

SILIKIN VILLAGE PARTNERS WITH A WORLD BANK PROGRAM

September 2nd, 2022

The *International Development Association*, the *World Bank's* direct aid arm for the poorest countries, is funding the US\$100 million *Projet d'Appui au Développement des Micro, Petites et Moyennes Entreprises* (PADMPME), an official Congolese government programme, to the tune of US\$ 100 million. Among the actions of this programme is the creation of MSME centres called "Kazi".

SILIKIN VILLAGE has just signed an agreement to host the first Kazi centre in the DRC. This partnership will allow **SILIKIN VILLAGE** to benefit from a USD 1.2 million grant for the construction of infrastructure and a USD 0.4 million grant to provide support services to MSMEs.

As a reminder, **SILIKIN VILLAGE** is an initiative by **TEXAF** to create a digital ecosystem in Kinshasa. It hosts flexible offices for start-up's, co-working spaces, a coding academy, conference rooms and organizes, with partners, long term training, seminars, incubation etc...

With the construction of its 3rd phase, due in 2023, it will cover 15,000 m², be the largest digital hub in Africa and will be able to house 1,600 digital people (corporates, start-ups, supporting services, etc.).

In 2023, it will also include the first carrier-neutral data centre in DRC.



A delegation from the World Bank, led by Mr. Douglas Pierce, visited SILIKIN VILLAGE, the first KAZI SME centre partner of "PADMPME". The World Bank supports the promotion of SME centres to provide companies with a favourable environment for their development.



PADMPME and the TEXAF group proceeded this Tuesday, August 30, 2022 to the signature of the agreement protocol establishing SILIKIN VILLAGE as the first KAZI SME centre.

These grants will help the **TEXAF** group not only to offer the best infrastructure in the country to digital companies, in particular MSMEs, but also to create a customised support service offer to eligible companies.

TEXAF (www.texaf.be), established in 1925, is the only listed company with all its activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Currently, these are focused on property and quarries. More recently, TEXAF has decided to develop a new activity in the digital domain. **TEXAF** aims to become a major player in this sector.

This listing on the stock exchange and the resulting obligations in terms of good governance and transparency constitute a major asset of the Group for its development and for the promotion of the formal sector in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

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