

Angola: Aluminium factory in Bengo

Angolan company Sino Ord Park Industrial and Chinese company O.T. International have signed an agreement to provide an investment of 200 million for the construction of an aluminium factory in the northern province of Bengo. The agreement was signed at the 3rd China/Africa Economic Forum in Huan.

Kenya: Reinstate logging ban

Reacting to the news that President Ruto has lifted the six year old ban on logging, Tracy Makheti, Community Manager of Greenpeace Africa said: "Greenpeace Africa is alarmed by these developments. During the Mashujaa Day celebrations last year, President Ruto pledged to increase forest cover to 30% by 2032.... now 8 months later the President has revised his own words

Tanzanians in the Diaspora

The Director of Diaspora Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, James Bwana, has urged Tanzanians living abroad (Diaspora) to identify investment projects being undertaken by the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and see how they can contribute. "I urge all "Diaspora" to invest in various NSSF projects including houses in Toangoma, Kijichi and Dungu in Dar es Salaam as well as land which are being sold at a low price." According to government figures, 1.5 million Tanzanians live in the diaspora and sent home \$1.1 billion last year. Tanzania will complete the process of introducing special status for its citizens living in the diaspora by the end of 2023.

Lawsuits against TotalEnergies over oil projects

At least 26 Ugandans have filed a lawsuit in Paris against the French oil company TotalEnergies, seeking compensation for alleged human rights abuses at the company's huge mega-projects in Uganda. The lawsuit in the Paris court focuses on two huge TotalEnergies projects: the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP), a 1,500 km pipeline that will bring crude oil to the Tanzanian coast through a series of protected areas, and the Tilenga exploration, with 419 oil wells, a third of which are located in Uganda's largest national park, Murchison Falls. In violation of their property rights, those affected by the work were denied free access to their land for three to four years. The two TotalEnergies projects reportedly resulted in the full or partial expropriation of land belonging to more than 118,000 people. While more than 30 financial institutions around the world have officially announced that they will not support the project, the #StopEACOP campaign continues to target donors and potential financiers.

Tanzania: Nightly bus ban lifted

The government has officially allowed 24-hour operation of passenger buses in the interior of the country. This announcement lifts the ban imposed in the 1990s, which was a response to the increasing number of road accidents and bus hijackings. Prime Minister Majaliwa pointed out that progress in infrastructure and safety measures have contributed to the re-evaluation of the night driving ban. The lifting of this decades-old ban is expected to have a significant impact on the country's transport sector, with potential benefits in terms of

economic growth and improved travel options for passengers.

AU part of the G20?

The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union, including the world's most populous states and largest economies. From Africa, only South Africa is a member so far. Most major world powers have agreed to support Africa's bid for G20 membership. With the full implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, which integrates the 55 African economies into a common market, the AU could become the world's eighth largest economic bloc. According to the Institute for Security Studies, joining the G20 would be a political, cultural and technical challenge for the AU, "The AU would have to adopt working methods that allow or force its members to recognise the positions they agree on at summits".

Nigeria: Chinese military ships visit Lagos

The arrival of the Chinese fleet, a destroyer and 2 other ships, comes 6 months after the opening of the new multi-billion dollar deep sea port in Lagos. The port was built by China and it has a majority stake in the company that operates the facility. Nigeria is a major oil supplier to China. Last year, US defence officials expressed concern that America's national security could be threatened if China established a military base on the West African coast. In 2017, China opened its first overseas naval base in Djibouti on the East African coast.

Botswana: Last minute agreement

The government and Anglo-American, the majority owner of De Beers, have reached an "agreement in principle". This provides for a new 10-year contract for the sale of rough diamonds produced by *Debswana* and a 25-year extension of the mining rights. President Mokgweetsi Masisi had threatened to sever relations with the company if the latest talks proved unfavourable to his country. In 2011, De Beers received 90 % of the rough diamonds mined, while Botswana was allowed to sell 10 % itself. In 2020, Botswana's share was to rise to 25 %. By 2022, De Beers was sourcing about 70 % of its rough diamonds from Botswana.

Namibia: Seaweed cultivation - carbon storage

Off the rugged coast of Luderitz, the Dutch start-up *Kelp Blue* is launching a pilot project. It grows giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) to absorb carbon dioxide. The company hopes to harvest 150 tonnes of giant kelp per hectare annually by regularly harvesting the upper part of the kelp; this will be used to make products ranging from cosmetics to biodegradable food packaging to biostimulants to increase crop yields and drought resistance. Giant kelp is the largest of the brown seaweed species. The Benguela Current, which flows off the coast of Luderitz, provides ideal conditions for its cultivation. So far, Kelp Blue has planted two forests off the coast of Luderitz, and since December has also established an experimental kelp forest in Shearwater Bay.

More Info: <https://netzwerkafrika.de/>

UN resolution - Minusma ends.

Ruanda: Deportation Plan gestoppt