

Message by Her Excellency, CLEMENTINE SHAKEMBO
KAMANGA, Ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo
to the German-African Economic Forum 2012

Distinguished Organisers,
Ladies and Gentlemen,
Distinguished Guests,

Let me begin by thanking the organisers, not only for giving me the honour of addressing this august audience, but also for the privilege of representing my country on this occasion. I would also seize this opportunity by conveying my best wishes for 2012.

My paper deals on **“Africa, land of opportunity for investments in general with special focus on the Republic Democratic of Congo”**

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Africa today offers great opportunities for any investment as African economies range among the most resistant economies in the world. During the global economic recession of 2008, Africa was one of the regions with a positive growth rate roughly amounting to 2%. Since then, growth on the continent is on an ascending track, with an average 4,5% in 2010 and 5,0% and 5,0% in 2011. Prospects for 2012 are even more promising. Africa is well positioned to become the region with the strongest economic growth in the world, and according to the International Monetary Fund, annual economic growth in the 54 countries that the continent comprises are estimated to grow by roughly 6 percent in 2012. Africa is increasingly becoming an attractive place for investors owing to the ongoing economic, political and social reforms on the continent.

As a consequence, there have been improvements in foreign direct investment environment. Beyond this, important strides have been made in the overall development of social and physical infrastructures, creating throughout the continent a vivid breeding ground for a dynamic workforce, whose level of education is rising, and leading to the emergence of an abundant and cheaper labour force.

Another factor supporting growth according to the African Development Bank is the strong increase in purchasing power

and the surge of African middle class, numbering today more than 300 million.

In addition, the analysts of MacKinsey Global Institute estimate that overall consumer spending across the continent will reach levels over one trillion (1.000 billion) dollar this year. If you are an investor and have not yet expand to Africa, now is the time for an intervention in order to seize a portion of this trillion dollar opportunity this year.

The Democratic Republic of Congo on its own is a land of opportunity in the heart of Africa. It is a country bestowed with extraordinary assets and a gigantic market at the core of the African continent.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has nine neighbouring countries, as it is the case for Germany in Europe, sharing with them a border of 9.165 km. It has the size of continental Europe, with approximately 70 million inhabitants.

The Democratic Republic of Congo has a strategic position, which confers to the country the role of nerve centre and starting point for penetrating various other sub-regional markets. The DRC is a country which offers unique advantages to investors with a resolutely market-oriented economy. Reforms have been led to this purpose and aimed at improving

business environment. The objective is to promote liberalism and privatisations, pinpointing the importance of public-private partners as the pillars of wealth creation and perennation.

The most lucrative investment sectors in Africa are the following:

- 1 Agriculture: Africa hosts today 60% of overall uncultivated, arable land. This is an opportunity offered to you, given the fact that world population rapidly increases (over 7 billions) so that agriculture production must also rise to face demand. The most important part of agriculture production will have to be assumed by Africa. To this purpose, the Democratic Republic of Congo has more than 120 million ha arable land, which can be used for intensive agricultural production throughout the year, as well as more than 4 million land proper to irrigation, whereas around 10% land has been developed.

- 2 The mining sector: Several African countries have vast mineral deposits that have remained unexploited because technical know-how and the capacity to launch large-scale, capital-intensive mining projects are lacking.

The DRC has deep underground or close to the earth's surface, all the elements included in the Mendeleev table

All this riches could benefit Germany by boosting industrial growth

- 3 Tourism: According to the World Tourism Organisation, arrivals in Africa were over 49 million in 2010 and are expected to grow over 50 million in 2012. As for the DRC, we have 7 national parks and a dozen reserves, where you can find seldom species, such as the okapi.
- 4 Investments in infrastructures is a prerequisite for economic growth in Africa, even if progress has been made throughout the continent.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is also in the world a vast fresh water reserve with an impressive hydroelectric potential, amounting to 3.680 km. The DRC also has an immense area of 1.232.000 km² that is forested. These forests account on their own for 45 % of the African forests and 6% of world reserve.

The Democratic Republic of Congo is so to say a vast building site, and has defined the framework for the rebuilding of the country, where infrastructure remains the priority for the government.

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By depicting in a few pages the opportunities that Africa in general and in particular the Democratic Republic of Congo can offer to you, my aim was to provide you with new insights to give new impulses to your companies, and a new orientation to your investments, shifting them towards this land, Africa, which has unique asserts, especially in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and to reassure you as to the state of their flourishing economies. For those who are interested and who are ready to visit the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Embassy will be happy to answer all your questions pending the availability on the Internet of the data relating to DRC natural resources. In order to go to our country, it should be mentioned that a flight should be operating once a week.

Thank you very much.