

May 2017

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Africa Digest

Summary of Key Political & Economic
Developments

Angola · Ethiopia · Ghana · Kenya
Mozambique · Nigeria · Rwanda
South Africa · Tanzania · Uganda



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Angola

Angola opposition calls for clarity on president's health

Ref: 17 May 2017

Angola's opposition recently called for official clarification on the health of veteran President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, 74, who has been out of the country for nearly three weeks.

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

[Read more](#)

Dos Santos's influential daughter Isabel moved to deny rumours the president had died in Spain

After 37 years, Angola will get a new president. Can Joao Lourenco reduce widespread corruption?

Ref: 21 May 2017

After nearly four decades in power, Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos, the second-longest serving leader in Africa, has announced that he will leave office this year.

He has talked of stepping down in the past, but this time the ailing dos Santos, who has received medical treatment in Spain, is following through.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia

Ethiopia's Tedros elected new WHO chief

Ref: 24 May 2017

Ethiopia's Tedros Adhanom was elected as the new head of the World Health Organization recently, the first African at the helm of an agency widely seen as needing major reforms.

The former Ethiopian health minister, who has pledged to shake up the UN's public health body, beat out Britain's David Nabarro and Sania Nishtar of Pakistan after three rounds of voting.

[Read more](#)

Eritrea denies targeting Ethiopia dam as Egyptian ties deepen

Ref: 22 May 2017

Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki denied his country's deepening relations with Egypt signify plans to disrupt neighboring Ethiopia's construction of Africa's biggest hydropower dam.

Egypt's government has claimed Ethiopia's construction of the hydropower dam on the main tributary of the Nile River contravenes colonial-era treaties that grant it the right to the bulk of the river's water. Ethiopian officials reject the accords as obsolete and unjust.

The plant, being built at a cost of \$6.4 billion, is scheduled for completion next year and will produce as much as 6,450 megawatts of power.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia replies EU MPs: Quit criticisms and give 'constructive support'

Ref: 20 May 2017

The Ethiopian government has formally responded to a resolution passed by Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) condemning the country's human rights situation and what it called 'political persecution.' The response was carried in a communique issued by the Embassy of Ethiopia in Brussels, Belgium, which is incidentally the seat of the European Union.

The response titled "The EP Resolution on Ethiopia lacks understanding on important issues," tackled five major areas chiefly amongst them, the arrest of leading opposition figure, Dr. Merera Gudina, the state of emergency and Ethiopia's internal probe into protest deaths.

[Read more](#)

Ghana

Times are tough; Ghana is broke – Nana Addo

Ref: 16 May 2017

President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo partly blamed the erstwhile Mahama-led administration for the current economic outlook of the country.

He made this frank statement when he met with the leadership of the University Teachers Association of Ghana (UTAG) following strike and protest threats by various labour unions in the country.

[Read more](#)

MiDA shortlists six companies for ECG concession

Ref: 24 May 2017

Six companies have been shortlisted from a pool of applicants for the concession of electricity distribution under the Electricity Company of Ghana.

The six companies, Tata Power Company Limited from India; Manila Electric Company from the Philippines; Ch Group Ghana with EDF and Veola Sa with Ghanaian address - Engie Services; SA from France, BXC Company Ghana Limited, registered and operating in Ghana; and Enel S. P. A. of Italy.

[Read more](#)

Extend maternity leave by 2 weeks

Ref: 24 April 2017

The Ghana Employers' Association has proposed an extension of the country's maternity leave from the current 12 weeks to 14 weeks.

The call follows moves from various stake holders to have the leave period extended to enable women undertake exclusive breastfeeding as well as recover before resuming work.

[Read more](#)

Kenya

U.S. suspends aid to Kenyan health ministry over corruption concerns

Ref: 09 May 2017

The U.S. government has suspended \$21 million in direct aid to Kenya's Ministry of Health amid concern over corruption, the embassy said, giving emphasis to an issue that is a growing liability for the government before August elections.



Support for HIV drugs and other health programs outside the ministry would continue, the embassy said, adding that the United States invests more than \$650 million on health in Kenya annually.

[Read more](#)

Imported maize 'was surplus of old stock in South Africa'

Ref: 15 May 2017

Fresh intrigues have hit the importation of 330,000 bags of maize into the country, after it emerged that the consignment was a surplus of an old stock purchased by South Africa last year when it was experiencing food shortages.

Details also emerged showing that three milling firms — Kitui Flour Mills and Pembe Flour Mills (with 10,000 tonnes each) and Hydrey (P) Limited (9,900) — were the importers of the consignment.

[Read more](#)

Kenyans from diaspora troop back home for political seats

Ref: 20 May 2017

They went abroad in search of greener pastures but are now trooping back home in search of elective political seats.

Armed with millions of shillings and attractive academic certificates, Kenyans living in diaspora claim they are back to help reform the leadership in their counties.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique

Peace in DRC now – ex-liberation movements

Ref: 29 May 2017

Former Southern African liberation movements have called for lasting peace in the Democratic Republic of Congo, amid an outbreak of the deadly Ebola virus which has hit a remote region of the country.

The secretaries-general of the African National Congress (ANC) of South Africa, Chama Cha Mapinduzi of Tanzania, Front for the Liberation of Mozambique (Frelimo), Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA), Swapo of Namibia and the Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) called on DRC President Joseph Kabila to take advantage of the international conference for the Great Lakes Region to be chaired by Angolan President José Eduardo dos Santos to solve the political conflict in that country.

[Read more](#)



China spins a global food web from Mozambique to Missouri

Ref: 22 May 2017

As China's government sets up farms in developing countries, the nation's food companies are scouring the world for premium products.

Inside a gated compound patrolled by armed guards, hulking towers and concrete buildings loom over fields where Silva Muthemba once grew maize and fattened his cattle.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria

Nigerian Embassy protests U.S. Secret Service violation of its premises

Ref: 26 May 2017

The Nigerian Embassy in Washington has protested to the U.S. Government over the violation of its premises by the Secret Service agents following fracas between two local workers.

[Read more](#)

Five organisations Petroleum Industry Bill will create after unbundling NNPC

Ref: 26 May 2017

With the passage by the Senate, recently, of the Petroleum Industry Governance Bill, Nigeria now comes close to having five new commercial and governance organizations to replace existing ones, such as the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and the Department of Petroleum Resources.

[Read more](#)

FG sets up National Minimum Wage Committee as FEC reviews 2017 budget

Ref: 25 May 2017

The Federal Executive Council, FEC, has approved the constitution of a National Minimum Wage Committee to kick start the process of deliberations for a new wage for Nigerian workers.

[Read more](#)

Ebola: FG, Lagos to sanction Kenya Airways

Ref: 26 May 2017

The federal and Lagos State governments recently said Kenya Airways would be punished for conveying a corpse from an Ebola-infested country, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), to Nigeria without clearance.

Consequently, the governments condemned the action of the airline, noting that the ban on repatriation of human remains into the country was still in force.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda



No poll campaign posts without Rwandan electoral body's nod

Ref: 26 May 2017

Candidates in Rwanda's August election have to seek approval from the electoral commission for each campaign message they craft, before posting it on social media platforms.

The National Electoral Commission (NEC) said it had put in place a team of analysts to vet the requests.

[Read more](#)

Unbowed by mudslinging, Diane vows to soldier on in race for presidency

Ref: 17 May 2017

Ever since Diane Shima Rwigara came out to express her political views — and later declared her intention to run for president of Rwanda in the August 4 elections — the 35-year-old has attracted praise and criticism in equal measure.

One week after nude photographs — which she has disowned — were circulated on social media a day after she announced her presidential bid, Ms Rwigara says she will not be deterred: "I will not stop. I am going to continue with my preparations.

The incident made me stronger, more resilient and determined to continue with this cause."

[Read more](#)

Kagame speaks out on upcoming election, Rwanda's vision

Ref: 19 May 2017

On the evening of Friday August 4, when the results of presidential election will be released in Kigali, commentators are unlikely to be surprised. Unless there is an unexpected occurrence, their only job will be to compare the percentage with which Paul Kagame will have been re-elected, with previous elections.

[Read more](#)

South Africa



Zuma survives another dramatic challenge to his leadership

Ref: 29 May 2017

President Jacob Zuma has survived another dramatic challenge to his leadership, telling the ANC's national executive committee (NEC) that he would not step down.

Business Day understands that after a tense two-day meeting, Zuma told the NEC in his closing address that he would not resign and that only ANC branches could remove him.

[Read more](#)

ANC NEC grapples with Zuma exit proposal

Ref: 29 May 2017

The ANC's national executive committee (NEC) grappled with calls for President Jacob Zuma to step down and continued discussing proposals late into the night.

The closed meeting began on Saturday, with critical decisions taken, including allowing party structures to discuss the names of candidates to lead the ANC after its December conference.

[Read more](#)

#GuptaEmails: Maimane calls for 'stern legal action'

Ref: 26 April 2017

The Democratic Alliance is considering legal action against President Jacob Zuma, the Gupta family, and others implicated in "undermining the state", DA leader Mmusi Maimane said recently.

"What has emerged today [Sunday] is the existence of concrete proof confirming what South Africans have known for some time: the ANC has created, aided, and sponsored a shadow criminal state in South Africa led by the Guptas and the Zumas," he said.

[Read more](#)

Zuma denies Dubai reports, Malema says he warned SA in April 2016

Ref: 28 May 2017

President Jacob Zuma recently flat out denied a report that he had plans to make Dubai his second home.

The City Press revealed recently that it was in possession of emails between the controversial Gupta family and its employees, and the president's intentions were laid out in one of the exchanges.

[Read more](#)



Tanzania

Tanzania leads regional peers in foreign direct investment

Ref: 24 May 2017

A new United Nations (UN) report has said Tanzania is among the top ten recipients of foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa for 2016, sending the much-needed boost to President John Magufuli's industrialisation agenda.

The 16th edition of the African Economic Outlook report ranks Tanzania the ninth in Africa thanks to the government's new drive to attract investments in line with the medium-term development plan that is focused on nurturing industrialisation as a means of achieving economic transformation.

[Read more](#)

Lake Malawi dispute intensifies, going to The Hague

Ref: 20 May, 2017

The dispute between Malawi and Tanzania over ownership of Lake Nyasa is turning into a fully-fledged diplomatic row, with Lilongwe now threatening to go to The Hague. Malawi accuses Dar of sabotaging dialogue on the matter.

Tanzania, on May 4, asked for postponement of the mediation talks slated for May 8 and 9 to host South African President Jacob Zuma. Malawi's Foreign Minister Francis Kasaila said his country is preparing to take Tanzania to The Hague-based International Criminal Court over the matter.

[Read more](#)

Uganda, Tanzania sign 1,400km oil pipeline agreement

Ref: 24 May 2017

President Yoweri Museveni and his Tanzanian counterpart, President John Pombe Magufuli signed an East African Crude Oil Pipeline Agreement (EACOP) as an expression of intent to go ahead with the construction of the 1,400km oil pipeline from Hoima district in Western Uganda to the Tanzanian port of Tanga.

[Read more](#)

Uganda

Uganda halts hunt for LRA warlord Kony

Ref: 20 May 2017

Sweat soaks into the bright red neckerchiefs of the soldiers slouching to attention on a steamy parade ground deep in the inaccessible forests of Central African Republic (CAR).

The military display marked the end of a failed years-long hunt for Joseph Kony, leader of the notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), a rebel group that has its origins in 1980s Uganda.

[Read more](#)

Dr Stella Nyanzi bail extended to June 7

Ref: 25 May 2017

Makerere University researcher Dr. Stella Nyanzi has asked Buganda Road Court Chief magistrate James Ereemye to halt proceedings in her criminal case until the Constitutional Court pronounces itself on a petition she filed challenging the Mental Treatment Act.

[Read more](#)

Museveni, NRM respect Constitution - Winnie Byanyima

Ref: 22 May 2017

Mzee Boniface Byanyima, the former national chairman of the Democratic Party, was laid to rest at his country home in Ruti, Mbarara municipality.

Shortly after, members of the Uganda Police Force fired three volleys as the remains of the veteran politician and educationist were lowered into the grave, bringing to a close what was more of a political rally than a funeral.

[Read more](#)

Economic News Roundup



Angola

Economic team approves first quarter financial programme

Ref: 17 May 2017

The Balance Sheet for the Execution of Financial Programme of the 2017 First Quarter was approved by the 8th Ordinary Joint Meeting of the Economic Commission and the Commission for the Real Economy of the Cabinet Council.

[Read more](#)

Angola continues diversification into minerals to curb oil deficits, but progress slow

Ref: 26 May 2017

Angola's continued reliance on the oil sector will result in limited development of its mining sector between now and 2021.

However, the country is expected to continue diversifying into minerals in the longer term, as a decline in domestic oil production speeds up government plans to invest in mining projects as an alternative source of funding.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia

Ethiopia tipped to be top recipient of private equity

Ref: 22 May 2017

A UN report has tipped Ethiopia to be the biggest recipient of private equity in eastern Africa, beating Kenya thanks to its friendly business environment and favourable industrial policy.

Ethiopia has promoted the development of industrial parks focusing on textiles, leather, agro-processing and pharmaceuticals, as part of its Vision 2025 that seeks to make the country a light manufacturing hub in Africa.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopia reports huge revenue in power supply over last 10 months

Ref: 19 May 2017

Ethiopia says it has earned over \$165m in revenue for sale of electric power over the last 10 months. Out of the amount, \$49m was from supply to neighbouring Sudan and Djibouti.

The state-affiliated FANA broadcasting corporate (FBC) quoted an official with the Ministry of Water, Irrigation and Electricity as saying the amount fell short of the country's target of \$200m.

[Read more](#)

Ethiopian Airlines opens new air route to south west China

Ref: 23 May 2017

A direct flight has opened between Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, and Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia. Operated by Ethiopian Airlines, it will depart from Chengdu every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday with a travel time of 9.5 hours.

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Ghana

TEN oil field to start producing gas in commercial quantities from July

Ref: 18 May 2017

The country's second biggest oil field Tweneboa, Enyenra, Ntomme (TEN) is expected to produce first gas mid-2017. The Jubilee fields is said to have produced about 50 billion standard cubic feet of gas to power Ghana's thermal plants for about seven years.

[Read more](#)

Ghana's public debt hits GH¢127.1 billion

Ref: 22 May 2017

According to the Bank of Ghana's summary of Economic and Financial data Ghana's total public debt stock has increased to GH¢127. The debt stock was 1billion (\$29.4billion) as at the end of the first quarter of 2017.

This represents 62.5% of projected GH¢203.4 billion Gross Domestic Products (GDP) for 2017. Total public debt is now up by GH¢4.5bn. This means that GH¢4.5 billion was added to the total public debt stock in the first three months of 2017 as the debt stock was GH¢122.6billion at the end of 2016.

[Read more](#)



Ghanaian communities to benefit from \$5.5 mln World Bank grant

Ref: 19 May 2017

The World Bank signed a grant agreement with Solidaridad West Africa for Natural Resources Management in 53 selected local communities of the Brong-Ahafo and Western Regions of Ghana, recently.

[Read more](#)

We are moving from taxation to production – Nana Addo

Ref: 11 May 2017

President Nana Akufo-Addo said the private sector must take advantage of the shifting in focus and offer better and more opportunities for growth.

This was reiterated by President Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo –Addo when he commissioned the newly constructed Kumasi City Mall.

[Read more](#)

Kenya

Kenya law okays livestock, household appliances for bank loans

Ref: 11 May 2017

Low-income earners in Kenya can now take bank loans by using livestock, crops and other household appliances as collateral.

President Uhuru Kenyatta signed into law the Moveable Property Security Rights Bill 2017. According to the presidency, the law "enhances the ability to access credit using movable assets."

[Read more](#)

Treasury gives Sh325m in war on armyworms

Ref: 23 May 2017

The Treasury has released Sh325 million through the supplementary budget to fight fall armyworms which are ravaging maize fields, further threatening food security.

The Agriculture ministry said the cash is against a request for Sh360 million emergency funding to tackle the worm following reports that it had invaded farms in more than 15 counties.

[Read more](#)

Kenya sets sights on medical tourists

Ref: 22 May 2017

Public and private medical stakeholders are pushing for setting up of a central online information portal to market available specialized services to locals and attract foreign medical tourists.

The International Health Conference held in Nairobi heard that Kenya has diverse and unique services and specialist surgeons but lack of information leads to many paying high costs to Indian-based hospitals for services available locally.

[Read more](#)

Mozambique

Investigators conclude probe of Mozambique secret loan scandal

Ref: 13 May 2017

Maputo - Forensic investigators have concluded their audit into secret loans worth \$2bn the Mozambican government secured that prompted an IMF and World Bank aid cut-off, the government said. Investigators from New York-based firm Kroll reported their findings to Mozambican official on Friday 05th 2017.

[Read more](#)

World Bank stresses investment in natural resources

Ref: 12 May 2017

The World Bank has invested around 200 million US dollars in Mozambique over the last two years, in the areas of natural resources, the environment and rural development. According to the World Bank's Mozambique country director, Mark Lundell, speaking on Thursday after the signing of a trilateral agreement between the Bank, and the Mozambican and Brazilian governments, his institution will continue to bet on investments in natural resources, since he believes they are vital for job creation.

[Read more](#)

Edm claims 78 per cent increase in power sales

Ref: 9 May 2017

Mozambique's publicly owned electricity company, EDM, increased its sales of power by about 78 per cent between 2015 and 2016. According to an EDM press release cited by Tuesday's issue of the independent newsheet "Mediafax", between January and December 2016 the company's sales of electricity amounted to 29.122 billion meticals (about 460 million US dollars, at current exchange rates), compared with 16.348 billion meticals in 2015.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria

Nigeria almost out of worst recession in 29 years

Ref: 23 May 2017

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), recently released the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) report for the first quarter of 2017, which shows that Nigeria's economy contracted by 0.52% year-on-year.

Last August, the NBS noted that the country's first recession since the return of democracy in 1999, was the worst in nearly three decades.

[Read more](#)

Nigeria earns N225bn from oil taxes, royalties in two months

Ref: 23 May 2017

Nigeria earned N224.9 billion from petroleum profit tax (PPT) and royalties from the oil and gas sector in January and February 2017, according to latest data released by the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN.

[Read more](#)

GE to establish gas turbine plant in Nigeria next year

Ref: 19 May 2017

General Electric (GE) plans to commission a gas turbine assembly plant in Nigeria next year and has invested over \$100 million as it seeks to tap growing demand for gas-fired power plants in Africa's biggest economy

[Read more](#)

All you need to know about the NIA \$289million covert projects controversy

Ref: 24 April 2017

Perhaps the most difficult thing Nigerians are struggling to come to terms with about the recovered N13 billion is the fact that the money actually belonged to the National Intelligence Agency—and for covert operations.

As PREMIUM TIMES reported on April 14, two days after the anti-graft EFCC announced the recovery of the cash haul, the NIA Director-General, Ayodele Oke, had claimed ownership of the funds on behalf of his agency, although, he didn't disclose what it was meant for.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda

IMF expert speaks out on Rwanda's outlook for 2017

Ref: 22 May 2017

The International Monetary Fund has projected that Rwanda's economic growth will re-bound this year at 6.2 per cent. This follows a slight dip in 2016 where the growth stood at 5.9 per cent. Laure Redifer, the IMF team leader for review of Rwanda's Policy Support Instrument, for insights on the drivers for growth, risks and other aspects of the economy. She said; "I do not foresee many risks.

[Read more](#)



Cleared for take-off: RwandAir begins London flights

Ref: 27 May 2017

On May 27th, at exactly 12:55pm local time, RwandAir's Airbus A330-300 took off from Kigali International Airport heading to Gatwick International Airport, London's second busiest airport.

[Read more](#)

Rwanda seeks to raise export revenue, local production

Ref: 20 May 2017

The government plans to boost exports and domestic production in a bid to protect the economy from shocks fuelled by a firming dollar, falling export revenues and a ballooning import bill.

[Read more](#)

South Africa

Frank talk as state of SA is assessed

Ref: 29 May 2017

Business, labour and the ANC all made frank assessments about the state of SA last week when they met with representatives of S&P Global Ratings, Moody's Investors Service and Fitch.

Business identified the governance of state-owned entities, particularly Eskom, and rising contingent liabilities as being among the main risks to SA's fiscal consolidation.

[Read more](#)

SA's economy: into a stormy future

Ref: 25 May 2017

SA is probably not heading for a catastrophic economic meltdown, but economists are worried that further stagnation and decay are quite likely.

SA's economic outlook is extremely uncertain but the consensus is that the country is likely to experience stagnant GDP growth with little improvement in per capita income and employment over the next three years. And that's if everything goes really well.

[Read more](#)

'We smell a rat' says Numsa on GM's SA exit

Ref: 18 May 2017

The National Union of Metalworkers of South Africa (Numsa) recently said it was "shocked at the news" that General Motors (GM) intends to pull the plug on its operations in South Africa.

Numsa General Secretary Irvin Jim said GM informed "our members at a general meeting this morning that it is withdrawing from the South African market". As a result, production and sales of all Chevrolet models will cease, and Isuzu will take over the firm's operations in Port Elizabeth.

[Read more](#)

Tanzania

Dar eyes BRICS loans for SGR

Ref: 12 May 2017

Tanzania appealed for South African support towards accessing soft loans from the BRICS development bank for construction of the standard gauge central railway network. President John Magufuli made the request in Dar es Salaam during his meeting with South African President Jacob Zuma who was in the country for a two-day state visit.

[Read more](#)

EU gives Tanzania U.S.\$200 million to develop energy sector

Ref: 23 May 2017

The European Union, through the Energy for Growth and Sustainable Development programme, has given Tanzania €180 million (\$200 million) to develop its energy sector.

The bloc, working with the German Development Bank (KfW) and the French Agency for Development (AFD), is funding a €42 million (\$47 million) electrification project in north-western Tanzania, covering the Kagera, Geita and Kigoma Regions.

[Read more](#)

Agriculture sector heaves relief

Ref: 20 May 2017

Farmers and consumers of agricultural products will soon breathe a sigh of relief as the government has announced the scraping of 80 out of 139 levies, in the 2017/18 fiscal year, that have been hogging the agricultural sector for a long time.

The decision is meant to reduce the burden of numerous taxes that farmers have been subjected to; leading to high costs of farm inputs, inflated prices of crops and products to consumers.

[Read more](#)

Uganda

Museveni, Magufuli sign Hoima-Tanga oil pipeline deal

Ref: 12 May 2017

Presidents Yoweri Museveni and John Pombe Magufuli have signed a pact expressing their intent to go ahead with the construction of an oil pipeline from Uganda to Tanzania.

The two leaders signed a communique agreeing to start construction of the East African Crude Oil pipeline (EACOP) project that is 1,400km from Hoima in

Uganda to Tanga Port in Tanzania.

[Read more](#)

MPs approve five year Bujagali tax waiver

Ref: 25 May 2017

The Uganda Parliament passed a tax waiver for Bujagali Power Project for the next five years as opposed to the 15 years proposed by government.

In April this year, Government through the State Planning Minister, David Bahati proposed a corporate tax exemption for Bujagali Hydro-Power Project up to June 2033 under the Income Tax amendment bill 2017.

[Read more](#)

National Budget hits Shs29 trillion

Ref: 24 May 2017

Budget corrections submitted to Parliament have amended the 2017/18 Budget upwards. The new Budget estimates now move from the previous Shs28.2 trillion to Shs29 trillion.

In his letter to the Clerk to Parliament communicating the corrigenda, Secretary to Treasury Keith Muhakanizi explained that "there are some errors and or omissions in the annual Budget estimates; as a result, the corrigenda [corrections] have been prepared to correct these errors and omissions."

[Read more](#)