



MEMORANDUM

N° 196/2014 | 16/10/2014

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ROTHSCHILD SEEKS AFRICAN PARTNERS

NM ROTHSCHILD & Sons, the world's largest family-owned financial advisory firm, is seeking partners in Africa's largest economies to help it seize opportunities as growth accelerates.

Rothschild did not intend to have African offices outside of Johannesburg, "so we either have to work from a distance and fly in and out or have partners — we plan to do both", Martin Kingston, deputy executive chairman in SA, said last week. "There's a huge amount of money being mobilised for Africa and there's going to be significant opportunities to provide support and advice."

The industries Rothschild is focusing on include financial services, infrastructure, telecommunications, consumer and retail, plus natural resources. "Where we have clients that see opportunities in Africa, we'll work with them," Mr Kingston said.

Rothschild advised Vodacom on its R7bn acquisition of Neotel and worked with the government of Cote d'Ivoire on its inaugural \$750m Eurobond issue.

"I think you will find that there are many more bonds coming," Mr Kingston said.

Rothschild said on September 30 it had hired Trevor Manuel, who was SA's finance minister for 13 years, as a nonexecutive senior adviser globally and a nonexecutive deputy chairman in SA, to help the firm meet client needs and identify opportunities across the continent. (Bloomberg 14-10-2014)

ARMS DEAL SCANDAL CONTINUES TO CLOUD SOUTH AFRICA'S POST-APARTHEID DEMOCRACY

The 1999 multi-billion-dollar arms deal has become the biggest political controversy since the advent of democracy 20 years ago, and the Seriti Commission of Inquiry which is charged with investigating the scandal has heard explosive testimony in recent days. These include claims that Nelson Mandela's former wife Winnie was responsible for leaking reports detailing corruption in the deal, that the country's former Defence Minister was poisoned, that liberation hero Chris Hani was assassinated because he was about to blow the lid on the scandal and that a former British Prime Minister should be called to testify over his role in the arms deal.

The so-called Strategic Defence package was a multi-billion-rand military acquisition project finalised in 1999 by the South African government.

It involved a US\$4.8 billion purchase of weaponry from European countries and is seen as a catalyst for the creation of deep divisions within the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

In terms of the deal, South Africa acquired, among other hardware, 26 Gripen fighter aircraft and 24 Hawk lead-in fighter trainer aircraft for the air force, and frigates and submarines for the navy.

Its chief critic Terry Crawford-Browne, who testified at the inquiry in Pretoria this week, said "the rationale for the arms acquisition was illegal, unconstitutional, and fraudulent right from the inception".

"Contrary to assertions by admirals, generals, and officials in the earlier round of hearings, the real rationale for the arms deal was not the need in the post-apartheid era to replace obsolete warships and warplanes."

Rather, he said, it was to line the pockets of the country's leading politicians, including President Jacob Zuma, who has been heavily implicated in the scandal.

Crawford-Browne said an affordability study of the feasibility of the transactions warned Cabinet in 1999 that the arms deal was "a reckless proposition".

He told the commission that ANC stalwart Winnie Madikizela-Mandela was one of the "concerned MPs" who leaked information on the deal. Madikizela-Mandela has refused to comment on the claim.

In another explosive allegation, Crawford-Brown said SA Communist Party leader Chris Hani was

murdered in 1993, shortly before he could expose the role that former Defence Minister Joe Modise played in the arms deal.

In addition, he said Modise didn't die of cancer – rather he was poisoned.

“Mr Modise was known to have many enemies and it is also known there was considerable animosity between him and Mr Chris Hani dating from their times in exile,” Crawford-Browne said.

In addition, he said former British Prime Minister Tony Blair should have been summoned to testify.

“Regrettably, the chairperson ruled that it was premature to subpoena Mr Blair, the man who is widely regarded internationally as a war criminal. Not only is Mr Blair remembered for his lies in 2003 about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, but he is now closely associated with the wars both in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Palestine,” Crawford-Browne wrote in an affidavit submitted to the commission.

The ANC on Friday responded to Crawford-Brown's testimony by describing him as a 'pathological liar'.

Party spokesman Zizi Kodwa said the claims were “laughable and incredulous”.

Kodwa said Crawford-Browne resorted to tarnishing the names of the ANC and its alliance partners leaders rather than providing evidence on alleged corruption in the 1999 arms deal.

The commission was appointed by Zuma three years ago to investigate alleged corruption in the procurement deal.

And, ironically, it is Zuma who is the most senior politician implicated in the dispute.

His presidency has been dogged by several high-profile scandals, but it the arms deal that continues to cloud his leadership of the ANC and the country.

The Sunday Times last week reported that Zuma was allegedly bankrolled by French arms company Thales and the ANC received US\$1.4 million donation.

The newspaper published allegations that while he was still Deputy President, Zuma accepted a US\$50,000-a-year bribe from a Thale agent, using code words “Eiffel Tower” to disguise the bribes.

The local subsidiary of Thales, Thint, is one of the companies linked to the arms deal controversy. It was awarded a massive contract by the government which is now under investigation.

The arms deal saw Zuma suspended as Deputy President of the country over the arms deal before he bounced back, on a wave of political support to oust Thabo Mbeki as leader of the party – and the country.

However, the scandal refuses to go away and, as Zuma's enemies continue to circle, the burning question is whether he will survive his second term in office or become the biggest casualty of a scandal which has so badly tarnished the image of the ideals that Nelson Mandela fought so hard for. (Pana 12/10/2014)

ANGOLA WILL BE LARGEST OIL PRODUCER IN AFRICA FROM 2016

Starting in 2016 Angola will become the largest oil producer in Africa, according to a report from the International Energy Agency (IEA) released in London.

The IEA believes that Nigeria will only become the largest oil producer once again from mid 2020 onwards.

The agency said Angola would become the largest producer in Africa due to increased production and as a result of internal problems in Nigeria including mismanagement and theft which have led to delays to new investments.

Over 150,000 barrels of oil are stolen every day in Nigeria, which is the equivalent of over US\$7 billion per year. (15-10-2014)

ALGERIA: 2014 ANNUAL ACTION PROGRAMME TO FOCUS ON JUSTICE, MEDIA AND EMPLOYMENT

The European Commission has announced the adoption of the 2014 Annual Action Programme for Algeria, which will support the fields of justice (with a funding envelope of €9 million), media (€7.3 million), and training, employment and qualifications (€10 million).

“These three new opportunities for a close cooperation highlight the solid and dynamic partnership that exists between Algeria and the European Union and that we hope we will be able to deepen in the future,” said European Commissioner Neighbourhood Policy Štefan Füle: *“These programmes, which were jointly prepared, are meant to support the efforts made by Algeria to modernise the judicial system, to promote the public debate and to adapt vocational and university trainings to the needs of the labour market.”*

The support programme to justice reform will align with the Algerian government’s strategy and will focus on three objectives: the independence of justice through the modernisation of the functioning of the judicial system and its good governance, the access to law and justice, and the professionalization of the sector’s main actors and of the institutional supports to manage more efficiently training schools and human resources.

The support programme to the media in Algeria aims to support the private and public media in the progressive transformation of the national media landscape, in view of reinforcing the capacities of professionalization, adaptability and governance of the sector to play a better role in its support of the democratic debate in Algeria.

The third programme for training-employment-qualification aims at developing the mechanisms for an effective partnership between the business environment and insertion and training schemes (EU Neighbourhood 13-10-2014)

ANGOLA CONFIRMS FIRST AFRICAN SATELLITE WILL BE IN ORBIT IN 2017

Angosat 1, Angola’s the first communications satellite, built by a Russian consortium, will be put into orbit in 2017, the National Director of Telecommunications of Angola, Eduardo Sebastian told radio station Rádio Nacional in Luanda.

The satellite, construction of which began in November 2013, will be the first operated by an African nation and will have a lifetime of 15 years.

The project contract was signed in 2009 by Angola and a Russian consortium that includes the RSC (Rocket Space Corporation Energiya), Telecom-Projeto 5 and Rosoboronexport companies, which leads the group.

Angosat 1 will provide Angola with communications and digital terrestrial services, replacing the current analogue system.

Investment in the project totals US\$403 million. (15-10-2014))

ECONOMIC CHALLENGES, STRIKE BY STATE ATTORNEY REPORTED IN GHANA

Ghana's economic challenges and a strike by state attorneys in Ghana's second largest city, Kumasi, in the Ashanti Region, were some of the stories carried by the media this week. The state-owned Graphic newspaper carried a story on the assessment of the economy by the Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) of the University of Ghana in Accra at the launch of the State of the Ghanaian Economy Report (2013), which called for bold efforts to reduce budget imbalance.

The newspaper, in the story under the headline "ISSER projects positive outlook for economy," said the report, compiled by a team of researchers from ISSER, cited structural limitations in infrastructure, labour markets and declining commodity prices as contributory factors to the slow-down in the growth momentum in many emerging and developing economies, including Ghana.

Nevertheless, it noted, the near-term outlook for Ghana was positive, with growth projected at 8.0 per cent and that of non-oil at 6.5 per cent in 2014.

"Backed by strong investment in the oil and gas sectors, as well as by the public infrastructure and favourable commodity prices, Ghana can sustain continuous economic growth well into the future, provided the country improves its macro-economic management which requires bold efforts to reduce its budget imbalance," it added.

It said the report, which is the 23rd edition in the series of publications since 1991, provided a detailed assessment of how the various sectors, notably agriculture, industry and services, fared in the past year.

The Director of ISSER, Professor Felix Asante, who presented an overview of the report, said Ghana's economic growth remained fairly resilient in the face of the global recession, though the rate had been declining since 2011.

With discussions on Ghana's request for IMF assistance and objections from some quarters, especially labour unions, President John Dramani Mahama has been seeking to allay the fears of the public on the stringent demands of the Bretton Woods institution.

"Govt to engage organised labour, civil society," was the headline of the Graphic when the president met ministers, deputy ministers, the leadership of the majority in parliament and presidential staffers in Accra on Wednesday.

It quoted the president as saying that the government would soon engage organised labour and civil society over the upcoming programme with the IMF to ensure that the government received sustainable support for a successful programme.

President Mahama said the government would also hold discussions with its development partners on the programme.

The meeting also discussed the implications of a possible IMF programme for the 2015 budget and the mid-term development plan.

The state-owned Ghanaian Times had the headline "President pledges to engage social partners" with the story saying President Mahama had pledged to pursue a strong engagement with stakeholders, as his administration looked set to begin an economic adjustment programme next year, under the auspices of the IMF.

He said such an engagement with social partners, organised labour, civil society and development partners was critical as it would elicit a sustainable buy-in into the economic adjustment programme with the Bretton Woods institution.

President Mahama explained that the government was seeking partnership with the IMF so that collectively, it could maintain the discipline required to turn short-term reforms into medium term transformations.

More importantly, he said, there were real benefits from such a partnership for the economy and the society in the long run.

The story of the Graphic on the strike was “State Attorneys in Ashanti Region begin indefinite strike.”

It said lawyers at the Attorney General’s Department in the Ashanti Region had embarked on an indefinite strike to mount pressure on government to pay their clothing, fuel and leave allowances for 2013 and 2014.

The action by the lawyers, who represent the interests of the state in legal proceedings, saw them abandoning both the law courts and their offices in the exercise which started on Wednesday morning.

The lawyers hoisted red bands at the offices and posted a notice at the entrance.

The notice read, “State Attorneys of this Department would be embarking on an indefinite strike commencing from Wednesday the 8th of October, 2014. Members of the general public are hereby informed accordingly. Thank you.”

This means that all civil and criminal cases involving the state of Ghana will not come on in any law court in the region. (Pana 12/10/2014)

ANGOLA CABLES INVESTS IN UNDERSEA CABLE TO CONNECT ANGOLA TO BRAZIL

Angola Cables plans to invest US\$160 million by 2016 to lay an undersea cable linking Luanda (Angola) to Fortaleza (Brazil), the company’s chief executive António Nunes told Angolan news agency Angop. Nunes did not say which company would be responsible for the project to install the undersea cable. Alongside this investment, Angola Cables (Angola) is involved in another project, announced in São Paulo, which involves Algar Telecom (Brazil), Antel (Uruguay) and Google, to build a new fibre optic undersea cable connecting the cities of Santos and Fortaleza in Brazil, with the City of Boca Raton (Florida), USA.

In total, by the end of 2016 the Angolan company plans to invest some US\$260 million. (15-11-2014)

INDIAN OCEAN ISLANDS FIGHT IT OUT TO KEEP ATTENTION OF FICKLE TOURISTS

A popular destination among holiday-makers — is facing “stiff” competition from Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Seychelles.

This is according to professional services firm PwC, which also said Mauritius was competing against other high-end, self-catering residences that attract wealthy visitors.

SA is the island’s fifth-largest tourism source market, and South African arrivals grew 5.8% between 2012 and last year.

More than 50% of tourists to Mauritius are from Europe, led by France with more than 240,000 visitors to the island last year. The tourism sector on the island grew 2.9% last year, compared to 26.7% in Sri Lanka, 16.6% in the Maldives and 10.7% in Seychelles.

Mauritius is a high-end tourist destination, which could account for its susceptibility to swings in trends among the well-heeled.

PwC put the average hotel room in Mauritius at €170 a night. This is 2.7 times higher than the average room rate in SA and 28% higher than a local five-star hotel room rate.

According to PwC, growing competition from Sri Lanka, Maldives and the Seychelles would partially offset the positive effect of an improving global economy and growth in airline capacity.

“Sri Lanka, Maldives and the Seychelles are perhaps considered more exotic destinations, which are being explored by the more adventurous tourist,” said PwC head of hospitality and assurance service in Southern Africa Nikki Forster.

The higher airfare to Mauritius is also a reason for Mauritius’s loss of market share to other exotic destinations.

Mauritius has a population of about 1.2-million people and welcomes 1-million tourists each year, according to the High Commissioner of Mauritius to SA, Mahomed Ismaël Dossa. He was speaking in Sandton last week about the launch of a new Westin hotel in Mauritius.

South Africans accounted for 10% of the tourist arrivals on the island, and more than 27% came from the African continent as a whole.

The average room rate in Mauritius fell 8.6% in 2013, but “appears to be rebounding” in 2014, with PwC expecting a 1.2% increase this year.

Mr Dossa said the island was growing in popularity among Chinese tourists, whose numbers in Mauritius doubled to more than 40,000 in 2013 from the previous year. About 40% of the Chinese tourists came to Mauritius for weddings and honeymoons, he said.

“We have done a lot to increase the number of tourists in Mauritius, and we are hoping to go above the 1-million mark this year,” he said.

Mauritius has an open visa policy for nearly all African states and has invested 16-billion Mauritian rupees into building a new airport, Mr Dossa said. “We are looking to create a hub around the airport to cater for other economic activity.”

The Mauritius Tourism Authority said it regularly partnered with tour operators in SA and airlines to promote the island and offer specials. (BD-04-10-2014)

NORWAY PROVIDES FUNDING FOR THE ELECTRICITY SECTOR IN MOZAMBIQUE

Norway plans to grant US\$90 million to support construction of a power transmission line from Tete to Maputo in Mozambique.

The Norwegian ambassador to Mozambique, Mette Masst told Mozambican daily newspaper Notícias the funding would be used not only for the Tete-Maputo transmission line but also construction of the Maputo-Malawi transmission line.

The Tete-Maputo line, considered to be the backbone of the electricity grid in southern Mozambique, is expected to cost US\$2.7 billion and includes two power transmission lines.

The first alternating current transmission line, costing US\$951 million will link the provinces of Tete and Maputo, and will cover all substations along its route, to supply electricity to different points in the provinces of Gaza, Inhambane, Manica and Sofala.

The second line will carry direct current and is expected to cost US\$849 million and will be a direct link between the provinces of Tete and Maputo.

Norway recently granted funding of US\$5.3 million for completion of the rural electrification programme in the provinces of Cabo Delgado and Zambezia. (15-10-2014)

APPLY NOW TO TAKE PART IN YOUNG ALGERIAN ENTREPRENEURS MASTER CLASSES

If you are a young innovative Algerian entrepreneur under the age of 35, if you are setting up your own business or have recently created it, and if you would like to develop your international dimension and reinforce your pitching capacity, then you must register **before 16 October** to take part in Master Classes for Young Entrepreneurs that will take place in Algiers on 26 October and in Oran on 28 October 2014.

The Master Classes are organised by the EU-funded programme DIAMED, MEDAFCO and the Anima Investment Network.

For each Master Class, the best 15 projects will be selected according to the entrepreneur's profile, the development potential of the company and the motivation to participate in the Master Class. To register, click [here](#). (EU Neighbourhood 14-10-2014)

TAP POSTPONES AIR LINK BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND GUINEA-BISSAU

TAP Air Portugal said that necessary operating conditions to resume flights between Portugal and Guinea-Bissau have yet to be met, after the Guinean Minister of Internal Affairs, Botche Cande gave assurances of "full security" to the airline.

In a statement the Portuguese airline said the connection was delayed for "at least 45 days."

The return of flights to and from Guinea-Bissau was scheduled for 28 October, with the three flights per week departing from Lisbon, on Tuesdays and Saturdays, according to the airline. (15-10-2014)

PPRD SOUTH II TO HOLD WORKSHOP ON MANAGING INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE DURING A DISASTER

Following the workshop on international assistance organisation (Host Nation Support mechanisms-HNS) in Rabat, **The EU-funded Civil Protection PPRD South II project (Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to natural and human Disasters)** is organising a first exercise on international assistance management during a disaster phase (On Site Operational Coordination Centre – OSOCC) in Tunisia from 19 to 24 October.

The OSOCC training aims at supplementing the knowledge and reinforcing skills on international assistance management. The objective of this exercise is to train participants to establish an OSOCC, and to train on technical coordination. The HNS course was devoted to receiving and servicing international teams entering a country while the OSOCC course will focus on the operational management of these teams. HNS and OSOCC are complementary, and both intend to facilitate the work of the relief operations Director.

The workshop will start with a theoretical part on the basic concept and humanitarian context of the OSOCC as well as its different phases. It will be followed by a real-life case with a fictional earthquake land exercise in Hammamet.

Participants include staff from civil protection/ defence departments from Algeria, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia. In support of the project team, 5 experts (Austrian, Belgian, British, French, and Moroccan) will live up the exercises.

Four OSOCC workshops will be held during the project period; two in French and two in English.

PPRD South II is a three-year programme with a €5 million budget which aims at raising national resilience of southern Mediterranean partner countries (targeted by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)) affected by a natural or man-made disaster, mainly through risk reduction (prevention, mitigation, public awareness) and preparedness (capacity building, contingency planning), including better cooperation at the international level. (EU Neighbourhood 14-10-2014)

AFRICAN DOLLAR-DENOMINATED BONDS FROM NIGERIA TO KENYA TUMBLE

African dollar-denominated bonds from Nigeria to Kenya tumbled on Wednesday, sending yields higher, as an oil-price slump and concerns about the spread of Ebola put a damper on investor demand for assets in frontier markets.

Yields on dollar bonds sold by Nigeria, the continent's biggest oil producer, jumped the most since they were issued in July 2013 to the highest level since April.

Ghanaian, Kenyan and Zambian securities also suffered record losses.

Many of Africa's big economies depend on commodity exports, whether it be oil in Nigeria, copper in Zambia or coffee and cocoa in Côte d'Ivoire. Meek global growth and oversupply mean many raw material prices are at multiyear lows and the strains are showing.

"Frontier Africa dollar debt is in meltdown (on Wednesday), on a combination of sliding oil prices and to a lesser extent Ebola," Marc Ostwald, a strategist at ADM Investor Services International, in London, said in an e-mailed note.

Brent crude fell to the lowest in almost four years to languish in a bear market, threatening foreign-exchange revenue for producers, including Nigeria and Ghana, and raising concerns about their ability to service debt, Mr Ostwald said.

Nigeria is likely to be the worst hit by the oil price plunge, with crude prices now around the levels at which the country balances its budget. Its 2023 US dollar-denominated bond fell almost 3c in the dollar to trade at a six-month low.

Yields on Nigeria's \$500m of bonds due July 2023 climbed 43 basis points to 5.8% by Wednesday afternoon in the capital Lagos, the biggest one-day increase since the bonds were sold in July 2013, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Yields on Ghana's \$1bn of securities due August 2023 surged 60 basis points to 8.47%.

Non-oil producers also suffered as investors dumped high-yield debt, said Chris Becker, lead economist and strategist at African Alliance Capital Markets in Johannesburg. Weaker than forecast US data added to concern that economic growth is slowing, spurring a global stock-market rout.

Rates on Zambia's April 2024 debt climbed 33 basis points to 6.92%, the most on record. Yields on Kenya's \$1.5bn of bonds due June 2024 rose 40 basis points to 6.59%. Senegal's July 2024 yields increased 47 basis points to 6.81%.

"The tide is now moving out for sub-Saharan African Eurobonds that performed in line with investment-grade bonds in recent months, despite being speculative and junk grade bonds," Mr Becker said in an e-mailed note.

Ebola, which has killed more than 4,000 people in West Africa, is intensifying investors' anxiety, he said. Ebola may wipe out as much as \$32bn from the economies of West Africa through 2015 if not contained, the World Bank said on October 8.

Although the Ebola epidemic remains largely confined to the minnow economies of Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia, worries about its spread in west Africa are mounting. (Bloomberg, with Reuters 15-10-2014)

MEDICINAL PLANTS TO FIGHT EBOLA VIRUS

African scientists challenged to explore medicinal plants to fight Ebola virus - A Nigerian natural products researcher has challenged fellow researchers in areas of health sciences across Africa to explore the use of indigenous medicinal plants to combat and manage the spread of the deadly Ebola Virus Disease (EVD).

"Africa should exploit our medicinal plants more for disease management, because there are a lot of diseases that are coming up like Ebola. We have seen that from researches that have been done, they have been getting good results," Dr. Joseph Agbedahunsi, International Secretary of West African Network of Natural Products Research Scientists(WANNIPRESS), told PANA in an exclusive interview.

WANNIPRESS is a network of scientists that are working in the areas of natural production like raw materials and getting drugs from some medicinal plants among others.

It has its secretariat at the Drug Research and Production Unit, Faculty of Pharmacy, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile Ife, South West Nigeria.

According to Dr. Agbedahunsi, Africa is well blessed with a lot of medicinal plants that can be used to control various other diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria, with positive results.

The scientist said WANNIPRESS has challenged its members to intensify efforts in researching medicine to combat EVD.

"Ebola virus is new, but also not new. It's something we have to challenge ourselves in combating this Ebola virus, getting medicinal plants to fight it.

"But the major thing about Ebola is preventive, good hygienic environment, people should wash their hands at all times. Since it can be transmitted from body fluids, you have to be very careful," he said.

Underlining international collaboration as an essential factor, Dr. Agbedahunsi said he would plead with various governments and funding agencies to provide more funds for research.

Our various scientists and researchers should work harder in getting solution. We will keep on working. But one thing with viruses is that they keep changing their goal posts. That is why it is difficult to get quick results,' he added.

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), about 4,000 people have died as a result of the EVD, mainly from the West Africa region where Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea are the hardest hit countries. (Pana 15/10/2014)

CONGO SEEKS PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVEMENT IN FIGHT AGAINST EBOLA

The government in Congo is rallying the local private sector to back its ongoing efforts to prevent the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) which continues to kill people in West Africa, according to a statement issued here Tuesday by the health ministry at a fund raising meeting for the same purpose. Health officials told private sector representatives attending the meeting that Congo was facing a shortage of resources for carrying out its preparedness plan to prevent the disease.

They said the plan called for an outlay of 1,170.185.000 CFA francs in order to equip the health sector, schools and public markets with the necessary kits including water and sanitation facilities. Funds are also needed for production of 150,000 information leaflets about the disease.

On their part, business leaders criticised the government for being late to involve them in the plan, though they were willing to assist the government since inception of the Ebola prevention strategy.

'The private sector is committed to participate in the fight against Ebola. But, the greatest responsibility lies with the State which has the duty of securing borders and supplying clean water to the population,' said Jean Ngalessamy Ibambo, vice president of the Chamber of Commerce.

In the framework of the fight against Ebola, Congo has developed a communication and hygiene plan which aims at informing the public about the disease, while encouraging change of behaviour in order to limit the spread of the virus.

Early October, China donated five million Yuan (400 million CFA francs) to Congo in order to strengthen its preventive capacity and response to the Ebola epidemic.

According to the WHO, the Ebola virus disease has already claimed over 4,000 lives in Guinea, Sierra Leone and Liberia. (Pana 15/10/2014)

ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA CHIEF SAYS AFRICA NEEDS NEW AID PARADIGM

African governments need to find consensus positions so that the continent's voice is heard in international negotiations, Carlos Lopes, Executive Secretary of the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), told the ongoing ninth African Development Forum (ADF) in Marrakech, Morocco.

"This is a time when the continent, thanks to its growth and its new narratives, has the opportunity to join the other regions of the world that have 'liberated' themselves from ODA (overseas development assistance)," Lopes said, reminding the participants that next year will be a critical point for international development assistance.

He said the third International Conference on Financing for Development in Paris will redefine the shape of overseas development assistance as Sustainable Development Goals are set to replace the Millennium Development Goals.

The Paris Conference will look to set the terms for the international response to climate change, including adaptation funding.

"We have a unique opportunity to review completely what is the purpose of ODA, on one hand, and on the other hand reach out to new types of partnerships - partnerships which are not ODA-centred," said Lopes.

In his view, these partnerships need to include the public and private sectors and need to focus on unlocking and leveraging Africa's own resources through technical assistance, by helping to stem the tide of illicit financial flows out of the continent and by improving the investment climate.

Lopes said that he was encouraged by the progress that has been made in formulating coherent positions in negotiations with the European Union over Economic Partnership Agreements.

Also, he said he has been impressed with the way that governments in several resource-rich countries, including Guinea, Gabon and Niger have aggressively renegotiated deals with mining companies which they viewed as exploitative, making difficult short-term decisions to achieve long-term gains.

"I think it is encouraging that you have countries looking at their context with different eyes and being willing to pick a fight if they have not been respected," Lopes said.

"The good news that in most cases where countries have gone into these kinds of negotiations, they have won big for their countries... In each case, they had to go through a very difficult period. It's not a free lunch."

The UNECA chief remarked that in the long run, ending "predatory" relationships between the public and private sector makes for a more stable environment for both.

He noted that pragmatism was gradually winning out over the ideologies that pushed African governments to invite the private sector in at almost any cost.

"I really believe that these dichotomies are over. We are in a period where countries need to be strategic, and being strategic means the best mix... The less ideological we are the less we are going to have hangovers of past discussions between market and state and so on, because it doesn't make any sense anymore," he said.

Africa is also finding coherence as it addresses common challenges, such as regional economic integration and climate change.

"Africans are the first group of countries that have a committee at the head of state level on [climate change], chaired by Tanzanian President Jakaya Kikwete. The blueprint that they are proposing is no longer the usual African position of just trying to get some compensation for adaptation, but rather saying

that they are part of the solution, that they can industrialise and do it in a green and cleaner way,” Lopes pointed out.

In his opinion, however, that coherence has not entirely translated into solutions, but he believes there is definite progress.

“We have to find the common denominators that are powerful enough and have the pulling effect that will allow for Africa to take advantage of a unified position,” he added.. “I believe we have seen the baby steps in that direction. It’s not yet consolidated, but we are making huge progress in terms of forming African positions and getting Africa ready for a more assertive role.”

The 12-16 October Forum is being held on the theme “Innovative financing for Africa's transformation’ as a platform for prominent African stakeholders to share key information and participate in more focused and in-depth discussions on issues relating to innovative financing mechanisms in domestic resource mobilization, illicit financial flows, private equity, and new forms of partnership. (Pana 15/10/2014)



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Our colleagues from NABC – Netherlands African Business Council are to be congratulated by the very high participation at the Conference Africa Works! The conference starts today in Leiden, Netherlands and has so far attracted 800 participants.

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**NORWEGIAN-AFRICAN
BUSINESS SUMMIT 2014**

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| NORWEGIAN-AFRICAN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2014 | | THURSDAY OCTOBER 30TH 2014 RADISSON BLU SCANDINAVIA HOTEL, OSLO | | MAPPING THE AFRICAN INFRASTRUCTURE LANDSCAPE | |
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Download the Programme:

[HTTP://NORWEGIANAFRICAN.NOWP-CONTENT/UPLOADS/2014/04/NABA-SUMMIT-PROGRAM-30TH-OF-OCTOBER-2014-DRAFT-UPDATED-OCT-7TH-20146.PDF](http://norwegianafrican.nowp-content/uploads/2014/04/naba-summit-program-30th-of-october-2014-draft-updated-oct-7th-20146.pdf)

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