



Insight & Access. Projects & Trade.

Notes from Africa

Africa 2020: Vision for the Future

Issue 308, January 2021

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Africa House is a research & consulting company based in Johannesburg, South Africa. Working exclusively in sub-Saharan Africa, we offer insight and access into the African trade and project environment through the provision of intelligence on projects and bespoke research on opportunities in markets.



Our Services:

Africa House provides:

Insights: What is driving the continent and targeting regions of high opportunity going forward.

Access: To the world's fastest growing markets through a team that has worked in 30 countries across the continent over a period spanning 30 years

Projects: On-going research and intelligence on greenfield and brownfield projects to a dedicated subscriber base

Trade: Market and partner identification, export strategy development and commercial feasibility

FACT OF THE MONTH

The **AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FREE TRADE AGREEMENT (AfCFTA)** could boost Africa's income by US\$ 450 billion by 2035 and increase African exports (mainly manufacturing) by US\$ 560 billion over that period.

Coal-Fired Power Plant Projects Comments on the Current Status

A recent news item was the announcement by a spokesperson for *Marubeni* of Japan that it will be pulling out as an investor in the 630 MW Thabametsi coal-based power plant project in Limpopo Province in South Africa. "As per our policy, we will not develop any new coal power project."

Other major companies involved in the global power sector have made recent decisions regarding their participation in coal-fired power projects. *Siemens Energy* has stated that it will no longer take on business to supply steam turbines to coal-fired power stations. *General Electric* is refusing to take on new contracts relating to these projects. *Toshiba* of Japan has declared that it has stopped taking orders for coal-fired plant in accordance with the global trend towards reducing carbon emissions.

Some suppliers are taking cognisance of the strong push against coal and adapting. The Finnish company that manufactures and services energy sector equipment, *Wärtsilä* is converting old coal-fired power plants to gas engine-based plants. Australia's so-called 'top polluter', *AGL Energy* recently successfully transformed an old coal plant into a modern gas engine power plant.

Some of the major donors have long declared a moratorium on coal power projects. The *World Bank* has not financed a new coal-fired power plant since 2010 and the bank has no new projects of this category in its pipeline. More recently in September 2019, the president of the *African Development Bank* announced that his bank will no longer finance coal projects.

A number of environmental non-government agencies are active in campaigning against these projects and they are registering success. A major development was the ruling by the *National Environmental Tribunal* of Kenya which halted plans for the 1 050 MW coal-fired power station near Lamu, a World Heritage Site.

In July 2020, *Groundwork* of South Africa claimed a court victory when the 600 MW Khanyisa coal-fired power project in Mpumalanga Province, South Africa was closed down. The Cape Town-based

Centre for Environmental Rights which is mentioned as a partner to the international NGO, *Earthjustice* is one of the NGO's pressurising the South African government to reduce its power generation from coal. The South African Minister for Mineral Resources and Energy, *Gwede Mantashe* has responded to such pressure by referring to a future more balanced energy mix and stating "To me it is not about killing coal and growing renewables. It is about promoting the various technologies that are at our disposal. It is a combination and coexistence of various technologies."

South Africa will depend on its mainly ageing coal-fired power plants for some time to come. The transition to renewables and gas will not happen quickly. A good number of other countries will have coal as a major element in their energy mix. Countries such as Botswana are largely dependent upon their coal resources.

Yet despite the global anti-coal drive, it is a fact that there are still numerous coal fired power projects in sub-Saharan Africa. A quick examination of the *Africa House* electronic Project Platform reveals that we are currently monitoring 21 coal-fired power plant projects in the region. South African and Mozambique lead with four each and Botswana follows with three projects.

Even against a backdrop of growing concern over global warming and the resultant initiatives, coal as a source of energy will be with us for a good number of years ahead.



QUOTABLE QUOTES

"In 2019, South Africa officially exported R346 billion worth of goods into the rest of the continent. This violence will simply accelerate the movement away from South African supplies."

(Duncan Bonnett, Director: Market Access and Research, Africa House on the recent violence perpetrated against non-South African truck drivers in South Africa.)

"We reiterate our call for a comprehensive economic stimulus package for Africa, for a suspension of interest payments on Africa's external and public debt and for the lifting of all economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe and Sudan to allow them to adequately respond to the (Covid-19) pandemic."

(President Cyril Ramaphosa, Chairperson of the African Union.)

"The oil exploration is evil. Yes it is. We don't want to wait, you see when you see your neighbour's beard is being burnt, you have to make sure you get water around so that when it happens to you, you can quench it. We don't want the havoc to start before we think of finding remedy for it."

(Roland Tudzi, Chairman of the Keta Vegetable Farmers and Marketers Association and the Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Management on plans for oil exploration in the Keta Basin, Ghana.)

SPECIAL NOTE

Africa House upcoming Virtual Visits



Mozambique Virtual Visit:

18 to 22 January 2021



Northern Cape Virtual Visit:

17 to 22 January 2021

Africa House executives produce a report by travelling (alone) to the destination and bring back a detailed multi-media report on all the engagements with project owners, stakeholders and contractors. The Virtual Visit report will ensure clients gain an in-depth understanding on the next steps to be taken to pursue future opportunities without having to be exposed to the risks of traveling.

For more information and to register, contact Nicole Drake (ndrake@africainfo.co.za)



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Our supply program includes hydraulic accumulators, fluid filters, process filtration, diesel filters, coolers, electrohydraulic controls/industrial valves, range of sensor systems, cylinders, pumps, Condition Monitoring and much more. Hydac South Africa has a large stock holding supporting the requirements of our customers within South Africa and SADC countries. We Design, Plan and Supply ready-for-use hydraulic control and drive systems, for a wide array of industries.

We rely on our many years of experience and on our experienced team supporting Engineering, Manufacturing, Testing and Commissioning



[Jista Financial Services Private Limited](#) is a global financial advisory company based in India, with an associate office in Canada. With more than 30 years of combined experience of the promoters & associates, we specialize in executing debt advisory assignments across the globe with special focus on African and Asian markets.

Mission: To design and deliver tailor-made solutions to businesses and put them into growth trajectory.

Vision: To become a leading choice of the customers across all the major economies of the world.



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[Knorr-Bremse](#) has pursued a single mission for over 110 years: to make mobility on roads and railways safe, sustainable and environmentally friendly. Today the *Knorr-Bremse Group*, based in Munich, is the world's leading manufacturer of braking systems and a leading supplier of safety-critical sub-systems for rail and commercial vehicles.

We see ourselves as an innovator in our fields, driving forward mobility and transport technologies. The fundamental transformation of mobility is opening up new opportunities for *Knorr-Bremse*. Global megatrends such as urbanization, eco-efficiency, digitalization, and automated driving are defining these changes. We are ideally positioned to help shape a new world of mobility.

Around 29,000 employees devote all their expertise and passion to our customers and partners – at over 100 locations in more than 30 countries around the globe.



[SET Consulting](#) is an Executive Search and Contingency Recruitment Consultancy, SET assist clients with their recruitment requirements across Africa and internationally.

Our sister company, Africa Deployments, based in Mauritius and are Immigration & Payroll Specialists in offering an Employer of Record solution in over 48 countries.

We pride ourselves in our specialist orientation and you can be assured that our understanding of your needs and position fulfilment will be reflected in the quality and relevance of the candidates put forward. You will not find yourself wading through irrelevant CV's, wasting valuable time as you may have experienced with other generalist agencies, but selecting from a few quality candidates.

We will listen to your requirements, guide you through every stage of the recruitment process and advise on various options.



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SICK Automation Southern Africa (Pty) Ltd. based in Lanseria Gauteng, commenced operation on 1st December 2010 and has over 70 years' experience in providing world class solutions to the automation industry.

We have a wide network of Sales Distributors and value added resellers throughout Southern Africa and are an experienced system partner for many major projects. *SICK* not only offers a wide range of leading edge products, but also a comprehensive package of vital know-how, service and support.



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We carry a comprehensive range of carbon steel, stainless steel and aluminium and strive to give our customers a hassle-free, on-time delivery without affecting their specific budget requirements.

Our knowledgeable staff have extensive skills and experience in the industry to meet your specific service requirements and with our full CAD facilities we are able to assist our clients with their drawing needs as well as cost – effective material usage to eliminate wastage as we endeavour to keep up to date with the latest technologies in machinery and software that helps keep prices down and improve efficiencies.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS EDITION

- Revival of the North West Rail Project in Zambia
- Commencement of Work on the Tanzania-Zambia Power Transmission Interconnector
- Rare Earth Mining Developments in Malawi
- Seismic Studies for Oil and Gas Exploration in the Keta Basin, Ghana
- Licenses for 2nd and 3rd Mobile Telecommunications Licenses to be Issued in Ethiopia
- Funding Secured for the Post-Cyclone Water Systems Repair Programme, Mozambique
- First Carbon-Neutral Dairy Farm for South Africa
- Affordable Housing Programme, Mozambique
- New Cardiothoracic Centre Planned for Kenya
- New Sources of Funding for Beitbridge Border Post Upgrade, Zimbabwe
- Major National Off-Grid Solar Power Programme, Nigeria
- Preparations for Construction of Dejen Cement Plant, Ethiopia
- Positive Test Drilling Results from Luiperd-1X Wells, South Africa
- *Airtel* Telecommunications Network Upgrade, Kenya
- Preparations for the Modimolle-Mookgophong Water Supply Project, South Africa
- Reopening of Abattoir in Northern Namibia
- Planning of the Ivoire Trade Centre, Côte d'Ivoire

PROJECTS

Africa House subscribers should note that the projects listed below in this publication are a selection from our Project Database. Templates on many more projects can be found on the

Ventures Onsite Project Platform.

<https://africahouse.venturesonsite.com/login>

*Africa House subscribers are welcome to contact **Keagan** on Johannesburg 27 11 7285878 or e-mail: keagan@africainfo.co.za for templates/further details/contacts pertaining to specific projects listed below.*

PROJECT OF THE MONTH

The *North West Rail Company Limited (NWR)* of Zambia has concluded an agreement with *Uroven* of the UK and *Transmasholding (TMH)/Smart Operations* of Russia for the undertaking of a bankable feasibility study (BFS) for Phase 1A of the [NORTH WEST RAIL PROJECT](#). Phase 1A comprises the 166 kilometre link between Chingola in the old Zambian Copperbelt to Solwezi in the new Copperbelt. The BFS is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2021. Phase 1B is the onward link to Kalumbila. The cost of phase 1 is estimated at US\$ 489 million. Phase 2 extends the line to the border with Angola. The full project will cost about US\$1,2 billion and provides for an east-west trade route connection between Lobito port in Angola and the Zambian and DR Congo Copperbelts. The BFS will include construction of the line, installation of maintenance and control systems and the procurement of locomotives and wagons.

Editor's Note: Africa House has been monitoring and investigating this project for some seven years and AH subscribers are welcome to contact us for further background.

Projects & Opportunities



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AGRICULTURE



COTE D'IVOIRE

The mobile telecommunications company, *Orange Côte d'Ivoire* has signed an agreement with the Ministry for the Promotion of Rice Cultivation to provide support for [RICE FARMING DEVELOPMENT](#) in the country. *Orange* will develop an agricultural technology platform to ease management and monitoring of rice production. The National Strategy for the Development of Rice Production is aimed at rendering the country self-sufficient for this staple food and to establish Côte d'Ivoire as a leading African exporter of rice by 2025.

MOZAMBIQUE

The Zambezia Province authorities are seeking investments totalling US\$ 200 million for the [MOPEIA DISTRICT RICE PRODUCTION IRRIGATION PROJECT](#) in central Mozambique. The project has four irrigation systems with only one operational. The Sao Francisco de Assis irrigation system requires investment of US\$ 70 million. It is estimated that effective irrigation will increase rice yields from three to four tons per hectare.

NAMIBIA

The [OSHAKATI ELOOLO ABATTOIR](#) in northern Namibia is being reopened following a joint venture agreement between *Kiat Investment Holdings* of Namibia and *Ningbo Agriculture Investment Group* of China. It was closed in 2016. The Ministry of Agriculture, Water and Land Reform are supporting the project. In terms of the agreement, beef and mutton production from the abattoir will be exported to China. The abattoir has the capacity to slaughter 200 head of cattle per day. It will draw from farmers in the northern communal areas. A number of abattoirs in the country have been upgraded and the Rundu abattoir is currently under refurbishment.

SOUTH AFRICA

The East and Southern Africa Region division of *Nestlé* has announced its [SKIMMELKRANS NET ZERO CARBON EMISSIONS PROJECT](#) which they state will be South Africa's first carbon-neutral dairy farm. The farm is situated in George, Western Cape province and is run by *Skimmelkrans Boerdery BK*. The objective is to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases and methane through manure processing and recycling as compost, soil monitoring, feed management and water conservation. Another objective is to improve milk quality. The farm's carbon-neutral status is set to be achieved by 2023.



HEALTH



KENYA

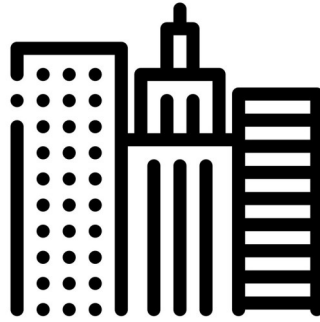
A new [CARDIOTHORACIC CENTRE](#) is planned for the Tenwek Christian mission hospital in Bomet County, south-western Kenya. The centre is being designed by *Triad Architects* in collaboration with *Health Facilities Group*. The project includes a 176-bed surgical centre with a blood bank, a pharmacy, a laboratory, post-anesthesia care centre, a conference area and a training centre. Equipment includes CT and X-ray machines. Construction is scheduled to commence in 2021. It will treat out-patients as well as in-patients.

SENEGAL

The *Pasteur Institute* of Senegal has launched the **DIATROPIX PLATFORM** which is a non-profit initiative aimed at the production of rapid diagnostic test kits thereby strengthening health systems in Africa through effective access to diagnostics. The objective is to produce 2 million rapid test kits per annum. The focus will be on Covid-19, Ebola, yellow fever, measles, meningitis and other maladies. The *Pasteur Institute* is collaborating with *Mologic* of the UK on the initiative.



HOTELS & COMMERCIAL PROPERTY



COTE D'IVOIRE

The French law firm, *GIDE* is partnering with the Ivorian firm, *IKT Associates* in advising *Société Générale*, the lead financier for the [IVOIRE TRADE CENTRE](#). The office and business centre will cover an area of 17 000 square metres adjoining the prestigious *Sofitel Hotel Ivoire* complex in the upmarket Cocody area. It will have sixteen 820 square metre floors and 350 parking spaces. The investment is 16,4 billion CFA (about US\$ 30,3 million). The appointed contractor is *PFO Africa* of Côte d'Ivoire.

KENYA

The Kenyan supermarket chain, *Naivas*, has announced that it will be opening four new **RETAIL STORES** before the end of this year. This will bring the company's total number of outlets to seventy. They will be located in the central areas of Nairobi and Rongai. The French investment fund manager, *Amethis Finance* of France has taken a 30% share in *Naivas* which began operations in 1990. A vacuum in the industry has been created by the departure of *Nakumatt*.

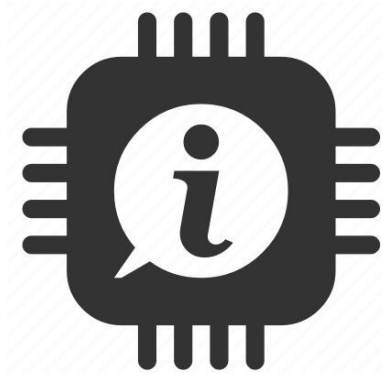
MOZAMBIQUE

The Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources has launched an [AFFORDABLE HOUSING PROGRAMME](#) that will provide over 1 500 units by the end of 2024. Thirty units have already been built at a cost of US\$ 3million in Maputo and 300 more are under construction in the capital. Units are planned for the Nampula and Cabo Delgado provinces. The targeted recipients are public servants and young people of moderate income who will pay US\$ 9 000 over 20 years. The programme falls under the post-cyclonic "Renascer (Borna Again)" reconstruction plan. US\$ 190,5 million has been allocated for housing in 2020.

TANZANIA

The Ministry of Tourism and Heritage and the *Zanzibar Commission for Tourism (ZCT)* are targeting 500 000 arrivals per annum and over US\$ 1 billion in investment under the **ZANZIBAR TOURISM PROMOTION PROGRAMME**. MICE tourism (conferences and exhibitions) will be prioritised. The programme falls under the Zanzibar Development Vision 2020. The *Zanzibar Association of Tourism Investors (ZATI)* has been established to advance the investment drive. The *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)* is implementing a Tourism Lab Programme for Zanzibar. Arrivals statistics indicate that the archipelago is recovering from the negative effects of Covid-19.

ICT / TELECOMMUNICATIONS



REGIONAL

Mauritius Telecom has been authorised by the Mauritian government to lay a third [UNDERSEA FIBRE OPTIC CABLE](#). The 3 200 kilometre cable will link the island to South Africa and thereafter the world. It will have a capacity of 18 Tbps. A launching station will be built at Baie de Jacotet on the island's southern coastline. Completion is scheduled for the end of 2023.

BOTSWANA

Liquid Telecom is extending its [FIBRE OPTIC CABLE CONNECTION](#) from the Lobatse border post with South Africa in the south to Gaborone. The distance is 82 kilometres. This will link the south of Botswana to the national network and also to *Liquid Telecom's* pan Africa network, "One Africa".

ETHIOPIA

The Ethiopian Ministry of Finance has announced that the offers for the second and third licenses for the **NATIONAL MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS PRIVATISATION PROGRAMME** will be opened on 5 March 2021. The two appointed mobile operators will join the national operator, *Ethio Telecom*. The licenses for the two new entrants will have a duration of 15 years. The Ministry has indicated that there will not be a fourth operator until 2030. The three operators will have the responsibility of covering 98% of the country. The parameters for the award of mobile telecommunications licenses are partly based on a study undertaken by the *Ethiopian Communications Authority (ECA)*.

KENYA

Airtel Kenya has signed a three-year supply agreement with the telecommunications equipment supplier, *Nokia* for its **TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK UPGRADE** employing high-speed 4G and fifth generation (5G) mobile internet services. Its competitor, *Safaricom* is preparing to launch the country's first 5G mobile internet services soon. *Airtel* began its upgrade programme in June 2020 with the objective of covering numerous sites across the country.



MINING



BOTSWANA

Sandfire Resources of Australia with its local entity, *Tshukudu Metals* will be undertaking a feasibility study for a new treatment plant for its [MOTHEO COPPER/SILVER PROJECT](#) located in the central area of the Kalahari Copperbelt. The company is integrating the A4 deposit situated adjacent to the Motheo operation. A4 has an inferred resource of 100 000 tons. The treatment plant will be located 8 kilometres from A4. *Lycopodium/ADP Kukama* will undertake the engineering and procurement services. The cost of the project is estimated at US\$ 259 million.

ETHIOPIA

Deliveries for the [DEJEN CEMENT PLANT](#) in the Dejen district in Amhara State are expected to begin in late 2021. In 2019, the *Abay Industrial Development Share Company* signed an agreement with the *Hengyuan Group* of China and *FLSmidth* of Denmark for the construction of the plant. The original cost estimation for the 5 000 tons per day plant was 8,8 billion Birr (about US\$ 229 million). *FLSmidth* will be responsible for the design and engineering, full equipment supply, automation system supply, installation, commissioning, training and supervision.

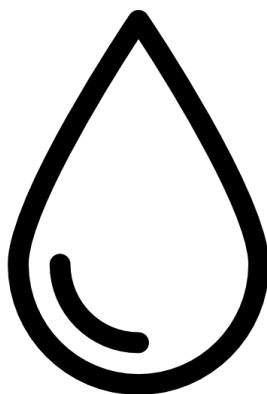
MALAWI

Mkango Resources of Canada has completed drilling and soil sampling tests for the 869 square kilometre [MCHINGA RUTILE LICENSE](#) in Central Region, Malawi. The tests will be sent to the *Scientific Services* laboratory in Cape Town. A process for heavy mineral separation is being developed. The company has four rare earth prospecting licenses in Malawi: Phalambe/Songwe Hill, Thambani, Chimembe Hill and Mchinga.

NIGERIA

The London-based junior miner, *Thor Explorations* has secured finance of US\$ 21,5 million from the *Africa Finance Corporation (AFC)* towards the cost of the [SEGILOLA GOLD PROJECT](#) situated in Osun State in south-western Nigeria. The mine has the reported potential production of 80 000 ounces over five years. The first supplies for the project have arrived at Lagos port. These supplies are being organised by *Norinco International*. The 25-year mining license was issued in September 2016, Nigeria is making strong efforts to develop its previously largely neglected mining potential.

OIL & GAS



GHANA

The national oil and gas regulator, the *Ghana Petroleum Commission (GPC)* has signed an agreement with *TG-Geopartners* for the undertaking of a 3D geophysical seismic study of the 14 000 square kilometre [KETA BASIN](#) in the Volta Region. The work will start in early 2021 and the duration will be ten months. The objective is to use modern technology to develop a better understanding of the oil and gas resource in the basin. In the past, the yields have not been in commercial quantities. In 2016, the *Ghana National Petroleum Corporation* concluded an offshore and onshore exploration agreement with the *Swiss African Oil Company* and *Pet Volta Investments* but this was met with strong opposition to onshore exploration from Volta Region residents, NGO's and the farming community who took the matter to the supreme court. Minimal expenditure for the initial three years of exploration is estimated at US\$ 48 million.

NIGERIA

The *Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)* has announced that the [PORT HARCOURT REFINERY REHABILITATION](#) in Rivers State will start in 2021. The project includes the modernisation of pipelines. The refinery has a capacity of 210 000 barrels per day. The Nigerian authorities wish to increase national refinery capacity. Nigeria's refineries have been running at about 2% capacity over the past 18 months.

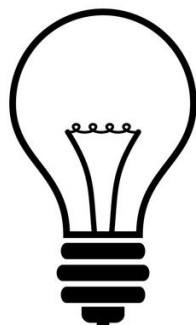
SOUTH AFRICA

Africa Energy Corporation of Canada has announced positive test drilling results from the [LUIPERD-1X WELLS](#) in Blocks 11B/12B in the Outeniqua Basin situated about 175 kilometres offshore. The results related to the confirmation of natural gas and condensate deposits. The area of the Blocks is 19 000 square kilometres. *Africa Energy* is in joint venture with *Total E&P* in the project.

SUDAN

The seven wells at the new **AL-RAWAT OIL FIELD** in White Nile State will be producing 3 000 barrels per day. Two locations in the Red Sea State have been identified for further oil production development. The national utility is the *Sudan National Petroleum Corporation (SUDAPET)*. The country hopes for new investment from Western countries following the recent unblocking of investment from the United States. The Ministry of Energy and Mining states that the national oil reserve is about 6 billion barrels. Most of the resource is in the south of the country in the Muglad and Melut rift basins.

POWER



REGIONAL

Preparatory work has begun on the [TANZANIA-ZAMBIA POWER INTERCONNECTOR](#). A 620 kilometre 400 kV transmission line will connect the Iringa region of Tanzania with Kabwe in Zambia. The implementing agencies are the *Tanzania Electricity Supply Company (TANESCO)* and the *Zambia Electricity Supply Corporation (ZESCO)*. In 2018, the *World Bank* extended an IDA line of credit for the project. The interconnector is part of the larger ZTK interconnector project which will link Zambia with Kenya with three connection points in Tanzania. The initiative will also link the East Africa and Southern African power pools.

KENYA

The Ministry of Energy has announced that phase 2 of the 465 MW [MENENGA GEOTHERMAL POWER PLANT](#) near Nakuru will be undertaken by the *Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen)* and not by the Chinese independent power producers originally appointed. There have been considerable project delays. The project is being undertaken in three phases of 105 MW, 60 MW and 300 MW respectively. It will be developed along the same lines as the Olkaria geothermal project.

NIGERIA

The Federal Government is undertaking a number of initiatives within the context of a [NATIONAL OFF-GRID SOLAR POWER PROGRAMME](#). In early 2020, a US\$ 75 million fund was established with the collaboration of the solar panel manufacturer, *Lumos* of the Netherlands. In August 2020, an invitation for bids on seven major off-grid PV projects was issued. The *Rural Electrification Agency (REA)* is promoting the Solar Power Naija programme which aims at 5 million solar connections for off-grid communities. The *Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN)* has set up the Solar Connection Intervention Facility entailing long-term, low-interest loans. The initiatives fall under the broad Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP). The objectives are to increase access to electricity, create new businesses and jobs, promote local content and replace imports.

TANZANIA

The *African Development Bank (AfDB)* has approved a loan of US\$ 120 million for the development of the 45 MW [MALAGARASI RUN-OF-RIVER HYDRO POWER PLANT](#) on the Malagarasi river in western Tanzania. The plant will supply power to the Kigoma region. The project includes a 54 kilometre 132 kV transmission line as well as last-mile connections. The total cost of the project is US\$ 144 million. The other funders are the *Africa Growing Together Fund* of China and the Tanzanian government.

TOGO

Construction of the 240 kilometre [KARA-MANGO-DAPAONG-NAKI-MANDOURI H-T TRANSMISSION LINE](#) in northern Togo has begun. The bulk of the financing is from the *Eximbank* of India. The main contractors are the Indian companies: *KEC International*, *Transrail Lighting* and *Techno Electric and Engineering*. The project will connect the north of the country. The current rate of access to electricity is 45% and the Ministry of Mines and Energy has stated that the country hopes to achieve 75% by 2025.

TRANSPORT



REGIONAL

The *North West Rail Company Limited (NWR)* of Zambia has concluded an agreement with *Uroven* of the UK and *Transmasholding (TMH)/Smart Operations* of Russia for the undertaking of a bankable feasibility study (BFS) for Phase 1A of the [NORTH WEST RAIL PROJECT](#). Phase 1A comprises the 166 kilometre link between Chingola in the old Zambian Copperbelt to Solwezi in the new Copperbelt. The BFS is scheduled for completion in the first quarter of 2021. Phase 1B is the onward link to Kalumbila. The cost of phase 1 is estimated at US\$ 489 million. Phase 2 extends the line to the border with Angola. The full project will cost about US\$1,2 billion and provides for an east-west trade route connection between Lobito port in Angola and the Zambian and DR Congo Copperbelts. The BFS will include construction of the line, installation of maintenance and control systems and the procurement of locomotives and wagons.

SUDAN

The Russian president *Vladimir Putin* has signed an order for the construction of a **NAVAL BASE COMPLEX** situated close to the Sudanese Navy main base at Flamingo Bay north of Port Sudan. The base will accommodate four warships and 300 personnel. It is described as a naval logistics support centre. The Sudanese authorities have approved a land lease for the project.

UGANDA

The *African Development Bank (AfDB)* has approved a loan of US\$ 71,5 million for the improvement of the [LAKE BUNYONYI-KABEHO CIRCUIT ROAD SYSTEM](#) in the Kabale and Kisoro districts of south-western Uganda. Sections of the 34 kilometre Kabale-Lake Bunyonyi-Kabehe circuit will be paved. Four ferry landing sites will be built on Lake Bunyonyi. The objective is to enhance transport in this major tourism area.

ZIMBABWE

The private equity firm, *Harith General Partners* and the *Pembani Remgro Infrastructure Fund* are acquiring participation in the *Zimborders consortium*, the company which holds a long-term concession to design, build and operate the Zimbabwean side of the [BEITBRIDGE BORDER POST](#) between Zimbabwe and South Africa. It is a Public Private Partnership (PPP) project and construction has begun. The busy border post faces serious congestion problems. New terminals will be constructed for the different categories of vehicles, building will be expanded to house additional equipment, a new housing development will be undertaken for Beitbridge town and an informal trading market place established. A new ICT system will ensure more efficient pay points and vehicle recognition.. A security control centre will have closed circuit television. The cost of the border post upgrade is estimated at just under US\$ 300 million.

WATER & SANITATION



GABON

The national power and water utility, Gabon Energy and Water Company (*SEEG*) is constructing two [DRINKING WATER PLANTS](#). The first is at Val Marie, three kilometres from the town of Mouila, Ngounié Province. It will have a capacity of 3 400 cubic metres per day. It will supply the populations of Bongolo. This project should be inaugurated at the end of March 2021. The second is at Atsié, Lambaréné in Moyen-Ogooué Province. This plant will also have a capacity of 3 400 cubic metres per day. It should be inaugurated at the end of June 2021.

MOZAMBIQUE

The *European Investment Bank (EIB)* has approved a 20-year soft loan of 100 million Euros (about US\$ 121 million) to the Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources and the *Post-Cyclone Idai Reconstruction Office* for a [POST-CYCLONE WATER SYSTEM REPAIR PROGRAMME](#). The intention is to repair potable water supply systems and general water infrastructure that was damaged by cyclonic weather. A further 10 million Euros (about US\$ 12 million) will be allocated under the *Africa-Europe Alliance* for technical assistance.

SOUTH AFRICA

The Ministry of Water and Sanitation is planning the [MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG WATER SUPPLY PROJECT](#) in the Limpopo Province. Modern equipment will be used to pump water from a disused tin mine in the Modimolle-Mookgophong municipality. The municipality is suffering major water shortages for domestic and agricultural use. Levels at the local Frikkie Gyssel dam are low and a number of boreholes are not working. The Modimolle-Mookgophong municipality has produced a report on the water shortage problem.



CONTACTS

AFRICAN CONTACTS



Carole Eva Ouedraogo-Versteeg is Director at the **INVESTMENT PROMOTION CENTRE OF COTE D'IVOIRE (CEPECI)**, Centre de Promotion des Investissements), telephone Abidjan 225 20 311400, e-mail: infos@cepici.ci Website: www.cepici.gouv.ci

Francois Diedrehsen is Chief Executive Officer at the **ZIMBORDERS CONSORTIUM**, telephone Cape Town 27 874700081, e-mail: info@zimborders.com Website: www.zimborders.com

The company holds the design, build and operate concession for the Beitbridge border upgrade project in Zimbabwe.

AFRICAN UTILITY CONTACTS



Samson Kimani is Operations Manager: Geothermal at the **KENYA ELECTRICITY GENERATING COMPANY (KenGen)**, telephone Nairobi 254 20 3666000 or 711036000, e-mail: pr@kengen.co.ke Website: www.kengen.co.ke

KenGen will be undertaking the Menengai geothermal project.

Thabang Selemela is a Municipal Water Expert at the **MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG MUNICIPALITY** in Limpopo Province, South Africa, telephone 27 14 7182000, e-mail: selemelat@modimolle.gov.za

Mr *Selemela* has produced a report on the water shortage problem in the municipality.

Bobby Ramsoondur is Chief Commercial Officer at **MAURITIUS TELECOM**, telephone Port Louis 230 2085057 or 2037000, e-mail: ceo@telecom.mu or contact@telecom.mu Website: www.telecom.mu

Mauritius Telecom has been authorised to launch an undersea fibre optic cable linking the island to South Africa.

Engineer *Samuel Muhoozi* is Director: Roads and Bridges at the **UGANDA NATIONAL ROADS AUTHORITY (UNRA)**, telephone Kampala 256 414 318111, e-mail: info@unra.go.ug Website: www.unra.go.ug

The *African Development Bank* has approved a loan for the upgrade of roads in the Lake Bunyonyi tourism area in south-western Uganda.

Ahmad Salihijo Ahmad is Managing Director at the **RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY (REA)** of Nigeria, telephone Abuja 234 8112494040 or 8107829134, e-mail: info@rea.gov.ng Website: www.rea.gov.ng

The *REA* is undertaking several initiatives regarding off-grid solar power.

Alain Patrick Kouma is Managing Director at the Gabonese national power and water utility, **SOCIETE D'ENERGIE ET D'EAU DU GABON (SEEG)**, telephone Libreville 241 1 761282, e-mail: communication@seeg-gabon.com Website: www.seeg-gabon.com

SEEG is building two new drinking water plants in Gabon.

AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS



Engineer *Lebbi Mwendavanu Kisutu Changullah* is Secretary General of the **EASTERN AFRICA POWER POOL**, telephone Addis Ababa 251 11 6671669, e-mail: eapp@eappool.org Website: <https://eappool.org>

Work on the Tanzania-Zambia interconnector has begun.

Brehima Coulibaly is Regional Coordinator with the **NIGER BASIN AUTHORITY (NBA)**, telephone Niamey 227 724595, e-mail: bremacoul@yahoo.fr or abnsec@intnet.ne Website: www.abn.ne

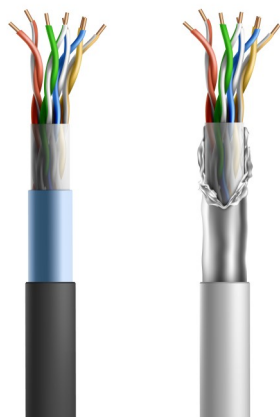
AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CONTACTS



Joao Machatine is the **MOZAMBIQUE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND WATER RESOURCES**, telephone Maputo 258 21 430028.

The Ministry is undertaking an affordable housing programme.

ICT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS



Balcha Reba is Director General at the **ETHIOPIAN COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY (ECA)**, telephone Addis Ababa 251 11 6928035 or 6928043, e-mail: contact@eca-ethiopia.com Website: <https://eca.et>

The ECA has produced a study for the award of mobile telecommunications licenses in the country.

Albert Mungai is Director: Information Technology at **AIRTEL KENYA**, telephone Nairobi 254 733100100, e-mail: info@ke.airtel.com Website: www.airtelkenya.com

Airtel has concluded an agreement with *Nokia* for the supply of advance 4G and 5G equipment.

Bobby Ramsoondur is Chief Commercial Officer at **MAURITIUS TELECOM**, telephone Port Louis 230 2085057 or 2037000, e-mail: ceo@telecom.mu or contact@telecom.mu Website: www.telecom.mu

Mauritius Telecom has been authorised to launch an undersea fibre optic cable linking the island to South Africa.

Odirile Tamajobe is Chief Executive Officer at **LIQUID TELECOM BOTSWANA**, telephone Gaborone 267 73011575, Website: www.liquidtelecom.com

Liquid Telecom Botswana is extending a fibre optic cable from Lobatse to Gaborone.

MINING CONTACTS



Michael Kelly is General Manager: Segilola Gold Project at **THOR EXPLORATIONS**, telephone 1 778 6586391 or 7783730102, e-mail: info@thorexpl.com Website: www.thorexpl.com

The company is developing the Segilola gold project in Nigeria.

Julian Hanna is Director: External Affairs at **SANDFIRE RESOURCES**, telephone Perth 61 8 64303800, Website: www.sandfire.com.au

Sandfire is developing the Motheo copper/silver project in Botswana.

William Dawes is Chief Executive Officer at **MKANGO RESOURCES**, telephone Vancouver 1 403 4445979, e-mail: will@mkango.ca Website: www.mkango.ca

Mkango is developing rare earth operations in Malawi.

Deon de Kock is President: Region Sub-Saharan Africa and Middle East at **FLSmidth**, telephone Roodepoort 27 10 2104000, e-mail: flsm-za@flsmidth.com Website: www.flsmidth.com

The company is involved in the development of the Dejen cement plant in Ethiopia.

OIL & GAS CONTACTS



Aiman Aboujoukh is General Manager at the **SUDAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION (SUDAPET)**, telephone Khartoum 249 15 6557777, e-mail: info@sudapet.com Website: www.sudapet.sd

Sudan is encouraging investment in its oil sector by investors from Western countries.

Mustapha Yakubu is Chief Operating Officer at the **NIGERIAN NATIONAL PETROLEUM CORPORATION (NNPC)**, telephone Port Harcourt 234 1 4631418-9 or 234 7034032215, e-mail: contactus@nncgroup.com Website: <https://nnpccgroup.com>

The **NNPC** has announced that it will be rehabilitating the Port Harcourt refinery.

Egbert Faibille is Chief Executive Officer at the **GHANA PETROLEUM COMMISSION (GPC)**, telephone Accra 233 302 550933 or 550959, e-mail: info@petrocom.gov.gh Website: www.petrocom.gov.gh

The **GPC** has concluded an agreement with **TG-Geopartners** for a 3D geophysical study of the oil and gas potential of the Keta Basin in the Volta Region.

AGRICULTURE/AGRI-BUSINESS CONTACTS



Gilton José is District Director: Economic Activities in **ZAMBEZIA PROVINCE**, Mozambique, telephone Quelimane 258 824880780, e-mail: cpizambezia@cpi.co.mz

Mr José is promoting investment in a rice production project in the province.

Jacob Theron is Regional and Research Director; Northern Region at the **NAMIBIAN MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, WATER AND LAND REFORM**, telephone Windhoek 264 61 2087111, e-mail: amagolae@mawf.gov.na Website: www.mawf.gov.na

The Oshakati abattoir has been reopened. *Abner Nambombola* is the Operations Manager for *Kiat Investment Holdings* of Namibia which is a joint venture partner in the project.

Zweli Mnisi is Corporate Spokesperson for **NESTLE EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA REGION**, telephone 27 823128440, e-mail: zweli.mnisi@za.nestle.com Website: www.nestle-asar.com

Nestlé is developing South Africa's first carbon-neutral dairy farm in George, South Africa.

HOTELS/TOURISM/COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONTACTS



Dr *Abdallah Mohammed Juma* is Director at the **ZANZIBAR COMMISSION FOR TOURISM (ZCT)**, telephone 255 24 2233485, e-mail: marketing@zanzibartourism.go.tz Website: www.zanzibartourism.go.tz

A major tourism promotion programme is being undertaken for Zanzibar.

Clyde Fakhoury is Administrative Director at the Ivorian property development and construction company, **PFO AFRICA**, telephone Abidjan 225 22 484545, e-mail: pfoagencement@pfoafrica.com Website: www.pfoafrica.com

PFO is the contractor for the Ivoire Trade Centre development in Abidjan.

Joao Machatine is the **MOZAMBIQUE MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND WATER RESOURCES**, telephone Maputo 258 21 430028.

The Ministry is undertaking an affordable housing programme.

Peter Mukhua is Director: Operations at the Kenyan supermarket chain, **NAIVAS LIMITED**, telephone Nairobi 254 20 536305-9, e-mail: nssshq@naivas.co.ke

Naivas will be opening four new retail outlets in the country.

HEALTH SECTOR CONTACTS



Benjamin Gitoho is an architect at **TRIAD ARCHITECTS** of Kenya, telephone Nairobi 254 722708632 or 254 20 404965, e-mail: info@triad.co.ke Website: <https://triad.co.ke>

Triad is designing a new cardiothoracic centre in Kenya.

Amadou Alpha Sall is General Administrator the **PASTEUR INSTITUTE SENEGAL (IPD)**, telephone Dakar 221 33 8399200, e-mail: pasteurdakar@pasteur.sn Website: www.pasteur.sn

The IPD has launched its *Diatropix* platform for the distribution of rapid test kits in Africa.

DONOR/DFI/FUND/ECA CONTACTS



Ouattara Adama is Director: Resources at **SOCIETE GENERALE COTE D'IVOIRE**, telephone Abidjan 225 88008008, e-mail: cotedivoire.societe-generale@socgen.com Website: <https://societegenerale.ci>

Société Générale CI is funding the Ivoire Trade Centre development in Abidjan.

Henry Paul Batchi Baldeh is Director at the Power Systems Development Department at the **AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)**, telephone Abidjan 225 20 263900, e-mail: h.baldeh@afdb.org Website: www.afdb.org

The Director is involved in the funding by the bank of the Malagarasi hydro power project in Tanzania.

UNITED NATIONS/NGO CONTACTS



Catherine Horsfield is Programme Head: Mining at the **CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS (CER)**, telephone Cape Town 27 21 4471647, e-mail: info@cer.org.za Website: <https://cer.org.za>

The CER is inter alia focusing on coal-fired power projects.

DIPLOMATIC CORPS CONTACTS



Vladimir Zheltov is the **AMBASSADOR OF RUSSIA TO SUDAN**, telephone Khartoum 249 18 3471042, e-mail: rfsudan@mid.ru

Russia will be building a new naval base near Port Sudan.

SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT & UTILITY CONTACTS



Thabang Selemela is a Municipal Water Expert at the **MODIMOLLE-MOOKGOPHONG MUNICIPALITY** in Limpopo Province, South Africa, telephone 27 14 7182000, e-mail: selemelat@modimolle.gov.za

Mr *Selemela* has produced a report on the water shortage problem in the municipality.

BRICS/ASIA/AMERICA/EUROPE CONTACTS



M Kandasamy is Vice President: Africa at **KEC INTERNATIONAL**, telephone Mumbai 91 22 66670200 or Johannesburg 27 0184000, e-mail: m.kandasamy@kecrpg.com Website: www.kecrpg.com

KEC is a lead contractor in the construction of a power transmission line in the north of Togo.

WEBSITES



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A list of proposed **COAL POWER PROJECTS** in Africa can be found on [https://www.gem.wiki/Category: Proposed Coal Plants in Africa](https://www.gem.wiki/Category:Proposed Coal Plants in Africa).

PROJECT-RELATED ACHIEVEMENTS AND/OR ACTIVITIES OF AFRICA HOUSE NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS, ASSOCIATES AND CONTACTS

Robert Appelbaum, Partner at **WEBBER WENTZEL** has been included in the "Best Lawyers List for South Africa" by colleagues and competitors in the South African legal community.

SPOTLIGHT ON AID AGENCIES, INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS, FUNDS & SELECTED RELATED ORGANISATIONS

Moody's has confirmed the AAA credit rating with a stable outlook for the **AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)**. Other international rating agencies have confirmed this rating.

The Economic and Monetary Community of Central African States (**CEMAC**) has just completed an investment roundtable in Paris aimed at raising funds for **REGIONAL INTEGRATION PROJECTS IN CENTRAL AFRICA**. **CEMAC** is targeting eleven projects in the transport and energy sectors that will be implemented on a Public Private Partnership (PPP) basis. Participants included multilateral and bilateral development finance institutions and public and private investment funds. The total funding requirement is 4 072 billion Euros (about US\$ 4,8 billion) but 597 million Euros have already been secured.

The *European Union (EU)* and the Danish government have allocated US\$ 47 million to the **AgriBiz AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMME** in Kenya. The funds will be used to advance the commercialisation of the agricultural production of young farmers operating in Machakos County south-east of Nairobi.

TRAVEL NOTES



Airlink has announced its new **JOHANNESBURG-LUBUMBASHI FLIGHTS**. The link will facilitate access by suppliers to the DR Congo copperbelt.

The *Zanzibar Commission for Tourism (ZCT)* is undertaking a strong tourism promotion programme for **ZANZIBAR**. At the time of writing, no Covid-19 cases have been reported since June 2020 and the arrivals statistics are improving with just over 21 000 in November 2020. The "One Thousand and One Initiative" has offered 1 000 complementary stays for visitors. *Airlink* commenced its Johannesburg-Dar es Salaam flights on 1 December 2020.

WHISPERINGS - FOOTNOTES



- There are some observers who are pointing out certain merits to the retention of the **CFA FRANC** in West Africa. One point is that the CFA Franc binds the countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union together. Others are that the CFA Franc is good for business in that it enhances predictability and acts as a defence against inflation. However, the push for the disengagement of the region from perceived colonial instruments is strong.

- Sub-Saharan African countries are manifesting considerable interest in acquiring **FIFTH GENERATION (5G) MOBILE INTERNET SERVICES**. In Kenya, there is a race between the mobile communications competitors to acquire the upgraded service. South Africa is expanding its 5G network. However, obstacles include the need for equipment and device upgrades and the preference for extensive fibre backbones.
- *Tlou Energy* has concluded a power purchase agreement with the *Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)* whereby it will supply power into the national grid from its Lesedi coal-bed methane (CBM) project. This is the first time that the Botswana government has agreed to a **COAL-BED METHANE CONTRACT**.
- Mauritius continues to experience **WATER SUPPLY** problems despite the relatively recent construction of the Midlands and Bagatelle dams. The population is growing rapidly as are the requirements by the industrial and tourism sectors. Lack of sufficient financial allocations to the water sector and the resultant poor state of pipe/reticulation infrastructure are cited as major causes.
- *Kenya Airways* has started fresh produce flights to the Middle East from Mombasa. Kenya has long exported flowers to the Middle East. These new *KA* flights are a further manifestation of the **POTENTIAL OF THE MIDDLE EAST** as a market for African agricultural produce.
- The substantial and sustained **COPPER PRICE INCREASE** should see increased activity in the Zambian and DR Congo copperbelts. Mining specialists are reporting the possibility of the metal reaching US\$ 10 000 per ton from the current price of over US\$ 6 000 per ton. The price increased 26% in 2020 to date.
- The South African Minister of Trade, Industry and Competition has stated that from June to November 2020, **SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS OF HAND SANITISER** to some 30 other African countries registered a value of R1,6 billion (about US\$ 107 million). This success emphasises the importance South Africa's exports to the rest of the continent as well as the value-added nature of these exports and its status as the sub-Saharan African country with the most diversified industrial base.

AFRICA & THE WORLD



According to the *Financial Times'* DFI Report 2020, Africa received US\$ 115,2 billion in **FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT (FDI) IN NEW PROJECTS** in 2019. 998 projects were funded which represented an increase of 49% in the number of new projects. Kenya registered the highest number of new projects funded. Egypt surpassed South Africa on the value of the new project investment.

COMMODITIES OF AFRICA

TYPE OF COMMODITY	COMMODITY	UNITS	PRICE: October 2020	PRICE: November 2020	PRICE: December 2020
Agriculture	Cocoa	US\$ per Ounce (US\$/oz)	1.63	1.86	1.72
	Coffee	US\$ per Ounce (US\$/oz)	1.05	1.15	1.26
	Cotton	US\$ per Ounce (US\$/oz.)	0.70	0.71	0.79
	Rice	US\$ per Metric Ton (USD/MT)	507	471	489
	Sugar	US\$ per Pound (US\$/lb)	14.89	14.77	15.76
Base and Precious Metals	Cobalt	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	35,065	34,140	33,000
	Copper	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	6,694.50	7,356	7,932.17
	Gold	US\$ per Troy Ounce (US\$/t oz.)	1,882.94	1,809.38	1,942.30
	Iron Ore	US\$ per Ounce (US\$/oz)	120.45	123.63	163.93
	Platinum	US\$ per Troy Ounce (US\$/t oz.)	875.00	954.00	1,075.39
Energy	Coal: Industrial	US\$ per Metric Ton (USD/MT)	57.47	61.04	96.43
	Coal: Coking	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	59.32	69.52	81.25
	Gas: Natural Gas	US\$ per million British Thermal Units (USD/MMBtu)	3.28	2.94	2.69
	Oil: Crude Oil	US\$ per Barrel (US\$/bbl.)	40.71	46.63	49.99

Source: Various

INDEMNITY

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