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Komenda sugar factory to be inaugurated today

by webmanager on May 30, 2016 in Industry News

President John Dramani Mahama is set to commission the new Komenda Sugar Factory today, to produce high-quality sugar for both domestic consumption and export.

The new Komenda Sugar Factory is a fulfilment of a campaign promise President Mahama made during the 2012 campaign.

The Government of Ghana established a factory at Komenda in the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem (KEEA) District of the Central Region in the 1960s to produce sugar and its related products for both local and international markets.

The defunct Komenda Sugar Factory was closed down due to some technical and operational challenges.

In 2014, government partnered the private sector to revive the company.

The Export and Import (EXIM) Bank of India provided \$35 million while the Government of Ghana also provided the counterpart funding of \$1.5 million towards the establishment of the \$36.5 million Komenda Sugar Factory.

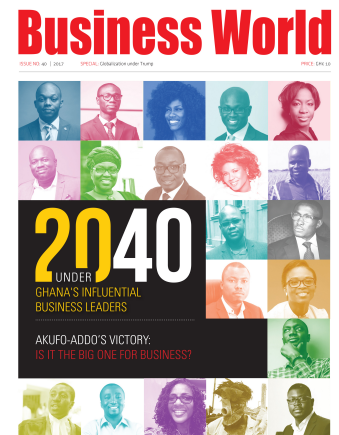
The sugar factory, on completion, would provide 1,300 direct jobs to Ghanaians and over 5,000 auxiliary jobs would also be provided under the project.

Ghana government and the M/S Seftech India Private Limited would construct 1,250 tonnes of cane per day of the white sugar plant to produce ethanol and 1.0 megawatts surplus power.

To ensure sustainable raw material production base for the project, an additional credit of \$24.5 million was injected into the development of a sugarcane plantation with an irrigation facility.

The funds targeted 3,000 hectares of irrigable land while the Government of Ghana provided five per cent of the amount to facilitate the irrigation of the plantation.

India has experience in sugar production, considering the fact that it has over 500 sugar factories, and would share that experience with her Ghanaian counterparts.



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Service Operator Strategy?

by webmanager on November 26, 2018 in Company News

French telecommunications firm Orange plans to aggressively pursue its objective to evolve from a connectivity provider to a multi-services operator in 2019, and thereby support digital transformation in Africa.

Company spokesperson Elisabeth Medou Badang said, "Historically, our predominant business was voice calling. This has now been replaced by data and services. In a multi-SIM market, developing additional services is a way to build customer loyalty."

Networks and connectivity remains the company's bread-and-butter business. Badang said that deploying, operating and maintaining these networks is key to every digital experience.

"We invest one billion Euros every year in the region ... our 2G/3G networks serve twenty countries in the MEA region and provide connectivity to nearly 120 million customers. 4G is now available in 14 countries in Africa and the Middle East, with 15 million customers to date. We will continue to explore the potential of this technology, while awaiting the arrival of 5G."

Although the company does not anticipate the deployment of 5G in MEA in early 2019, it is actively participating in discussion regarding the standardisation of this technology.

Orange's plan to achieve multi-service operator status is to leverage what it describes as its "established strengths", including a 900,000 distributor-strong network and 40 million Orange Money customers in 17 countries.

"We are developing all of our services in partnership with public and private stakeholders, and are confident that, by 2030, the revenue from these services will be equal to – or even greater than – revenue from connectivity," Badang added.

At AfricaCom hosted in Cape Town in November 2018, the company outlined its strategy for the continent and emphasised innovations it says will help to "democratise access to smartphones, encourage e-education and support the start-up ecosystem."

The company said it is estimated that at least 660 million Africans (against 336 million in 2016) will be equipped with a smartphone by 2020.

It has announced a partnership with KaiOS Technologies "to democratise access to digital services in Africa" and stated that as of the beginning of 2019, Orange customers in Africa will have access to a new category of smart feature phones powered by KaiOS.

The first product to launch will be a 3G smart feature phone, followed by a 4G version later next year.

The value proposition, according to Orange, is the first time availability of Google services (including Youtube, Google Maps, Google Search and Google Assistant) on entry level devices.

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