

**Media Release  
EthicsSA**

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**Make sure Africa's voice on China is heard – EthicsSA survey still open**

The Ethics Institute of South Africa (EthicsSA) is urging Africans to make sure their views about China's business presence on the continent are taken into account by China's policy-makers by completing EthicsSA's survey of African perceptions about Chinese investment. The survey will close at the end of September, and is open to citizens of 14 African countries: Angola, Benin, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, South Sudan, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"Africa has become very important for China: we are its largest source of imports and have become its second-largest market for construction projects and fourth-largest investment destination," says Professor Deon Rossouw, CEO of EthicsSA. "The recent re-issue of a Chinese white paper on Sino-African relations is an indication both of Africa's importance to China, and China's awareness that there are negative perceptions about its involvement in Africa."

An example of work in progress is China's draft regulations to guide the behaviour of Chinese companies in foreign jurisdictions, including Africa. Released in August 2012, they are still open for comment, with a conference set for 23-24 September 2013 at Tsinghua University. And at the fifth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation in Beijing in 2012, President Hu Jintao's keynote announced a series of measures to strengthen Chinese-African cooperation over the next three years. These measures include a \$20-billion credit line to help African countries on a range of developmental projects.

The reissued white paper also goes into considerable detail about the positive investments China has made, and continues to make, in education, climate change amelioration, infrastructure, health, science and technology. China has also cancelled 16 debts owed by various African countries.

Chinese authorities have also taken decisive action against both multinational and local companies for collusion and price-fixing in the domestic Chinese market. This move shows a resolve to protect the country's reputation as a business partner.

However, despite these and other measures, many Africans continue to harbour negative perceptions about Chinese involvement in Africa. Some countries, like Mauritius, Angola and Kenya have developed legislation aimed at ensuring that Chinese companies use minimum percentages of local labour; the Botswana government has called for a reduction in the number of infrastructure contracts awarded to Chinese companies; and there have been protests in Nigeria about working conditions on Chinese projects.

"The survey offers a way for us to quantify exactly what issues are troubling Africans and thus why these negative sentiments continue to prevail," argues Professor Rossouw. "Once we have concrete data, we can make a positive contribution to the legislative and policy-making processes underway in China—and help ensure that the China-Africa relationship is a win-win one."

The survey may be accessed at [www.ethicssa.co.za](http://www.ethicssa.co.za) and the results will be available from January 2014.

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***ABOUT EthicsSA (Ethics Institute of South Africa)***

The Ethics Institute of South Africa (EthicsSA) is a non-profit, public benefit organisation. EthicsSA offers a wide range of ethics-related services to organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors, as well as in the professions. These include:

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