

# MEMORANDUM

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## NIGERIANS TO SUFFER EVEN POORER MOBILE SERVICE



Poor QoS could be hitting the Nigerian telecoms sector

Nigerian subscribers have been warned about the possibility of facing poor Quality of Service as some of the Global System for Mobile communications (GSM) operators start to scale down operations due to the harsh financial climate in the country, according to reports by [Nigerian Communications Week](#).

According to the [Guardian Nigeria](#), this downshift comes off the back of [MTN sacking of some 280 workers](#) and refusal by Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to remove IT/Telecom equipment from list of restricted items in access to foreign exchange.

The president of Association of Telecommunication Companies of Nigeria (ATCON), Mr. Olusola Teniola, has urged for the CBN list to be reviewed, specifically around the items which are critical to the growth of the IT/telecoms sector of the economy. He thinks that the apex bank should reevaluate the list of 41 items and allow those which are critical to the IT/Telecoms sector to be exempt.

Teniola added that the restrictions on a number of items has impacted expansions and other projects in the industry, thereby leading to poor quality of service (QoS).

The telecoms climate in Nigeria has been greatly affected by the decrease in the revenue stream of operators as a result of the increasing focus of data over voice services.

David Venn, chief executive officer, Spectranet, a 4G LTE internet service provider, explained to Nigerian Communication Week that the telecommunications landscape in the country is now changing from a voice centric to data centric source of revenue just as WhatsApp has almost eroded revenue that GSM operators are making from short message service (SMS).

"Operators need equipment to build towers. In the last one year it has been difficult for us to access dollar to import equipment for network expansion as well as adding capacity, the ones we are doing is from the equipment we imported before the new policy on FX, for big operators it has been very difficult for them to import equipment which has affected their efforts in adding capacity," he said. (ITNA 08-05-2017)

## MUHAMMADU BUHARI TO SEE DOCTORS IN LONDON FOR FOLLOW-UP CONSULTATION

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari will travel to London on Sunday night for follow-up consultations with doctors after a previous trip there earlier in 2017, a spokesperson said.

"Government will continue to function normally under the table leadership" of Vice-President Yemi Osinbajo, presidential spokesperson Femi Adesina said in an e-mailed statement. The duration of Buhari's absence would be determined by doctors, Adesina said.

"The president wishes to assure all Nigerians that there is no cause for worry," the spokesperson said.

Buhari delayed his departure by several hours on Sunday night to meet 82 Chibok girls freed by Boko Haram, who arrived in the capital, Abuja, earlier in the day. The girls were among hundreds abducted by the militant group from a school dormitory more than three years ago. A photograph of the event was posted on the president's Twitter and Facebook accounts.

The president's ill health has fuelled concern about his ability to rule the West African nation, which is experiencing its worst economic downturn in more than two decades. Buhari, president since 2015, returned to the country on March 10 after a seven-week medical leave to treat an undisclosed ailment in the UK, and has missed the past three weekly cabinet meetings.

The presidency released a 17-second video on May 5 showing Buhari making his first public appearance in three weeks, walking slowly after a prayer meeting at the presidential residence's mosque. On May 2, Nigerian civil rights leaders urged the 74-year-old to take a second medical leave, saying his recent absences had "fuelled speculation and rumours". (Bloomberg 08-05-2017)

### **GOVERNMENT OF MOZAMBIQUE SEEKS TO REACTIVATE ANCUABE GRAPHITE PROCESSING PLANT**

The Mozambican government is attempting to reactivate Ancuabe's graphite processing plant in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, the President of the Republic announced at a rally held last Friday at the administrative post of Meza, in the Ancuabe district.

Filipe Nyusi, who on Thursday began a three-day visit to the province, recalled that the district is rich not only in agri-livestock production but also in mineral resources such as graphite, gold and limestone, and in terms of precious stones, garnets and rubies.

Grafites de Ancuabe started mining and processing in 1994 following an investment of US\$12 million by a consortium of three foreign companies.

Later in the decade the factory closed due to a lack of access to electricity, and at the time it worked with generators, which proved to be crippling expensive.

Nyusi, quoted by Mozambican state news agency AIM, said that the district now has electricity from the national grid, which "is an incentive to reopen the graphite processing plant."

In May 2016, the President of Mozambique, also during a three-day visit to the province of Cabo Delgado, said in Balama that the graphite processing plant would be reactivated and that "we are in the process of finding an investor for the project." (08-05-2017)

### **ANTONIO TAJANI, CRAINT QUE LE CONTINENT AFRICAINE NE DEVIENNE « UNE COLONIE CHINOISE**



Antonio Tajani au parlement européen le 9 mars 2017

Dans un entretien accordé au quotidien allemand « Die Welt », le président du Parlement européen, Antonio Tajani, craint que le continent africain ne devienne « une colonie chinoise ». Il a également évoqué la crise migratoire actuelle.

Les mots sont directs et forts : « L'Afrique risque aujourd'hui de devenir une colonie chinoise, les Chinois ne veulent que les matières premières. La stabilité ne les intéresse pas », [déclare au journal Die Welt](#) ce mercredi 29 mars le président du Parlement européen, Antonio Tajani.

Depuis une vingtaine d'années maintenant, [les entreprises chinoises sont de plus en plus présentes en Afrique](#). La preuve avec la hausse des échanges entre le continent et Pékin, estimés en 2015 à quelque 180 milliards de dollars (160 milliards d'euros).

### **Des milliards pour la crise migratoire**

Le président du Parlement européen a par ailleurs été interrogé sur la crise migratoire et sur les nombreux candidats africains à l'asile qui tentaient de rallier l'Europe, souvent par l'Italie, [depuis la Libye](#). Sur le sujet, Antonio Tajani a appelé l'UE « à investir des milliards en Afrique et à développer un stratégie sur le long terme ».

« L'Afrique se trouve dans une situation dramatique » et « si nous ne parvenons pas à résoudre les problèmes centraux des pays d'Afrique, 10, 20, voire 30 millions d'immigrés vont arriver en Europe d'ici dix ans », a-t-il prévenu.

Enfin, le président du Parlement européen s'est dit favorable à l'instauration en Afrique « de camps d'accueil sous la protection de l'ONU et de forces armées européennes », sorte de « villes provisoires avec des hôpitaux et des infrastructures pour les enfants où les gens pourront vivre de façon provisoire ». (EP 07-05-2017)

### **GOVERNMENT, ECONOMY AND PUBLIC FINANCES AFFECT MOZAMBIQUE'S CREDIT RATING**

Suspension of debt negotiations, economic slowdown, pressure on public finances and difficult political momentum are some of the factors holding back Mozambique's credit rating, according to a report released by Fitch Ratings.

The agency added that the slow progress in natural gas projects and the reduced flexibility of monetary policy conditioned the country's sovereign debt rating, which remains at "D", attributed when the country defaulted on its loans.

Among the positive aspects of the Mozambican economy Fitch Ratings lists the economic growth of the last 15 years – higher than that of most countries in the region – the vast natural resources and the flexible exchange rate of the metical, which are however offset by the weaknesses.

These include poor human development indicators, rapid deterioration of public finances, growth in public debt, "one of the highest" in the world, weak business climate and poor management of public accounts.

In its analysis of the main aspects that influence the quality of sovereign debt, Fitch stressed pressure on public finances, as a result of lower growth and less foreign aid, with the economy expected to grow 5% this year and 6% in 2018.

"The ratio of gross domestic product revenue is at 24%, the lowest in the last 12 years," the analysts said, noting that "government attempts to contain spending in response to the debt crisis were insufficient to significantly reduce the deficit, as it was also pressured to keep salaries and allowances high even in times of economic hardship." (08-05-2017)

### **NAMIBIA: DE BEERS SPENDS US\$200M ON LOCAL PROCUREMENT**

Leading world diamond producer De Beers and its joint venture partners invested more than N\$2.8 billion (about US\$207 million) on acquisition of goods and services in Namibia in 2016, the company said in a report on Friday.



The money was spent on a diverse range of suppliers for Namdeb and Debmarmine Namibia during one of the most significant years in the company's history in the country.

De Beers Group and its joint ventures also invested N\$86 million in community development initiatives, including an N\$10 million partnership with the University of Namibia's southern campus in Keetmanshoop to support underprivileged students.

"I am proud that we were able to put the Namibian supply chain to work last year by procuring goods and services with local companies," De Beers Group chief executive Bruce Cleaver said.

Cleaver noted that apart from the revenues generated by the investment, the local procurement has "helped to secure jobs and provided additional support to smaller businesses, which are the unsung heroes of Namibia's economy."

"More broadly, the country's diamonds, already a major contributor to socio-economic development, now have the opportunity to play an ever more important role in shaping Namibia's future and that of its people as a result of the new sales agreement," he said.

He revealed that the diamond producer is looking forward to "further business and community investments that will help both Namibia and De Beers Group achieve mutual success in a safe and sustainable way."

#### **De Beers and the Namibian government own diamond miner Namdeb on equal shares.**

The miner has operations along the southwest coast of the country, with main operations in Oranjemund and Namibia while the main land-based operations are in Oranjemund and outpost mines near the southern port of Lüderitz and along the Orange River.

The two partners also own Debmarmine Namibia, which is mining diamond off-shore in the Atlantic Ocean.

Last year the company acquired SS Nujoma, the world's most advanced marine diamond exploration and sampling vessel valued at about US\$150 million. (APA 08-05-2017)

#### **ANNA LINDH FOUNDATION SURVEY REVEALS THAT POSITIVE PERCEPTIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION OUTSCORE NEGATIVE ONES**

The results of a new survey on Intercultural Trends in the Euro-Mediterranean region launched by the Anna Lindh Foundation reveals that the region is not a victim of a clash of civilisations, as is often reported, but rather a 'clash of ignorances' based on historical stereotypes and the 'culturalisation' of conflicts promoted by some media and political narratives.

The survey investigated what people see as critical aspects of life in the Euro-Mediterranean region, and the key similarities and differences they find between themselves and those from other countries, cultures and backgrounds. It also examines trust of different types of media sources across different countries and age profiles.

More than 13,000 people across 13 countries were interviewed by Ipsos-Mori during the second half of 2016 for this study about their expectations, concerns and values. The countries studied included eight



in the EU (Austria, Croatia, Finland, France, Italy, Poland, Portugal and The Netherlands) and five Southern and Eastern Mediterranean (SEM) countries (Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia).

Some of the key findings of the survey were:

- Tolerance of those from different cultural backgrounds – on matters ranging from work contexts to marriage – exceeds 60%.
- The key qualities associated with defining the Mediterranean region are shared history, shared heritage, and shared way of life – especially cuisine.
- Migration, instability and conflict were also acknowledged as relevant aspects but to a much lesser degree.
- Print media is the second (40%) most trusted source for information in European countries. However in SEM countries only 15% of respondents think print is a trusted source.
- 37% of 15-29 year olds in SEM countries find Online Media and Social Media trusted sources of information about European countries.
- 8 out of 10 respondents think that education and youth programmes that foster youth-led dialogue initiatives would be 'very' or 'somewhat' efficient to prevent and deal with conflicts and radicalisation
- 9 out of 10 Europeans (92%) and SEM (88%) see the potential of cooperation in relation to opportunities for entrepreneurship, innovation and youth employment.

The survey reflects that levels of distrust are seemingly far greater among those who have taken input from media than among those who have reached their opinions without media influence.

Under this backdrop, the Anna Lindh Foundation is also launching a **Media Observatory**, attached to the Euro-Mediterranean Foundation, which will observe how media cover issues of intercultural relations and provide evidence-based resources and material for journalists and the media.

The key components of the Media Observatory will include:

- Media mapping and research; capturing existing good practice on cross-cultural reporting to feed into training programmes for media professionals
- Engagement of Journalism Schools with media dialogue, media research and curriculum development
- Media/CSO dialogues including creating a free and equal space to discuss "hot issues" such as migration, cultural stereotyping, mobility, shrinking space for civil society, media freedoms and professionalism (including social media), terrorism and radicalisation.
- Rapid response media mechanism to respond to headline news with a cultural dimension by supplying experts who can act as spokespeople and provide analysis
- Policy dialogues with media executives to engage influential senior members of the media in trends analysis and implications for media policy.(ALF 28-04-2017)

Anna Lindh Foundation – [website](#)

## NAMIBIAN MOTORISTS TO PAY MORE FOR ROAD MAINTENANCE

Namibia's Road Fund Administration (RFA) has increased the road user charges by seven percent from May 1 as it moves to raised more revenue for the maintenance and rehabilitation of national roads.

RFA chief executive Ali Ipinge told journalists on Friday that the increase would affect annual motor vehicle license and registration fees, cross border charges, abnormal-load fees, the fuel levy, and mass distance and travelling charges.



The RFA was established by an Act of Parliament to manage the country's road user charging (RUC) system.

"Given the consistent annual growth in the country's vehicle population of between seven and eight percent and natural depreciation in the condition of our roads, the Road Fund requires an additional N\$170 million (about US\$13.1 million) per annum to sustain its current minimum maintenance levels of the national road network," Ipinge said.

He added: "In an effort to maintain a good balance between the ever-increasing road infrastructure capital expenditure (new roads) and revenue collections from road user charges, the need to secure annual inflationary adjustments on the RUCs tariffs remains ever important."

Ipinge further revealed that the road fund was studying the feasibility of introducing toll roads in Namibia.

"The Topic of toll roads has been on the card. A study was undertaken five years ago. At that point, the report was inconclusive, with no specific decision being taken. We are going to conduct a new study," he said. (APA 05-05-2017)

## **NIGERIA BULK ELECTRICITY TRADING SIGNS CONTRACTS FOR NEW SOLAR PLANTS**

Government-backed wholesaler Nigeria [Bulk Electricity](#) Trading (NBET) has signed put call options contracts with two renewable energy developers for solar projects with joint capacity of 120 MW. NBET signed the contract with [Afrinergia Power](#), a Nigerian renewables developer for the construction of a 50-MW solar plant in Nasarawa State.

Afrinergia says the plant will produce 114.56 GWh per year and will be linked to the national grid through the Keffi-Akwanga section of the 132-kV Karu-Keffi-Akwanga national grid.

The company had earlier said that it would develop the solar plant in joint venture with AEE Power Spain, an international EPC contractor and developer focused on the energy industry and on developing nations. Nevertheless, the Spanish company has not yet issued a formal statement on its joint venture.

NBET also signed an contract with CT Cosmos, a contributory of Nigeria's Communication Towers, for the development of a 70-MW solar plant in Plateau State, at an projected cost of US\$150 million.

The two solar projects are among the 14 for which power purchase agreements (PPAs) were signed in June 2016. 975 MW of photovoltaic (PV) solar capacity was commissioned, in advance of the expected fiscal closure and subsequent start of commercial operations by the developers.

In addition to Afrinergia and CT Cosmo, PPAs signed also incorporated those with Pan Africa Solar, which is developing a 75-MW solar plant in Katsina State; Nigerian Solar Capital Partners, building 100 MW in Bauchi State; Motir Dusable, for 100 MW in Nasarawa State; Nova Solar 5 Farm's 100 MW in Katsina State and Kvk Power, building 100 MW in Sokoto State.

Others signed were Middle Band Solar One for 100 MW in Kogi State; LR Aaron Power for 100 MW in Abuja; Nova Scotia Power Development for 80 MW in Jigawa State; En Africa for 50 MW in Kaduna State; Oriental Renewable Solutions for 50 MW in Jigawa State, and Quaint Abiba Power for 50 MW and Anjeed Innova Group for 100 MW, both in Kaduna State.

Original plans were to have a tranche of these projects start construction in the last of quarter of 2016, with building work taking place over a period of between 12 and 18 months. The electricity generated would be sold at US\$0.115 per kWh.

It has not been yet confirmed which – if any – of these projects had begun actual construction by the last quarter of 2016. (CRO 27-04-2017)

## UGANDA, GERMAN COMPANIES SIGN MOUS COVERING SEVERAL SECTORS

Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni has witnessed the signing of Memoranda of Understanding between two German companies and the Uganda government on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Durban, South Africa



The agreement between Uganda, Siemens and MMEC Mannesmann GmbH is about cooperation in the fields of power supply, industry, transportation and healthcare.

Greater focus will be on increasing the country's electricity generating capacities and connecting more Ugandans to the power grid.

According to a government of Uganda statement released this morning, Uganda's Finance Minister Matia Kasaija signed on behalf of Uganda while Joe Kaeser, the Chief Executive Officer of Siemens Group and Mesut Sahim, the Chief Executive Officer of MMEC, signed on behalf of their companies.

Germany's Federal Minister for Economics and Energy, Brigitte Zypries and Prof Klaus Schwab, the Chairman of the World Economic Forum, also witnessed the signing.

Siemens is a German conglomerate and the largest manufacturing and electronics company in Europe.

The company also has interests in industry, energy, healthcare and infrastructure and employs over 350,000 people across its global operations. MMEC on the other hand focuses on engineering with interests in oil and gas, chemicals, metals and mining.

Kaeser announced that his company would inject more than Euros 3 billion in Africa by 2020 of which Uganda would be a key beneficiary of this investment.

President Museveni, who thanked the Germany government and companies for investing in Africa, said the continent and the developed countries could support each other for their citizens' prosperity.

"Africa, Europe, USA, India, Japan, China and South East Asia can support the prosperity of one another through production and the sale of goods and services," he said. "I am pleased to know that Chancellor Angela Merkel has placed emphasis on Germany-African relationship. It should be two ways and balanced. That way, we shall all develop and prosper."

He said Uganda, could benefit from Germany's advanced technical skills and financial muscle, while Uganda and the region in return offered market, resources and manpower. (APA 05-05-2017)

## EGYPT PLANS TO DEVELOP GOLD MINING CITY IN THE SUEZ CANAL

Egypt is developing a major gold mining city in the [Suez](#) Canal with the hopes of boosting a centuries-long industry and luring billions of dollars in foreign investments.



Wael Soliman, the spokesman for the city project said that the [city](#) will put Egypt on the world gold map as well as make a breakthrough in the country's gold mining industry. Moreover, upon completion the city will be Africa's major and only gateway where manufacturers can trade in and export gold.

The gold city, according to Soliman, will be the first of its kind in the world and will be built on an area of 130,000 sqm in the Suez Canal Economic Zone located in the western Suez Canal, with the first phase covering an area of 20,000 sqm.

The data also indicated that the city would include 500 workshops and small factories in addition to a gold refinery and an academy that offers training programs in all industries related to gold and other minerals. As part of the project, foreign gold companies would be allowed to conduct mining concessions in specific areas.

The project is projected to create 5,000 direct and indirect job opportunities for specialists, technicians, consultants and workers. It will increase the country's gold exports with global brands and trademarks being manufactured in the specialized city. Officials say the project will take 1½ years to be completed and will cover 100% of the needs of the local market.

Nasser Fouad, the spokesman for the Suez Canal Economic Zone, said the SCZone has received offers from several Egyptian and international companies, especially from China, India and the Gulf, which are willing to invest in the city.

Last year, the Egyptian company Villard signed an agreement with Chinese Tianjin Economic-Technological Development Area to develop the industrial zone owned by the Chinese company and build the international gold city.

Egypt has a long history of gold mining that goes back to the time of the pharaohs. For decades, the industry has had great potential, but does not attract investments due to the failure of successive governments to make a match between the country's spectacular geology and an attractive commercial framework for mining.

Egypt's only gold-producing mine, Centamin Sukari Gold Mine, contributes a fraction of 1% to Egypt's gross domestic product.

However, last year, the government said it seeks to boost the gold mining industry and make it contribute upward of 5% to the gross domestic product within 10 years.

In June 2015, the government also launched its first round of bidding for new mining concessions since 2009. Back then, a global gold mining boom brought a handful of first-time investors to Egypt, although many of them said the opportunities had poor commercial terms. The bid lasted until April 20.

If successful, the industry could create jobs and attract foreign currency to a faltering economy.

Egypt has substantial mineral resources, including 48m tons in tantalite (fourth largest in the world), 50m tons in coal and an estimated 6.7m ounces of gold in the Eastern Desert. The total real value of minerals mined was about \$18.7m in 1986, up from \$11m in 1981. Preliminary exploration in the Sinai Peninsula indicated the presence of zinc, tin, lead and copper deposits.(CRO 27-04-2017)

## **SHELL TO INVEST \$25 BILLION IN NIGERIA, OTHER COUNTRIES**

Royal Dutch Shell has announced plans to invest about \$25 billion this year in Nigeria and all its oil and gas operations across the world.



Shell made the announcement in its first quarter 2017 financial results released on Thursday.

The report said that Shell netted an income of \$2.2 billion and was expecting to generate \$10 billion in cash flow from the delivery of some of its new projects by 2018.

According to the report by a local newspaper, the Independent, Shell recently announced the resumption of oil production at its 225,000 barrels per day (bpd) Bonga Floating Production Storage and Offloading (FPSO) field in Nigeria's deep-waters.

The report added that the repair of Bonga would ensure sustained production and reduce unscheduled production deferments.

Shell is also involved in a new deep-water project – the \$13.5 billion Zabazaba Deepwater project located in Oil Prospecting Lease (OPL) 245.

That project is marred in controversy as evidence has emerged the \$1.1 billion Shell and ENI paid for the OPL 245 block ended in private pockets of controversial Nigerian politicians and businessmen.

In its report, Shell said its net profit doubled in the first three months of 2017, as rebounding oil prices and refining gains helped boost its revenue.

According to the report, Shell generated a cash flow of \$9.5 billion in the quarter, up 13 fold from a year earlier and the strongest among some of its rivals in the industry. (APA 05-05-2017)

## **EXIM BANK OF CHINA OCTROIE UN PRET D'1,5 MILLIARD DE DOLLARS AU KENYA POUR LE MEGA-PROJET FERROVIAIRE SGR**



Un train convoie des matériaux pour la construction de la ligne Mombasa-Nairobi

La construction du deuxième volet du projet ferroviaire Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) va pouvoir débuter, grâce à un prêt d'environ 1,5 milliards de dollars accordé par Exim Bank of China au Kenya. À terme, il doit relier le port de Mombasa aux zones économiques spéciales de l'arrière-pays, en passant par Nairobi.

Le prêt qui vient d'être octroyé par Exim Bank of China au Kenya va permettre de relier la capitale Nairobi aux zones économiques spéciales de Naivasha et aux champs géothermiques d'Olkaria, par 120 kilomètres de voies ferrées. La maîtrise d'oeuvre a été confié au groupe chinois China Road and Bridge Construction, qui doit démarrer les travaux cet été.

La première phase du projet, une voie ferrée de 427 kilomètres qui relie le port de Mombasa à Nairobi en passant par sept comtés, est, elle, quasiment achevée. La ligne doit être mise en service le 1er juin prochain, après plus de trois ans de travaux d'un coût de 3,8 milliards de dollars, [également financé par Exim Bank of China](#).

### Le plus grand projet depuis l'indépendance

Cette voie ferrée, qui constitue [le plus gros projet d'infrastructure du Kenya depuis l'indépendance](#), vise à développer l'industrie est-africaine en réduisant les coûts du transport. Elle doit permettre de transporter 22 millions de tonnes de marchandises par an et devrait absorber 40% du débit du port de Mombasa à l'horizon 2035.

La ligne doit aussi relier l'Ouganda, le Rwanda et le Soudan du Sud. La tranche ougandaise a été ouverte en octobre 2014. Celle entre Mombasa et Kigali devrait être achevée en 2018. Le coût total du projet est estimé à 13,8 milliards de dollars.(JA 05-05-2017)

### GHANA AIMS TO PROCESS 50 PERCENT OF COCOA LOCALLY

The Chairman of Ghana's Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), Mr. Hackman Owusu-Agyemang, has said that the government has set a target of ensuring that 50 percent of cocoa produced in the country are locally processed.



He noted that although Ghana has installed capacity to process over 50 percent of cocoa produced in the country, it could only process 20 percent owing to unavailability of raw materials.

Interacting with journalists after touring a cocoa processing factory in Tema on Thursday, Mr. Owusu-Agyemang said that the focus had been on exports to the detriment of the local factories, thereby assuring that attention would be given to the local factories to help them produce to full capacity.

He noted that jobs can be created for the youth when the companies are in full operation.

Ghana's Cocobod is the apex body that oversees the purchasing of cocoa in Ghana and has the mandate to facilitate the production, processing and exportation of cocoa beans (APA 05-05-2017)

### AFRICAN UNION EU REP: 'AFRICA SHOULDN'T JUST BE A SPECTATOR TO GLOBAL DECISIONS'



The African Union's EU representative, Ajay Bramdeo, [told EURACTIV Germany](#) that plans for a Marshall Plan for Africa are fundamentally good but warned that the continent needs to be the focus and that healthcare must be the priority.

*Ajay Bramdeo is the African Union's representative to the European Union, a position he has held since December 2011.*

**German Development Minister Gerd Müller wants to set up a Marshall Plan for Africa. What do you think of this idea?**

The idea is fundamentally good. Africa is a relevant actor in terms of world affairs but it is still dealt with all too rarely. Africa shouldn't just be a spectator to global decisions; it wants to be involved in the decision-making process, working towards the greater good. But the idea of the Marshall Plan for Africa is something that has been developed in and by Germany, without Africa.

The plan, as a result, runs the risk of being difficult to implement. There is also the question as to why Germany has made aid under the Plan dependent on democratic standards, even though its own prosperity has not in the past been based on democratic action and strict regard for human rights.

***Germany's plan for development effectiveness***

The goal of Germany's Marshall Plan for Africa is sustainable development on the continent within the scope of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Plan should take development to the next level, write Alexandra Rudolph and Sarah Holzapfel.

**Isn't it understandable to make aid dependent on certain conditions? What else can cooperation be based on?**

Above all, we need a real, lasting dialogue based on trust. Working together only works when there is trust there. The EU is not untouchable in terms of human rights and democratic values. The financial crisis has taught us a lot about that.

The European Union might want to dismiss this but the fact the Community is in an existential crisis is unmistakable. You only have to look at the Brexit issue and the successes of certain parties in France and Germany.

**Ahead of the G20 summit in Hamburg, there have been calls to put the Agenda 2030 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the G20's own agenda.**

This initiative is of great interest to the African continent as it is close to its own Agenda 2063, which correlates with the 17 SDGs. Health is very central to Africa's agenda for growth and development. We have a number of institutionalised partnerships between the African Union and EU, which are focusing on implementation of the goals. But a G20 agenda on global health would be very welcome.

**W20 Summit champions women's interests ahead of G20**

At the Women20 Summit in Berlin, female leaders from around the world discussed how to promote economic empowerment of women on the agenda of a still male-dominated G20 leadership. EURACTIV Germany reports.

**Angela Merkel also wants the G20 to address the issue of pandemics. How optimistic are you about this?**

If the German chancellor wants to introduce this topic then the rest of the G20 will be on board. Health is a global challenge. That's why we need global solutions.

**What about existing measures, how well do they work?**

It is clear that Africa and the G20 have to work together. But now there are too many initiatives around the world, including healthcare. That's a waste of resources because, quite often, those projects are not in contact and don't know what each other are doing and what kind of progress they are making. Some of the progress is therefore wasted.

So we need to harmonise what we already have. We need a mechanism that links efforts around the world and which can make our work more efficient.

**MPs accuse UK government of having 'no clear' SDG implementation plan**

The UK government has failed to set out a clear plan to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) or encourage businesses to do likewise, according to new research from a cross-party watchdog. EURACTIV's partner edie.net reports.

**In terms of healthcare, many African countries have a lot of catching up to do. What has to be done regarding drug research and vaccinations?**

In terms of vaccines and drugs that treat infectious diseases, pricing and treatment both depend on how well NGOs, the private sector, researchers, politicians and the World Health Organisation (WHO) work together on product development partnerships.

What Africa really needs is an efficient vaccine supply system.

**Ghana, Kenya and Malawi to pilot GSK malaria vaccine from 2018**

Ghana, Kenya and Malawi will pilot the world's first malaria vaccine from 2018, offering it for babies and children in high-risk areas as part of real-life trials, the World Health Organization said today (24 April).

**African healthcare has a number of shortcomings, particularly in antibiotic resistance and neglected diseases like malaria, tuberculosis and leprosy. Where is the most urgent change needed?**

Monitoring, emergency measures and infectious disease prevention have to be improved. In March, the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) launched a five-year strategic plan to improve the situation. CDC is a collaboration of volunteer medical professionals in the United States that works with local experts in the least developed countries, particularly in Africa, to come up with basic healthcare solutions that can be applied to millions of people in Africa, as well as serving as a platform for emergency response.

In 2007, the African Union also adopted the Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan for Africa (PMPA) in order to support local pharmacy branches and improve healthcare and safety. Infectious diseases like malaria and leprosy have for too long been neglected by pharmaceutical research and this has had a fatal effect on the continent.(EurActiv 05-05-2017)

**NIGERIA SEEKS ASSISTANCE OF JAPAN IN RAIL PROJECTS**

Nigeria's Minister of Budget and National Planning, Mr. Udoma Udo Udoma, has urged visiting Japan's trade mission to assist Nigeria to link all parts of the country with railway to enhance transportation and boost economic activities.



Receiving the Japanese Public and Private Joint Mission for Promoting Trade and Investment in Abuja on Thursday, the minister said that improved transportation infrastructure was one of the priorities of the government as stated in the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP).

He appealed to the Japanese investors to invest in railway infrastructure and other transport facilities in the country as incentives would be provided by the Federal Government for them.

"We want to integrate the whole country through railway and we know that Japan is at the forefront of the railway facilities.



“It is an area we would like you to work with the government under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) arrangement to revamp the country’s railway,” a report by Nigeria’s Independent newspaper on Friday quoted the minister as saying.

Udoma listed other priority areas as agriculture, energy and industrialisation.

He said the support had been to the various sectors of the economy such as transportation, security, education, health, water, power sectors as well as in humanitarian services in the North East.

Udoma told the delegation that the government had inaugurated the economic growth plan to revive the economy, diversify it and make the economy attractive to foreign investors.

In his remarks, Shunsuke Takei, Japanese Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, commended the efforts of the Federal Government to improve business environment by adopting the plan.

Takei said that the economic relations between the two countries would improve with the economic growth plan and their visit to Nigeria.

The Japanese head of the delegation of private sector, Masahiro Kuwahara, said that their mission was to discuss on broader business opportunities for both countries. (APA 05-05-2017)

## LE FORUM ECONOMIQUE MONDIAL SUR L'AFRIQUE DE DURBAN FAIT LA PART BELLE A L'EMPLOI DES JEUNES



Le président sud-africain Jacob Zuma lors d'une précédente édition du forum économique mondial le 28 janvier 2010 à Davos

Le président sud-africain Jacob Zuma a inauguré, jeudi matin, le démarrage de la vingt-septième édition du Forum économique mondial sur l'Afrique en prononçant, devant un parterre de diplomates et de dirigeants d'entreprises, un discours sur la nécessité de créer des emplois pour les jeunes du continent.

« Les jeunes ont été très clairs en appelant leurs dirigeants à aborder les problèmes d'exclusion, de pauvreté et de chômage », a déclaré Jacob Zuma, à l'ouverture du Forum économique mondial sur l'Afrique, qui se déroule à Durban, en Afrique du Sud. « Leur parole doit être entendue car l'Afrique est un continent jeune, un continent promis à un brillant avenir [si nous investissons correctement dans notre jeunesse](#) », a-t-il ajouté.

L'Afrique subsaharienne est la région la plus jeune du monde : environ 60% de la population y a moins de 25 ans. Près de 20 millions de diplômés devraient entrer chaque année sur le marché du travail de la zone, selon les estimations du Forum économique mondial.

### Robotisation

Plusieurs intervenants ont évoqué la nécessité pour la jeunesse africaine de développer des compétences dans l'information et la technologie, pour obtenir des emplois. En effet, selon les

prévisions du Forum, 41% des emplois en Afrique du Sud sont susceptibles d'être automatisés. Un ratio qui atteint 44% en Éthiopie, 46% au Nigeria et 52% au Kenya.

Le secteur des mines est particulièrement concerné, avec le développement de robots plus performants que l'humain. Ainsi, « l'Afrique du sud doit faire face au défi de la reconversion des mineurs », a souligné [la directrice du programme africain du Forum, Elsie Kanza](#), dans une interview à *The Africa Report* (publication du groupe Jeune Afrique).

A-t-on vraiment besoin d'étudier pendant quatre ans lorsqu'on peut acquérir les compétences adéquates pour un emploi en seulement quatre heures ?

En compilant les données du réseau social professionnel LinkedIn, les chercheurs du Forum ont pu détailler quels étaient les emplois qualifiés les plus nombreux sur le continent : il s'agit des analystes commerciaux, des banquiers d'affaires, des comptables, des spécialistes du service à la clientèle, des professionnels de la publicité, des experts des technologies de l'information et des développeurs de logiciels.

Pour Elsie Kanza, la nécessité de former les jeunes à ces métiers est primordiale: « A-t-on vraiment besoin d'étudier pendant quatre ans lorsqu'on peut acquérir les compétences adéquates pour un emploi en seulement quatre heures ? Nous devons être ouverts aux changements les plus audacieux », a-t-elle déclaré.

### **Le défi de l'explosion démographique**

Zuma, lors de son allocution, a également évoqué les défis posés par la montée des inégalités sur le continent. « En tant que dirigeants, nous n'avons pas trouvé de solutions adéquates pour réduire le fossé entre les riches et les pauvres et pour assurer une croissance inclusive significative. »

Et d'ajouter : « Le fossé entre les pays développés et les pays en développement demeure immense, tout comme celui entre les riches et les pauvres dans de nombreux pays. » Un constat partagé par Elsie Kanza : « Les modèles de croissance du continent ont échoué à rencontrer les attentes des citoyens. »

Pour elle, « beaucoup de dirigeants sont inquiets » [de l'explosion démographique](#) africaine. « Pourtant, lorsqu'on discute avec des entrepreneurs, on découvre qu'ils sont exaltés. D'ici 2050, nous allons avoir besoin de 700 millions de nouveaux logements, sans compter les besoins existants. Cette population qui grandit devra se nourrir, se loger... Tout cela offre des opportunités. [Il y a peut-être de quoi paniquer](#), mais il y a aussi beaucoup d'excitation. » (BD 04-05-2017)

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