

TRAILBLAZERS

Trailblazing the future

<http://www.mokwena.com>

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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

PIC sees more Dangote deals with \$7-billion to spend



The Public Investment Corporation (PIC) this week invested \$289.3-million in Nigeria's Dangote Cement - owned by Aliko Dangote, Africa's first \$2-billion man - to take a 1.5% stake and said the deal will also offer opportunities in Dangote's sugar, flour, oil refinery and port operations, Fidelis Madavo, head of resources at Pretoria-based PIC, said by e-mail yesterday. The fund has as much as \$7-billion to invest on the continent and is targeting as many as 20 listed stocks across industries such as consumer, infrastructure, telecommunications and agribusiness, he said. The PIC began expanding in the continent when it invested \$250-million in Togolese lender Ecobank Transnational in 2012. "The transaction offers the PIC other investment opportunities in Dangote group portfolio companies," Madavo said in the response to questions. The company is "Sub-Saharan Africa's largest and most efficient cement producer." Dangote Cement, Africa's biggest producer of the building material, plans to expand significantly throughout sub-Saharan Africa, Madavo said. Production Capacity The Lagos-based company, West Africa's largest by market value, has production capacity of 19.3-million metric tons in Nigeria, with plans to increase that to 29-million metric tons by 2015. Operations will start in Cameroon, Zambia and South Africa in 2014, and the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2015, chief executive, Devakumar Edwin said on April 25. Dangote Cement will probably list shares in London in the fourth quarter of 2014 or first three months of 2015, Dangote said in an interview last month in Cape Town, where he also said he's negotiated \$4.25-billion of loans to build a refinery in Nigeria, Africa's biggest oil producer. Dangote has an estimated wealth of \$23.1-billion and is the world's 25th richest person, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires' Index. He controls Dangote Sugar Refinery and last year sold a majority state in Dangote Flour Mills to Tiger Brands, South Africa's largest food company by market value. Nigeria's \$269-billion economy, Africa's largest outside South Africa, will gain 7.2% this year, from 6.3% in 2012, International Monetary Fund projections show. That compares with an estimated 5.6% growth rate for sub-Saharan Africa and 3.3% in South Africa. Dangote Cement's stock has advanced 64% this year to 210.01 naira [R13.12 at midday on Wednesday], compared with 43% rise of the Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index, the world's fourth-best performer. - Bloomberg <http://mg.co.za/article/2013-06-12-pic-sees-more-dangote-deals-with-7-billion-to-spend>

Green economy a boost for youth jobs

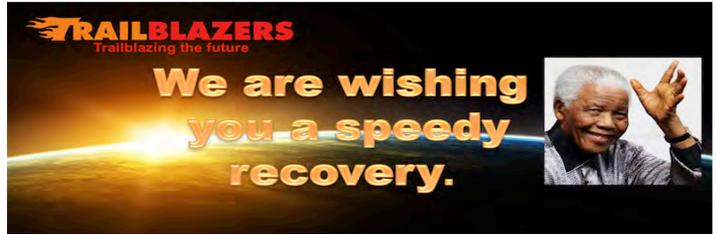


Johannesburg - The waste sector is vital to the generation of jobs within the green economy, Water and Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa said on Monday. "It is in this light that the department is increasingly expanding its programmes in job creation and enterprise development programmes in this sector," she said in launching a youth jobs in waste programme in the Free State. About 1 000 jobs would be created by placing young people in municipalities as landfill site assistants, waste collection administrators and environmental awareness educators, the department said in a statement. A 2007 departmental study had found there was a backlog in solid waste service delivery in all municipalities. The jobs initiative was developed to address it and create capacity within municipalities to lessen the burden of providing of waste services. "It was also developed in recognition of the fact that the waste sector is now, more than ever, ready for major investment in both infrastructure development as well as capacity building programmes to create decent jobs and fuel the green economy," it said. The programme was being rolled out in the Free State, North West, the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal and Limpopo. "It is important that the state improves its capacity to deliver waste services," Molewa said. "This is not only to meet service delivery needs, but also to provide dignity and quality of life to our people." <http://www.fin24.com/Economy/Green-economy-a-boost-for-youth-jobs-20130617>

Quote of the week

"The in-ability to pay attention to detail & simultaneously apply your mind to task at hand is the biggest handicap bedeviling most..."

- Thabo Owen Mokwena



Resource companies ripping off Africa - AfDB chief



Developed world mining and energy companies operating in Africa should pay more taxes to help the world's poorest continent climb out of poverty, the president of the African Development Bank said on Sunday. "The reality is, Africa is being ripped off big time," African Development Bank (AfDB) president **Donald Kaberuka** told Reuters, a day after attending a meeting in London with other African representatives ahead of the G8 summit of rich countries on the "triple-T" agenda of trade, transparency and tax. "Africa wants to grow itself out of poverty through trade and investment - part of doing so is to ensure there is transparency and sound governance in the natural resources sector." Britain hosts this year's G8 summit, which takes place in Northern Ireland on Monday and Tuesday. Britain has turned up the pressure on the other countries to clamp down on secretive money flows by pressing its overseas tax havens into a transparency deal and announcing new disclosure rules for British firms. Kaberuka attended a lunch on Saturday to discuss the issues with British Deputy Prime Minister **Nick Clegg**, the presidents of Ghana, Guinea, Senegal, Somalia and Tanzania and the finance minister of Nigeria, all of which have energy or mining resources. "It's seen as a collective agenda, not just a G8 agenda, that we make sure everybody pays what is due," Kaberuka said. The Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, lost at least \$1.36-billion in potential revenues between 2010 and 2012 due to cut-price sales of mining assets to offshore companies, according to a report from the Africa Progress Panel, led by former UN Secretary-General **Kofi Annan**. Africa, and in particular sub-Saharan Africa, has been growing strongly in the past few years, a trend which Kaberuka said had been helped by the cancellation of debt to the poorest African countries at the 2005 G8 summit in Gleneagles, Scotland. The AfDB forecasts growth in Africa at 4.8% this year, with sub-Saharan Africa - excluding South Africa - the fastest-growing region at 6.6%. But aid to Africa from the developed world had been cut for the first time in ten years and the continent needs to look for ways to make that money go further. "It's important we begin to use aid smartly," Kaberuka said. He pointed to projects such as the AfDB's planned infrastructure fund, designed to use donor funding along with African savings as a base for debt issuance to finance regional infrastructure projects. The AfDB is looking for up to \$50-billion to be issued using the financing vehicle, which Kaberuka hoped would gain a single-A credit rating. Kaberuka also welcomed plans by the BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - to set up a BRICS development bank. "It could be a good partner for us in terms of building infrastructure," he said. <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/resource-companies-ripping-off-africa-afdb-chief-2013-06-12>

No stone to be left unturned in tackling mining's problems, says Deputy President



Deputy President **Kgalema Motlanthe** has committed to solving the problems of South Africa's troubled mining industry. "We're going to leave no stone unturned to ensure that every problem that the stakeholders have identified is tackled and resolved," Motlanthe told the gathering of the who's who of South African mining. Together with South Africa's top mining company CEOs, union leaders and Cabinet Ministers, Motlanthe publicly committed to dealing with stakeholder proposals aimed at restoring security and law and order; strengthening the labour relations environment; improving human settlements in mining communities; promoting inclusivity and representation; supporting growth as a strategic sector of the South African economy and implementing and coordinating structures that make up the sector. Redistributing the previously endorsed document outlining the framework for peace and stability in mining to all present, the former labour leader took over the task, begun by President **Jacob Zuma** in May, to stabilise the sector. "We know this is not the first, nor will it be the last such meeting," Motlanthe said, adding that the process had been greatly aided by all stakeholders grappling with the key issues, ahead of the meeting. "We'll seek to put together all of the loose threads, and we commit optimistically to finding solutions first to those issues that need immediate resolution and then avail ourselves to resolve those issues of a long-term nature," he added. Welcomed first were the delegations of the Federations of Unions of South Africa, the National Council of Trade Unions (Nactu) and the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union, followed by the Solidarity, the National Union of Mineworkers, the South African Mining Development Association and the Chamber of Mines delegations. Prominent trade union federation, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, better known as Cosatu, whose leaders are attending the International Labour Organisation (ILO) meeting abroad, apologised for being unable to be present, as did Nactu's president and the country's Labour Minister **Mildred Oliphant**, who are also at the ILO meeting. The issues that had been identified as creating the immediate obstacles to the normal operations of the mining industry, would be solved first. "In adopting that approach, it does not suggest that [the consultative forum] regard the other problems as secondary. We commit to work together to create work streams to also solve those problems that require long-term solutions. "We don't want anyone to carry their problems alone, we've got to solve them together," Motlanthe added, before requesting that the media absent themselves from further discussion and await a final declaration of the forum as a whole. <http://www.miningweekly.com/article/no-stone-to-be-left-unturned-in-tackling-minings-problems-says-deputy-president-2013-06-14>