

# MEMORANDUM

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## HOW ILL IS ANGOLA'S LEADER, THE OPPOSITION ASKS, AMID RUMOURS OF HIS DEATH

On Wednesday, Angola's opposition called for official clarification on the health of veteran President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, who has been out of the country for nearly three weeks.

Dos Santos's influential daughter, Isabel, this week moved to deny rumours that the president had died in Spain, where state media confirmed he had travelled on May 2.

"We are all concerned about the lack of official information on the health of the president," Rafael Savimbi, a senior figure in Unita, the main opposition party, said.

Agostinho dos Santos, a political analyst close to the opposition, said "serious and clear explanations" were needed after reports of the president's health troubles and rumours of his death.

Opposition news website Maka Angola said the president was "between life and death in a private clinic in Barcelona".

Dos Santos has been in power since 1979 and has announced that he would not contest elections due in August, marking a historic change in the oil-rich country.

Isabel dos Santos, a billionaire businessperson, criticised rumours about her father's health, this week.

"Someone has gone so low as to invent information about the death of a man in order to create confusion and turmoil in Angolan politics," she said on her Instagram account.

The president oversaw the end of the country's civil war in 2002, but has been regularly accused of crushing dissent and allowing his family and associates to enrich themselves, as most Angolans endure extreme poverty.

Joao Lourenco, the defence minister, has emerged as Dos Santos's chosen successor and is on course to take power after the elections.

The MPLA party has ruled since independence from Portugal in 1975, and authorities suppress opposition activity. "We must remain calm and not disseminate irresponsible information," Bento Kangamba dos Santos, a senior member of the MPLA, told local media.

President Dos Santos has reportedly received cancer treatment in Barcelona over several years.

Late in 2016, the MPLA issued a statement denying reports that he was ill and criticising social media messages.

The president has rarely been seen in public but exercises authority over all branches of government, politics, media and business. (AFP 17-05-2017)

## SOUTH AFRICAN AIRWAYS CABIN CREW LOOKING TO RESUME STRIKE NEXT WEEK

South African Airways (SAA) cabin crew members are seeking to resume a strike over meal allowances as early as next week. The airline's other unions said on Wednesday that they are also considering industrial action to pressure the national carrier into discussing wage increases that were due in April.

United Association of SA aviation manager Jannem Goussard said the union is seeking its own dispute due to lack of response from management, but said "We are not yet considering a strike". A meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, and the union will then gauge the airline's stance on time frames.

The South African Cabin Crew Association (Sacca) said it is waiting for the Commission for Conciliation Mediation and Arbitration to issue a strike certificate on its demands for an increased meal allowance.

SAA had to cancel 50 flights in April during a one-day strike by cabin crew, who are still demanding an increase in the daily international meal allowance from \$131 to \$170. SAA won an interdict against the strike in April, but Sacca deputy president Christopher Shabangu said the court had ultimately ruled based on technical issues, including the mediation and dispute resolution that took place during the previous financial year under an existing wage agreement.

A last meeting is scheduled for Sunday. (BD 17-05-2017)

## SWIFT SOARS IN AFRICA, WAY AHEAD OF GLOBAL GROWTH

Data from financial messaging service provider SWIFT showed that in the first four months of 2017, total message traffic volumes grew by 15.2% year on year compared with global growth of 6.4%. This was an acceleration from growth rates of 12.8% and 5.4% respectively in the same period last year, showing that global and African growth is accelerating.

SWIFT provides financial messaging for more than 10,000 banks, securities institutions and corporate customers in 212 countries and territories. Compound annual growth for Africa has been consistently above the global average and was 13% since 2012.

SWIFT said the growth in Africa was underpinned by a significant increase in payments traffic, as many countries in Africa continue to see relatively stable economic growth despite the downturn in commodity prices since 2011.

African payment traffic volumes grew by 16.9% versus 11.6% for the same period last year with growth in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region at 21.6% outpacing the rest of Africa. Africa is the fastest growing region for payments traffic compared with the Americas at 11.1%, the Middle East at 9.2% and Asia Pacific at 9.6%. (BD 17-05-2017)

## RWANDA BANKS ON HOUSING FUND TO BOOST AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Officials at the [Ministry of Infrastructure in Rwanda](#) (MININFRA) have said that a new affordable housing fund that could enable persons earning between \$360 and \$840 in monthly wages to buy a house is due to start in July.

The Minister for Infrastructure, James Musoni, said the fund, estimated to be between \$200-250m is one of the key four strategies of the government in a bid to accelerate the construction of affordable houses to the Rwandese.

The fund could either be used to subsidize mortgage loans or directly provide funding to private developers at low interest rates.

The minister noted that up to 18 or 20% interest rate increases the cost of housing once such interest is translated into the house value; .He added that the government is looking to start a fund in July with an intention to significantly reduce interest rates. However, only first time home owners will be able to access to the funds. This, of course would be after the Cabinet deliberates on the same.

Musoni also found fault with people who have put up expensive houses that are also taking a lot of space at the expense of complying with the development master plan.

Other strategies for affordable housing include encouraging people to construct houses in a way that uses land efficiently – storey buildings or apartments. Residential houses developers under storey-building arrangement will have to cater to the entire infrastructure cost. This is expected to make housing more affordable since such infrastructures take up about 30% of the building cost.

To curtail high land costs that result in high cost of accommodation, the Government had put in place a mechanism of availing land for affordable housing and also sell plots of land to house developers at reasonable prices to address land speculation.

According to Augustin Kampayana, the acting director-general of Rwanda Housing Authority (RHA), there are investors who are ready to venture into affordable housing projects both in Kigali and secondary cities.

Moreover, based on a 2012 study that aimed to establish needed residential houses, Rwanda will need at least 340,000 housing units by 2022. (CRO 09-05-2017)

## AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITY IN ANGOLA HAS A VERY LOW LEVEL OF MECHANISATION

Only 100,000 hectares of arable land, out of Angola's 5 million hectares, are annually prepared using machinery and/or animal traction for sowing and harvesting agricultural products, the agriculture minister said on Thursday in Luanda.

Minister Marcos Nhunga also said that the rest of the available land is still tilled using hoes, which is worrying and reveals the low level of agricultural mechanisation in Angola.

Because of this situation, the Ministry of Agriculture held a meeting with economic agents related to commercial banking, companies in the agricultural sector, construction, telecommunications, and insurers, among others, to disseminate information on development policies in the agricultural sector and raise awareness of business opportunities and investments in the agricultural, livestock and forestry sectors.

The minister recalled that Angola has the potential to achieve high levels of agricultural production, and may in the short term start exporting products such as corn, rice, pulses, oil seeds, vegetables, tubers, tropical fruits, coffee, honey and wood and their derivatives.

“We have soils with a high agrarian potential, abundant water resources and a significant amount of the population dedicated to working in the field, but domestic production still does not meet consumption needs for many crops,” he added, quoted by Angolan news agency Angop. (12-05-2017)

## CONCERNS ARISE OVER FREED NIGERIAN ABDUCTEES, THOUSANDS STILL MISSING



Gathering at the country's capital of Abuja, Nigerians call on the government to act quickly to find the 276 girls kidnapped from a Chibok school

Following the release of over 80 missing schoolgirls, human rights groups have expressed concerns about their rights and future.

After a series of negotiations, the Government of Nigeria recently struck a deal allowing for the release of 82 girls from Chibok in Nigeria's Borno state in exchange for five Boko Haram leaders.

Though a positive development, the news was met with cautious optimism by international groups.

“The release of 82 of the kidnapped Chibok schoolgirls by the armed group Boko Haram is a big relief. However, it is vital now that they receive adequate physical and psychosocial counselling and support so that they can fully reintegrate in their communities,” [said](#) Amnesty International's Nigeria Director Osai Ojigho.

In April 2014, 276 girls were abducted from their school in Chibok by Boko Haram, sparking international outrage and the #BringBackOurGirls social media campaign.

To date, 161 out of the 276 girls have been released or escaped.

Soon after the newest release, the West African nation's government publicised the girls' names to outlets including [Twitter](#).

Human Rights Watch's Senior Researcher on Nigeria Mausi Segun criticised the move, [calling](#) it a “dismal failure” to protect the girls' privacy.

“We can't imagine the kinds of abuses they might have been exposed to. We were hoping the focus would be on their reintegration and their return to their families or to any kind of normalcy... but releasing their names in the way that the government has done, I think they paid very little attention to the rights and the needs of the girls,” Segun told IPS.

While such information was divulged to the media, she added that the girls' families were left in the dark as they did not have access to any information or list of names. “I think that it's shameful,” she continued.

Segun also expressed concern over the legal status of the girls.

In a similar deal between the Nigerian Government and Boko Haram, 21 girls were released in October 2016. However, the girls have still not been allowed to return to their families and communities.

Though the government has claimed that it is providing education and services to the girls, “a jail is a jail,” Segun told IPS.

“They have no freedom to leave. They have a right to their liberty, and there is a legal obligation on the government to give reasons for holding them.... We are concerned that the same treatment awaits the recently released 82 girls as well,” she continued.

Ojigbo expressed similar sentiments, urging the government to ensure the privacy of the released girls and that they are not kept in lengthy detention and security screening which may “add to their suffering and plight.”

Segun highlighted the need for families to have access to information and their own children. But it is not just these girls that deserve such access and attention, she said.

“Virtually everyone who has been affected by the conflict has a son, a daughter, a father, a mother missing whose fate they have no information about,” Segun told IPS.

Though it is uncertain how many have been kidnapped, Amnesty International has [documented](#) at least 41 cases of mass abductions by Boko Haram since the beginning of 2014. Many abductees are subject to abuses including rape, beatings, and forced suicide missions.

In a recent report by the UN Secretary General on Children and Armed Conflict in Nigeria, the UN verified the use of 90 children, mostly girls, for suicide bombings in Nigeria, Cameroon, Chad, and Niger. They were also able to verify cases of sexual violence affecting 217 children between 2013 and 2016, but estimate that thousands of women and girls may be victims.

“Boko Haram has inflicted unspeakable horror upon the children of Nigeria’s north-east and neighbouring countries,” said Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict Virginia Gamba.

Human Rights Watch also found insufficient government action towards solving such cases. In November 2014, over 500 children were abducted from the Borno town of Damasak. The human rights group [found](#) that residents have received no response from the government and that Nigerian authorities have neither publicly acknowledged the Damasak abductions nor disclosed efforts to recover the missing children.

“The government has failed to reach out to them, perhaps because they do not have high level media attention as the Chibok abduction has,” Segun said, stressing the need to widen the scope of negotiations to include the thousands missing beyond Chibok’s schoolgirls.

The UN announced that they are on standby to provide comprehensive support to the survivors, including emergency reproductive health care and psychosocial counseling. The UN’s Children Agency (UNICEF) also vowed to help the girls reunite with their families and continue their education in a safe environment.(IPS 10-05-2017)

## **TRANSPORTES AÉREOS DE CABO VERDE AIRLINE NO LONGER HAS PUBLIC FUNDING**

The government of Cabo Verde (Cape Verde) will no longer subsidize the country’s flagship airline Transportes Aéreos de Cabo Verde (TACV), said the country’s Foreign and Defence Minister Luís Filipe Tavares at the end of Thursday’s meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The minister also announced that the Council of Ministers mandated the Finance and Economy and Employment ministers, Olavo Correia and José Gonçalves, respectively, to have the TACV restructuring plan approved by the Cape Verdean parliament for “immediate implementation.”

Tavares said the restructuring aims to improve the market value of the company and ensure that until the conclusion of the privatisation process, “continuous losses and accumulated debt of more than 90 million euros cease to be a threat to the financial stability of the country.”

TACV has annual funding needs of between 18 million and 30 million euros, and the minister recalled that the company reported a loss of 22 million euros in 2014, 35 million euros in 2015 and 17 million euros in 2016.

The World Bank representative for Cabo Verde, Louise Cord, recently revealed that budget aid to Cabo Verde will remain suspended until a TACV restructuring plan is presented, highlighting the fiscal risks that the current situation poses. (12-05-2017)

## AFRICAN MIGRANTS BOUGHT AND SOLD OPENLY IN ‘SLAVE MARKETS’ IN LIBYA



A shot of the living conditions inside a detention centre in Libya

Hundreds of migrants along North African migration routes are being bought and sold openly in modern day ‘slave markets’ in Libya, survivors have told the United Nations migration agency, which warned that these reports “can be added to a long list of outrages” in the country. The International Criminal Court is now considering investigating.

The [International Organization for Migration \(IOM\)](#) had already sounded the alarm after its staff in Niger and Libya documented over the past weekend shocking testimonies of trafficking victims from several African nations, including Nigeria, Ghana and the Gambia. They described ‘slave markets’ tormenting hundreds of young African men bound for Libya.

Operations Officers with IOM’s office in Niger reported on the rescue of a Senegalese migrant who this week was returning to his home after being held captive for months, IOM had on April 11 [reported](#).

According to the young man’s testimony, the UN agency added, while trying to travel north through the Sahara, he arrived in Agadez, Niger, where he was told he would have to pay about 320 dollars to continue North, towards Libya.

A trafficker provided him with accommodation until the day of his departure, which was to be by pick-up truck, IOM said. But when his pick-up reached Sabha in south-western Libya, the driver insisted that he hadn’t been paid by the trafficker, and that he was transporting the migrants to a parking area where the young man witnessed a slave market taking place.

“Sub-Saharan migrants were being sold and bought by Libyans, with the support of Ghanaians and Nigerians who work for them,” IOM Niger staff reported.



A young South Sudanese refugee looks out of a truck before being transported to the Imvepi settlement at the Imvepi Reception Centre, Arua District, in northern Uganda

## A 'Long List of Outrages'

"The latest reports of 'slave markets' for migrants can be added to a long list of outrages [in Libya]," said Mohammed Abdiker, IOM's head of operation and emergencies. "The situation is dire. The more IOM engages inside Libya, the more we learn that it is a vale of tears for all too many migrants."

Abdiker added that in recent months IOM staff in Libya had gained access to several detention centres, where they are trying to improve conditions.

"What we know is that migrants who fall into the hands of smugglers face systematic malnutrition, sexual abuse and even murder. Last year we learned 14 migrants died in a single month in one of those locations, just from disease and malnutrition. We are hearing about mass graves in the desert."

So far this year, he said, the Libyan Coast Guard and others have found 171 bodies washed up on Mediterranean shores, from migrant voyages that foundered off shore. The Coast Guard has also rescued thousands more, he added.

## Sold in Squares or Garages

"Migrants who go to Libya while trying to get to Europe have no idea of the torture archipelago that awaits them just over the border," said Leonard Doyle, chief IOM spokesperson in Geneva. "There they become commodities to be bought, sold and discarded when they have no more value."

Many describe being sold "in squares or garages" by locals in the South-Western Libyan town of Sabha, or by the drivers who trafficked them across the Sahara desert.



**Risking their lives to reach Europe from North Africa, a boatload of people, some of them likely in need of international protection, are rescued in the Mediterranean Sea by the Italian Navy**

"To get the message out across Africa about the dangers, we are recording the testimonies of migrants who have suffered and are spreading them across social media and on local FM radio. Tragically, the most credible messengers are migrants returning home with IOM help. Too often they are broken, brutalised and have been abused, often sexually. Their voices carry more weight than anyone else's," added Doyle.

So far, the number of Mediterranean migrant arrivals this year approaches 50,000, with 1,309 deaths, according to the UN migration agency.

IOM rose from the ashes of World War Two 65 years ago. In the battle-scarred continent of Europe, no government alone could help survivors who wanted no more than an opportunity to resume their lives in freedom and with dignity. The first incarnation of IOM was created to resettle refugees during this post-war period.

## International Criminal Court May Investigate

In view of these reports, the Prosecutor of the [International Criminal Court \(ICC\)](#) on 8 May told the United Nations Security Council that her office is considering launching an investigation into alleged migrant-related crimes in Libya, including human trafficking.

"My office continues to collect and analyse information relating to serious and widespread crimes allegedly committed against migrants attempting to transit through Libya," said Fatou Bensouda during a Security Council meeting on the North African country's situation.

"I'm similarly dismayed by credible accounts that Libya has become a marketplace for the trafficking of human beings," she added, noting that her office "is carefully examining the feasibility" of opening an

investigation into migrant-related crimes in Libya should the Court's jurisdictional requirements be met.

### **'Horrendous Abuses' at the Hands of Smugglers**

Meanwhile, one person out of every 35 trying to cross the inland sea between northern Africa and Italy in 2017 has died out in the deep waters of the Mediterranean, the United Nations refugee agency on 8 May reported, calling for "credible alternatives to these dangerous crossings for people in need of international protection."

"Saving lives must be the top priority for all and, in light of the recent increase in arrivals, I urge further efforts to rescue people along this dangerous route," [said](#) the [UN High Commissioner for Refugees \(UNHCR\)](#), Filippo Grandi.

The Central Mediterranean – with smugglers trafficking people from the shores of Libya to Italy – has proven to be particularly deadly. Out on the open sea, approximately 1,150 people have either disappeared or lost their lives in 2017.

In response to the recent stories reported to UNHCR's teams by survivors, Grandi said that he is "profoundly shocked by the violence used by some smugglers."

As the "Central Mediterranean route continues to be particularly dangerous this year, also for 2016 the UN recorded more [deaths at sea](#) than ever before.

The main causes of shipwrecks, according to UNHCR, are the increasing numbers of passengers on board vessels used by traffickers, the worsening quality of vessels and the increasing use of rubber boats instead of wooden ones.(IPS 09-05-2017)

### **ANGOLAN DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR NETWORK WILL BE REDUCED**

Angola's diplomatic and consular network will be reduced from September "in order to save human, technical and financial resources," according to a presidential dispatch that creates an ad-hoc commission to study and propose the reduction and resizing of Angola's representation abroad.

The presidential dispatch said that the reduction and resizing of the country's diplomatic and consular network aims to "make it less costly, based on the funds available in the current national and international economic and financial situation."

The resizing is explained in the order quoted by Portuguese news agency Lusa as a way to "take better advantage of existing capacities and improve operations," in order to "maximise the results."

The commission, which will have 60 days to present the final report, will be coordinated by the Minister and head of the Civil House of the President of the Republic, Manuel da Cruz Neto, and also includes the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Public Administration, Labour and Social Security, among others.

The commission's duties include "studying and proposing the reduction and downsizing of Angolan diplomatic missions abroad," due to the "funds available and the diplomatic, technical and administrative personnel strictly required to do the job."

In the 2017 budget, the Government assigned 32.663 billion kwanzas (US\$196 million) in spending to the Diplomatic, Consular and Trade Representation missions, about half to pay wages, which was an annual increase of 18%.

Angola is represented in China by an embassy in Beijing and by consulates general in Guangzhou, Hong Kong and Macau. (16-05-2017)

### **INDIAN FIRM CONSTRUCTS OIL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK ON LAKE VICTORIA**

[Mahadhi Infra Uganda](#) Limited, an Indian firm based in Uganda plans to create a new oil [transportation network](#) along Lake Victoria. The machinery needed to put up the required infrastructure for the project to take off is already on site and that 30 acres of land have also been acquired.

The company says work to build the barges – where petroleum supplies will be loaded from Kisumu and moved to Kampala – is already underway. They are also looking to put up an oil jetty and storage terminals on 30 acres of land in Bugiri district, completing a grand plan of a new petroleum transport system on Lake Victoria.

Kenya is also planning to concentrate on building a number of oil jetties on the shores of some of its key ports such as Kisumu as East Africa's largest economy plans to increase petroleum supplies to mostly landlocked Uganda and Rwanda. Mahathi undertook its ground-breaking ceremony on May 8, while Kenya Pipeline Company is set to launch the construction of its \$10m jetty at Kisumu next month.

On the other hand, since the two events are related, the move avails more room for Uganda and Kenya to exploit the potential that Lake Victoria offers in terms of transportation of petroleum products. This brings a significant change from the rocky road network, where fuel tankers have had to compete with other vehicles, motorbikes and animals over longer distances.

During the recent joint oil and gas convention and logistics expo in Uganda, Kalyan Swaroop, a director at Mahathi, said the new transportation network it intends to put in place will nearly halve the costs that transporters incur.

The demand for petroleum supplies favours Mahathi. According to its figures, demand for petroleum products in Uganda is 1.6 million tonnes per year. With total petroleum consumption growing by 7% per year, the figure is estimated to hit 3m tonnes by 2020. And that is just for Uganda. At least 600,000 tonnes of petroleum supplies pass through Uganda to South Sudan and DR Congo.

Already, Mahathi has signed a 10-year exclusive right over the transportation of petroleum supplies between Kampala and Mwanza.(CRO 12-05N-2017)

## **JAPAN PAYS FOR COTTON PRODUCTION FEASIBILITY STUDY IN ANGOLA**

An economic feasibility study for the production of cotton in Angola's Malange province is being carried out by Japan as part of its cooperation with Angola, the Japanese ambassador in Angola, Hironori Sawada, said on Monday in the city of Malange.

The ambassador told Angolan news agency Angop at the end of an audience with the governor of Malange, Norberto dos Santos, that the project, details of which he did not disclose, was underway, with the respective costs being paid by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Sawada pointed out that the province of Malange is very rich in land, water and mineral resources, and the intention is to take advantage of this potential for production of cotton and other initiatives.

Angola has been benefiting from agriculture, education, health, infrastructure, energy and landmine clearance projects in several provinces, paid for by JICA. (16-05-2017)

## **UGANDA MOVES TO SLASH WATER PRICES IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS**

The government of Uganda has plans underway to slash [water](#) prices at public stand pipes (PSPs). More than 2,700 PSPs have been installed across the country for the urban poor in informal settlements. Currently, the [National Water and Sewerage Corporation](#) (NWSC) sells water at the public stand pipes at \$0.02 per 20-liter jerrycan, while vendors are expected to charge a standard rate of \$0.014 for each jerrycan.

Presently, there are ongoing talks between the ministry of Water and Environment and NSWSC to have another tariff plan to slash the pipe price by half per jerrycan to allow urban poor communities to further access clean water.

Sam Cheptoris, the minister of Water and Environment, justified the price slash to the legislators on the budget committee as a means to deter the water vendors from overcharging consumers. This is after several complaints were launched about vendors hiking the price upto five times the recommended amount.

Consequently, he spoke of a possibility of NWSC coming up with a tariff plan for the poor. According to him, the plan should be implemented in the next two months.

Alfred Okot Okidi, the ministry's permanent secretary, reiterated the same, adding that since the main concern at the moment are the middlemen who are overcharging the customers, they are looking to ensure that they dictate a standard price per jerrycan to be enforced across the board. Moreover, to enforce the same, a joint monitoring team will be stationed at the regional facilities.

The corporation has also installed 1,500 pre-paid water ATMs with provision of coin slots and a jerrycan costs \$0.056.

NWSC public relations officer Sam Apedel said NWSC is seeking \$25.2m to implement the Service Coverage Acceleration Programme to extend water to 12,000 villages in the country every financial year. NWSC will raise 52% of the funds while government will cater for the rest (CRO 11-05-2017)

### **COBALT INTERNATIONAL ENERGY SUES ANGOLA'S SONANGOL FOR US\$2 BILLION**

Oil exploration company Cobalt International Energy (CEI) has filed an arbitration suit with the International Chamber of Commerce demanding more than US\$2 billion from Angola's state oil company Sonangol for breach of agreement, the company said.

The action concerns the cancellation by Sonangol of an agreement to buy the 40% stake it owns in two oil blocks, for which the Houston-based company was due to receive US\$1.75 billion.

In August 2016, CEI announced that there had been a meeting in late July between Chief Executive Tim Cutt and Sonangol Chief Executive Isabel dos Santos to discuss the sale of those two holdings, and it was agreed that the company would seek to sell the controlling interests in blocks 20 and 21 to "third parties."

Noting that it would only have a stake in Block 9, the company said that "the buy-and-sell agreement ensures a smooth transition to a new entrant and underlines the commitment of the parties to a final investment decision for (...) production to begin at the end of 2018."

CEI now argues that the cancellation of the agreement as well as the uncertainty surrounding the deal has made it impossible to find a buyer for those two oil holdings in the Angolan sea.

In addition to Cobalt International Energy, with 40%, both blocks have Sonangol as a partner along with BP, with 30% each.

The Angolan government has not yet ruled on this lawsuit brought by CEI, a company with activities focused on the exploration of oil and assets in the Gulf of Mexico and the west coast of Africa. (16-05-2017)

### **THE 3 REQUIREMENTS FOR .AFRICA DOMAIN REGISTRARS**



.Africa domain name requirements

Domain Name Registrars (RaRs) hoping to capture a slice of the new ('dotAfrica') .africa gTLD (geographic Top Level Domain) will have to adhere to three requirements before they will be allowed to submit a domain name application during the waning Sunrise Period.

Trademark owners have already started applying for .africa domain names matching their protected trademark rights. This is done during the Sunrise Phase, which precedes the public launch of the domain during General Availability (GA) Phase (from 4 July 2017) where domain names are allocated on a “first-come-first-served” basis.

RaRs are the customer-facing entities through which the public typically purchases domain names.

According to Lucky Masilela, CEO of ZA Central Registry NPC (ZACR), the Sunrise Phase is technically different from the General Availability Phase during the launch plan of a new domain name space.

“During the Sunrise Phase, domain names are allocated in terms of a limited rights protection process and not on a first-come, first-served basis. This is intended to provide priority protection to established and verifiable brands.

**“In order to receive Sunrise Applications from our customer-facing partners, we need to ensure that certain minimum criteria are met.” They are as follows:**

1) RaRs need to be ICANN (Internet Corporation for Assigned Names & Numbers) accredited, i.e., be able to provide the Registry with an official registration number issued by IANA (Internet Assigned Numbers Authority);

2) Finally, in order to actually submit a valid Sunrise Application, RaRs will most likely need to engage with the Trademark Clearing House (<http://www.trademark-clearinghouse.com/>) and/or the Mark Validation System (<http://markvalidation.co.za>). This is to ensure that Sunrise Applications submitted to the Registry actually correspond to a validated trademark right.

3) RaRs have to integrate with the .africa Registry System and this means either completing the onboarding process from scratch or activating your ability to provision .africa domain names within your current account held with the Registry. Part of this process requires ICANN Accredited Registrars to accept the .africa Terms and Conditions applicable to RaRs. More information on the criteria is published on the Registrar Portal <http://nic.africa/en/home/>.

The aforementioned processes are explained in greater detail on <http://nic.africa>. RaRs are encouraged to log into their Registrar Portal Account.

.Africa is the new top-level domain for the African continent. “It is an African initiative created by Africans for the international Internet Community. In order to ensure responsible growth, we will place special emphasis on securing the rights of intellectual property owners during the Sunrise Period. Ensuring that RaRs comply with the prescribed requirements is key to a successful Sunrise Period,” concluded Mr. Masilela.

**The three .africa launch phases are as follows:**

Sunrise Period (4 April 2017 – 2 June 2017) – during the Sunrise Period, trademark owners can secure domain names matching their registered trademarks before .africa is made available to the public. A Trade Mark Clearing House (TMCH) must first validate the registered trademarks. Alternatively, and specifically for the .africa gTLD, a system called Mark Validation System (MVS) will be used to validate trademarks which are not yet registered, company names, trust names and common law trademarks (as well as registered trademarks for trademark proprietors who do not wish to validate through the TMCH).

Landrush Period (Phase 1 = 5 June – 9 June; Phase 2 = 12 June – 16 June; Phase 3 = 19 June – 23 June; Phase 4 = 26 June – 30 June) – this registration is open to everyone around the world without any restriction, but the registration is sold at a higher price than the regular price.

General Availability (4 July 2017) – registration will open to the general public and works on a “first come, first served” basis.(ITNA 12-05-2017)

## **CHINA RESPONSIBLE FOR ONE-THIRD OF FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND JOBS CREATED IN AFRICA IN 2016**

China’s investments in Africa accounted for about a third of total foreign direct investment (FDI) and jobs created by these projects on the continent in 2016, according to a study by consultancy EY (Ernst & Young).

The EY study, entitled “Redefined Link” counted 66 Chinese investment projects in Africa, more than double the previous year, after the United States (91 projects, 5.2% less) and France (81 projects, +39.7%).

By value, Chinese projects totalled US\$36.1 billion, 38.4% of the total and created 38,417 jobs, 29.7% of the total in the period.

“By 2016, jobs created by Chinese FDI projects hit a record high, more than double that in 2015 and more than three times the number of jobs created by the next largest investor, the US. This underscores the creation of jobs and the impact of Chinese FDI in Africa,” said EY.

“Across Africa, Chinese investors in 2016 have taken an active role in the technology, media and telecommunications, automotive and business services sectors,” said the study, noting that Sino-African trade has grown rapidly, and that China is Africa’s largest trading partner.

In 2016, China’s exports to Africa totalled US\$82.9 billion, while imports from Africa were valued at US\$54.3 billion.

Most of China’s financial flows to Africa, “have been in the form of development aid through lending and bilateral aid.”

EY’s figures show that since 2005 China has invested capital in 293 FDI projects in Africa, totalling US\$66.4 billion and created 130,750 jobs.

In July 2016, it said, Chinese companies and banks reached US\$17 billion in preliminary cooperation agreements with their African counterparts in sectors such as infrastructure, energy and technology.

EY data also pointed to the diversification of Chinese investment, “covering both resource-rich countries such as South Africa, Nigeria and Angola, and agricultural exporters such as Kenya.”

In addition to trade and FDI, it said, Chinese companies and state-owned entities have financed and built many infrastructure projects across the continent, including ports, roads, railways, dams, telecommunications networks, and airports.

The “One Belt, One Road” initiative aims to lay the foundations for the next phase of the Sino-African economic relationship, and EY said the initiative “could prove to be advantageous for both sides, positioning Africa as an appropriate channel for China’s surplus savings and infrastructure capacity.” (15-05-2017)

## **NIGERIA: REFORMIST KANO EMIR FACES STATE SCRUTINY**

The charges against the Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II, follows an anticorruption crackdown at the royal court

Legislators in northern Nigeria have opened an investigation into corruption claims against one of the country’s leading traditional rulers, whose progressive views have caused controversy in a conservative region.

The legislature in Kano state on Wednesday set up a committee to investigate eight allegations against the Emir of Kano, Muhammadu Sanusi II, over the “embezzlement of funds belonging to the emirate council”. Other claims include abuse of office and improper conduct.

The eight-member committee is expected to report its findings to the state’s house of assembly within two weeks.

The announcement came two weeks after the Kano state anticorruption agency began looking into the finances of the state-funded emirate council — the equivalent of a royal court.

That probe centres on the use of 6-billion naira (\$19m) of palace funds to pay for cars, chartered flights, phone and internet bills as well as other personal expenses, according to a source familiar with the matter. The council has denied the allegations.

Supporters of the emir, who before his appointment in 2014 was governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria, claim he is being targeted for his progressive views.

The western-educated ruler has broken with royal tradition, speaking out about the need for social reform in a deeply conservative region and sending his daughter, Shahida, to represent him at public functions.

Her appearances "downgraded the honour of the emirate council" and "the mode of dressing of the emir's daughter ... was an embarrassment," the house committee chairman on works, Ibrahim Ahmad Gama, said last month.

He also accused Sanusi of claiming Kano state governor Abdullahi Umar Ganduje and legislators mismanaged state resources on a trip to China to secure \$1.8bn in funding for a light rail project. (AFP 12-05-2017)

## LA COMMISSION LANCE UNE CONSULTATION PUBLIQUE SUR LES REGLES ENCADRANT LE NOM DE DOMAINE ".EU"

Le domaine ".eu" a été initialement [créé en 2002](#) et officiellement lancé le 7 décembre 2005. Il est donc désormais temps de vérifier si les règles qui encadrent le nom de domaine de l'Union européenne sont toujours adaptées. Avec plus de 3,7 millions d'enregistrements au total, ".eu" se place aujourd'hui au 7<sup>ème</sup> rang des noms de domaine de premier niveau et offre un nom de domaine unique pour les organisations et les personnes résidant dans les États membres de l'UE ainsi qu'en Islande, au Liechtenstein et en Norvège. Depuis l'entrée en vigueur des règlements encadrant le ".eu", le marché des noms de domaine a beaucoup gagné en dynamisme et en concurrence. C'est pour cela que la Commission a ouvert aujourd'hui une [consultation publique](#) jusqu'au 4 août 2017 à laquelle toute personne intéressée est invitée à participer. Plus d'informations sont disponibles [ici](#). ( EC 13-05-2017)

## TANZANIA-RWANDA RAIL DEVELOPMENT TO BOOST EAST AFRICAN TRAIN LINKS

Comments Work has begun on building the first stage of the new Tanzania-Rwanda railway, making it likely that the project as a whole will be developed. While many new African rail lines have been proposed over the past 20 years, there is a growing trend of them actually being built. To take one example, the first phase of the new standard gauge line in Kenya, from Mombasa to Nairobi, is approaching completion. Indeed, it is this project that may have given added emphasis to the development of the Tanzanian line. Both new lines, as with the ageing colonial-era lines in the region, connect landlocked Eastern Africa to the rival ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam, Kenya and Tanzania's competing windows on the world. Mombasa is already the larger of the two and its possession of a far superior rail connection could have proved deciding in attracting business. The new contract relates to the 300km section of line between Dar and Morogoro. A joint venture of Turkey's Yapi Merkezi and Mota-Engil of Portugal were awarded the contract in December following a competitive tender managed by Tanzania Railways Corporation. Both companies have made Africa a marketing priority. Yapi Merkezi had requested financial guarantees on the project from the Turkish government. Ankara is keen to encourage much greater involvement in Africa by Turkish companies. However, the government and the state owned rail utility may have to review the tender process for future contracts. Although a massive 40 companies asked for the tender application documents, only one bid was received. It is possible that the successful contractors were prepared to make an attractive financial offer in order to aid their application for the remaining contracts on the project. Yapi vice chairman Erdem Arioglu said that his company was "very interested" in bidding to develop the rest of the scheme. Four phases Construction is expected to take 30 months on the US\$1.1bn project. This seems expensive for the length of line involved but includes the port and Dar es Salaam city infrastructure, so the remaining three sections as far as Kigali are expected to be completed at a lower cost per kilometre. The three tenders are expected to close by mid-2019, so construction work is expected to place simultaneously on all four stretches, creating a great deal of employment in the process. The second contract will relate to the 336km section from Morogoro to the ostensible Tanzanian capital Dodoma. It will be interesting to see what proportion of the skilled workforce comprises local people. As with the Kenyan project, the new line will be standard gauge, rather than the narrower gauges currently in use in Tanzania. This will allow the transport of heavier loads and could encourage the exploitation of the various mining commodities

that the government hopes to see developed. Traders in areas with direct rail links to Dar or Mombasa are likely to favour those ports but the key battleground will be over adjacent areas of Uganda, Burundi and Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Road connections between these landlocked areas and the two railways are scheduled to be upgraded. At present, many roads in the region are still unsurfaced and so unusable for freight transport following heavy rain. The Tanzania-Rwanda railway will have one advantage over the new Kenyan line: with a top speed of 160km an hour it will be faster. This is also much faster than the existing Tanzanian rail network. Accurate figures are difficult to obtain but existing rail services for both cargo and passenger traffic are slower than road transport in most areas. Discussing the project, Tanzanian President John Magufuli commented: "Our main focus is to improve the infrastructure sector, something which will in turn improve other sectors." He is particularly keen to promote intra-African trade, which currently accounts for just 15% of the continent's international trade, although this is up from 11% a decade ago. Connecting the Kenyan and Tanzanian lines, probably in either Rwanda or Uganda would help this process but the two governments may not be prepared to cooperate. (BD 09-05-2017)

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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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