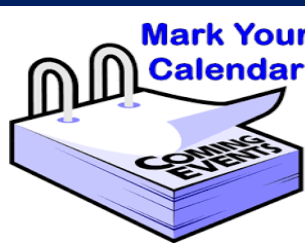
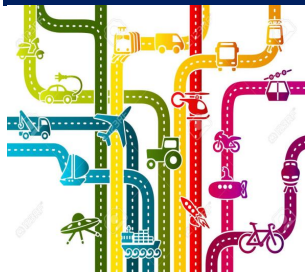




The Voice of the Private Sector in the Region

Biznet Weekly Issue 12.

Inside this Week's Issue – 19/02/18.



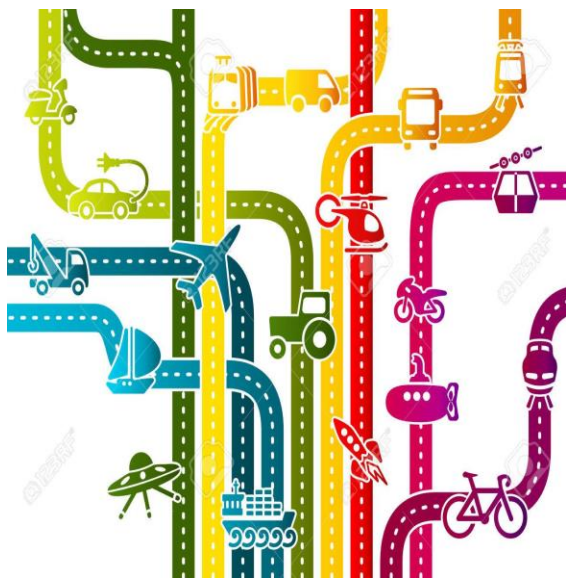
Zim Private sector

Quality seed

Master Card - Kigali

Malawi Investment

Private sector urged to invest in infrastructure



The private sector should double its spending on infrastructure to overcome an investment gap

given the government's decreasing ability to directly finance infrastructure, an official has said. Giving her welcome remarks at the Urban Infrastructure Investment Summit held in Bulawayo on Monday, Zimbabwe International trade Fair (ZITF) Company board chairperson, Ruth Ncube said infrastructure investment should be prioritised. "A new radical infrastructure transformation agenda has been eluding us, and for far too long, we became content in, what some would say, normalising the abnormality, developed this false sense of contentment with our decayed infrastructure. "That truly would need re-tooling, re-kitting, retrofitting, revamping and complete overhauling so that we become competitive and at par with other economies," she said.

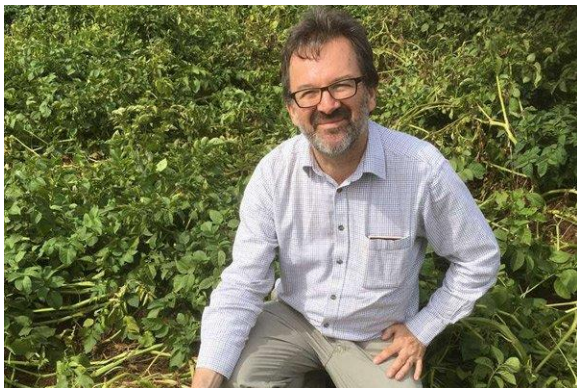
With a world population slightly over 7,6 billion, Ncube said a staggering \$90 trillion was needed to finance infrastructure investments across the world over a period of 15 years from the time the Paris Agreement was consummated in November 2015 up to 2030.

Read

More:

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/04/private-sector-urged-to-invest-in-infrastructure/>

We must stand up for quality seeds



Seed companies, researchers and dealers recently launched the Global Development Alliance in Nairobi in partnership with USAid. Ian Barker is the Head of Agricultural Partnerships at Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture. He spoke

to Leopold Obi about what the alliance is all about and what farmers should expect from it

What is the Global Development Alliance?

It is an initiative of the USAid that brings together public and private sectors to improve access to seeds. It comprises of researchers from Egerton University, Kalro, African Agricultural Technology Foundation, farmers involved in potato seeds, seed companies from Kenya, Uganda, Malawi, Senegal and Mali, besides service providers in the seed sector such as One Acre Fund. What difference will the alliance bring to the local seed industry? The problem we are trying to solve is to enhance farmers' access to quality hybrid seeds, and expand their choices in seeds acquisition. If you want to buy maize here in Kenya for instance, you have a wide choice because there are over 35 companies dealing in maize seeds business.

<https://www.nation.co.ke/business/seedsofgold/We-must-stand-up-for-quality-seeds/2301238-4533348-av3ly6z/index.html>

24 packaged projects ready for 2018

Malawi Investment Forum -Trade Minister Mussa

“For any event to be successful, we need to market it progressively to attract the relevant audience that we are looking for.

“So far we have 24 projects already packaged and these will be marketed during the forum. We are still engaging different stakeholders to submit their bankable projects for the forum,” urges Mussa.

Read More: <http://www.maravipost.com/24-packaged-projects-ready-for-2018-malawi-investment-forum-trade-minister-mussa/>

LILONGWE-(MaraviPost)-About 24 packaged projects are ready to be marketed during the third Malawi Investment Forum (MIF) which is slated for June 11 and 12, 2018 at the Bingu International Convention Centre in the capital Lilongwe.



The forum which will be hosted by Malawi Investment and Trade Centre (MITC) comes after failed to take place in 2017, targets on creating financing and trade linkages.

The event is also specifically to attract both domestic and foreign direct investment into selected strategic public and private sectors in Malawi.

Minister of Industry, Trade and Tourism told the news conference on Wednesday that stock has been taken from previous forums saying fruits are already on ground.

The minister Mussa urged aspiring local business captains to take the opportunity of the forum any while getting registered in time.

Mastercard Foundation's Innovative Teaching centre opens in September



Last month, Mastercard Foundation launched a landmark project targeting to create 30 million jobs in Africa. The 'Young Africa Works', which was officially unveiled in Kigali will particularly see the foundation invest USD100 million in Rwanda for the next five years.

Our new strategy focuses on providing young people, particularly young women, with the skills, education, and financial tools and services they need to find dignified and fulfilling work.

We will work with governments, the private sector, and educational organizations to improve the quality of education and vocational training so that it equips young people with the skills employers need; leverages technology to connect employers and job seekers; and enables entrepreneurs and small businesses to grow and create jobs through access to financial services.

The Mastercard Foundation is committed to working in Africa because there is a tremendous opportunity to make a significant impact.

Over the last decade, the Foundation's programmes have improved the lives of more than 25 million people in Africa. It has been a time of listening, doing, and acquiring insight about how we can contribute to a world where all people have the opportunity to learn and prosper.

Read More:

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/mastercard-foundations-innovative-teaching-centre-opens-september>



13TH COMESA BUSINESS FORUM 4th – 5th June 2018

The 13th COMESA Business Partnerships Forum is an Annual Public Private Dialogue that is held within the sidelines of the COMESA Head of States Summit. The 13th COMESA Business Forum will be held on the margins of the 20th COMESA Summit and Policy Organs Meeting, in Bujumbura, Burundi from the 4th – 5th June 2018. This year's forum will focus on COMESA and Africa's participation and inclusion in Global Value chains. With increased globalization, technology advancement, new production and



transport systems production, supply, marketing and consumption processes are no longer concentrated in one geographical area. Multiple reports have highlighted that global and regional value chains have become pivotal and necessary to industrialization. Participation in value chains is succinctly tied to economic and industrial growth. Furthermore, value chains contribute to building

productive capacities of companies and SME's, promote technology advancement, skills transfer and market diversification and access- a great and urgent need for our industries.

The participation of Africa or COMESA in global value chains and industrialization remains limited, trade growth and intra-regional integration also remains receded at just 7%. Africa captures a small but growing share of global value-added as global trade remains strongly clustered in and around the manufacturing hubs in Europe, North America, and East Asia. At present Africa sources, more than 80 per cent of its imported inputs from outside the region. Instead, the region has specialized mainly in exporting commodities and raw products to world markets.

As a way of highlighting and addressing some of these issues, CBC in 2017 initiated an Agro supply mapping project and study entitled 'Towards Fostering Business and Trade within the Supply Chain Networks along the Transport Corridors in COMESA-Agro and Industry Corridor Project' with the support of the African Development Bank -KOAFEC Trust. The aim is to promote economies of scale in agriculture and other priority sectors through fostering potential



business partnerships that have been identified along the transport corridors in the 8 countries (North and North South Corridors).

The forum intends to have an in-depth discussion on how to address the challenges the region and

the continent faces in actively participating and benefiting from global value chains. Additionally, the forum also creates an opportunity for public-private dialogue on some of the key issues and constraints in regional integration agenda. The 2 day forum is set to attract regional and International businesses and visitors from the 19 COMESA Member States, Africa and the International community with an interest in promoting sustainable value chains in the African region.



COMESA – Connect- Industry Dialogue – “Smart Technologies for Sustainable Businesses”

The COMESA CONNECT Industry Dialogue will be held from 21st to 22nd June 2018, in Kigali, Rwanda. The event will be held under the theme; “Smart Technologies, Sustainable Industries”. The Dialogue seeks to structure strategic efforts towards harnessing today’s digital solutions to respond to the needs of our industries in the region. It is in this regard, that COMESA Connect seeks to bring together businesses in goods and services on one hand and digital services players on the other , to provide solutions that will create smarter, sustainable, innovative , efficient and profitable businesses in Africa.

Integrating ICT into business is a cross cutting advocacy and business facilitation agenda under the CBC. It is a call from the membership to respond to the need for industries to harness digital services solutions as a means of improving company operations.

- Establish a collective understanding and strategic focus on the potential of blockchain and other technologies for supporting trade and trade facilitation as well as the other business and industry within the African region
- Address the constraints that affect business competitiveness in the region and promote synergies between industry and IT to promote the use of technology and growth of African private sector.

COMESA – CONNECT INDUSTRY DIALOGUE

“Smart Technologies for Sustainable Businesses”
21st - 22nd June, 2018, Kigali, Rwanda.



- Structure policy recommendations to ensure the use of technology address digital financial inclusion, industry Competitiveness and revolutionary innovations for competitive sustainable enterprises.
- Address the ideal structures that to ensure data protection policies in the region
- Increase awareness and strengthen the national and regional intellectual property framework.

How to attend??

Register now!

CATEGORY	FEES
International Participants	US\$300
Regional Participants	US\$200
Local Participants	US\$ 50

To Register, Email: gtembo@comesa.int and rbanda@comesa.int

The CBC Taste for Africa Annual Trade Fair – 2018.

As it is our mandate to help facilitate business and create platforms for potential business linkages the Taste for Africa Trade Fair will be held in October 2018 in Kenya. The trade fair will raise enterprises awareness of market opportunities in the region and further promote business incubation programs. There is lack of product information in the region thus the trade fair will showcase the readily available products in the region and encourage product innovation and quality enhancement.



The Taste of Africa will facilitate local, regional and global business linkages that will lead to establishing of sustainable business partnerships. During the 3-day event, more than 200 exhibitors



are expected to participate in the event and approximately 5000 visitors

Our Important Links

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