NEWSLETTER

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Free zones AFRICA

AFRICA FREE ZONES

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www.africafreezones.com
Based in Tangier Morocco

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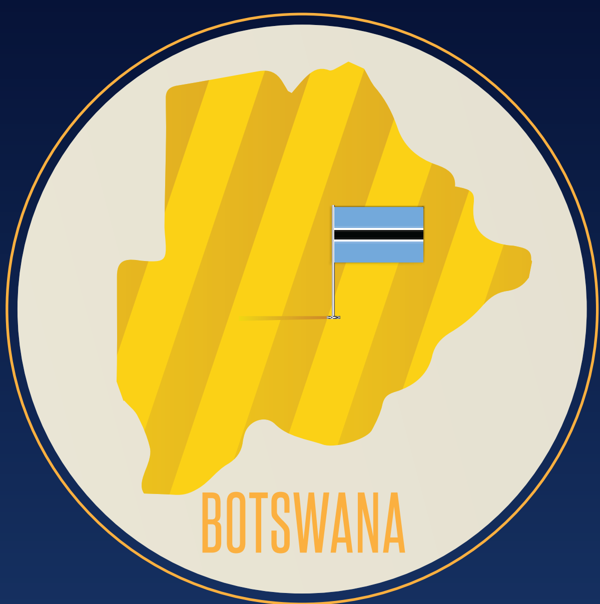
DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT IN AFRICA FREE ZONES

Kenya is one of the largest and fastest growing economies in East and Central Africa, making it an attractive hub for FDI, specifically in the areas of agriculture, manufacturing and mining. John Miles, managing director of JMiles & Co in Nairobi, considers construction to be the most popular industry for Chinese investment in Kenya in both the private and public sectors. Chinese businesses have invested heavily in construction, the upgrading of the country's transportation network, property development and industrial parks. Miles adds that investment opportunities in trade, agriculture and energy are also gaining popularity. The Kenyan Government signed a US$3.6 billion contract with the China Road and Bridge Corporation for the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway line. This infrastructure project has probably been the largest of the Belt and Road initiative in the region. The railway line, functional in June 2017, has reportedly created more than 27,000 jobs. Kenya has also been upgrading its port in Mombasa and investing in its roads, which is expected to help increase economic productivity.

Source: www.agremine.com

Botswana is in the process of overhauling its immigration system and relaxing visa requirements as part of the new administration's efforts to attract Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). In the last report by the World Bank in 2017, Botswana's ranking in the ease of doing business position declined from 21 to 81 out of 190 countries – "a great concern and we need to redouble our efforts to attract and make it easier for companies to set up in Botswana", President Mokgweetsi Masisi said.

Source: www.apanews.net



INVESTMENTS IN AFRICAN FREE ZONES

According to UNCTAD, Mauritius is one of the most attractive SIDs for Foreign Direct Investment due to its fiscal advantages regarding foreign capital. Countries that are rich in mineral resources and with a relatively bigger market size are also attractive for FDI. SIDs that combine small size to remoteness, small population, low income, and lack of natural resources will however discourage FDI, whose flows are directed almost totally to the services sector, with activities such as finance, hotels and restaurants, construction and business experiencing soaring investments. Using information on greenfield FDI projects announced by foreign investors in the SIDS, UNCTAD discovered that Seychelles was one of the favourite destinations of investors interested in hotels and restaurants, the other being the Maldives in Asia. Hotels and restaurants gulped 12 % of total greenfield FDI projects announced by foreign investors.

Source: www.venturesafrica.com

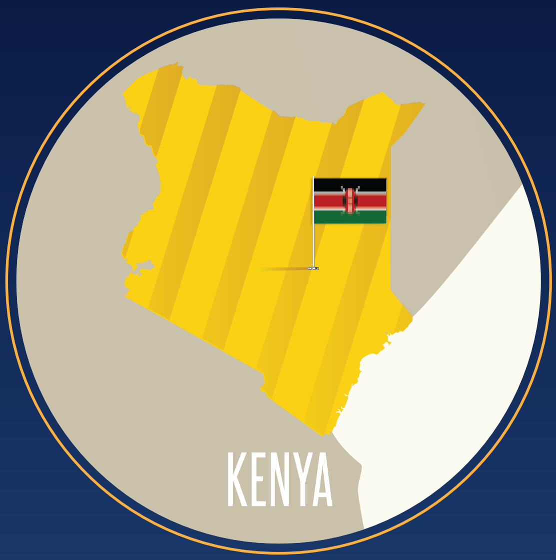
The Uganda Free Zones Authority (UFZA) has issued a Developers' License to China- Africa International Industrial Co-operation Company Limited within Sukulu Industrial Park, Tororo District. The Developer will establish three plants in the Free Zone, namely; a mine dressing plant, phosphate fertilizer plant and one steel plant. Additionally, the Free Zone will house Operators who plan to establish one glass plant, one brick plant and a cement superfine slag powder plant. The various companies are indicated to increase the Country's GDP which is currently at 21% by investing up to a tune of over one billion dollars (US$ 1.2b) and will create over Seven thousand (7,000) direct and indirect jobs by the year 2024.

Source: www.busiweek.com

Ghana recorded an unprecedented 1,775.11 % increase in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows for the last quarter of 2017 over that of 2016. According to the Ghana Investment Promotion Center, the nation bagged US$3.o4 billion in registered FDIs in the first three months of 2017, as against US$157.57 million during the same period last year. Joint ventures between Ghanaians and foreign partners valued at US$2.500 billion which is 82.25 % of the total estimated value of projects registered. The total jobs expected to be created by the recorded investments are 2,551.

Source: www.ghanaweb.com

INVESTMENTS
IN AFRICAN FREE ZONES



Mars Inc., a US confectionery giant, plans to pump KSh7 billion ($69.3 million) into the construction of a chewing-gum production factory in Kenya. The is announced by CEO Victoria Mars, following a meeting with Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta. The facility, which will be implanted over 8 ha in Athi River, is set to produce about 7.8 billion chewing-gum per year. It will be managed by Wrigley East Africa, a subsidiary of Mars' branch (acquired in 2008 for $23 billion). Through this new investment, Wrigley East Africa, which already held 87% of Kenyan chewing-gum market will further its presence in the country and expand within the region. Let's note that this entity also operates in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Ethiopia and South Sudan. Wrigley was created in 1891 in Chicago. It implanted the first factory in Kenya in 1972 and now holds many flagship brands such as Doublemint, Orbit, Freedent, and Airwaves.

Source : www.ecofinagency.com

Ethiopia will be part of the group of investors who will operate the port of Djibouti, according to an agreement reached between both countries, confirmed the national media. "With that operation, this mediterranean nation of the Horn of Africa guarantees considerable benefits in trade and exports", underlines The Ethiopian Herald. Djibouti looked around for investors for its port, since it ended the concession of state property given to Dubai World two months ago, due to failure to solve a six-year contract dispute. The port is also a key resource for the small state, whose location on the Red Sea has a strategic value for countries such as the United States, China, Japan and the former colonial power of France, all of which have military bases there. Djibouti handles approximately 95 percent of all the entering trade for this nation, the second most populated of the continent and an economic power in Eastern Africa. This agreement follows another that allowed to buy a participation of 19 percent in the port of Berbera, in the Somali separatist region of Somaliland. DP World retains a 51 percent participation, while the government has the rest.

Source : www.ecofinagency.com