

TRAILBLAZERS

Trailblazing the future

<http://www.mokwena.com>

Edition 9: July 2013

About Trailblazers

Trailblazers are freethinking individuals and focus groups with a shared vision of positively contributing towards advancing developmental discourse. The trailblazers' website stimulates and encourages discourse on Economic development, Political economy, knowledge economy and the green economy. The website serves as a forum for exchanging ideas, views and opinion. It attracts experts, academics, intellectuals and practitioners and anybody interested in contributing towards the debate. It is a site for generating new knowledge & cutting edge solutions for the global socio economic ills. The trailblazers seek to build social capital through the process of informal transmission of knowledge and social media. Also mentor and support practitioners in the specified field of work, through engagement, advice and referrals. The ultimate objective is to ensure professional development and support.

News of Top Stories

China brings goods and roads, now Africa wants jobs



China has brought cheap consumer goods, roads and schools to many parts of Africa over the last decade but the continent's leaders are increasingly pushing for it to provide more of what many Africans want most: jobs. From Pretoria to Abuja, governments have begun voicing frustration that China's use of Africa as a source of natural resources and a market for its goods may be hindering the continent haul its billion people out of poverty. A recent report by the UN Economic Commission for Africa (Uneca) highlighted the risk that the continent's relationship with the world's second largest economy could strangle its attempts to industrialize. China's trade with Africa ballooned from \$10-billion in 2000 to an estimated \$200-billion this year - four years after it overtook the United States as the continent's largest partner. But some 85% of China's exports from Africa are raw materials, such as oil and minerals. According to the African Development Bank, most minerals mined in Africa are exported raw, meaning the jobs and wealth from processing them is created elsewhere. A flood of Chinese produce, meanwhile, has accelerated the decline in industrialisation since the 1980s. Africa's textile industry alone lost 750 000 jobs over the last decade, according to the Johannesburg-based Brenthurst Foundation. Even in the continent's manufacturing powerhouse South Africa, some 40% of footwear and fabrics come from China. <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/china-brings-goods-and-roads-now-africa-wants-jobs-2013-07-22>

PetroSA weighing value-added chemicals options for Mossel Bay refinery



South Africa's national oil company PetroSA is studying various options for transitioning its gas-to-liquids (GTL) refinery, in the Western Cape, from the production of transport fuels to higher-value petrochemicals as its gas feedstock costs continue to rise. Operations VP Dr **Thabo Kgogo** says while the GTL refinery remains part of a vertically integrated operation, which includes offshore gas production, the cost structure of the business is rising as the group moves to exploit more technically challenging offshore fields. Acting planning and operations manager **Mark Hobbs** says the opening up of the FO offshore field from October will guarantee the refinery much needed gas supply. However, Project Ikhwezi, PetroSA's code name for the development, will exploit reserves that are more challenging and expensive to liberate. It is also working on a liquefied natural gas (LNG) import solution, which will bolster security of supply over the longer term, but this will also be relatively expensive. PetroSA plans to make a final investment decision on a \$375-million to \$510-million liquefied LNG import facility in the fourth quarter of 2014, from which first gas could flow in early 2018. The project is said to be necessary to guarantee feedstock for the refinery beyond 2020. <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/petrosa-weighing-value-added-chemicals-options-for-mossel-bay-refinery-2013-07-19>



Celebrating Madiba's vision of unity



Happy Birthday Madiba. I could almost feel the whole country breathe a collective great sigh of relief – and joy – as Nelson Mandela reached his landmark 95th birthday on Thursday. How did you celebrate Mandela Day? What did you do for your 67 minutes? I spent Thursday lunchtime as part of a human chain along the Klipfontein Road in Cape Town. This runs from just under Table Mountain, eastwards across the Cape Flats. In the bad old days it was like a thread, on which sat three separate beads, of white Rondebosch, coloured Athlone, and black Gugulethu. Three different communities, each at a distinct distance from one another. On Mandela Day, Klipfontein Road became something else – an artery that connects our lives with our neighbours, as we stood together, hand in hand and arm in arm, united in our diversity. Waving our South African flags and singing, despite the slight rain, we made our stand as a way of pledging to break down the old divisions and build up a new connectedness that transcends the gulfs of the past.

<http://www.iol.co.za/sundayindependent/celebrating-madiba-s-vision-of-unity-1.1550062> - .UezorRZfURw

Is Zimbabwe poll free and fair only if MDC wins?



Municipal CAN Zanu (PF) win a free and fair election? In other words, is it correct to assume that the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) — the slice of the three pieces of the MDC that is led by Morgan Tsvangirai — cannot lose a free and fair election? To understand why Zanu (PF), despite requests from the Southern African Development Community (Sadc) to hold the elections in the middle of August, has insisted on July 31, we must go back to two periods in the evolution of the Zimbabwean political and economic crisis. First, we must remember that in the post-Matabeleland-massacre period, the 2000 constitutional referendum in which Zanu (PF) was trounced by opposition forces marked an important turning point in events that shaped the content of the Zimbabwean crisis in the period leading up to the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and the formation of the government of national unity in 2008. The response of Zanu (PF) to the referendum, especially those elements of the response that pertain to the creation of a political climate not conducive to free and fair elections, must be understood in terms of an attempt to erase the political implications of the referendum's outcome by creating a new postreferendum majority that would be in the interests of Zanu (PF).

<http://www.bdlive.co.za/opinion/columnists/2013/07/22/is-zimbabwe-poll-free-and-fair-only-if-mdc-wins>