

**Inside this Week's Issue – 09/04/18.**



**Business Linkages to SMEs      More Jobs in Clothing      Egypt Hub for Glasses Get      More Barccodes**

**COMESA – Connect- Industry Dialogue – “Smart Technologies for Sustainable Businesses”.**

On 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> June of 2018, the COMESA Business Council will be host the COMESA Connect Industry Dialogue under the theme “Smart Technologies for Sustainable Businesses” in Kigali, Rwanda. The two day event will draw participation of Industries in manufacturing and services companies, SME companies, Industry Associations, ICT companies, ICT industry federations and Associations, research and innovation Hubs and funding agencies, Innovators, Intellectual property regulators, Consumer rights institutions, Public Sector responsible for Manufacturing, Trade, ICT, I.P and other relevant stakeholders. These participants will be drawn for the COMESA region and beyond.



This forum seeks to structure strategic efforts towards harnessing today’s digital solutions to respond to the needs of our industries in the region. It is time for Africa to use the digital technologies to Prepare, Protect, Revolutionize and Sustain businesses. Recent technologies such as Block chain, artificial intelligence and robotics are leap frog

technologies that have the potential to elevate and transform Africa economies into fully knowledge based and advanced societies.

Among the objectives of the dialogue will be to firstly establish a collective understanding and strategic focus on the potential of blockchain and other technologies for supporting trade and trade facilitation as well as the other business and industry within the African region. Secondly to address the constraints that affect business competitiveness in the region and promote synergies between industry and IT to promote the use of technology and growth of African private sector. thirdly to structure policy recommendations to ensure the use of technology address digital financial inclusion, industry competitiveness and revolutionary innovations for competitive sustainable enterprises. The forth objective is to address the ideal structures that to ensure data

## CZI to Host Business Linkages Workshop



protection policies in the region and lastly to Increase awareness and strengthen the national and regional intellectual property framework.

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To sponsor or participate in this meeting, contact CBC. Please note the meeting offers a limited number of seats- on a first come, first serve basis. Register and kindly submit your name and business profile to – [kmadzivanyika@comesa.int](mailto:kmadzivanyika@comesa.int) , or [GTembo@comesa.int](mailto:GTembo@comesa.int) , or [RBanda@comesa.int](mailto:RBanda@comesa.int) .

The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) is set to host a business linkages and small-to-medium enterprises (SMEs) development workshop, to foster strong business relations for mutual benefit. Among the participants will be all value chain players including financiers, SMEs, farmers unions and food processors as well as large corporates to make the workshop broader and more enlightening on all aspects of the value chain.

“Some of the large corporates have indicated that while some SMEs are doing well and have become reliable business to deal with, several SMEs are producing substandard products and are missing out on many opportunities due to inconsistency on supplies,” CZI said. “The committee realised

there is need to train and educate the local SMEs to be competent to meet the demands of their clients and improving on quality.”

The industry body said the workshop would address challenges faced by SMEs such as product prices and charges, simplifying legal terms on contracts signed with reputable firms as well as improving on consistency issues to ensure comprehensive relations between the big firms and SMEs, respectively. According to the government, SMEs have become the backbone of the economy, as they make up about 70% of the registered taxpayers, contributing close to 20% to tax revenue.

Despite this, SMEs are facing several challenges, which include poor technological capacity to keep pace with the dynamics of local and international trade, intensified competition in domestic, regional and global markets, a rapidly shrinking domestic market and limited participation in global value chains.

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/04/czi-hosts-business-linkages-workshop/>

## **Kenya to Get \$113.8M Infusion for New Garment Factory as Supply Chain Capabilities Expand**

As sourcing in Africa ramps up in line with further developments in the supply chain there, investors from around the world are looking to spend their money for apparel production on the continent. Dubai-based United Aryan, which currently manufactures apparel for export in Ruaraka, Kenya, is one

such investor. The company announced plans to construct a \$113.8 million factory at the Olkaria geothermal fields in Naivasha, Kenya, which could employ up to 10,000 locals directly and 40,000 others indirectly, Business Daily Africa reported.

“We have identified an ideal place at Olkaria geothermal fields in Naivasha where we intend to establish a 11.5 billion shilling (\$113.8 million) factory for the production of quality garments,” Pankaj Bedi, United Aryan’s founder and chairman, said in an interview with Business Daily Africa. “We expect to start construction in the next two years and thereafter start operations as soon as the factory will be complete.”



According to United Aryan, the factory will produce many types of garments, including fleece, knit tops, pajamas, robes, shirts and trousers. Inside the factory, 84 lines will have the capacity to produce and wash more than 100,000 units a day, and Bedi told Business Daily Africa that the factory will manufacture products to be sold in Kenya and other global markets, including Europe and the U.S.

United Aryan's textiles facility project comes on the heels of Kenya's trade expansion goals. In December, the Center of International Private Enterprise (CIPE) and the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) inked a partnership that would aid 2,000 Kenyan companies with international business opportunities. The agreement between the CIPE and KNCCI focuses on the chambers of commerce in Kenya's Vihiga, Mombasa and Nairobi counties, which will receive market linkages and assistance to improve trade between the U.S. and Kenya.

<https://sourcingjournalonline.com/united-aryan-open-113-8m-textiles-facility-kenya/>

## Major Potential for Egypt to Become Global Glass Hub

The chairperson of Zippe industrial plants, Bernd-Holger Zippe, said that Egypt has very high-quality sand and is exported to Algeria and Italy to use in manufacturing glass.

The German Arab Chamber of Industry and Commerce held a conference on Wednesday to promote the Glasstec exhibition, which will take place from 23-26 October in Germany with the participation of many international companies. Zippe said at the conference that German machinery has a very good reputation with high reliability and that Egyptian glass companies successfully cooperated with German machinery companies to utilise their expertise.



We have many important areas of cooperation such as batch plants and cullet system crushers, control systems, factory cullet, waste glass recycling, and batch chargers, said the chairperson

The CEO of Sphinx Glass and board member of Federation of Egyptian Industries (FEI), Mohamed Khattab, said that the Egyptian market has major opportunities to be on the international map of glass manufacturing as an international hub.

It is not only a dream, but we are really qualified enough to develop the glass industry said Khattab, noting that the sector has been remarkably improving since 2010 and production was almost doubled in the last five years. Until 2010, Egypt was a net importer, but when the industry developed, the market became a net exporter with an optimistic outlook said Khattab, adding that Egypt enjoys high-quality sand and sufficient energy supply.

Egypt produces 50m tonnes of glass per year. Only three African countries, which are Algeria, South Africa, and Egypt, produce glass and we are among the biggest producers added Khattab.

Khattab said Egypt should add value to the sand before exporting it as a raw material and fully benefit from its geographic location and trade agreements, adding, glass consumption habits are changing and architectural use is rising. The growth of population is an extra advantage.

CEO of Crystal Asfour Mohamed Abdel Karim said that his company commits the international environmental standards to reserve the good reputation of the company adding, Crystal Asfour was founded in 1961 as a local company goals globalism and now it exports to 80 countries around the world, so it is a model to follow. Crystal Asfour produce 120 tons of crystal per day and focus on developing its human resources and the manufacturing technologies, noted Abdel Karim.

Read more on: <http://menafn.com/1096710980/Major-potential-for-Egypt-to-become-global-glass-hub-experts>

## **Mauritius: SME Mauritius Ltd Signs MoU With GS1 Mauritius Ltd to Boost SME Sector**

The GS1 Mauritius Ltd, a subsidiary of the Mauritius Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and the SME Mauritius Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Port Louis on the Barcode Registration Scheme for Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the presence of the Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, Mr Soomilduth Bholah. The signatories were the Chairperson of GS1, Mr Cedric Lagesse, and

the Chief Executive Officer of SME Mauritius Ltd, Mr Raj Puddoo.

The objectives of the scheme are to encourage micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) to use GS1 barcodes to upgrade their products and gain easier market access; gain efficiency whilst enjoying lower costs through inventory management; enable exporting without modifications in the barcodes; traceability solutions and; international visibility. approximately 85 MSMEs are expected to benefit from this scheme.



On this occasion, Minister Bholah highlighted that SMEs have been identified as major role players in the economic growth and transformational development of Mauritius and it is very important to develop the capacity, knowledge and skills of local entrepreneurs. Government's aim, he underlined, is to not only get the products of SMEs on the Mauritian market but also to get them export-ready. The collaboration with GS1 for the barcode registration scheme, he stated, will inspire and support SMEs' growth as well as empower them in doing business across borders.

According to the Minister, the world is moving towards a full-fledged digital society, and it is recommended that SMEs incorporate technology in their business routine in order to achieve sustainable growth. The expansion of e-commerce and the evolution of global value chains, he underlined, is opening up new trading opportunities and one major step forward to facilitate trade and access to market for SMEs, is the use of barcodes.

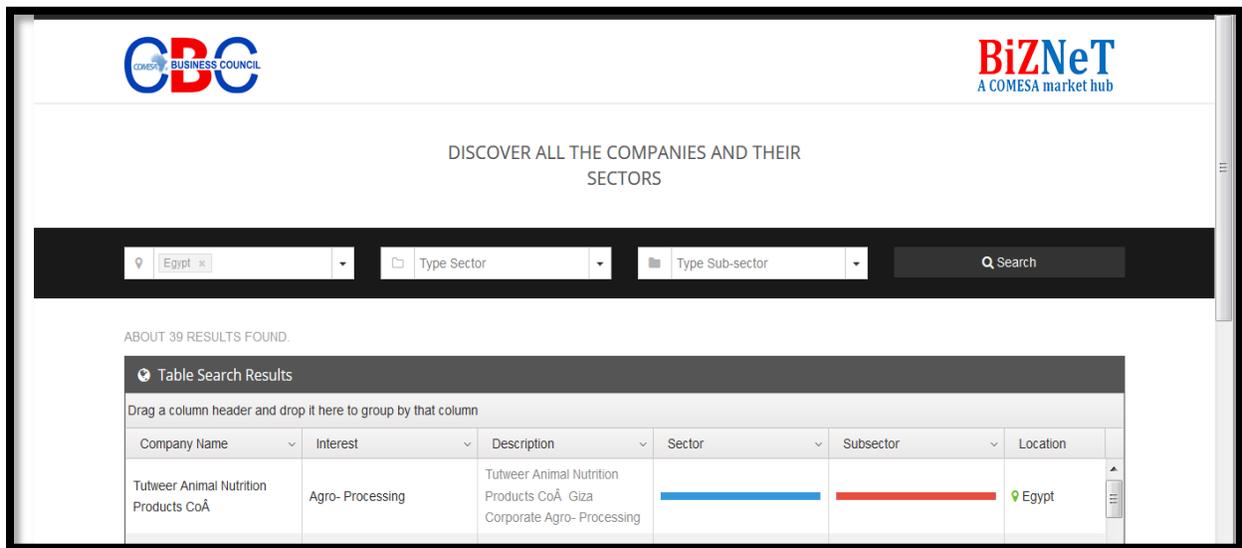
Barcodes, stated Mr Bholah, are one of the most innovative elements of business process automation which can help to track sales of products, categorise and centralise information, save time and increase efficiency.

Read more on: <https://allafrica.com/stories/201803270778.html>

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