

### Merger of three top trading blocs in top gear



Imported sugar from Comesa is off loaded at the port of Mombasa. Three African market blocs have plans to merge.

Eastern and Southern African states have stepped up plans for the establishment of Africa's biggest economic bloc with the opening of negotiations that may culminate in a Free Trade Area spanning Cape to Cairo by May next year.

A project of the African Union, the new trading bloc that aims to merge the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa), Southern Africa Development Corporation (SADC) and the East African Community (EAC), has been on the cards since last year in what is seen as Africa's latest effort to build the muscle it needs to compete globally.

The project aims at integrating the economies of 26 African countries to create a 527 million people market (57 per cent of total African population) and control a combined wealth of \$ 624 million (58 per cent of African Union's combined GDP).

Trade experts say Africa needs to improve how it trades with itself even as it pursues avenues of growing its share of global commerce with the signing of pacts such as Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) and the Doha round of the World Trade Organisation.

### Poor port planning, coordination push costs to the ceiling

Lack of sufficient parking space and poor coordination between CFS operators, transporters and clearing agents are leading to serious delays at the CFS.

Licensing of Container Freight Stations (CFS) should in future consider the availability of parking space for trucks in order to reduce the level of congestion which is increasing the cost of doing business.

The port has resolved that all domestic cargo will in future be cleared through the CFSs. It will only handle transit cargo, which constitutes 30 per cent of total cargo volumes.

This means that Kenyans will bear the brunt of inefficiencies at the CFSs and thus pay for most of the related costs passed on by the shippers.

The Management and Staff of Urgent Cargo would like to wish our Muslim brothers and sisters a Happy Eid Mubarak

### Chinese firm wins airport expansion tender

A tender to build the second phase of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport in its expansion and modernisation plan has been awarded to China National Aero-Technology International Engineering Company (CATIC).

The China based company was awarded the contract in September 2009 at a cost of Sh4 billion and is expected to begin construction of the new terminal four and a multi storey car park next month to be completed in 21 months. The project is expected to cost a total of Sh5.4 billion (\$73 million).

Phase one of the project, which was completed last year, saw the airport increase its aircraft parking space and add two taxiways at a cost of Sh3 billion.

The second phase will see JKIA boast a new terminal and parking space increased with the construction of a three storey car park to accommodate 1,500 cars.

Phase three, expected to cost \$95 million (Sh7 billion), will involve the expansion and renovation of current terminals with the construction of another floor that will enable the separation of incoming and outgoing passengers.



### VESSEL ARRIVALS

VESSEL	ETA	SHIPPING LINE
WARNOW TRADER	28/11/2009 06:00	CMA/CGN Ltd
SAFMARINE BANDAMA	28/11/2009 14:00	Maerskline
MSC JADE	28/11/2009 20:00	Mediterranean Shipping co
WESTERMOOR	29/11/2009 06:00	Maerskline
KOTA NALURI	29/11/2009 06:00	Pacific Intl lines
MSC EAGLE	29/11/2009 12:00	Mediterranean Shipping co
MSC ZANZIBAR	29/11/2009 14:00	Mediterranean Shipping co
KOTA HALUS	30/11/2009 06:00	Pacific Intl lines
SEA BOXER	01/12/2009 06:00	CMA/CGN Ltd
MSC OSLO	01/12/2009 06:00	Mediterranean Shipping co
JASPER S	02/12/2009 06:00	ZIM Lines
CMA CGM MAASAI	03/12/2009 06:00	CMA/CGN Ltd
MSC GERMANY	03/12/2009 06:00	Mediterranean Shipping co

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