

### Russia and China are much less sneaky than the West - DRC president

The approval ratings of China and Russia over the West in Africa continue to be accentuated. Recently, the president of the Democratic Republic of Congo gave his two cents on why he believes that Eastern influence is outgrowing Western influence in the mother continent, specifically in the DRC. He spoke about the conduct of the parties mentioned. The president of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Felix Tshisekedi, recently touched on the ease of doing business with Russia and China over the West, according to a report by the Russian newspaper Sputnik. He noted that Russia and China manage ties with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) without "arrogance" and the desire to "read lectures," emphasizing that so far Beijing and Moscow have treated the DRC with more esteem than the West. The president went on to say that the DRC is entitled to cordial ties with Russia. Business Insider Africa.

#### Chinese cars gain popularity in Botswana

At the 9th edition of the Shell Gaborone Motor Show in Gaborone, the Botswanan capital, Chinese auto brands such as Haval, Cherry, Tank, and JAC generated interest among local car enthusiasts. At the 9th edition of the Shell Gaborone Motor Show in Gaborone, the Botswanan capital, Chinese auto brands such as Haval, Cherry, Tank, and JAC generated interest among local car enthusiasts. Over the last five years, Chinese-made vehicles have entered the competitive landscape of Botswana's automotive industry. Chinese brands such as Chery, Haval, JAC, and BAIC are gaining popularity among Botswanan consumers, who value the vehicles' build quality, durability, and reliability. Bellson Othomile, sales executive at Motor Holdings Botswana, said Haval is a popular brand in Gaborone and across Botswana. Xinhua.

### Chinese-owned gold mines in Niger ordered shut after herders report animal deaths

Several gold mines in northern Niger managed by a Chinese company were ordered to temporarily close after dozens of animals died from drinking wastewater, local authorities told AFP on Sunday. Herders around the town of Tabelot had pointed to Sahara SARL's mines as the only explanation for their animals' deaths, saying the region was not suffering from drought or any epidemics. "We counted 24 dead over two days and at the end of April we finally realised that the slaughter was being caused by harmful products in the water the mines were rejecting," said Youssaf Houssa, the chief of Tamannit, one of the affected villages. Almou Akoli, who lives in Fasso, another village, said he lost 16 animals while some of his "neighbours cannot keep track of how many they have lost". France 24.

# Forestry company under fire for illegal timber harvest in DR Congo

The NGO Global Witness is accusing Chinese timber company Congo King Baisheng Forestry Development (CKBFD) of exporting more than \$5 million worth of illegal timber from the Democratic Republic of Congo to China at the end of 2022. CKBFD had already been criticized by local NGOs and the DRC's national auditing

service for poor logging management and for failing to pay timber royalties. According to several NGOs, forest resources that Indigenous peoples and local communities are dependent on are decreasing due to CKBFD's operations, which are causing deforestation. An adviser to the DRC's environment minister said he hopes a new, more binding legal framework will soon be established to remedy the situation. Some \$5 million worth of timber exported from the Democratic Republic of Congo to China in the second half of 2022 was felled illegally, according to a watchdog report. Mongabay.com

## China emerges as Zim's largest FDI source

CHINA has emerged as Zimbabwe's largest foreign direct investment (FDI) source, overtaking the West, a research conducted by the Public Policy and Research Institute of Zimbabwe (PPRIZ) has revealed. The research findings also revealed that Chinese investors were, however, violating numerous domestic laws and labour rights as they enjoy the protection of top Zanu PF and government officials. Presenting a paper titled: Zimbabwe mapping report: China-Zimbabwe Relations under the Zimbabwe Multi-stakeholder reference group engagement programme on Friday last week, PPRIZ Research Fellow Ronald Chipaike said many people had mixed feeling about the Chinese's intentions in dominating investments in the country. NewsDay Zimbabwe.

### Japan sells itself to Global South nations as a China counterweight in Africa, South Asia

Japan has dispatched its top diplomat on a whirlwind tour of Global South countries as Tokyo seeks to showcase its commitment to emerging economies in Asia and Africa, where Japan has been jostling with China for influence. Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa began her 10-day tour on April 27, 2024, in Madagascar, an island nation in the Indian Ocean off Africa's east coast. Kamikawa has also visited Ivory Coast, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and Nepal. South China Morning Post.

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