

Inside this Week's Issue – 19/03/18.



Rwanda: Private Sector



Uganda; Mineral sector



EthioChicken



Zambia; Agriculture

Rwanda: Credit to Private Sector to Grow By 13% in 2018



Rwanda's financial sector is expected to increase lending to the private sector with the National Bank of Rwanda predicting a 13 per cent growth (in credit to the private sector) in 2018.

According to the Monetary Policy and Financial Stability Statement released yesterday by the central bank, the bank will maintain an accommodative monetary policy

stance in order to uphold financing of the economy by the banking sector.

In 2017, local banks issued loans valued at Rwf1,579 billion up from Rwf1,403 billion in 2016.

Credit surveys conducted among local banks showed that there was weak demand for credit in the first half of 2017.

Uganda to launch baseline reports on Development Minerals sector



The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development (MEMD) in partnership with the European Union, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) will on Tuesday March 20th, 2018 launch Uganda's first Baseline Assessment and Value Chain Analysis report of the Development Minerals sector.

Economic recovery and increased activity is expected to drive increased lending in 2018. At least 14 out of the 17 local banks note that they expect improved lending in 2018.

Analysts say that among the sectors expected to absorb the most loans include infrastructure and energy given their demand for loans and scheduled projects.

Read more on:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201803070141.html>

Development Minerals are minerals that are used in daily lives to make products such as plates, paint and toothpaste, to build houses and pave roads.

The report profiles the development minerals sector in Uganda and provides crucial information on the size of the sector, the existing untapped opportunities for local economic development, employment for youth and women as well as recommendations on specific interventions necessary in regulatory framework strengthening, oversight of environmental and health standards, and mechanisms for conflict management geared towards boosting the productivity of the development minerals sector.

Uganda boasts of a diversity of development minerals including construction minerals such as limestone, clay gypsum, marble and sand among others. It's also home to various industrial minerals and semi-precious stones, despite the mapping of these natural resources, many of them remain largely unexploited.

According to the statement from UNDP, The Baseline Assessment and Value Chain Analysis Reports of the Development Minerals Sector are therefore intended to shed a light on these minerals, sharing comprehensive data on the range of these natural resources, their sites of extraction

and the number of people who benefit from them especially in terms of employment. Get more news on

<http://www.busiweek.com/index1.php?Ctp=2&pI=6470&pLv=3&srI=53&spI=20&cI=11>

EthioChicken: Ethiopia's well-hatched idea



Their aim was “to meet the demands among smallholder farmers for higher-quality chickens”, he explains. “There are 15m smallholder farmers in Ethiopia who are using nondescript breeds that don’t produce enough eggs.”

EthioChicken’s business model is simple — in theory: breed day-old chicks and sell them to agents who rear them for about 45 days

before selling them on. In practice, the venture was, initially, much trickier. Like many start-ups, particularly in a country run by a government with Marxist roots and traditionally suspicious of the private sector, EthioChicken almost went bankrupt several times in its first few years.

Problems ranged from finding the right breed of chicken and recruiting suitable managers to navigating Ethiopia’s labyrinthine, slow-moving bureaucracy and training the agents.

The agents’ role is crucial. They carry the “last mile” risk, which many foreign investors have failed to crack, of selling the product to the end consumer. By rearing the chickens and vaccinating them for almost seven weeks, agents reduce the mortality rate from the 80 per cent in operations run by smallholders who breed their own stock to well under 5 per cent.

EthioChicken’s fortunes improved significantly after the Sasso chicken, a French hybrid, was introduced in 2014. Compared with Ethiopia’s traditional Habesha breed, the Sasso produces four times as many eggs per year, while those reared for meat take a quarter of the time (about 90 days) to reach market weight. Today, about 80 per cent of the company’s chickens are Sasso: Read more <https://www.ft.com/content/54b45d84-e4e2-11e7-a685-5634466a6915>

Making agriculture a business for economic growth



CENTRAL Province, one of Zambia's 10 provinces, is home to over 1.5 million people, many of whose households are involved in some form of agricultural practice. The province provides 20.64 percent of the total area of cultivated land in Zambia and contributes 23.85 percent of the total agricultural production in the country, with wheat being the major crop. Experts say the area has capacity to produce even more, but farmers are hindered by challenges that render it difficult to transition from subsistence farming to commercial farming.

Of the 11 districts which make up the province, only four are considered commercial farming blocks. The province, however, is home to several subsistence farmers producing for home consumption, with those selling doing so at a very small scale. Most of the products sold are provided fresh from the field with little or no value addition.

To equip small-scale farmers with capacity to add value to produce, the Christian Aid, funded by the

Scottish government, has launched an innovative project dubbed "Making agriculture a business" aimed at helping farmers in the province gain some financial value from their agricultural produce.

"The programme will help improve the country's farming condition by equipping small-scale farmers in Chisamba, Mumbwa, Kapiri Mposhi and Kabwe with skills," Christian Aid (CA)/ Joint Country Programme (JCP) head of programmes Margaret Machila said during the launch in Kabwe recently.

And CA/ JCP country director Harald Sommer said the project, which is set to benefit over 4,000 farmers over a five-year period, will require the full participation of local communities, government agencies, the Church and cooperating partners in order to create sustainable agri-business and value chains.

<https://www.daily-mail.co.zm/making-agric-a-business-for-economic-growth/>

Zambia National Business Dialogue 27th March 2018



The Zambia Association of Manufacturers in partnership with the COMESA Business Council is proud to host the COMESA – Zambia Business RoundTable on the 27th of March 2018, in Lusaka, Zambia. The Roundtable will be held under the theme, “Industry Competitiveness in Zambia; Focus on Finance, Tax and Trade policies.

This high level Dialogue will address key policy issues in Zambia with respect to tax and investment regulation, access to finance, and a balanced trade policy as a way of addressing industrial competitiveness. It will look at some of the emerging regulations such as; Surtax Measures and Incentives for Manufacturing (VAT Refunds, Duty Draw Back, Withholding Tax) and their impact on business. It will also address financial needs of industry with a particular focus on measures to reduce interest rates or the development of specialized facilities or vehicles to support industry players. The Dialogue will also look at the import and export regulations within

Zambia and her neighboring countries and the impact on cross border trade.

The main objective of the dialogue will be to strengthen the advocacy capacity of the private sector in Zambia and their engagement with government; as businesses and as Associations so that they can effectively participate in regional and global markets. The Dialogue will strengthen Zambia Association of Manufacturers (ZAM) engagement with the private sector in Zambia with a particular focus on addressing Finance, Tax and Trade policies. The meeting will further serve as a platform for adopting private sector recommendations and form a position that ZAM will table before policy makers in Zambia.

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 will visit the event. The exhibitors and the visitors will be drawn from the region and beyond. Details for the event are coming soon, Watch out the space on www.comesabusiness.org

CBC Biznet – Get Connected Now.

The COMESA Business council has upped the game for regional buyers and suppliers by widening the online interactive market portal. The portal currently has more than 2000 buyers and suppliers that are transacting from across the region in more than 34 sectors. Be part of the winning team and get integrated in regional markets by signing up for the CBC Biznet TODAY!!

Visit our website on <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org> and look out for BIZNET in the main menu of the website. Once you log onto the page sign up and follow through the simple and straight forward registration steps.

CBC MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES



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