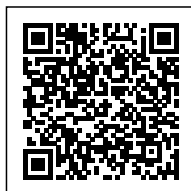


VDA ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH GABON FIRM

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Vieira de Almeida (VdA) has announced a formal partnership with Gabon law firm Cabinet Jules Obiang.

Cabinet Jules Obiang – based in Libreville, the country's capital – advises investors and local companies operating in Gabon, which is one of the largest oil producers in sub-Saharan Africa.

A VdA statement said: "This initiative represents a step towards advancing VdA's reach in other African countries, such as Congo, DRC, Cameroon and Chad. The ability of our team to work in this part of the world with a deep knowledge of the local legal environment, culture and practices is a critical competitive advantage to our clients."

VdA's oil & gas practice head Rui Amendoeira, who joined the firm from rival Lisbon firm Miranda earlier this year, said the partnership would formalise an "ongoing working relationship with Cabinet Jules Obiang that we now happily bring into the VdA organisation."