

POLICY UPDATE

PIRT REVIEW MEETING HELD ON 1ST OCTOBER 2010 AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE

1. Introduction/Background

- ❖ The Presidential Investors Round Table {PIRT} is an initiative of H.E the President of Uganda and brings together key actors from both the Private and Public Sectors, mainly to form a common agenda for accelerating economic development in Uganda.
- ❖ H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda, hosted the 2nd PIRT meeting on 27th May, 2010, with participants drawn from; Members of the PIRT, relevant Government Officials; including among others: the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and Permanent Secretaries plus selected members of the Private Sector.
- ❖ In his opening remarks, H.E the President emphasized the importance of an increasing tax base in Uganda for improved planning independent of external considerations (close to self-reliance, 13% of GDP). He noted that Infrastructural issues of transport (mainly *Roads and Railway*) and *Energy* are to be of main focus for Uganda to achieve growth. He informed the congregation however that Uganda's target for revenue from domestic taxes is 20% of GDP for total sustainability as compared to Paris.
- ❖ At the meeting, sectors discussed included; *Petroleum, Transport and Logistics, Competitiveness in Doing Business, E-government & Creative Industry* plus *Agricultural Production and Value Addition*. Implementing *Public-private partnership* was also discussed by Mr. Phillip J. Kelly, the Guest Speaker, also *highlights of the PIRT achievements* since October 15th, 2009 were discussed by the Chairman, UIA and a *progress report* on PIRT phases 1&2 '*pending issues*' were presented by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister.
- ❖ Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) as part of the PIRT organizing Secretariat¹ was represented by a team including; Mr. Gerald Ssendaula, the Chairman Board of Directors, Mr. Gideon Badagawa, Executive Director, plus two staff from the Policy Advocacy Unit. Below therefore are the follow-up activities that arose from the deliberations and conclusions for way forward as were recorded by our team².

2. Follow-on activities

- ❖ The next PIRT meeting will focus on *reporting the progress* made by Government on implementation of the Private Sector/PIRT recommendations of the meeting held May 27 2010³.
- ❖ A meeting was held on 1st October, 2010 from the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister's Office, in which respective Ministers presented their progress reports to the Minister of General duties⁴.

¹ PIRT Organizing Secretariat; Uganda Investment Authority, Competitiveness Investment Climate Strategy & PSFU

² A copy of this can be accessed from the PSFU Policy Advocacy Department, for detailed reference purposes

³ Next PIRT meeting planned for 25th November 2010 at the Kampala Serena Hotel

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3. Key Issues reported upon

- ❖ The Computer Misuse Bill was passed by Parliament in August 2010.
- ❖ The Electronics Signatures bill will be tabled and discussed in Parliament in October 2010.
- ❖ Stamp duty on appraisal of valuation of mortgaged assets used as a collateral was reduced to a flat rate of 100, 000 Ugx in the FY 2010/2011 budget.
- ❖ VAT on computer software licenses was removed in the 2010/2011 budget.
- ❖ MoGLSD is to take lead on amending the Stage Plays and 'Public Entertainment Act 1943' and developing a law for the *Creative Industry*.
- ❖ Health Credit Facility/Fund; the MoH and the Competitiveness Working group to develop a concept paper supporting the proposal to create this facility and submit to Ministry of Finance.
- ❖ Air Uganda allowed to become the national flag bearer; Agakhan proposes shareholding offer to GoU.
- ❖ MAAIF and CAA to share 50: 50 of 132 hectares of Animal transit holding farm adjacent to Entebbe Airport. The Prime Minister is to write to MoLHUD to cancel the old land title then issue two new ones; to MAAIF and the other to CAA.
- ❖ MoFPED to follow up with URA on the establishment of a revenue collection point at the Company registry to enhance simplicity of registration procedures.
- ❖ MoFPED provides additional funding to the company registry to enhance on line business registration.

4. Conclusion

- ❖ In her advocacy agenda, the Private Sector Foundation Uganda utilizes the Presidential Investors' Round Table meetings to further this cause and monitor implementation of agreed deliberations to ensure a conducive investment business climate and enhance competitiveness of the Private Sector in Uganda regionally and internationally.
- ❖ For improved Public Private Partnerships, PSFU also continues to dialogue with Government Officials, Development Partners, key line Ministries, and various Policy Makers, as well as H.E the President of the Republic of Uganda while at the Presidential Investors' Round Table meetings forum.
- ❖ As shown in the above, the meeting held at Prime Minister's Office was successful and a date for the PIRT local members meeting will be communicated for follow up.

⁴ The Executive Director, Uganda Investment Authority attended this meeting on behalf of the Private Sector