



Strengthening Africa in World Trade

INVESTMENT AND TRADE NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

August 2021

The UK, Kenya to sign \$182m trade deal

**The East African | By Allan Olingo
Tuesday July 27 2021|**

The United Kingdom is expected to announce a \$182.6 million new government and private investment into Big Four Projects, including affordable housing and manufacturing. This comes as President Uhuru Kenyatta begins his three-day visit to London, which will culminate in him co-chairing the Global Education Summit with Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday. Mr Kenyatta is expected to ink several economic and security deals on the back of the trade agreement Kenya signed in December with Britain to ensure an uninterrupted flow of goods between the two nations upon the UK's exit from the European Union trading arrangements. "Alongside meeting Prime Minister Johnson for talks at his residency, President Kenyatta will jointly announce major investments into the Big Four projects on affordable housing, manufacturing, and health partnerships," said a joint press release that announced the UK visit. goals have so far fallen flat, according to two leaked

diplomatic cables. "The atmosphere was constructive, but progress was limited, especially on energy issues," reads one of the leaked diplomatic cables, which was written after a meeting the EU Council's Working Party on Energy, where the European Commission recently gave EU countries an overview of progress made in the negotiations.

Read more: <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/business/the-uk-kenya-to-sign-182m-trade-deal-3488684>

Opinion: Making a case for energy poverty as a hindrance to national social development

Nile post | By Eng. Oscar Olaro | 28th July 2021|

As at December 2019, Uganda's Electricity Regulatory Authority stated that total electricity generated was about 1252MW with peak demand of 723.7MW, a surplus. The per capita consumption of Ugandans using electricity is 215kWh against a Sub saharan Africa rate of 552kWh. If measured with the current the Government through the Electricity Connections Policy aims to

up the proportion of Ugandans accessing electricity from 28% (March 2020) to 60% by 2027. This will be achieved by adding 300,000 new connections annually from 70,000 to the national grid under this project; the applicant will have to only have his premise wired as the key requirement. It is hoped that such an increase, on top of improving lives and spurring economic activities, will also see the unit cost of power drop. These 300,000 connections are projected to raise the consumption of power by 50MW annually while industries will take another 100MW.

Read more: <https://nilepost.co.ug/2021/07/28/opinion-making-a-case-for-energy-poverty-as-a-hindrance-to-national-social-development/>

Petroleum authority sued over failure to Prioritize local firms

**Daily Monitor | By Betty Ndagire|
Wednesday July 28 2021|**

The Petroleum Authority of Uganda, together with Total E&P and CNOOC have been sued for allegedly violating laws on provision of national content in regard to ongoing procurements for the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project. The EACOP is a 1,443 kilometre crude oil export pipeline that will transport Uganda's crude oil from Kabale - Hoima to a maritime port on the Chongoleani Peninsula near Tanga in Tanzania. Acting through Muwema and Co. Advocates, Mr Andrew Oluka, a Kampala-based lawyer specialising in oil and gas, wants court to direct Petroleum Authority of Uganda to conduct a legal audit of all petroleum procurement activities to ensure compliance with the national content provisions.

Read more: <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/business/technology/petroleum-authority-sued-over-failure-to-prioritise-local-firms-3489730>

Kenya, UK to digitise trade after signing the EPA agreement

The East African | Wednesday July 28

2021| By James Anyanzwa

Kenyan vegetable and cut flower producers are set to access the British market more efficiently and cheaply, following a plan to eliminate paperwork in trade between the two countries with long-standing historical ties. The plan, which is still under discussion, is set to make Kenyan exports to the United Kingdom market more competitive, just seven months after the two countries signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs) in London in December 2020, ensuring continuity of their trade relations after the British government voted to exit the European Union (EU). The UK, which voted to leave the 27-member economic bloc in 2016, formally left the bloc on January 31, 2020, with a transitional period of up to December 31, 2020, to negotiate new trade agreements with countries it was trading with under the EU terms. The Kenya-UK EPA allows Kenyan products unfettered access to the British market, free of duty and quota restrictions.

Read more: <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/business/kenya-uk-to-digitise-trade-after-signing-the-epa-agreement-3488596>

UAE firm opens shop in Kenya to guide local SMEs, foreign investors

Business Daily| Wednesday August 04 2021|

UAE-based business intelligence and investment firm Investera has launched operations in Kenya, which will see it guide foreign investors seeking to invest locally and link the local firms to foreign opportunities. The portal, which seeks to offer a one-stop network for companies, high-net-worth individuals, philanthropists, young and established entrepreneurs, industrialists and regulators covering all the 55 countries in Africa, says it has listed 3,000 investors, start-ups and SMEs. Investera Plus Africa said it picked Kenya, East Africa's biggest economy, as the prime location to set up its operations because of the country's strategic importance as a key regional

business gateway. The UAE firm has set up through a partnership deal with their local counterparts, Investera Plus Africa. The firm says it will provide market research, due diligence, investment advisory and financial intelligence services to investors, businesses, and entrepreneurs.

Read more: <https://www.monitor.co.ug/uganda/news/national/uganda-s-fdi-declines-by-35--3467918>

Pakistan to terminate 23 bilateral investment treaties

**The Express Tribune | August 05, 2021 |
By Zafar Bhutta**

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has decided to terminate 23 bilateral investment treaties (BITs) with different countries in order to avoid international arbitration with foreign firms on commercial contracts. To date, as many as 10 cases had been lodged by foreign investors in different international arbitral forums, thus exposing the state of Pakistan to billions of dollars in compensation. There are nine other bilateral investment treaties. However, those nine treaties could be terminated or reformed by engaging the respective countries bilaterally. Pakistan mulled over an option of taking up these nine treaties with the respective states to revise them in line with its revised BIT strategy. There are 16 other treaties which the government does not want to ratify to avoid financial exposure in case foreign firms file cases in international courts due to litigation in commercial contracts with Pakistan.

Read more: <https://tribune.com.pk/story/2313937/pakistan-to-terminate-23-bilateral-investment-treaties>

Absa teams up with Motsepe's African Rainbow Energy and Power to launch investment platform for renewable energy

Cnbc Africa | August 6, 2021 | By Martin Luther Oketch

Absa Group is joining forces with billionaire Patrice Motsepe's African Rainbow Energy

and Power to create a renewable energy investment platform for the continent. The establishment of African Rainbow Energy expands the pool of funding available for renewable energy developments in South Africa, at a time when the country is accelerating its plans to expand and diversify its energy base through the Renewable Energy Independent Power Producer Programme (REIPPP). The private sector is simultaneously expanding its energy supply. This is an important step for the South African economy, which aims to source reliable and cost-effective renewable energy to drive growth and employment, said AREP and Absa in a joint statement.

African Rainbow Energy and Power (AREP) will make an initial investment of assets covering wind, solar photovoltaic and biomass projects with an installed capacity of more than 700MW of renewable energy. While Absa will make an initial investment of R500 million in cash and transfer R5 billion of its existing renewable energy assets to African Rainbow Energy.

Read more <https://www.cnbcAfrica.com/media/6266780172001/>

Oil pipeline compensation rates stir fresh frustration in Rakai

The Independent | August 6, 2021 |

There is anger and frustration among a section of persons affected by the impending construction of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline-EACOP, as the project implementers move to secure land in Kyotera and Rakai districts. The aggrieved include 21 households that will be physically displaced as the government and partners undertake constructions of a 30-meter-wide pipeline to transport Uganda's crude oil from Hoima to the Chongoleani peninsular in Tanga, Tanzania. The project will affect 760 people in the districts of Rakai and Kyotera. But some of the affected persons in the area, are dissatisfied with the valuation figures that were given to them during the disclosure exercise which was conducted in June by the project implementers.

Read more <https://www.independent.co.ug/oil-pipeline-compensation-rates-stir-fresh-frustration-in-rakai/>

Africa-Singapore trade on the up and up in the last five years

The Citizen | Monday August 09 2021 | By Evagrey Vitalis

Trade between Singapore and Africa has been growing at a compound annual growth rate of over 7.6 percent over the past five years, a senior official said at the weekend. Singapore is among the top 10 investors in Africa, with over 100 Singaporean companies operating across 50 countries in oil and gas, consumer, digital, agri-business and trade sectors. Speaking at a virtual media briefing about the Singapore African Business Forum 2021 edition, Ms Linn Neo, Regional Director of Enterprise Singapore, said the forum would serve as a platform for holistic engagement between Singapore, Asia and Africa. She also said the forum, which is scheduled to take place from August 23 to 27 this year, will raise awareness of Africa's growth opportunities, and promote Singapore as a hub for Asia-Africa trade and investment, among other things. Ms Linn said Singapore had been a long-time development partner in Africa, and both have used their development models to influence manufacturing, sustainable infrastructure, innovations and technology across the continent.

Read more <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/business/africa-singapore-trade-on-the-up-and-up-in-the-last-five-years-3504814>

G20 members hit \$269B in fossil fuel investments during pandemic

AA Energy | August 9th 2021 | By Sibel Morrow and Gulsen Cagatay

G20 countries have allocated more funds in support of fossil fuels than clean energy since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early 2020, according to statistics from Energy Policy Tracker, a non-profit research initiative. The world's largest economies have committed at least

\$657.79 billion to support various energy sources through new or revised policies, the study revealed. Out of this funding, \$296.45 billion has been assigned to support fossil fuel energy, while the budget for clean energy was much less at \$227.21 billion.

Read more: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/energy/coal/g20-members-hit-269b-in-fossil-fuel-investments-during-pandemic/33357>

Minister Nabakooba intervenes in Bukakata land dispute

The Independent | August 10, 2021 |

Lands Minister Judith Nabakooba has halted the planned eviction of more than 3,000 people, from disputed land in Kasanje-Nakigga village, Bukakata sub-county, Masaka district. The affected persons are mainly pastoralists and peasant farmers occupying more than three square miles of land in Kasanje-Kigga village, Kiteredde, Musajja, Muddu, Komoni, Biriinzi, Lutukuma, and Kigo.

The said land is part of the 15 square miles Masaka district allocated the National Oil Palm Project (NOPP), to expand oil palm production, create employment, and boost the agricultural sector and the economy. According to Nabakooba, the government opted for a caveat in order to allow time for a more lasting solution for the dispute.

Read more <https://www.independent.co.ug/minister-nabakooba-intervenes-in-bukakata-land-dispute/>

State steps up plan to woo foreign investors

The Standard | August 10th 2021 | By Graham Kajilwa

Kenya has stepped up plans for a financial centre that seeks to position the country as the first stopover for foreign investors targeting the rest of the continent. The centre, which was first mooted in 2014, hopes to attract institutional investors who will offer a range of services in the financial market. "We are not in for quick

bucks,” said Nairobi International Financial Centre (NIFC) Chairman Vincent Rague. It seeks to provide a framework to facilitate and support the development of an efficient and globally competitive financial services sector through the establishment of the Nairobi International Financial Centre and the Nairobi International Financial Centre Authority. An IFC is typically a concentration of a wide variety of international financial businesses and transactions in one location, usually a city and whose laws and institutions provide optimal conditions for a country’s financial services industry.

Read more; <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/financial-standard/article/2001420388/state-steps-up-plan-to-woo-foreign-investors>

Petra Diamonds to restart mining operations in Tanzania

The Citizen| Tuesday August 17 2021| By Graham Kajilwa

Petra Diamonds is set to restart operations of the Williamson mine at Mwadui in Shinyaga in the first quarter of 2022 after the company agreed to spend \$1.3million in community programmes. Chief executive Mr Richard Duffy said plans are being refined to allow WDL’s operations to restart in first quarter of 2022 to add 220,000 to 270,000 carats of diamonds to the group’s production for the year. Last year, Petra reached an out-of-court settlement with local communities after being sued in London for violation of human rights.

Read more: <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/tanzania/news/business/petra-diamonds-to-restart-mining-operations-in-tanzania--3514878>

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