

Weekly Bulletin 11 January 2022

Regional

KfW releases €49 million for electrification via green mini-grids

The German Development Bank (KfW) is allocating €49 million to its Clean Energy and Energy Inclusion for Africa (CEI Africa) mechanism. The funds will support electrification via decentralized renewable energy in sub-Saharan Africa. The funds will provide grants for the development of green off-grids, including solar mini-grids, solar home systems, cooling systems, solar-powered mills and pumps, and solar lanterns. With this funding, KfW hopes to support the construction of 187 green mini-grids with a combined capacity of 17 MWp. These installations should connect 70,000 households to an electricity grid, providing access to electricity for 350,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa. And the foundation will not stop with this funding as it plans to mobilize further investment in renewable energy in Africa. Over the next 10 years, the mechanism should mobilize enough funds to provide access to electricity to at least 3.5 million people in Africa. (Source: Afrik21)

Regional

Africa set to become fastest-growing, most sophisticated market in the world – Kearney

In the wake of Covid-19, Africa is poised to move away from traditional retail models and become the fastest-growing, richest and most sophisticated market in the world. This is according to leading global management consulting firm Kearney, which recently released the 2021 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), which found significant potential for investors and international retailers among emerging retail markets. The GRDI ranks 35 developing countries on a scale of zero to 100 – the higher the ranking, the more urgency to enter a country. Since the GRDI's inception in 2002, the countries ranked on the index have tracked closely as the top destinations for retailers in subsequent years, said Kearney. According to the report, Africa is emerging as the next big retail hot spot. It's predicted that sub-Saharan Africa will enjoy the highest rate of disposable income growth in the world, about 9% compound annual growth rate (CAGR). African nations – including Ethiopia, Rwanda, Senegal, Ivory Coast, Tanzania, Mozambique, Uganda, Kenya, Cameroon, Ghana, Angola, Nigeria, and South Africa – dominate the list of the fastest-growing economies, the report found. The report can be downloaded [here](#). (Source: IOL)

Regional

Negotiations for DR Congo admission into EAC start this week

Negotiations paving way for DR Congo's admission into the East African Community (EAC) are due to start at end of this week. This is after regional leaders last month directed that the negotiations be undertaken with speed and efficiency. Currently, preparatory meetings are going on virtually between the Secretariat and DR Congo. The EAC Summit last year on December 22 asked the ministers to expeditiously undertake negotiations with the DR Congo in accordance with the bloc's procedures for admission of new members. The procedure for admission of the DR Congo entails four stages: a verification exercise; negotiations with the country on its admission to the EAC directed by Summit; eventual admission; and the final deposition of the instrument of acceptance of the terms of admission by the country within six months of its admission to the Community. Mid last year, a verification team was deployed in the country and it submitted its EAC Secretary General Peter Mathuki presents the East African Community flag to President Félix Tshisekedi to mark the unveiling of the mission of DR Congo to join the EAC. What follows now includes: negotiations at senior, PS and ministerial levels between January and February. The next step will be the consideration of the negotiations report by the extraordinary Council of Ministers, by March. If all goes according to plan, next will be the consideration of the recommendations of Council and decision on admission of DR Congo into the EAC by the Extra Ordinary Summit, by April 11, 2022. (Source: New Times Rwanda)

Angola

Unitel, Ericsson stage 5G data call in Angola; three cellcos issued 5G licences

Angolan cellco Unitel has joined forces with Ericsson to successfully complete a 5G data call in Angola, utilising spectrum in the 3.5GHz band. The test was powered by the vendor's 5G RAN and Ericsson 5G Core solutions for Non-Standalone (NSA) networks. The conclusion of the trial was announced on 31 December 2021. TeleGeography notes that Unitel was one of three Angolan operators to receive a 5G licence from the Angolan Institute of Communications (Instituto Angolano das Comunicacoes, INACOM) on 20 December. The watchdog confirmed that Unitel, Movitel and new market entrant Africell all received unspecified frequencies in the 3.3GHz-3.7GHz range as part of the licensing process. (Source: Telegeography)

DR-Congo

DP World to begin work on the DRC's first deep water port next year

Dubai port operator DP World in December signed a final agreement with the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) to develop the country's first deep-sea port at the town of Banana near the mouth of the Congo River. DRC president Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi said the port would "transform the DRC into a trade hub". The existing port at Banana is tiny, with a depth of only around 5m. The deal was signed in Kinshasa at a ceremony attended by the president and Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem, chief executive of DP World. This follows an agreement in principle in 2018 and a more detailed contract concluded in May. DP World will now commence work on site next year, beginning with a 600m quay and a 30ha storage yard. This will allow it to handle 450,000 TEUs (20-foot equivalent units) a year – small in comparison with the West African ports presently under development, but significant for the DRC, which has no port capable of dealing with the large container ships operated by Chinese and European carriers. The port will have a 18m draft, which is enough to handle any container vessel currently in operation. At present, the port of Banana consists of one 75m wharf with a depth of 5.2m and is equipped with two small cranes for cargo handling. (Source: Global Construction Review)

Kenya

Kenya and China sign six trade agreements

Kenya and China have signed six trade agreements and promised to form a joint working group to address trade barriers between the two countries to reduce trade imbalances. "The six trade agreements signed on Thursday between Kenya and China will improve trade and deepen relations and collaboration between our two countries. Kenya seeks to increase agricultural exports to China to address trade imbalance between the two countries," said Kenyan Foreign Affairs Cabinet Secretary Ms Raychelle Omamo. "The establishment of a working group to look into the issues of tariff and Non-Trade Barriers will see the two countries increase intra-trade." The two countries have agreed to collaborate on Information Communication and Technology (ICT) to boost digital economy in Kenya, continue in the development of regional transport for economic hub on Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and creating market of Kenyan agricultural products. In the talks, Kenya seeks to export avocado and aquatic products while China intends to continue donating rice to the East African country to assist in humanitarian aid. (Source: The East African)

Mozambique

Tender launched to select Mphanda Nkuwa strategic partner

The Mozambican government, through the Office for the Implementation of the Mphanda Nkuwa Hydroelectric Project (GMNK), in December launched an international tender for the selection of a strategic partner for the construction of the Mphanda Nkuwa dam and power generation project in the western province of Tete. The Mphanda Nkuwa dam is to be built on the Zambezi River, about 60 kilometres downstream from the existing Cahora Bassa dam, and it is envisaged that it will generate 1,300 megawatts of electricity. The project is budgeted at five billion US dollars with 70 per cent of funds to be raised by international investors, and the rest coming from the Mozambican government. Part of the funds will be spent on building the Mphanda Nkuwa power station with the rest going on the construction of a new 1,500-kilometre transmission line. The construction of the project is due to begin in 2024 and will last seven years. (Source: Club of Mozambique)

Mozambique

Africa's first floating gas plant arrives in Mozambique

Africa's first floating liquified natural gas plant has arrived in Mozambique and gas production is on track to begin in the second half of the year. The Coral South project is the first of a few planned projects which will exploit a significant gas find in the offshore Rovuma Basin. The floating plant - known as the Coral Sul FLNG – arrived in Area 4 of the Rovuma Basin this week, Mozambique's National Petroleum Institute announced. The plant is critical to the US\$7 billion Coral South project, which is operated by Italian oil and gas company Eni. It will produce and sell gas extracted from the southern part of the field. The 220 000 ton vessel, the main component of which was constructed by Samsung Heavy Industries in South Korea, is the first FLNG built for deep waters and the first specifically built for Africa. Some 432 metres long and 66 metres wide, the plant has the capacity to liquefy 3.4 million tons of natural gas per year. It will be linked to six subsea gas producing wells, with its LNG earmarked to be sold exclusively to BP under a 20-year offtake agreement signed in 2016. The Coral South project will see Eni providing specialist training for more than 800 Mozambican workers, who will be employed in the project's operational phase. Coral South is one of a number of energy projects located in the Rovuma basin. Also under construction is TotalEnergies' substantially larger \$20 billion Mozambique LNG project. Work is yet to resume after the site was evacuated in March last year as a result of nearby Islamic State terrorist attacks. Still awaiting a final investment decision is ExxonMobil's \$30 billion Rovuma LNG project, which was delayed in 2020 in light of an oil price collapse amid the Covid-19 pandemic. (Source: Fin24)

Nigeria

Accelerating Nigeria's digital economy in 2022

Industry stakeholders are of the view that the planned 5G technology rollout in 2022, the planned acquisition of MainOne by Equinix in 2022 and the launch of Africa Data Centre, including the berthing of several subsea cables at the shores of Nigeria, and the operation of cloud computing services by data centre operators, will act as catalyst in driving Nigeria's digital economy in 2022. According to stakeholders, the emergence of MTN Nigeria and Mafab Communications Ltd, as winners of the 3.5 GHz spectrum auction for 5G deployment in the country, coupled with the US\$574.2 million that the federal government realised from the auction, Nigeria, no doubt, is set to achieve faster digital transformation in 2022. Stakeholders believe that the launch of a 10MW data centre facility in Nigeria by the Africa Data Centres (ADC), in December 2021, would further diversify Nigeria's economy and enhance her digital transformation agenda in 2022. (Source: This Day)

Rwanda

YEGO Innovision rolls out world's first ICFM solution for taxi motos

Yego Innovision Ltd on Friday officially launched the Intelligent Connected Fare Metres (ICFM) known as 'smart meters for the first time in the world and over 19, 000 taxis motos will be connected in Kigali. The smart meters which automatically generate the fare after a passenger has been dropped off, had its first phase launched on Friday, January 7 at the City of Kigali. The ICFMs are not only expected to digitize the taxi moto service but will provide enhanced safety, security, accountability, and transparency among other benefits. The smart meters are in line with the Government's vision of promoting a cashless economy as well as smart transport. (Source: New Times Rwanda)

Senegal

Construction begins at DP World's \$1.1 bn port in Senegal

Senegal President Macky Sall on Monday 3rd January laid the foundation stone for the construction of a \$1.13 billion deep-water port being developed by Dubai's state-owned port operator DP World at Ndayane, around 50 km south of the capital Dakar. DP World Dakar, a joint venture between the Dubai-based logistics provider and the Port Authority of Dakar (PAD), is the biggest private investment in the West African country, Sall said. "We are ready for the structural transformation of our economy with this mega project," Sall said. DP World has said the first phase will include 840 metres of quay and a 5 km marine channel designed to handle 366-metre vessels, with a second phase adding 410 metres of container quay and further dredging to handle 400-metre vessels. DP World chairman Sultan Ahmed bin Sulayem said his company would develop and operate the 300-hectare container terminal, as well as finance and design the land and maritime infrastructure. "It represents a brighter future as this new port will bring greater economic growth, prosperity, and jobs," Sulayem said. (Source: Hellenic Shipping News)

Zimbabwe

Plans for a housing development in Douglasdale, Bulawayo revealed

Daxmas Developers Limited, located in Bulawayo, plans to invest \$12 million in a housing development in Douglasdale, Bulawayo in Zimbabwe's second-largest city. The initiative is anticipated to help the historic industrial centre grow. The site is located in Douglasdale, Umguza district, among a mixed residential and agricultural region 15 kilometres from Bulawayo city. The intended residential construction of 37 additional dwellings in a housing development in Douglasdale, Bulawayo, a community exercise centre, and a security entry building was ongoing, according to Daxmas Development Limited's chief executive officer Daniel Mataruka. He stated that they estimate that each house would cost around US\$400 000 and that the project will cost between US\$11,5 million and US\$12 million in total. Mataruka stated that the firm was already in discussions with its investors, who were enthusiastic about the proposal and willing to contribute financially. They're only waiting for the firm to receive all of the required permissions so that the building can begin. (Source: Construction Review Online)

Zimbabwe

Africa's largest steel plant under construction in Zimbabwe

Africa's largest steel plant is closer to being a reality after it has been revealed that the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) has completed the construction of a 27-kilometre temporary power line to supply electricity to the Mvuma Steel Plant production company site, putting the wheels in motion for the establishment of Africa's largest steel plant. The temporary powerline will provide the necessary electricity while the permanent powerline, a 97-kilometre high-voltage power line from Sherwood to Kwekwe, is being built. Dinson Steel, a Chinese business, is building the steel mill. Dinson, a subsidiary of Tsingshan Holdings, has been granted exclusive rights to build a new town between Mvuma, Chivhu, and Chirumanzu districts around its new facility. Dinson Steel spokeswoman Pardon Kufakunesu said ZESA had been crucial in delivering temporary necessities for the start of work, which included the construction of a shelter, during a recent inspection of the site by ZESA board members and top engineers. (Source: Construction Review Online)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Inserts in bold and italics font indicate participation by Africa House:

Africa House

<u>Event</u>	<u>Sector</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Contact Details</u>
Africa House: Africa 2022	Multi-Sectoral	Hybrid Event (in-person event & Webinar)	09 February 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Agriculture Focus Group	Agriculture	Webinar	17 February 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Country Focus Group	Multi-Sectoral	Webinar	23 February 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Oil & Gas Focus Group	Oil & Gas	Webinar	3 March 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Hotels & Commercial Property Focus Group	Hotels & Commercial Property	Webinar	9 March 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: ICT Focus Group	ICT	Webinar	17 March 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za

Africa House: Mining Focus Group	Mining	Webinar	31 March 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Health Focus Group	Health	Webinar	6 April 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Power Focus Group	Power	Webinar	21 April 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Transport & Logistics: Airports Focus Group	Airports	Webinar	5 May 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Country Focus Group	Multi-Sectoral	Webinar	11 May 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Oil & Gas Focus Group	Oil & Gas	Webinar	2 June 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Ports & Rail Focus Group	Ports & Rail	Webinar	8 June 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Water & Sanitation Focus Group	Water & Sanitation	Webinar	23 June 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za

Africa House: Mining Focus Group	Mining	Webinar	7 July 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Agriculture Focus Group	Agriculture	Webinar	13 July 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Power Focus Group	Power	Webinar	27 July 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Health Focus Group	Health	Webinar	11 August 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Hotels & Commercial Property Focus Group	Hotels & Commercial Property	Webinar	17 August 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: ICT Focus Group	ICT	Webinar	25 August 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Country Focus Group	Multi-Sectoral	Webinar	7 September 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Oil & Gas Focus Group	Oil & Gas	Webinar	15 September 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za

Africa House: Mining Focus Group	Mining	Webinar	21 September 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Water & Sanitation Focus Group	Water & Sanitation	Webinar	5 October 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Focus Group	Power	Webinar	19 October 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Transport & Logistics: Roads & Bridges Focus Group	Roads & Bridges	Webinar	27 October 2022	Africa House: Nicole Drake Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: ndrake@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Country Focus Group	Multi-Sectoral	Webinar	2 November 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za
Africa House: Ports & Rail Focus Group	Ports & Rail	Webinar	16 November 2022	Africa House: Nicole Kruger Telephone: 27 11 728 5878 E-mail: nicole@africainfo.co.za