



ALSF Monthly Newsletter

May 2019

In this issue:

- ALSF Management Board reviews its activities ahead of 2019 Annual Meetings
- ALSF supports Rwandan government on a project to develop a \$200 million energy plant on lake Kivu.
- Zimbabwe ratifies the Agreement establishing the African Legal Support Facility.
- ALSF support to the Togo Petroleum sector

ALSF Management Board reviews its activities ahead of 2019 Annual Meetings

The Management Board of the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) met on 9th April to review the progress made in 2018 and to assess the implementation of ALSF projects. The Board considered key issues and events which will further be discussed on the margins of the 2019 Annual Meetings of the African Development Bank Group in June 2019 in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea.

In his opening remarks, the ALSF Director, Stephen Karangizi welcomed and thanked the Board members for guiding the institution with skill and commitment throughout the year. During the meeting, the ALSF Board reviewed the 2018 Draft Annual Report and Financial Statements; and gave direction on how to enhance the implementation of the ALSF projects as they continue to increase in number and spread across the continent.

To further promote sustainability and increase ownership, the ALSF team briefed the Board on a recent informal meeting held with representatives from Regional Member Countries (RMCs), during which most participants proposed and showed interest in the idea of financial contributions from African countries to the ALSF financial resources.

Finally, Board members encouraged the ALSF management to continuously be innovative and strategic, and focus on the results of its operations, and on new opportunities in the rapidly changing investment environment of RMCs.

The ALSF's Management Board is responsible for the efficient and effective conduct of all operations of the Facility, as well as the approval of its Budget and appointment of its Director. It comprises five members of high integrity and competence, who act in their individual capacity, and are appointed by the Governing Council for a three-year, non-renewable term. The current members of the Board are Dorcas Achapa (Kenya), Dandi Gnamou (Benin), Bruce Montador (Canada), Mahomed Rafique (Mozambique), and Gaston Kenfack (Cameroon).

ALSF supports Rwandan government on a project to develop a \$200 million energy plant on lake Kivu

The Government of Rwanda signed a deal with Symbion Power to develop a \$200-million-dollar energy plant on the shores of Lake Kivu. The Project is expected to generate an additional 56 Megawatts of electricity for the Country. It is a significant step in Rwanda's efforts to increase its installed power generation capacity by 291MW by 2024, the Government aims to increase its power generation capacity from 221MW to 512MW.

The ALSF provided advisory services support to the Government of Rwanda for the negotiation of the Concession Agreement and Power Purchase Agreement (Project Agreements). The support provided resulted in well-drafted and balanced project agreements, both agreements were signed on March 29th between the Republic of Rwanda and Symbion Power Lake Kivu Limited (Project Company). As a result of the support provided, the challenges faced by the Government during the negotiation process were minimized, said a representative from the Ministry of Infrastructure

The Project Agreements grant the Project Company, the right to develop, build, and operate a 56 MW power plant on the shores of Lake Kivu for the duration of the Concession. The main objective of this Project is to extract methane gas from the production area at Lake Kivu and enable the plant to produce electricity from the methane gas. This will intensify the Country's efforts to ensure that all Rwandan households have access to electricity. The Rwandan people are expected to start enjoying the benefits of this Project in the next 14 months, the point at which the investor is expected to start generating electricity.

Guaranteeing universal access to electricity is of paramount interest to the Government and will have a positive impact on household incomes, create jobs, and ultimately help achieve a higher standard of living for all Rwandans.

The Symbion Power project is part of a greater ALSF project providing assistance to Rwanda's Ministry of Infrastructure (Rwanda MININFRA Project), which has included support provided for the Nyabarongo II Project, which will have a 43.5 MW generation capacity and is expected to increase overall installed capacity by 11.5%.

Zimbabwe ratifies the Agreement establishing the African Legal Support Facility

The Republic of Zimbabwe has submitted its Instrument of Ratification to the African Legal Support Facility (ALSF). This officially concludes the process of membership to the ALSF as envisioned in its founding Treaty. Zimbabwe was among the initial signatories of the ALSF Agreement in 2008.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development of the Republic of Zimbabwe officially transmitted the Instrument of Ratification to the Director of the ALSF on 1 March 2019. Zimbabwe has a long-standing relationship with the ALSF, having benefited from several capacity building initiatives. The submission of the Instrument of Ratification reaffirms this mutual cooperation.

The ALSF continues to assist African countries to achieve their sustainable development needs through provision of high caliber legal assistance.

ALSF support to the Togo Petroleum sector

The African Legal Support Facility (ALSF) recently conducted a mission in Togo from 27 to 29 March 2019 to assist the Department of Hydrocarbons of the Ministry of Mine and Energy in reviewing of the country petroleum sector legal and institutional framework.

The mission was led by the ALSF and conducted in collaboration with a team of legal experts comprising of Houada Law Firm (Senegal & Côte d'Ivoire) and Martial Akakpo & Associés (Togo).

A workshop took place at the Ministry of Mines and Energy and gave the opportunity to Houada Law Firm to present to the Government of Togo, and in particular the staff at the Ministry of Mines and Energy the preliminary report on the analysis of the legislative, institutional and contractual framework applicable to the hydrocarbons sector in Togo.

ALSF Forthcoming Events

- 17 May 2019: Informal Governing Council Meeting, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- 21 May 2019: Donors Meeting, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire
- 10 June 2019: Management Board Meeting, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
- 11 June 2019: Governing Council meeting, Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
- 11 June 2019: Knowledge Event on " Sovereign Debt in Africa: Options and Opportunities", Malabo, Equatorial Guinea
- 26 November 2019: Management Board Meeting, Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire



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