Stories that Matter | July 2026

Africa

China Tops Africa’s Biggest New Investment Projects with Nearly USD 4.7 Billion in 2025

China emerged as the largest source of investment behind Africa’s biggest new foreign-backed projects in 2025, committing nearly USD 4.7 billion across three of the continent’s 10 largest announced greenfield developments, according to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) World Investment Report 2026.

The investments span critical minerals, energy and industrial production, reinforcing Beijing’s position as one of Africa’s most influential economic partners at a time when global powers are intensifying competition for the continent’s strategic resources and manufacturing potential.

UNCTAD’s annual report shows that while the total value of announced greenfield investments in Africa declined by nearly one-third in 2025, the number of projects increased, indicating that investors shifted away from a handful of mega-projects toward a broader mix of new developments.

China’s dominance among those projects came through three major investments worth a combined USD 4.7 billion.

The largest Chinese-backed project was a USD 2.5 billion oil and gas investment in Ethiopia by Golden Concord Holdings, a Hong Kong-based industrial group.

It was followed by Fujian Xiang Xin Group’s USD 1.1 billion oil and gas project in Zambia and CMOC Group’s USD 1.1 billion metals investment in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Together, the projects made China the largest investing economy represented among Africa’s biggest new foreign-backed developments announced during the year.

Source: This Day