

BIZNET NEWSLETTER

Fortnightly Newsletter of the COMESA Business Council

NEWS & FEATURES

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN INDUSTRY WHO ARE CHANGING THE GAME - WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2021

CBC STAFF PLEDGING TO #CHOOSETOCHALLENGE IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: ACHIEVING AN EQUAL AGRI-TRADE FUTURE IN A COVID-19 WORLD

AFRICA BETS ON DIGITAL COVID-19 PASSPORTS TO BOOST AIR TRAVEL

POSITIONING OF COMESA'S PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AFCFTA

COVID, CHINESE DEALERS DRIVE KENYAN SEAFOOD TRADERS OUT OF BUSINESS

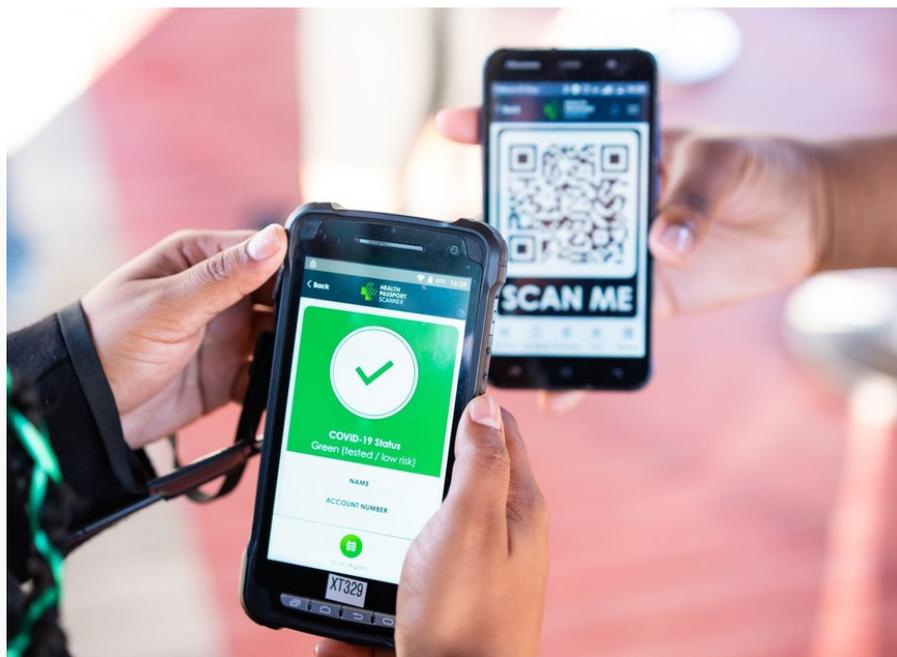
BANK OF UGANDA KEEPS POLICY RATE UNCHANGED AT 7PC FOR APRIL

WELCOMING LEAF GLOBAL TO THE CBC FAMILY

HAPPENING ACTIVITIES

WISHING TO BUY OR SELL?

CBC - OUR SERVICES



Who we Are:

CBC is the recognized Business Member Organization, established as a private sector institution of COMESA. We represent the interests of businesses sectors at a regional level. The services provided go beyond advocacy, to actively promote business participation in regional integration, investment and global trade. This is done by facilitating the growth of strong business synergies, the development of business opportunities, business alliances, legislative and strategic advocacy. We provide custom tailored services that are driven by both industry and enterprise interests.

Follow us on social media:



CELEBRATING WOMEN IN INDUSTRY WHO ARE CHANGING THE GAME - WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH 2021



The economic empowerment of women translates into better household financial resilience, increased decision-making power within communities and economies, and improved quality of life with respect to nutrition and access to education.

In the month of March, CBC ran a social media campaign under the theme of "Women for Industry Equality," to champion women who are choosing to challenge stereotypes and fight gender bias in their respective fields. Below are some of the inspiring words shared by eight women in leadership, in the campaign, championing private sector development in the region.

~ Ms. Sandra Uwera, CEO, CBC



Ms. Temitope Iluyemi



Ms. Judith Obholzer



Ms. Gloria Mamba



Ms. Beatrice Hamusonde



Ms. Diana A. Kasyate



Ms. Phyllis Wakiaga



Ms. Providence Mavubi



Ms. Viviane Dewa

I choose to challenge all forms of inequality in the workplace and commit to driving conversations around gender equality that are UnSaid and actions that remain UnDone. ~ Ms. Temitope Iluyemi, Senior Director: Global Government Relations- Africa, Procter & Gamble

During this time of uncertainty, we've been ramping up efforts to increase women's use of M-Pesa mobile money services across our markets; the tool empowers women with opportunities for business growth and greater financial independence. ~ Ms. Judith Obholzer, Managing Executive for Legal and Regulatory Affairs at Vodacom Group

I am passionate about TDB's efforts to expand women's contribution to the economy through the use of guarantee schemes and mezzanine debt, which address this challenge. ~ Ms. Gloria Mamba - Director-General (Ad int.), Trade and Development Fund / Coverage Executive, Southern Africa (Anglophone), Coverage, Southern Africa

Fostering economic empowerment of women is my passion and thus going digital is the route to business survival of women in the COVID era. ~ Ms. Beatrice Hamusonde, Director - Gender & Social Affairs, COMESA

Our 5by20 global initiative to economically empower 5 million women by 2020, has enabled us to support millions of women who still face the most basic barriers to participation in economic opportunities. ~ Ms. Diana Apio-Kasyate, Senior Public Affairs Manager, Coca-Cola East and Central Africa Franchise

Recognizing the economic value of women is a wake-up call to embrace smart economics. We would like to see more women involved in Industry, especially sectors that are not stereotypically female such as steel, metal and cement. ~ Ms. Phyllis Wakiaga, CEO - Kenya Association of Manufacturers

We're working on building the capacity of women-led enterprises in the region to enable them to take advantage of digital platforms to facilitate informed decision making, and also to provide greater access to markets. ~ Ms. Providence Mavubi, Director-Industry and Agriculture, COMESA

I would like to encourage all women in leadership to steer the course of industries' economic recovery with confidence, within this pandemic period. ~ Ms. Viviane Dewa, President - Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Madagascar

CBC STAFF PLEDGING TO #CHOOSETOCHALLENGE IN CELEBRATION OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

To CBC, the International Women's Day theme, #ChooseToChallenge, which was celebrated all through March meant raising awareness, celebrating achievements, and being intentional in creating an inclusive culture. Choosing to challenge brings about change; CBC staff raised their hands high in a pledge, committing to #ChooseToChallenge inequality, call out bias and question stereotypes, towards achieving more equitable private sector development.



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: ACHIEVING AN EQUAL AGRI-TRADE FUTURE IN A COVID-19 WORLD



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: ACHIEVING AN EQUAL AGRI-TRADE FUTURE IN A COVID-19 WORLD

23rd March 2021

14h30 - 16h30 CAT | 15h30 - 17h30 EAT

LIVE WEBINAR

REGISTER HERE



Ms. Sandra Uwera
CEO - COMESA
Business Council

Chair



Dr. Amany Asfour
CBC Board Director;
President - Africa
Business Council



Flora Mutahi
CEO & Founder,
Melvins Tea



Ms. Paloma Fernandes
CEO - Cereal Millers
Association Kenya



Ms. Rahel Moges
Director - Ethio-green
Production & Industry PLC



Dr. Birungi Korutaro
CEO - Kilimo Trust

#WomenInIndustry4Equality



@COMESABusiness



@comesabusinesscouncil



@COMESA Business Council



@USAIDEastAfrica



@usaideastafrica



COMESA Business Council and Feed the Future East Africa Market Systems Activity, a USAID project, partnered with a common vision to promote the empowerment of women in agriculture and trade. In this regard, a regional webinar was held on Tuesday 23rd March, 2021. The event brought together more than 130 public, private and development stakeholders from regional and international markets.

This Webinar aimed to explore the strategies that can be employed by different stakeholder groups, on how to enhance women's access to resources towards enabling them to participate in regional agricultural value chains more effectively, particularly in this pandemic period.

More specifically, the webinar will unpacked:

- i) The impact of COVID-19 on women in agri-trade;
- ii) Women's successes/achievement in removing barriers in agri-trade;
- iii) Entry points for advancing the role of women in cross-border trade as traders and as trade facilitators.

Following extensive discussions from the panel and participants, the following recommendations were proposed by the audience and panel;

- Establishment of a public-private management consultative committee that fosters dialogue, collaboration, between women farmers and government representatives to ensure favourable agriculture policies are put in place and the effective promotion of women in agri-trade.
- Establish COMESA statistic information system to address the challenge of lack of real time trade data on agriculture production in the region. This should capture what have been planted, value, quantity, and export volumes to provide an informed analysis of agriculture trade in COMESA. Moreover, set up a platform for sharing market information for women agro-trade industry players. This will facilitate business linkages and partnerships, increase awareness on quality seeds, regulation and provide a platform for engagement and sharing of opportunities, strategies.

WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP: ACHIEVING AN EQUAL AGRI-TRADE FUTURE IN A COVID-19 WORLD

- Member states should build capacity of local statistical agencies and trade information centers at national level at all levels. This will drive financial inclusion and reduce information asymmetry.
- CBC working with COMESA Member States to promote development of incubation and business development centres which will assist women in business to address their challenges.
- CBC and other public and private sector should improve and come up with programmes to address digital solutions gaps in the agriculture sector and value chains. Women also need to be trained on negotiation skills for themselves and others so that they are able to champion and change the status quo.
- CBC should work with the National Focal Points (Chambers of Commerce) to come up with network and exchange programmes in the COMESA region. The programmes will assist women to be confident and export oriented.
- Under the AfCFTA, COMESA should facilitate harmonisation of processes on movement of goods and services.
- Member states should set up a joint surveillance committee which will assist in making sure that there is safe food for the region.
- CBC working with National Focal Points should encourage women to form consortiums or groups which will enable them to supply huge orders.
- COMESA countries need to support local/regional sourcing and local industry to reduce over reliance on goods from outside the region.
- Member States should influence the syllabuses at schools and Universities to change perception of women in participating in global value chains.
- In order to Strengthen alternative sourcing and regional value chains in Africa, increase investment in local manufacturing hubs and production capacities.

The CBC CEO thanked the panel for their active and passionate participation as leaders of industry. She invited the co-partnership, USAID- EAMS to officially close the event.

In closing Mr Olivier highlighted that it's the time to challenge the status quo and business models. Women should embrace new technology and new ways of production. EAMS made a pledge to assist women and provide incentives for private sector to explore regional markets and women to participate in global value chains.



Ms. Sandra Uwera
CEO - COMESA
Business Council

Chair



Dr. Amany Asfour
CBC Board Director;
President - Africa
Business Council



Flora Mutahi
CEO & Founder,
Melvins Tea



Ms. Paloma Fernandes
CEO - Cereal Millers
Association Kenya



Ms. Rahel Moges
Director - Ethio-green
Production & Industry PLC



Dr. Birungi Korutaro
CEO - Killimo Trust



@COMESABusiness



@comesabusinesscouncil



@COMESA Business Council



@USAIDEastAfrica

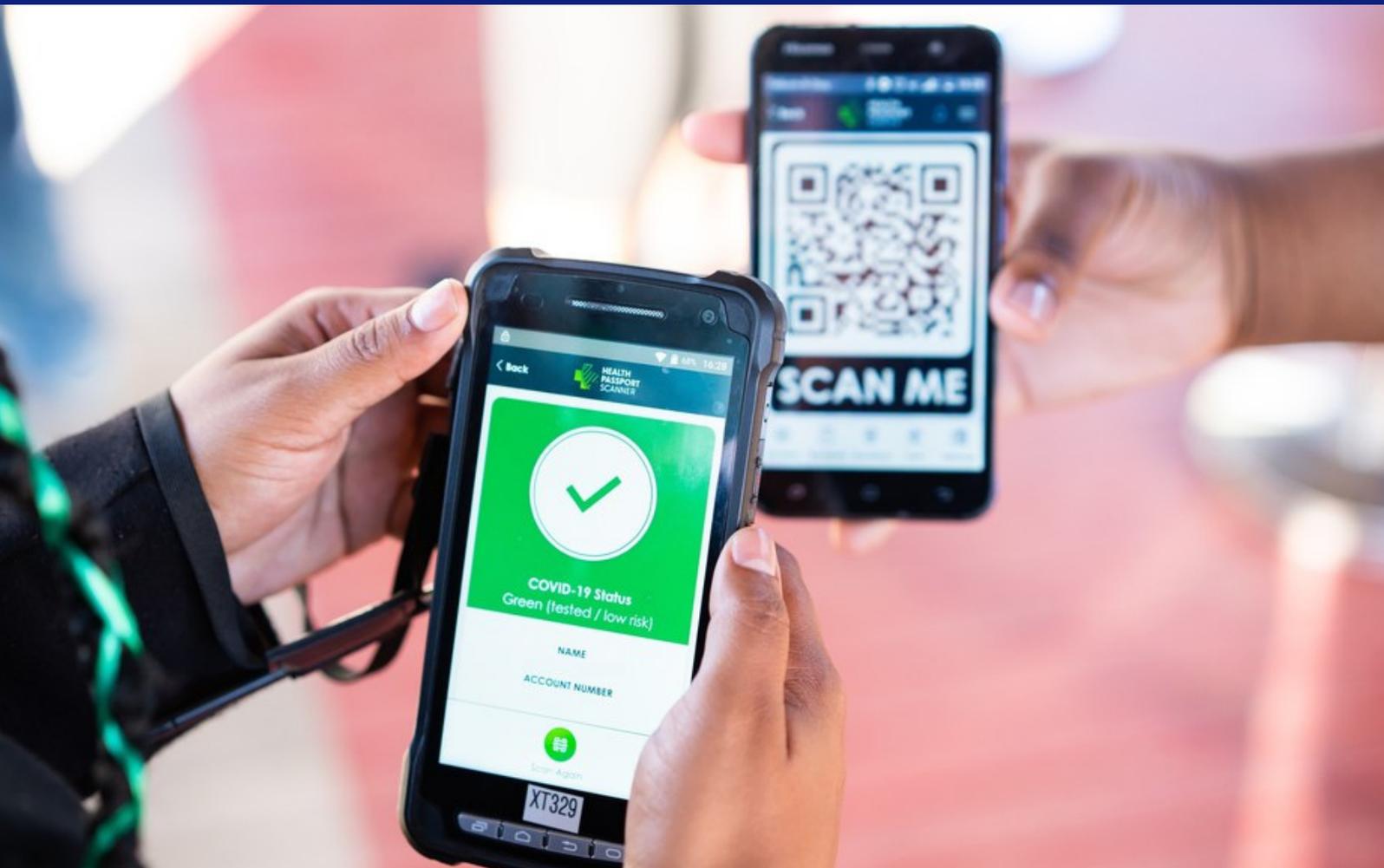


@usaideastafrica



#WomenInIndustry4Equality

AFRICA BETS ON DIGITAL COVID-19 PASSPORTS TO BOOST AIR TRAVEL



Air travellers across Africa can now enjoy faster clearances at airports, thanks to a common continental Covid-19 digital passport innovation developed by the African Union (AU) through its lead health agency, the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC), and private sector technical partners PanaBIOS and Econet. Delays and long queues at airports are gradually becoming a thing of the past for passengers boarding Kenya Airways, Ethiopian Airlines and Asky Airlines.

Ethiopian Airlines alone serves 40 African nations, Kenya Airways 37 countries in the continent while Asky Airlines flies across 25 African cities, together forming a huge chunk of Africa's air traffic that will use the digital passport and portal. Passengers in the continent are now finding it more convenient travelling within and outside their countries, as AU's innovation dubbed Trusted Travel Pass enables them securely and easily verify compliance with Covid-19 test or vaccine travel requirements to their destination of choice.

"We are incredibly proud to be part of AU and Africa CDC's journey of ensuring hassle-free and compliant travel across the world, while preventing cross-border spread of Covid-19 infection," noted Julius Thairu, Kenya Airways acting chief commercial officer.

Vaccination Certificates

The platform has been designed to be incorporated into airlines' own apps, so air travellers can easily understand what they need before they fly. They can also be used as standalone systems. It is also becoming easier for passengers to share the test and vaccination certificates with authorities and airlines to facilitate travel through the Trusted Testing Code (TT Code) which shows that the test was done in an approved Trusted Lab.

"Previously, I found it hectic to travel outside Kenya. But since they started asking us to use the new Covid-19 passport verification portal, travel has been smooth," Joyce Muthua, a passenger, told the Nation at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

AFRICA BETS ON DIGITAL COVID-19 PASSPORTS TO BOOST AIR TRAVEL

International Travel

The TT Code is used as evidence of the test to generate a Travel Code (TC) for international travel. TT Code and TC are now Africa-invented standard travel clearance requirements for international travel in a health emergency. Africa CDC has so far mobilised a broad multi-stakeholder public private partnership with the help of its strategic partners, the PanaBIOS Consortium and Zimbabwe's Econet, aiming to erase hurdles in accessing accurate health information, high costs and inconvenience in cross border travel, and poor data for health policy and biosecurity planning. Getinet Tadesse, Chief Information Officer at Ethiopian Airlines said the solution will help to validate test and vaccination certificates and verify that they are sufficient for different routes and share testing or vaccination certificates with airlines and authorities to facilitate travel.

He noted that the innovations will also help immigration officials keep fraudulent documentation at bay and make air travel more convenient. "We are pleased to have introduced a digital platform that will be pivotal in increasing the number of passengers while making air travel safer. We are striving to make travel safe and seamless especially with regard to the implementation of Covid-19 prevention strategies," he said.

Ahadu Simachew, chief executive officer of Asky Airlines notes that improved quality in travel regulation management across Africa will be key to help restore travel, tourism, trade, investment, cultural exchange and Pan-African integration to the positive and uplifting trajectory that underscores the Africa Rising narrative. "As the airline set up to promote Africa's socioeconomic transformation, Asky couldn't be prouder of its support for and promotion of Africa's leadership in developing and rolling out ahead of the rest of the world innovations that de-risks full reopening of societies and economies but one that does so without leaving any African behind," he said.

Dr John Nkengasong, director of the Africa CDC, observes that partnership with all African airlines will be critical in the present context. "The scale of the challenge presented by Covid-19 demands an unprecedented level of both innovation and cooperation, which is why decisions by Kenya, Ethiopia, West and Central Africa to adopt the Trusted Travel platform marks a milestone in the continent's ongoing fight against this pandemic's potential to suppress Africa's development ambitions," he said. But globally, experts have questioned whether a coronavirus vaccine passport needs to be different from the vaccine card system already in place.

Wearing Face Masks

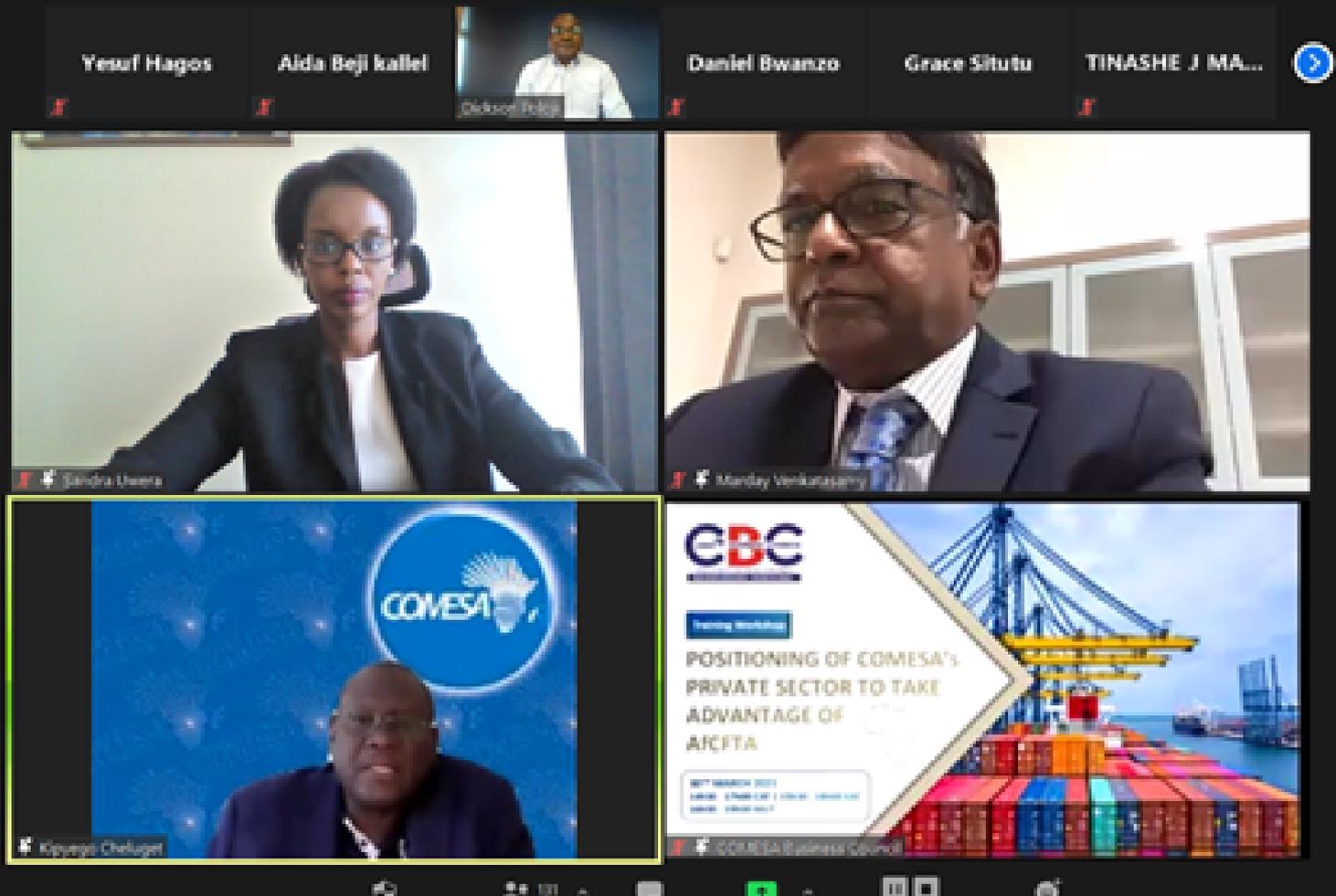
"I honestly don't think there's a need for it to be a separate thing," says Henry Raymond, an epidemiologist and associate professor at the Rutgers School of Public Health. "The vaccine is not a free pass to get out of wearing a mask." The European Union recently proposed a Digital Green Certificate to facilitate the safe and free movement of citizens within the EU during the Covid-19 pandemic. It said it would be digital proof that the person has been vaccinated, tested negative or recovered from the coronavirus. Africa's move to join digital solutions remains in tandem with the EU's travel measures, ensuring Africans travel to European countries without much restriction.

The UNDP has sponsored a complementary Global Haven system that ensures that travellers from outside Africa can also use lab records from their countries of origin in the Trusted Travel digital verification process.

Read More: <https://www.theeastafrikan.co.ke/tea/business/africa-bets-on-digital-covid-19-passports-3355202>



POSITIONING OF COMESA'S PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AFCFTA



The virtual African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) stakeholders' training workshop was held on 30th March 2021 from 14.30 hrs to 17.30 hrs ,CAT. It was organised by COMESA Business Council (CBC) in collaboration with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and African Organization for Standardization (ARSO). It was attended by members of CBC, business associations, individual manufacturers, development partners, export promotion councils, investment promotion agencies, regional/international cooperating partners specialized in the ACFTA Agenda, CBC, UNECA and ARSO. The objective of the workshop was to train stakeholders on the Protocols on Trade in Goods under the ACFTA Agreement with their specific annexes and how they are applicable to the movement of goods in the region. The theme of the workshop was "Translating the ACFTA Agreement for Business".

The meeting was graced by CBC's Board Chairperson Mr. Marday Venkatasamy and Dr. Kipyego Cheluget, COMESA's Assistant Secretary General - Programmes who welcomes the participants and appreciated CBC for the workshop and further appreciated ARSO and UNECA for working together in facilitating the harmonization of regional standards. He highlighted that the launching of the AfCFTA presents the numerous opportunities for the business community in the COMESA region.

In his opening statement, CBC's Board Chairperson Mr. Marday Venkatasamy highlighted that the AfCFTA will increase the volume of intra-African trade by 81 percent by 2035 and increase the volume of total African exports by 29 percent. He added on that the biggest gains from the AfCFTA will be the reduction of non-tariff barriers (NTBs) and implementation of trade facilitation initiatives. Therefore CBC will assist in creating a conducive environment for the private sector to grow. He informed the participants that the workshop will provide necessary and timely training for stakeholders in the COMESA especially members of the CBC on AfCFTA with respect to protocol on Trade in Goods.

During meeting CBC's CEO Ms. Sandra Uwera who in her introductory remarks explained that the African Continental Free Trade Area has the potential to increase employment opportunities and incomes, helping to expand opportunities for all Africans. The AfCFTA is expected to lift around 68 million people out of moderate poverty and make African countries more competitive. She further elaborated that the AfCFTA will be a game changer for stimulating intra-African trade and trading of manufactured products. She further explained the relationship between intra-Africa trade and industrialisation and the factors that contribute to industrialisation.

POSITIONING OF COMESA'S PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE AfCFTA



Training Workshop

POSITIONING OF COMESA'S PRIVATE SECTOR TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF AfCFTA



30TH MARCH 2021

14h30 - 17h00 CAT | 15h30 - 18h00 EAT

16h30 - 19h00 MUT



The following were the Recommendations from the meeting;

5.1 Protocol on Trade in Goods

- (a) Conclusion of the discussions on the Schedule on the elimination of tariff should be fast tracked and schedule be made available to the Stakeholders for use.
- (b) Outstanding issues on the Rules of Origin should be addressed to allow for application of Rules of origin.
- (c) There is a need for producers to make use of the Rules of Origin principle of cumulation to enhance the chances of originating goods to qualify under Rules of Origin criteria and promote regional and continental value chains.

5.2 Productive capacity

- (d) State Parties to develop AfCFTA National Strategy with involvement of the private sector to facilitate implementation of AfCFTA Agreement.
- (e) State Parties should focus on addressing the gaps in production and trade especially for strategic sectors that contribute the region/continent's export earnings and Sectors with significant unexploited production and trade potential.
- (f) There is need to review policy, legal and institutional frameworks to promote private investment in regional value chains.

5.3 Technical Barriers to Trade

- (g) There is need to focus on eliminating technical barriers to trade through addressing the issues emanating from technical regulations.
- (h) There is need to consider developing mutual recognition arrangement/agreement to facilitate trade at continental level to complement harmonisation process of product standards which take long time to conclude. ARSO to provide technical assistance.
- (i) There is need to accelerate the process of harmonisation of product standards from the current level of 13.6% of the product coverage (1,469 standards) to higher level (about 4542 standards) to facilitate trade and also reduce Standards related Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) .
- (j) More State Parties are encouraged to register with ARSO as members to increase countries coverage of ARSO standards/adoption of standards, which will facilitate intra- African Trade.

COVID, CHINESE DEALERS DRIVE KENYAN SEAFOOD TRADERS OUT OF BUSINESS



For years, fishermen and traders operating along Kenya's 640km coastline have earned a good living selling lobsters mostly to China, Dubai, and Singapore. For the lobster is one of the priciest and highly valued seafood products, both on the domestic and export market. Then Covid-19 happened, forcing restaurants and export markets to close. And now, outside of the contracted market, they must contend with a new dilemma -- Chinese buyers, who are financing fishermen directly, cutting the traders off the supply chain. Philip Mnangu, a businessman from Kilifi, has spent the years building his small empire selling lobsters all over the world. From his base in Kilifi, Mr Mnangu has shipped live lobsters to Asia, mostly China, Malaysia, Thailand, Hong Kong, and Singapore. For years, the business has been good. Then coronavirus struck and hit the seafood industry, sending his business on a downward spin.

Chinese buyers, who were his customers, added to his woes, scouring his source markets within the Kenya Coast to buy lobsters directly from fishermen. "We are now facing two strong challenges, which are quickly driving us out of business," Mr Mnangu says. "Covid-19 aside, this unhealthy competition from Chinese firms who set up base in Kilifi, Kwale and Mombasa is the last nail in the coffin of our business." Outside of the threat of a market shutdown from coronavirus pandemic, the well-heeled Chinese buyers are the biggest threat to Mr Mnangu, and other local lobster sellers.

From Kwale to Lamu, Mombasa and Kilifi, the story is the same. The Chinese have not come to play. They are taking over the lobster export market. "We have seen our colleagues close shop after being frustrated by the tricks and theatrics pulled by the new competitors in town. Some of us are sailing in murky waters," says John Peshu, a Kwale exporter, who now says he is banking on his fishermen relatives to stay afloat.

For years, China's middle-class growing taste for live lobster has been the key driver behind the commercial exploitation of the lobster fishery in Kenya's Lamu Archipelago, Kipini-Kiwaiyu islands, and the Mamburui, Kilifi, Msambweni, and Shimoni areas all lying within the Kenyan Coast. Ninety-five percent of the live lobsters are exported to China.

Commercial Exploitation

The arrival of Chinese dealers, who have the money, and ready market connections back in China is changing the nature of this business. "We are not sitting pretty. How can you when some of these traders, mostly Chinese buy lobsters from fishermen at a higher price than the normal market price leaving us with no suppliers?" poses Juma Naftali, a trader from Lamu. For the Kenyan lobster exporters, the game is almost over.

For starters, lobster fishing is a mutual partnership that brings together the exporters, owner of the boat, owner of fishing gear, and the fishing crew. Martin Kazungu, one of the brokers for the Chinese exporters, says that in the previous arrangement, local traders, who financed the fishing operations, determined the price. Mr Kazungu, who supplies Chinese buyers in Mombasa, says most dealers relied on credit from the Chinese buyers, who would then recover their money after being supplied with lobsters.

Read more: <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/business/kenyan-seafood-traders-3354444>

BANK OF UGANDA KEEPS POLICY RATE UNCHANGED AT 7PC FOR APRIL



Uganda's Central Bank kept its benchmark policy rate unchanged at seven percent Wednesday in a strategic move that promises stable lending rates amidst increased credit default levels and renewed strength in the value of the Uganda shilling against the US dollar. Whereas a continued soft policy stance has eased pressure on lending rates charged by commercial banks since last year, a rising loan default rate, mainly caused by several cases of distressed borrowers unable to service their loans after receiving temporary credit holidays, has left average borrowing rates flat as lenders struggle to absorb huge credit loss provisions in their operations.

Despite easing of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions in July 2020, many small businesses are still grappling with challenges of low sales attributed to surging job losses and diminished household spending – a negative situation that has impaired their ability to repay loans and clear suppliers' debts. The banking industry loan default ratio is estimated at more than five percent while average prime lending rates lie in the range of 16-18 percent to date, according to industry statistics. Faced with slow economic recovery trends, the impact of consistent loose monetary policy actions on local consumer demand remains unclear.

"High frequency economic indicators for the first quarter of 2021 indicate a gradual strengthening of economic activity but still at a subdued pace. Therefore, the GDP growth outlook remains unchanged at 4.0-4.5 percent in FY2021/22...A high degree of uncertainty surrounds economic outlook, with many possible downside and upside risks, but with balance of risks tilted to the downside. "On the downside, the main risk is still the virus and possible variants. Infection could take off again despite the ongoing Covid-19 inoculations and this would dampen the economic upbeat, especially in the near term (12 months ahead) as it would diminish the improvement in demand conditions and delay the return of normalcy," states the latest monetary policy statement issued on Wednesday.

However, the Ugandan shilling is forecast to rally against the US dollar in coming weeks on the back of low import demand, increased dollar supply from offshore investors in the government debt market and positive investor sentiments derived from the April 11 signing of crucial East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) project agreements between Uganda, Tanzania, Total E&P and the China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC). The Ugandan shilling traded below Ush3,600 against the US dollar during midday trading on Wednesday, according to local financial traders.

"Commercial banks are flush with cash right now but cannot lend a lot of money because credit default rates are still high. The Ugandan shilling has stabilised in the past few months because of very low consumer demand in many sectors which has led to reduced imports. Strong dollar supply from offshore players and Non-governmental organisations has also boosted the local shilling against the US dollar.

"Bank of Uganda's latest policy rate decision was predictable because many Central Banks are still trying to revive their economies that have been ravaged by the Covid-19 pandemic through use of loose monetary policies," said Benoni Okwenje, General Manager for Financial Markets at Centenary Bank Limited.

Read more on: <https://www.theeastafrican.co.ke/tea/business/bank-of-uganda-policy-rate-3363490>

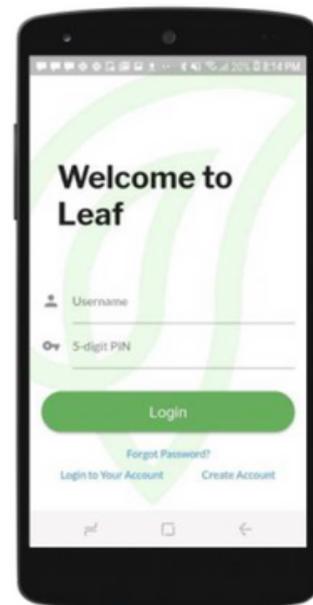
WELCOMING LEAF GLOBAL TO THE CBC FAMILY

What is Leaf?

Leaf is a company that provides financial services to allow people to store, send, receive and exchange money, at home and across borders. Currently, we are partnered with MFS Africa and Beyonic, and will be partnering with Ecobank in 2021. We are partnering with COMESA Business Council to bring these services to traders in COMESA member states (Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda) so that they can save time and money and focus on growing their business.

What is Leaf Wallet?

Leaf is the first digital wallet designed for traders. It is an app that allows you to store, protect, and transport your money—no matter where you go. Whether you have a smartphone or a feature phone, you can send money to friends, store safely without banking fees, and cash in and out using mobile money. You can currently hold money in RWF, UGX, and KES. We are working on adding more currencies and expanding. Leaf is available on smartphones via Google Play and the Apple Store and on feature phones with USSD. Dial *801*53# in Rwanda, *284*53# in Uganda, and *483*153# in Kenya.



1 Send & Receive Money

There is no cost to make or receive a transfer to another Leaf account. Transact with other Leaf users for free in your region or anywhere where Leaf is live. Traders can also load money from any mobile money wallet in East Africa and send directly to any mobile money number even if the person doesn't have Leaf

2 Free Deposit

There is no cost to deposit money ("cashing in") into your Leaf Wallet from your mobile money account (MTN, Tigo, Airtel, Safaricom). By storing your money in Leaf Wallet, you can take your money with you safely across borders, minimizing the risk of the theft or bribes.

3 Exchange Money In Different Currencies

Leaf is currently available in 3 different countries with UGX, KES, and RWF (other currencies are coming soon). You can store, send, and receive money in different currencies. Stop wasting time and money at forex bureaus and enjoy automatic exchanges during transactions. Leaf provides competitive exchange rates to help you save money and avoid the use of cash.

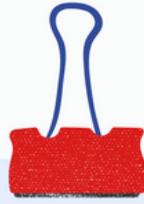
4 Withdraw Your Money Anytime

Withdrawing funds from your Leaf Wallet is easy and cheap. When you want to pull funds from your Leaf Wallet, you can simply withdraw the money you need into a mobile money account (yours or someone else's) for a minimal fee. No need to visit a bank or agent!

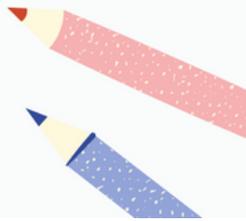
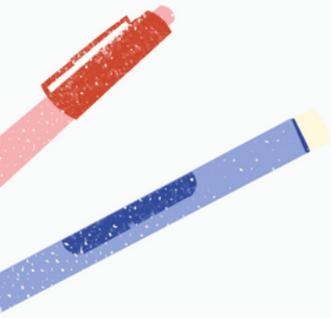
5 Secure and Safe Storage of Funds

You can leave your money safely in your Leaf Wallet until you're ready to use it. To make sure that Leaf stays safe, we verify each person who signs up for Leaf with a photo ID. Transactions are always verified with a PIN to make sure only you can access your account. With Leaf, there are no dormancy periods or fees for keeping your money safe for however long you need.

HAPPENING ACTIVITIES



**WE'RE
HIRING!**



Short Term Consultancy – The COMESA Business Council is planning to upgrade the existing BIZNET MARKET HUB portal (<http://biznet.comesabusinesscouncil.org/>) and seeks to hire a firm that will undertake the task. For more information please visit -

<http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/RFP-Biznet-data-management-analytics-systems-upgrade.pdf>

CBC is carrying out a survey to examine ways in which our services are responding to the needs of the business community, towards guiding us in mapping out best practice solutions for our core focus areas, as we push forward the private sector development agenda.

In particular, we seek to:

- ensure that our work and priorities are in-line with the views and expectations of our stakeholders;
- gain an understanding of changing industry views and opinions against the background of the COVID-19 economy.

Kindly click on the following link to complete this short survey: <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/cbc-membership-survey-2021/>

CBC is conducting a survey to determine the applicable policy and regulatory measures in different member states in terms of regulating production, export, import, sell and use of plastic products including its waste; understand the accompanying challenges and emerging needs of the industry players with regard to regulating plastic products and its waste. It is anticipated that the outcome of the survey will inform the process of development of regional policy and regulatory framework or harmonisation process of policy and regulatory regimes of plastic products management including its waste management in COMESA.

The survey exercise will facilitate identification of measures including policy and legal that will be used to advocate for regional harmonisation of different regimes in the member states regulating plastic products including its waste. Your organization have been identified as one of the key stakeholders in the region.

In this respect, we would appreciate if you, and/or your appointee(s), would spare some time to submit your responses via the following link <http://comesabusinesscouncil.org/cbc-business-position-survey-on-harmonization-of-regulatory-measures-on-plastic-products-management-in-comesa-region/>

WISHING TO BUY OR SELL



Get in touch with the CBC
Business Facilitation Team:
info@comesabusinesscouncil.org

Visit our website:
www.comesabusinesscouncil.org

Become a CBC Member and Enjoy

1. Business and Policy Advocacy; Influencing policy is at the heart of what we do.
2. Business Facilitation Services; Business support services that are regional in nature.
3. Membership development; We partner with our members-towards strengthened business collaboration.

www.comesabusinesscouncil.org

OUR SERVICES

BUSINESS POLICY AND ADVOCACY

Influencing policy is at the heart of what we do

2

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

We are our members -towards strengthened business collaboration

1

BUSINESS FACILITATION SERVICES

Business support services that are regional in nature.

3



Important Links

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

For media enquiries please contact:

COMESA Business Council

COMESA Building

Ben Bella Road, P.O. Box 30051, Lusaka, Zambia

Phone: +260 211 229725/32

Fax: +260 211 225107

Email: info@comesabusinesscouncil.org

Disclaimer:

COMESA Business Council (CBC) strives to compile reliable, research-based information that is passed on to our clients in good faith. Whilst every care has been taken in the production of this report, CBC does not accept any responsibility or the accuracy of the information supplied.