



REGIONAL

USD 206 million boost for Kenya, Uganda Railways

Source: Africa News

A USD 206 million investment plan has been injected into the joint concession railways of Kenya and Uganda to revamp the sector. Brown Ondego, RVR's new Executive Chairman said the turnaround plan involves investment in new equipment and infrastructure, which will see purchase of new fleet of wagons and locomotives, and rehabilitation of the track and the existing ones.

"This system needs a shock treatment of massive capital. I envisage capital investment in the first five years will be about USD 206 million. I also hope to have six new locomotives," Ondego said. He said the funding will come from RVR's shareholders. "I expect the funding from the USD 10 million plus from the shareholders as additional equity. I am expecting funding from debts (borrowing) of USD 60 million very quickly perhaps more. Then I am expecting that I should get USD 54 million from IFC and KFW. So at least we have enough to take me before we start generating my own revenue," Ondego further stated.

Uganda is the main user of the northern corridor route of Mombasa port contributing about 25 percent of the cargo at Mombasa. "I would like to see URC providing at least 30 per cent of the business for RVR because without any fear of contradiction that 30 percent significantly contributes a better return than the cargo that is going to Kenya. Kenya will contribute the rest."

RVR's shareholders include, Sheltam (35 per cent), Trans-Century Ltd (20 percent), Primefuels Kenya Ltd (15 per cent), Mirambo Holdings Ltd of Tanzania (10 per cent), Centum Investment Company (10 per cent) and Babcock and Brown Investments Holdings Ltd (10 per cent).

COMESA REGIONAL INVESTMENT AGENCY

COMESA Trade and Investment Conference

'Accelerating trade and investment: 'COMESA is ready and on the move'

Brussels: November 18-19, 2008.

The COMESA Secretariat in collaboration with the European Commission and the Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Belgium-Luxembourg-ACP, is organising the first major COMESA Investor Conference in November 18-19, 2008 in Brussels. The COMESA Regional Investment Agency (RIA), under the aegis of the Secretariat, will spearhead the Conference that will be – eventually – chaired by Dr Cheick Modibo Diarra, Co-Chair of the EU-Africa Business Forum. Support to the conference is provided by the ACP Business Climate facility (BizClim). The conference seeks to strengthen the commercial and investment links between European and African private sectors.

The COMESA Investment Conference main objective is to link up with potential European investors and entice them into investing and trading with COMESA. To this effect, the COMESA Secretariat will present its vision and strides made in improving the business climate and creating favourable conditions for welcoming investors and facilitating trade. This presentation will highlight key developments and initiatives in support of the private sector, such as the African Trade Insurance Agency (ATI) and the African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank).

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ETHIOPIA

2000 new jobs for Ethiopians

Source: Africa News

A 300 million USD capital investment is to be injected into the Ethiopian cement industry by Dangote Industries, an investment company of Nigeria. When the company goes fully operational and begins to produce two and half million metric tons of cement per annum, it is expected to create jobs for 2,000.

According to Teshome Lema, the Representative of Dangote Industries in Ethiopia, the company has now finalized the administrative processes to secure land for the construction of the factory in Oromia Region, Adaa' Berga Wereda.

Dangote Group are into conglomerate with interests in sugar, flour milling, salt processing, real estate, cement manufacturing, textiles, haulage and oil and gas. The total wealth of Dangote is estimated USD 3.3 billion, according to Forbes Magazine, which reports the world's billionaires every year.

Cape to Cairo Unity is Over Due

Source: BBC

Three African trade blocs from Cape Town to Cairo have agreed to create a free trade zone incorporating 26 countries with a GDP of an estimated USD 624 billion (£382.9 billion).

Oduor Ongwen, of the Southern and Eastern African Trade Information and Negotiations Institute, tells the BBC News website that the integration of SADC, the EAC and COMESA will be a profitable move for the continent.

Serena to build four new hotels in Uganda

Source: East African

Serena Hotels is to acquire four additional sites for hotel development in the country, tourism minister Serapio Rukundo has said.

Mr Rukundo told The EastAfrican that three sites had already been identified — in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park — home to half the world's known population of mountain gorillas; Murchison Falls National Park and Queen Elizabeth National Park.

The minister said Serena, which already has one property in Kampala, plans to have five hotels in the country and the government had gone ahead to identify those sites ahead of detailed negotiations to determine the value of the planned investments.

Serena's new investments in Uganda will be in line with Kampala's strategy to improve performance of the tourism sector by building infrastructure closer to tourist attractions.

"We shall prepare all tourism products then look at promotion so that out of the 890 million tourists in the world annually, we can attract about two million to come to Uganda," the minister said.

Korea Telecom, Rwanda in USD 40 million backbone deal

Source: East African

Korea Telecom (KT) has signed a USD

40 million deal with the Rwanda government to implement a national backbone project expected to connect the entire country on a fiber optic network.

When complete, a national backbone will enable Rwandans to use e-applications and for the government to execute e-services and business and information exchange that need high speed broadband Internet.

The contract obliges KT to provide technology, equipment and relevant application materials to the government of Rwanda.

KT will also offer training and manage the installation process of the entire network cables.

It will also install a Wibro wireless network that will be accessed by 10,000 people in Kigali, the capital.

By setting the entire infrastructure, Rwanda anticipates to achieve its vision of becoming an ICT hub in the region.

Stebbins Engineering and Manufacturing to open a branch in Madagascar

Source: African Intelligence

The American company based in Watertown (New York State, USA) Stebbins Engineering & Manufacturing has just opened a branch in Madagascar which will have a capital of USD 25 million.

UAE invests in Sudan's sugar industry

Source: Africa News

A USD 300 million sugar refinery is scheduled to be built in the central Sennar state of Sudan, the Sudanese government revealed after signing an agreement with Bin Omeir Holding Group.

Mr. Patrick Bitature reiterated that despite delays by tycoon Al wa leed to commence construction of the Shimoni Hotel project, the project remains on course because of assurances and commitment made by Sheik Al wa leed, also the world's fifth richest man. In the long term, Uganda Investment

Authority is targeting at creating over 350,000 jobs and registering about 2,000 projects by 2012.

Orange brand to launch in Uganda

Source: BBC

France Telecom says it will launch its Orange mobile network in Uganda within "months" and will invest USD 200 million (£ 115 million) in the network over three years.

The move comes after the French firm acquired a 53% stake in Ugandan mobile phone operator, Hits Telecom.

The company said Uganda's current mobile phone penetration rate of 17% offered "major prospects for growth".

This is France Telecom's 16th African operation, following Orange's launch in neighbouring Kenya in September.

Ethiopia to start coal production

Source: African News

500 tons of coal would be produced per day when Ethiopia's coal production starts in October. It is a joint venture of Ethiopian and Pakistani company, Ethio-Pak Coal plc. The production site is 300 km West of Addis Ababa. Coal reserve is estimated 14 million tons. It covers an area of 39 Kilometer square.

Ethio-Pak Coal was established with an initial investment capital of USD 10 million in 2005.

Ugandans Top List of Investors

Source: East African

Indigenous Ugandan investments topped the list of new business ventures in the latest quarter period running from July to September 2008.

A total of 76 new projects were registered in the three month period valued at over USD 98 million which is anticipated to create 959 new jobs.

Despite the upsurge in the total number of local projects, the overall investment value from the projects however fell from USD 359 million (101 projects) in the previous quarter to just

USD 297 million in the just concluded quarter.

Releasing the quarterly report last week, Dr. Maggie Kigozi, Uganda Investment Authority (UIA) executive director said the long awaited Tamoil pipeline project has received an injection of \$56 million for the project but challenges of sorting out land tracks on which the proposed oil pipeline is expected to pass continues to bog down the project.

The pipeline project is way behind schedule and was expected to be complete by November 2007.

The quarterly report indicates that the construction sector took the lead by attracting planned investment of USD 87 million followed by the financial services and energy with planned investment of USD 64 million and USD 56 million respectively. Overall, 76 new projects were registered in the said period with total value of USD 297 million.

India was closest to Uganda in terms of new investment value with 11 projects while 8 projects are from the United Kingdom and Singapore with two projects altogether planned to invest USD 59 million.

If everything goes according to plan, Uganda will attract a total of 6,774 new jobs from the new investments.

Kenya's export promotion body gets global recognition

Source: All African

Kenya's Export Promotion Council was voted the best trade promotion organisation from a developing country at the 2008 World Conference of Trade Promotion Organisations in the Hague "October 2008".

The Council, which was the only organisation from the region to win an award, was cited for its efforts to connect local businesses to international markets, especially in non-traditional exports such as fashion, jewellery, shoes, handbags, home furnishings and soaps.

The awards are sponsored by the International Trade Centre, an agency of the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation.

New oil palm firm for Uganda

Source: Africa News

The lives of more than 36,000 residents on 48 Islands in Kalangala district of Uganda is expected to improve when an oil mill factory opens next year, Bidco Uganda, a palm oil firm announced last week.

The people have traditionally earned their livelihood from fishing on Lake Victoria.

He said the plan to grow oil palm on the island and to build an oil palm extraction and refinery plant, would reduce Uganda's import bill for vegetable oil. The fresh palm fruit bunches must be processed within twenty-four hours of harvest and that is why the plant must be placed near the company plantation already supporting about 600 farmers as out growers.

New resort opens at Anahita, Mauritius

Source: Afrol News

Mauritius is host to a new family resort that will expand tourists' adventure beyond clear long and hospitable sand beaches, offering a closer interaction with Indian Ocean island nature.

Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts yesterday opened new resort in Mauritius at Anahita, a tropical sanctuary that takes its inspiration from dense mangroves and lush greenery that line east Mauritian coast.



Country Of The Month:

Republic of Uganda

Surface Area: 241,038 Km2

Capital: Kampala

Population (2007): 30.9 Million

Official Language: English

Currency: Shilling (UGX)

Main Export Sector: Coffee, fish, and fish products, tea, cotton, flowers, horticultural products and gold.

Main Destination Of Exports (2006):

Belgium, Netherlands, France, Germany, Rwanda, Sudan.

Main Origins Of Imports (2006):

Kenya, United Arab Emirates, China, India, South Africa and Japan.

Uganda Investment Authority

Tel: (+256) (41) 301000

Fax: (+256) (41) 3429903

Address: The Investment Centre, plot 22B Lamumba Avenue, TWED Plaza P.O Box 7418 Kampala, Uganda.

Website: www.ugandainvest.com

NUMBERS

 525

Ethiopia exported 170, 888 tonnes of coffee and earned USD 525.2 million.

 20

20, 000 Zambian bee farmers expect to double their annual production upon the coming into being of a new policy.

 206

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300

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624

Three African trade blocs from Cape Town to Cairo have agreed to create a free trade zone incorporating 26 countries with a GDP of an estimated USD 624 billion (£382.9 billion)

QUOTES

"The four most expensive words in the English language are, "This time it's different."
-Sir John Templeton

"The Stock Market is filled with individuals who know the price of everything, but the value of nothing"
-Philip Fisher

"I will tell you how to become rich. Close the doors. Be fearful when others are greedy. Be greedy when others are fearful."
-Warren Buffett

EVENTS

COMESA investor's Conference**Accelerating Trade and Investment**

Email: events@comesaria.org

18- 19 November 2008
Brussels, Belgium

African Chamber of Commerce Conference

Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
25-26 November, 2008
UNECA in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

www.optima.com.et/conference

Email: aac@optima.com.et

Africa Finance & Investment Forum 2008**ECONOMIC CRISIS: HOW CAN AFRICA HELP ?**

7-9 December 2008
Financial service commission of Mauritius Seminar
Paris, France

Email: events@comesaria.org

Cairo Investment Forum**Semiramis Intercontinental**

21- 22 December 2008
Cairo, Egypt.

www.iktissad.com

ABOUT US

The COMESA regional investment agency is a co-ordinator between the 19 Comesa African country NIPAs. It aims to bring forth all the investment information and opportunities for worldwide investors interested in the African region.

RIA team

Heba Salama
Manager

Mohamed Aref
Research Analyst

Karim Higazy
Media Editor

Dina Helal
Marketing Officer

Subscription

request subscription through:

<http://www.comesaria.org>

newsletter@comesaria.org

While every effort is made to provide accurate information, no responsibility is taken for inaccuracies and omissions contained herein.

3, Salah Salem Road, Nasr City, Cairo, Egypt
General Authority For Investment BLDG
Tel: (+ 202) 240 55 428
Fax: (+202) 240 55 421
newsletter@comesaria.org
www.comesaria.org

