



BIZNET-WEEKLY

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Looking Ahead 2018

After taking a 21 days recess, COMESA Business Council has now resumed operations fully and the members of staff are even more energized to fulfill CBC's mandate in 2018. The year 2017 closed on a good note with a lot of successes that were recorded during the year in terms of business and policy advocacy at highest COMESA Policy Organs. Our mission statement speaks for itself, voice of the private sector In the COMESA region. CBC positioned itself well by reaching out to the highest policy organs of COMESA. The private sector issues were well articulated and waiting for the implementation from the member states.

The year 2018 has opened its doors with a busy schedule for CBC as it continues to endeavor to position itself as the voice of the private sector. This will be implemented

through the provision of services in advocacy, business linkages and partnerships and membership development. As our core interest is, we shall highlight and address specific interests of industries on a sector by sector and enterprise basis. As CBC we value our collaborations with the private sector for they are our backbone.

As our new vision 2018-2022 states- *Building Regional, Going Global*, we shall aim at working harder and ensure that the private sector is actively participating in regional trade. Therefore, the trading atmosphere of the region must be conducive to make the private sector more competitive and trade without barriers. We officially

welcome you to the year

2018 as we take the private

sector issues to greater

heights.

*So Why Are We Due to Import U.S.
\$110 Billion Worth of Food
Annually By 2025?*



The African continent has the potential to feed itself and even have surplus food to export to other parts of the world. But instead, the continent imports \$35 billion worth of food and agricultural products every year, and if the current predictions hold, the import bill will rise to \$110 billion annually by 2025. So the question is: if the African continent has vast agricultural potential as we have been led to believe, why are we facing an astronomical food import bill?

Africa's annual food import bill of \$35 billion, compared to \$110 billion by 2025, weakens African economies, decimates its agriculture and exports jobs from the continent. Africa's annual food import bill of \$35 billion is just about the same amount it needs to close its power deficit"

See more at:

<http://allafrica.com/stories/201704270059.html>

Multiple Testing of Products for Standards

Multiple testing of products for standards; lack of knowledge of export procedures by suppliers and traders hoarding of farm produce due to poor prices are some of the findings a new study – along the Northern and Southern Corridor – link to the sustained low intra-regional trade.



These factors coupled with political interference through trade restrictions on certain products, disintegration between suppliers and traders, similarly the importation of products from foreign markets. CBC conducted study covering 8 countries in the North South and North Transport corridors of East and Southern Africa. If the challenges faced in this sector are not addressed, will continue to affect the efforts for countries to trade among themselves.

Of concern is that the said constraints have also hindered free movement of food from high producing areas to deficit regions. The study: “Towards fostering business and trade within the supply chain networks along the Eastern and Southern Africa Transport Corridors: An Agro-industry corridor project” also identifies lack of information on products, producers, buyers, market information and, trade and logistics information when

See more at:
doing business in the region
<http://www.mediamaxnetwork.co.ke/business/397351/multiple-testing-products-standards/>

Uganda's Manufactured Goods Exports Increase

A decade ago, Uganda's manufactured exports to the region were insignificant. Records now indicate a 100 per cent increase. If this trend continues upwards, the country's import bill will reduce drastically and more jobs will be created.

Currently, Uganda exports manufactured goods to the region worth \$1 billion (Shs3.6 trillion) up from \$10 million (Shs36.5 billion) the country earned almost 10 years ago.

Speaking to Prosper Magazine at the sidelines of the second Annual Exporters' Conference, Mr Elly Twineyo, the executive director Uganda Export Promotion Board, said: "This trend shows that Uganda is diversifying from agro-based exports. The quality of our manufactured goods has improved greatly and with increased investment in value addition exports of manufactured goods have increased."

See more at: <http://allafrica.com/stories/201801240080.html>

Zimbabwean Investors Eye Opportunities in Rwanda's agric, ICT and Energy Sectors



A delegation of 35 Zimbabwean business leaders are due to visit Rwanda to explore investment opportunities in various sectors, including ICT, agriculture, manufacturing, real estates, finance and energy.

Jeff Kamanzi, the director for trade and business development at the Private Sector Federation (PSF), said the investors will be the one heading the delegation, which will also be seeking partnerships with local firms as part of efforts geared at boosting trade between Rwanda and Zimbabwe.

See more at:

<http://www.newtimes.co.rw/section/read/228121/>

Seychelles Tourism Minister Meets Private Sector Trade

Seychelles Minister for Tourism, Civil Aviation, Ports and Marine, Maurice Loustau-Lalanne has undertaken his first hotel visit for the year 2018. He visited 12 tourism establishments in the districts of Pointe Au Sel and Anse Royale, accompanied by the Principal Secretary for Tourism, Anne Lafortune.



The visit is a continuation of a series of door-to-door visits to tourism properties in the country, which the Minister embarked upon last year. He has visited hotels on Mahé, Praslin and La Digue.

The aim of this ongoing exercise is to have a first-hand view of the various accommodations being offered to visitors, as well as to meet and discuss with the establishments' owners and managers on their successes and challenges.

See more at: <https://www.eturbonews.com/175825/seychelles-tourism-minister-meets-private-sector-trade>

Snippets from our member states for your reading.

CBC Useful Links:

- <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/>
- <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/Account/Login>
- http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/Content/web/documents/news-media/2016_CBC_Inst_Report.pdf
- <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/Home/AboutUs/Membership>

For media enquiries please contact:

Ms. Gallina Tembo
Membership and Communications Officer
COMESA Business Council
COMESA Secretariat
Ben Bella Road, P.O. Box 30051, Lusaka, Zambia
Phone: +260 211 229725/32
Fax: +260 211 225107
gtembo@comesa@comesa.int