

PSFU holds Meeting with Busoga Parliamentary Forum

PSFU held a meeting with the Busoga Parliamentary Forum on 20th December 2016 at Parliament. The meeting was aimed to brief the Members of Parliament from the Busoga Region about the role of PSFU in advocacy and capacity building for private sector competitiveness. Members of Parliament were also briefed about the available projects; Competitiveness and Enterprise Development Project (CEDP), the Matching Grant Facility and the Skills Development Facility (SDF). Members agreed to organize regular meetings to share information.

National Logistics Platform Project

The Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) established the National Logistics Platform in 2014 to address issues under the logistics sector. With support from Trademark East Africa (TMEA), the National Logistics Platform is to enable Freight and Logistics players coordinate logistics reform initiatives in Uganda.

The project aims to influence Government to reduce key obstacles affecting logistics services including: lack of a Private Sector Strategy on Logistics; poor organizational capacity and technical skills; bureaucracy and red tape in setting up logistics operations; Poor transport facilities; weak adoption of logistics practices; and dysfunctional advocacy.

The project will work on adopting a private sector strategy for logistics; implementing a monitoring mechanism for the strategy; enhancing capacity of logistics players; improving coordination of logistics stakeholders and influencing policy. For details contact; dkarimba@psfuganda.org.ug

Redevelopment of Lake Victoria Maritime Services & Infrastructure

With support from Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA), Uganda Shippers Council conducted a stakeholder's meeting aimed to revive the multi modal Lake Victoria transport system in order to improve the logistical chain along the Central Corridor which has declined sharply over the last decade resulting in the proportion of Uganda's total import/export traffic routed via the port of Dar es salaam dropping from 6.3% in 2001 to 1.9% in 2006 and by 2011 to 1 %.

A policy brief on the redevelopment of Lake Victoria Maritime services and infrastructure was presented to the stakeholders, stretching the need. Several commitments were made including the road user charges being charged in Tanzania to be resolved in a meeting in January 2017 and the reduction of Visa fees for entering Congo between Uganda and Tanzania to about 50 USD.

The workshop took place on 9th December at Imperial Royale Hotel Kampala. The meeting attracted several shippers, clearing and forwarding companies, traders, manufacturers and government agencies.

Launch of the Agriculture Cluster Development Project

The Ministry of Agriculture Animal Industry and Fisheries (MAAIF) in partnership with the World Bank formulated a six year Agriculture Cluster Development Project aimed at supporting

production and marketing activities for maize, beans, cassava, rice and coffee commodities in 12 geographical areas of Uganda. The project was scheduled to start on 17th January 2017.

The project would be a private sector led project driven by the various leaders in the value chains of the various sectors with a pilot in districts of Kanungu and Bushenyi. An E-Voucher system has been developed to aid in the extension services. The system would be developed by the local private sector players hence a business opportunity for the ICT sector players.

End of the District Commercial Officers Support Project (DISCOS)

As the members of the National Implementation Unit, PSFU participated a the closure of the project on 5th and 6th December 2016 in Mbale.

Private sector position on local content and the role of District Commercial Officers was very well communicated to majority of the officers and adoption was created. Government applauded Private Sector commitment and further pledged their continued cooperation.

EABC Holds AGM & Capacity Building Sessions



Members of EABC at the Meeting

PSFU being a focal point of the East African Business Council (EABC) attended the planning meeting and capacity building session on Membership Development and Policy Advocacy from 1st -5th December 2016 in Dar es Salaa

Ronny Mulungo Membership Officer PSFU and Moses Ogwal Director Policy Advocacy represented PSFU. The capacity building sessions were conducted by the Association of Ghana Industries.

The Annual General Meeting took place on 5th December 2016 and a new Chairman Mr. Audace Ndayizeye President of Burundi Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry was elected. For details contact; rmulongo@psfuganda.org.ug

PSFU and TMEA hold a Workshop on the Logistics Sector

Transport Logistics being the pulse of the economy, a number of Members of PSFU in the logistics sector, Members of the Uganda National Chamber of Commerce and Industries (UNCCI) and Ministry of Works and Transport attended a workshop on “**The Northern Economic Corridor Projects**” on 13th December 2016 at Sheraton Kampala Hotel.

The Chairperson of National Logistics Platform Dr. Merian Sebunya gave her welcoming remarks and thanked PSFU and TMEA for providing a platform for concerted discussions and coordination of the National Logistics Platform (NLP). The Country Director of TMEA Mr. Moses Sabitti and Diana Karimba both gave welcoming remarks on behalf of TMEA and PSFU respectively.

Presentations on the Gulu Logistics Hub which mainly involved the pre-feasibility study on Gulu Logistics Hub Facility, Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) project and master plan on Logistics in Northern Economic Corridor were made. For more details contact; dkarimba@psfuganda.org.ug



Mr. Moses Sabiiti Country Director Trade Mark East Africa at the meeting

PSFU to organize Dialogue on Credit Challenge

The credit challenge in Uganda today might make it difficult for Uganda to compete effectively in the EAC region and also in markets like South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). We need to design immediate solutions to the challenge.

PSFU therefore has planned for a High Level Stakeholders Dialogue aimed to generate and collect views from the stakeholders on the situation of credit challenges within the economy of Uganda and agree on the possible position to be adopted by Government and other stakeholders to improve credit challenges in Uganda.

The dialogue has been planned for January 2017. It will bring together Government Officials, Bankers, Development Partners, Members of Parliament, Business Community, Civil Society, Academicians, the media and general public to a Consultative Dialogue on the current credit challenges and high interest rates. For details on participation contact enekanya@psfuganda.org.ug

Brief about the New Projects & Programs at PSFU

Skills Development Facility (SDF)

The Skills Development Facility (SDF) is a five year project implemented through a Grant Facility mechanism that will be co-financed by the Private Sector through a matching grant contribution and support training activities that are meant to lead to improved productivity and competitiveness in both the formal and informal sector.

This facility will initially focus on three sectors namely; agriculture, manufacturing and construction. The Skills Development Facility has four windows from which participants would benefit.

For one details on applications for various Windows go to www.psfuganda.org.ug or follow the link:

http://www.psfuganda.org/new/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=106&Itemid=250 For more details contact; Fredrick Nabimba on fnabimba@psfuganda.org.ug

Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative for investment in Children

PSFU in partnership with Government of Uganda (through the Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development) and UNICEF Uganda have designed the first ever Public Private Partnership (PPP) initiative for investment in children.

This partnership is aimed at realizing three (3) outcomes: build the capacity of companies to operationalize the children's rights and business principles (CRBPs), develop a child rights PPP policy framework and explore innovative financing solutions to increase and focus investments in the young children.

The PPP initiative at PSFU will advocate for an upfront investment framework embedded within Government's budget architecture to finance and scale up investment in children similar to the Social (or Development) Impact Bonds (SIBs). For details contact godwin.othieno@psfuganda.org.ug

Uganda Clean Cooking Supply Chain Expansion Project (UCCSCEP)

The UCCSCEP project is aimed to expanding access to and adoption of cleaner and more efficient cooking solutions; This project will;

- a) Support private sector efforts towards resolving the effects of climate change
- b) Help to reduce in-house pollution and related burdens
- c) Reduce household consumption and expenditure for biomass cooking fuels

The project comprises a Distribution Challenge Fund (DCF) that will be competed for by a consortium comprising local stove distributors and local and international stove manufacturers to manufacture and distribute a minimum of 200,000 improved cook stoves.

Business Uganda Development Scheme – Energy for Rural Transformation (BUDS-ERT III)

The Energy for Rural Transformation (ERT) program is a Government of Uganda (GOU) and World Bank Program. Since commencement of ERT program in 2003, Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU) has been one of the implementing agencies, providing various business development support services to private sector players engaged in renewable energy solutions.

Two phases of the ERT Project have been completed and the third phase commenced on 1st April 2016. During the third phase, the PSFU component will focus on; contributing to achievement of off grid energy access by providing business development support to activities that will;

- a) Foster community-based schemes to expand access to the rural households (Six Pico /Micro hydropower projects to be constructed)
- b) Strengthen the solar PV sector (promotion of organization and self-regulation among the solar business)
- c) Scale up the number of skilled/certified individuals and competent companies in electrical installation works

Gender Equality Seal Certification Program (GES)

PSFU with support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) has developed initiatives aimed to support the attainment of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. During the Month of November and December, major focus was on activities aimed to achieve Goal 5 on Gender Equality. Several activities have been lined up for the 2017 including: strengthening the capacity of the various companies to consider the Gender Equality Certification aimed to increase their productivity, profitability and partnerships. The Gender Equality Seal promotes investment in systems that integrate gender equality into the work environment and business strategies. For details contact snakibuuka@psfuganda.org.ug

Documents available for Stakeholders:

PSFU Brochure New, Annual Report 2015/16, Strategic Plan 2016/17 -2018/19:
http://www.psfuganda.org/new/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=72&Itemid=30

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