SECURITIES AFRICA
RESEARCH & CAPITAL MARKETS

PAN-AFRICA

WEEKLY AFRICAN FOOTPRINT

This Week's Leading Headlines Across the African Capital Markets

TRADING

We have included summaries for the countries listed below, please click on the country name should you wish to navigate to it directly:

- Botswana
- Egypt
- Ghana
- Kenya
- Malawi
- Mauritius
- Nigeria
- Tanzania
- Zambia
- Zimbabwe

AFRICA STOCK EXCHANGE PERFORMANCE

Country	Index	28-Aug-15	4-Sep-15	WTD % Change Local	WTD % Change USD	31-Dec-14	YTD % Change Local	YTD % Change USD
Botswana	DCI	10895.71	10840.61	-0.51%	-2.27%	9,501.60	14.09%	4.34%
Egypt	CASE 30	7078.83	7295.96	3.07%	3.08%	8,942.65	-18.41%	-25.49%
Ghana	GSE Comp Index	2155.43	2100.42	-2.55%	7.97%	2,287.32	-8.17%	-22.80%
Ivory Coast	BRVM Composite	296.98	293.17	-1.28%	-2.12%	258.08	13.60%	4.83%
Kenya	NSE 20	4101.67	4134.40	0.80%	-0.27%	5,112.65	-19.13%	-30.09%
Malawi	Malawi All Share	15848.78	15902.10	0.34%	-1.06%	14,886.12	6.83%	-11.53%
Mauritius	SEMDEX	1929.00	1942.85	0.72%	0.22%	2,073.72	-6.31%	-16.18%
	SEM 10	368.06	370.72	0.72%	0.23%	385.80	-3.91%	-14.03%
Namibia	Overall Index	1046.42	1005.52	-3.91%	-6.79%	1,098.03	-8.43%	-21.27%
Nigeria	Nigeria All Share	28814.62	29511.08	2.42%	2.56%	34,657.15	-14.85%	-21.76%
Swaziland	All Share	307.41	307.41	0.00%	-3.00%	298.10	3.12%	-11.35%
Tanzania	TSI	4614.52	4650.42	0.78%	0.65%	4,527.61	2.71%	-17.26%
Tunisia	TunIndex	5494.04	5368.71	-2.28%	-2.42%	5,089.77	5.48%	0.36%
Zambia	LUSE All Share	5830.07	5820.56	-0.16%	-11.40%	6,160.66	-5.52%	-37.14%
Zimbabwe	Industrial Index	135.53	134.85	-0.50%	-0.50%	162.79	-17.16%	-17.16%
	Mining Index	35.34	32.97	-6.71%	-6.71%	71.71	-54.02%	-54.02%

CURRENCIES

Currency	28-Aug-15 Close	4-Sep-15 Close	WTD % Change	YTD % Change
BWP	10.12	10.30	1.80	7.41
EGP	7.81	7.81	-0.01	9.51
GHS	4.19	3.78	-9.74	31.79
CFA	579.79	584.76	0.86	7.44
KES	101.91	103.01	1.07	14.45
MWK	551.38	559.18	1.41	19.07
MUR	33.84	34.01	0.50	11.23
NAD	13.09	13.50	3.09	12.83
NGN	197.26	196.98	-0.14	9.00
SZL	13.09	13.50	3.09	12.83
TZS	2,109.07	2,111.67	0.12	23.99
TND	1.95	1.95	0.14	4.95
ZMW	8.47	9.54	12.68	33.40

SECURITIES AFRICA

Botswana

Corporate News

No Corporate News This Week

Economic News

Botswana and the World Bank are undertaking a due diligence on whether to grant private companies equity in a 16 billion pula ($1.5 billion) water pipeline to be built from the Zambezi River in neighboring Zambia and Zimbabwe. The study will be based on feasibility plans produced for the project, Thatayaone Dedede, Botswana's minerals, energy and water resources deputy permanent secretary, said in an interview Thursday in the capital, Gaborone. The Southern African Development Community, whose members include Zambia, Zimbabwe and Botswana, in 2009 granted Botswana's formal request to draw 495 million cubic meters of water a year from the river to supply the country's arid southern regions by 2023. Botswana has been hit by water rationing that's caused seven-hour supply cuts in Gaborone and surrounding areas on about four days a week. The central bank in May said water shortages were a threat to the country's economic growth this year, together with electricity. *(Bloomberg)*

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Egypt

Corporate News

Italian energy group Eni said on Sunday it had discovered the largest known gas field in the Mediterranean off the Egyptian coast, predicting the find could help meet Egypt's gas needs for decades to come. The Italian major said in a statement the offshore "Zohr" field could hold 30 trillion cubic feet of gas, covering an area of about 100 square kilometres (60 square miles). "Zohr is the largest gas discovery ever made in Egypt and in the Mediterranean Sea and could become one of the worldâ€™s largest natural-gas finds," it said, adding that it had full concession rights to the area. The find follows other significant gas discoveries in the Mediterranean in recent years, including off neighbouring Israel. This is expected to have a major impact on the region's economy and potentially offer Europe new supply options, allowing it to lessen its dependence on Russian gas imports. It also represents a major boost for Egypt, where power cuts caused by gas and oil shortages have often fuelled unrest. Eni said the discovery was located at a depth of 1,450 metres (4,757 ft), adding that it planned to fast track development of the site, using existing infrastructure. It said yet more gas might be uncovered in future drilling. Eni, 30 percent controlled by the Italian state, is the biggest foreign oil and gas producer in Africa, where it has significant operations in war-riven Libya. In 2011 it made huge finds in offshore Mozambique, with an estimated 85 trillion cubic feet of gas in place. It has operated for more than 60 years in Egypt and is one of the main energy producers in the country, with a daily output of 200,000 barrels of oil equivalent.

In June, it signed an energy exploration deal with Egypt worth $2 billion, allowing Eni to explore in Sinai, the Gulf of Suez, the Mediterranean and areas in the Nile Delta. In July, Egypt raised the prices it pays Eni for the natural gas it produces. "This historic discovery will be able to transform the energy scenario of Egypt," said Eni CEO Claudio Descalzi, who met Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi on Saturday to discuss the find. Egypt, which once exported gas to Israel and elsewhere, has become a net energy importer over the last few years. Under Sisi, Egypt's state-owned gas company EGAS has increasingly rationed gas supplies to much of the domestic industry, which has at times crippled production and hampered the economic recovery. The government has also attempted to improve the energy situation by slashing state energy subsidies, paying down its debt to foreign energy firms, and negotiating import agreements. *(Reuters)*

Egypt's Orascom Construction said on Sunday it posted net income of $35.2 million in the second quarter of 2015. The engineering and building business, which is dual listed in Cairo and Dubai, reported revenues of $1.017 billion. *(Reuters)*

Economic News

Egypt's M2 money supply was up 16.5 percent at the end of July from a year earlier, the central bank said on Monday. M2 money supply stood at 1.8 trillion Egyptian pounds at the end of July 2015, compared with 1.55 trillion at the end of July 2014. *(Reuters)*

The number of tourists visiting Egypt rose by 2.9 percent in July compared to the same period of the previous year, according to the latest official figures issued Tuesday. The number of tourists arriving in Egypt reached 911,600 in July, up from 885,800 in July 2014, state statistics body CAPMAS announced in a press statement. Tourism is one of the main sources of foreign currency for Egypt, which relies heavily on imports of basic foodstuffs such as wheat, bringing in $7.5 billion in revenues in 2014. The highest number of tourists visiting in July were from Eastern Europe, of which 67 percent were from Russia. Western Europeans were 34% of visiting tourists, 28 per cent of which were British tourists. Meanwhile, 17 percent came from Middle Eastern countries, said CAPMAS. The average number of nights spent by departing tourists was 9.5 in July 2015, compared to 8.8 in the same period of the previous year. The tourism sector, which employs one in seven Egyptians, was dealt a series of blows by political turmoil following Egypt's 2011 revolution that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak. Foreign currency reserves, which stood at $36 billion before the uprising, fell sharply to $13.4 in 2013 recovering to $18.5 billion last month due to influx of Arab Gulf aid. The sector has been making a gradual recovery, with Egypt receiving 9.9 million tourists in 2014, up from 9.5 million in 2013.

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Egypt estimated that its revenues from tourism will increase reaching $26 billion by 2020, expecting twenty million tourists visiting by then, according to minister of tourism, Khaled Ramy. *(Egypt.com)*

Business activity in Egypt's private sector excluding oil grew in August at the fastest pace of 2015 on the back of solid growth in output, though employment fell for the eighth time in nine months, a survey showed on Thursday. The Emirates NBD Egypt Purchasing Managers' Index rose to 51.2 in August, up from 49.2 the previous month. A reading above 50 indicates expansion and below 50, contraction. "The improvement in the August survey is encouraging, and more than reverses the decline seen in the previous month," Jean-Paul Pigat, economist at Emirates NBD, said. "The rise in the output component to an 11-month high was particularly notable, and hopefully suggests that the slowdown witnessed in July will not persist through H2." The August survey was the highest reading in eight months and the second time this year that business conditions recorded by the survey have improved, albeit modestly. Much of the improvement was spurred by an increase in output and new orders, with 23 percent of participants recording higher output than the month before and many reporting stronger demand conditions. "With export activity softening, domestic demand is likely to be the main driver of growth in the near term," said Pigat.

Egyptian non-oil exports during the first seven months of the year fell by 19 percent compared to the same period last year, the state's General Organization for Export and Import Control said in July. New work from abroad decreased in August for the third time in four months. Some participants tied lower exports to a lack of stability across key international markets in the Middle East. Despite increased output the PMI survey also showed that hiring dropped for the eighth time in nine months. Though Egypt's unemployment rate edged down to 12.7 percent in the second quarter of 2015, the jobless rate among youth holding a university degree was 44.6 percent. President Abdel Fatah al-Sisi has pledged to reduce joblessness to 10 percent over the next five years while reviving the economy through long-awaited reforms, state-led mega-projects, and the return of foreign investors and tourists. Companies attributed another sharp rise in purchase prices in August to the ongoing weakness of the Egyptian pound versus the dollar. *(Reuters)*

The discovery of the Zohr natural gas field off Egypt will not undermine private-sector negotiations about buying gas from Israel, Egypt's petroleum minister said, playing down fears that potential deals could be under threat. Italian energy company Eni announced on Sunday that it had found an estimated 30 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of gas in the Zohr field, making it the biggest discovery in the Mediterranean and the world's 20th largest. The find raised concerns in Israel's gas industry that its Leviathan field would lose a deal to supply gas to a liquefied natural gas (LNG) plant in Egypt. "Any negotiations between private companies in Egypt and in the eastern Mediterranean, and by this I mean Israel and Cyprus, will not stop," Petroleum Minister Sherif Ismail told Reuters in an interview. "These negotiations and initial agreements are ongoing." Private companies will require government approval to import gas from Israel, the minister said. Ismail's comments may improve sentiment on the Israeli stock market where leading energy companies on Monday suffered losses of more than 4.5 billion shekels ($1.1 billion) after news of the Zohr discovery. Despite the minister's comments, Western oil companies operating in Egypt negotiating gas import deals with Israeli counterparts will have to decide for themselves whether recent finds in Egypt alter the equation. "We do not object to the plans of private companies (which are) operating in Egypt and looking to import natural gas from eastern Mediterranean countries," the minister said.

For Egypt, the Zohr field offers hope in the country's battle with chronic, politically sensitive energy shortages. Egypt used to export gas to Israel and elsewhere but has become a net importer over the last few years because of booming consumption and depleted natural gas output. State-owned EGAS has been forced to ration gas supplies to industry, crippling production and hampering Egypt's economic recovery. Blackouts deepened discontent with Islamist President Mohamed Mursi before the army toppled him in 2013. Gas produced from the Zohr field will flow to Egypt, including Eni's share, Ismail said, suggesting Cairo has no export plans from Zohr. Eni will hold a 35 percent share of Zohrâ€™s reserves, with the rest claimed by the state, the Ministry of Petroleum said this week. "The priority is for the domestic market," Ismail said. Around 75 percent of the 30 tcf of gas in the new field is likely recoverable given it's "good quality" and this would bring Egypt's total natural gas reserves to an estimated 90 tcf, the minister said. Once developed it is expected to produce between 2.5 and 3 billion cubic feet of gas per day, Ismail said.

Eni is expected to deliver a development plan by the end of October detailing the number of wells it will dig, and production will likely begin at the start of 2018, the minister said. Analysts say this timeline is ambitious and that at least in the short run Egypt may still look to Israel's Leviathan to fill its natural gas needs. The price paid to Eni to purchase the field's gas for domestic use is still under negotiation. "We have not yet agreed with Eni over the price of the gas ...but the important thing is it's a number appropriate for both parties ...It's not a condition that it be the same number agreed upon in other deals," the minister said. In July, Egypt raised the prices it pays Eni and Edison for the gas they produce in the country, a move intended to encourage needed investment in energy. The petroleum minister said previously that Egypt is looking to be energy self sufficient by 2020. The newest discovery does not mean this will be achieved any sooner, he said. When asked about the prospect of exporting gas in the future, the minister said: "We have to be realistic...we need to cover the needs of the domestic market in full." The prospect of relaunching exports depends on other discoveries and production levels from other, smaller fields expected to come online in the next few years, he said. The Zohr discovery also makes it more likely that LNG plants which have suspended operations in recent years return to service. "Of course the LNG plants will go back to operating in the coming period, as we have a plan to exploit the gas surpluses of Mediterranean basin countries for use at these plants," the minister said, adding he hopes to make Egypt a global gas hub. "It's very likely that the new discovery will attract new international companies to work in the area," he said. *(Reuters)*

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Ghana

Corporate News

No Corporate News This Week

Economic News

Ghana is holding off on plans to issue a five-year domestic bond this month due to "recent market developments", the Finance Ministry said on Friday, the latest setback after the government recently cancelled similar bonds. Finance Minister Seth Terkper earlier this month announced the government's plans to issue the bond to raise 500 million cedis ($127 million) in an effort to help restructure its growing debt. But in a statement on Friday, the ministry said the issuance had been postponed, adding that it would keep markets updated with any developments on the transaction. It did not explain the postponement, but analysts say uncertainties over the country's economic outlook had rendered its long-term domestic debt unattractive to investors. Ghana, which exports cocoa, gold and oil, is currently under a three-year aid programme with the International Monetary Fund to stabilize the economy, dogged by stubborn deficits, high public debt and quickening inflation.

"It was going to be difficult for the book-builders to convince risk-averse investors to participate in a five-year cedi bond at this time when they are not certain of the immediate future path of the economy," an Accra-based fund manager said. The West African country is also grappling with a prolonged energy crisis that has crippled industries, leading to stunted economic growth and angered voters ahead of elections next year. The government cancelled a seven-year domestic bond planned for April this year. It last year called off advertised five-year auctions to avoid exorbitant yields on the debt. Yields on government debt have been on the rise in the last three years. On Friday, the rate for Bank of Ghana's benchmark 91-day bill rose to 25.2287 percent from 25.2129 percent a week ago. *(Reuters)*

The International Monetary Fund's board on Monday approved a second disbursement of funds to Ghana under a three-year programme aimed at restoring fiscal stability and kick starting growth, a Washington source said. The country was one of Africa's fastest growing economies, with exports of gold, cocoa and oil, but since 2013 its economy has endured a stubborn deficit, inflation above government forecasts, and a debt-to-GDP ratio of nearly 70 percent. Ghana entered the $918 million programme in April and the board approved the disbursement after a positive first review conducted at staff level in June, the source said, adding that the next reviews are set for October and early February. "The next two reviews are critical and it is the view of the Fund that Ghana must tighten its fiscals in the face of its current challenges in order to meet the benchmarks," the source said. "The country is still grappling with energy problems, inflation still remains high and these need to be addressed quickly," the source said. Economists say the acid test of the government's ability to adhere to the deal will rise in the run-up to a 2016 election that is likely to be closely fought between incumbent John Mahama and opposition leader Nana Akufo-Addo. *(Reuters)*

Ghana's Cocobod has paid back a $1.7 billion loan it received from international lenders last year, its spokesman said on Tuesday, putting to rest fears of default by the regulator due to this year's dismal harvest. Noah Amenyah, head of public affairs, said Cocobod retired the loan before the deadline last week. Ghana, the world's second-largest cocoa producer after Ivory Coast, is experiencing a poor cocoa harvest this year with output down 23 percent over last year due to harsh weather and poor agronomic practices. The production shortfall sparked fears among investors that the regulator would default on the loan. "I am happy to say that we paid up the last tranche (of the loan) including all interest charges last week. All the banks are satisfied," Amenyah said. Ghana's cocoa purchases only hit the 700,000 tonne-mark last week and it has become clear that the country will miss its revised 750,000 tonne-target as the crop year draws to a close this month. Cocobod is set to sign a new syndicated loan of $1.8 billion from international lenders on Sept. 17 in Paris for the 2015/16 crop purchases, estimated to yield around 900,000 tonnes.

Amenyah said Cocobod expects the syndication to be oversubscribed as a mark of renewed confidence in the company for fully retiring last year's debt, despite the bad harvest. The central bank is also hoping to use the hard currency inflows from the syndication to boost its reserves in support of the local currency which is currently down more than 20 percent this year. Ghana, which also exports gold and oil, is currently under a three-year aid programme with the International Monetary Fund to fix its economy, dogged by deficits, public debt and high interest rates. The country is also grappling with a prolonged power crisis resulting in frequent blackouts that have crippled industries and angered voters ahead of elections next year. *(Reuters)*

Ghana is taking steps to avoid missing its fiscal deficit target this year as falling oil prices erode revenue from crude sales. "With the continuous fall in crude oil prices, the petroleum benchmark revenue may not be achieved," Seth Terkper told reporters in Accra, the capital, on Thursday. The government lowered its growth forecast for this year to the lowest level in two decades and said it would target a wider-than-expected fiscal gap because of falling oil prices and a slump in the currency. Ghana's cedi has dropped 14 percent this year against the dollar, pushing inflation to 17.9 percent in July. Brent crude traded in London has fallen 51 percent in the past year. Ghana produces about 100,000 barrels of oil a day from its offshore Jubilee field operated by London-based Tullow Oil Plc. The government is targeting a deficit of 7.3 percent of gross domestic product, wider than the initial estimate of 6.5 percent. *(Bloomberg)*

The Central Securities Depository (CSD) has in consultation with Bank of Ghana and the Ghana Stock Exchange announced a change in the settlement cycle for secondary market transactions in debt securities issued and traded in Ghana. Effective Monday, September 14, 2015, trades done on the Ghana Fixed Income Market and the CSD in Bank of Ghana and Ghana Cocobod Securities, including Treasury Bills and other Corporate Bonds will settle on a T+2 (Transaction date plus 2 business days) rolling settlement cycle for both securities and funds. A statement from the CSD said the move follows the approval granted by the Securities and Exchange Commission. In this direction, it said the CSD Operational Rules had been amended as follows: Settlement for transactions in equities shall be on T+3 rolling cycle; Settlement for transactions at the primary auction shall be on T+1 cycle; and Settlement for all secondary trades in debt securities shall be on T+2 rolling cycle. Counter-parties to a trade can, however, agree at the time of negotiation to settle earlier on bilateral basis, i.e. same day or T+1, the statement added. *(Ghana Web)*

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Kenya

Corporate News

Uchumi Supermarkets' earnings for the year ending in June will fall at least 25 percent compared with the previous year due to "challenges on the working capital", it said on Monday. The company fired Chief Executive Jonathan Ciano and Chief Financial Officer Chadwick Omondi Okumu in June after the chain fell behind on supplier payments. It ordered a forensic audit to see how cash from a rights issue was spent. "The challenges that led to an adverse performance for the year 2015 were mainly attributed to challenges on the working capital," the company said in a statement on Monday, without giving further details. It said recent changes, including to its top management, would lay a "solid and sustainable foundation" for growth. The company, which has outlets in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, said in June it had terminated Ciano and Okumu's contracts due to "gross misconduct and gross negligence" and that it would bring in an external consultant to review its business model and expansion strategy. Last month, it said it would close unprofitable branches after a rapid expansion in recent years. It opened several branches under Ciano, who helped revive Uchumi in 2006 when it was put into receivership and given a government-led bailout. Uchumi is facing competition in Kenya from domestic supermarkets such as Nakumatt as well as France's Carrefour, which is due to open stores this year. *(Reuters)*

Kenyan media company Standard Group posted a 90 percent fall in pretax profit for the six months ending June, days after warning of a sharp drop in earnings this year. Pretax profit fell to 21.3 million Kenyan shillings ($200,000) from 205 million in the same period of 2014, hurt by weakness in the company's television segment. The company had on Friday warned its full-year earnings would be at least 25 percent lower than last year, hurt by disruption resulting from a countrywide digital migration of television signals. Four Kenyan television stations, including one belonging to Standard Group, were off air for 19 days in February after the government switched off all analogue signals, leading to advertising losses for media companies. Standard, which also publishes newspapers, runs websites and owns a radio station, said it expects earning to improve in the second half of the year after a difficult start to 2015. "The board is optimistic barring unforeseen factors that the group will record (an) improved performance in the second half of the year," the company said in a statement. Standard's television business saw revenue drop 27 percent to 275 million shillings, but the company's radio segment achieved growth of 116 percent.*(Reuters)*

Two new loans provided to Kenya Airways Ltd could help Kenya's national carrier complete the financing needed to take delivery of two Boeing Co 787-8 aircraft now in storage in Everett, Washington, a source familiar with the matter said late Wednesday. The two Dreamliner aircraft, produced at Boeing's North Charleston, South Carolina, assembly line earlier this year, were recently flown to the larger Everett site for "short-term storage" while the airline worked out a financing package for the planes, according to a source familiar with the situation. Kenya's finance minister, Henry Rotich, told a Senate committee on Wednesday that the government had provided a $40 million loan to the airline and the African Export-Import Bank had approved a $200 million bridging loan. Kenya Airways, which is part owned by Air France-KLM , has reported losses for the past three years due to a slump in tourism after a number of Islamist militant attacks in Kenya. Boeing said it was working closely with the airline to meet its fleet needs, but declined to discuss any specifics about the two jets in question, the delivery schedule for any aircraft ordered by the airline, or their cost. "We are committed to helping our customer find the best solution for both the near-term and long-term business requirements of both Kenya Airways and Boeing," Boeing spokesman Marc Birtel said in a statement. Birtel said the sequencing and scheduling of aircraft deliveries change for many reasons, including Boeing needs, customer needs or a combination of the two. The source said Kenya Airways had not canceled its order and remained a valued customer of Boeing. *(Reuters)*

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A fall in Kenyan food prices slowed inflation to 5.84 percent year-on-year in August from 6.62 percent in the previous month, the statistics office said on Monday. Kenya's food and non-alcoholic drinks segment, which accounts for more than a third of the index, decreased by 0.26 percent between July and August, as favourable weather conditions pushed down the cost of food, the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) said in a statement. But other costs, including gas, electricity and housing, edged up 0.76 percent, partly due to a weakening local currency. Kenya's shilling has lost about 11.5 percent against the dollar this year and policy makers have warned there is a risk it could drive inflation higher. The central bank has a medium term inflation target range of between 2.5 percent and 7.5 percent. Inflation eased from 7.03 percent in June last month, a move that was also attributed to a fall in food prices. *(Reuters)*

Kenya's shilling was little changed against the dollar on Friday, but was seen under pressure due to demand from importers and a general weakening of emerging currencies against the dollar. At 0723 GMT, commercial banks quoted the shilling at 105.00/105.20 per dollar, barely changed from 104.95/105.15 on Thursday. The shilling has been edging closer to its all time low of about 107 to the dollar, set in October 2011. One trader at a Nairobi-based commercial bank said the shilling would remain vulnerable to further losses as emerging market currencies wobble. "We are also seeing a bit of buying from importers, who are bringing forward their orders as they are looking at the market and thinking 'shilling may weaken'," said the trader. The Kenyan currency, down 16 percent this year, has come under pressure from a broad rally in the dollar, Kenya's high current account deficit and poor tourism inflows after attacks by Somalia's al Shabaab insurgents. Kenya's central bank has in the past few months periodically intervened in the market to support the currency by selling dollars. It also regularly mops up excess liquidity. *(Reuters)*

Malawi

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<u>Mauritius</u>

Corporate News

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Nigeria

Corporate News

Honeywell Flour Mills Plc has declared a profit after tax of N283m for the three months ended June 30, 2015. The figure was 38.7 per cent lower than the N462m it declared as profit after tax for the corresponding period of 2014. The company's results for the three months period, which it filed with the Nigerian Stock Exchange on Monday, showed that its revenue dipped by 2.98 per cent year-on-year; from N13.191bn to N12.797bn, while its profit before tax was down by 32.65 per cent from N585m to N394m. Basic earnings per share fell by 38.7 per cent from N5.83 to N3.57, while the company's gross profit rose by 2.6 per cent from N2.255bn to N2.313bn. Although Honeywell Flour Mills was able to cut its cost of sales by 4.1 per cent from N10.936bn to N10.484bn in the three months under review, it saw a 10.1 per cent year-on-year increase in selling and administrative expenses (2015, N1.728bn; 2014, N1.569bn). Honeywell Flour Mills had also suffered declines in revenue and profit for the financial year ended March 31, 2015. The company's audited results for the year had shown that its revenue fell by 10.95 per cent from N55.08bn in the year ended March 31, 2014 to N49.05bn. Its profit before tax fell by 66.27 per cent from N4.24bn to N1.43bn, while profit after tax declined 66.57 per cent from N3.35bn to N1.12bn. In a statement in July, the Managing Director, Honeywell Flour Mills, Mr. Lanre Jaiyeola, blamed the company's poor performance in the year ended March 31, 2015 on the tough operating environment and naira devaluation. For instance, he said, "Roads leading to and from Apapa (where the company is located) have effectively become car parks.

Truck parking facilities around the ports that should have been completed years ago seem to have become abandoned projects. "These problems have compromised our logistics efficiency by frustrating the prompt loading of products resulting in longer loading turnaround times and reduced stock turnover." As a result, he said it sometimes took customers up to eight hours to access or exit the company. "Added to these, is a rise in dollar denominated input costs. Costs of wheat and spare parts have been rising because of the falling naira to forex rates. These challenges coupled with weakening macro-economics of the country, means it takes much longer to factor such cost increments into product prices," he said. Jaiyeola, however, stressed that the company would "continue to evaluate opportunities to increase use of local inputs in its portfolio that helps it to reduce its exposure to forex volatility. Management is implementing new initiatives to improve outbound logistics and service delivery including the operation of off-site warehouses and optimisation of its 24-hour loading programme."*(Punch)*

Despite the weak performance it recorded in the first quarter of the year, Flour Mills of Nigeria Group (FMN) has said it will continue to reward its shareholders and other stakeholders. The firm noted that there were some macroeconomic headwinds that affected its performance during the period. The company listed the headwinds to include foreign exchange volatility, rise in the cost of imported raw materials and spare parts, worsening logistics/traffic situation at Apapa, which it stressed had hindered product evacuation and delivery resulting in loss of volume, disruptions to business operational activities pre and during the April, 2015 elections largely as a result of uncertainties and apprehensions about the outcome of the elections and Security challenges. A statement quoted the Group Managing Director, Mr. Paul Gbededo, to have said "the combined effects of these extraneous factors led to increases in cost of input and put pressures on margins." Unfortunately, he said, the rise in cost could not be fully offset by corresponding increases in product prices due to dwindling consumer spending power coupled with increased competition for market share. The Group revenue for the quarter compared with the equivalent period of last year decreased marginally by two per cent from N83.9 billion to N82.3 billion, while profit after tax dropped by 65 per cent from N2.8 billion to N972 million. The holding company's revenue was marginally down by 0.4 per cent from N61.8 billion to N61.5 billion. Similarly, the group profit after tax fell from N2.2 billion to N649 million. "Looking ahead, we are optimistic that increased sales and marketing activities should enable our Group increase its revenue. Priority is focused on the successful launch of our new breakfast cereals product, "Daily Delight" in addition to increased distribution of our recently launched edible oil, spread and margarine," the GMD added. Gbededo assured that management was confident that by growing the top line and improving Group synergy, coupled with continuous controls on overheads and financial expenses, the coming quarters should result in improved performance.*(This Day)*

WEEKLY AFRICAN FOOTPRINT

This Week's Leading Headlines Across the African Capital Markets

The Managing Director, Nigeria Reinsurance Corporation, Mrs. Isioma Chukwuma has said that the National Insurance Commission (NAICOM) has approved the 2014 accounts of the Nigeria Reinsurance corporation. Chukwuma disclosed this in a statement made available to THISDAY. She said, NAICOM communicated this to the corporation in a letter dated July 3, 2015. She noted that the corporation has in the last two years met the NAICOM June 30 , deadline for submission of accounts for insurance and reinsurance operators in the country. According to her, this achievement reinforces the corporation's strategy to be among the top rated and compliant companies in the industry. She further stated that at the beginning of year 2014, the firm objectively reviewed her operations and set a goal that is encapsulated in the phrase "to be a Profitable Global Player in the Reinsurance Market." She said the corporation is set to achieve the goal by restructuring her operations, focusing on service delivery and more specifically on prompt settlement of claims, deepening existing clients' relationship, improving on the firm's visibility, monitoring sector challenges within the industry and delivering superior returns. The approved accounts showed that Nigeria Re recorded 18 percent in its Gross Premium Income from N629 million in year 2013 to N743 million in the year 2014. The account further revealed a strong balance sheet figure of N18.86 billion. Claim settlement was given priority during the year as part of the overall strategy to clean up the books and satisfy its clients. With the approval of the accounts and the rating in place, Chukwuma said the corporation is set to soar higher from now onwards. *(This Day)*

The Chief Executive Officer, Transnational Corporation of Nigeria Plc, Mr. Emmanuel Nnorom, has said recent initiatives by the group had positioned it for improved performance, which will translate into better returns for its shareholders. Nnorom said this in Lagos on Wednesday when he led officials of the group on a visit to the Nigerian Stock Exchange. The Transcorp CEO, who beat the closing gong on the floor of the Exchange, said several initiatives were being implemented across the group's subsidiaries, all aimed at ensuring that the group achieving sustained growth. In terms of the power business, he explained that the ongoing merger of Transcorp Ugheli Power Limited and Ugheli Power Plc would not adversely affect the generation capacity. Rather, he said the merger, which had been approved by the Securities and Exchange Commission, would boost operational efficiency as it would reduce the duplication of functions, among other things. At the end of 2014, Transcorp had announced that it had increased generation capacity of Ughelli Power Plant from 342 megawatts at December 2013, to 610MW and that it planned to increase it to 850MW by the end of 2015. Nnorom expressed the confidence that the power generation target would be met, saying, "The output is still improving and we would continue to generate and reach our goal of 850MW by the end of the year."

He explained that the plant was experiencing stability in power generation this year, adding that although there had been instances when distribution companies rejected power generated, a recent directive by the NERC had improved the situation. He said, "In the past, the end users complain that they don't have enough power, not because we have not generated but because of some bottlenecks in the transmission level and also at the point of distribution but it has been resolved now. "And with what is going on and the increasing capacity generation witnessed by all the power companies including our own, and the fact that the transmission network is becoming more stable, the end users would have more power available that would translate to more economic benefit for all." In terms of the hotel business, Nnorom said Transcorp Hotels is embarking on the full renovation of Transcorp Hilton Abuja. This, according to him, comes with other key milestones including the development of new properties in Lagos and Port Harcourt, the addition of a luxury apartment building and the creation of a 5,000 person capacity convention centre. Also, Nnorom said Transcorps' agribusiness, Teragro Commodities Limited, would be the sole local-concentrate sourcing partners for Coca-Cola's new line of fruit juice to be made from concentrate. Teragro Commodities processes orange, mango and pineapple concentrates for industrial markets at a processing plant in Benue State. The 26,500MT capacity Benfruit Plant first began producing concentrate for Coca-Cola in 2014. Nnorom said it was vital for the country to achieve more stability in terms of the exchange rate, adding that clarity of government policy direction would boost productivity and economic growth. He said, "All the terms signed with the generating companies should be fully implemented by the government to drive productivity." *(Punch)*

Dangote Cement Plc, Africa's largest producer of the building material, cut prices in its home market of Nigeria in an attempt to boost cement consumption and compete with imports. The price cuts to its 3X cement brand by 6,000 naira ($30.23) per metric ton will still allow Dangote to achieve strong returns, Chief Executive Officer Onne van der Weijde said in a statement on Thursday. The Lagos-based company is also hoping the lower prices will help increase export sales to neighboring nations, he said.

Dangote Cement, controlled by Africa's richest man, Aliko Dangote, is seeking to grow sales and protect market share in Nigeria, while rapidly expanding elsewhere in sub-Saharan Africa. The company has grappled with fuel shortages in its home market this year that have hurt demand, and in December it raised prices to protect profit margins amid a devaluing local currency. Nigeria, Africa's biggest crude producer, has been hobbled by a halving of oil prices in the past year and the toll of an Islamist insurgency in the country's north. "We hope that reducing the cost of cement will help to stimulate building work across Nigeria at a time when the economy is in need of a boost," Van der Weijde said. "We believe our cost-saving initiatives and new pricing strategy will help to support the naira by reducing unnecessary imports and by enabling us to generate valuable foreign exchange earnings."

About 42 percent of Dangote's cement sales by volume were sold outside of Nigeria in July, the company said in the statement, compared with 22 percent in the first six months of the year, and just 8 percent in 2014. Before the price increase in December, Dangote had reduced the cost of cement in November, causing a more than 20 percent slump in the market. Paris-based Lafarge SA is Dangote's largest competitor in Nigeria. "Competition has no choice but to bring down the price because Dangote is the market leader," said Pabina Yinkere, head of research at Lagos-based Vetiva Capital Management. "The last time they reduced the price it was not sustained because they had logistics problems with their distribution." Dangote Cement shares have fallen 13 percent this year to 174 naira, compared to the 14 percent drop of the Nigerian Stock Exchange All-Share Index. *(Bloomberg)*

The United Bank for Africa Plc (UBA) on Thursday announced its audited 2015 half year financial results. The results showed that the pan-African bank's profit before tax (PBT) rose by 35.1 per cent to N39 billion, while its profit after tax (PAT) was up by 40 per cent to N32 billion within the same period. UBA's gross earnings also climbed by 21 per cent to N166.9 billion during the period, compared to the N138.2 billion realised in the same period of June 2014. As a reward to shareholders, the bank has announced the payment of an interim dividend of 20 kobo per share. The results made available on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange (NSE), indicated that the benefited from its determination to provide value to its large customer base in Nigeria and its increasingly important pan African network which now contributes over 23 per cent of profit after tax.

Speaking on the results, the bank's Group Managing Director/Chief Executive Officer, Phillips Oduoza said: "In spite of a challenging operating environment, our business strategy has proved to be resilient, balancing prudence, with an ability to significantly grow bottom line and continue to focus on operating effectiveness. We look forward to continuing to support our customers and working with them to achieve financial success for them and the wider Nigerian and African economies." "We delivered strong growth of 21 per cent in gross earnings and 40 per cent in profit after tax, reflecting better extraction of value across all business segments and our on-going process optimisation. It was also satisfying to see our cost-to-income ratio decline further. We understand that many in Nigeria are facing difficult economic circumstances and we are very much shouldering our responsibility to support and grow wealth creation." Also, the Group Chief Financial Officer (CFO), UBA, Ugo Nwaghodoh said; "Our business in Africa (ex-Nigeria) is beginning to significantly impact our returns, contributing 23 per cent of profit after tax, with an even stronger outlook.". *(Reuters)*

Economic News

Fitch Ratings has declared that Nigerian banks are operating in increasingly difficult conditions as this may result in a sharp deterioration of their profitability, asset quality, liquidity and capital ratios. Fitch in its report released weekend said "The sector outlook is negative in December. Gross Domestic Product, GDP figures for second quarter show weaker year-on-year growth of 2.4 per cent , down from 4 per cent in the previous quarter, the slowest quarterly growth rate for over 10 years." The volatile operating environment is highly important in determining ratings for all Fitch-rated Nigerian banks, keeping their Viability Ratings low, in the highly speculative 'b' category. Nigerian banks are highly exposed to their domestic market and the economic slowdown will affect their performance. According to Fitch "Nigeria's oil sector growth slowed in second quarter, 2015 and non-oil growth was just 3.5 per cent , down from 5.6 per cent in first quarter , 2015.
Part of this slowdown was caused by temporary fuel shortages, which caused industrial production and manufacturing output to contract.

Lower oil prices, reduced government spending and restrictions on foreign exchange availability are also taking their toll on performance across the economy. Positively, agricultural output, construction, telecommunication services, internal trade and financial services continued to grow." Fitch explained that Nigerian banks have had to contend in recent months with the increased vulnerability of the oil and gas sector, pressure on the naira, the slower economy and tightening bank liquidity.

"These are all credit negative for the sector. Since the beginning of August, public sector deposits, which represent around 8% of total system deposits, have exited the commercial banks and must be held at a single treasury account at the central bank. This adds pressure to liquidity. No significant changes in economic policy have materialised following the change of government at end-March 2015, but until a new cabinet is formed and a clear policy framework is announced, uncertainty will weigh on the outlook" it noted. According to Fitch "Loan growth contracted in first half 2015 which is likely to translate to weaker bank financial metrics for the year. We believe sector non-performing loans will rise above the central bank informal cap of 5 per cent , but below 10 per cent of total sector loans by end-2015. Regulatory capital adequacy ratios are likely to fall further due to lower earnings, weaker asset quality and a limited ability to raise capital. Tier 1 capital ratios could fall below 15 per cen for many banks, which is low by historical standards for Nigeria. "In our opinion, key financial metrics reported by Nigeria's banks are likely to continue to decline in the closing months of 2015. A prolonged economic downturn would likely to put pressure on bank ratings." *(Vanguard)*

Investors in the Nigerian equities market went home smiling again on Monday as the market sustained the positive momentum that commenced the previous week. The market has enjoyed sustained rally as macroeconomic concerns gradually eased off following the announcement of key appointments last week by President Muhammadu Buhari . At the close of trades yesterday, the benchmark index closed strongly in the green with a 3.02 per cent rise. This rise was driven by interest in the likes of Dangote Cement Plc, Zenith Bank Plc and Guaranty Trust Bank Plc. Market Capitalisation in the session correspondingly rose by N299 billion to settle at N10.21 trillion. In the same vein, market activity in terms of volume traded increased by 37.1 per cent to 346 million units while value of trades declined to N5.10 billion (18.8%). MULTIVERSE Resource Plc emerged the most actively traded stock in terms of volume (25.8% of total) while Zenith Bank Plc accounted for 19.3 per cent of total turnover on the Bourse. But the banking sector of the financial service sector remained the most active in terms of the number of shares traded. It led the equities sector with a total of 172.53 million ordinary shares valued at N797.7 million executed in 1,209 deals. The volume of shares sold in the banking sector was largely driven by the activity in the shares of United Bank for Africa Plc, Skye Bank Plc, Access Bank Plc and Unity Bank Plc. Trading on the shares of the four banks accounted for 151.9 million shares or 88 per cent of the subsectors turnover PZ Industries Plc, Okomu Oil Plc, NAHCO Plc, NASCON Plc, and Access Bank Plc, all closed above the 10 per cent band to lead the 48 gainers. However, top on the price gainers' table in absolute term was Guinness Nigeria Plc with an appreciation of N11.98 to close at N138.98 per share, while Julius Berger Nigeria Plc led on the price losers' table, shedding N1.00 to close at N42.00 per share. Meanwhile, analysts have predicted another round of sustained rally in the days ahead as investors seize the opportunity to take position, following attractive valuations across the counters.*(This Day)*

Nigerian authorities hope to put an end to rampant oil theft in eight months by increasing drone and naval monitoring of territorial waters and working with local communities, the state oil company chief said on Tuesday. The Niger delta has been plagued by oil theft for years that has left the region heavily polluted and prompted foreign oil companies, particularly Shell, to sell onshore assets. "We must eradicate oil theft in eight months ... Most of our product pipelines are ruptured and attacked frequently," Emmauel Ibe Kachikwu, head of the National Nigerian Petroleum Corp, said in an emailed statement. The reason for the deadline was not immediately clear. President Muhammadu Buhari has said that about 250,000 barrels per day (bpd) of crude is stolen in Nigeria, which produces just over 2 million bpd of oil. It is used in hundreds of illegal refineries and even for export. Gas pipelines dependent on crude flows are sometimes forced to close and are even tapped by mistake by those looking for oil, which in turn disrupts electricity production. Meanwhile, the infrastructure delivering crude to Nigeria's refining system became so degraded that the state oil company was forced into expensive supply contracts by sea. "We are launching an armada of approaches, which will include the incorporation of drones to check movements of vessels within our territorial waters," Kachikwu said. The country has limited and poorly maintained drones. Those purchased from an Israeli firm several years ago and that might have been used in the fight against the Islamist insurgency in the northeast of the country have become grounded.

Kachikwu said the "logistical nightmares" of staff changes at the crude export terminals would also be examined and that the navy would be better equipped to run patrols in the area. "The best security for these pipelines lies with the communities. We are trying to create enough incentives for them to see these pipelines as their own," Kachikwu said. Under former president Goodluck Jonathan, ex-delta militants that attacked oil installations in the early 2000s were given pipeline protection contracts after an amnesty, but theft continued to grow and spiked ahead of March's election. *(Reuters)*

With the review of the mobile money guidelines, which allows for the participation of the telecommunication companies, the adoption of this form of banking is expected to get a significant boost. Surveys had attributed the slow pace of adopting the mobile money services to the low public awareness on the payment transfer system. Another challenge had been low number of agents as well as inadequate infrastructure. Already, three of the telecommunication companies in Nigeria have already applied for super-agents license to render mobile money services. But the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) has stated that it decided to review its policy on mobile money to accommodate the telcos because it realised that they (telcos) have huge infrastructure and actually provide the enabling infrastructure for mobile money agents to work. "The telcos have outlets and so they can come in as super-agents, which means, we can leverage on some of these infrastructure to provide mobile financial services and that is basically what we are doing. So, all outlets of the telecommunication companies are going to act as agents," the Deputy Director, Banking and Payment System Department, CBN, Mr. Musa Itokpa Jimoh advised. From July next year, the capital requirement for being a mobile money operator shall be N2 billion The CBN introduced mobile money services to provide basic financial services and create payment access especially to Nigerians without bank accounts, as well as to help drive financial inclusion in the country. Mobile money is a tool for economic growth and development, if fully explored. It enables monetary transactions to be done on mobile phones through text messaging. Also, it serves as an alternative way of storing money, for both account and non-account holders. It reduces the risk of theft and loss of money as it does not involve the handling of cash.

Through this service, an individual can make money deposits, pay bills, transfer funds and pay for goods and services purchased. Meanwhile, as a result of the challenge of frequent complaints of network failures being reported by points of sale (PoS) merchants, the central bank has taken steps to improve efficiency of the device and customer usage. The banking sector regulator also attributed the network interruptions partly to the duplication of the device. "At one merchant location you can have 10 and the merchant needs only one. So, technically speaking you have just given them PoS terminals that would not work. So, what we are doing now is to clean up and to say we don't want to see more than two PoS terminals in any location. "What we do is to make sure that if a terminal is there and it is not doing any transaction, we deactivate it. So, any terminal that has not done transaction in the last three months is considered not active and what we do is to deactivate it. Once we deactivate it, we now have the true number of PoS terminals that are working in the country," Jimoh explained. He said the deactivation process is on-going, adding that it is being by the Nigerian Interbank Settlement System (NIBSS), which is the aggregator is the organisation handling that. "NIBSS is the aggregator and is the one that knows the terminal that has not been active," he added. Continuing, Jimoh advised bank customers to always keep their cards safe so as not to be victims of fraudsters. "Your card is never safe until you protect it completely from everyone. The 16-digits in front of your card which is called the pan are very dangerous. Do not allow anybody to snap it and in front of that card you have the expiry period and when you turn the card the other way, you have the three digits called the Card Verification Value (CVV). "Those three pieces of information are very vital and if you give your card out and feel you still have your pin, you might be making a mistake. Those of us who send our drivers out with our cards, if anybody gets hold of the 16 digits, the CVV and the expiry date, that person can go on the internet and buy goods with it," he added. *(This Day)*

Nigeria's state oil company chief said on Wednesday that the firm's downstream arm, Pipelines and Products Marketing Co (PPMC), would be split into three parts as part of an overhaul of the graft-ridden energy behemoth. "PPMC will be split into a pipelines company that will focus primarily on the maintenance of over five thousand kilometers (of) pipelines, a storage company that will maintain over 23 depots and a products marketing company," Emmanuel Ibe Kachikwu, head of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corp, said in an emailed statement. Kachikwu was appointed in July and launched a three-pronged restructuring of NNPC that is to include an audit of the firm's notoriously shady accounts. In his statement, Kachikwu said Nigeria's hitherto neglected refineries would not be sold, as widely speculated, but oil firms in existing joint ventures with the NNPC would be "invited to support the running of the refineries in order to ensure efficiency".*(Reuters)*

Tanzania

Corporate News

SWISSPORT Tanzania has posted a record-breaking pretax profit that increase by 43 per cent in first half (H1) of this year to send a broaden smile to shareholders. The ground handling firm profit before tax increased to 9.93bn/- in first six months of this calendar year from 6.96bn/- over the same period last year. Swissport, listed at Dar es Salaam Stock Exchange (DSE), also announced a handsome dividend of 154/84 for six months, overtakes the full last year bonus of 109/07. Swissport Chairman, Juan Jose Andres Alvez said yesterday that the good result was mainly driven by additional aircraft movements and the use of bigger equipment. "This good result was largely driven by forex exchange gain... use of bigger aircraft by our customer airlines... and improve operational efficiency," Mr Alvez said in a statement. He said the future outlook shows slight increase in the number of flights while cargo volumes are expected to remain constant or somewhat increase.

"Generally, we are optimistic that the good performance will be sustained during the remaining part of the year," Mr Alvez said. The firm, which its share is the most appreciated stock since the year began, said will continue investing in ground handling equipment and human resources development. During the year under review, total revenue increased by 26 per cent to 25.35bn/- while operating costs went up by 17 per cent, 15bn/-. According to Tanzania Securities daily market report, Swissport share have appreciated by slightly 43 per cent to 7,300/- a unit year to date. In January the share was sold at 5,100/-. The record-breaking pre-tax profit came after the number of flights and cargo grew by 9.0 per cent and 3.0 per cent respectively in comparison to same period last year. In another development, the chairman said the full migrate to the import cargo warehouse will now take place in October. Early the happening was envisaged last month. "(The delay) was due to unforeseen construction challenges," Mr Alvez said.*(Daily News)*

Economic News

THE shilling has depreciated by almost 24 per cent in eight months since January to close the yester-market at 2,146/- a US dollar. The drop in the first eight months of 24 per cent is four times higher than the amount of depreciation in the same period last year of slightly over 6.0 per cent to 1,668/-. According to Bank of Tanzania data as of yesterday, though in aggregate term the shilling depreciated, on daily basis it went up by 0.28 per cent. The BoT monthly economic report of June shows that it intervened to cool the interbank foreign exchange market after selling 87.5 million US dollars in April and 75million US dollars in May. For sterling pound, since January to date, data from BoT shows that the shilling lost ground by almost 22 per cent to 3,275/- while sunk by almost 17 per cent to 2,400/-. The shilling also depreciated against the Kenyan shilling after dive by 8.21 per cent to 20.55/- as of Monday. However, NMB said on its eMarket report of Monday that the shilling remained fairly stable against US dollar amidst thin trading. The bank said demand for the shilling for month end local obligations buoyed the shilling, while importer demand from the oil and manufacturing sectors put slight pressure on the local currency. "The shilling could weaken in the near term upon resumption of importer demand for the month of September," NMB said. Though the export of goods and services increased by 9.8 per cent to 9,454.5 million US dollar in the year ending May, failed to counter imports that slightly went down to 13,305.2 million US dollar from 14,050.5 million dollars of previous month, according to BoT. BoT said the import decrease was attributed to "intermediate goods, particularly oil and fertilizers." The shilling depreciation is blamed for pushing north prices of various imported commodities such as petroleum products and clothes. The inflation increased from 6.4 per cent in June, 2014 to 6.5 percent in July, 2014, a situation attributed to the rise of price in different commodities as well as various services. *(Daily News)*

Tanzania will resume discussions for $800 million of loans from international lenders after abandoning an earlier plan as borrowing costs increased during the Greek debt crisis, the nation's finance minister said. Tanzania has been selling foreign currency -- as much as $10 million a month -- to support the shilling, Saada Mkuya said on Wednesday in the commercial capital, Dar es Salaam. The demand for dollars in East Africa's second biggest-economy has been stronger than the central bank's ability to support the local shilling, which hit a record low against the dollar in June. "We are holding another round of talks with investors in London next week," Mkuya said. "The delay to secure the loan has caused scarcity of dollars in the market." The nation had agreed on $800 million of loans from Rand Merchant Bank and China Development Bank Corp. to underpin its currency and plug the budget shortfall, Joseph Masawe, the Bank of Tanzania's head of economic research and policy, said in June. A month later, the government shelved plans for $600 million in credit from South Africa-based Rand Merchant. Tanzania postponed the plans after other African nations borrowed at "very high rates driven by the Greece situation," Mkuya said. She didn't specify whether next week's talks will be with the two lenders. The country's net international reserves stood at $4 billion in June, down from $4.2 billion a year earlier, according to central bank data. The shilling has weakened 19 percent against the dollar this year and is the worst-performer in Africa after Zambia's kwacha, Uganda's shilling and Madagascar's ariary, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It traded unchanged at 2,150 against the dollar on Thursday. Inflation may maintain its upward trend if the shilling keeps declining against the dollar, said Mkuya. The inflation rate rose to 6.4 percent in July compared with 4 percent at the start of the year, while the shilling has lost about a fifth of its value since then. "There is imported inflation," she said. "If we go on like this, in the long run, unfortunately, inflation will increase." Some investors are nervous about next month's presidential and parliamentary elections, Mkuya said, without elaborating. President Jakaya Kikwete is stepping down after serving for a maximum of a decade. "While we are lucky to always hold elections peacefully, we are seeing most investors holding back during this time," she said. *(Bloomberg)*

Tanzania's energy regulator lowered the maximum retail prices of petrol, diesel and kerosene on Thursday, citing lower international energy prices and a stable local currency. The Energy and Water Utilities Regulatory Authority (EWURA) lowered the price of petrol by 5.97 percent, diesel by 9.58 percent and kerosene by 9.87 percent in its latest monthly price caps, which take effect immediately and will last for a month. Fuel prices are the second-biggest driver of inflation in Tanzania after food. "To a large extent the fall in the local market prices have been caused by a decrease in the prices of petroleum products in the world market, as well as the stability of our shilling against the United States dollar," the EWURA said in a statement. The EWURA cut the price of petrol in the commercial capital Dar es Salaam by 137 Tanzanian shillings ($0.0639) to 2,153 shillings per litre, while lowering that of diesel by 194 shillings to 1,832 shillings per litre. Kerosene prices fell 194 shillings to 1,770 shillings per litre. *(Reuters)*

Zambia

Corporate News

KONKOLA Copper Mine (KCM) says the ongoing discussions with Government on how best to process the imported 5,000 metric tonnes of copper concentrates from Chile without causing harm to both the human life and environment is progressing well. The imported copper concentrates contain arsenic which is a substance found in copper which is said to have a long term effect on humans and the environment when it is not handled properly. But, KCM chief executive officer Steven Din said the company has been holding meetings with Ministry of Mines, Energy and Water Development and the Ministry of Lands, Natural Resources and Environment Protection on how best it can process the copper concentrates. "So far, we have had meetings with the two ministries and our meetings have been progressing on very well," Mr Din said in an interview on Saturday. He said the Chile mining industry has been processing the copper without harming the environment and humans hence the trend is similar in all mining firms to best handle the processing of copper which contains arsenic substance. Mr Din said, "It's just like the way you dilute Mazoe drink, you have to measure the water you are supposed to put in or mix with the concentrated Mazoe." He said KCM will be blending the imported copper concentrates with the local product to come up with a final product using its qualified experts who understand mining activities in terms of processing of copper. Mr Din reiterated KCM's commit to continue contributing to the growth of the mining sector in Zambia that will result in economic growth of the country. *(Daily Mail)*

MADISON Financial Services Plc has recorded an increase in profit to almost K17.5 million as at June 30, 2015 from about K6 million last year in the same period due to overall growth recorded in revenue across the group. The company recorded growth in insurance premiums, interest income, fee and commission income and investment income which grew by 10 percent, 44 percent, 19 percent and 44 percent respectively. According to the company's results for the half year ended June 30, 2015 issued by Madison Financial Services Plc company secretary Kafula Mwiche, the profit also grew because of efficient claims management in the insurance businesses. "Net profit and the headline earnings per share for the half year ended June 30, 2015 grew by 147 percent in comparison to those recorded as at the half year period ended June 30, 2014. The increase in profits was due to overall growth recorded in revenue across the group, specifically in insurance premiums, interest income, fee and commission income and investment income," he said. Similarly, the company also registered growth in the revenue to about K268.6 million in the period under review from about K241.5 million the previous period driven by sustained efforts to grow business across the group, the increase in the microfinance loan book and sales activity in the property development portfolio. During the period under review, the firm's net revenue and profit before tax grew by 11 percent and 18 percent respective despite, the foreign exchange losses of K8.5 million which increased from K4.1 million for the same period in 2014. "The company expects its unaudited results for the half year ended June 30, 2015 to be released via the Lusaka Stock Exchange Stock Exchange News Service and published in the local press on or about August 28, 2015. Accordingly, shareholders are advised to exercise caution when dealing in the company's securities until publication of the results," he said. *(Daily Mail)*

China's NFC Mining has shut down some of its operations at its Zambian copper mine due to power supply problems, a trade union said on Wednesday. "Because of reduced power supply, NFC Mining has closed some of the operations, National Union of Miners and Allied president James Chansa told Reuters, adding that the company's 800 employees would work only three weeks per month. The landlocked southern African nation's energy regulator on Wednesday asked mining companies to reduce their electricity consumption after power generation dropped due to the effects of a drought on the Kariba hydro power station. *(Reuters)*

CONTINUED depreciation of the Kwacha has resulted in the Real Estate Investments Zambia (REIZ) Plc recording exchange losses of over K10 million in the first half of 2015. However, the Lusaka Stock Exchange-listed company and formerly known as Farmers House has posted a rise in revenue due to increased rental incomes. In its financial results for the six months ending June 30, 2015, the REIZ witnessed a loss of K10.17 million in the first half of 2015, up by over K3.4 million compared to K6.74 million in the same period last year. "With the depreciation of Kwacha during the first half of the year from K6.40 per US dollar at December 31, 2014 to K7.49 per US dollar as at June 30, 2015, which is an overall devaluation of 17 percent, the company has incurred exchange losses of K10.17 million compared to K6.74 million in 2014," it stated. The report indicates that revenue from rental increased to K24.20 million from K18.85 million for the period under review with profit before other income, finance cost and tax climbing to K14.72 million compared to K10.69 million. Under tax revenue, the company contributed K7.27 million compared to K1.97 million in 2014 after a pre-profit tax of K41.37 million compared to K20.24 million respectively. During the period under review, the company disposed of its 49 percent stake in Burnet Investments Limited with proceeds to be employed in the development of investment property. *(Daily Mail)*

Economic News

Zambia's central bank said on Friday its current monetary stance was appropriate despite a weakening kwacha currency and slowing economy due to a fall in the price of it's main export copper. "The Bank of Zambia deems the current monetary policy stance appropriate and will continue monitoring the developments closely," the bank said in a statement. Zambia, Africa's second-biggest copper price, left its benchmark lending rate unchanged at 12.5 percent on earlier this month, saying it predicted inflation would breach the regulator's target by the end of the year. *(Reuters)*

Zambia expects slower economic growth and a bigger fiscal deficit this year as weak global demand for copper hits exports, documents released by the Ministry of Finance on Sunday show. Global commodity prices have dropped sharply on concerns that China's economy is slowing after years of rapid development that has sucked in metal imports. "In the domestic economy, real GDP growth is projected at 5.0 percent in 2015 down from the projected target of 7.0 percent," Treasury secretary Fredson Yamba said in a statement on the proposed 2016 to 2018 medium term expenditure framework. Copper export earnings dropped 29.9 percent to $2.6 billion in the six months through June, compared to the first half of 2014, the ministry said. Zambia, which aims for gross domestic product (GDP) growth of 6 percent, forecasts growth will return to its target in 2016, and rise to 6.5 percent in 2017 and 6.8 percent in 2018. It sees its budget deficit exceeding its target of 4.6 percent of GDP this year, coming in at 5.5 percent in 2015 and 5.2 percent in 2016. The finance minister asked parliament in June to almost double Zambia's external borrowing limit to 60 billion kwacha ($7 billion) to finance its budget shortfall. *(Reuters)*

Zambia suspended the awarding, renewal and transfer of mining rights while the government scrutinizes the regulatory framework for new legislation, the latest in a series of abrupt changes for the industry. Lawmakers in July approved the Mines and Minerals Development Act, which revised royalties to 6 percent for underground mines and 9 percent for open-cast operations. The royalty cuts were deeper than initially proposed for underground operators and replaced a tax system introduced in January, after miners warned they would have to cut costs by shutting plants and shedding jobs. The "initial policy shock and U-turn have had an overall negative impact on business and investor confidence," Fitch Ratings Ltd. said on Aug. 21. Zambia, Africa's second-biggest copper producer, has been hit by a slide in the price of the metal to a nearly six-year low. Miners are also grappling with power shortages as water levels decline at hydropower dams that the country relies on for more than 90 percent of its generation. The government will resume issuing mining rights once completing the review of related regulations and procedures, Mines Minister Christopher Yaluma said in a statement published in the state-owned Zambia Daily Mail on Monday. He didn't provide a timeline. *(Bloomberg)*

Zambia's kwacha fell 2 percent to 9.58 per dollar on Thursday, weighed down by continued concerns over power supply in Africa's number two copper producer and weakening copper prices. One copper miner, China's NFC Mining, has shut down some of its operations at its Zambian operations due to power supply problems, a union said on Wednesday. *(Bloomberg)*

Zambia has ruled out foreign-exchange controls to halt the kwacha's 35 percent plunge against the dollar this year, while stating that its intervention strategy to defend the currency has limitations. Finance Minister Alexander Chikwanda and central bank Governor Denny Kalyalya said separately on Thursday that currency restrictions will be a step backward for an economy reeling from a plunge in copper prices. Zambia earns 70 percent of export income from the metal. "They don't help, they actually accentuate the difficulties," Chikwanda said on the sidelines of a conference in the capital, Lusaka. "Even the little forex we have would be taken out if we have control of capital movement. You create panic. It's not a conducive environment. It's a recipe for getting the country backward." Copper prices near six-year lows have pushed Zambia's economy into crisis at the same time that a power shortage is forcing mining companies to curb electricity usage. The kwacha dropped to a record low of 9.9023 against the dollar on Thursday. Foreign-exchange "controls don't work because people eventually find a way around," Kalyalya said in an interview broadcast on state-owned ZNBC radio. "It's very clear what the government policy is, we are going to maintain a flexible exchange rate." Zambia's policy of running down reserves to defend the kwacha is also limited, Chikwanda said in a speech.

"Our reserves are reducing and this is why you see, even the capacity of the central bank to sort of intervene, measured intervention, is becoming difficult," Chikwanda said. "Our reserves are not something to write home about. We are now hovering around 2.5 months import cover." Foreign-currency reserves fell 30 percent to $2.6 billion in the year through April 30, according to data from the central bank. Falling copper revenue has strained the government's budget, forcing Zambia to raise its deficit target for this year to 6.7 percent of gross domestic product from 4.6 percent."Our government will have to do some fiscal consolidation," Chikwanda said. "We have to cut our suit according to the available cloth. " That requires fiscal responsibility, which "means you can't spend more money than you have," he said. Standard & Poor's, which downgraded Zambia's credit rating to B on July 2, said the shortfall, on a cash basis, will probably reach 10 percent of GDP. Including debt payments, it may reach 14 percent, it said. "It's clear that the Zambian economy continues to face headwinds," Konrad Reuss, S&P's Managing Director for South Africa and sub-Saharan Africa, said in an interview in Lusaka on Wednesday. "There is time to get it right. The country has growth potential in many ways. It's really a balance of finding the right policies now, particularly in the fiscal space." *(Bloomberg)*

Zimbabwe

Corporate News

FBC Holdings has recorded a 22,3% growth in after-tax to $8,2 million for the half-year-ended June 30 2015 despite the group's reduced risk appetite in a market characterised by high interest rates and high risk of default. In 2014, the group recorded $6,7 million. In the period under review, Net interest income declined by 11% to $14,9. Fees and commission income declined by 4% to $12,3 million while fees and commission expenses declined to $17 273 from 19 742 in 2014. In a statement accompanying the group unaudited interim results for the six months ended June 30 2015 FBC Holdings chairperson Herbert Nkala said despite the challenging operating environment, the group continues to operate profitably, achieving a profit before tax of $10,1 million for the six months. "The results are commendable given the group's reduced risk appetite in a market characterised by high interest rates and increasing credit risk. All subsidiaries, except for the stockbroking business, contributed positively to the group's earning," Nkala said. Nkala said the group recorded a total income of $39,9 million registering a marginal 2% decline from the $40,9 million attained for the same period last year mainly as a result of subdued economic activity. "Net interest income at $14,9 million contributed 37% total income. This was however 11% below the same period last year. "The group has reduced its credit risk appetite and has resorted to selective lending, given the high risk of default in the market. In addition, the cost of funding has remained high due to the unavailability of adequate lines of credit in the country and the high country risk premium loaded on the few available lines of credit, which further reduces margins," he said. Fees and commissions contributed 31% of the total income with no real growth due to a downward revision in fees as the group moved towards e-channels transactions, which are high in volume and low in value. (News Day)

Aliko Dangote, Africa's richest man, is considering investments in Zimbabwe's cement, power generation and coal-mining industries as part of an expansion in the southern African nation. Dangote Cement Plc may start building a $400 million, 1.5 million metric tons-a-year cement plant by the first quarter of 2016, if all the necessary approvals are received, the Nigerian billionaire told reporters in Harare, the capital, on Monday. Dangote Industries may invest in Zimbabwean power generation through Black Rhino Group, a $5 billion African infrastructure fund in which U.S. private-equity group Blackstone Group LP is a co-investor. A potential power investment in Zimbabwe could be "huge," said Dangote, who is meeting President Robert Mugabe on Monday. While the billionaire has interests ranging from sugar to oil, the majority of his investments outside Nigeria have been focused on cement. Dangote Cement last week signed contracts with Chinese construction company Sinoma International Engineering to add 25 million metric tons across 11 countries, and Dangote said at the time he expects to reach more than 70 million tons of capacity once the projects are completed. A Zimbabwean plant would help reach the next milestone of 100 million tons of cement capacity by 2020, he said on Monday. *(Bloomberg)*

Zimbabwe's biggest platinum producer Zimplats reported a record $74 million loss for the full year on Monday after being hit by a hefty one-off tax repayment and falling global sales of the metal. It was the only second time in the company's history that it has reported an annual loss, the other being in 2009. Zimplats, which is 87 percent owned by Impala Platinum Holdings, the world's second-largest platinum producer, said it had to pay an additional $55.3 million in taxes during the year to June to cover the period 2004-2014, after losing a court case in a long-running dispute with the tax agency over payment of additional profits tax. In addition, it said its revenue fell 29 percent to $408 million for the year after sales of platinum, palladium, rhodium and gold declined 20 percent. Platinum's spot price XPT= is pinned near 6-1/2 year lows below $1,000 an ounce. Zimplats said its production of platinum matte fell to 190,027 ounces, compared to 239,660 ounces in 2014, due to weaker demand. Its full-year loss of $74 million after tax compared to a $97 million profit a year ago. Zimbabwe ships its platinum matte for further processing at refineries in South Africa but President Robert Mugabe is pushing producers to set up local refineries. Zimplats said it had started upgrading its mothballed base metals refinery to process platinum locally but would still send it to South Africa for the last stages of refining. The company is due to release full details of its annual results next month. *(Reuters)*

Tanzanian milling giant, Bakhresa Group is set to inject $20 million into Zimbabwe's second largest food and milling company, Blue Ribbon Industries Limited (BRI) to settle its debts and restart the insolvent firm once creditors vote in favour of the takeover. Blue

Ribbon, which collapsed due to liquidity challenges, was placed under provisional judicial management in 2012 and subsequently into final administration in 2013 to pave way for new investors as the company's capacity utilisation declined to an all time low of 11 percent in 2009. The company ceased operations in 2012 and only resumed last June after securing a supply agreement for raw materials with Mega Market while waiting to court new investors. In 2013, Bakhresa emerged the biggest contender among three bidders seeking a 75 percent stake in the troubled firm but the deal was stalled for close to two years due to delays in indigenisation approvals. Zimbabwe's indigenisation laws limit foreign-ownership in local firms to 49 percent and Bakhresa's 75 percent stake, at the time, had to be negotiated with government which only approved it this year following the interventions of the industry ministry and the central bank. During a scheme of arrangement meeting of creditors held at a local hotel on Wednesday, creditors voted for either the takeover or liquidation of the company and the results will be announced on Friday.

Should they vote in favour of the takeover, the firm, which is saddled with a $29 million debt, will see most of its creditors being paid off, including the workers. The creditors include PTA Bank which is owed $2,4 million; FBC Bank $1,1 million; Atlas $7,4 million; workers $1,1 million, statutory bodies close to $700,000; ZB bank $7,6 million and concurrent creditors $8,8 million bringing the total to $29,4 million. BRI judicial manager, Reggie Saruchera of Grant Thornton chartered accountants urged creditors to vote in favour of the deal which would see Bakhresa inject an initial capital of $20 million of which $12 million will be used to pay off creditors. The investment will be increased in the next six years to $40 million to replace aged equipment. "The total owed to creditors in your company is $29 million and Bakhresa will put in $12 million and an additional $6 million is being put to also deal with the immediate working capital requirements to get the business running again," he said. "In the next six years they are looking at investing up to $40 million. They have to go for the complete overhaul of the business." Saruchera said the deal presented the best option. "We waited for three and a half years. We searched high and low for an alternative investor and there was none," he said, adding that even local investors who wanted to take over the business had no capacity. "Blue Ribbon requires real money for it to take off." Once the creditors give their nod, the scheme is expected to be implemented this month while the handover-takeover will be completed by November this year. Saruchera said between $10 million to $15 million is required for raw materials such as maize and wheat to run the company at full capacity. "There is real money required and that is why we thought Bakhresa would do the deal for us," he said.

Once creditors have voted in favour of the takeover, secured creditors would get 90 percent of what they are owed while the unsecured including workers would get 15 percent. Previously creditors had voted overwhelmingly in favour of Bakhresa and so Saruchera was optimistic that the deal would sail through. However, he said shareholders would get a dollar since the company was insolvent. "I don't know how they will share a dollar but this will enable Bakhresa to take ownership," he said. Should creditors opt for liquidation, secured ones such as PTA Bank and FBC Bank will get 90 percent of what they are owed, Atlas 30 percent, employees 62 percent, ZB Bank 20 percent, statutory bodies 80 percent and unsecured creditors nothing. BRI has three subsidiaries namely Blue Ribbons Foods Limited, Nutresco Foods and J.A Mitchell.*(New Zimbabwe)*

Impala Platinum's Zimbabwean unit aims to hike its 2016 output to 280,000 ounces from 190,000 ounces this year, Zimplats' chief executive Alex Mhendere said on Wednesday. "We have to ramp up our production, that is critical for us in order to reduce our costs," Mhendere told a briefing.*(Reuters)*

Mwana Africa on Wednesday said it is planning to raise $5,6 million (GBP3,67 million) in an open offer to shore up its balance sheet and develop its Klipspringer diamond mine in South Africa. The resources group said it will issue 367.6 million shares at one pence per share in the open offer to 'qualifying shareholders,' although existing shareholders will be allowed to participate in the issue. Under the terms of the issue, current shareholders will be able to buy one open-offer share for each 3.802 ordinary Mwana Africa shares they already hold. Currently the group's main operations are in Zimbabwe where it owns Freda Rebecca, the largest single gold mine in the country and Trojan nickel mine in Bindura through locally-listed Bindura Nickel Corporation. BNC is Africa's only integrated nickel company with a mine, smelter and refinery. The smelter is undergoing refurbishment and is expected to be in operation in the first quarter of next year. In addition to developing its Klipspringer diamond operation, the funds will be used to cover corporate restructuring and re-organisational costs following board changes in June, Mwana said. It said major shareholder, CIMGC is subscribing for its pro-rata 15.6 percent entitlement and will apply for excess shares up to the 29.9 percent mandatory bid limit. Executive chairman Yat Hoi Ning and director Yuan Ching Hu, who each hold 454,545 or 0.03 percent of Mwana's issued share capital, said they will subscribe for their entitlement and that they also intend to apply for excess shares. *(The Source)*

Economic News

Zimbabwe, suffering from economic recession and lack of foreign investment, is relaxing a black economic empowerment law forcing foreign-owned firms to sell majority shares to locals in a bid to attract investment, a cabinet minister said on Sunday. Signalling a shift in policy, Christopher Mushohwe, minister for youth, indigenisation and economic empowerment, said the law would only be mandatory in the mining sector, which generates half of Zimbabwe's export earnings and contributes about 17 percent of GDP. Foreign investors in other sectors would be able to negotiate with the government what proportion of their businesses they could sell to locals, he said. "The only area where we do not entertain negotiations is mining, because as indigenous Zimbabweans, our contribution is the (mineral) resource," Mushohwe told the state-owned weekly Sunday Mail. "In other sectors, proposals are considered case by case. We are saying to the investors, if you come, your investment is safe, but we encourage you to partner locals," he added. The southern African country is struggling to recover from a catastrophic recession that was marked by billion percent hyperinflation and widespread food shortages. Foreign investors say the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act signed into law in 2008 requiring foreign-owned firms to sell at least 51 percent shares to locals, is the biggest obstacle to investing in the mineral-rich country.

President Robert Mugabe has defended the law, saying it aims to redress colonial-era imbalances. Anglo American Platinum and Impala Platinum Holdings are the two largest mining companies operating in Zimbabwe and have previously expressed reservations with complying with the empowerment law. Zimbabwe has the second largest reserves of platinum and chrome, but has lagged behind neighbours like Mozambique and Zambia in attracting foreign investment largely due to Mugabe's economic empowerment drive and high political risk. Outside mining, foreign investors are interested in Zimbabwe's manufacturing and tourism sectors and infrastructure projects like power generation, but are often discouraged by the indigenisation law and red tape. Zimbabwe has halved this year's growth target to 1.5 percent while labour unions say more than 20,000 workers have lost their jobs in the last month as firms close due to power shortages, high cost of capital and competition from cheaper imports. *(Reuters)*

PERFORMANCE of the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (ZSE) continues on a downward path since the beginning of the year due to economic challenges in the economy that have affected many listed counters. The market capitalisation for the ZSE declined by $1,7 billion to $3,5 billion in August this year compared to the same period in August 2014 where it stood at $5,2 billion. Market capitalisation for the local bourse took off at $4,36 billion in January 2015 and by the end of August, stood at $3,55 billion, showing a decline of $810 000 in terms of value. Market capitalisation represents the total dollar market value of all of a company's outstanding shares. The industrial index has also declined and stood at 135,43 points compared to 196,43 points in August last year. The total turnover for the eight months to August was $172 million, down 47,23% from the $326 million recorded during the same period last year. The main industrial index last traded below current levels in September 2012 when it traded at 132,82 points. During the month under review, 19 stocks closed in the red and 13 traded in positive territory. The mining index went down to 35,34 points from 58,13 points in January.

The mining index on the ZSE market shows the performance of the four listed mining companies that include Hwange, Bindura, Falgold and RioZim. The four counters performance has not been pleasing, but Bindura has been the mining index's major driver since last year. Stockbrockers Lynton-Edwards said of the outlook: "At the moment, local stocks don't have a clear growth catalyst. News that most big companies such as Delta and Econet are looking at streamlining operations point towards tough trading conditions in the economy with very few opportunities for growth." The market has failed to attract other mining counters due to the unavailability of money in the economy.
The mining sector requires huge capital injection and its projects are long-term in nature.

In his Mid-Term Fiscal Policy Review, Finance minister Patrick Chinamasa said the ZSE had been underperforming during the first half of this year due to low disposable incomes, weak aggregate demand, reduced foreign investor participation, poor performance by listed companies and liquidity challenges, which had an adverse impact on retail participation. *(News Day)*

Zimbabwe's mobile operators registered a 14 percent decline in revenue to $188 million in the first quarter of the year as voice earnings continue to fall after a cut in tariffs early this year and the growing use of internet-based platforms, a report by the industry regulator has shown. In January the Postal and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority (POTRAZ) abandoned the COSITU pricing framework – an International Telecommunications Union's model for the determination of costs and tariffs (including interconnection and accounting rates) for telephone services – in favour of a long run incremental cost (LRIC) model, which saw voice tariffs tumble by nearly 35 percent to 15 cents per minute. An industry performance report by POTRAZ shows that mobile network operators generated a total of $188,546,846 during the quarter compared to $219,707,438 in the previous quarter after total traffic declined by 17 percent. "The decline in revenue cannot be wholly attributable to the tariff reduction, but also to the substitution effect whereby consumers are slowly shifting to internet and data based applications such as whatsapp which are becoming more popular by the day," the report reads. "This is evidenced by the decline in voice traffic processed by the mobile operators and the increase in data traffic and revenue of 7.4 percent." Fixed telephone voice revenue fell 19.5 percent to $35,737,488. Revenues by Internet Access Providers (IAPs) increased by 7.4 percent to record $33,7 million from $31,4 million generated in the previous quarter. Total money transferred using mobile services during the quarter was down 7.7 percent to $406,988,613 despite a 7.3 percent increase in mobile money subscribers. *(The Source)*

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