

## ERITREA REVAMPING PORTS



President Isaias Aferwoki of Eritrea



Above: Part of the new Hirgigo fuel jetty undergoing construction in Massawa

Eritrea has launched a multi-million dollar drive to revamp its ports of Massawa and Assab to enable them handle its imports and exports more competitively especially following its rapture with neighbouring Ethiopia.

The Ports Rehabilitation Project is designed to increase substantially the productivity and capacity of the two ports of Massawa and Assab.

Already, there are signs of improvement which have seen the number of ships and cargo using the two ports rise by 22 per cent last year.

273 ships called at the port of Massawa in 2009 carrying 429,618 metric tones of solid cargo and 119,521 metric tones of liquid cargo.

The Massawa Ports Authority management in a press release indicated more ships were expected in the first quarter of the year and that waiters were currently docking outside the port because most of the docking spaces were full.

Last month, the authority successfully managed to transship 45 tons of fuel from one vessel to another which was



unprecedented in the history of the port.

Tourism numbers at the port are also on the increase and are providing a major boost to the economy despite the threat of piracy in parts of the region.

Eritrean ports suffered a setback following the break with Ethiopia which moved the bulk of its import and export trade to neighbouring Djibouti whose operations are dominated by the volumes of cargo from the fast developing neighbor.

90 per cent of all imports and exports

going through Djibouti Port are originating or destined for Ethiopia.

Eritrea has renovated the fuel jetty landing in Hirgigo at a cost of over USD 160,000 and will spend over USD 33 Million to construct a new fuel jetty which is expected to start operations in 2011.

The project will provide the financial and technical assistance required to rehabilitate and upgrade the two ports, optimizing the use of existing facilities, and to raise the quality and level of services to international standards.

The project comprises civil works for Massawa, such as repairs, rehabilitation, extension of berths, cargo handling equipment for Massawa and Assab and an environment component comprising facilities and equipment to improve the operating practices at the two ports.

The State of Eritrea received credit from the International Development Association (IDA) and a Grant from the European Union toward the cost of the Eritrean Ports Rehabilitation Project.

## CORRIDOR GROUP CELEBRATES TEN YEARS

The Walvis Bay Corridor Group recently celebrated its 10th anniversary to mark a period of publicly acknowledged high performance.

The celebrations held in Windhoek were graced by the Minister for Works and Transport Mr. Erkki Nghimtina who was the guest of honour and other special guests who included members of the diplomatic corps, partners and donors among others.

The function was also attended by the NAMPORT Chief Executive Office Mr. Bisey Uirab.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Walvis Bay Corridor Group, Johnny Smith lauded the role the group had played in improving the trade performance in the region.

"It has become more evident how the Walvis Bay Corridor Group has facilitated trade along the Walvis Bay Corridors and created a constructive role in the national endeavour of building a dynamic sector in the Namibian economy and beyond." He said.

"The WBCG has developed tremendously, not only in terms of the volumes it generates, but also with regards to service excellence. Reducing transit time, removing bottlenecks and improving corridor logistics through the Public Private Partnership remains the cornerstone of the Walvis Bay Corridors' strategy which ensures that consumers in the SADC region receive a great product everytime." He added. Volumes of cargo moving along the Walvis Bay Corridors have grown the past ten years from zero up to more



Left to right: Mr. Johnny Smith, CEO WBCG, Mr. Erkki Nghimtina, Minister for Works and Transport and Mr. Bisey Uirab, CEO NAMPORT

than 500 000 tons per annum while direct revenue for ports, rail and the road transport sector has increased from zero to more than N\$230 million per annum for the transport sector. The Minister for Works and Transport was even more emphatic.

"The Group's objectives were expanded to include critical roles for the development of the economy through transport. This led to a defined relationship between the Ministry of Works and Transport as one of the partners and the Walvis Bay Corridor Group in pursuing our respective mandates in support of infrastructural developments for the benefit of the Namibia and countries through

which these Walvis Bay Corridors traverse", he said. The Walvis Bay Corridor Group, he added was established with the realization that landlocked countries required alternatives to gain access to ports for their imports and exports to and from international markets.

Since then the Group have taken corridor development to greater heights. In their role as a facilitator for increasing imports and exports along the Walvis Bay Corridors they have to continuously identify opportunities, plan, coordinate, market, advocate for infrastructure development, and trade facilitation.

# Dredging of Durban Harbour Complete



The Queen Mary 2 is escorted into the Durban harbour by a pilot boat on her March visit

The multi-million dollar project to widen and deepened Durban port to enable it to handle post-panamax vessels in future is complete. The US\$ 293 million project was completed a head of schedule within the forecasted budget.

The project was executed by a Consortium of construction firms, Group 5 Limited from South Africa and Belgium-based Dredging International.

Apart from taking in larger vessels, the widening and deepening has enhanced the ports safety features in line with international conventions. Transnet Capital Projects was responsible for the overall management of the construction on behalf of Transnet's ports landlord division, Transnet National Ports Authority.

Construction work commenced on May 4, 2007 and was completed on February 28, 2010.

Transnet's Acting Group Chief Executive, Mr Chris Wells, says: "This port is key to Transnet's growth strategy and our objective to improve customer service, safety and environmental compliance, contain operating costs as well as to take advantage of revenue and volume

growth opportunities."

"We are particularly proud of this achievement. The widening and deepening has been completed ahead of schedule we have invested approximately USD 390 million in this project since inception. Operationally, it will help us meet the stringent targets we have set ourselves on improving efficiency in our ports through reducing shipping delays and improving terminal operations".

He says the widening and deepening was conceived in consultation with some of Transnet's key customers taking into account their needs and forecasts for the future of the container shipping industry.

The widening and deepening was funded by means of a US\$ 375 million untied loan agree-



Mr. Ricky Bhikraj,  
Durban Port Manager

ment between Transnet and the Japan Bank for International Co-operation (JBIC).

The channel was widened from 130 metres to 225 metres (at the narrowest point) and deepened to -19 metres in the approach channel, -18 metres in the entrance channel and -16 metres in the inner port channels and basins.

Container vessels with a capacity of up to 9,200 TEUs will now be accommodated safely in the new wider and deeper entrance channel. To test its readiness for the bigger vessels, the *Queen Mary 2*, the world's

biggest passenger liner, entered comfortably and docked at the Port of Durban on March 23, 2010.

This would not have been possible without the channel being wider and deeper.

# RECs Discuss Food Security



Delegates (left to right): Mr. Callixte Ntamtumba(PMAESA), Ms. Rukia D. Shante (Central Corridor, TTFA), Mr. Jerome Ntibarekerwa (PMAESA) and Mrs. Brenda Horne-Ferrera (MCLI) during the conference.



Rwandese traditional dancers entertain the delegates

Experts have dubbed land policy reform, trade and market access, environmental security and agri-business development as the four key pillars to food security in the eastern African sub-region. This conclusion was made during the final day of the 14th Annual Intergovernmental Committee of Experts (ICE) meeting. The ICE Meeting took place over four days in Kigali, Rwanda under the theme "Enhancing Food Security in Eastern Africa." The meeting brought together regional economic communities (RECs), intergovernmental organizations (IGOs) and other stakeholders to discuss how best to handle a variety of issues in the eastern African sub-region.

The proposed Programme on Food Security for Eastern Africa will cover a group of six pilot countries (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda) and four RECs and IGOs.

"This programme is a follow up to a series of talks we have had with our partners to support and define how we address this complex issue of food security," said SRO-EA Director Antonio Pedro.

The programme on food security for Eastern Africa will be presented to the East African Community (EAC) Summit of Heads of State and Government scheduled for June 2010.

In closing the ICE, Ms. Kampeta Sayinzoga, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury in Rwanda's Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning said that big pronouncements from meetings alone are not sufficient; implementing those agreements are far more important. The

reason why partner organizations the world over like to work with Rwanda at the moment has a great deal to do with the high level of government commitment to development issues, she said. Ms. Sayinzoga urged other African governments to follow suit.

"The next step after this meeting is commitment," she said. "We need to show results for all the aide memoires, documents and meetings that we've

had."

The ICE was also an opportunity for SRO-EA to review statutory matters pertaining to the mandate and functioning of the office. Stakeholders assessed the economic and social conditions in the sub-region and looked at ways to forge partnerships to spearhead regional cooperation and integration.

*(From ECA Secretariat)*



Delegates follow the proceeding at the Mille Collines Hotel in Kigali

# FRENCH NAVY CALLS AT MOMBASA

The French Navy helicopter carrier ship *BPC Tonnerre* made a port call at Mombasa this week arousing wide public interest.

As it steamed in the port, hundreds of residents watched from the shores before it docked adjacent to the ferry crossing.

The 200 metre long vessel is a versatile operational craft which has six helicopter landing pads and carries up to sixteen aircraft. The vessel's captain Captain Philippe Ebanga hosted a cocktail on board which was attended by military and civilian leaders in Mombasa as well as diplomats led by the French Ambassador Ms Elisabeth Barbier.

The *BPC Tonnerre* and its twin *BPC Mistral* are exceptionally versatile that they can undertake many different types of mission, including amphibious operations, crisis management missions, air support operations, operational command, operational transport, medical support and freight transportation.

The vessel which also serves as training school for military cadets will offer lessons for members of the Kenya Navy during their tour as well as perform charity work in several towns' institution.

The vessel is equipped with a complete modern hospital that can be expanded by the



The *BPC Tonnerre* enters the port of Mombasa (Photo: Joe Okanga)

deployment of Army Medical Service Technical Equipment Modules in the helicopter hangar.

With a total deck area of 750 m2, the hospital consists of around twenty rooms including two operating theatres, a radiology room and 69

beds, 19 of which are high dependency beds. Before arriving in Mombasa, the vessel had made a port call in Mahe, Seychelles and is now heading down to La Re Union and South Africa as part of its tour of duty.

## Wellness Centre on Course

The Wellness Centre which was opened at the entrance to the Kenya Ports Authority has continued to offer direct consultations to port and corridor users since its inception last year. The initiative which brings many stakeholders together recently held its monthly meeting at the PMAESA Boardroom and resolved amongst other things to launch a joint mobilization drive to increase its impact. See pictures.



Mr. Isaac Onyango (far right) Port Statistics officer, PMAESA, makes a contribution during the stakeholders' forum.

Ms. Eva Mwai of North Star Alliance, addresses stakeholders of the HIV/AIDS Wellness Centre Programme at their monthly meeting in the PMAESA boardroom.



## Visits to Secretariat



### World Bank/SSATP

Mr. Jean Kizito-Kabanguka of the World Bank/SSATP paid a courtesy call to the PMAESA Secretariat where he was received by the Secretary-General, Mr. Jerome Ntibarekerwa. They discussed ongoing areas of joint interest between the two organisations.

## Events

33rd Annual Council of PMAWCA "Challenges of City-Port Relationship", Banjul, Gambia.

10 - 14 May

IMO Maritime Safety Committee (87th Session) IMO Hq.

12 - 21 May

6th European Conference on Sustainable Cities and Towns, Dunkirk, France

19 - 21 May

Transport Events Management 8th Asean Ports & Shipping 2010. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

20 - 21 May

SSATP/REC/TCC Meeting Nairobi, Kenya

24 - 25 May

Port and Maritime Security Conference, Mahe, Seychelles

26 - 28 May

SADC Conference of Ministers for Transport & Meteorology Meeting. Pemba, Mozambique

28 May

2nd Annual China Port Expansion and Efficiency Summit 2010, Qingdao, China.

27 - 28 May

Africa Ports and Harbors Congress 2010, Johannesburg, South Africa.

1 - 2 June

IMO Technical Co-operation Committee (60th Session), IMO Hq.

1 - 3 June

Port Management Conference, Luanda, Angola

13 - 14 July

## Zambian Delegation

Mr. Jerome Ntibarekerwa receives the PS Transport, Mr. Dominic Y. Sichinga, Dir. of Maritime Affairs, Zambia, Mr. David Kema and ISCOS Secretary General, Mr. Archie Mgondah



The Zambian delegation held talks with the PMAESA staff led by the Secretary-General on matters of mutual regional interest.

The two teams in a photo-op after the meeting.

Right to left: Mr. Kema, Mr. Sichinga, Mr. Ntibarekerwa, and Mr. N. Mutonya, Communications, PMAESA



## Information

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