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About CBC

We are a business member organization representing business interests of the private sector in Africa and beyond. CBC is a leading force in business, expanding private sector's influence in policy, facilitating business and strategic linkages.

Our Vision

Building Regional, Going Global

Our Mission

To become the leading private sector organization in Africa, that promotes competitive and interconnected industries to actively participate in regional and global markets through advocacy, business facilitation and enterprise development.

Our Services

- Business Policy Advocacy
- Business Facilitation Services
- Membership Development and Communication



LACK OF INTEGRITY HURTING AFRICAN BUSINESSES – EXPERTS

High corruption tendencies constitute major blockades to achieving a good and enabling business environment in Africa, according to the Common Market for East and Southern Africa (COMESA) Business Council.

According to the COMESA officials, corruption has become a “daily way” of getting things done in some countries it has been adopted as part of life, denying millions of people access to basic needs. The African Development Bank estimates that \$148 billion is lost to corruption in Africa every year. Moreover, Sandra Uwera, the Chief Executive Officer of COMESA Business Council, believes it could be “way more than that”.

“Corruption has taken a twist and is carried out through ‘gifts, favours and some people keeping a blind eye on unlawful transactions. There’s total lack of integrity in SMEs and this can’t take our economy to the level we want,” Uwera said. She added; “In many countries in Africa, corruption has become part and parcel of doing business. This is especially because many growing enterprises always enter a business deal with the mindset: what is it in for me? This determines the foundation of short term results, quicker routes to make profit and in the long term, a once off deal, instead of a long-term sustainable partnership”.

COMESA Business Council has convened an anti-corruption compliance training in Kigali involving about 50 companies with the aim to strengthen business ethics through developing anti-corruption compliance codes for businesses.

Michel Minega Sebera, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Trade and Industry, said that Rwanda has deliberately pushed for transparency and creation of an enabling business environment. “Business integrity has to be a culture if we are to promote a conducive environment for businesses to thrive,” Sebera said. On the other hand, business leaders welcomed the training but raised concerns of uncoordinated tax regimes across the region, unfair competition and unethical public officials who lure them into corruption tendencies to earn contracts as some of the reasons behind the so-called lack of business integrity in the region.



“This issue of corruption goes two ways. You can train me on being ethical and professional but if we still have some procurement officers who feel entitled to a certain percentage of the deal before they can sign it off, yet I need money to survive. Then we have a long way to go,” one businessman who preferred anonymity told The New Times.

Ephraim Kwitonda, from Bella Flowers Ltd, also said that, “corruption affects business growth in a negative way and we hope this training will help us better understand how to deal with both local and international partners on a more professional level and learn how we can protect our companies from the vices.” Rwanda is developing a voluntary corporate governance policy, in addition to the one already established by Private Sector Federation (PSF), according to the Registrar General at Rwanda Development Board, Richard Kayibanda “We are still working on the anti-corruption compliance. PSF has its own and now RDB is working on one but at the moment – because there are other existing components in the anti-corruption law – we want to first make it voluntary and help businesses understand and adhere to the best practices,” Kayibanda said.

<https://www.newtimes.co.rw/news/lack-integrity-hurting-african-businesses-experts>

READY TO FIGHT CORRUPTION - PRIVATE SECTOR - RWANDA



The COMESA Business Council in partnership with the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) successfully the Rwanda Anti- Corruption Compliance Training under the CBC Business Integrity Project. The meeting was held from 27th to 28th September, 2018 at Lemigo Hotel in the heart of Kigali. The meeting was officiated by Mr. Sebera Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Trade and Industry, representatives from RDB, CIPE and more than 50 private sector players. The main objective of the training was to build the capacity of the private sector to stem corruption and enhance their participation in transparency and reform initiatives thereby achieve a good and enabling business environment.

During the official opening ceremony, CBC CEO Ms. Sandra Uwera highlighted that the continent is virtually a pod for attractive opportunities for business. We have minerals, affordable labour force, large consumer base, arable land, diversity of agricultural produce and raw materials that can set up the strongest manufacturing bases in the world. In spite of all these dynamics, Africa still has the weakest supply chain networks because the SME reputation is not attractive for doing business. Corruption is highlighted as one of the key obstacles or cost of doing business in the region.

"We are launching this training program here in Rwanda, as we go out to the rest of the other COMESA countries in the next few months. The greatest motivation is because Rwanda is one of the greatest reformers in terms of anti-corruption compliance and promoting a conducive business environment. Rwanda is amongst the top three least corrupt countries on the continent and also the World Bank Doing Business Index. In fact, Rwanda has risen 15 places in 2018 on the WB Doing Business Index due to a number of reforms".

KENYA MANUFACTURERS URGE REFORMS IN SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



Kenyan manufacturers have called for legal reforms in order to promote private sector investments in solid waste management. Suresh Patel, Chairman of the Environmental Committee, at the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM) told journalists in Nairobi that the current legal regime has resulted in uncoordinated government regulation and enforcement actions by regulatory entities that hinder private sector investments. "There is urgent need for legal reforms that will promote investments in the field of recycling and waste management," Patel said during the East Africa Utilities Expo. The three- day event aimed at connecting and promoting networking of policy makers and regulators in the building, construction, utilities and waste management sectors. Mr.Patel said that legal reforms should be conducted in the areas of environmental regulations, health and safety rules, transportation laws, as well as zoning and land-use issues in order to lure private sector investments. Patel said that the enormous problem of waste management cannot be addressed without a robust strategy and sustainable investment. He said that the public sector lacks a viable business model to effectively manage solid waste.

Ayub Macharia, director of Environmental Education and Awareness Unit in the Ministry of Environment, said that studies conducted indicate that on average, city authorities only collect 40 percent of waste generated while the private sector collects another 20 percent. "The remaining 40 percent is left uncollected or is disposed of through open burning or dumping in open areas and pits causing more environmental degradation and health hazards to urban dwellers." He observed that there is a strong relationship between waste generation and climate change.

National Environment and Management Authority (NEMA) Director General Geoffrey Wahungu said that Kenya has made deliberate efforts in improving the management of solid waste in Kenya including the promulgation of a new constitution. Wahungu said that a National Solid Waste Management Strategy is already in place to guide sustainable solid waste management in Kenya to ensure a healthy, safe and secure environment for all. He noted that the short term goal of the strategy is to achieve 30 percent waste recovery and 70 percent controlled dumping in key urban areas by 2020. Over the long run, the East African nation hopes to achieve 80 percent waste recovery and 20 percent landfilling in a sanitary landfill by 2030.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-09/26/c_137494618.htm

ZIMBABWE'S CEMENT DEMAND TO EXCEED SUPPLY IN 2 YEARS

ZIMBABWE'S cement industry could run out of capacity by 2020 as national demand grows faster than the expansion in investment, one of the major producers has said. The industry is dominated by three major players, namely PPC Zimbabwe, Lafarge Cement Zimbabwe and Sino-Zimbabwe Cement. Together, they have a combined installed capacity of 2,4 million metric tonnes of cement, 54% more than current demand estimated at 1,3 million tonnes. Addressing delegates at the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries annual congress held in Bulawayo last week, Lafarge Cement Zimbabwe commercial director Edith Matekaire called for new investments in production capacity to forestall shortages, given the time taken to develop new plants. "We know we talk about all the macroeconomic issues like the cost of energy and cost of labour, but I want to say that beyond 2020, we will begin to run out of capacity as an industry, and I have no doubt that it is time to act now," Matekaire said.

"We can see that our projections are in real demand. We will need an additional capacity, and today I must say as Lafarge we have a greenlight on new investment, but the issue has always been how do you fund that investment in terms of paying back. Considering that it will take three years for a fully-integrated cement plant to be put in place and one-and-a-half years for a grinding station to be put in place, it really shows that it's time for us to act now in order to invest ahead of demand."



In a statement recently, the Cement and Concrete Institute of Zimbabwe said national cement demand had surged since the second half of last year, driven by a reported bubble in mortgage and construction activity. Matekaire said the current shortage of cement in Zimbabwe was a result of delays in receiving foreign currency from the central bank for the importation of spares. "I'm sure everybody is wondering why there is a shortage of cement; why do we have to wait eight weeks to get cement? Now to just allay your fears, the current installed capacity of cement in the cement industry sits at around 2,4 million metric tonnes," she said.

"The demand today is only 1,3 million, meaning there is excess capacity in terms of the installed capacity that we have today. So why are we currently having the shortage? Today, what we experience are issues to do with foreign currency in relation to our ability to maintain and keep our production running at optimal capacity." Matekaire said plant maintenance costs in the industry were one of the biggest cost drivers. Citing the example of Lafarge, she said the industry faced staggering time lags in obtaining foreign currency, which at times resulted in unscheduled plant shutdowns.

<https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-146479.html>



MAURITIUS AMBASSADOR SEEKS TO INCREASE TRADE WITH RUSSIA

Ambassador of Mauritius to the Russian Federation, (H.E.) Mr. Maheshwar Singh Khemlolive, has visited the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation to discuss about the investment, trade and economic potential of Mauritius and the development of new areas of cooperation with Russia. Mr. Khemlolive expressed satisfaction with the current level of bilateral relations and suggested that further steps were necessary to deepen Russia-Mauritius cooperation especially in trade, economic and tourism areas.

On September 19th, Moscow will host the next presentation of the investment and economic potential of Mauritius, after that from November 19th to 23rd Mauritius will host the 2nd Mauritius-Russian Investment Forum. An important basis for the economy of Mauritius is the development of tourism, he said, and acknowledged further that “a special role in establishing and strengthening mutually beneficial bilateral contacts is played by business associations and chambers of commerce and industry.”

He pointed to the fact that strengthening ties with Russia is an important factor for the country’s further development and the trade relations between Mauritius and Russia have great potential.

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Last November, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade

Seetanah Lutchmeenaraido, headed a business delegation to a similar forum looking for long-term partnership in high technology, transport, fishing and tourism. At the same time, the delegation show-cased the transition of Mauritius from an offshore financial centre to a full fledge regional financial hub and promoted investment opportunities across various sectors. It portrayed the island as a strategic platform for structuring investments and managing operations in Africa.

Whether in theory or practice, Russia is prepared to share its technologies and developments in the field of mining, the building of transport infrastructure, in the energy sector, information technology and agriculture. But, Russia is seriously lagging behind in developing trade-economic ties with Africa. Experts have often suggested that there was the need for both Russians and Africans to make bridges for establishing practical contacts, not only Mauritius business, but also other countries and/or regions in Africa. Further, Russia and Africa have to design strategies for improving overall public diplomacy.

Mauritius is an island nation in the Indian Ocean, about 2,000 kilometres (1,200 km) off the southeast coast of the African continent. It is ranked high in terms of economic competitiveness, a friendly investment climate, good governance and a free economy. Besides, it is a country with dynamically growing economy, high living standards and favorable conditions for doing business. The World Bank report in 2016, said Mauritius occupied the first place among African countries south of the Sahara on the business climate.

<https://www.eurasiareview.com/11092018-mauritius-ambassador-seeks-to-increase-trade-with-russia-oped/>



TEA GROWERS, PROCESSORS IN KABAROLE PUSH FOR RESEARCH, IMPROVED



Members of the Private Sector Foundation (PSF) operating in the tea rich area of Kabarole and Kyenjojo districts have appealed to government to scale up tea research as one way of improving on its quality. “We need to start planting new improved tea clones that are high yielding and disease resistant..... until now farmers are still planting tea seed yet there are over 100 tea clones that have been researched on,” Thomas Joseph the general manager of Rwenzori Commodities told Rtd Gen Salim Saleh, Chief Coordinator of Operations Wealth Creation on Tuesday during meeting with the private sector held at Rwenzori Commodities tea factory in Busoro sub county, Kabarole district.

Thomas explained that neighboring countries like Kenya and Rwanda are doing well because of the existing tea regulation policies in their countries coupled by improved high yielding improved gardens. According to research, Kabarole and Kyenjojo districts were the first areas in Uganda where tea was introduced. Erisa Kakyomya the director at Rusekete tea Factory in Hakibale Sub County, blamed shrinking tea quality in Uganda on the collapse of the country’s tea regulatory body. Kakyoma said that most of the tea production guidelines are not being adhered to because of the lack of a regulatory body. “Tea companies are competing for green leaf because some don’t even have their own tea gardens Both the farmers and tea companies are doing what they want,” Kakyoma said.

Read more on: <https://www.softpower.ug/tea-growers-processors-in-kabarole-push-for-research-improved-yields/>

UP COMING EVENTS IN OCTOBER

IMPACT CAPITAL AFRICA

2-3 October, Radisson Blu Hotel, Lusaka
www.impactcapafrica.com

Visit www.impactcapafrica.com for
further details and register.

Mauritius Anti-
Corruption
Compliance Training
- 31st October to 1st
November, 2018.



CBC BUSINESS INTEGRITY PROJECT

**“Anti- Corruption Compliance
Training for Enterprises”**



‘Business Integrity for
Enterprise Sustainability
and Global Partnerships’.



Ethiopia- 9th to 10th October,
2018.

WHY BECOME A MEMBER OF CBC

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- 1** Advocacy excellence in the region – influence decisions at the highest levels of policy decision makers in COMESA.
- 2** Regional brand recognition as a business through CBC
- 3** Market intelligence and analysis to inform trade, investment and joint venture decisions.
- 4** Increased partnerships in regional and global markets.
- 5** Business facilitation in regional and global markets through trade promotion, linkages and advisory services
- 6** Industry collaboration through CBC memberships for efficiency and sustainability of enterprises and associations.



Our Important Links

- <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/>
- <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/Account/Login>
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