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AIM, Rua da Radio Moçambique - Maputo www.aim.org.mz | **CTA**, Rua Fernando Ganhão, 120 - Maputo www.cta.org.mz

Emails: aim@aim.org.mz | ctanewsletter@cta.org.mz

ECONOMY

MOZAMBIKAN RUBIES TO BE AUCTIONED IN SINGAPORE

Mozambican rubies are to be auctioned in Singapore, according to Ian Harbottle, Chief Executive Office of the British company Greenfields, which is working in partnership with the Mozambican company Montepuez Ruby Mining (MRM). At a Maputo press conference on 3 June introducing MRM, Harbottle said that the rubies will be auctioned some time in the next fortnight. He claimed that the auction would allow “transparency and fair prices”.

“We’re going to hold an auction. We want a fair price and we want the money to come back to the company that produced the stones”, said Harbottle. “The company can pay its taxes, it can pay its works and it can make its investments”.

“When we sell the Mozambican rubies, we want every cent to return to Mozambique”, he declared.

The ruby mines in Montepuez, in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, would become one of Mozambique’s largest taxpayers, Harbottle predicted.

Up until 2013, seven million karats of rubies had been mined in Montepuez, and Harbottle said that half of these stones would be sold at the Singapore auction. [Read more...](#)

MORE GRAPHITE FOUND ON TRITON CONCESSION

The price of shares in the Australian company Triton Minerals increased by over sixty per cent on 4 June as the company released details of its latest geological observations on its Balama North Project, in the northern Mozambican province of Cabo Delgado.

On that day the company revealed that it has once again found “very significant graphitic mineralisation over a considerable thickness at the Nicanda Hill prospect on the Balama North Project”.

According to Triton’s managing director, Brad Doyle, the latest finding “has again confirmed the world class potential of the Balama North Project. To intercept an astounding 316 metres cumulative width of graphite mineralisation in a single drill hole and this mineralisation remains open at depth is a very exciting result”.

Triton states that “these latest drill results continue to confirm the Company’s belief that the Balama North Project can potentially host a market leading and world class graphite deposit. It is anticipated that this drilling will provide the necessary data to estimate a Mineral Resource for this prospect by early 2015”. [Read more...](#)

CONSORTIUM FORMED FOR MINING VIABILITY STUDY

A consortium formed by the Chinese company Kingho Investment, the publicly owned Mozambican Mining Exploration Company (EMEM), and Monte Binga, a company owned 100 per cent by the Mozambican Defence Ministry on 2 June signed an agreement in Maputo on undertaking a viability study for the opening of yet another coal mine in the western province of Tete.

The three component parts of the consortium agreed on the bases for the take-off of the viability study which, if favourable, will lead to the opening of a coal mine at Marara, in Changara district, south of the Zambezi river. Kingho holds 80 per cent of the shares in the consortium, and its two Mozambican partners hold ten per cent each. Defence Minister Agostinho Mondlane, who observed the ceremony, said he hoped for results that will contribute to economic and social development, the transfer of technology from China to Mozambique, and the raising of more tax revenue for the Mozambican treasury. [Read more...](#)

FIRST COAL EXPORTS FROM NACALA IN DECEMBER

Mozambican Transport Minister Gabriel Muthisse on 4 June reiterated that the first exports of coal from the new port under construction at Nacala-a-Velha, in the northern province of Nampula, will take place in December.

Muthisse, speaking in the western city of Tete at a meeting of his Ministry's Coordinating Council, said that the Nacala-a-Velha coal terminal will have the capacity to store 1.45 million tonnes of coal.

Nacala-a-Velha is opposite the existing port of Nacala on the other side of Nacala Bay. It will be connected to the Moatize coal basin by a 900 kilometre long railway running across southern Malawi, and financed by the Brazilian mining company Vale.

The government has signed a concession on the new port and on coal traffic along the railway with the Integrated Nacala Logistics Corridor (CLN), a consortium that is 80 per cent owned by the Brazilian mining giant Vale, and 20 per cent by Mozambique's publicly owned port and rail company, CFM.

According to CLN officials, the entire project is costing 4.4 billion US dollars. The coal terminal at Nacala-a-Velha will be able to export 18 million tonnes of coal a year.

By 2015, the railway should have the capacity to move 11 million tonnes of cargo a year, rising to 18 million tonnes in 2017. [Read more...](#)

ASTRAL AVIATION TO EXPAND PEMBA SERVICE

The Kenya based cargo airline Astral Aviation has announced that it will increase to twice a week its service from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in Nairobi to the city of Pemba in northern Mozambique.

The announcement comes as the airline celebrates its first anniversary of weekly flights to Cabo Delgado's provincial capital. The main clients for the cargo service are the hydrocarbon companies operating in the Rovuma Basin, off the coast of Cabo Delgado

According to Astral's Chief Executive Officer, Sanjeev Gadhia, "during the last 12 months we have transported in excess of 800 tonnes of cargo for the oil and gas sector in the Rovuma Basin, comprising of shipments which originated from Houston, Aberdeen, Dubai, Singapore and Johannesburg". [Read more...](#)

COOPERATION

SOUTH KOREA TO FINANCE ROAD AND LANDFILLS

The Mozambican government and the South Korean Eximbank signed two loan agreements in Maputo on 27 May, for a total of 124 million US dollars.

One of the agreements, for 74 million dollars, is for the construction of the road between the northern city of Nampula and the town of Nametil, capital of Mogovolas district. The second, for 48 million dollars, is to build landfills to deal with urban solid waste from Maputo and the neighbouring city of Matola.

The agreements were signed by Finance Minister Manuel Chang, and the Vice-President of the Eximbank, Yim Seong-Hyeog. The loans have an interest rate of 0.01 per cent, and a maturity period of 40 years, including a grace period of 15 years. [Read more...](#)

GUEBUZA AND KENNY HOLD OFFICIAL TALKS

Mozambican and Irish delegations, headed by President Armando Guebuza and Prime Minister Enda Kenny, held official talks in Dublin on 4 Junem during Guebuza's state visit to Ireland.

At the start of the talks, both Guebuza and Kenny stressed the mutual benefits from 18 years of cooperation between Ireland and Mozambique. They hoped that during Guebuza's visit they will be able to establish a platform for expanding the areas in which they cooperate.

This year Ireland has pledged to donate 50 million euros (68 million US dollars) in direct support to the Mozambican state budget. Ireland has also granted particular support to Niassa and Inhambane provinces, in northern and southern Mozambique respectively. [Read more...](#)

LAW AND ORDER

THREE DRUG TRAFFICKERS ARRESTED AT AIRPORT

The Mozambican police arrested a further three drug traffickers at Maputo International Airport in late May, all of whom had travelled from Brazil and were attempting to smuggle cocaine into the country.

The spokesperson for the General Command of the Mozambican police, Pedro Cossa, said that a 27 year old Tanzanian, Selemene Assane, had flown from Brazil via Lisbon on a plane of the Portuguese airline TAP. He had 70 ampules of cocaine in his stomach.

A second Tanzanian, whose name was not given, came via Addis Ababa on an Ethiopian Airways flight, and was carrying 24 ampules of cocaine in his luggage.

The third trafficker was a South African woman, who also took an Ethiopian Airways flight, and had 45 ampules of cocaine in her stomach. [Read more...](#)

ALLEGED KIDNAPPER ARRESTED

The Mozambican police on 28 May announced the arrest of a 30 year old man, named as Gabriel Baptista, in connection with the kidnapping of a Maputo business woman in October.

The victim, one of the owners of an ice-making business in the Maputo neighbourhood of Malanga, was abducted in broad daylight outside the establishment. She was held in a house in Bunhica, in the neighbouring city of Matola, but was able to escape by scaling a wall.

According to press reports, Baptista was arrested in the Alto-Mae neighbourhood, and, the police say that he has confessed to taking part in the kidnapping. [Read more...](#)

BAR ASSOCIATION INVESTIGATES LAWYER OVER TV APPEARANCE

The Mozambican Bar Association (OAM) has announced that it is opening an inquiry into the behaviour of one of its members, Damiao Cumbane, who appeared on a television programme alongside one of his clients, Mantish Cantilal, suspected of involvement in the wave of kidnappings that has hit Mozambican cities since late 2011.

A terse statement from the OAM said its National Council had decided, at a meeting held on Thursday, that there were indications that Cumbane's appearance on the independent television station STV, violated the Bar Association statutes. The short statement gave no details, but presumably the OAM was referring to Article 80 of its statutes, which bars lawyers from discussing pending cases in the media, without the explicit authorisation of the OAM.

Cantilal, a young businessman who is prominent in the Maputo Hindu Community, was arrested in April on suspicion that he had ordered four of the kidnappings. On 20 May, the Maputo City Court released Cantilal on bail of a million meticaais (about 32,700 US dollars). [Read more...](#)

SOCIAL

FIRST LADY LAUNCHES CANCER PREVENTION CAMPAIGN

Mozambican First Lady Maria da Luz Guebuza on 4 June launched the third global campaign to mobilise resources for the elimination of cervical, breast and prostate cancer.

The launch took place in London during the high level meeting on Human Papillomavirus (HPV), the infectious agent responsible for most cases of cervical cancer, which reaffirmed the pledge to continue advocacy so that no woman, child or man will die of these cancers because of lack of access to information, prevention or treatment

Speaking at the ceremony, Maria Guebuza stressed that commitment to this struggle seeks to reverse the international statistics which show an increasing number of cases and of deaths from these cancers.

She added that in Mozambique cervical cancer accounts for 31 per cent of all diagnosed cancers followed by breast cancer (10 per cent). The country has 112 health units that offer basic screening and treatment for pre-cancerous lesions, and five reference units for dealing with more advanced cancers. [Read more...](#)

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