



Tradequity

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Advancing Socio-Economic Structural Transformation through Intra-Africa Trade

The African Union Commission (AUC) hosted, the first ever Africa Trade Week (ATW2016) from 28 November to 02 December 2016 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia under the theme: “Advancing Socio-Economic Structural Transformation through Intra-Africa Trade”. The event was convened by the AUC in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the ATW2016 brings together Ministers of Trade, Finance and Transportation as well as other High-level Government Officials; Heads of Africa’s Regional Economic Communities (RECs); a select group of Chief Executive Officers (CEOs); executives from the private sector, Development Banks; and senior representatives from civil society, academia, international development agencies and the media. The objective of the event was to provide a comprehensive, integrated and inclusive platform for policy dialogue between these various constituencies.

The African Union (AU) articulated, through Agenda 2063, a long-term framework for enhancing “an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the international arena”. The Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) was identified therein as the pillar for “accelerating progress towards continental unity and integration for sustained growth, trade, goods exchanges, services, free movement of people and capital. The CFTA is one of the flagship projects under the “First Ten-Year Implementation Plan of the Agenda 2063”.

In her opening remarks, the Commissioner for Trade and Industry



of the African Union Commission, H E Fatima Haram Acyl pointed out that the CFTA would help address many of Africa’s biggest challenges, such as Youth Unemployment, Skills Development, Women’s Empowerment, Industrialisation, Infrastructure Development and eventually, Africa’s Transformation.

“The CFTA, once established, would bring together 54 African countries with a combined population of more than 1 billion and a combined gross domestic product (GDP) of more than US\$3tn. Commissioner Acyl qualified ATW2016 as an historic event and underlined that the purpose of having a whole week event is to encourage fruitful and stimulating dialogue among all stakeholders. She encouraged the participants to be as interactive and engaging as possible. Before concluding, the Commissioner urged the participants to communicate with each other and come up with common solutions on how to move Africa’s trade agenda forward.

On behalf of Dr. Abdalla Hamdok, the Acting Executive Secretary of Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), Dr. David Luke, Coordinator of the African Trade Policy Centre (ATPC) indicated that the UNECA is delighted to partner with the

AUC and others in organising Africa Trade Week 2016. He explained that the ATW2016 was organised to ensure input and voice, especially in regard to the Africa Trade Forum (ATF).

The Coordinator of the ATPC observed that the CFTA presents a critical opportunity for Africa’s Development. He called on the participants to take advantage on the ATW2016 to discuss how to turn the CFTA to reality. The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Mukhisa Kituyi described the general context in which the ATW2016 was being held after some recent and major political developments around the world. “Trade matters but it does not happen on its own. To benefit from trade, we need to consume what we produce. We need to add value to our products”, he underscored.

The ATW2016 concluded with an Africa Trade Forum (ATF) Session scheduled from 01-02 December 2016, which explored ways to overcome the restrictions to trading and imports across Africa, such as non-tariff barriers, quotas, embargoes and sanctions.

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CUTS[®]
International

CUTS Africa

Email: lusaka@cuts.org (Lusaka)

Email: nairobi@cuts.org (Nairobi)

Email: accra@cuts.org (Accra)

Website: www.cuts-international.org/ARC

Satellite Broadband for Africa

Ahead of its commercial launch of satellite broadband in Africa in 2017, Satellite operator, Eutelsat Communication, Eutelsat Communications, has disclosed plans to cover more than 20 Sub-Saharan countries by 2019 with its Satellite broadband.

The Marketing and business Development Director for Konnect Africa, Francois Boullet said that Satellite provides a quality, affordable and immediate solution, which can be adapted to both private and public needs.

Moreover, Konnect Africa is expected to offer a range of services from bandwidth supply to end-to-end solutions in Benin, Burundi, DRC, Cameroon, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Lesotho, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda throughout 2017.

He assured that Konnect Africa satellites would deliver high quality affordable broadband services in Sub-Saharan Africa. (*Vanguard*, 25.12.16)

SMEs for Kenya Economy

Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) currently contribute more than half of Kenya's GDP and provide more than three quarters of all new jobs.

In general, SMEs are perfectly placed to innovate – they are small and agile, with the ability to adapt quickly when things are not working. Besides, SMEs are a fundamental part of the economic fabric in developing countries, and they play a crucial role in furthering growth, innovation and prosperity.

Kenya has a great spirit of innovation at its core, yet access to modern technology, training and finance are vital to allow any SME to thrive, and these are the very things SMEs lack access to in society.

To tackle this, Kenyan government has been working on many initiatives aimed at helping SMEs to reach their full potential, from faster access to loans to training sessions. (*SD*, 16.11.16)

Urge for Inclusive Economies

The Department for International Development (DFID) and the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) or DFID-ESRC Growth Research Programme (DEGRP) and the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) have urged African governments to empower small-scale farmers, firms, women and the youth in order to achieve stable and inclusive economies.

This was during the 'Economic Opportunities for a Better Future' conference at Safari Park hotel in Nairobi that set an agenda to discuss how to leverage agriculture, financial sector development and innovation to build better economic opportunities for all. Low-Income Countries (LICs) have experienced substantial economic growth over the past two decades, but this growth has not been sufficiently inclusive, transformational or resilient. (*TS*, 11.11.16)

USAID Supports AGRA

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has disclosed it will invest some US\$10mn in financing seed sector development in the

country. According to the USAID, the funds is to be used in strengthening the production and distribution of quality seeds available to the agriculture sector for four major crops in the Early Generation Seed (EGS) programme.

The EGS is a five-year plan initiated by the Alliance Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) to grow four major crops, such as rice, maize, soya beans and cassava in the Northern and the Brong Ahafo regions (south Ghana) respectively. The initiative is to ensure the supply of quality seeds to farmers at all times.

(*B&FT*, 24.11.16)

Airport to be Completed

Construction of the Kasama Airport (Kasama, Northern Province, Zambia) at a total cost of K144mn is expected to be completed in July 2017, northern province Minister Brian Mundubile has disclosed. Once the airport is complete, it would boost tourism in the province, which is endowed with various tourist attractions.

Mundubile also stated that the construction of the airport was among the many developments undertaken by the government in the area particularly that Kasma would soon be turned into a city. Large aircrafts will land on this airport and will ease the traffic at the Kasaba bay airport, which is also under construction", he said. The airport would also boost investments in agriculture and other activities around commerce, trade and industry. (*DN*, 27.12.16)

Private Sector: Key to Development

Zambia can greatly develop through private sector participation by putting in place policies and legislation that support and promote local investment and production, Defence Minister Davies Chama said. He urged Zambian Air Force (ZAF) to utilise these policies and ensure that innovation and entrepreneurship was embraced so as to participate, not in politics but in growing the economy.

We are gifted with adequate land and water resources and I will support you by lobbying for easier access to land for members of the armed force", Chama said.

Chama noted that ZAF played a critical role of protecting the country's growing investments and creating a conducive environment for economic development. (*DN*, 25.12.16)



Ethanol from Cassava

Ghana's first ethanol plant at Hodzo, in the GHo Municipality has produced 150,000 litres of ethanol from cassava between June and December, 2016. Kasapreko Company Limited (KCL), a large importer of ethanol, with 40 percent shares in Caltech Ventures, operators of the plant, lifted the product.

Chris Quarshie, Managing Director, Caltech Ventures, said that the feat followed 10 years of producing high quality cassava flour for the local

market. He said after successfully going through the learning curve, the company was getting stabilised to triple its production in two years.

Quarshie also stated that carbon dioxide and biogas production plants would be installed within the year for full scale production in 2019. He called for government support to turn HO, Abaklu and Abutia, cassava growing areas into a processing hub and increase the production of ethanol to reduce the country's import. (*GNA*, 18.01.17)

Dropping of Import Duty

Zambia's decision to drop a proposed import duty for semi-processed copper materials will help stabilise smelters in Africa's second-biggest producer of the metal, the Chamber of Mines said.

Zambian Finance Minister Felix Mutati's announcement that the Government will abandon plans to charge a 7.5 percent levy on copper concentrates from January 01, 2017 is 'reassuring', said Talent Ng'andwe, the acting CEO at the industry body. The chamber has yet to receive official communication on the matter, he said. *(Bloomberg, 21.12.16)*

Rwanda-Kenya Bolster Trade

East Africa received a mixed bag of results in doing business in the latest report by World Bank (WB); with Rwanda and Kenya leading while Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia brought up the rear.

The WB cited implementation of projects meant to improve trading across borders as key to the good showing while civil strife hampered those countries that did poorly. According to the WB's 'Doing Business 2016' report, Rwanda ranked 56th from 2015's 59th, remains the easiest place to start a business in the region.

(TEA, 29.10.16)

SA Power Imports Logical

The proposal by Zambia to import electricity from South Africa remains the country's only logical option for now as some independent power producers (IPPs) are asking for higher tariffs than what South Africa offers, the Energy Forum Zambia (EFZ) has observed.

EFZ Chairperson Johnstone Chikwanda said the forum's research showed IPPs were selling power to ZESCO power company at a price higher than the import price from the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP), adding that independent power producers did not necessarily translate into lower tariffs.

(DN, 19.12.16)

Zambia-Malawi Trade

The Zambian government has allowed the Zambia Cooperative Federation (ZCF) to export 100,000 metric tonne of maize to Malawi in order

Made-in-Ghana Policy

The Ministry of Trade and Industry has launched a policy to guide the promotion of local goods and services with a commitment to pursue the enactment of legislation to back its implementation.



The policy is to encourage institutions, especially public ones to procure locally made products and services. Minister (former) of Trade and Industry, Ekwow Spio-Garbrah said he would look at passing the law to compel public institutions if the policy implementation does not receive the necessary support and goodwill from stakeholders. This policy will support Ghana's vision to attain middle income status through structural transformation of the economy. *(http://citifmonline.com, 08.10.16)*

to raise money to sustain their operations, ZCF Director General James Chirwa has confirmed.

Chirwa said that the 100, 000 metric tonne of maize is being exported under a special government to government deal between the heads of State of Zambia and Malawi.

According to the Malawian newspaper, the maize is being stored in Admarc warehouses and will be distributed in the central and northern region of Malawi for sale. *(DN, 09.12.16)*

WTO Agreement Ratified

The Parliament has been commended for ratifying the long awaited World Trade Organisation's (WTO's) Trade Facilitation Agreement to reduce the cost of doing business and improve the investment climate in Ghana.

George Aboagye, Chairman, Committee on Trade, Industry and Tourism said, "The Committee has thoroughly examined the Agreement and is of the view that ratification of this Agreement by Ghana would inevitably reduce the cost of doing business and

improve the investment climate in Ghana. The ratification of the agreements will now allow holders of diplomatic and service passports to enjoy a visa free stay to the five countries including China, Seychelles, Sudan, Turkey and Cuba".

(B&FT, 31.10.16)

Policies for Growth

African countries have been urged to now implement their policies on agriculture and industrialisation to achieve sustainable growth and development. At the 11th African Economic Conference that was conducted in Abuja, Nigeria, stakeholders noted that the continent had good agricultural and industrial strategies but failed to actualise them.

It was realised that there is no African country that does not have policies being aspired for, but the missing link is implementation. African leaders were called to implement policies on agro-allied industrialisation to tackle hunger, poverty and inequality as part of the Sustainable Development Goals. *(TEA, 08.12.16)*

Reducing Trade Deficit

Kenya is inching closer to getting a National Trade Policy to address export challenges and boost trade. The policy is expected to address market access for local goods as the government bridges the trade gap that exists with different markets.



This policy is putting together the various pieces of legislation and documents that relate to trade. Kenya has access to the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), EAC and the US through the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) but government officials said the access is yet to be fully tapped. *(CD, 09.11.16)*

Trade 'Dollarisation' Good

Allowing business transactions to be conducted in dollars will beef up foreign exchange on the local market. Governments of Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) should come up with measures to ensure that Zambian traders do not just end up doing business at Kasumbalesa border but also reach Lubumbashi.

Noel Mubanga, a poultry farmer, is happy with the development as he believes it will be easy to do business once the proposed Statutory Instrument (SI) is introduced.

He said the government should be commended for the move and that it should quickly introduce the SI as it is beneficial to Zambian businesses and the nation, as a whole. "It will be easy to do business because our friends use US dollars in their country when transacting", he said. *(LT, 31.10.16)*

WB Supports O & G Project

The World Bank (WB) Group has stated that two of its units would provide another US\$517mn to Ghana in debt and guarantees to support the US\$7.7bn Sankofa oil and gas (O&G) project

developed by Italy's ENI SpA and upstream trader Vitol Ghana.

The financing adds to a US\$700mn WB guarantee package announced in July 2016 and brings the institution's total financing to around US\$1.217bn for the offshore project, whose gas component is set to open in 2018. The Bank's commercial lending arm, the International Finance Corporation (IFC), has committed a loan of US\$235mn to Vitol Ghana and is arranging another US\$65mn in debt. *(BF&T, 16.12.16)*

Nuclear Industry Launched

The Zambian government has signed three memoranda of understanding and one project development agreement with Russia, signifying the start of a process to develop nuclear science that is expected to power Zambia's economy and make the country a hub of power exports in the region.

The cooperation will see among other things the development of a strategy for Zambia to build a nuclear plant within 10 to 15 years, which would produce at least 2 GW of electricity, production of isotopes for diagnosis, cancer treatment and removal of radiation in food.

(DN, 08.12.16)

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US-Africa Strengthen Trade

The first USA-Africa Chamber of Commerce, Ghana, has been launched as part of measures to help the two countries to increase trade. The Ghana chamber, which is the first of its kind on the continent is open to all businesses in the country and will be engaged in facilitating trade between businesses from the two countries.

The Chamber will also work actively with stakeholders to help deepen cooperation and strengthen Ghana's business sectors. The launch was under the theme "Engendering growth and development through peace and cooperation". *(TGT, 07.12.16)*

Rail to Boost Trade

Zambia's Deputy Ambassador to Sweden Anthony Mukwita stated that an efficient railway network would help boost international and regional trade. Mukwita mentioned that an effective railway system will also help turn Zambia into a giant trading hub.

He also said Zambia is a great corporate governance citizen and that the continued stability encourages investors. He told the business experts and potential investors that Zambian President Edgar Lungu's continued works to improve the Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) would boost regional trade adding that the railway line will double the head of states investment plans. *(ZNBC, 19.12.16)*

Barriers to Market Protocols

The EAC is yet to fully implement the common market protocols, which were meant to boost the region's trade. The second EAC Common Market Scorecard 2016 launched in Kampala, Uganda on October 2016 shows that Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi still run their trades as separate markets, keeping their economies small and disconnected due to regulation issues.

This was blamed on failure by individual states to lift legal barriers like recognition of business certificates from each other and double taxation. This is despite EAC Presidents having signed the treaty to give the countries freedom of movement of goods, labour, services, and capital. *(TEA, 31.10.16)*

Sierra Leone-Ghana Partnership

Subah Infosolutions, a Ghanaian-based information technology firm, has been awarded the International Gateway Monitoring System (GWMS) contract by the National Telecommunications Commission (NATCOM) of Sierra Leone.

The Chairman of NATCOM Momoh Konke said Sabah's bid was "the most responsive" in the list of bidders. He explained that the evaluation process was very transparent and accessible. Besides, his management is working hard with Subah and soon all will see the presence of the monitoring in the country's communication system", Konke stressed. *(DG, 31.11.16)*

GLTFP Project Rolls Out

Implementation of the Great Lakes Trade Facilitation Project (GLTFP) has begun with the launching of recruitment for trade information officers to be based at selected locations in the eastern borderlands of the DRC, Rwanda and Uganda.

The GLTFP's objective is to facilitate cross-border trade by increasing the capacity for commerce and reducing the costs faced by small-scale traders.

The project will build on existing trade information desks (TIDs) established by COMESA in the selected border region. This includes Goma in DRC; Rubavu in Rwanda; Kasindi (DRC); Mpondwe (Uganda); Bunagana (DRC); and Bunagana (Uganda). *(DN, 08.12.16)*

Free Movement Delayed

The Council of Ministers for three blocs on the continent have extended negotiations on contentious issues by one more year, further delaying the much-awaited free movement of goods and services within the proposed Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA).

The COMESA, EAC and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries have failed to agree on critical issues that would allow traders access to an expanded market of over 600 million people. The contentious issues are tariff liberalisation, rules of origin and trade remedies. *(TS, 16.11.16)*

Way Forward to RDOAG

COMESA and US Agency for International Development (USAID) met in Lusaka to discuss ways of implementing the recently signed US\$77mn Regional Development Objectives Grant Agreement (RDOAG).

USAID East Africa Mission Director Karen Freeman, who was leading a team of experts in legal, technical, planning and finance held talks with Secretary General Sindiso Ngwenya before a meeting to enlighten programme implementers on the way forward in relation to the Regional Development Agreement.

The officers from COMESA and USAID also discussed how to transit from the current Integrated Partnership Assistance Agreement (IPAA) to the RDOAG. *(DN, 23.11.16)*

Vibrant Trade between Blocs

The response of Rwandan importers to a sugar shortage in the country and Rwanda's request for exemption from an Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) show the different sides of the coin of African economic integration.

On one side, the nascent integration of economies across trade blocs has stabilised the supply side of an essential commodity in one country while on the other, the complexity that arises from the multiplicity of exclusive trade clubs comes to the fore. Due to unique geographical location, Rwanda is now potentially exposed to import levies in the ECCAS and the EAC *(RT, 05.12.16)*

Gold Mining Project

Zambia is among eight African countries to benefit from the US\$350,000 project aimed at reducing the use of mercury and its compounds in artisanal and small scale gold mining in the region. Other countries include Burundi, Republic of Congo, Central African Republic, Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda and Zimbabwe.

The project would be implemented through the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with Africa Institute for the environmentally sound management of hazardous and other wastes, acting as the executing agency. The government in collaboration with the Africa Institute had sourced project funding from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) worth US\$300,000. *(DN, 28.11.16)*



Branch Banking Preferred

Branch-banking remains the most dominant channel for customers' transaction in Ghana, KPMG Ghana Banking Industry Customer Satisfaction Survey (BICSS) has found. The survey, which involved 600 retail banking customers interviewed in Accra, Kumasi and Takoradi found that branch remains the most dominant channel for customers' transactions in Ghana, with ATM usage trailing slightly behind.

The survey found that customers appreciate the convenience and flexibility afforded them by the alternate channels, however they want reassurance on the security of such platforms, as electronic fraud was a prime concern for respondents. *(B&FT, 08.12.16)*

Business Cost Lowered

A Zambian entrepreneur has invented an application that has potential to jump-start the increased usage of the internet as a way of lowering the cost of doing business.

Bwalya Musonda has deployed his Quotation Technology (QTech) app to provide fast and easy access of comparative pricing in real-time across the different business sectors.

"The popularity of the QTech app is anchored on the fact that users can select products and services from vendors without physically moving around. One can instantly compare prices from the comfort of one's home on just about any product or service", Musonda added.

(DN, 14.12.16)

Farmers Receiving Inputs

Farmers in Zambian city Chipata will start receiving inputs through the E-voucher system under the Fertiliser Input Support Programme (FISP), stated Chipata District Commissioner Kalunga Zulu.

He said that all modalities were in place and that what remained was for the farmers to start depositing their balances in the subsidised account starting soon after which they will start receiving their inputs.

He explained that once the deposits were made, vouchers will be activated to allow farmers to get what they wanted from the selected agro-dealers.

(DN, 12.12.16)

Managing Food Waste and Loss

The inefficiencies in the global food system have serious impacts for nutrition,

health and the environment. Food loss and waste is an urgent global crisis affecting all people, planet, profits and livelihoods of the world's most vulnerable people to the private sector.

The reality is worse in the developing countries, such as Sub-Saharan Africa comprising most of the world's hungry people. Food loss and waste is an all-inclusive problem, and eliminating it requires an all-inclusive solution that addresses global food system to identify where the biggest losses occur and to solve the root problem. *(TEA, 31.10.16)*

Ban on 'Dirty Diesel'

Five West African countries have announced measures to end the practice of European oil companies and traders exporting 'African quality' diesel – highly polluting fuels that could never be sold in Europe.

Swiss commodity traders were accused in a report published by Swiss Non-government Organisation Public Eye of exporting fuels to West Africa with sulphur levels that are sometimes hundreds of times higher than European levels. The oil companies were accused of 'regulatory arbitrage', allowing traders to exploit weak standards to export cheap and dirty fuels for maximising profits at the expense of African's health.

(TG, 06.12.16)

NCA Bans Unsolicited Messages

The National Communications Authority (NCA), the thebftonline.com had begun the process to end the unsolicited calls and messages through telecom companies operating in Ghana.

The thebftonline.com is to allow NCA to control and end the massive influx of unwanted text messages and calls routed through telcos to mobile users.

The NCA stated that, following the commencement of a review of the current Unsolicited Electronic Communications (UEC) code for telecom operators by the authority in a bid to control the influx of unsolicited text messages and calls, a public consultation has begun on the matter. *(B&FT, 29.11.16)*

Ending Unsustainable Land Usage

Participatory planning and environmental-friendly land use practices, supported by and effective land governance regime are the key ingredients to sustainable land use in West Africa.



This is according to the 'Abuja Declaration on Sustainable Land Use for People and Biodiversity in West Africa', which was adopted on November 25, 2016. The Declaration is as a result of a two-day workshop held in Abuja, Nigeria, hosted by the Government of Nigeria and sponsored by the Government of Switzerland.

(www.birdlife.org, 21.12.16)

Competition Needed to Ensure Market Efficiency



In a competitive market both consumers and producers are presented with affordable and wider choices of quality goods and service and this brings about efficiency in allocation of resources, thus the benefits of a competitive market cannot be overlooked. In an emerging economy like Ghana, it is important to embrace the need for a functional competition regime”, said Professor Justice Samuel Kofi Date-Bah, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Ghana and Board Chair, CUTS, Accra (Ghana).

Speaking at 2016 World Competition Day Celebration in Accra under the theme ‘Cement Market: Issue of Competition or Unfair Trade Practice’ Justice Date-Bah was of the view that the recent agitations in the cement industry should serve as an indication to policy makers the need for a fully functional competition and unfair trade practice law to regulate the conduct of the market players.

Appiah Kusi Adomako, Centre Coordinator for CUTS, Accra (Ghana) indicated that consumers’ desire to have quality cement at an affordable price and one way of achieving this is through the presence of multiple players in the market competing among themselves. He mentioned that the era of dominance, monopolies and oligopolies in the sector is over. He quoted data from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) that indicates that the prices of cement have remained fairly stable compared to the past. Current price war in the sector is unprecedented.

He added that sometimes it is helpful to protect local producers but is also fair to ensure that consumers get the opportunity to have quality products at affordable prices as well as options in the market. This he believed can be achieved effectively through the enactment of Competition Policy and Law.

Trade Policy Analyst from CUTS Accra, Abubakari Zakari in his presentation entitled ‘Barriers to Trade, and Unfair Trade Practices’ explained that the World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules on import permits and licence and the various redress channels that the government can deploy to reduce the effects of subsidies and dumping in the local market. Zakari stressed on the important role that the government plays in ensuring a fair and competitive market through the application of the WTO measures. He called for the full operationalisation of the Ghana International Trade Commission (GITC) to investigate the claims being made by the local cement manufacturers.

Fredrick Ghartey, Assistant Commissioner, Design and Monitoring at the Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA) mentioned that the country has in place the necessary installed capacity to meet the local demands and that it is important that the local industries are supported to ensure that they produce enough to meet the demands for the market.

Komla Buami, Media Relations Manager at the Dangote Cement (Nigerian multinational publicly traded cement manufacturer) mentioned that Dangote’s presence in the market has set the standard high for the production of quality cement grades in the country. Further, he explained that the low prices of Dangote cement is not as a result of the alleged subsidy that but rather due to the bonus structure that has been set up firm by the firm.

Currently, Dangote’s ex-factory price for cement is GHC 29.30 and that of GHACEM is GHC 28.60. Distributors reduce the price of the Dangote cement at the retail level in order to sell more quantities and earn bonus.

Moses Agyemang from the Private Enterprise Federation (PEF) raised the issue of efficiency of cement producers in the country. He lamented that local companies have the habit of producing at low efficiency and blaming others for beating them in the market.

He cited an example that power that Ghana imports from Cote D’Ivoire is cheaper than the one that the local power companies sell to the grid. He suggested that CUTS and the relevant agencies to work together to better understand the efficiency gaps in the sector and come up with ways to support the local cement producers to meet its innovative challenges and thus better enable them to compete.

Economiquity

The October–December 2016 issue of Economiquity carries an article entitled, ‘1914 Revisited: Open World Order is Breaking Apart’ which states that great shock came in 1914, with the outbreak of World War I, and it ended an extraordinary four-decade period of rising migration and trade. But that era provides clear parallels to the globalisation boom that gained momentum in the 1980s and stalled during the financial crisis of 2008.

Another special article by Gita Gopinath states that Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ‘demonetisation’ intervention affected 85 percent of the money in circulation in India. It was an unprecedented move, whether in India or almost anywhere else, and it is by far Modi’s boldest policy intervention to date.

This newsletter can be accessed at: www.economiquity.org/



ReguLetter

The October–December 2016 issue of ReguLetter carries an article entitled ‘The India’s Ease of Doing Biz isn’t Just About Permits’ which states that India has been lately focusing on issues relating to ease of doing business. A special article by Rotimi Fawole opines that the history was made in Nigeria as Competition Law principles were rewritten in the telecommunications sector. The Nigerian Communications Commission directed the Mobile Network Operators to review their data charges based on a new price floor, for a variety of reasons, including giving new market entrants a chance to compete and gain market share.

Another special article by Pradeep S Meta states that control over the global food value chain is getting consolidated in fewer private hands, posing serious security concerns.

This newsletter can be accessed at: www.cuts-ccier.org/reguletter.htm

Impact of Various Tax Related Investment Measures on the Zambian Economy: *Special Focus on the Agriculture Sector*

In the 21st century great strides have been made in social and economic development in many countries translating some poor countries like Zambia to middle income levels. Notwithstanding these notable changes in the country’s economy, investment promotion remains relevant in Zambia as well as in other developing economies as local investment capacity continues to be outpaced by demand for goods and services in both local and international markets. It is against this background that this study seeks to look at the impact of various tax-related investment measures in the economy with special focus on the agriculture sector.

Our Twitter Handle (@cutsafrica)



- @cutsafrica December 26: #Lagos facing #Water & Sanitation Crisis similar 2 India. Can we learn 4m each other? <http://www.africaupdates.com/News/News.aspx?NewsId=6916>
- @cutsafrica December 26: The WTO’s role in fisheries subsidies and its implications for Africa <http://www.ictsd.org/node/98806>
- @cutsafrica December 09: Ghana elects new President: Opposition leader Akufo-Addo <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-38270956?SThisFB>
- @cutsafrica December 04: Ghana marks World Competition Day <http://allafrica.com/stories/201612050287.html>
- @cutsafrica November 04: Despite gaps #DigitalTransformation is fast n changing d continent <http://www.econotimes.com/Mobile-phone-continent-how-the-African-digital-economy-is-weaving-its-web-in-2G-398812>
- @cutsafrica November 08: #IRU study how #TIR can reduce #tradedcosts in #Africa <https://www.iru.org/resources/newsroom/new-iru-study-shows-how-tir-can-radically-reduce-trade-costs-africa>
- @cutsafrica October 08: #NTBs are still hindering Common Market Protocols in #EAC <http://allafrica.com/stories/201610310251.html>

Sources

B&FT: Business and Financial Times, CD: Citizen Digital, DG: Daily Graphic, DN: Daily Nation, GNA: Ghana News Agency, LT: The Lusaka Times, RT: Rwanda Today, SD: The Standard Digital, TEA: The East African, TG: The Guardian, TGT: The Ghanaian Times, TS: The Standard, ZNBC: Zambia National Broadcasting Corporation

Tradequity newsletter: Composed by **CUTS International Lusaka**, 6211, Bukavu Road, Thorn Park, Lusaka, Zambia, Ph: +260.211.294892, Fax: +260.211.294892, E-mail: lusaka@cuts.org, **CUTS Nairobi**, Yaya Court 2nd Floor, No.5, Ring Road Kilimani off Argwings Kodhek Road, PO Box 8188, 00200, Nairobi, Kenya, Ph: +254.20.3862149, 3862150, 20.2329112, Fax: +254.20.3862149, Email: nairobi@cuts.org, and **CUTS Accra**, 30, Ground Floor, Oroko Avenue, Near Central View Hotel & ATTC, Kokomlemle, Accra, Ghana, Ph: +233.30.224.5652, Email: accra@cuts.org. Published by **CUTS International**, Head Office: D-217, Bhaskar Marg, Bani Park, Jaipur 302016, India, Ph: 91.141.2282821, Fax: 91.141.2282485, E-mail: cuts@cuts.org, Web Site: www.cuts-international.org

