UGANDA: RVR SIGNS MOU WITH EGYPTIAN EXPORT COUNCIL TO BOOST TRADE

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Sierra Leone: Mano River Union Rehabilitation Of Bo–Bandajuma Road Project
Events Diary

March 2016

22-24  4th Power, Steel & Housing Exhibition and Conference (Calabar, Nigeria)
http://www.powerandsteelexpo.com/

24-26  AFRIC Beauty Expo (Dakar, Senegal)
http://africbeautyexpo.com/

April 2016

13-15  Fresh Produce Africa 2016 (Nairobi, Kenya)
http://wwwhppexhibitions.com/horticulture/2016/tpa/

20-21  7th Ghana Summit – Oil, Gas & Power (Accra, Ghana)
http://www.cwoghana.com/

News Briefs

Western Africa

BURKINA FASO
- Endeavour Mining received US$25.3m from Turkish gold company MNG Gold from the sale of its non-core Youga mine in Ouagadougou.

CAMEROON
- JCM Greenquest Corporation received a grant from the Sustainable Energy Fund for Africa to develop and operate a 72MW solar PV power plant in Mbalmayo.

COTE D’IVOIRE
- Amara Mining expects the post-tax net present value of its 100%-owned Yaoure project to reach US$555m.

MALI
- Alecto Minerals has received confirmation from Randgold Resources that the agreement for the exploration and development of Alecto’s 137km² Kossanto West project have been satisfied.

MOZAMBIQUE
- Tata Chemicals called off a deal on biofuels. The withdrawal follows the sale of a 95% stake in Grown Energy Zambeze Limited, through its subsidiary in Mauritius, to another partner, businessman Rademan Janse van Rensberg for nearly US$6 million.

NIGERIA
- Chinese firm Sinoma International Engineering Company and Bua Group are partnering to construct a steel plant and two cement factories at a cost of US$1.9bn.

Eastern & Southern Africa

KENYA
- A US$144m wind power project backed by a JV between Macquarie Group and Old Mutual Investment Group has been cancelled due to local opposition.
- Kenya Electricity Generating Company confirmed construction of the US$147m 80MW wind farm will go ahead as scheduled despite land disputes that lead to the stalling of other projects in Kenya.

MOZAMBIQUE
- Tata Chemicals called off a deal on biofuels. The withdrawal follows the sale of a 95% stake in Grown Energy Zambeze Limited, through its subsidiary in Mauritius, to another partner, businessman Rademan Janse van Rensberg for nearly US$6 million.

SOUTH AFRICA
- South Africa is expected to harvest 1.63 million tonnes of sugar in the 2015/2016 season, the lowest since 1995 and down 22% on the previous period as a severe drought hits production.
- South Africa has begun the construction of what will be the largest data centre in Africa. The construction work is being spearheaded by Teraco.

SOUTH SUDAN
- Angola, as an elected member of the UN Security Council, has proposed an arms embargo on South Sudan.
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<td>Tanzania [Dar Es salaam] - Great Lakes</td>
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## Western Africa

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Corridor</th>
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| 1  ● Senegal-Mali         | The Dakar-Bamako corridor is now only available by road. Both our rail and road corridor options for Dakar-Bamako have been closed due to a change in the governance of the railway that has affected services.  
In other news we are only able to accept cargo for Southern Mali destinations. For safety reasons traffic to Northern Mali [Kignan, Ségou, Mopti, Savaré, Gao, Kidial, Menaka, Ansongou, Tessalit, and Timbuktu] via Dakar are temporarily suspended. |
| 2  ● Senegal-Guinea Bissau | The corridor is open and running smoothly.                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3  ● Cote d’Ivoire-Burkina/Mali | The Burkina Faso service is running well by both rail and road to all destinations.  
Please note from 15th March a Terminal Handling Charge [THC] is applicable in Abidjan Port. Our Q2 intermodal tariffs do not include this DTHC payable by Shipper or Consignee.  
The rail service from Abidjan is running well offering excellent transit times and no congestion. We also recommend the road option.  
Furthermore the Group has launched a new reefer service from Abidjan. |
| 4  ● Ghana-Burkina        | The Tema-Ouagadougou corridor is open with business as usual following the recent Burkina Faso attacks. We offer the most competitive rates with excellent transit time from Asia using our AFEX service. Our expert TBL team is in place for all your booking requests. |
| 5  ● Togo-Burkina/Niger   | We are pleased to continue to offer a reliable service to Burkina Faso following the recent Burkina Faso attacks.  
Generally the service is running well. Thanks to good volumes and on-going negotiations with suppliers we have decreased our Ouagadougou rates from Lome. We can also offer excellent solutions from Asia on our AFEX service. Please note that the port of Lome is strict on enforcing weight regulations for trucks. |
| 6  ● Benin-Niger          | Service is operating very well for Niger CTBL.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 7  ● Cameroon-Chad        | We offer both road and rail services to Chad which are running well. The train operator, CAMRAIL, offers a good service.                                                                                         |
| 8  ● Cameroon-CAR         | Douala-Bangui is open on a case by case basis with agreement from our local Douala Agency. Political security is not 100% on this corridor. Please note all TBL to Bangui will be subject to Consignee signing LOI locally. |
| 9  ● Gabon Corridor       | From Libreville, we serve domestic destinations by road to Franceville, Lambarene, Mouila, Bitam, Moanda, Miticnd Makokou.                                                                                         |
| 10 ● Congo Corridor       | Pointe Noire-Brazzaville corridor is REOPENED. We offer an inland service from Pointe Noire to Dolisie, Brazzaville, Oyo and Ouesso.                                                                            |
| 11 ● DRC Corridor         | Matadi-Kinshasa service is running smoothly. New competitive rates are available.                                                                                                                                |
| 12 ● Angola Corridor      | We have opened new landlocked destinations via the 4-main national ports of Luanda, Lobito, Cabinda and Namibe. We now offer the cities of Malange, Bela Vista, Catumbela, Benguela, Bahia Farta, Huambo, Lubango, Malongo, Malembo, Yema, Subantando, Bucu Zau, Belize, Ncuto and Lubango. All destinations are served by road on a 1-2 day transit time. |
We have added a number of new intermodal service brochures to our website covering our Through Bill of Lading [TBL] offer. These are available under the main menu; ‘Products & Services’ then ‘Inland Solutions’ / ‘Africa’ or direct at https://www.cma-cgm.com/products-services/multimodal-solutions/africa. Here you will find seventeen up-to-date country flyers highlighting the destinations served, our service strengths and contacts details for rate requests and bookings.
The first ever African Rail Evolution conference will be taking place on the 12-13 April 2016. This event will focus on rail infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation projects and future investments in such projects. Some 60% of investment in the African rail sector will go into rehabilitation and maintenance. This conference identifies the key players and the key projects in the rail sector. This will bring participants from across Africa together to share ideas and strategies. Key presenters from Africa will be delivering insight into the developments in the sector.

For more detail about this event view www.rail-evolution.com
DRC

Boost for Regional Trade Flow As DRC Joins COMESA FTA

The flow of goods on the Mombasa-Malaba corridor is set to ease further after the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) joined the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Free Trade Area (FTA), signalling intention to eliminate time-consuming customs procedures. DRC is committed to a phased tariff reduction scheme, starting with an instant tariff reduction of 40% which would be followed by two equal cuts of 30%.

Kenyan traders rely on the Mombasa-Malaba road (Northern Corridor) to move produce to their key markets in the region. Landlocked states such as Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and South Sudan also rely on the highway to receive import orders via Mombasa Port. Kenya has previously reduced administrative barriers on the Northern Corridor in part of efforts to speed up cargo flow to landlocked markets.

Under FTA, a designated group of countries agrees to eliminate tariffs, quotas and preferences on most (if not all) goods. Kenya is among countries seeking to reap from the COMESA FTA model with the planned construction of a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Mombasa’s Dongo Kundu area.

[East African 24/02/16]
WBCG Welcomes Project Cargo Increase

The Walvis Bay Corridor Group (WBCG) has reported an increase in abnormal loads and project cargo shipments via the port of Walvis Bay.

The increase comes in response to upgrades at the port as part of a strategic initiative to spur growth. In the last year, authorities have invested in a number of mobile cranes to support breakbulk and project cargo and Namibian imports have been particularly strong with growth in shipments of vehicles, boilers, machinery and other equipment. As mineral shipments through the port at Walvis Bay from DRC and Zambia increases, this port is likely to become an important node for southern Africa.

WBCG is responsible for developing a number of integrated road and rail networks in the region. These include multimodal routes that provide access to transatlantic markets for a number of landlocked Southern African Development Community, or SADC, countries. Routes connecting the Port of Walvis Bay to inland SADC countries include the Trans-Kalahari, Trans-Caprivi, Trans-Cunene and Trans-Oranje corridors.

[Namibian 29/02/16]

CORRIDORS

Trans Caprivi
Provides the shortest route between the Namibian west coast ports of Lüderitz and Walvis Bay and the vital transport hubs of Livingstone, Lusaka and Ndola in Zambia and Lubumbashi in the southern DRC, as well as Zimbabwe.

Trans Kalahari
Links the Port of Walvis Bay to Botswana’s capital, Gaborone, and the heartland of South Africa’s industrial capital, Gauteng. The Trans Kalahari Corridor is perfectly positioned to service the two-way trade between South Africa, Botswana, Europe, the Americas and the Far East.

Trans Cunene
Links the Port of Walvis Bay to the southern region of Angola via Tsumeb and Ondangwa to Oshikango in Namibia and the Santa Clara border post in Angola. The Trans Cunene Corridor is perfectly positioned to service the 2-way trade between Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Far East.

Trans Oranje
This corridor links up with the southern Port of Lüderitz in Namibia and its entire length of tarred road network is supported by rail. Its road and rail network is perfectly positioned to service the 2-way trade between Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Europe, the Americas and the Far East.
South Sudan

Political Unrest Hurts Mombasa Transit Trade

The volume of South Sudan’s cargo through Mombasa port dropped 7.7% in 2015 compared to 2014, hurt by unresolved civil unrest. About 702,531T destined for South Sudan passed through Mombasa, Kenya Ports Authority’s statistics showed. However the country remained the second biggest user of the port with an 11% share. Uganda increased its share in transit cargo 8.2% year-on-year, rising to 5.9 million tonnes from 5.5 million tonnes in 2014. It remained a dominant user of the port with 78% of transit cargo. According to KPA total traffic analysis for 2015, DR Congo was third biggest destination for transit cargo with a 6% share. It is however Rwanda that made the biggest growth of 23.7% to record 291,924T in 2015 up from 235,912T in 2014. Other players were Tanzania 3% and Burundi 1.1%.

Total transit traffic at the port, which feeds the Northern corridor, increased by 8.2% from 7.2 million tonnes in 2014 to 7.7 million tonnes in 2015. Major imports by EAC countries include motor vehicles, containerised goods, clinker, steel products and machinery, with Uganda posting a significant increase in oil-related equipment last year.

This comes as the Mombasa port continues to reap from its expansion projects which helped increase total throughput by 7.5% to 26.7 million tonnes from 24.9 million tonnes in 2014. Imports recorded a total of 22.7 million tonnes against 20.7 million tonnes in 2014, an increase of 9.2%. Exports were 3.5 million tonnes up from 3.7 million tonnes. Transhipment traffic, however, declined 28.4% from 731,912 tonnes to 523,993 tonnes.

The port built on its 1-million container record it set in 2014, handling a total 1,076,118 TEUs up from 1,012,002 TEUs, a 6.3% growth. Although performance falls short of the ports target of 1.1 million TEUs for last year by a small margin, figures show that the port traffic is growing at a fast rate. Ship turnaround time for 2015 remained at 3.5 days while container dwell time went slightly up from 3.9 days to 4.8 days.

[Uganda

RVR Signs MOU With Egyptian Export Council To Boost Trade

Rift Valley Railways [RVR] has signed a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] with the Egyptian Export Council to attract exports through Mombasa port, Kenya and Uganda. The MoU was signed in Cairo, Egypt by Qalaa Holdings, the parent company of RVR. The move will make RVR the official inland transportation carrier for Egyptian exporters of chemicals and fertilisers and also promote its services both locally and internationally.
Burundi/Rwanda

RN5 Road Up For Rehabilitation

The Burundi Government has received funding from the African Development Bank (AfDB) for the Nyamitanga-Ruhwa-Ntendezi-Mwityazo section of the RN5 trunk-road.

Malawi

Blantyre Road Construction To Begin

Blantyre City Council has received US$1.6 million dollars from government for the upgrade of 3 roads: Chilomoni Ring Road [Fargo Engineering Limited], Angelo Goveya to Manje [Hema Construction] and Living Waters to Zion in Chimwankhunda [Eistern Construction]. Further roads works will start once funds are disbursed on the Mugabe Highway to Mpingwe, Chimseu to Magalasi and Landrover Chilimba to Level crossing in Magalasi. Government has allocated US$2.5 million to Blantyre and Lilongwe City Councils, US$1.4 million to Zomba City Councils and US$2 million to Mzuzu respectively to ensure better roads.

Upgraded Masauko Chipembere Highway Opens

President Peter Mutharika, officially opened the upgraded Masauko Chipembere Highway from Yianakis roundabout to Illovo roundabout in Limbe. The K12 billion project was funded by the Japanese government through Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Contractors were World Kihatsu Kogyo Company Limited, Nippo Corporation and Shimizu Corporation. Mutharika also announced future bypasses in Blantyre to decongest traffic. For instance, a bypass from Chigumula Trading Centre to Mapanga, via Bangwe and Mzedi, from Chigumula to Mpemba Trading Centre via Soche Quarry, from Mpemba to Chilomoni via Pensulo and Chigwaja Townships and another bypass from Chileka Airport to Ngumbe via Arme Secondary School, to M1 Road.
South Africa

Cape Town Wants To Tackle Truck Congestion While Serving The Economy

A plan that promotes night-time trucking, sensors to prevent road damage from overloaded vehicles and air pollution control is open for public comment in the City of Cape Town.

This comes after a commitment announced by the city in mid-December to spend R750 million over 5-years for road infrastructure projects to alleviate major pressure points across Cape Town – the most congested city in South Africa.

The new draft Freight Management Strategy aims to improve the efficiency and future growth of road-based transport of cargo, including to and from the port as well as the airport.

The Port of Cape Town, the major generator of freight, has expansion plans to roughly triple its current container handling services in the next 20 years, which requires the city to address its capacity to accommodate this future growth.

Much of the freight moving to and from Cape Town is transported along the N1, N2 and N7 and currently up to 20% of the vehicles on the N1 are heavy vehicles. The draft strategy proposes certain interventions to reduce the impact of road-based freight on our urban environment. The proposed strategy is looking at:

- Measures for safer transportation of dangerous goods such as fuels, industrial gases, agricultural chemicals and refrigerants
- Using weigh-in-motion devices that are designed to capture and record heavy vehicle axle weights and gross vehicle weights as they drive over a sensor
- Dedicated freight routes and promoting off-peak or night-time deliveries and operations to alleviate congestion
- Potential benefits of consolidated and relocated distribution centres and warehousing
- Setting emissions standards and penalties for non-compliance for various categories of freight and establish a testing regime to check and enforce compliance.

US$30 Million N1 Upgrade Kicks Off In Cape Town

The Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works has started work on Phase 1 of a US$30 million [R487-million] upgrade to the N1 freeway around Cape Town. The main contractor is Martin & East. The 3-year project, which started on February 4, is expected to be completed in February 2019.

The project will include the addition of an extra lane to parts of the freeway that previously had 2-lanes, in an effort to decrease congestion. Work will be carried out over the 9 km stretch of the N1, from Plattekloof road to just beyond the Old Oak interchange. This stretch of the N1 experiences severe congestion during morning and afternoon peak periods, with around 120,000 vehicles carried each day.
Tanzania

Road Board Allocates US$157 Million For Road Projects

Tanzania’s Dar es Salaam Regional Road Board has set aside US$157 million for road construction and maintenance projects for the 2016/17 fiscal year. In the next financial year the Dar es Salaam Metropolitan Development Programme [DMDP] will be implemented intended to improve infrastructure to curb traffic. The project comprises of 4-components to include improvements and constructions of priority roads, upgrading in low-income communities, institutional strengthening, capacity building, and urban analytics.

[Construction Review 07/03/16]

Uganda

Malaba Bridge To Ease Mombasa Port Traffic

Construction continues on the US$46 million dual carriage bridge linking Uganda to Kenya at the Malaba border post. Construction will ease the flow of exports and imports between the Kenyan seaport of Mombasa and hinterland eastern Africa. The dual-carriage bridge will replace the current single carriage bridge linking the 2- countries. The European Union [EU] is funding the construction.

[Coastweek 25/02/16]

Civil Works For Road Rehabilitation

The Government of Uganda is to procure civil works for the rehabilitation of the Fort Portal-Hoima road [55km] and the Ishaka-Katunguru road [58km]. Bid documents have been released with a deadline od 24th March. The contract is expected to be awarded in May 2016.

[UKTI 22/02/16]

Feasibility Study For US$1.5 Million Kampala-Busunju Expressway

The government of Uganda under the national roads development and maintenance programme is seeking consultancy services for a feasibility study and engineering design for the 55km Kampala- Busunju expressway. The expression of interest deadline was 29th February.

[UKTI 22/02/16]
NRFA To Install 7-New Toll Gates

The National Road Fund Agency [NRFA] will install 7-new toll gates at selected gazetted toll points across the core road networks by June 2016. The facilities will be in addition to the 2-commissioned toll sites at Manyumbi, between Kabwe and Kapiri Mposhi, and Kafulafuta, between Kapiri Mposhi and Ndola, which have been in operation since January 15 2016.

The new sites are: 1) Chongwe, between Chongwe and Rufunsa, 2) Choma, 20km from Choma town, 3) Mumbwa, between Mwembeshi and Mumbwa, 4) Levy Mwanawasa Bridge in Chembe, Mansa, 5) Dag Hammarskjold on the Ndola-Kitwe dual carriageway, 6) Solwezi-Mutanda Road, 7) Kasama-Mbala Road

Lungu Flags Off US$105 Million Mwinilunga-Jimbe Road Project

President Lungu presided over a ground-breaking ceremony marking the start of the Mwinilunga -Jimbe road project upgrade. The 100-km road, to be implemented by Freca Limited at a cost of US$105 million, will impact positively on agriculture, tourism, mining and other economic sectors. The road links Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC].

Ndola Set For 108KM Road Upgrade

Ndola City Council [NCC] has awarded Poly Technologies a contract to upgrade 90 township roads covering 108-km. 62 will be worked on under the Copperbelt 400 [C-400] project while 42 will be covered under the Ministry of Local Government and Housing. Preliminary soil survey works are being conducted in anticipation of physical ground works expected to commence after the rainy season. The roads include the road linking Pamodzi Township to the Minsundu farming area, Chifubu Township to Mitengo Township while Kwacha road will be expanded. Others are Dambo, James Phiri, Nkandabwe, Nyati and Katondo roads.
Zimbabwe

Private Players To Dualise Trunk Roads

The government will issue tenders for the dualisation of trunk roads to include the Beitbridge-Victoria Falls road. Given the limited fiscal constraints tendering the projects is the only viable option. Other roads include the Beitbridge-Harare-Chirundu Road and the Harare-Nyamapanda Road.
Regional

Beira Rail Corridor Marketing Campaign

Zambia Railways Limited [ZRL] National Railways of Zimbabwe [NRZ] and CFM of Mozambique have embarked on a joint marketing programme to promote the Beira corridor of Mozambique via customer interactions in Zambia. Beira handles bulk fertiliser imports for Zambia and the aim is to ensure most of these come by rail.

[Daily Mail 21/02/16]

Ministers Agree On Central Railway

During a meeting of the Transport Ministers from the 5-countries forming the Central Corridor agreed to meet every 3-months. Ministers from Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo [DRC] and host Tanzania will chart shared tasks as they seek to improve the central line. Through the Central Corridor Transit Transport Facilitation Agency [TTFA] all stakeholders have in principle agreed to speed up the agenda.

While each country needs to raise funds to facilitate the interconnection to the railway line, Tanzania has already come into a real financial burden it needs to carry on its shoulder since it hosts more than 90% of the project. More than US$7.6 billion will be needed to fund the construction of the line to the standard gauge which could be raised with help from the Private sector through the Public Private Partnership [PPP] arrangement. Of late, the four landlocked countries have seen a sharp increase of their cargo shipped at the Dar es Salaam Port.

[Daily News 17/02/16]
Kenya

SGR Might Take Up 50% Of Mombasa Port Cargo

Kenya Railways [KR] has allayed fears that the Standard Gauge Railway [SGR] will push truck owners out of business. There has been talk of 80% of cargo from the Port of Mombasa will be reserved for the SGR so that the project remains viable however Kenya Railways Managing Director, Atanas Maina, said the highest cargo preference the parastatal could enjoy was 50%.

In 2015 24 million tonnes of cargo passed through the port which is projected to reach 26 million tonnes this year increasing to over 30 million tonnes in 2025. If the SGR takes about 50%, there will still be business for local transporters. Construction is 65% complete with works expected to be complete by June 2017 as agreed. Once finished, the SGR will connect Mombasa to Malaba at the Kenya/Uganda border and onwards to Kigali, Rwanda.

[Daily Nation 15/02/16]

Reclaimed Land For Port Reitz SGR Cargo Terminal

Construction of a container terminal for the Standard Gauge Railway [SGR] is being constructed at Port Reitz in Mombasa on land reclaimed from the Indian Ocean. The terminal, whose model is similar to that of Rotterdam’s Eurosport constructed on land reclaimed from the sea, is situated close to the newly-opened Berth 19 at the Mombasa Port to facilitate movement of cargo to the new railway line. The terminal is being built on reclaimed land for lack of sufficient space. It is also near the Dongo Kundu bypass that connects Mombasa Island to the mainland and the proposed Dongo Kungu port, and also links Mombasa to the South Coast and Tanzania.

China Road and Bridge Company [CRBC] was permitted to harvest 800,000 tonnes of sand for reclamation of around 300m2. The sand is harvested from Tiwi and Diani beaches in Kwale county and as well as from Kilifi beaches. SGR container terminal is projected to handle more than 50%, or 22 million tonnes, of cargo handled at the Mombasa Port each year, 90% of which is currently transported by road.

[Mediamax 07/03/16]

Mozambique

Corredor De Desenvolvimento Do Norte Adds Wagons

The Corredor De Desenvolvimento Do Norte [CDN], comprising Mozambique’s northern rail network, Malawi’s rail system, and the Port of Nacala, has signed a 5-year, ZAR 120 million [US$7.7 million] deal to lease 100 grain wagons from GPR Leasing, a Joint Venture [JV] between South African logistics firm Grindrod, and the Pembani Remgro Infrastructure Fund [PRIF]. The deal is underwritten by CDN’s existing deal to transport grain for the Malawian arm of Bakhresa Milling Group, which provides grain and flour across east and southern Africa. Bakhresa Malawi owns a grain terminal in Nacala and a milling and packing facility in Malawi. The wagons will be manufactured by and purchased from Galison Manufacturing from Welkom in South Africa.

[ZITAMAR News 03/03/16]
Namibia

Namport Upgrades Rail Infrastructure

The Namibian Ports Authority [Namport] recently upgraded its railway infrastructure in Walvis Bay port for the first time since it was established in 1994 at a cost of N$20 million. The tracks that were rehabilitated include the main feeder line into the port as well as the line feeding the existing container terminal and the 2-staging lines in the container terminal, totalling 4.5km. Works included complete track and sleeper replacement and re-ballasting. Subsequent phases of the project will see other sections being rehabilitated.
South Africa

Transnet Explores Options For Branch Lines

State-owned freight and logistics company Transnet is applying different models to test private-sector participation on branch lines. The company is speaking to various government departments to enhance the strategy and models. Transnet has long mooted the idea of bringing in the private sector to operate its branch lines under concessions. Last year, it made the first call for proposals for one of its branch lines linking Kimberley and De Aar in the Northern Cape. About 20 branch lines have been identified for participation.

These projects include the Blue Train, for which it has a private-sector marketing partnership with Sun International; the manganese common-user loading facility in the Northern Cape; the Grootvlei loading facility in Mpumalanga; and the Tambo Springs inland container terminal to be built in Gauteng. Also included is a container terminal at the Durban Dig-Out Port — construction of the multi-billion-rand port is yet to begin.

[BD Live 08/03/16]

Zimbabwe

National Railways Of Zimbabwe Gets New Chairman

Larry Mavhima has been appointed the new chairman of National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) effective March 1st for 3-years. Worker unrest, defunct rail equipment and obsolete machinery, among other things, are some of the many challenges as well as the resuscitation of the US$500 million loan talks with the Development Bank of Southern Africa for the cash-strapped parastatal’s retooling.

[Zimbabwe Daily 10/03/16]
Botswana/Zimbabwe

4th Border Post To Open In May

According to The Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Mlambapeli Border Post in Gwanda South is expected to open on May 1st. The crossing is the 4th between Botswana and Zimbabwe and is aimed at decongesting Plumtree Border Post. Botswana finished constructing structures in 2008 and has been waiting for Zimbabwe to do the same. At present the Zimbabwean side has no structures in place but the government has indicated that it will put up structures before the border opens in 2-months’ time. Currently Plumtree, Maitengwe and Mphoengs border posts are operational.

Ethiopia/Kenya

Border Post To Boost Trade

Construction of the Sh843 million Moyale One-Stop Border Post [OSBP] will be complete by May this year. The project, overseen by Kenya National Highways Authority and consultants Amal Consortium, is expected to enhance trade between Kenya and Ethiopia. The border post funded by the African Development Bank [AfDB] is a trade facilitation project under the Mombasa-Nairobi-Addis Ababa Road Corridor project. Kenya and Ethiopia signed a bilateral agreement in 2011 to develop the joint corridor and road to enhance cross-border trade. Construction began in February 2015 with 65% of works complete.

The OSBP will complement construction of Isiolo - Moyale Development Corridor which forms part of the strategic transport corridor linking Mombasa Port to Addis Ababa. The 503 km Isiolo-Moyale has been in poor condition since 2008, hampering transport and hence stifling trade between the 2-countries. At the moment 461km of the road is done with the remaining 42km set for completion by September this year. The road is part of the Lamu-Port-South Sudan Ethiopia Transport [LAPSSET] corridor funded by the government and the European Union at a cost of Sh13.7 billion. A recent study by the African Trade Policy Centre [ATPC] indicated that Ethiopia pays heavily for using the Port of Djibouti to import goods.
**Tanzania/Kenya**

**New Holili-Taveta Border Post**

Tanzania and Kenya opened a US$12 million [Ksh1.2 billion] One-Stop Border Posts [OSBP] at Holili and Taveta border to facilitate trade between the 2-countries marking another key milestone in the integration process in the East African region. The facility is intended to reduce by a third the time trucks take to cross the border and will also cut the distance between Mombasa and Bujumbura by 400km. The OSBP is first to be commissioned among the total 15 border facilities under construction across the East African Community bloc and South Sudan.

Official data shows that an average of 60 trucks pass through the Taveta-Holili crossing from northern Tanzania into Kenya, mostly ferrying cereals such as maize, beans, rice. About 5-8 trucks cross the border from Kenya, mostly comprising motor vehicles, clinker and exports destined for Burundi.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional and International Cooperation, Ambassador Augustine Mahiga, and Kenya’s, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Labour and East African Affairs, Phyllis J. Kandie, opened the post set up by TradeMark East [TMEA] with funding from United Kingdom’s DFID, Canada, United Stated Agency for International Development and the and the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The OSBP will boost trade by facilitating faster clearance of cargo, realize significant reduction in transport costs and ensure effective border control mechanisms are put in place.

*[Daily News 29/02/16]*

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**South Africa/Zimbabwe**

**Zimra Introduces Hand Scanners At Beitbridge Border Post**

The Zimbabwe Revenue Authority [Zimra] has introduced mobile baggage scanners at Beitbridge Border Post to reduce incidents of smuggling. There are 4-gadgets which were deployed to Beitbridge Border Post to scan for items such as drugs, among other restricted goods. At the moment one machine is being used on the departure section, while efforts are underway to install the other three on the arrivals section.

*[Herald 26/02/16]*
Angola

Nzeto-Soyo Freeway To Be Completed In 2017

Chinese construction company Sinohydro Engineering Bureau No. 4 Co. Ltd. aim to complete the 96 km Nzeto-Soyo Freeway linking the municipal chief town of Nzeto to the city of Soyo, northern Zaire province by 2017. Financial constraints prevented works which will now be resumed as financial guarantees become available from a new China-Angola credit line.

[ANGOP 14/02/16]
Nigeria

Dangote To Reconstruct Apapa Wharf Road

Dangote Construction Company, a subsidiary of Dangote Group is to reconstruct the Lagos Ports Complex access road popularly called Wharf Road to ease free flow of traffic. The construction work which had already been approved by the Federal Government is expected to run from the Apapa Port gates to the Apapa Area ‘B’ Police Station.

[The Tide 24/02/16]

Road Agency To Rehabilitate Roads & Bridges

The Federal Roads Maintenance Agency [FERMA] has unveiled plans to rehabilitate about 103 roads and 10 bridges across the country by the end of this year. The government also plans to upgrade the agency to full status of a construction company. The goal is to upgrade the commercial activities in the 6-geopolitical zones so as to make positive impact on the lives of Nigerians through embarking on the repair of major economic roads. Roads include the Bendel-Oghia-Arochukwu road, Umuahia-Ikot Ekpene road, Aba-Ikot Ekpene-Calabar road, Enugu-Awka-Onitsha road and the Enugu-Port Harcourt Expressway. Also the road between Benin and Auchi via Iruekpen has become impassable.

[CR 18/02/16]

Niger State Commits N2.2 Billion To Rural Roads’ Rehabilitation

The Niger Government is to commit N2.2 billion to ongoing rehabilitation of 175.6 km of rural roads under Phase-1 of the Rural Access and Mobility Project [RAMP] II. Roads are in Mokwa, Gbako, Gurara, Suleja, Borgu and Magama Local Government Areas. Development partners the World Bank and French Development Agency contributed 66.7% and 30% respectively to the fund while the state gave 3.3%. The complete project targets 500-km of roads in the state.

[NAN 22/02/16]

Sierra Leone

Mano River Union Rehabilitation Of Bo–Bandajuma Road Project

The Republic of Sierra Leone has received a loan of UA 6.94 million from the African Development Fund [AfDB] to finance the Mano River Union rehabilitation of Bo-Bandajuma road project. The project is also expected to be co-financed by an OFID Loan of US$20 million and contributions from Government as counterpart funding. Bidding documents are expected to be available in March 2016.

The Objective of the project is to provide efficient nation-wide transport access to the southern districts of Bo and Pujehun and regionally to the Mano River Union Member States and ECOWAS as a whole.

The project seeks to support Pillar 4 of the countries Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper [PRSP III] that identifies strengthening road infrastructure among core sectors that would contribute to lowering the cost of business as well as promoting competitiveness of the economy. Works include:

- Supervision of Bo – Bandajuma road works
- Cross border trade study
- Monitoring and evaluation of Project Impacts
- Update of studies for Kailahun - Koidu road
- Prefeasibility study for rehabilitation of Mano River Bridge

[AfDB 24/02/16]
Angola

Benguela Line’s Eastern Terminus Station Inaugurated

In February, Angolan President José Eduardo Dos Santos inaugurated a newly rebuilt station at Luau, the Benguela line’s eastern terminus, in the presence of Zambian President Edgar Chagwa Lungu and his DR Congo counterpart, Joseph Kabila. At that ceremony, Angolan Transport Minister Augusto da Silva Tomás confirmed that since 2005, the government has invested €3.5 billion in the rehabilitation of Angola’s railways and earmarks 14% of its annual budget for the transport sector as a whole.

“Our longer-term strategy involves linking the big three railways to north-south development corridors to create a grid accessible nationwide.”

Celso Rodrigues de Lemos Rosa, Chairman of the Luanda Railroad Company [CFL]

Transport Minister Mr da Silva Tomás has made no secret of the fact that eventually he hopes to see a network of more than 10,000km long created over the next 10-15 years.

“The overarching aim is to integrate infrastructure and speed up the development of the hinterland and beyond.”

Jesus Nelson Martins, Director General of the Lobito Corridor Authority

[World Foko 12/03/16]

Nigeria

Sea Ports To Be Connected By Rail

Nigerian ports are to be reconnected with railway transport system to boost economic activities. The construction of the Lagos-Kano, and possibly the Lagos-Calabar railway project is expected to commence by June or July 2016. In December last year the Minister of Transport flagged off the Aba-Port Harcourt railway transport.

The Abuja-Kaduna railway line is one of the first Standard Gauge Railway Modernization Projects [SGRMP] to be undertaken in Nigeria. The standard gauge line connects the federal capital city Abuja with its commercial capital Kaduna, which has ease movement of goods. The project started in February 2011 and was completed in December 2014. China Civil and Engineering Construction Company [CCECC], executed the Abuja-Kaduna railway line project. As a concessionary loan for the project, China’s EXIM bank provided US$500 million out of the total cost of US$874 million while the remaining amount was provided by the Government. CCECC is also constructing the Lagos Rail Mass Transit System in Nigeria.

[CR 24/02/16]
The Minister of Transportation, Rotimi Chibuike Amaechi, hinted that the proposed Kano Inland Dry Port would become operational soon. A memo has been raised for its approval as a port of origin and destination. Once approved the facility should be up and running within 6-months. Ministers visited the facility recently to assess the level of preparedness for the take-off of the project.