



MEMORANDUM

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KENYA SUSPENDS 'RECIPROCAL' VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR SOUTH AFRICAN VISITORS

Visa requirements for South Africans travelling to Kenya, which were to be implemented from next month, have been suspended for now and both governments are in negotiations about the matter. This is according to Kenya's High Commission in South Africa.

Kenya slapped strict visa requirements on visitors from South Africa in June, citing the "principle of reciprocity".

But for now, South Africans visiting Kenya for up to 30 days do not require visas.

Though Kenyans have always needed visas prior to entering South Africa, the latter has implemented stricter immigration controls in recent months. This has not gone down well with the Kenyan authorities. Should Kenya's new rules still come into effect, South Africans would need to have a return air ticket and to pay a service charge of \$70 each time they apply for a visa.

Changes suspended

In addition, applicants would need letters of invitation, proof of funds available and to appear in person for biometrics during a visa application. This would have to be done at the Kenyan embassy in South Africa, changing the arrangement where South Africans visiting Kenya obtained visas at the point of entry.

The Kenyan High Commission said this week that visa requirements for South Africans, which had been due to come into effect on September 1, had been suspended "until further notice".

A spokesperson said the suspension was in place while "the two governments are negotiating".

The South African Department of Home Affairs failed to respond to requests for more information on Wednesday. But the Democratic Alliance's Home Affairs spokesman Haniff Hoosen welcomed Kenya's move as a "positive step".

He urged the South African government to reciprocate.

Real impact analysis

South Africa's new visa regulations would have a negative effect on the tourism industry. While Home Affairs had allowed for public consultation, "there wasn't any real impact analysis done before they went ahead and implemented the new regulations," Mr Hoosen said.

"The Department of Home Affairs should have put much more time and effort into studying the impacts of the new regulations before introducing them."

He said a number of countries had "expressed their concern about the new visa regulations".

In terms of South Africa's new immigration regulations effective from May, tourists with children should carry copies of their unabridged birth certificates. In addition, single parents now needed an affidavit from the other biological parent.

The new regulations require foreign nationals applying for a South African residency permit to pay fees equal to the cost of deporting them to their home country. Those planning to visit South Africa must submit their documents and biometric details, among other things, in their country of origin. (BD 21-08-2014)

CHINA LOOKS TO GREECE TO JOINTLY DEVELOP AFRICA TRADE

China's ambassador to Greece has joined the increasing clamour for developing closer ties between Beijing and Athens, proposing the two countries cooperate across the wider Mediterranean region and especially in developing trade with Africa.

China has been expanding its interests in Africa and has not only become a big investor in the continent, but a key trade partner with a growing number of African countries.

In comments made thanking Greece for the Greek frigate Salamis' evacuation of 79 Chinese nationals from Libya at the beginning of the month, ambassador Zou Xiaoli noted the long friendship between the two countries and the potential benefits of closer cooperation.

"Greece extended a helping hand in evacuating Chinese nationals from Albania, Lebanon and Libya in

1997, 2006 and 2011, respectively. The fourth evacuation on 2 August 2014, once again added a significant page in the history of China-Greece friendship," said Zou. "China feels proud and lucky to have such a good friend as Greece."

Noting China's major investment in Greece – Cosco's container terminal in Piraeus – is "the fastest growing one in the world," the ambassador stressed his country's long cooperation with Greek shipowners. Greeks are key customers of the country's shipyards and leading cross-trader in the transport of China's much needed commodities of iron ore and coal.

"Greece is not only a gateway for the flow of capital, commodities, and people between China and Europe; with joint efforts, China and Greece will be able to extend their cooperation to the whole Mediterranean region and the African continent," said Zou.

"Greece enjoys geographical advantages and good relationship with many African countries. China has been Africa's largest trade partner for the last five years, with the bilateral trade volume over \$200bn in 2013. China has also been investing and constructing important projects in the fields of transport, communications and energy in Africa, injecting vitality into Africa's efforts to achieve self-sustainable development.

"As common friends and partners of Africa, China and Greece can jointly play an important role in promoting stability and prosperity in Africa, a tremendous market with the greatest potential in the world," said ambassador Zou. (Paccico 15-08-2014)

LE PRESIDENT DE LA BAD REGAGNE SES BUREAUX A ABIDJAN

Donald Kaberuka s'est installé cette semaine à Abidjan, marquant ainsi le retour de la Banque africaine de développement à son siège statutaire, en Côte d'Ivoire, après une délocalisation de onze ans à Tunis.

C'est donc Abidjan que Donald Kaberuka passera sa dernière année à la tête de la Banque africaine de développement. Le Rwandais - dont le mandat à la tête de la BAD s'achève en mai 2015 - s'est réinstallé cette semaine dans ses "bureaux de l'immeuble de l'ex-Centre de commerce international d'Abidjan (CCIA)", rapporte l'agence APA. L'ancien conseiller économique à l'Organisation interafricaine du café retrouve une ville où il a vécu pendant sept ans.

Fin de la délocalisation

Il a été accueilli, à son arrivée le 12 août au soir par Albert Toikeusse Mabri, le ministre du Développement et du Plan ivoirien accompagné de ses homologues des Affaires étrangères Charles Diby Koffi et des Infrastructures économiques Patrick Achi, rapporte l'agence de presse.

L'arrivée de Donald Kaberuka marque la réinstallation définitive de la Banque africaine de développement à son siège statutaire, en Côte d'Ivoire, après une délocalisation de onze ans à Tunis, où l'institution panafricaine s'était installée en 2003, en raison de l'insécurité et de l'instabilité politico-militaire en Côte d'Ivoire.

Cinquantenaire

Selon les informations communiquées à Jeune Afrique en mai dernier, la majorité des équipes de l'institution panafricaine - plus de 1 800 employés - devraient s'installer dans la capitale économique de la Côte d'Ivoire à partir de septembre.

Ce retour, qui a reçu le feu vert du Conseil des gouverneurs de la BAD en mai 2013, a nécessité des investissements de l'ordre de 100 millions de dollars, avait indiqué à l'époque Albert Mabri Toikeusse. Ce dernier a d'ailleurs révélé mardi dernier que "la prochaine réunion du Conseil d'administration de la BAD aura lieu le 8 septembre ici à Abidjan".

L'ETHIOPIE SE LANCE DANS LE VIN

Les noms des cépages - merlot, syrah, sauvignon, chardonnay - sonnent clairement français, mais l'étiquette des vins "Rift Valley" porte une mention étonnante : produit en Ethiopie.

L'un des géants mondiaux du secteur de la boisson, le groupe français Castel, lève un verre à son premier 1,2 million de bouteilles de vin de la vallée du Rift.

L'ancien président Meles Zenawi, mort en 2012, avait encouragé Castel à développer des vignobles en Ethiopie, l'un des plus pauvres pays d'Afrique, pour en améliorer l'image.

La moitié des bouteilles est destinée à la consommation domestique et l'autre à l'exportation vers les coins de la planète où la diaspora éthiopienne s'est installée, à l'exception de 26 000 déjà raflées par un acheteur chinois.

Castel estime que ses vins éthiopiens commenceront à rapporter des bénéfices en 2016 mais compte déjà doubler sa production pour atteindre 3 millions de bouteilles par an. L'Ethiopie est plus connue pour une autre boisson, le café, mais le groupe français est persuadé que le pays peut rivaliser avec le principal producteur de vin du continent, l'Afrique du Sud.

Un territoire déjà exploité

"Ce ne sera pas difficile parce que le climat est bon, il ne fait pas trop chaud", a déclaré à l'AFP Olivier Spillebout, responsable du vignoble Castel en Ethiopie. "Pour l'export, c'est encore modeste actuellement, mais année après année, ou mois après mois, les ventes vont croître très rapidement".

Le groupe produit également un vin haut de gamme, le Rift Valley, vendu en Ethiopie 7 euros la bouteille, et un vin d'assemblage, l'Acacia, qui coûte 5 euros.

Ce n'est pas la première fois qu'un vin est produit à l'échelle commerciale en Ethiopie. Les soldats italiens qui ont occupé une partie du pays de 1936 à 1941 avaient créé des vignobles près d'Addis-Abeba et dans le sud-est. Ils ont été dans un premier temps nationalisés, puis privatisés, et appartiennent aujourd'hui à Awash Winery, qui a pour directeur le fondateur de Band Aid, Bob Geldof.

Une situation géographique idéale

Selon les oenologues, certaines parties de la géographie variée de l'Ethiopie, qui possède six zones climatiques et offre des hauts plateaux et des vallées verdoyantes, sont parfaites pour la culture de la vigne.

Pierre Castel, le fondateur milliardaire de l'entreprise (gérée par sa famille), a vu dans le sol sablonneux du pays, sa saison des pluies courte et sa main-d'œuvre abondante un grand potentiel pour faire du vin.

Le groupe produit de la bière en Ethiopie : il a acheté la brasserie St-George à l'Etat en 1998.

Castel a conclu un accord avec le gouvernement éthiopien en 2007 et a immédiatement envoyé ses meilleurs oenologues dans le pays, qu'ils ont parcouru pendant sept mois à la recherche des meilleures régions pour établir les vignobles.

Ils ont fini par choisir un site à 160 kilomètres du sud de la capitale, près de la ville de Ziway, où 750 000 plants de vigne amenés de Bordeaux ont été plantés sur 125 hectares par 750 ouvriers locaux. Ce sont les cépages merlot, syrah et cabernet sauvignon qui ont été choisis pour les rouges qui constituent 90 % de la cuvée Rift Valley, et le chardonnay pour les vins blancs.

Rivaliser de qualité

Selon un membre de l'équipe Castel qui a préféré garder l'anonymat, l'objectif de "l'investissement considérable" du groupe dans les vignobles éthiopiens est de produire un vin de qualité internationale. Bien que plusieurs récoltes aient eu lieu depuis 2007, c'est la première fois que le vin est mis en bouteilles.

"Nous avons utilisé le même savoir-faire que celui que nous appliquons dans nos vignobles en France, au Maroc et en Tunisie", explique notre source. "Comme notre objectif est d'obtenir un vin de niveau international, nous avons préféré faire plusieurs tests avant de lancer le processus de commercialisation."

Le résultat est un vin "aromatique et fruité", très plaisant en bouche. "Les gens qui vivent hors d'Ethiopie ont en mémoire la sécheresse d'il y a une dizaine d'années", a déclaré le ministre de l'Industrie, Ahmed Abitew. "Mais quand ils voient un vin 'made in Ethiopia', leur attitude change immédiatement !"

Les viticulteurs français se plaignent des maladies qui dévastent leurs vignes et d'une série de chutes de grêle catastrophiques, mais faire pousser du raisin dans la corne de l'Afrique n'est pas non plus une sinécure : les vignobles Castel en Ethiopie sont entourés d'un fossé de deux mètres de large pour arrêter les pythons, les hippopotames et les hyènes. (Paccico on 15.08.2014)

COULD AFRICA BE THE NEXT CHINA?

Africa's changing demographic over the next three-and-a-half decades could transform the continent into the next China, but only if its youthful population is educated and entrepreneurial.

Projections for the next 35 years indicate 1.8-billion babies will be born in Africa and its population is expected to double from 1.2-billion people in 2015 to 2.4-billion by 2050, said Unicef in a report released this week.

By the middle of this century, Africa will be home to about 41% of the world's births, 40% of all global under-fives and 37% of all children under 18, it said. Today, almost 47% of Africans are children under 18.

"If you have a young, dynamic, entrepreneurial workforce with the appropriate economic models to absorb this workforce, you could see something like a China happening here," said David Anthony, chief of the policy advocacy and co-ordination unit at UNICEF.

Between 1981 and 2010, China lifted 680-million people out of poverty. But 70% of sub-Saharan Africa live below the World Bank's poverty line of \$2 (R21) a day. In East and West Africa, the proportion of poor people is more than 70%.

The continent could be transformed and poverty reduced if wealth was distributed fairly, said Mr Anthony.

"It will make Africa incredibly attractive not just as an investment destination for its natural resources, but also as a consumer market."

But the window of opportunity for Africa to reap the demographic dividend is small and it is not a given. "Things will need to be done. Also, if the demographic dividend doesn't come, it will be a disaster. We have an incredible number of people with no opportunities," said Enrique Delamonica, chief of social policy and gender equality at Unicef Nigeria.

In the past, regions like East Asia have had much success in using their changing demographics and increased labour force to drive economic growth and increase prosperity.

African governments had to implement appropriate economic and social policies, particularly in terms of education and health, which encourages investment in children and young people, said UNICEF.

The demographic dividend could turn into a burden if there is no investment in children and young people, he warned.

"If you don't have the appropriate models to absorb this labour, what you'll get is a potential working-age population which is underemployed, underskilled, frustrated and deprived, with negative implications for security and stability."

Unicef is encouraging investment in early childhood development; adequate nutrition, especially in the first 1,000 days of a child's life to prevent stunted growth; quality education that is fit for purpose for the labour market; and the empowerment of girls.

Teenage pregnancy rates in Africa were more than double the global average and quadruple the rate in some of the poorest countries, UNICEF found.

Special attention is required for Nigeria, whose population will double in the next 35 years, the report said. By 2015, Nigeria will account for 5% of all global births, and 136-million births will take place in the country from 2015 to 2030.

Nigeria has one of the fastest-growing economies on the continent, but nearly half its population lives in poverty. It needed an estimated 2.5-million to three million new jobs a year, but oil, the main driver of economic growth, was not producing jobs, said Mr Delamonica.

"About 72% of the population depends on agriculture for a living, but this is not where the well-paying, high-productivity type of jobs will come from that Nigeria needs to benefit from the demographic dividend," he said.

The country is making progress in getting births registered and an estimated 57% of births are now officially recorded, up from 42% in 2011.

Some states are also rolling out school nutrition and youth employment programmes, free transport for pregnant women and mothers to access medical care, and cash transfers to encourage families to send girls to school.

"Africa has this amazing opportunity. Its best assets are not its hydrocarbons or minerals, it is children - and their numbers are growing.

"They really offer our best hope to consolidate the continent's status as a global power. But what will matter most is whether or not we take the necessary steps to invest in our children," said Mr Anthony. (Business Times 17-08-2014)

SUDATEL TO EXPAND ACTIVITIES IN WEST AFRICA

Sudan Telecommunication Group, Sudatel, says it is expanding its activities in a number of West African countries where it provides telecommunication services. Sudatel, which focuses on the telecom business in five African - Sudan, Mauritania, Senegal, Ghana and Guinea - covering the areas of mobile, fixed, Internet and broadband services, said on Sunday it had now started making profits in those countries and was planning further investments there.

Following successive years of zero profit, during its investment in these African countries the company on Sunday announced it had made a net profit of US\$28 million dollars, during the first half of the current fiscal year, 2014.

The company, which was founded two decades ago, with shareholders coming from the Gulf countries, Sudanese businessmen and private shareholders, has been investing heavily in those countries and seems to have made noticeable profit this year.

Tariq Hamza, the company's Executive Director, told a press briefing in Khartoum that the company had signed a memorandum of understanding, making available US\$50 million to fund expansions in Mauritania. It said another 20 million Euros was being invested in Guinea to help expand and improve network coverage.

He said the financial turnaround was due to the high level of efficiency in Mauritania, change of market strategy in Senegal, stabilization of effort in Guinea and less losses coming out of Ghana.

The Chairman of the Board of Directors, Dr Abdul-Rahaman Mohamed, commented that the first half-year results were 'good achievement for the group,' which was now 'moving from net losses in previous years to net profit with great momentum'.

Sudanese businessmen hold about 23% of the shares in the company with Arab investors holding about 49%. Sudanese shareholders own the rest of the shares.(BD 18-08-2014)

MIDDLE-CLASS HOUSEHOLDS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA TO GROW OVER NEXT 15 YEARS

The number of middle-class households in some sub-Saharan African countries is likely to increase significantly in the next 15 years supported by income growth — which will encourage more companies to invest in the region.

This is according to a report released by Standard Bank on Tuesday.

The research also suggests that while the middle class may be smaller than the 300-million usually reported, the strong growth of this class cannot be disputed and that income accumulation is far more broad-based.

The "Understanding Africa's middle class" report shows that of the 110-million households in 11 sub-Saharan African countries, 15-million are middle class while the majority are low-income earners.

Standard Bank senior political economist Simon Freemantle said these 11 sub-Saharan African countries offered opportunities. "That's a clear opportunity for the types of companies that are looking to allocate investments to try and capitalise on that," Mr Freemantle said.

Households with an annual consumption of under \$5,500 are classified in the low-income band, while those that consume between \$5,500 and \$42,000 per year are classified as lower-middle, middle, and upper-middle classes.

The report forecasts that an additional 14-million middle-class households will be added across the 11 countries between 2014 and 2030 amid an anticipated strong growth in incomes.

The economies of Angola, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia, were chosen as they together account for half of Africa's total gross domestic product and half its population.

The Living Standards Measure (LSM) — popularly used in South Africa to group people according to their living standards — was used as methodology.

LSM divides the population into 10 groups, with one being the lowest and 10 the highest. (BD 19-08-2014)

ANGOLA EXPECTED TO PRODUCE OVER 2 MILLION BARRELS OF OIL PER DAY IN 2016

Oil production in Angola is expected to reach between 2.1 and 2.2 million barrels per day in 2016, ratings agency Moody's said in a statement on the country's sovereign risk rating issued Wednesday. In the statement, Moody's noted that production at deep water projects in the Lower Congo Basin should begin soon and mentioned plans by the Angolan government to auction ultra deep water blocks in the Kwanza and Namibe basins.

"The Kwanza Basin is similar to geological structure of the Campos and Santos basins, in Brazil," Moody's said.

In the statement the agency projected growth of 7.8 percent for Angola's economy this year, noting that it may upgrade its rating of the country's sovereign debt in the future.

The statement to investors comes less than two weeks after the agency revised the country's credit rating upwards, to Ba2 from Ba3, and improved its outlook from stable to positive, pointing to an improvement in credit conditions in Angola. (21-08-2014)

EU INVOLVEMENT IN HUMANITARIAN AID DESPITE GROWING RISKS IN WAR ZONES

Europe has a long and proud tradition of humanitarian service and is the birthplace of many of the world's renowned relief organisations, despite the increasing attacks and killings of relief workers all over the world. The European Union – the Commission and Member States - is the world's largest donor of humanitarian aid. On World Humanitarian Day, 19 August, the EU has released an overview of its humanitarian action.

"In the Middle East we are witnessing horrific level of violence in which there is no end in sight for the suffering of innocent civilians", said Kristalina Georgieva, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis response. EU work in this area has the overwhelming support of European citizens: nine out of ten say it's important that the EU funds humanitarian aid according to the most recent Euro barometer survey.

More and more workers find themselves in precarious situations and at risk of violent attack. The job of humanitarians has become more dangerous and as a result, men, women and children in need are at risk of receiving less or no assistance. Thousands of vulnerable people can be left without life-saving support if insecurity forces aid organisations to suspend operations or withdraw from dangerous regions.

Also in the EU Neighbourhood assaults on humanitarian workers continue. In **Syria** nearly 60 humanitarian workers have been killed since 2011. Concerns about the safety of humanitarian personnel and operations remain as high as ever in all parts of Syria, with attacks on ambulances and UN vehicles and kidnappings of humanitarian workers.

According to reports, eleven UNRWA aid workers have lost their lives in one month of conflict in **Gaza**. There have been attacks on humanitarian facilities causing the death of also many civilians. Lack of security hampers the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

In 2013, the European Commission helped 124 million people in more than 90 countries. This year, it continues to assist those in the greatest need, including the victims of the conflict in **Syria**. The

Commission delivers its humanitarian assistance to those who need it the most in partnership with more than 200 humanitarian organisations, including non-governmental and international organizations, the United Nations and the Red Cross societies. Attacks on humanitarian workers are more frequent than ever. In 2013, 454 relief workers were assaulted in a record number of attacks. More than one third (155) of the victims were killed (date from aidworkersecurity.org as of 15 July 2014).

The 19 August is **World Humanitarian Day**, observed in memory of the victims of the attack on the United Nations' headquarters in Baghdad, Iraq, in 2003 which caused the death of 22 people including the UN Special Representative in Iraq Sergio Vieira de Mello. (Neighbourhood Info 19-08-2014)

ANGOLA SOVEREIGN FUND TO TRAIN MANAGEMENT STUDENTS IN SWITZERLAND

The Angola Sovereign Fund will send students to the School of Management and Law, University of Applied Sciences in Zurich as part of a scholarship programme called "Future Leaders in Angola," the Fund said in a statement.

"This initiative will offer young Angolan graduates the opportunity to access a unique and intensive course focused on international business management, investment banking and finance," according to the press release sent Wednesday.

The President of the Angola Sovereign Fund said in a statement that, "this programme of scholarships contributes to Angola's prosperity, because it has a strategic objective to teach talented individuals to manage the country's resources efficiently."

Alongside the launch of the scholarship programme, the Angola Sovereign Fund also announced completion of a study to launch a new "School of Hospitality on the African continent."

The ultimate goal of this school will be to provide training for young people interested in working in the hospitality industry. The study will provide information on the current and future outlook for specialisation of African workers in this industry in Angola and elsewhere in Sub-Saharan Africa. (21-08-2014)

TANZANIAN DAILIES HIGHLIGHT FOREIGN INVESTMENTS

Making Tanzania more attractive to foreign investors, finding markets for farm produce and advancing the status of peasant farmers in the country were the main focus in Tanzania's principal dailies this week.

The government-run Daily News, urging public and private businesses to be ready for competition with other African countries to win over new investments from the United States, reported that 'Tanzania is leading in attracting foreign direct investment in the (East African) region but we think we could do better.'

'The US has announced investment pledges totalling more than US\$ 17 billion at the US-Africa Leaders Summit that ended last week in Washington, DC,' the paper wrote, recalling US President Barack Obama's statement at the summit that his country was determined to be a partner in Africa's success.

According to the paper, Obama's wish was for the US to be a good and equal partner for the long term as he urged African leaders to create conditions to support foreign investment and growth on the continent.

The daily emphasised that Tanzania, therefore, should expedite reforms in the business environment 'so that we make the country the most attractive investment destination in Africa.'

Meanwhile, The Guardian, prompted by high agricultural crop yields in Tanzania this year, called on authorities to 'come out in the open and educate farmers on how they can export their crops.'

'When the government a few years ago came up with the policy of 'Kilimo Kwanza' (literary meaning Agriculture First), cynics dismissed it as among its many policies that have ended up gathering dust in office cabinets but were never implemented to the letter,' the private daily observed.

'This time round, however, it is proving a big success,' the paper said, warning that the bumper maize harvests in some of the leading producer regions may get spoiled before getting buyers.

The paper's concern was that farmers are not conversant with export procedures, though the government has allowed them to sell the cereal outside the country where they can get better prices than those offered by the National Food Reserve Agency (NFRA).

'Better still, exporting maize would guarantee cash for farmers as opposed to relying on the NFRA which owes them a lot of money from past purchases,' The Guardian argued in its comment, adding that 'maize exports would have a better effect in showing people that agriculture pays,' and in that way it will attract unemployed youths to start farming.

According to The Guardian, the Tanzanian farmers' response to the Kilimo Kwanza policy, introduced by the government in 2010 as a way to combat poverty, has been overwhelming.

'It is in view of this that we propose that guidelines for maize exports should be open to everybody so that farmers may know exactly what to do,' the daily suggested.

However, The Guardian cautioned farmers not to be lured by traders to export all they have harvested because of attractive export prices.

'They should only export the surplus and keep the rest for the rainy day. For there will be no one else to blame, but themselves, if they have food shortage in future,' it said.

On its part, The Citizen, observed: 'Though Tanzania is blessed with a massive potential in agriculture, not many moneyed people have shown the willingness to invest in it. This is despite the fact that the sector accounts for more than 25 percent of the country's GDP, provides 85 percent of its exports and employs 80 percent of its workforce.'

According to the private daily, agriculture need not be a career for those who failed in formal schooling. 'We should approach it with professionalism if we are to soon talk of rich Tanzanian farmers, not peasants.'

The paper argued that for healthy relationship between farmers and investors, all should engage in smart agriculture, which is about getting the most out of any size of land they cultivate.

'With a rapidly expanding population, the country will have to embrace intensive agriculture more seriously. More attention should be directed to quality-based agriculture, which entails substantial use of capital and inputs that add value to what we plant.

'The government should also encourage investors, both local and foreign, to take up opportunities in the sector, instead of letting everyone go for the extraction sector,' said The Citizen. (Pana 17/08/2014)

PORT OF LOBITO, ANGOLA, TO EXPORT MINING PRODUCTS FROM DR CONGO AND ZAMBIA

The port of Lobito is to prepare to receive mining products from Katanga, DR Congo and Zambia, carried there along the Benguela railway, the president of the company that manages the Commercial Port of Lobito said Wednesday.

Anapaz Neto also told Angolan news agency Angop that to receive mining production from Katanga and Zambia, the port had invested in building a terminal for ore with a 310-metre dock, a total area of 200,000 square metres and capacity to receive ships up to 50,000 GRT.

The president of the Commercial Port of Lobito noted that the ore terminal has an operational capacity of 3.6 million tons per year.

The port of Lobito, first built in 1928, is closely linked with the Benguela railway and connects the Atlantic Ocean to landlocked countries and through them to the Indian Ocean.

Last week, China Railway Construction finished rebuilding the Benguela railway line, which is 1,344 kilometres long and stretches between the Atlantic Ocean and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to the company, the project, which involved reconstruction of 67 stations and will allow a maximum train speed of 90 kilometres per hour and 20 million tons of cargo per year, cost the Angolan state US\$1.83 billion.

Construction of the line by Portugal began in 1899, the connection to Luau was completed in 1929 and in 1931 the port of Lobito received by the first rail shipment of copper from Katanga. (21-08-2014)

ZIMBANWE: IMPLATS STOPS ALL MINING AT BIMHA MINE

Impala Platinum's 87% held subsidiary Zimplats will close its Bimha Mine in Zimbabwe, cutting up to 70,000oz of platinum out of annual production of about 240,000oz.

Zimplats, the largest platinum miner in Zimbabwe, closed part of the Bimha Mine, the biggest of four mines the company operates south of the capital Harare, in July when ground conditions deteriorated.

Australia-listed Zimplats won praise from the government for the way it handled the closure, pulling 150 miners and their equipment to safety well before a collapse in part of the mine in mid-July.

"Implats wishes to inform shareholders and other stakeholders that a decision has now been made to cease all mining activity at the mine, with immediate effect, to ensure the safety of our employees," the South African company said on Wednesday.

"At this stage, there is a possible production impact of up to 70,000 platinum ounces in the 2015 financial year at the Zimplats operation as a consequence of closing the Bimha Mine," it said.

Two mining crews and their kit from Bimha have been deployed at other mines to offset the losses.

Zimplats has since 2011 intensely monitored the fault known as the Mutambara shear. The fault weaves its way in a rolling horizontal sheet through a major part of the workings at Bimha.

"Over recent weeks, ground conditions have continued to deteriorate and, as a consequence, it has been decided to withdraw employees in high-risk areas with immediate effect and to implement orderly closure procedures across the rest of the mine," Implats said.

There were eight crews working at Bimha. Each crew of 15-20 people mines 20,000 tonnes of ore a month. The new Mupfuti mine gained an extra crew as did the Ngarati mine. Zimplats will have to allocate new areas for the remaining six crews across its three mines.

On a map the shear zone looks like a giant manta ray lying on the deposit, straddling a large mined-out area as well as a sizeable portion of the twin-decline access and ore-hauling tunnels that descend from the surface into the depths of the mine. The area that collapsed in July is roughly in the centre of that zone and largely covers mined-out areas on either side of the declines. (BD 20-08-2014)

NATURAL GAS EXPLORATION IN MOZAMBIQUE PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMES

The president of Mozambique suggested Wednesday that businesspeople in the country should to prepare to take advantage of the business opportunities that will arise from exploration of natural gas deposits, according to daily newspaper Notícias.

At the ceremony to lay the first stone for construction of logistics base in Pemba, a facility to support the natural gas industry in Palma, in Cabo Delgado province, Armando Guebuza said that businesspeople

should focus not only on matters of quality and punctuality but also to identify other services that the industry may need.

The logistics base in Pemba will be assist and support all research, production and development activities for the oil and gas in northern Mozambique. It will be a long-term solution that places Pemba at the forefront of services of this kind in the region.

Nelson Ocuane, chairman of state oil and gas company Empresa Nacional de Hidrocarbonetos (ENH), gave assurances that in the case of the Rovuma basin his company had been working to ensure benefits for small and medium-sized companies.

Construction of the future logistics base in Pemba, expected to be ready by 2016, was awarded to “ENH Integrated Logistics Services” (ENHILS), owned by ENH Logistics (ENHL), with 51 percent, and Orlean Invest with 49 percent, which work in partnership with Sonangol Integrated Logistic Services (Sonils) for technical services. (21-08-2014)

AFRICA NATIONS SELL DEBT FOR EBOLA FIGHT

The worst-ever Ebola outbreak is straining the finances of affected governments, with Sierra Leone using Treasury bills to fund the fight against the virus as mining companies halt operations to protect workers.

Emergency aid of as much as \$260m is being prepared by the World Bank and the African Development Bank to limit the economic fallout of the virus on Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia, the lenders said this month.

In the latest outbreak in four West African nations, Ebola has killed at least 1,229 people, or about 55% of those infected with the disease, for which there is no cure, the World Health Organisation said on Tuesday.

“Governments are almost totally reliant on international aid and healthcare expertise to co-ordinate and fund the containment strategy,” Charles Laurie, head of Africa risk analysis at Bath, England-based consultancy Maplecroft, said. “The selling of debt remains a poor option for impoverished West African countries seeking to fund the fight.”

Sierra Leone auctioned 87.1-billion leones (\$20m) of Treasury bills on July 31, with the 364-day debt selling at 6.64%, up from 6.27% at a July 24 sale, with Matthew Dingie, head of budget and research at the finance ministry, saying the proceeds are being used to battle Ebola.

Liberia issued 144.6-million Liberian dollars (\$1.8m) of 91-day notes at 3.9% last month, up from 2.2% at a debut sale in May. Guinea sold 100 billion francs (\$14.5bn) of 364-day bills at an average yield of 10.8% on August 13, from 9.39% at an auction the previous week.

Business and transport disruptions, as well as increased health expenditure, may pressure budgets and jeopardise growth, Matt Robinson, a London-based senior credit officer at Moody’s Investors Service, said.

British Airways halted flights to Liberia and Sierra Leone and Kenya Airways will stop flying to the African nations, while Emirates cancelled services to Conakry in Guinea.

The three countries have a combined gross domestic product of about \$13bn, smaller than Afghanistan’s \$21bn economy, according to International Monetary Fund (IMF) estimates for last year. Companies including Kuala Lumpur-based Sime Darby, a palm oil producer, and Luxembourg-based ArcelorMittal, a steel maker and iron-ore miner, are scaling back operations.

The outbreak, the worst since the virus was first identified in the Democratic Republic of Congo in 1976, has spread to Nigeria, where four people have died from the illness. The disease is treated by keeping patients hydrated, replacing lost blood and using antibiotics to fight opportunistic infections.

While Nigeria has managed to contain the disease, the consequences for the West African oil and gas industry “would be considerable” if it spread further, said Mr Robinson.

Nigeria’s \$500bn economy is Africa’s largest, while it is also the continent’s biggest oil producer, and, with about 170-million people, its most populated.

Ebola may cut economic growth in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia by one percentage point, Aliko Dangote, Africa’s richest man, said on August 5.

The Guinean franc weakened 0.8% to 7,030/\$ in Conakry, extending losses this year to 1.2%. Sierra Leone's currency was little changed at 4,337 for losses of 1.4% this year, while the Liberian dollar was unchanged at 82.50/\$ for a 3% decline year-to-date.

"The countries most affected have seen people fleeing away from agricultural areas, which is a significant contributor to gross domestic product (GDP)," Bank of America Merrill Lynch analyst Oyin Anubi said.

"Some cities are looking like ghost towns where public employees have been sent home, nothing much is happening and that of course is going to have an impact on economic activity."

Appetite for investment in the countries is waning with Sierra Leone last week saying it suspended the sale of two-year bonds that would have been the first open to foreigners and the country will probably miss its growth target of 14%.

Guinea's gross debt is 38% of GDP; Liberia's is 30%, while Sierra Leone's is 33%, according to IMF estimates for last year. (Bloomberg 20-08-2014)

LIQUEFACTION OF NATURAL GAS IN MOZAMBIQUE REQUIRES INITIAL INVESTMENT OF US\$30 BILLION

Initial production of liquid natural gas (LNG) in the Rovuma basin is expected to total 20 million tons per year, Mozambique's Minister of Mineral Resources, Esperança Bias told the country's parliament.

Presenting a proposal for legislation on the project for liquefying natural gas in northern Mozambique, the minister said that the initial investment currently stands at US\$30 billion.

"It is anticipated that in an initial stage liquefaction units with a capacity of 20 million tons of liquid natural gas will be built and operated involving investment in excess of US\$30 billion dollars and the units will be built onshore in order to facilitate the participation of (Mozambican) nationals in all phases of the project," said the minister, cited by Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias.

Bias, who called for creation of a special legal regime to attract investments in natural gas exploration areas 1 and 4 of the Rovuma Basin, said that in the initial phase the natural gas would mainly be exported to Asia as this market offers the best prices.

"As the oil deposits are shared by the two concession areas the concessionaires have to reach an agreement to bring together joint deposits, under Mozambican petroleum legislation and in accordance with good international industry practice," she noted.

Minister Bias told members of parliament that the project has specific characteristics and requires legal and fiscal stability, potentially needs international arbitration, creation of special mechanisms for awarding licenses and permits, the right to establish overseas accounts and make payments through them, amongst other measures. (21-08-2014)



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4th GERMAN-SOUTH AFRICAN BUSINESS FORUM 2014

September 17th - 19th, 2014
Indaba Hotel and Conference Centre
Johannesburg, South Africa

The [German-African Business Association](#) (Afrika-Verein) and the [Southern-African-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry](#) (AHK) are currently organizing the **4th German-South African Business Forum** (GSABF), which will take place September 17th-19th, 2014 in Johannesburg, South Africa.

The **GSABF** is the **largest platform** for German-South African co-operation in the private sector. **High-ranking German and South African representatives** from politics and business will come together and discuss the most important economic policy developments as well as business opportunities in both countries.

With an export volume of 8, 8 billion € and a FDI stock of 6, 2 billion € the **Republic of South Africa is the largest economic partner of Germany** in Sub-Saharan Africa. According to the Federal statistical office about **600 German companies** are active in South Africa and **employ** more than **80.000** South Africans directly. Their main industries are Automotive, petrochemical, tourism, machinery, electronics and vehicles.

The Forum seeks to strengthen this German-South African co-operation by informing on **current projects and opportunities for economic engagement** in the areas of **transportation, urbanization, industrialization and energy supply**. In addition, the successes and challenges of German-South African partnerships are discussed.



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October 16 and 17, NABC together with the Africa Studies Center (ASC) will organize the 2nd edition of the conference **Africa Works!** 'Creating New Partnerships', bringing together the private sector, NGO's, knowledge institutes, and government bodies from both the Netherlands and Africa.

Again we expect 650+ individual participants to join, making Africa Works the biggest business oriented conference focusing on Africa in the Benelux.

In addition, the 'Business in Africa' exhibition will consist of 35+ stands which are also available to your organization.

If you require more information or have any questions do not hesitate to contact via www.africaworks.nl or africaworks@nabc.nl.

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