the UN-sponsored peace talks,” he concluded. (APA 05-05-2017)

NEW IMPETUS TO REGIONAL COOPERATION IN RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



Union for the Mediterranean

Ministers from the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) have stressed the need to step up cooperation on research and innovation. Meeting in Malta on 4 May, Research Ministers highlighted the importance of research and innovation in addressing the root causes of migration and promoting jobs and growth in the Mediterranean.

The Ministerial Conference on “*Strengthening Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation through Research and Innovation*” was held in Valetta under the auspices of the Maltese Presidency of the European Union.

Ministers emphasised the key role that research and innovation play in developing and understanding the root causes of migration. They encouraged a region-wide coordinated approach to increase researchers’ and students’ mobility and establish common platforms for data collection and analysis, while making the best possible use of existing tools.

They also called for the identification of innovative solutions to create more opportunities for youth, and welcomed several emblematic regional initiatives, namely:

- The “**Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean area - PRIMA**” – a new integrated initiative pooling the know-how and financial resources of the EU and participating Member States in order to foster ground-breaking solutions for sustainable water provision and management and food production in the Mediterranean region.
- The “**BLUEMED Initiative on research and innovation for blue jobs and growth in the Mediterranean**”, offering a shared strategic framework for working towards a healthy, productive and resilient Mediterranean Sea, designed to tap the full potential of the marine and maritime sectors by structuring transnational cooperation to create new ‘blue’ jobs and promote social wellbeing, sustainable prosperity and the environmental status of the region.

The Ministerial Declaration adopted in Valetta builds on the many research and innovation commitments endorsed at recent UfM Ministerial Conferences including ones on Employment and Labour, Environment and Climate Change, Water and the Blue Economy. (EEAS 05-05-2017)

Ministerial Declaration

ETHIOPIAN AIRLINES, AIRBUS FOUNDATION, PARTNERS FLY RELIEF GOODS TO ETHIOPIA

Ethiopian Airlines, the German NGO humedica e.V, Aviation without Borders and the Airbus Foundation have joined forces to facilitate the transportation of nine tonnes of humanitarian goods from Toulouse, France, to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, utilizing the delivery flight of Ethiopian Airlines' newest A350 XWB, the Airliner said in a statement on Wednesday.



The goods are destined to provide relief to drought prone areas in the East African region.

The humanitarian cargo consisted of diarrheal disease kits, emergency food rations, interagency emergency health kits and clothing, the statement said

The goods will be handed over to the Ethiopian Airlines Foundation, the Ethiopian Administration for Refugee and Returnee Affairs and the National Disaster Risk Management Commission for further distribution to refugee camps as well as health stations.

"We are honoured to be working with humedica, Aviation without Borders and the Airbus Foundation to perform this humanitarian flight. The acceptance of our latest A350 XWB is made more meaningful as we transport much needed relief goods to the drought affected areas in the region. Ethiopian Airlines will continue with its leadership role in fulfilling its corporate social responsibilities, focusing as much on sustainability and social responsibility as on pure business performance," said Tewolde GebreMariam, Group Chief Executive Officer Ethiopian Airlines.

"Whenever possible, we try to use delivery flights of new aircraft to our customers to ship medical or humanitarian donations to countries or regions in need," said Fabrice Brégier, President Airbus Commercial Aircraft and member of the Airbus Foundation's Board of Directors. (APA 03-05-2017)

EGYPT LEADS AFRICA IN HOTEL CONSTRUCTION

Information from [TOPHOTELPROJECTS](#) shows that Egypt leads Africa in hotel construction. Egypt is currently building the most hotels of all countries in [Africa](#), according to an industry database.

With 53 hotels currently under construction, Egypt comes ahead of Morocco (50) and Nigeria (34) and is building more than twice as many hotels as the country that comes fourth in the top 10, Kenya, which is building 24.

Data TOPHOTELPROJECTS shows that Africa continues to attract investors in the hospitality sector. Global hospitality industry stakeholders are enticed by rising demand for hotel rooms on the continent, as well as a developing market that offers a mixture of opportunities, as well as challenges.

TOPHOTELPROJECTS reveals that currently 336 new hotel construction projects underway spread throughout many African countries. Once completed, these 336 new hotel construction projects will bring an additional 88,524 rooms for guests to Africa.

Indeed, it now appears that having an interest in African has become a must for any brand wishing to establish itself as a truly global entity.

It says the new hotel construction pipeline for Africa "has begun to look healthier than it has in many years", 336 new hotel construction projects underway among African countries.

Among the hospitality schemes planned in Egypt is the Vida Marassi Marina , developed by Emaar Hospitality Group's Vida Hotels and Resorts brand.

Morocco follows closely behind Egypt, with 50 total hotel projects currently under construction. Being only three behind, Morocco could easily surpass Egypt at the continent's top country for new hotel construction.

The fact that Hilton choose to locate its new development office in Casablanca, Morocco's largest city, may speak to the viability of the country going forward within the global hospitality industry. (CRO 04-05-2017)

GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE IS DETERMINED TO RESTRUCTURE STATE BUSINESS SECTOR

The Mozambican government is determined to restructure the state's business sector, a process that will include a variety of approaches, notably partial privatisation, redefinition of the strategic focus and closures, the prime minister said.

Carlos Agostinho do Rosário, who answered questions posed to the government by the members of the Mozambican parliament, highlighted the case of air carrier Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique (LAM) and announced that the process of identifying a strategic partner for joint exploration of the company has already begun.

"The measure will enable the company to respond to the current challenges of improving the provision of air transport services, safely and in a timely manner," said the Prime Minister, quoted by Mozambican news agency AIM.

Rosário also mentioned telecommunications companies Moçambique Celular e Telecomunicações de Moçambique, which are currently in the process of a merger to ensure the financial sustainability and modernisation of the resulting company's technological infrastructure.

Economy and Finance Minister Adriano Maleiane said at the same question and answer session that there are public companies that perform well, such as port and railway company CFM, investment bank Banco Nacional de Investimento and power company Electricidade de Moçambique (EdM).

Mozambique has 13 public companies, two state-owned companies and is present in the capital of 99 companies, 27 of which are in a divestment process and 29 in the process of dissolution and liquidation. (04-05-2017)

POWER AFRICA INITIATIVE TO INVEST \$1.1M IN AFRICA'S ENERGY SECTOR

Africa's first utility-scale battery storage installation has been agreed upon this week thanks to the U.S. Trade and Development Agency and Obama's Power Africa Initiative.

\$1.1m was set aside for an upcoming solar energy storage facility in Kenya. The funds are being allocated to [Xago](#) Africa, which is known for the development of sustainable energy and infrastructure projects in Africa.

Xago Africa will be aided by [Alevo](#), a North Carolina based grid-scale energy storage provider. The project will consist of a 40 MW solar farm facility to regulate energy distribution in Siaya County.

Xago and Alevo's work are projected to increase energy efficiency in the region. Additional benefits of the USTDA project include the expansion of Kenya's horizons in terms of energy storage capabilities and energy reliability.

The group has awarded Power Africa with a grant for the purposes of developing 25 solar microgrids throughout Nigeria, projected to produce 5MW of power for the residents of the region. Not only will these installations make great progress in bringing energy to the rural region, but they will also aid in collecting data for a study that will be conducted about energy for rural regions.

Consumers will pay for the use of the microgrid installations through the use of pay-as-you-go technology, an option that will enable them to become involved in the electrification process more quickly than they would have been able to before.

Solar energy in Sub-Sahara Africa is being viewed as an extremely lucrative opportunity for companies involved in the industry. There are about [660,000](#) African residents who lack access to electricity. Companies are attracted to the region as a major emerging player on the stage of the power market. Private investors and African countries alike are poised to benefit from the energy storage projects being proposed through the capitalization on the large potential energy market that is present in Kenya, Nigeria, and nearby regions.

All of the parties involved, such as the USTDA, Power Africa Initiative, private investors, and African governments are looking to power the region of Sub-Sahara Africa with increased reliability, availability, and efficiency, while capitalizing on one of the largest emerging power markets in the world. (CRO 04-05-2017)

WORLD BANK APPROVES \$100M FOR PRODUCTIVE SAFETY NET PROGRAM IN ETHIOPIA

The World Bank on Tuesday approved another \$100 million for the Productive Safety Net Program (PSNP) in Ethiopia, reports said on Wednesday.



The funding was in response to a humanitarian appeal issued by the government of Ethiopia recently, according to a statement issued by the bank.

Ethiopia issued a humanitarian appeal for 7.7 million people, who are in need of emergency food assistance, until the end of June.

The government says it needs \$742 million for emergency food and non-food assistance, including more than 432,000 metric tons of grain.

"In response, the World Bank approved another \$100 million to the PSNP, on top of the extra \$100 million it gave the program last year," the statement stated.

PSNP provides regular cash or food transfers to 8 million people, 4 million of them in drought-affected areas.

Run by the government, it pools money from 11 donors, including 600 million US dollars of World Bank Group IDA funds.

Its food-for-work component supports public works programs, chosen by members of the communities affected and usually related to landscape restoration, irrigation, and agro-forestry.

During droughts, the program has a contingency fund that allows it to scale up to include new beneficiaries, as well as to increase the length of time they will receive benefits from five to seven months. (APA 03-05-2017)

SOUTH AFRICA DAM LEVELS AT AN ALL-TIME LOW

The [Department of Water](#) and Sanitation (DWS) this week warned of dwindling South Africa dam water levels, and pleaded with consumers to continue to save water and for the [Water](#) Service Authorities to implement water conservation and water demand management strategies.

With no significant rain to relieve the pressure on the dams, the average water levels of the national storage of 211 dams decreased slightly week-on-week from 72.9% last week to 72.7% by the beginning of the new month. However, this is an improvement on the 54.3% recorded in the corresponding period last year when the country endured the worst drought in decades.

The Western Cape continued to experience severe water shortages, with the City of Cape Town contemplating the introduction of Level 4 restrictions.

Outlining the current situation, the DWS said the Cape Town Dams System that comprises six dams serving mainly the City of Cape Town, had decreased from 22.9% last week to 22.3% by May 1. This time last year, the system was at 31.7%.

The Algoa System, comprising five dams serving Nelson Mandela Bay, decreased to 40.6% this week from 41.4% last week and compared unfavorably with the 79.3% recorded during the corresponding week the year before.

The six dams under the Amathole System that serve Buffalo City registered a decrease from 71.4% last week to 70.9% this week. A year ago, the system was at 88.5%.

The five-dam Umgeni Dam System serving mainly eThekweni and Msunduzi decreased from 62.7% to 62.4%, but remained higher than the 54.5% recorded during the corresponding period last year.

The Bloemfontein System rose by 0.3% to 51.5% this week. The Crocodile West System, which serves Tshwane, Madibeng and Rustenburg, in Gauteng, recorded a decrease of 0.4% to 99.3%.

The Integrated Vaal River System (IVRS) remained relatively stable at 84.1%. The Vaal dam, one of 14 dams in the IVRS, registered a decline from 103.2% last week to 102.2% this week. However, the dam was at 43.8% during the corresponding period last year.

The Sterkfontein dam recorded a slight increase from 89.7% last week to 89.8% this week, while the Grootdraai dam declined gradually from 95.1% to 93.8% and the Katse dam decreased from 49.1% recorded last week.

The Bloemhof dam increased to 101.6% by May 1, slightly higher than the 101.4% reported last week. The water levels of the Jericho dam edged down from 72.8% last week to 72.7% this week. (CRO 04-05-2017)

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

The Memorandum is also made available by AHEAD-GLOBAL, BCA, Chamber of Tenerife (by posting it at the Africa Info Market), CCA - Canadian Council on Africa, CCA - Corporate Council on Africa (USA), ELO, HTTC, NABA, NABC (by posting selected news) and SwissCham-Africa to their Members.



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Register up to 13-08-2017

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