



Tradequity

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The Trump Administration's Africa Strategy *Primacy or Partnership?*

The Trump administration launched an Africa policy that seeks both primacy and partnership on the continent. The administration's efforts at partnership, especially as it relates to promoting US business on the continent, are likely to be far more lasting and consequential. Africa is not going to be developed by aid. It will be developed by investment. Creating opportunities for the private sector to impact Africa's key development priorities is central to addressing some of the continent's most pressing challenges.

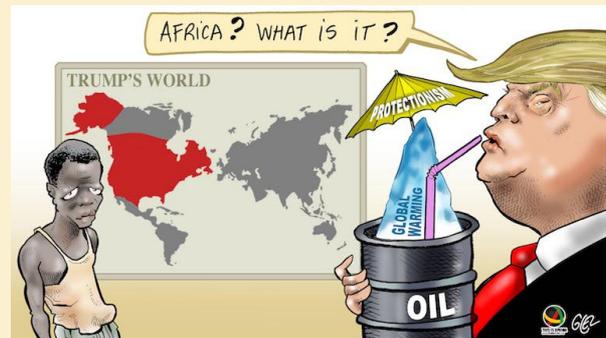
Prosperity, Security and Stability

The strategy announced by Ambassador Bolton is organised around three main principles: prosperity, through advancing US trade and commercial ties with nations across the region to benefit both the US and Africa; security, through 'countering the threat from radical Islamic terrorism and violent conflict; and stability, through foreign aid, while ensuring that US taxpayer dollars for aid are used efficiently.

The focal point of the strategy is countering China's commercial, security, and political influence in Africa. When it comes to trade and investment, the Trump Africa strategy does not reflect the preference by most African countries and the African Union for a regional approach through the newly created African Continental Free Trade Area, but favours instead a country-specific, bilateral approach. The administration should consider both approaches.

Russia was specified as another country that is rapidly expanding its financial and political influence across Africa, although the reference appears to be more reflexive than anything else. While Russia's trade with Africa has increased 10-fold between 2000 and

Africa is not going to be developed by aid. It will be developed by investment



2012, it still accounts for less than one percent of Africa's total trade.

More problematic for US commercial interests in Africa than Russia and perhaps even China are the economic partnership agreements that the European Union has struck with 41 African countries that put US exports to the region at a significant disadvantage.

Tolerating Foreign Aid

The Trump administration, which once wanted to cut development assistance by 30 percent, has now promised to use it 'efficiently and effectively' to further US interests in the region. However, some US aid programmes have achieved extraordinary successes, such as the multi-billion dollar President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), which has provided more than 13.3 million HIV-infected men, women, and children with antiretroviral therapies globally, the majority of who are in sub-Saharan Africa.

Security and United Nations

When discussing peace and security, Ambassador Bolton stated that the US would only support effective and efficient UN peacekeeping missions. The world agrees that the UN needs more accountable, robust, and effective peacekeeping missions that can decisively bring peace and ensure stability. But it is critical for the US to be

more specific about the actions it will take to address this issue and join efforts to reform and empower rather than weaken UN peacekeeping operations.

Prosper Africa

While Bolton focussed on only the administration's Africa strategy, he also referenced a new initiative, "Prosper Africa," that presumably will be announced in the near future. This programme is intended to support US investment across the region, improve the business climate, and accelerate the growth of Africa's middle class. Inevitably, US Agency for International Development's Private Sector Engagement Policy will be a central piece of the new initiative.

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Zambia towards Economic Bright Spot

Zambia's economic growth is among the fastest growing economies in Africa only second to Ethiopia. Speaking at the 2018 Bloomberg Africa Business Innovators Summit (ABMI), Bloomberg Editor-in-Chief, Mathew Winkler said foreign direct investment (FDI) from China and other countries has helped the rapid and consistent economic growth of both Zambia and Ethiopia.

Giving an outlook of Africa's economies, Winkler said that there is remarkable growth in Zambia's mining and other sectors, including telecom and technology.

Zambia needs an economy that fairly constantly achieves economic output growth which is upward ever and backward never! High inflation is a cancer that an economy needs to be inoculated against.



(LT, 19.11.18)

Africa-China Economic Relations

The extraordinary Sino-African growth story of the early 21st century surpasses those of Africa's colonial past. There is no other country more entrenched in today's Africa than China.

According to a 2017 report by McKinsey and Company, *Dance of the Lions and Dragons*, there are more than 10,000 Chinese-owned firms currently operating in Africa. China is Africa's largest trade partner and levels of trade, investment, infrastructure and financing are unsurpassed.

By the end of this century, a third of the world's population and a greater fraction of its young people will be African and this makes investment in Africa a tempting prospect. (ZDM, 17.12.18)

Economy Better than Before

The Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), Christine Lagarde, has observed that the Ghanaian economy is in a better place than it was two years ago. She said the IMF-supported programme had been an anchor for orderly economic adjustment and a positive signal to the market.

Lagarde said that the Ghanaian authorities had made important gains towards macroeconomic stability, including inflation, which had declined to a single digit and now within the Bank of Ghana's tolerance band; buoyant growth, averaging about five percent between 2015 and 2018 and a primary surplus in 2017 for the first time in 15 years. (www.businessworldghana.com, 17.12.18)

Electricity Fostering Business

The Rural Electrification Authority (REA) says the electrification of some rural parts of the country has created business opportunities for members of the community and also improved their economic well-being.

Some community members in the rural areas have been able to set up new businesses, such as internet cafes, operating of electric hammer mills, entertainment centres, welding, hair salons, barbershops, carpentry and poultry.

REA Corporate Affairs Manager Justine Mukosa said the availability of electricity in rural areas had created business opportunities for the local community. (LT, 19.12.18)

Enhancing Cooperation

Zambia and Denmark have agreed to find ways to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries. Danish Chief of Protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Michael Zilmer-Johns and Zambia's Ambassador to Sweden Rose Salukatula, have observed that there was minimal trade between the two countries despite enjoying bilateral relations since 1958.

This came to light during a meeting when Ambassador Salukatula visited Denmark to present her letters of Credence to Queen Margarethe II in Copenhagen. Zilmer-Johns noted that a number of bilateral cooperation arrangements have been agreed between Zambia and Denmark but it was regrettable that trade activities have remained low. (LT, 14.10.18)

China Assets Seizure Risk

Kenya is among countries at the highest risk of losing strategic assets to China over the pile of debt it owes to China, global ratings firm Moody's Investor Service said in a newly-released report that has raised eyebrows in public finance circles.

Moody's says in the report that China's response to sub-Saharan Africa countries facing liquidity pressure has not been uniform or transparent meaning predictability of credit implications are less clear.

Countries rich in resources are also at risk of being offered liquidity relief at higher resource concessions that only reduce the value of future export earnings. (EAD, 27.11.18)

Kenya's Debt Pain

Kenya's dilemma of managing the runaway public debt is set to roll over in 2019 as the government confronts the reality of maturing loans. Kenya's public debt currently stands at US\$50bn and is projected to hit US\$60bn by 2020.

In recent years, the government has relied on a strategy of borrowing from Peter to pay Paul, which is borrowing at expensive interest rates to settle maturing debts.

According to Treasury's Annual Report 2018, the ratio of debt service to revenues increased to 33.8 percent in 2018 from 23.6 percent in 2017 as a result of higher stock of external commercial debt maturing in 2017-18. (EAD, 18.12.18)

Zambia Tipped on Trade

Zambia needs to evaluate how it will benefit from the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement to avoid being turned into a dumping ground, Southern Africa Cross Border Traders Association (SACBTA) said.

The SACBTA is a trade association of informal cross-border persons in Southern Africa and other interested parties that work to strengthen, promote and protect cross-border traders in the region.

Currently, Zambia has signed the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) agreement. *(ZDM, 21.12.18)*

Zambia-China Trade to Rise

The bilateral trade cooperation between Zambia and China has continued to deepen, with a total trade volume between the two friendly countries reaching US\$3.79bn in 2017, with a year-on-year increase of 41.6 percent.

Zambia enjoyed a huge trade surplus of US\$3.08bn. During January-May 2018, the trade volume between two countries was US\$2.196bn with a year-on-year increase of 59.26 percent.

There are over 1,000 Chinese enterprises investing in Zambia with a total volume of investment of more than US\$4bn. This is evident that Zambia has become one of the top 10 destinations among all African countries for Chinese investors. *(ZDM, 29.10.18)*

MoU on Trade in Oil and Gas

The Zambian and Angolan government have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral cooperation on trade in oil and gas worth US\$5bn.

Minister of Energy Mathew Nkhuwa says the process of acquiring an equity partner for Indeni through the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) has reached advanced stage. He said that the move is aimed at capitalising the petroleum refinery plant.

He opined that due to obsolete equipment, the refinery is currently operating at 65 percent of its installed capacity of 1.1 million tonnes of feedstock

per year to 600,000 tonnes. Nkhuwa said that the government spends up to US\$1bn in importing petroleum products per annum. *(LT, 05.11.18)*

Nationalism to Derail AfCFTA

East African economies are growing at an unprecedented rate, but experts warn that strong nationalist and protectionist stances could weaken the implementation of the AfCFTA.

A new report by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) says rising trading tensions between some EAC member states have resulted in declines in intra-regional trade, as the bloc now trades at just half of its potential.

The report bases its findings on recent events, including Tanzania's decision in August to ban sugar imports from Uganda and Burundi's ban on Rwandan exports in 2016. *(EAD, 27.11.18)*

Rwanda-Uganda Tussle

Rwanda says Ugandan authorities have failed to address issues affecting their bilateral ties as relations between the two neighbours remain frosty.

The issues that Rwanda wants addressed include restrictions of its citizens crossing into Uganda despite both

countries agreeing to free movement of people and goods under the provisions of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs Richard Sezibera said that relations between the two states are not "where we want them to be." There are a number of problems in existence, including Rwandans who travel to Uganda and businesses who wish to transport their goods through Uganda encounter challenges. *(EAD, 24.11.18)*

Call to hasten AfCFTA Ratification

Rwandan President Paul Kagame has called on the Pan African Parliament to help speed up the ratification of the AfCFTA by member states.

The AfCFTA is the world's largest bloc, estimated to bring about long-term gains of about US\$16bn annually to the continent through the elimination of tariffs, free movement of people and goods across the continent.

In his address to the First Ordinary Session of the Fifth Pan African Parliament, President Kagame, who is the African Union Chairman, asked the legislators to exploit their dual roles to become advocates of African integration in their countries and at the continental legislature. *(EAD, 23.10.18)*

EAC to Simplify Trade Regulations

Regional countries have agreed to make trade between them and with other countries cheaper, faster and simpler, in a significant boost for economic integration in East Africa and continental trade facilitation.

Meeting in Nairobi under the first United Nations Conference on Trade and Development Africa e-Commerce Week, representatives from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda who are members of the EAC Customs Union and common market said

they would implement trade facilitation reforms.

These include reducing non-tariff barriers, such as burdensome and incompatible product regulations. The pledge was made on the sidelines of the e-Commerce Week under the moderation of UNCTAD Secretary General Mukhisa Kituyi. *(EAD, 21.12.18)*



Daily Monitor

COMESA Fish Trade

A facility to stimulate the cross-border trade of nearly 10 types of fish products in line with the safety and quality standards of the COMESA has been inaugurated in Zambia.

The standards cover fresh, frozen, farmed, salted and smoked fish, fish snacks, fish sausages, canned sardines and good aquaculture practices for bream fish.

A statement from not-for-profit international research organisation, Worldfish, said the COMESA Fish Inspection and Certification facility in Luangwa District in Zambia will also serve Zimbabwe and Mozambique. "We will use this border crossing as a model for application of the COMESA," COMESA's Head of the SPS programme, said. *(EAD, 15.12.18)*

Turkey Targets US\$1bn of Trade

Turkey's Ambassador to Ghana, Nesrin Bayazit said that the maiden Turkey's Products Fair holds a lot of prospects for the two countries and expected to shoot Turkey's trade volume up to over a billion dollars by 2020.

The Ambassador noted: "By 2020, we want to bring our trade volume to US\$1bn, but actually from today, we see that this target is going to be surpassed".

Turkey has over the years recorded a favourable trade relationship with Africa and Ghana specifically, which forms the basis for further collaborations between the two countries for mutual benefits, urging business people to get on board to help in the course. *(B&FT, 18.10.18)*

WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement

The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), Ghana, with support from the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation and BUSAC Fund held a Stakeholders' Forum on implementing the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

The Forum was aimed at calling on government to commit fully to implementing some sections of the WTO agreement which will create a level playing field for various actors in the area of international trade.

Emmanuel Doni Kwame, Secretary General, ICC, Ghana was optimistic that government will engage various stakeholders in addressing challenges associated with implementing WTO agreements. *(B&FT 19.12.18)*

Developing Cocoa Value Chain

The Ghanaian government will soon commission a special study to explore the possibility and viability of trading cocoa

on the Ghana Commodities Exchange (GCE) and convert Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) to an active participant in the cocoa value chain at the global level.

Senior Minister Yaw Osafo-Marfo said that this will be a major and priority policy shift of government going forward. The GCE must become a means of unleashing the embedded economic potentials of our commodities.

He added that empirical evidence suggests that commodities exchanges are more efficient than marketing boards, and most countries have replaced their marketing boards with exchanges. *(B&FT, 22.11.18)*

Maritime Trade High

Over the last four years, the total volume of goods passing through the country's two seaports Tema and Takoradi reached 74.5 million tonnes in 2017.

In terms of growth rate, data from the Ghana Shippers' Authority (GSA) show that cargo throughput rose from 7.2 per cent in 2015 to a record high of almost 16 per cent in 2017. This is as a result of the relative improvements in some major macroeconomic indicators of the country.

Data from the GSA shows that the development was influenced by corresponding increment in imports, exports, and transits. Goods meant for import for the four year period, ranged from 10.8 million tonnes in 2014 to 14.2 million tonnes in 2017. *(GO, 04.12.18)*

UK Hints at Bilateral Trade Deal

The UK has given indication that once it leaves the EU it will come up with a trade package that "looks really good for Ghana" and add to the existing Economic Partnership Agreement with the EU.

Speaking ahead of the first UK-Ghana Investment Summit, Adam Afriyie, MP, UK noted that the UK is ready, willing and able to create a package that really works.

He said that no trade agreement is perfect, and with such an Africa-wide agreement it is tricky – but nevertheless, the opportunity with UK lies not only in banking but a wider bigger package with the UK bilaterally. *(B&FT, 15.10.18)*

GCE Executes First Electronic Trade

Ghana has recorded the first ever electronic trading of a commodity. The GCX, a national multi-commodity exchange commenced trading in spot contracts for maize, a move that would help farmers get the true value of their goods.



Zionite Online

President Akufo-Addo delivered the keynote address emphasising the benefits farmers will gain from selling through the Exchange and the goal of it becoming the West African global trading hub. The President 'rang the bell' to officially commence electronic trade of commodities.

The Exchange's automated trading platform ensures the timely delivery of information and connects buyers and sellers. *(www.igsg Ghana.com, 14.11.18)*

SADC to Ensure Fair Poll

A 94-member SADC Observation Electoral Mission (SOEM) has been launched in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo.

According to the statement released to the Zambia News and Information Services (ZANIS) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Public Relations Unit in Lusaka, 73 out of the 94 members are field observers supported by a core team of 18 technical staff from the SADC Secretariat while three are SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) members.

Head of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission, Ernest Sakala, said the team will assess the conduct of the elections against a set of central principles stipulated in the revised SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections. (IO, 14.12.18)

Chinese Fish Causing Worry

Part of the fish imported into the region from China contains traces of heavy metal, harmful to human health, laboratory investigations commissioned by *The East African* shows.

Samples of the fish, purchased from a wholesale dealer in Nairobi, had lead, mercury, copper and arsenic, albeit in levels termed permissible by the World Health Organisation (WHO) standards.

Statistics available in Tanzania and Kenya show there is a high consumption of fish imported from China, which is cheaper than the local fish from lakes and rivers, and farms in the region, making it more popular in restaurants and homes. The samples of fish were tested in the University of Nairobi laboratory. (EAD, 15.12.18)

Oil Pipeline Investment Stalled

The execution of the underground crude oil pipeline from Uganda to Tanzania, will be delayed as investors are yet to make final investment decisions over the project, which was to kick off by the end of 2018.

The third ministerial meeting for energy sectors from Tanzania and Uganda overseeing the project was held in Dar es Salaam and pushed the negotiations to 2019, as preparatory works were incomplete despite both countries having

Scaling-up Cross Border Energy Trade

Representatives from financial institutions, governments, regulatory bodies, developers and power utilities participated in a workshop to discuss the recently adopted Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) Plan.



The Kalimandu Post

SAPP is set to benefit the wider regional economy by scaling-up cross-border energy trade and substantially reducing the cost of power supply in the region.

SAPP is intended to identify a core set of generation and transmission investments of regional significance that can provide adequate electricity supply to the region efficiently, economically and in a socially and environmentally sustainable manner. (TST, 28.12.18)

finished their feasibility studies.

Ugandan Minister for Energy and Mineral Development Irene Muloni said “the financial model seems to be one of the major reasons the assigned companies have not yet made the final investment decision”. (EAD, 21.12.18)

Customs Union Missed Deadline

About 14 years since the EAC’s Customs Union became operational, the Community has postponed the thrice the date of its full implementation.

The region was expected to achieve full implementation of the Customs Union in 2010, but has postponed the deadline indefinitely as issues, such as the harmonisation of internal and joint collection of taxes are yet to be thrashed out.

Subash Patel, Chairman of the Confederation of Tanzanian Industries, said that even though the Common External Tariff had been fully achieved, partner states are now choosing to go it alone because of slow implementation at the regional level. (EAD, 09.10.18)

Brown Card Training for MTTD

The Ghana National Bureau of ECOWAS Brown Card Insurance Scheme has successfully held sensitisation training programmes for personnel of the Motor

Traffic and Transport Department (MTTD) of the Ghana Police Service in Aflao, Tema, Takoradi and Cape Coast during October 04-24, 2018.

Patrick Agyekum, General Secretary of the Ghana National Bureau provided cutting-edge presentations of the ECOWAS Brown Card, covering areas, such as the ECOWAS Brown Card Protocol, operations of the National Bureaux, Harmonised Convention for Motor Claims Settlement and the role of the police in handling cross-border motor accidents. (B&FT, 12.11.18)

Citizen’s Campaign by ECOWAS

The President of ECOWAS Court of Justice, Edward Amoako Asante, says many people, including lawyers in member countries, are not aware of the existence of the court. The lack of knowledge about the existence of the court was making it impossible for people with complaints of alleged human rights violations to seek justice from the courts.

Speaking at a Stakeholder’s Forum in Accra, Asante assured citizens and institutions of member countries of the court’s unrelenting efforts in the sustenance of human rights in the region. The Forum is part of a four-day citizen’s campaign by the ECOWAS Court of Justice in Ghana. (GO, 19.12.18)

E-Waste Threatening Environment

The growing volume of electronic waste, including discarded products with a battery or plug, such as mobile phones, laptops, televisions, refrigerators and electrical toys, poses a major threat to the environment and human health.

The Global E-Waste Monitor 2017, released by ITU, the UN University and the International Solid Waste Association highlights increasing levels of e-waste and its improper and unsafe treatment and disposal through burning or at dumpsites.

In 2016, 44.7 million metric tonnes of e-waste were generated, an increase of 3.3 million metric tonnes, or 8 percent, from 2014. Experts foresee e-waste increasing a further 17 percent to 52.2 million metric tonnes by 2021. In 2016, only about 20 per cent, or 8.9 million metric tonnes, of all e-waste was recycled.

(B&FT, 26.10.18)

Illegal Sale of Antibiotics

The Ghanaian Minister of Health, Kwaku Agyeman-Manu, has directed the Food and Drugs Authority, the Pharmacy Council and the Traditional and Alternative Medicine Council to take urgent steps to stop the activities of unqualified persons who sell anti-microbial to unsuspecting members of the public.

He also asked health workers who did not have the mandate to prescribe or dispense antibiotics to desist from that practice. He also stressed the need for a clamp down on the activities of

unauthorised suppliers of antibiotics, especially hawkers.

He said indiscriminate use of antibiotics endangered lives and affected efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goal on access to quality healthcare.

(GO, 13.11.18)

Zambia Call on Climate Change

The Zambian government called on the international community to endorse the view of scientists that unless governments act quickly, all life forms on earth face the real risk of being endangered by 2030.

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change warned that human activities were contributing significantly to natural disasters and unpredictable weather patterns.

The experts called on countries to adopt renewable energy and ensure a significant reduction in the consumption of fossil fuels. They also suggested capping the rise in global temperature at 1.5 degrees by 2030.

(Xinhua, 14.12.18)

Let's Walk Plastic Ban Talk

The Zambian government announced a ban on the use of plastic carrier bags and other plastic-related materials below 30 microns in thickness. This followed the signing into law of the Environment Management Regulations Statutory Instrument (SI) number 65 of 2018.

The ban, which applies to manufacturing, trading and commercial distributors of packaging materials, is certainly a step in the right direction.

Plastic bags and other plastic goods have been a part of our lives for many years because of their ease, cheapness and convenience.

(ZDM, 07.12.18)

Consumer Lobby Sues Toyota

Consumer Federation of Kenya (Cofek) has sued Toyota Kenya, accusing it of selling vehicles with a modified chassis yet passing it off as originally 33-seater bus.

Cofek argues that Toyota Motors Corporation is the licenced manufacturer of chassis and Toyota Kenya should restrict itself to being an assembly of completely knocked down parts, retail and sales.

It contends that Toyota Kenya has failed to make formal disclosure to the public that it was modifying 28-seater Hino buses into 33 seaters hence making the weight of the motor vehicles heavier than the chassis.

(SD, 18.12.18)

Domestic Airfares Fall

Domestic airfares have fallen to the lowest level ever recorded over the past five years, as Africa World Airlines (AWA) offers the travelling public a one-way ticket from Accra to Kumasi for GH¢49, starting from November 28, 2018.

The fare, which is lower than that of air-conditioned buses that transport people between the two largest cities in the country, is expected to provide more travelling options and encourage more people to choose air travel.

Travelling by air between the two cities takes about 45 minutes, while it takes an average of 4-hours to commute between the two points.

(B&FT, 28.11.18)

Kenya Host Blue Economy Conference

Ebru TV Kenya

The Sustainable Blue Economy Conference 2018, was co-hosted by Kenya, Canada and Japan, in Nairobi. Kenya is leveraging on the high-level global event to harness and revamp its blue economy.

Held under the banner “Blue Economy and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, the conference presents the country with an opportunity to engender national debate on the blue economy.

Kenyan President Uhuru Muigai Kenyatta and other heads of states were present at the global meeting. Kenyatta said that, in line with enhancing the Blue Economy, efforts will be made to upgrade Kenya’s maritime school and in enhancing security and safety of the collective waters among other actions.

(DN, 26.11.18)

Competing Without Market Rules

Appiah Kusi Adomako*

Rules and regulations are required in every game to ensure fairness. The same principle is applicable to elections, whether conducted locally or nationally. The term “level playing field” is used to ensure that all players in the game or market are subjected to the same rules and operating conditions, such that no one gets an unfair advantage over the other. This also means that the stronger competitor, who is usually the incumbent, does not abuse the incumbency or dominance in the game or market place. Imagine a football match where both teams agree to match-fixing. Such an act disdains not only the supporters and spectators who go to the stadium to watch the match, but also other teams in the tournament. Again, imagine a football tournament without conduct rules or a referee; offside goals could even be allowed.

Markets devoid of competition law can also be replete with cartels controlling the supply and manufacture of essential goods and services. Activities of cartels can be so dangerous to the economy in many ways. They can distort the functionality of the market by limiting production or supply just to spike prices. Unfortunately, the Ghanaian market is without competition policy and law, which implies that firms can get away by engaging in such conducts. The market forces that have resulted in fierce competition in some sectors can erode profits for firms such that they would see benefits in engaging in anticompetitive practices. It is important that a competition culture is nurtured through the combined intervention of the policy direction and law.

Competition is a fundamental tenet of well-functioning markets and encourages companies to provide consumers with the products and services that they want. It results in lowering prices for goods and services, better service quality, wider choices for consumers, stimulation of innovation and more importantly, efficiency in allocation of resources.



The objective of a functional competition regime is to promote competition, and contribute towards increased efficiency and curb anti-competitive practices in the market. Anti-competitive practices have negative effects on both consumers and producers. Certainly, a well-enforced competition regime reduces uncertainty for businesses and is an important element of promoting private sector development.’

A competition law looks at three types of anticompetitive practices, namely a) anti-competitive agreements meant to lessen competition in the market; b) abuse of dominance position; and c) regulation of mergers and acquisitions to prevent tactics to gain excessive dominance in a market. Competition laws also bestow the advocacy function on the competition authority for promotion of competition culture through lobbying government for pro-competition reforms.

In competitive environments, firms are pushed to be innovative and find better and more efficient ways to produce and distribute goods and services. Businesses tend to benefit from a well-enforced competition law, for instance, through cheaper (not overpriced) inputs and indirectly from an enabling business environment.

Competition regime and consumer protection issues reinforce each other. They aim to ensure wider consumer choice in the markets for goods and services, through innovation and efficient resource use by players in the market to promote economic welfare. Further, it endeavours to stimulate effective price competition between suppliers, and deter anti-competitive behaviour. This helps consumers get real value for their money. If passed and implemented effectively, empirical evidence and country experience suggests that an effective competition regime can promote private sector development, economic growth and poverty reduction in both developing and least developed countries. More than 70 percent of African countries are with competition laws.

Ghana is yet to have a functional competition policy and law. The closest we have come is the Protection Against Unfair Competition Act, 2000 (Act 589). Under Act 589, commercial behaviour such as causing confusion with respect to another person’s enterprise or its activities, damaging another person’s goodwill or reputation and misleading the public, were outlawed. The Act 589 does not address the full dimension of competition law. This means that the Ghanaian consumer is vulnerable to exploitation by dominant firms and cartels while significant costs build up in firms could also be a result of exploitation by upstream dominant firms. The end product would be high prices for consumers.

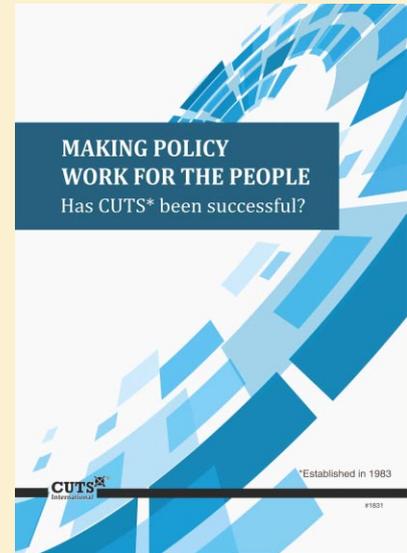
* Country Coordinator, CUTS Ghana. Abridged from an article appeared in Modern Ghana on December 04, 2018

Making Policy Work for the People *Has CUTS Been Successful?*

CUTS is broadly defined as an evidence-based policy advocacy organisation. Over the years, it has made significant contributions to either help define or shape policy for the betterment of the consumer and thereby society, at large. Our list of successes runs long and this Booklet is an attempt to capture the organic growth and subsequent progress of the organisation since its inception. These success stories are based upon outcomes from our various projects and a result of our consolidated energy that the organisation has evolved which now defines us.

The aim is to present major impact stories that have made difference in the public policy area, both globally and locally. It will further provide guidance for pursuing the Vision of CUTS in future by way of synchronised efforts of our various offices in Asia, Africa and in Europe. It further envisages serving an additional purpose of acquainting relevant stakeholders with the organisation's thinking, goals and impactful growth.

www.cuts-international.org/Policy_Wins/



Our Twitter Handle (@cutsafrica)



@cuts_nairobi December 24: Kenya says it will begin, together with Rwanda, implementing the economic partnership agreements with the EU despite other East African Community countries dragging their feet

@cuts_nairobi December 17: At the CUTS side event, 'Competition Policies in the Digital Economy.' Discussions revolved around the relevance of traditional competition law tools in the digital era as well as the emerging anti-competitive practices in this area

@cuts_lusaka December 11: CUTS Lusaka is in Poland today participating in the COP 24

@cuts_accra December 11: CUTS Ghana calls on #gov't to prioritize the passage of the #Competition #Law in #Ghana

@cuts_nairobi December 11: Ongoing discussions at the #AfricaEcommerceWeek : Africa should develop a single digital market borrowing from what worked well with the EU digital market and avoiding potential mistakes made...

@cuts_accra November 29: Relief for #Consumers in #Ghana as #domestic #airfares fall to record low as #AWA offers #Accra #Kumasi tickets for #GH49

@cuts_lusaka November 21: Today CUTS presented to the Parliamentary Committee on Agriculture on the topic of subsidies. We raised issues pertaining to the proposed revision of the FRA Act as well as the Implementation of the E-voucher in the coming season.

@cuts_accra November 1: CUTS Ghana calls on #government to remove special #Petroleum #tax to give #consumers some relief despite the hikes in #petroleum products

@cuts_nairobi October 16: Happy #WorldFoodDay! How do you think Kenya can achieve #foodsecurity & ultimate #zerohunger? Let's share, here are our thoughts.

@cuts_accra October 15: What does the New #NAFTA Mean for Asia and Asian Firms?

@cutsafrica October 15: Giving poor people cash is a good idea. Giving entrepreneurs cash might be a great one #YouWin #Kenya is following #Nigeria

Sources

B&FT: Business and Financial Times; DN: Daily Nation; EAD: East African Daily; GO: Graphic Online; IO: Independent Observer; LT: Lusaka Times; SD: Standard Digital; TST: The Southern Times; ZDM: Zambia Daily Mail

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