

# Briefly | Africa

## Germans assist with Mugabe factory

A German company with a branch in South Africa, has busted the EU targeted measures against president Robert Mugabe and his wife, Grace, by building a state-of-the-art dairy processing plant to process milk from their Gushungo Dairy Estates. The dairy, costing US\$13,5 million, was built by Guth South Africa, a leading supplier of equipment to the local dairy, food and beverage market.

The first family seized Foyle dairy farm in the fertile Mazowe Valley from its rightful owner, Ian Webster. It used to be one of the best dairy estates in the country. Sources at Guth said the equipment would be installed at a big factory at Mugabe's rural home in Zvimba, not on the Gushungo Estates. It is presumed the milk will be trucked across the country from Mazowe to Zvimba. – *zimsituation.com*

## Ugandan forces seize cattle

Kenyan Cattle herders who crossed national borders to find green pastures, landed themselves in trouble with the Ugandan government. Instead of grass and water, they found Ugandan forces seizing their cattle and accusing the herders of committing crimes.

Now the families who depend on the cattle for their livelihoods, have to accept international aid in order to have food. The prospects of getting the cattle back is said to be zero. According to reports, up to 3 000 Kenyan herders are currently in Uganda with their animals. The pastoralists say the Uganda government is out to harass them, yet they are innocent. – *Daily Nation*

## USADF signs grants

The United States African Development Foundation (USADF) has signed two grants in Washing-

ton DC, to support milk producers in Nigeria. The grants will benefit Kaban Milk Producers Cooperative Society (KMPCS) and Maje Milk Producers Cooperative Society (MMPCS).

KMPCS is a 115-member cooperative, while MMPCS is an 85-member cooperative. Both are located in Kaduna State and their members are nomadic herders who identify themselves as Fulani. All members of KMPCS and MMPCS are involved in the production of milk. USADF started programming in Nigeria in 2001. Nigeria's current portfolio stands at 31 investment projects totalling more than \$5 million. – *Press release*

## Zim dairy on verge of collapse

Zimbabwe's national dairy herd is down to just 22 000 cows from 192 000 in 2000. Zimbabwe's dairy industry has declined to the verge of collapse, following a decade of land reform, experts say, with the national dairy herd down to just 22 000 cows from 192 000 in 2000, when supporters of president Robert Mugabe started seizing white-owned farms.

Chairman Wesley Tose Sansole of parliament's committee on industry and commerce, said his panel heard from managers of Dairybord Zimbabwe, that it is being supplied by just 60 dairy farmers compared to 215 providers in 2000. Deliveries have plunged to 38 million litres a year, from 138 million litres of milk ten years ago.

Sansole told VOA Studio 7 reporter, Gibbs Dube, that the industry has suffered because white commercial dairy farms were seized by ZANU-PF militants who failed to maintain milk-production operations. He also said chronic electric power outages are also hurting the dairy industry. – *VOA*

### Processor sets up UHT-plant

Githunguri Dairy Farmers Cooperative Society will soon start processing ultra heat treated (UHT) milk. The society is spending Sh150 million on the UHT-plant, chairman Charles Mukora said. It expects the plant to be operational by August this year.

Mukora said the unit would substantially increase profits, with resultant increased producer prices. He said the construction of the premises would cost Sh72 million, while the unit would cost Sh43 million and a packing machine Sh31.6 million. Mukora said a survey by the Kenya Dairy Board showed that there was a ready market for about 400 000 litres of UHT per day. – *Dairy Nation*

### Zim bans imports

Zimbabwe has banned the import of animal products from South Africa. The ministry of agriculture said on recently that this was because of the outbreak of Rift Valley fever in parts of South Africa. The ministry said Zimbabwe was working closely with the South African government to implement measures to control the spread of the virus.

Economist, Eric Bloch, told *Eyewitness News* that the ban would not have a major effect on local meat processors. He said the ban would benefit local poultry producers. The Zimbabwe Poultry Association has been lobbying for a three-month ban on frozen chickens from South Africa. Producers said they could not compete with the low price of imported South African chickens and had 1 400 tons of meat that they could not sell. – *Eyewitness News*

### Dairy skills exported

Dairy farming expertise from southern Scotland is to help tackle poverty and aid economic growth in Malawi. The Scottish Agricultural College's dairy research centre in Dumfries, is to lead the three-year project. It will involve the collaboration of the nearby Barony College and the Bunda College in the African nation.

Project leader, Dr Mizeck Chagunda, said dairy farming in Malawi was important for both "improved livelihoods" and "better nutrition security". The project, which runs from 2010 to 2013, has been backed by more than £350 000 of Scottish government funding. It will establish a dairy learning resource centre and promote a rural industries diploma programme. – *BBC*

### KCC cuts milk prices

The milk crisis in Kenya has deepened further with the reduction of producer prices by between Sh2 and Sh3 per litre, in move that will hurt the earnings of millions of farmers whose output got a lift from the ongoing long rains. Consumers will also pay more for the produce after the milk processor withdrew a discount offer that came in the form of free packets of milk and enlarged packaging from 500 ml to 550 ml.

The new producer pricing structure means farmers are now taking home between Sh14 and Sh17 for every litre, down from Sh22 in February and Sh24 in December. The milk processors reckon that the price changes, which have been brought home by the heavy glut in the milk market, are geared at making the business profitable and sustainable in the long run. – *Business Daily*

### Milk shortage looms

Botswana is likely to experience an acute shortage of milk during the coming FIFA World Cup games in South Africa, says Oreeditse Molebatsi. Briefing Chobe farmers in Kasane, the assistant minister of agriculture said the country is producing eight million litres of milk per year, but that the nation requires 48 million litres per year.

Molebatsi noted that the bulk of the shortfall is met through importation, especially from South Africa, which will be hosting the World Cup. He urged Chobe farmers to venture into dairy farming so that the country could be self-sufficient in milk production. He also urged business people and nursing mothers to be ready for any milk crisis that might arise. – *BOPA* 