

Disclaimer of liability: The purpose of this newsletter is to forward information our office collects from different sources. It's a private and internal document sent to selected Belgian companies only. This document cannot be re-disseminated, published, recopied, quoted or go public. Neither the Embassy of Belgium, nor the Belgian Trade Agencies nor the office based in Nairobi, nor any of their employees, nor any company or person mentioned on the following pages, makes any warranty, express or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, or assumes any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process disclosed, or represents that its use would not infringe privately owned rights.

March 2018 Issue No 77

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Annual **Oil & Gas Convention** to be held in Kampala (Serena Hotel) on 25/26 April 2018
- 5th exhibition of **Printing, Packaging and Signage machinery** from 5-8 June 2018 in KICC Nairobi
- **Energy** conference www.future-energy-eastafrika.com 12/13 September 2018 in Nairobi

WHAT ARE BELGIANS ARE DOING IN AFRICA

Belgian ISPC group of Companies in the Seychelles is setting up a 6 hectare farm to grow fruits (lemons, avocados, passion fruit) & vegetables (tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers on hydroponic tables) with a computerised water treatment and irrigation system.

IN A GLANCE

African Development Bank has signed a **\$700 million** loan with the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for onward lending to countries in Africa (Business Daily)

United Arab Emirates based off-grid solar start-up Paweme has raised **\$2 million** in funding through Gulf based investors to expand its operations in Kenya and the region (Business Daily)

The **Bill and Melinda Gates** foundation has committed **\$170 million** to advance women's economic empowerment in Kenya and eight other African countries (Business Daily)

The board of **the International Finance Corporation** is set to approve a **\$60 million** loan to the Bank of Africa, to boost lending to small businesses in Tanzania and the region (The East Africa)

The African Guarantee Fund for Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises has entered into a re-guarantee transaction of an amount of up to **US\$74mn** with GuarantCo, to increase its guarantee capacity for SME financing. <http://www.africanreview.com/finance/economy/african-smes-set-to-benefit-from-us-74mn-guarantee>

KENYA

Cooperative Bank is set to take a **\$150 million** seven year loan from the International Finance Corporation (IFC) for lending to small firms. (Daily Nation)

French firms are set to invest more than **\$10 billion** in 12 projects covering roads, energy, food security, health and technology sectors in a move expected to create thousands of jobs, government officials have said. (Business Daily)

Telkom Kenya is set to receive a **Sh4.1 billion (\$40 million)** loan from the European Investment Bank to boost infrastructure and mobile money network (Business Daily)

The US government gave six **Metal Shark boats** to the Kenya Navy to help fight terrorism; the six boats are part of the 10 provided through a **Sh500 million** grant from the US Department of Defence. (Business Daily)

Kisumu National Polytechnic has received **Sh 1.5 billion** from the **World Bank** to set up a **textile** technology centre. (The Standard)

Kakamega County has reached out to the World Bank for a **Sh400 million** financing to improve local **urban centres** (Daily Nation).

Global lender **IMF** has approved Kenya's request for an extension by six months of a **Sh150 billion (\$1.5 billion)** standby credit facility that was due to expire this month of March. (Daily Nation)

The Italian Government has committed **€542,000** to support businesses in Kenya. The funds will be disbursed under **the E4Impact Accelerator Programme**, which aims to boost entrepreneurship in the country. <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/business/article/2001270652/italian-government-commits-to-boost-local-businesses>

TANZANIA

Tanzania Electric Supply Company (**Tanesco**) has signed a **\$500 million power purchase** agreement with mining firm Kibo to supply 300mw from its Mbeya plant to the national grid (The East Africa)

UGANDA

Uganda has released **\$2million** to three public relations companies to help market its **tourism sector**.

The European Union has earmarked **15 Million Euros** to Support Uganda's beef sector and finance the development of market oriented and environmentally sustainable **beef industry** in Uganda.

ETHIOPIA

The **World Bank** commits **US \$375m** to support Ethiopia's goal of achieving **universal electricity** access by 2025. <https://constructionreviewonline.com/2018/03/world-bank-sanctions-us-375m-to-support-ethiopias-universal-electricity-goal/>

Japan has provided new assistance package worth **22.8 million US** for Ethiopia through its partnership programmes with various International organizations. <http://allafrica.com/stories/201803130186.html>

RWANDA

The Rwandan government, Mara Corporation Ltd and SB Energy Corp have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop a **30MW solar power** plant with a storage facility. <https://www.esi-africa.com/rwanda-to-develop-30mw-solar-power-plant-with-storage-facility/>

TENDERS

Ethiopian Electric Power (EEP) is interested to select potential and experienced international private developers or consortium to finance, develop, own and operate Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) bases for Birbir stage 1 and 2 cascade 564MW **hydroelectric power project**. <https://www.esi-africa.com/ethiopian-electric-power-invites-bidders-to-operate-bot-project/>