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THE ALP REVIEW

TRANSPORTATION AND
INTRA-AFRICA TRADE

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1st Modern Inter-Country Railway Launched in Tanzania

The East-African state of Tanzania recently launched the Standard Gauge Railway project, which connects it to other neighbouring states like Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Democratic Republic of Congo and Zambia. The project is the biggest infrastructure project executed in the state, at a cost of US\$3.1 billion.

The railway operates an electric train service that should reduce travel time between Dar es Salaam and Dodoma from 8 hours to 3.5 hours. The trains are expected to carry at least 10,000 tons of cargo and are currently operating on the first two sections of the project.

Comment: It is expected that this rail project will have a positive effect on employment opportunities, port efficiency and trade.

This project is crucial to the advancement of intra-Africa trade for the interconnectedness it facilitates in the East-Africa region. It is on the strength of this improved regional interconnectivity that the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) protocols can be interacted with and given full effect for African prosperity.



For more information, please click [here](#).

NGN250 Billion AfCFTA Readiness Fund Launched by Nigerian Government

The Federal Government of Nigeria has approved an AfCFTA readiness fund to the tune of NGN250 billion to prepare medium to small enterprises (MSMEs) to engage in trade under the AfCFTA competitively.

AfCFTA is currently in its Operational phase of implementation. This stage requires the adoption of five instruments, namely: Rules of Origin, Tariff Concessions, online mechanism on monitoring and reporting of non-tariff barriers (NTBs), the Pan-African payment settlement system and the African Trade observatory.

Each member is undergoing different stages of implementation of these 5 instruments, in conjunction with other readiness measures toward AfCFTA protocol adoptions.

Comment: This development is a step in the right direction, especially as the AfCFTA protocol on women and youth in trade, specifically aims to capture the informal trade sector; the fund demonstrates Nigeria's commitment to bringing the AfCFTA to reality.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Nigeria Commences Export in First AfCFTA Shipment to Kenya

The Nigeria Customs Service (NCS) under the AfCFTA has facilitated the first shipment of goods from Nigeria to Kenya through Lucky Fibres a manufacturer of hair products, and a subsidiary of the Tolaram Group. Mr Olusegun Olutayo, the Senior Trade Expert and Lead of Trade Enablement at the Nigeria AfCFTA Coordination Office, highlighted the cooperation between the NCS Apapa Area Command, the AfCFTA Secretariat in Ghana and Kenya's implementation committee as a testament of the collaborative effort to realise the AfCFTA's initiative.

Before the goods were shipped, the Comptroller General of Customs together with his senior officers ensured compliance

with the regulatory requirements and standards in Nigeria and Kenya.

Comment: This shipment is part of the actualisation of AfCFTA's objectives to create a single liberalised market for goods and services and to lay foundation for a Continental Customs Union. This development paves the way for local businesses to export their products to a wider market and fosters the harmonisation of regulations, policies and strategies which will in turn boost economic development in Africa.

For more information, please click [here](#).

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