



AFRICA HOUSE

Insight & Access. Projects & Trade.

Notes from Africa

Issue 321, February 2022

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM THIS EDITION

- Banana Port to be Developed, DR Congo
- New Solar Power Projects in Botswana
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- New Shopping Centre Under Design for Luanda, Angola
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2022: Time for Renewed Vigour in Africa Business Development

A flurry of recent articles about the growing presence of Turkish, Moroccan and other 'non-traditional power-brokers and their influence in Africa provoked some thought, especially when juxtaposed against the declining influence of South Africa. Africa House takes a look at the changing influence levels from a trade perspective.

Testing the assertion that our competitors are growing in Africa, we looked at historical trade data to see if this growing presence was a phenomenon. The results were staggering. From 2000 to 2020, South Africa was only the 11th fastest growing exporter to the rest of Africa, if you look at the 25 largest exporters over that period. The fastest growing of the 25 were China, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, India, Turkey, Russia, Malaysia, Brazil, Netherlands and Ukraine, some off low bases, others primarily in a single product category. From 2010 to 2020, South Africa performs miserably – 17th overall of the big 25, with a drop of 15% in dollar terms. Sure, the Rand lost substantial value vis-à-vis the dollar over this period, but it wasn't the only emerging market currency to do so, and most others didn't lose traction like we did. The fastest growing exporters over the last decade were Hong Kong, the UAE, Russia, China, Turkey, India, Indonesia, Belgium, Ukraine and Spain.

In sub-Saharan Africa (excluding the five Mediterranean countries), where South Africa is supposedly the Gateway to Africa, South Africa is still (just) the 2nd largest exporter to the region after China, although this includes re-exports. However, our exports in dollar terms have grown considerably more slowly than key competitors – we rank 9th overall, behind China, Turkey, the UAE, Malaysia, India, Russia, Netherlands and Brazil. Looking at the last decade, we again rank 17th, with a drop in exports of 14% in dollar terms over that period. We lag behind Russia, Turkey, the UAE, Hong Kong, China, India, Belgium, Indonesia, Malaysia, Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Kenya, Germany, Japan and Singapore.

You could argue (and there is a growing body of truth to it) that South Africa, rather than being the gateway to Africa, is hamstrung by geography and demographics – Spain is closer to the Bulge of Africa (and only 300NM further from Lagos than Cape Town), Fortaleza is the same distance to Lagos as Cape Town; Turkey, Tunisia, Egypt, Southern Europe and UAE are all closer to the Horn

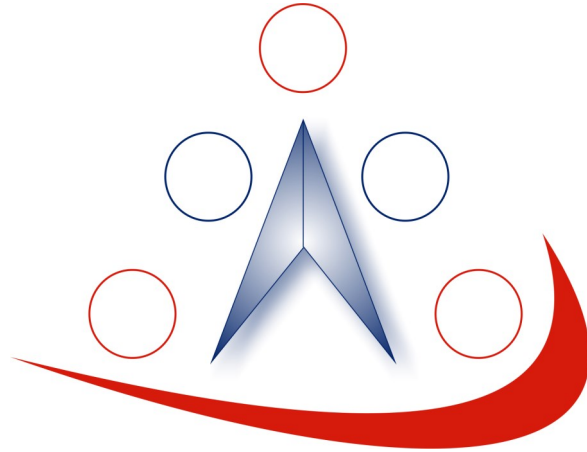
of Africa than Durban is; and trade linkages with India and China are increasingly stronger in the key growth markets of East Africa than ours. Furthermore, whilst our African exports are concentrated in SACU in particular, we're also hampered by having an area of 1.8m square kilometres to the north of us (Botswana, Namibia and Zimbabwe) with a population of only 20 million people – 75% of whom are in Zimbabwe, so we're cut off, to a large degree, from the key markets in Africa by geography as well.

Some of our competitors, notably China, Turkey, India, Russia and Japan to a degree, lock in exports through project activity, but it's not the only reason: they have clearly defined strategies for Africa and use their business support tools very effectively and creatively to support their companies in exports, projects and investments. We lack a well-defined and properly co-ordinated strategy for business in the rest of Africa.

All doom and gloom? No, absolutely not: South Africa exports over R300bn of goods, mostly value-added, into the rest of Africa every year (excluding informal trade, add another 5% or more). If we add services into that, the figure is probably closer to R500bn a year (inbound tourism which is largely business related, banking, retail, ICT and Telecoms, construction and engineering services, logistics, legal etc) making the rest of Africa the single most important destination for South African goods and services globally. The rest of Africa is thus of critical importance to South Africa at almost every level and the numbers suggest, that in Southern Africa at least, our products and services are very well received.

As the globe increasingly re-opens in 2022, South African based companies have a great opportunity to reinforce our premier position in Southern Africa and expand our presence in the rest of the continent by taking advantage of a number of opportunities that are opening up. These include the need for shorter supply chains and less reliance on the disrupted Asian logistics and supply chains, AfCFTA (gradually) and in key markets, local content opportunities into major projects through developing a local presence in the market. *Carpe Diem* and over to you!

NEW SUBSCRIBERS



The [Amrho Group](#) is, inter alia, active in the Aviation, Tourism, Hospitality, Hotel & Resort Developments, Air Cargo, Aircraft Spares, Aviation Training, Aircraft Sales and Worldwide Heavy Lift Aviation Cargo/Logistics sectors. The Group has a corporate presence in South Africa, Gambia and India. We also have a Wholesale Inbound and Outbound Tour Operation which is involved in: Incentives, MICE, Leisure, Sports, Hajj & Umrah, Religious Pilgrimage and General Tour Packaging. Amrho is the home of the Lay-Bye Holidays[®], Lay-Bye Vacations[®] and Lay-Bye Flights[®] Packaging concept. The Aviation divisions specialises in Airline, Troop Movements, Oil & Gas Logistics Support, Emergency & Precautionary Evacuations, Medevac, Flight Calibration, Special Missions, Drones, Air Safaris and Charter operations for VVIP, VIP, IP and Group Charter from 4 to 1000+ passengers using Antonov 124, IL76, Boeing 737, 747, 767, Beechcraft 1900, Embraer 120, 135, 145, Cessna Citation Jets, Piper Chieftain/Navajo, Robinson R22 and various Drones.

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

[BABCOCK AFRICA](#) has set up a new national parts distribution centre in South Africa to enhance the company's supply chain process efficiency. The centre will stock parts and components for all its business units involved principally in the energy, processing and mining industries.

FACT OF THE MONTH

Gabon is the first country to be paid for protection of its rain forest. The *United Nations*-backed *Central African Forest Initiative (CAFI)* has made an initial payment of US\$ 17 million for its contribution to combating CO2 emissions. The country is seeking to become a major green power with a forest covering some 90% of its area and a small population.

AFRICA & THE WORLD

According to the *Global Retail Development Index (GRDI)*, Africa is poised to become the fastest-growing and most sophisticated retail continent due to the explosive growth of its young, urban and digitally savvy consumers.

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

In December 2021, the Dubai-based logistics company, *DP World* and the DR Congo government signed a collaboration agreement for the development of [BANANA PORT](#) on the Atlantic Ocean sea line as the DR Congo's first deep sea port. The cost of the project is estimated at US\$ 1 billion. Construction will commence within twelve months. The project includes an initial 600 metre quay with 18 metre draught, a container handling facility capable of 450 000 TEU's per annum and a 30 hectare container yard.

Editor's Note: Africa House has undertaken assignments in the Banana area and can supply Africa House subscribers with further details.

AGRICULTURE



COTE D'IVOIRE

The government is allocating 13 billion FCFA or about US\$ 22 million towards the reconstruction of the [MARCHÉ GOUROU FOOD MARKET](#) situated in the Adjamé area of Abidjan. The market will cater for some 3 500 traders on a 7 431 square metre site. The reconstruction over 18 months is scheduled to commence in January 2022. The project is being coordinated by the *Cooperative du Marché Gourou Adjamé Roxy (COMAGOA)*.

MOZAMBIQUE

The *African Development Bank (AfDB)* has approved a grant of US\$ 47 million towards phase 1 of the [PEMBA-LICHINGA INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR](#) which includes a special agro-industrial processing zone in Niassa Province, northern Mozambique. The objective is to assist smallholder farmers to progress from subsistence farming through skills and capacity development as well as entrepreneurship. The implementing agency is the *Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development*.

NIGERIA

The *Delta State government* is promoting the **ABOH OGWASHI-UKU AGRI-INDUSTRIAL PARK** in southern Nigeria. Some 20-30 agro-processing factories are envisaged on the 220 000 hectare site. The project was delayed due to land dispute issues. The cost is estimated at US\$ 26 million. The project is being implemented as a Public-Private-Partnership (PPP) involving the Delta State government, *Mirai Technologies* and *Norsworthy Investments*. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV), *Delta State Industrial Park* has been created to implement the project.

Olam Nigeria Limited has announced that it will be building a [SOYA BEAN CRUSHING AND PROCESSING PLANT](#) in Nasarawa State in north-central Nigeria. The investment is about US\$ 100 million. The plant will be developed on a 200 hectare site and will supply farmers with animal feed. There are plans to process groundnuts at a later stage. The plant will have an initial production capacity of 750 tons per day and 50 000 metric tons per annum rising to 300 000 metric tons.

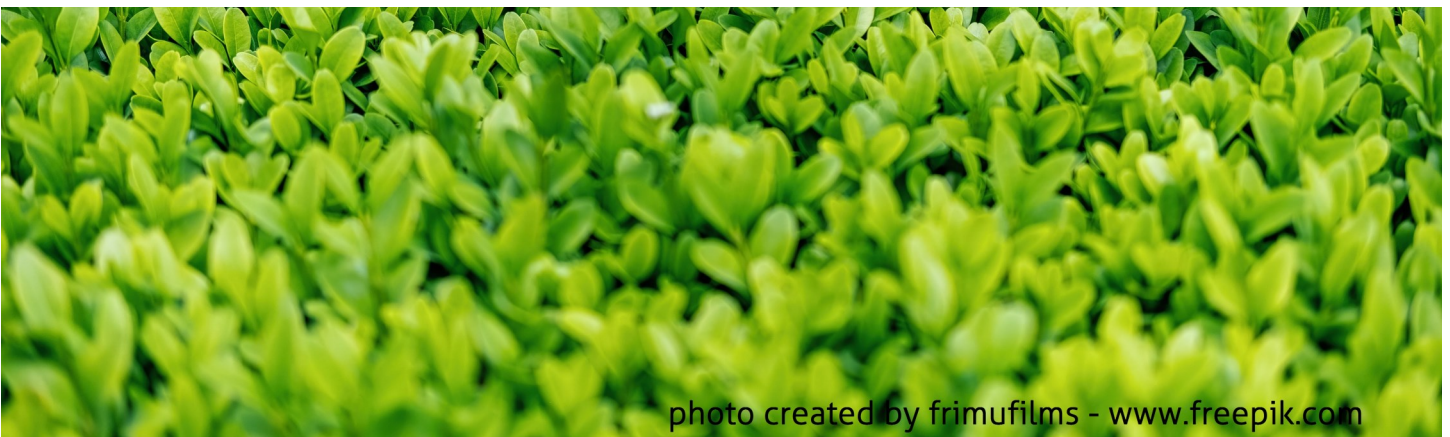
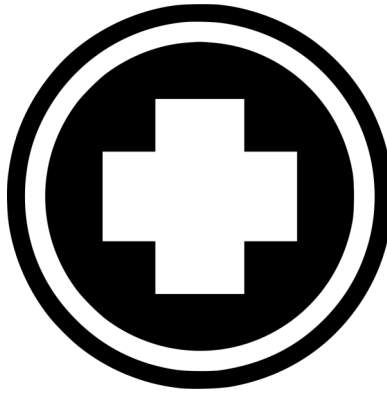


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HEALTH



BOTSWANA

The youth-led developer of clinics and pharmacies, *Ultra Care* of Botswana is planning the establishment of ten additional **MEDICAL CENTRES** in the country over the next three years. The company already has three pharmacies and three clinics in the country. The group is setting up a medical centre at the Kgabo Mall in Mochudi comprising a clinic, pharmacy, X ray imaging and dietician services. *Ultra Care* is planning to expand into all towns in Botswana.

KENYA

The Kenya government through its Ministry of Health is inviting firms through a global tender to construct a new **COVID-19 VACCINATION MANUFACTURING PLANT**. It seeks a consulting firm to design, commission and maintain the facility. It has also established *Kenya BioVax Institute Limited* as a venture for local partnership in the project. The government hopes to achieve fully fledged local vaccine manufacture by 2024.

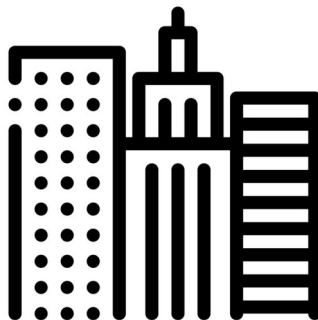
TANZANIA

The Zanzibar Ministry of Health, Social Welfare, Elders, Gender & Children has announced a **HOSPITAL FACILITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME** for Zanzibar. Under the programme, each of the ten districts will have a modern hospital facility, existing hospitals in Stone Town and Pemba South will be refurbished and a major new hospital will be built in the Lumumba area of Zanzibar city. Completion of the programme is set for June 2022. The funds allocated are approximately US\$ 30 million. The initial architectural work has been completed and qualified contractors are sought.



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HOTELS/COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL PROPERTY



ANGOLA

Johannesburg-based [*MDS Architecture*](#) is in the process of designing the **PATRIOTA SHOPPING CENTRE**. The centre is situated close to the new Luanda Via Expresso road. It will be an open mall that will include a food court and a childrens play area. The retail construction sector in Angola grew 10.6% between 2016 and 2020 despite a decline of 3,5% in 2019.

DJIBOUTI

The French hotel group, [*Accor*](#) has signed a management agreement with [*Kamaj Investment*](#) of Djibouti for the **PULLMAN LIVING HOTEL** to be constructed in the Heron district of Djibouti city. The hotel will comprise 131 apartments plus facilities. The cost is estimated at US\$ 21 million. The hotel is scheduled to open in 2023. *Accor* will also be opening the 110-room Novotel in the Heron district in 2022 as well as the 50-room MGallery situated in the Djibouti central business district.

NIGERIA

[*Pernix Federal*](#) of the USA has been awarded the design-build contract for the **NEW US CONSULATE** by the Department of State. It is to be built on a 12,2 acre site in Eko Atlantic City on Victoria Island, Lagos. [*Ennead Architects*](#) also of the USA are the design architects. The cost of the project is US\$ 319 million. The construction will be undertaken in 2022 and full completion is expected by 2027.

TANZANIA

The Kenyan company, [*Basra Textiles*](#) is developing a **TEXTILE FACTORY** in the Chunguni area of Zanzibar. The first phase of the project which has just been launched involves the installation of machinery. The second phase entails the procurement of cotton for fabric production and the third is for the installation of a tailoring factory. Completion is scheduled for 2024. The cost is approximately US\$ 2,5 million. The factory will produce 250 000 metres of polyester per day.



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ICT / TELECOMMUNICATIONS



RWANDA

The Rwanda Ministry of Education is implementing an e-system, the **SCHOOL DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SDMS)** which will assist the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning to disburse funds to schools according to their needs. The SDMS is particularly applicable to the school feeding programme as well as pupil registration. The e-system was developed by ICT specialists at the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning.

SOUTH SUDAN

The Canadian mobile telecommunications solutions specialists, *NuRAN Wireless* and *MTN South Sudan* are commencing implementation of their ten-year cooperation agreement for the establishment of 250 **NEW TELECOMMUNICATIONS SITES** in the country. The emphasis will be on rural areas and the operation should take 24 months. The revenue-sharing agreement will be undertaken on a construction, operation and transfer basis. The partners estimate monthly revenue per site at US\$ 1 300.

ZAMBIA

MTN Zambia is undertaking a pilot phase **5G TESTING PROGRAMME** in collaboration with *Huawei* of China. The two companies have collaborated in the past on the development of 4G in Zambia. 5G will bring faster connectivity speed and greater bandwidth. The programme is supported by the Ministry of Science and Technology.

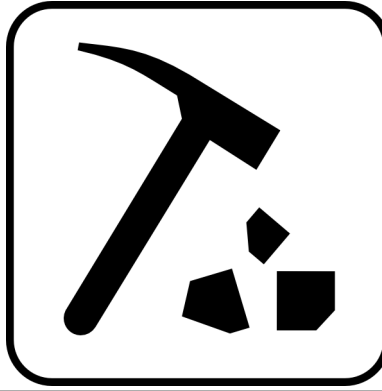
ZIMBABWE

There are calls from the Zimbabwe business community for the establishment of a **NATIONAL MINES AND GEOSCIENCES CENTRAL DATABASE SYSTEM (CDS)**. The *World Bank* has produced a report for the creation of the database system. Advantages include effective monitoring of mining activities in the country, efficient storage of documentation, the combating of illegal mining, easier settling of mining disputes and reduction of costs.



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MINING



ZAMBIA

A private Zambian company, *Eagles Eye Transformation Limited* is proposing the establishment of a [MINERAL PROCESSING PLANT](#) and a tailings storage facility. The site is in the Masaiti district of the Copperbelt Province. Copper ore will be brought in from the Lonshi copper mine in the DR Congo which is six kilometres from the processing plant site. The required investment is US\$ 980 000.

NAMIBIA

Trigon Metals of Canada has restarted the [KOMBAT COPPER AND SILVER MINE](#) situated 45 kilometres from Grootfontein in northern Namibia. The mine had been on care and maintenance. The company estimated a return to commercial production of silver concentrate and copper concentrate at 4 000 tons for 2022. The total investment will be about US\$ 11,2 million. The mine was restarted in October 2021 after *Tulela Mining & Construction* of Namibia completed the infrastructure refurbishment.

SOUTH AFRICA

Ireland-based *Botswana Diamonds* has reported positive and encouraging diamond indicators from drilling results and samples at its [THORNY RIVER DIAMOND PROJECT](#) in Limpopo province. Two target areas with small kimberlite pipes have been identified. The company recently acquired control of the prospect. *Vutomi Mining* held the mining rights.

TANZANIA

The *BHP Group* is re-entering Africa with an investment of US\$ 40 million in the [KABANGA NICKEL PROJECT](#) situated in the Kagera region of north-west Tanzania. The total value of the project is estimated at US\$ 658 million. Production is expected from 2025. The mine will have an annual production of 40 000 tons of nickel, 6 000 tons of copper and 3 000 tons of cobalt. There are plans for the construction of a refinery at the mine by the end of 2022.

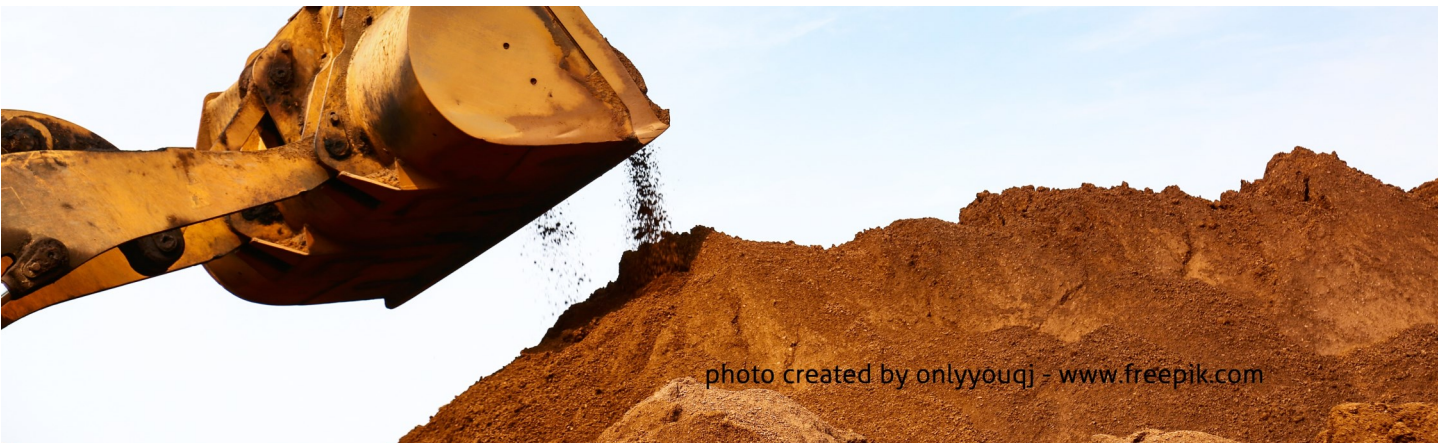
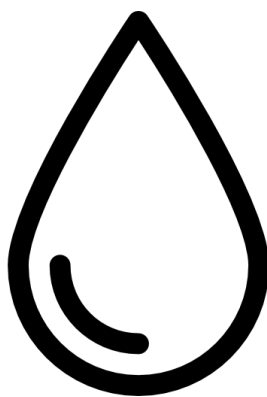


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OIL & GAS



BOTSWANA

Botala Energy of South Africa and *Pure Hydrogen* of Australia are undertaking a six-well drilling programme at their [SEROWE COAL BED METHANE PROJECT](#) in the Kalahari Basin of East-Central Botswana. The appraisal drilling programme should be completed before the end of 2022. Promising results have been recorded from Serowe 3 and Serowe 4 and drilling is underway at Serowe 5.

GHANA

The *Ghana National Gas Company (GNGC)* has completed a front-end engineering and design (FEED) for a new 300 million cubic feet **GAS PROCESSING PLANT** in Atuabo. This will be the company's second gas plant and it will be located close to the first facility. The gas will be drawn from the Jubilee and TEN fields operated by *Tullow Oil*. The cost of installation will be about US\$ 400 million. The company is seeking partners to co-own and co-manage the new plant on the basis of equity participation.

MAURITANIA

New Fortress Energy (NFE) of the USA will be establishing an offshore [LNG AND BLUE AMMONIA PRODUCTION HUB](#) in Mauritania. The facility will feed gas to the Somolec power station as well as to a 120 MW combined cycle station to be built. The company will be using 'Fast LNG' liquefaction technology to improve the efficiency and lower the cost of the operation. Gas will be exported but also used to enhance the country's industrialisation.

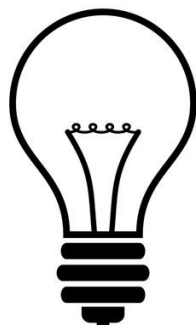
NAMIBIA

The British independent oil company, *Monitor Exploration Limited (MEL)* has launched an environmental impact study for its PEL 93 block for its [OWAMBO BASIN ONSHORE OIL EXPLORATION PROGRAMME](#) in northern Namibia. *Reconnaissance Energy Africa (ReconAfrica)* is undertaking the drilling operations. *ReconAfrica* and the *Namibia National Petroleum Corporation (Namcor)* have produced preliminary results of a first seismic programme in the area. *Monitor* holds rights to extensive license areas in the Owambo Basin.



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POWER



BOTSWANA

The Johannesburg-based independent power producer (IPP) *Sturdee Energy* has selected the solar power specialists, *Soventix* of South Africa to develop the [BOBONONG AND SHAKAWE SOLAR PROJECTS](#) in Botswana's Central District. The Bobonong installation will produce 3 MW and Shakawe will supply 1 MW. The total cost is estimated at US\$ 5,5 million. The project is being implemented within the context of a 25-year power-purchasing-agreement (PPA) with the *Botswana Power Corporation (BPC)*. The government is planning to rollout 12 solar PV projects for completion by 2023.

CAMEROON

The *Ministry of Energy and Water Resources* has announced that the **PROJECT FOR RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND ACCESS TO ENERGY IN UNDER-SERVICED ZONES (PERACE)** will commence in 2022. It will electrify 687 villages in the Far North, the North, Adamaoua East, the South-East and the North-West. Some 100 000 connections will be made. The project will be implemented in partnership with the private Cameroon electricity company, *ENEO*. The *World Bank* has contributed some funding and discussions are underway with the *European Investment Bank (EIB)* for further financial support.

GABON

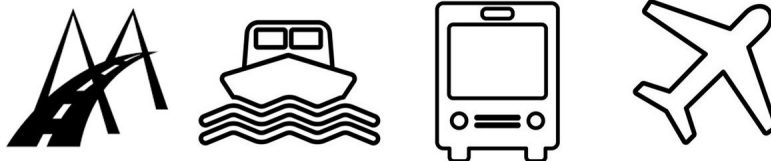
Sinohydro of China has stated that construction of the 34 MW [KINGUELE AVAL HYDRO POWER PROJECT](#) on the Mbei river, some 100 kilometres from Libreville will commence in March 2022. *Sinohydro* previously signed a turnkey engineering procurement and construction (EPC) contract with the independent power producer *Asonha Energie*. *Asonha* is owned mainly by the Paris-based *Meridiam Infrastructure Africa Fund*. The cost of the project is about US\$ 155 million with the *International Finance Corporation (IFC)* having contributed just over US\$ 50 million.

NIGERIA

The 700 MW [ZUNGERU HYDRO POWER PLANT](#) on the Kaduna river in Niger State, central Nigeria is expected to enter into production in early 2022. The delayed project comprises four 175 MW turbines. The cost is US\$ 1,3 billion. Construction of the plant began in 2013. The main contractors are *Sinohydro* and the *China National Electric Engineering Company (CNEEC)*. The major funder was the *Exim Bank of China*. This will be Nigeria's second largest hydro power plant after the Kainja plant.



TRANSPORT



REGIONAL

The *Development Bank of Central African States (BDEAC)* has approved a loan of US\$ 171 million towards the cost of developing the 1 310 kilometre [POINTE NOIRE-BRAZZAVILLE-BANGUI-N'DJAMENA REGIONAL CORRIDOR](#). The multimodal corridor will revive river transport in the Congo-Ubangi river basin and modernise road transport along the route. The 50 kilometre Ouesso-Pokola section will be tarred as will the Gouga-Mbaiki section and the Sangha bridge will be constructed. The project is supported by the *New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD)* and the *African Development Bank (AfDB)* among other donors.

The governments of [Tanzania](#) and [Burundi](#) have signed an agreement for the construction of the 282 kilometre standard gauge [UVINZA-GITAGA RAIL LINE](#). The line will link Uvinza in western Tanzania to Burundi's political capital of Gitega. It is estimated that 1 million tons of cargo per annum could be transported on the line. Minerals from Burundi could be exported on the route. The cost is estimated at US\$ 900 million and the two governments are seeking financial backers.

KENYA

Nairobi Metropolitan Services (NMS) and the *Kenya Railways Corporation (KRC)* have appointed *Atkins Global* of the UK to design the multi-modal urban development, [NAIROBI RAILWAYS CITY](#). Much of the 425 acres of the site is owned by *Kenya Railways*. A new central rail station will be built to replace the current Nairobi railway station situated on the site. The cost is estimated at almost US\$ 247 million. The project falls under the Nairobi Integrated Urban Development Plan.

SENEGAL

The Dubai-based logistics company, *DP World* and the government of Senegal have laid the first foundation stone to mark the commencement of construction of [NDAYANE PORT](#) situated some 50 kilometres from Dakar port. An agreement on the project was signed by the parties in December 2020. The total cost will be over US\$ 1 billion. The project will be undertaken in two phases. In the first, 840 metres of quay will be developed as well as a five kilometre marine channel. In phase 2, an additional 410 metres of quay will be added. The port will add container capacity of 1,2 million TEU's per annum. *DP World* is partnering with the *Port of Dakar* on the project.



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WATER & SANITATION



REGIONAL

Coca-Cola is seeking more efficient methods of water usage including recycling and re-usage within the context of the company's **REPLENISH AFRICA INITIATIVE**. The programme seeks to improve access to water by African communities and preserve water resources. *Coca-Cola Africa*, the *Coca-Cola Foundation* and the company's Africa Operating Unit have launched an Africa-focused platform, Jamii to preserve water and manage waste as well as empower the youth and women.

COTE D'IVOIRE

Good progress is being made on the '**WATER FOR ALL' (EAUX POUR TOUS) PROJECT** for the supply of potable water to the greater Abidjan city area. 105 of 155 city communes and sub-communes have been connected to the potable water supply network and 110 000 of 165 000 connections made. The cost of the project is about US\$ 82 million. The Ministry of Water and Forests has indicated that the project will be expanded into the interior of the country.

GHANA

The *Ghana Water Company Limited (GWCL)* is increasing water supply to the Cape Coast metropolis and surrounding areas. The **CAPE COAST METROPOLIS WATER SUPPLY PROGRAMME** is necessitated by the problem of ground water retention in the country's coastal regions. Low water levels at the Sekyere-Hemang and Brimsu treatment plants have dropped to 5 000 cubic metres from 15 000 cubic metres. Water tanks have had to be placed a vantage points.

SOUTH AFRICA

The *Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS)* has undertaken a technical visit to the **DE HOOP DAM** located in the Sekhukhune district of Limpopo Province. A steering committee comprising national and provincial water authorities has been established to investigate water supply issues in the province. Although the dam was constructed in 2007, reticulation and supply to outlying areas has proved to be a problem and more water pipes are required.



WHISPERINGS - FOOTNOTES



- The recently-opened **TOTALENERGIES INFORMATION OFFICE IN PEMBA** signals a gradual return of the company to its LNG operations in Cabo Delgado province. The office will facilitate communication and coordination between the parties involved in the project.

- The absence of comment by *Exxon Mobil* on its **MOZAMBIQUE LNG PROJECT** until the end of 2019 led to rumours of the company's possible withdrawal among some

observers. However *Exxon's* recent discussions with the Mozambican government and its references to the need to 'green' the project and reduce costs are indications of continued participation. *Liam Mallon*, President: Upstream Oil and Gas is reported to have remarked "Essentially we are stopped until the situation improves."

- There is an apparent heating up of **COMPETITION FOR AFRICA'S LOGISTICS INFRASTRUCTURE**. The *MSC (Mediterranean Shipping Company) Group* has proposed an acquisition of the Africa assets of the major French logistics company, *Bolloré*. Meanwhile, yet another prominent logistics role player, *DP World* of Dubai has recently announced the construction of two new ports in the DR Congo and Senegal. (See above.)
- The cement producer in the DR Congo, *PPC-Barnet* is complaining about the **HIGH TAX LEVELS IN THE DR CONGO**. The chairman refers to some 66 taxes paid by the company and points out that the cement importers pay far less in tax. He adds that outside suppliers are sometimes strongly subsidised by their governments.
- China is prioritising the **HORN OF AFRICA** by appointing a special envoy to the region. The USA already has an envoy for the Horn of Africa with the incumbent soon to be replaced by a new appointee.
- Strategically located **DJIBOUTI** is developing into a centre mainly for 'business tourism'. This is confirmed by the French hotel group *Accor's* decision to open three new hotels in the country over the next two years. (See above.)
- The Lamu County Commissioner has reported a suspected *al-Shabaab* attack in the county in which six people were killed. This represents another insurgency in a strategic development area in sub-Saharan Africa and the **LAMU DEVELOPMENT CORRIDOR PROGRAMME** will be negatively affected.
- The **MINING SECTOR IN COTE D'IVOIRE** is registering considerable growth. The historically agriculture-based economy is diversifying rapidly not only with increases in mining activity but also with the commencement of offshore oil and gas exploitation. *Endeavour Mining* of Canada has for example, expressed positive views on the future of its four mining concessions in the country.
- It is reported that Sub-Saharan African countries lost nearly US\$ 2 billion due to **INTERNET SHUTDOWNS** by governments caused largely by crack downs on opposition and civil society demonstrations and unrest.
- The major **SPONSORSHIP OF THE AFRICA CUP OF NATIONS (AFCON) BY TOTALENERGIES** is an attempt to further consolidate its Africa presence. Although *Total* has been active in Africa for over 80 years and has worked in 44 African countries, the sponsorship is timely in that the company has in recent times increased its project activity and profile considerably. Examples are leading involvement in the oil and gas developments in Uganda and Mozambique.
- The Kenyan government initiative to establish a Covid-19 vaccination plant and its objective to achieve fully fledged local vaccine manufacture by 2024 underscores **KENYA'S STATUS AS A LEADING HEALTH SECTOR ROLE PLAYER** in Africa.
- The announced withdrawal by Sweden of its troops from the Takuba European special forces detachment involved in the **SAHEL CONFLICT** could signal a weakening of the French-led efforts to restore order to the vast region. European governments have problems with the Mali military junta and the lack of democracy in that country. Also, there is opposition to France's presence in some quarters of French society.

WEBSITES



The following are **SUPPLIER REGISTRATION PORTALS**:

[TotalEnergies](#)

[Technip](#)

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

The **SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUND FOR AFRICA (SEFA)** of the African Development Bank (AfDB) has approved US\$ 1 million for Botswana's transition to cleaner energies.

The African Development Bank (AfDB), the European Union (EU) and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States have contributed 10,5 million Euros towards the **JANNGO TECH START-UP FUND**. The fund will support start-up technical initiatives with proven business models and social impact in the agri-business, energy, healthcare and education sectors mainly in Francophone West Africa. The fund will be managed by Janngo Capital.

The French development finance institution, **PROPARCO** has approved a senior loan of US\$ 20 million to contribute towards ABSA Bank's support plan for small and medium-sized enterprises that have been impacted by Covid-19.

The creditors of the debt-encumbered South African national power utility, Eskom have appointed the financial advisory company, Rothschild and Company to negotiate and drive a debt plan. The debt plan involves restructuring and liaison with creditors. The **ESKOM DEBT** stands at R392 billion or about US\$ 25,4 billion.

The Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) will be guaranteeing US\$ 270 million in investments in Africa made by the Qatar-based private equity firm, **KASADA CAPITAL**. The firm will be investing in hospitality projects in Francophone Central and West Africa.

A recently-established Nigerian commercial bank, Titan Trust Bank has purchased a major majority share in one of Nigeria's traditional banks, the **UNION BANK OF NIGERIA**.

TRAVEL NOTES



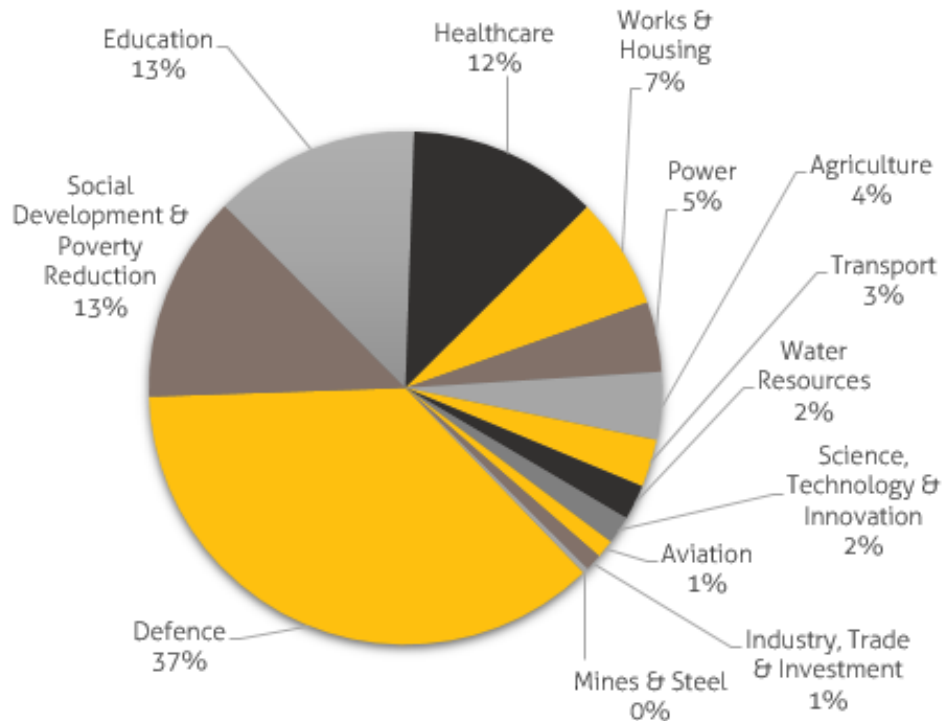
The fluid **GLOBAL TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS SCENARIO** can be monitored through the site: www.skyscanner.net/travel-restrictions

South African Airways and Qatar Airways will be returning to **KING SHAKA AIRPORT** near Durban. SAA will be flying between Durban and Johannesburg seven times per week from early March 2022. Qatar Airways will be linking Durban and Doha four times per week.

The US authorities have warned their citizens of the danger of **KIDNAPPING IN NIGERIA**. Foreign business people are reportedly targeted.

CHART OF THE MONTH

2022 Budget Allocations in Nigeria by Sector



RECENT ACTIVITIES OF AFRICA HOUSE

During this month's podcast *Duncan Bonnett* and *Roelof van Tonder* discussed the 3rd scramble for Africa. You can listen to this, and past, podcasts [here](#).

QUOTABLE QUOTES

"There will be no economic diversification possible if there are no roads, electricity or fibre optics. In Congo, there are thirty times fewer roads per square kilometre than in other African countries. There are only 2 915 kilometres of paved roads. We must reconnect this country and tar between the ocean, the Kasais and the Kivus, also tar the dangerous places like North Kivu because the roads favour the reduction of violence, the armed groups preferring to operate in inaccessible places."

(Jean-Christophe Carret, World Bank Country Director for the DR Congo.)

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COMMODITIES OF AFRICA

TYPE OF COMMODITY	COMMODITY	UNITS	PRICE: December 2021	PRICE: January 2022	PRICE: February 2022
Agriculture	Cocoa	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	1.62	1.71	1.69
	Coffee	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	2.32	2.39	2.36
	Cotton	US\$ per Ounce (US\$/oz.)	1.14	1.16	1.25
	Rice	US\$ per Metric Ton (USD/MT)	401.00	400.00	400.00
	Sugar	US\$ per Kilogram (US\$/kg)	19.19	18.05	18.26
Base and Precious Metals	Cobalt	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	62,240.00	69,680.00	70,215.00
	Copper	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	9,751.00	9,691.85	9,678.00
	Gold	US\$ per Troy Ounce (US\$/t oz.)	1,792.63	1,792.54	1,791.09
	Iron Ore	US\$ per Dry Metric ton (US\$/DMT)	94.71	126.21	130.81
	Platinum	US\$ per Troy Ounce (US\$/t oz.)	943.50	958.00	1,015.50
Energy	Coal: Industrial	US\$ per Metric Ton (USD/MT)	199.65	128.00	128.00
	Coal: Coking	US\$ per Ton (US\$/t)	159.30	195.00	227.65
	Gas: Natural Gas	US\$ per million British Thermal Units (USD/MMBtu)	4.72	4.15	4.92
	Oil: Crude Oil	US\$ per Barrel (US\$/bbl.)	72.37	81.99	85.94

Source: Various



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.

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INDEMNITY

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