



AFRICA HOUSE

Insight & Access. Projects & Trade.

Notes from Africa

Issue 310, March 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

From 2010 to 2020, South Africa exported R3,1 trillion (around US\$ 211 billion) worth of goods into the rest of Africa, with 85% of these exports being value-added. Africa accounts for over 40% of all value-added exports from South Africa.

Some Observations on the Adapted Role of Development Finance Institutions in Africa in the Light of the Covid Epidemic

Editor's Note: On 28 January 2021, Africa House held a virtual webinar on Africa 2021 which included a session on the future financing of development in Africa and in which representatives of the Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA), the Industrial Development Corporation of South Africa (IDC) and the KfW IPEX-Bank of Germany took part. The following are references to some of the observations made by these representatives regarding adaptations to their roles in African development within the context of challenges brought about by the Covid pandemic.

The Covid pandemic in Africa has led to cash flow restrictions for development finance institutions (DFI's) operating in the continent. While the overall brief and the objectives of the DFI's have not been substantially altered, ("The Africa compact has not changed."), there is a stronger need for them to manage their balance sheets.

There is a more cautious approach with exposure to some categories of projects reduced and a greater emphasis on due diligence. The Covid-related travel restrictions means that the DFI's are relying more on their network of in-market consultants for due diligence work and they are making greater use of information and communication technologies.

There is a redefinition of infrastructure as a group of sectors. Infrastructure is "not just bricks and mortar" but includes greater emphasis on digitalisation. One-stop border posts are for example becoming necessary to ensure smoother logistics chains for global trade and the promise of greater intra-Africa trade and these require more effective applications of technologies.

While there is a tendency to reduce exposure to some project categories, others are prioritised. An example is the health sector for which Covid "exposed major fault lines." A new emphasis is required on the reinforcement and establishment of health facilities in the continent as well as health-related infrastructure such as transport logistics. A sector that has been particularly devastated by the pandemic is tourism. Attention will have to be paid to projects and initiatives which assist in the recovery of this important hard currency-generator. Covid has affected livelihoods

as well as lives and food security is an even stronger need. Hence agriculture is a sector that should remain in strong focus.

Reliable electricity supply is another highlighted requirement and the emphasis on renewable energy programmes and projects will increase. Environmental issues remain top priority and future fossil fuel power projects will not be supported. On the level of commercial projects, there are important changes occurring in the mining sector. For example, the manufacture of electric vehicles will increase substantially and consequently, lithium, cobalt and other mining products will receive greater support.

The realisation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and the increased need for African countries to collaborate on the acquisition of vaccines, further reinforces the priority that the DFI's have been giving to regional projects.

"There are many projects in Africa but many are not bankable." Stronger attention will be paid to project preparation in order to increase the number of economically feasible projects in Africa. This is despite the relatively poor record of DFI-supported project preparation initiatives in the past. There is a need to support smaller businesses.

Bilateral DFI's are emphasising that while donor countries are now focussing more on domestic funds because of the Covid-induced increased national economic stress and especially on supporting their local small businesses, "We are still interested in emerging markets." There is an ongoing demand for yields and interest rates in developed markets are too low.

The traditional role of DFI's as 'last resort' lenders remains as ever. "When the chips are down, that's when we're up!"

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"For me, I see silencing the guns in two ways. It's the physical dropping of the guns which is very important. But I believe we must also focus on development. Let us invest in our people to be able to silence the guns."

(Ms Bience Gawanas, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Special Adviser on Africa.)

"Pessimists are right more often but optimists have more fun."

Michael Jordaan, Fintech entrepreneur.

SPECIAL NOTE

With the excitement around the anticipated FID on the Ugandan oil projects and the East African Crude Oil Pipeline Projects later this year, Africa House South Africa will be staging an interactive conference and B2B event in March 2021 to alert companies to the opportunity and to provide participants with the opportunity to e-meet potential local Ugandan and Tanzanian partners and service providers to explore synergies.

Visit our [website](#) for more information.

Register via the link below, or contact [Nicole Drake](#) (ndrake@africainfo.co.za) for more information.
<https://lnkd.in/dYzhkrZ>



NEW SUBSCRIBERS



Internationally-accredited, African maritime education and training provider, [Seatrain Consulting \(Pty\) Ltd](#) is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the South African Maritime Training Academy (SAMTRA).

The company, which is based in Simon's Town, South Africa, has successfully provided specialist maritime-related training services to Africa's offshore and shipping industry for more than two decades, working closely with its clients and concession holders to identify the training needs required to meet long-term, human development goals and local content and transformation requirements.

Seatrain's customers are primarily drawn from non-IMO White list African countries and where internationally recognized certification and local content development are requirements. All mandatory training and education is fully accredited by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) or OPITO, and therefore fully compliant with STCW 2010 (Manila amended) and other industry standards and requirements.

The company specializes in the facilitation and management of STCW training programmes and other marine and offshore training. The ships officer training programmes lead to Master Mariner (STCW A-II/2) and Chief Engineer (STCW A-III/2) certification, respectively.

Seatrain celebrated 21 years of operation in 2020, and was the official sponsor of the Africa Oil Week Student Programme in 2019.

We look forward to working with Africa House to bring internationally approved certification options to the developing oil and gas economies of Africa.

See our website (<http://www.seatrain.co.za>) for more information on our product offering, or simply email us at admin@seatrain.co.za. You will also find us on Facebook and Twitter.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS EDITION

- Announcement of FID by *Sasol* on its Inhassoro and Temane Gas Fields, Mozambique
- Major Off-Grid Power Supply Programme, Nigeria
- Planning of *Kent* Apartment Property Development, La Lucia, South Africa
- Initiation of Road Link from Ethiopia to Assab Port, Eritrea
- Installation of Major Fibre Optic Cable Network, DR Congo
- Wind Farm for Lüderitz, Namibia
- New Graphite Mining Operations in Madagascar
- Arrangements for Completion of Barra do Dande Ocean Terminal Project, Angola
- New Gas Treatment Plant for South-Eastern Nigeria
- New Pharmaceuticals Production Operations in Senegal
- Progress on the *Google* Equiano Subsea Cable
- Major Drinking Water Supply Project for Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- Two Agri-Industrial Projects in Ethiopia
- Update on Lakeside Development Project, Kenya
- New Health Centres in Kenya
- Inauguration of Kano-Maradi Rail Line, Nigeria
- *Radisson Blu* Hotel Developments in Nigeria
- Power Supply Ship for Douala, Cameroon
- Update on the Mineral Sands Project, Madagascar

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.*

Projects & Opportunities



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PROJECT OF THE MONTH

The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) of Nigeria is registering progress with its [ENERGISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME \(EEP\)](#). The programme aims to provide off-grid solar hybrid power to 37 universities and 7 teaching hospitals throughout the country. A number of universities and hospitals have already been connected. The target is generation of 89,6 MW. This is claimed to be Africa's largest off grid solar hybrid energy initiative. Systems Sunlight of Greece are the technical partners for the programme.

Editor's Note: Africa House has considerable experience of the Nigerian energy sector and has undertaken a number of investigative visits in this regard to the country. AH subscribers are welcome to contact us for further insights.

AGRICULTURE



ETHIOPIA

The *EthioChicken Group* is seeking a line of credit totalling US\$ 10 million from the *International Finance Corporation (IFC)* for the expansion of its production facilities including two new [POULTRY PRODUCTION PLANTS](#). *EthioChicken* is one of the largest poultry producers in East Africa.

A [COOKING OIL PRODUCTION PLANT](#) has recently been inaugurated. It was constructed on a 30 hectare plot in the Bure Agri-Industrial Park in western Ethiopia. The production capacity will be 15 million litres of edible oil per day. The *PhiBela* Edible Oil Factory was constructed by the local agri-industrial company, the *Belayneh Kinde Mokonnen Group*. The cost was almost US\$ 114 million.

KENYA

Israel will be setting up an **AGRO-TECH INCUBATION HUB** in Embu, Embu County in central Kenya. The hub will assist local farmers in tapping into relevant technologies to increase production. The hub will also provide soil analyses and weather pattern monitoring. A number of Israeli agri-tech companies will be assisting with the project that is being promoted by the Israeli embassy in Kenya. Embu County is an agricultural area with a dairy industry and noted for macadamia nut production.

Kenya Wine Agencies Limited (KWAL) will be investing US\$ 36,5 million in a new [SPIRITS AND WINE PRODUCTION PLANT](#) at the Ruiru Industrial Park at Tatu City near Nairobi. Technical assistance will be provided by the major South African spirits producer, *Distell* which has a majority shareholding in the company.



HEALTH



KENYA

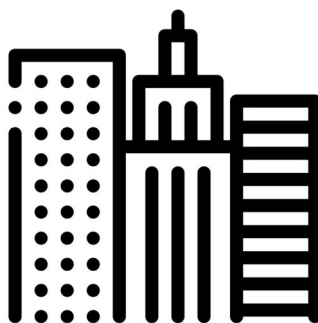
The *Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS)* has received two budget allocations of 5,5 billion Kenyan Shillings (US\$ 47 million) and 3,62 billion Kenyan Shillings (US\$ 33 million) for the establishment of 19 new [HEALTH CENTRES](#) and the refurbishment of hospitals. The first allocation provides for the health centres as well as lighting and water supply in the area's informal settlements. The second allocation is mainly for the refurbishment, equipping and staffing of the Mama Lucy and Mathare-Korogocho hospitals. The *NMS* was established in 2020 and falls under the State Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SENEGAL

The major Turkish pharmaceuticals company, *Abdi Ibrahim* is reportedly planning new **PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTION OPERATIONS** in Senegal. This was announced by the company during a recent official visit by the Senegal president to Turkey. *Abdi Ibrahim* has entered into a partnership with *OM Pharma* of Switzerland in utilising a US\$ 282 million fund focusing on biotechnology research and development. The French generic drugs manufacturer, *Biogaran* began manufacturing operations in Senegal in 2020.



HOTELS/COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY



COTE D'IVOIRE

The new *Société Ciment Côte d'Ivoire (SCCI)* [CEMENT PLANT](#) in Akoupé-Zeudji, PK24 Industrial Park situated outside Abidjan has been inaugurated by the Ivorian Minister of Commerce and Industry. The cost is approximately US\$ 100 million. The plant will have a production capacity of 1,5 million tons per annum. *SCCI* is a subsidiary of the *Atlantic Financial Group* owned by the prominent Ivorian business man, *Bernard Koné Dossongui*.

KENYA

The *Kisumu Lakefront Development Corporation (KLDC)* is developing a lakeside promenade along the shores of Lake Victoria in Kisumu in western Kenya. It has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the *Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA)* for the construction of the promenade. The [KISUMU LAKEFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECT](#) falls under the Kisumu Urban Project and includes a waterfront, a marina and hotels. The port town of Kisumu is developing into a major trade hub and this status is being enhanced by the near-completion of rehabilitation of the old rail network from Nakuru.

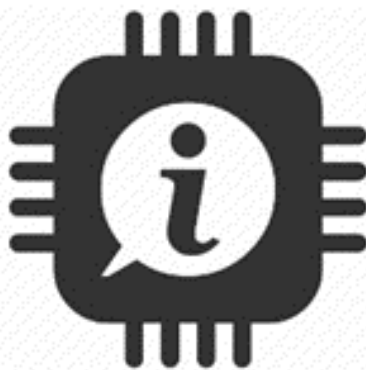
NIGERIA

The [RADISSON BLU ABUJA GUDU HOTEL](#) could be opened sooner than the originally stated opening in 2024. Construction has begun and it could be completed in 2022. It is situated close to the central business district of the federal capital of Abuja in Gudu suburb. It will have 258 rooms and a large wellness centre. The *Radisson Blu* group is involved in nine other hotel establishments in Nigeria.

SOUTH AFRICA

Growthpoint Properties is planning the construction of a nine-storey [KENT APARTMENT PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT](#) at the La Lucia Mall north of Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province. The cost is given as R142 million or about US\$ 9,7 million. Construction is expected to commence later in 2021 and the duration is estimated at about 12 months. *Pam Golding Properties* is responsible for sales and has reported that some 60% of the apartments have been pre-sold. The objective is to enhance the mall's status as a mixed-use development.

ICT / TELECOMMUNICATIONS



REGIONAL

The [GOOGLE EQUIANO SUBSEA CABLE](#) is registering progress. The cable will connect Lisbon, Portugal to South Africa with its route along Africa's west and central African coast. A first branch unit will be in Nigeria and another branch unit in Namibia should be completed by the Pan African group, *Paratus* and *Telecom Namibia* within the next 18 months. *Liquid Telecom* is planning a landing station in the DR Congo. A number of countries are lobbying for landing stations. The end landing station in South Africa will be at Melkbosstrand, Cape Town. *Alcatel Submarine Networks* is a major contractor for the project. *Google* is funding the project using latest technology.

CONGO (DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC)

Following a state visit to Egypt by President *Tshisekedi*, *Benya Capital* of Egypt and the *Société Congolaise des Postes et Télécommunications (SCPT)* have concluded a Memorandum of Understanding for the installation of 16 000 kilometres of [FIBRE OPTIC CABLE NETWORK](#) across the DR Congo. The Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications, New Information Technologies and Communications was instrumental in the conclusion of the agreement.

NIGERIA

The Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy has announced that a [NATIONAL INFORMATION COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY \(ICT\) PARK](#) is to be developed on a 4 200 square metre site in Abuja. The centre will coordinate regional public and private parks. The amount reserved for the project is US\$ 23,4 million. The objective is to develop the federal capital city into a 'Silicon Valley of Nigeria'.

SOUTH AFRICA

The *Smart City Office* of the City of Johannesburg with the *Tshimologong Innovation Precinct* has issued a **COVID-19 INNOVATION CHALLENGE** and invited technology companies to submit innovative technologies to enhance the city's response to the Covid-19 pandemic. These technologies could assist inter alia with the prediction of crisis situations, future stress points, safer public transport, affordable screening and data collection. A prototype grant of R500 000 (nearly US\$ 35 000) will be given per successful proposal and pilot projects based on these proposals will be set up.

MINING



CONGO (REPUBLIC)

Hatch Global has been appointed by *Kropz* of the UK and South Africa to update and complete a feasibility study for the [HINDA PHOSPHATE PROJECT](#) situated about 40 kilometres northwest of Pointe Noire. The estimated production is now 1 million tons of phosphate concentrate which is reduced from an initial estimate from a feasibility study undertaken in 2015. The world phosphate price has dropped. The Hinda deposit is said to be the world's largest undeveloped phosphate reserve. *Kropz* took the mine over from *Cominco*.

MADAGASCAR

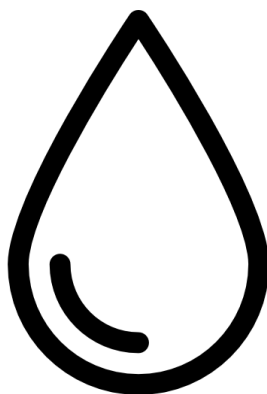
London-listed *Tirupati Graphite* is undertaking stage 2 drilling and exploration programmes at its [VATOMINA AND SAHAMAMY FLAKE GRAPHITE OPERATIONS](#) situated in close proximity to each other in the Tamatave area of the island's central east coast. *SRK Mining* of India has been contracted to manage the programmes. Geotechnical studies are scheduled to follow the initial drilling programmes.

Base Resources of Australia is hoping to make a final investment decision on the [TOLIARA MINERAL SANDS PROJECT](#) in south-western Madagascar by the end of 2021. In November 2009, the government suspended the project due to lack of agreement on fiscal considerations and opposition from local communities. The Madagascar Supreme Court reported several irregularities relating to the development. The US\$ 512 million project is considered to be one of the largest potential mineral sands opportunities in the world. A December 2019 feasibility study reported substantial ilmenite, zircon and rutile deposits and a mine life of 33 years. The project includes a concentration plant and an export facility.

SOUTH AFRICA

Rainbow Rare Earths of the UK has reported positive results from its drilling programme at the [PHALABORWA RARE EARTHS PROJECT](#) in Limpopo Province. The project will involve the processing of 35 million tons of gypsum tailings. *Sasol* has developed a successful pilot processing plant at the site. *Rainbow* is also developing the Gakara rare earths prospect in Burundi.

OIL & GAS



ANGOLA

Subsea 7 has been awarded the fabrication and construction contract for the [CHEVRON SANHA LEAN GAS CONNECTION PLATFORM PROJECT \(SLGC\)](#) at Block-o off the coast at Lobito, central Angola. The contract was awarded by the *Cabinda Gulf Oil Company (CABGOC)*, a *Chevron* subsidiary. Construction will be undertaken at the *Senamet* industrial yard in Lobito. The value of the contract is at least US\$ 150 million.

The national oil company is liaising with 45 “specialised entities” for the completion of the [BARRA DO DANDE OCEAN TERMINAL PROJECT](#). The terminal will have an initial capacity of 642 000 cubic metres of oil products such as diesel and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG). The planned deepwater port and logistics base is situated some 30 kilometres north of Luanda and was originally conceived as a new development to relieve pressure on Luanda port. The project falls under the National Development Plan 2018-2022. The government has reserved about US\$ 560 million for its implementation. A previous joint venture with a sheikh from Dubai for the project has reportedly not materialised. The intention is to also establish a future free zone at Barra do Dande.

MOZAMBIQUE

The Ministry of Mineral Resources and Energy has announced the approval by *Sasol* of the Final Investment Decision (FID) of the power-sharing agreement for the licensing area encompassing the Temane, Temane-East and Inhassoro [GAS FIELDS](#) in Inhambane Province. The value of the investment is estimated at US\$ 755 million. The development includes a 450 MW gas-fired power plant, a liquefied petroleum gas facility and infrastructure for light oil exports.

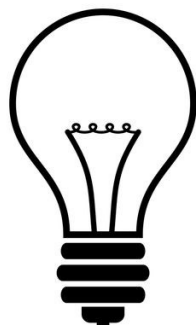
NIGERIA

Seplat Petroleum Development Company through its gas distribution affiliate, *Anoh Gas Processing Company (AGPC)* is in a joint venture the *Nigerian Gas Company (NGC)* of the *Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)* for the development of a new [GAS TREATMENT PLANT](#) situated in Imo State, south-eastern Nigeria. The plant will produce 300 million cubic feet per day. The gas will be used for the production of electricity. The production will meet about 30% of national demand.

TANZANIA

Equinor of Norway (previously *Statoil*) has declared an impairment for its [TANZANIA LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS \(TLNG\) PROJECT](#). It is reported that the Tanzanian authorities have delayed approval of a proposed onshore gas processing plant and export facility located near the coastal town on Lindi and that this has hampered the commercial viability of the project. The stated value of the project was US\$ 982 million.

POWER



BOTSWANA

The US consulting engineering firm, *Tetra Tech* has completed a feasibility study for *Giyani Metals* of Canada for the construction of a [PHOTOVOLTAIC SOLAR POWER PLANT](#) at *Giyani's* K. Hill manganese project in southern Botswana. The study proposes three alternatives: a 14 MW, 48 MW or 60 MW plant costing around US\$10,5 million, US\$ 35 million and US\$ 45 million respectively. Excess power not required by the mine would be fed into the national grid.

CAMEROON

Karpowership of Turkey is reportedly negotiating with the Cameroon Ministry of Water and Energy and the *Port Authority of Douala* for the floating of a [POWER SUPPLY SHIP](#) in Douala harbour to supply local industries and to feed power into the national grid. 300 MW would be produced at a cost of about 7 US Cents per kilowatt. The company has previously concluded a power ship agreement with Ghana and was unsuccessful with a similar proposal to the South African government.

DJIBOUTI

The *Kenya Electricity Generating Company (KenGen)* has won a US\$ 6,5 million contract for a [GEOTHERMAL DRILLING PROGRAMME](#) in Djibouti. The project involves the drilling of three wells for the national utility, *Office Djiboutien de Développement de l'Energie Géothermique (ODDEG)*. This is the third geothermal contract that *KenGen* has won in the Horn of Africa region. It won a contract to drill 12 wells for *Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP)* and another with the independent power producer (IPP) *Tulu Moya* for a geothermal programme in eastern Ethiopia. *KenGen* is taking advantage of its long experience of geothermal power to provide assistance to other countries in the region.

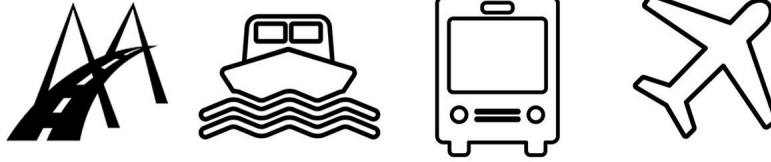
NAMIBIA

The *Namibia Power Corporation (Nampower)* has issued an invitation to international power sector specialists and developers to assist with the realisation of a 50 MW [WIND FARM](#) in the Lüderitz area of the southern coast of Namibia. The Independent Power Producer (IPP) project is one of the wind farm initiatives in the area. A 5 MW wind power plant already exists and *Namwater* is developing a 40 MW plant.

NIGERIA

The *Rural Electrification Agency (REA)* is registering progress with its [ENERGISING EDUCATION PROGRAMME \(EEP\)](#). The programme aims to provide offgrid solar hybrid power to 37 universities and 7 teaching hospitals throughout the country. A number of universities and hospitals have already been connected. The target is generation of 89,6 MW. This is claimed to be Africa's largest offgrid solar hybrid energy initiative. *Systems Sunlight* of Greece are the technical partners for the programme.

TRANSPORT



REGIONAL

The 284 kilometre [KANO-MARADI RAIL LINE](#) has been inaugurated by a ground-breaking ceremony. The line will link northern Nigeria with Niger and facilitate trade in mainly agricultural and mining production and materials between the two countries. The Federal Ministry of Transport estimates the daily loads at about 3 000 tons of freight and over 9 000 passengers. The single-track standard gauge line traverses ten states in Nigeria. There will be 15 stations along the route. The stated cost is just under US\$ 2 billion. *Mota Engil* is the main contractor and the *Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC)* is the relevant utility.

Construction of the 72 kilometre [ETHIOPIA-ASSAB PORT \(ERITREA\) ROAD](#) has begun. The Meladoni Junction-Manda-Bure road will greatly facilitate export trade for Ethiopia through the Eritrean port. The cost is estimated at 2 billion Birr or about US\$ 50 million. The responsible government authority is the Ministry of Transport and Communications and the relevant utility is the *Ethiopian Roads Authority (ERA)*. The contractor is *Shandong Liquino* of China and the consulting engineer is *SMEK International*. *Value Engineering* is a sub-contractor.

The *Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency (CCTTFA)* is attempting to raise US\$ 1,9 billion for the construction of the 190 kilometre [BURUNDI-TANZANIA INTERSTATE RAILWAY](#). The line would extend from Musongati in Burundi to Isaka in Tanzania. The objective of the Central Corridor is to link Dar es Salaam port to the interior and with Rwanda, Burundi and parts of the DR Congo. The line would enhance the export of production from the numerous mines in the region.

SOUTH AFRICA

The *South African National Roads Agency (Sanral)* will be allocating R500 million (about US\$ 33,4 million) to the [BUFFALO CITY ROAD PROJECT](#) in the Eastern Cape Province. The project entails the reconstruction and widening of some 63 kilometres of the N2 road between Green River and Buffalo River and the construction of three new bridges. Construction is expected to start in April 2021 and the duration is scheduled at 33 months. The main contractor is *WBHO* collaborating with *Gibb Engineering* and *Mariswe Engineering*. Parties involved include the *Buffalo City Municipality* and the Eastern Cape Provincial Government.



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WATER & SANITATION



COTE D'IVOIRE

The Ministry of Water and Forests has launched another project for the [SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER TO ABIDJAN](#). The city is expanding rapidly and the demand by 2025 is estimated at 860 000 cubic metres per day. This project will provide drinking water to an additional 1,5 million of the current population of 4,3 million. It entails inter alia the construction of a major water intake station and two water towers. The project duration will be two years.

TANZANIA

The *Dar es Salaam Water Supply and Sanitation Authority* (DAWASA) and the *Kisarawe Water and Sanitation Services Authority* (WSSA) are planning projects for [WATER SUPPLY TO THE VISEGESE INDUSTRIAL PARK](#). The planned 810 hectare agri-industrial industrial park is situated in the area of Kisarawe town about 35 kilometres from Dar es Salaam. DAWASA is preparing a 15-month water supply project that includes a new source at Maneromango. The *Kisarawe WSSA* has a current installed capacity of 630 cubic metres of water per day. It has two mini water treatment plants. Water is drawn from the Wamu-Ruvu river basin.



WHISPERINGS - FOOTNOTES



Businessman photo created by wayhomestudio - www.freepik.com

- There have been announcements of **WITHDRAWALS FROM MOZAMBIQUE** by two major economic role players. *Vale* of Brazil will be divesting its coal and port handling operations within the context of its objective to be carbon neutral by 2050. Its minority partner in the Mozambique operation, *Mitsui* is being bought out by *Vale*. *Olam* of Singapore will be withdrawing from its cashew nut projects and initiatives in the country.

- The following are a few recent updates on developments relating to the **SECURITY SITUATION IN NORTHERN MOZAMBIQUE**: A 25-kilometre security ring is being established around the Afungi Peninsula to protect the LNG installations there. The islands will also be secured. The town of Pemba's strategic geographic situation means that security will be prioritised for this city and its surrounds. Supply companies have been requested to place their supplies to the LNG projects on a two-month hold.
- *Airtel Africa* will reportedly not be contending for one of the two **MOBILE TELECOMMUNICATIONS LICENSES IN ETHIOPIA**. The continuing political unrest in the country may lead to a delay in the country's planned opening up of its telecommunications sector.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has led to a sharp reduction in passenger air travel in Africa. Yet the floriculture industry in Kenya is also experiencing shortage of air freight services on which it is particularly dependent. *Kenya Airways* has apparently realised the opportunity created and is converting **PASSENGER AIRCRAFT TO FREIGHT AIRCRAFT**.
- The Botswana president has announced new measures to boost **NON-DIAMOND MINERAL EXPLORATION** through the effective use of digitalisation and geosciences data. The country's mining sector is heavily dependent upon diamond production.
- Strong **TURKISH INTEREST** in Africa is further manifested by the above-mentioned projects: The positioning of a power supply vessel at Douala Port in Cameroon and plans by a major Turkish pharmaceuticals company to set up a production plant in Senegal.
- The installation of **SOLAR PLANTS** for remote site mining projects is an increasingly strong trend. The plans by *Giyani Metals* for the construction of a solar plant at its K. Hill manganese mine in Botswana is another example.
- The **CASINO INDUSTRY** in South Africa is experiencing hard times under the Covid-19 pandemic. The mooted possibility of a second casino for the Cape Town metropole is now unlikely to be realised. The industry is reportedly looking into smaller unit models.
- There is considerable activity in the **NIGERIAN RAIL INDUSTRY**. The Kano-Maradi line has just been inaugurated and the Lags-Ibadan line has been completed. Plans are underway for the Western, Eastern and Central rail corridors. The Western Corridor is the Lagos-Kano line, the Eastern Corridor is Port Harcourt-Maiduguri-Bonny Island, and the Central Corridor is Abuja-Warri port. The Eastern Coastal line is Lagos-Calabar near the Cameroon border. A railways industrial park is planned for Port Harcourt.
- There are increasingly strong calls for the stimulation of **MINERALS EXPLORATION IN SOUTH AFRICA**. This will depend upon the development of a true junior mining culture in the country. The authorities would do well to learn from the Canadian junior mining experience and the role of the Toronto Stock Exchange in encouraging junior exploration.
- The current serious drought in the Nelson Mandela area of the Eastern Cape is leading to renewed speculation over a major **DESALINATION PLANT** in Coega. The project has been mooted but its current status is unclear.

CONTACTS

AFRICAN CONTACTS



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Alex is monitoring the Lake Albert oil development among other projects in Uganda.

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Alex is monitoring the natural gas-related developments in the Mtwara area among other projects in Tanzania.

AFRICAN UTILITY CONTACTS



James Holley is Chairperson, Misela Nhlapo is Chief Executive Officer and Dion Booyens is a director at the **AFRICAN RAILWAY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (ARIA)**, telephone 27 11 4681360, e-mail: info@aria.org.za Website: <https://aria.org.za>

Editor's Note: ARIA replaces the Rail Roads Association (RRA).

Mbulelo Peterson is Regional Manager: Southern Region at the **SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY LIMITED (SANRAL)**, telephone Port Elizabeth 27 41 3983200, Website: www.nra.co.za

Sanral is undertaking the Buffalo City Road Project in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

Joe Mukena Mukena is Director: Investor Relations at the **NAMIBIA POWER CORPORATION (NAMPOWER)**, telephone Windhoek 264 Lüderitz 264 63 202553, E-mail: joe.mukena@nampower.com.na or luderitzdistrictoffice@nampower.com.na Website: www.nampower.com.na

Nampower is requesting support from international specialists for a new wind farm in Lüderitz.

Engineer Ramadhani Mtindasi is Director: Infrastructure Development at the **DAR ES SALAAM WATER SUPPLY AND SANITATION AUTHORITY (DAWASA)**, telephone Dar es Salaam 255 22276006/15, E-mail: ramadhani.mketo@dawasa.go.tz Website: www.dawasa.go.tz

DAWASA is undertaking a water supply project for the Visegese Industrial Park.

Engineer Bolakanie Kawu is Director: Projects at the **RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AGENCY (REA)** of Nigeria, telephone Abuja 234 8112494040, E-mail: info@rea.gov.ng Website: <https://rea.gov.ng>

The REA is implementing the Energising Education Programme (EEP) aimed at supplying offgrid power to universities and hospitals in the country.

Ben Iloanusi is Director: Procurement at the **NIGERIAN RAILWAY CORPORATION (NRC)**, telephone Lagos 234 9051902545, E-mail: info@nrc.gov.ng Website: <https://nrc.gov.ng>

There are numerous planned rail projects in Nigeria and the Kano-Maradi rail link with Niger has just been inaugurated.

Dr *Kayad Moussa Ahmed* is Director General at the **OFFICE DJIBOUTIEN DE DEVELOPPEMENT DEL'ENERGIE GEOTHERMIQUE** (ODDEG, Djibouti Office for the Development of Geothermal Energy), telephone 253 21 315100, E-mail: info@oddeg.dj Website: www.oddeg.dj

The ODDEG has appointed *KenGen* of Kenya to undertake a geothermal drilling programme in the country.

Engineer *Mohammed Abduraheman* is Deputy Director General at the **ETHIOPIAN ROADS AUTHORITY (ERA)**, telephone Addis Ababa 251 11 5517170 or 251 11 5516962, E-mail: mohammed.abduraheman@era.gov.et Website: www.era.gov.et

ERA is involved in the construction of the Ethiopia-Assab Port link road.

AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS



Maina Kiondo has been appointed as the new Director General and Chief Executive Officer at the **LAPSSET CORRIDOR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**, telephone Nairobi 254 20 2219098 or 2218968, E-mail: info@lapsset.go.ke Website: www.lapsset.go.ke

Mr *Kiondo* replaces *Silvester Kasuku*.

Dieudonné Dakundane is Executive Secretary at the **CENTRAL CORRIDOR TRANSIT TRANSPORT FACILITATION AGENCY (CCTTFA)** telephone Dar es Salaam 255 22 2127149, E-mail: tffa@centralcorridor-ttfa.org Website: <https://centralcorridor-ttfa.org>

The CCTTFA is attempting to raise funds for the Burundi-Tanzania rail line.

Professor *Abdoulaye Dia* is Executive Secretary at the **PAN AFRICAN AGENCY OF THE GREAT GREEN WALL INITIATIVE (PAGGW)**, telephone Addis Ababa 251 6615863, E-mail: ggw@unccd.int or cessouma@hotmail.com Website: www.greatgreenwall.org and www.grandemurailleverte.org

The *Great Green Wall* is a green belt that will span the width of Africa across the Sahel to slow desertification and improve livelihoods in the countries concerned.

AFRICAN GOVERNMENT CONTACTS



Fofana Fatoumata is Deputy Director: Trade Negotiations at the **COTE D'IVOIRE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, INDUSTRY AND SME PROMOTION**, telephone Abidjan 225 20 229528, E-mail: info@commerce.gouv.ci

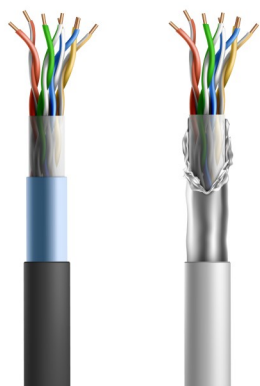
Jérôme Ake is Deputy Director General at the **COTE D'IVOIRE MINISTRY OF WATER AND FORESTS**, telephone Abidjan 225 202 39530 or 39512, E-mail: info@eauxetforets.gouv.ci Website: www.eauxetforets.gouv.ci

The Ministry has launched a new potable water supply project for Abidjan.

Kilyobas Binga is a Director and Mrs *Philomena Oshodin* is a Deputy Director at the **NIGERIAN MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL ECONOMY**, E-mail: info@commtech.gov.ng Website: www.commtech.gov.ng

The Ministry has announced the development of a national ICT park in Abuja.

ICT/TELECOMMUNICATIONS CONTACTS



Osama Qadan is Group Chief Commercial Officer at **BENYA CAPITAL**, telephone Cairo 20 225 428464, Website: www.banyaholding.com

The company has concluded an agreement with the *SCPT* of the DR Congo for the installation of a fibre optic cable network throughout the DR Congo.

Lawrence Boya is Leader at the **SMART CITY OFFICE** of the City of Johannesburg, E-mail: nelson@tshimologong.joburg Website: www.joburg.org.za

The Office has issued an innovation challenge to technology companies to help the city respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Colwyn van Resnburg is Group Chief Development Officer at **PARATUS AFRICA**, telephone Windhoek 264 833001000, E-mail: info@paratus.africa Website: <https://paratus.africa>

Paratus is involved with developing a landing station in Namibia for the *Google* Equiano subsea cable.

MINING CONTACTS



Thomas Horton is Vice President: Business Development at **GIYANI METALS**, telephone 1 44 7866 913207, E-mail: thorton@giyanimetals.com Website: <https://giyanimetals.com>

Giyani is considering options for the construction of a solar power plant at its K. Hill manganese project in Botswana.

Mark Summers is Chief Executive Officer at **KROPZ**, telephone Cape Town 27 21 9300927, Website: www.kropz.com

Kropz has commissioned a feasibility study on the Hinda phosphate project in the Republic of the Congo.

Gilbert Midende is General Manager at **RAINBOW RARE EARTHS**, telephone London 44 2071291474, Website: <https://rainbowrareearths.com>

Rainbow is developing the Phalaborwa Rare Earths Project in South Africa.

Shishir Poddar is Chief Executive Officer at **TIRUPATI GRAPHITE**, telephone London 44 20 39849894, E-mail: admin@tirupatigraphite.co.uk Website: <https://tirupatigraphite.co.uk>

Tirupati is developing two graphite operations in Madagascar.



OIL & GAS CONTACTS



Gilles Lafaye is Senior Vice President: Africa and the Middle East at **SUBSEA 7**, telephone Luanda 244 222 693700, E-mail: communications@subsea7.com Website: www.subsea7.com

The company has won a construction contract for the *Chevron Lean Gas Platform Connection Project* in Angola.

Effiong Okon is Executive Director: Operations at the **SEPLAT PATROLEUM DEVELOPMENT COMPANY**, telephone Lagos 234 1 2770400, E-mail: info@seplatpetroleum.com Website: <https://seplatpetroleum.com>

Seplat is in joint venture with the *Nigerian Gas Company* for the development of a new gas treatment plant in Nigeria.

Mauro Graca is Project Director: Barra do Dande Ocean Terminal at **SONANGOL**, telephone Luanda 244 222 334448, E-mail: mauro.graca@sonangol.co.ao Website: www.sonangol.co.ao

Sonangol is inviting specialist companies to assist with the construction of the Barra do Dande port oil products terminal.

Peter Hutton is Vice President: Investor Relations at **EQUINOR**, telephone Norway 41 51 990000, E-mail: irpost@equinor.com Website: www.equinor.com

Equinor has withdrawn from the Tanzania LNG Project.

AGRICULTURE/AGRI-BUSINESS CONTACTS



Oded Joseph is Ambassador and *Arnon Arbel* is Commercial Attaché at the **EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN KENYA**, telephone Nairobi 254 20 4927500, E-mail: info@nairobi.mfa.gov.il Website: <https://embassies.gov.il>

The embassy is supporting the establishment of an agro-tech hub in Embu County, Kenya.

Belayneh Kinde is the Chief Executive Officer and owner of the **BELAYNEH KINDE MOKONNEN GROUP**, telephone Addis Ababa 251 11 111118533, E-mail: belayneh-ki@ethionet.et

The Group has just built an edible oils production plant in Ethiopia.

Lina Githuka is the Director General of **KENYA WINE AGENCIES LIMITED (KWAL)**, telephone Nairobi 254 20 497900 or 254 708406672, E-mail: info@kwal.co.ke Website: www.kwal.co.ke

KWAL is establishing a new spirits and wine production plant in Tatu City near Nairobi.

Meskeram Ayele is Director: Logistics and Procurement at **ETHIOCHICKEN**, telephone Addis Ababa 251 11 6672229, E-mail: info@ethiochicken.com Website: <https://ethiochicken.com>

EthioChicken is seeking funding from the *International Finance Corporation (IFC)* for expansion of its production facilities.

HOTELS/TOURISM/COMMERCIAL PROPERTY CONTACTS



Edward Ouko is the Chairman of the **KISUMU LAKEFRONT DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (KLDC)**, E-mail: info@kisumu.go.ke Website: www.kisumu.go.ke

The **KLDC** is implementing the Kisumu Lakefront Development Project in Kenya.

Erwan Garnier is Senior Director: Development Africa at the **RADISSON BLU** hotel group, telephone 234 9087805555, E-mail: erwan.garnier@radissonhotels.com Website: www.radissonhotelgroup.com

Radisson is developing its tenth hotel establishment in Nigeria.

Greg Worst is Head: KwaZulu-Natal Province for **GROWTHPOINT PROPERTIES**, telephone Umhlanga 27 31 5845100, E-mail: nkuzmanich@growthpoint.co.za Website: <https://growthpoint.co.za>

Growthpoint is developing the Kent Apartment building at the La Lucia Mall near Durban, South Africa.

HEALTH SECTOR CONTACTS



Suha Taspolatoglu is Chief Executive Officer at the Turkish pharmaceuticals company, **ABDI IBRAHIM**, telephone Istanbul 90 212 3668400, E-mail: info@abdiibrahim.com.tr Website: www.abdiibrahim.com.tr

The company is reportedly planning new operations in Senegal.

General *Mohammed Badi* is Director General at the **NAIROBI METROPOLITAN SERVICES (NMS)**, telephone 254 20 2718050, E-mail: info@namsip.go.ke Website: <https://namsip.go.ke>

The **NMS** has received funding for the establishment of health centres and the refurbishment of hospitals in the Nairobi area.

DONOR/DFI/FUND/ECA CONTACTS



Ayodeji Olaifa is Vice President at the **KFW IPEX-BANK** of Germany, e-mail: info@kfw-ipex-bank.de Website: www.kfw-ipex-bank.de

Dr *Tapiwa Dube* is Business Development Manager: Continental Coverage at the **INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (IDC)** of South Africa, telephone Johannesburg 27 11 2693000, Website: www.idc.co.za

Dr *Kevin Kariuki* is Vice President: Power, Energy, Climate Change and Green Growth at the **AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (AfDB)**, E-mail: Kevin.kariuki@afdb.org Website: www.afdb.org

Francesco La Camera is Director General at the **INTERNATIONAL RENEWABLE ENERGY AGENCY (IRENA)**, telephone UAE 971 24179000, E-mail: info@irena.org Website: www.irena.org

IRENA has recently concluded an agreement with the *African Development Bank (AfDB)* for enhancing renewable energy projects in Africa.

UNITED NATIONS/NGO CONTACTS



Dawn Goodwin is Programme Director: Mozambique at **WORLD VISION INTERNATIONAL**, telephone Maputo 258 21 350600/19 or 258 84350600, Website: www.wvi.org

DIPLOMATIC CORPS CONTACTS



Oded Joseph is Ambassador and *Arnon Arbel* is Commercial Attaché at the **EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN KENYA**, telephone Nairobi 254 20 4927500, E-mail: info@nairobi.mfa.gov.il Website: <https://embassies.gov.il>

The embassy is supporting the establishment of an agro-tech hub in Embu County, Kenya.

Kaimbo Ngombo is First Secretary: Economics and Trade at the **NAMIBIA HIGH COMMISSION IN NAMIBIA**, telephone Windhoek 264 61 237610/1.

Mr *Ngombo* is involved in the monitoring of the Walvis Bay-Ndola-Lubumbashi Development Corridor.

SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT & UTILITY CONTACTS



Mbulelo Peterson is Regional Manager: Southern Region at the **SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL ROADS AGENCY LIMITED (SANRAL)**, telephone Port Elizabeth 27 41 3983200, Website: www.nra.co.za

Sanral is undertaking the Buffalo City Road Project in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa.

Lawrence Boya is Leader at the **SMART CITY OFFICE** of the City of Johannesburg, E-mail: nelson@tshimologong.joburg Website: www.joburg.org.za

The Office has issued an innovation challenge to technology companies to help the city respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic.



BRICS/ASIA/AMERICA/EUROPE CONTACTS

≡ EARTH GLOBE ≡



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Suha Taspolatoglu is Chief Executive Officer at the Turkish pharmaceuticals company, **ABDI IBRAHIM**, telephone Istanbul 90 212 3668400, E-mail: info@abdiibrahim.com.tr Website: www.abdiibrahim.com.tr

The company is reportedly planning new operations in Senegal.

Zeynep Harezi is Commercial Director at **KARPOWERSHIP** of Turkey, telephone Istanbul 90 212 2954737, Website: www.karpowership.com

The company is offering to float a power ship for supply of electricity to Douala, Cameroon.

Oded Joseph is Ambassador and *Arnon Arbel* is Commercial Attaché at the **EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN KENYA**, telephone Nairobi 254 20 4927500, E-mail: info@nairobi.mfa.gov.il Website: <https://embassies.gov.il>

The embassy is supporting the establishment of an agro-tech hub in Embu County, Kenya.

WEBSITES

Developments in the global **CEMENT INDUSTRY** can be found on the site: www.cemnet.com

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

LINDE ENGINEERING has been awarded the bronze medal in *S&P Global's* Sustainability Yearbook 2021 for its track record in helping its clients lower greenhouse gases and reduce carbon footprint.

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

The **GREAT GREEN WALL INITIATIVE** is an attempt to achieve an 8 000 kilometre green belt or line running across the width of Africa in the Sahel region to slow desertification and improve livelihoods of the affected populations. The aim is to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030 and create 10 million jobs. It is stated that to date, 15% of the line has been completed. The implementing agency is the Addis Ababa-based *Pan African Agency of the Great Green Wall (PAGGW)*. The PAGGW has the *African Union (AU)* as its lead promoter but numerous agencies are involved including the *United Nations (UN)* and the *UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO)*, the *European Union (EU)*, the *World Bank*, the *Global Environment Fund (GEF)*, France, the *Sahara and Sahel Observatory*, the *Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel*, the *International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)* and the *Kew Royal Botanic Garden*. Countries involved are Burkina Faso, Chad, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Algeria, Benin, Cape Verde, Egypt, Gambia, Libya, Somalia and Tunisia.

The Japan-based **UNCOVERED FUND** has allocated US\$ 15 million to provide financial and technical support to start-up technology companies in Africa. The objective is to match African and Asian entrepreneurs. The risk capital fund was founded in 2019 by *Leapfrog Ventures* of Japan. The preference is for start-ups in Nigeria, Kenya and South Africa. Individual investments will be between US\$ 50 000 and US\$ 500 000.

The *African Development Bank (AfDB)* and the *International Renewable Energies Agency (IRENA)* have signed a Declaration of Intent to increase **RENEWABLE ENERGY INVESTMENTS** in Africa. The two parties will partner to undertake joint initiatives in the continent.

The **AFRICA FINANCE CORPORATION (AFC)** has obtained a 10-year line of credit totalling US\$ 50 million from the *Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)* for the funding of infrastructure projects in Africa.

TRAVEL NOTES



As *Air Namibia* halts operations, *Airlink* is increasing its **FLIGHTS BETWEEN SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA** with a new direct Cape Town-Walvis Bay flight starting on 2 March. *Airlink* is operating Cape Town-Windhoek, Johannesburg-Windhoek and Johannesburg-Walvis Bay flights.

Passenger throughput at the **JOMO KENYATTA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT (JKIA)** has reportedly improved considerably due to the installation of digital health screening. This includes automated cameras with inbuilt thermometers and passport scanners that verify Covid-19 certificates.

AFRICA & THE WORLD



A report by the *Lowry Institute* on **COVID-19 MANAGEMENT** performance of 98 countries including 20 African countries places Rwanda as the highest rated African state at 6th position with a score of 80,8 out of 100. It is followed by Togo (15th with 72,8), Tunisia (66,7), Mozambique and Malawi (each with 60,2). South Africa was placed overall at 82nd with 25,4. New Zealand was rated 1st with 94,4. The report rates the capacity of states to respond efficiently to the pandemic.

RECENT ACTIVITIES OF AFRICA HOUSE

Roelof van Tonder of *Africa House* hosted an Oil & Gas Sector webinar on 16 February.

Roelof van Tonder of *Africa House* hosted an Agriculture Sector webinar on 23 February.

Panellists included: José Miranda, **Zutari** & Otto Scharfetter, **Bigen**

Duncan Bonnett of *Africa House* hosted a Power Sector webinar on 25 February.

Guest speakers included: Des Muller, Director: **NuEnergy Developments** | Lizeka Matshekga, Head Implementation: **Harith General Partners** & Robert Futter, Executive Director: **Cresco Project Finance**

During February, a Podcast discussion was produced for *Africa House* clients on the following topics:

- Update from Maputo: *Roelof van Tonder* provided some feedback on some of the main observations that he made spending time in Maputo during his Virtual Visit. To secure your copy of his report, email Nicole Drake at ndrake@africainfo.co.za

COMMODITIES OF AFRICA

TYPE OF COMMODITY	COMMODITY	UNITS	PRICE: JANUARY 2021	PRICE: FEBRUARY 2021	PRICE: MARCH 2021
Agriculture	Cocoa	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	2.67	1.74	1.88
	Coffee	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	1.05	1.25	1.38
	Cotton	US\$ per Pound (US\$/lb.)	70.76	76.71	84.80
	Rice	US\$ per Metric Ton (USD/MT)	432.00	422.00	545.00
	Sugar	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	14.43	16.23	17.84
Base and Precious Metals	Cobalt	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	32,750.11	41,240.00	51,995.00
	Copper	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	5,714.50	7,733.47	9,613.30
	Gold	US\$ per Troy Ounce (US\$/t oz.)	1,570.11	1,845.87	1,762.41
	Iron Ore	US\$ per Dry Metric ton (US\$/DMT)	91.74	154.74	165.02
	Platinum	US\$ per Troy Ounce (US\$/t oz.)	992.88	1,106.00	1,216.00
Energy	Coal: Industrial	US\$ per Metric Ton (USD/MT)	76.03	79.50	86.85
	Coal: Coking	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	46.05	64.20	79.60
	Gas: Natural Gas	US\$ per million British Thermal Units (USD/MMBtu)	1.91	2.98	2.74
	Oil: Crude Oil	US\$ per Barrel (US\$/bbl.)	59.96	55.25	66.85

Source: Various

INDEMNITY

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