



Business growth is our business

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PSFU

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LETTER



FOSTERING UGANDA - EUROPE BUSINESS ALLIANCE

In line with the new Africa-EU Alliance for Sustainable Investment and Jobs, the European Union Delegation in partnership with the Private Sector Foundation Uganda and the Government of Uganda hosted the first ever EU-Uganda Business Forum on 9th & 10th March 2020 at Speke Resort Munyon-yo. The forum was part of a joint initiative to facilitate collaboration between private and public actors and partnership between Ugandan and European companies, in the framework of the Sustainable Business for Uganda platform.

The conference marked an important milestone in the road map towards promoting EU-Uganda trade and investment opportunities. This highly interactive event provided information and working sessions on Uganda's business enabling environment, Trade and Investment opportunities including a consideration of how European funding can be used to support EU and local businesses. The two-day high-level networking event brought together over 500 European and Ugandan investors, policymakers, public sector agencies, private sector trade support institutions, EU and Uganda captains of industry, some delegates from EU Member States Institutions development partners and donor agencies. The forum created a unique platform to share accumulated experiences as well as explore and build sustainable business relationships to promote investments in Uganda.

In an opening remark by the Ambassador of the European Union to Uganda, Attilio Pacifici noted that the unfolding spread worldwide of the coronavirus made it impossible for the European Commissioner or any of her representatives to be present at the event. He further expressed appreciation to the Minister of Health who accepted to put in place special arrangements, in accordance with her own guidance to manage the forum to proceed as planned

“Over the last year, the EU Delegation to Uganda partnered with Private Sector Foundation Uganda to work together with the private sector, from both Uganda and Europe, in order to assess the main constraints hampering new, sustainable investments in this country and propose measures and remedies that can improve the investment and business climate,” Pacifici added.

There were three main hurdles identified, and these include; skills and attitude – there's insufficient supply of skilled labour with appropriate competencies, work ethics and attitude; access to finance which involves high cost of capital, with lengthy and complex procedures and lastly economic governance and corruption which continues to distract businesses despite several anti-corruption initiatives launched by Government.

The two-day Forum which was officially closed by H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda focused mainly on how the European Union can invest and work with the private sector to spur development.

PICTORIAL



PICTORIAL



PSFU NEW BOARD MEETS RT. HON PRIME MINISTER

Friday, 6th March 2020 – Hon. Dr. Elly Karuhanga introduced his team which includes 11 newly elected Board of Directors during a meeting with Rt. Hon. Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda at his offices.

The economy has substantial resources within the Private Sector, Government and Even development Partners. In Government lots of resources aimed at Poverty Alleviation such as OWC, Youth Funds, State House support funds, women funds – Donor Funds are just too many attempting to address the same.

The biggest challenge is lack of synergy ‘Private Sector and Public Sector not working together. Public Sector is not working with Public Sector. Private Sector is not working effectively with Private Sector. MDAs prefer working in silos while private sector tend to be selfish (wrongly) and also adopt silo mentality.

Today, the biggest challenge affecting the Private Sector is lack of purchasing power in the economy.

This is because the people are poor and cannot sustain to purchase what the economy is producing. PSFU proposes a structured synergy development using the Lead Firm Model to support vertical and horizontal chains with Government giving very critical support which ensures the lead firms remain strong and all in the chain have capacity to pull the SMEs and Household. Pulling SMEs and Households with coordinated interventions will help the SMEs and Households to earn more thereby increasing purchasing power which will eventually help create a sustainable market.

Rt. Hon Prime Minister, Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda acknowledged & agreed that a Prime Minister Private Sector dialogue Forum is required to ensure that the public & private sector work closely together to address & implement policies that promote private sector development.

The overall objective of the forum is to create a Public- Private Dialogue (PPD) platform where the Private Sector meets with the leader of Government business in a structured and efficient manner to discuss, agree and implement issues which will facilitate the private sector to perform their role better in the economic development of the country.

Rt. Hon Prime Minister further noted that the forum should be held every three (03) months to share & dialogue on issues



PSFU Board members meet the Prime Minister for introduction led by Chairman Hon Elly Karuhanga



Group photo taken after the meeting with PSFU Board and Rt Hon Prime Minister

TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL UGANDA: CORRUPTION PERCEPTION INDEX (CPI) 2019 RESULTS

23rd January, 2020 – Uganda. Corruption has been identified all over the world as an impediment to development and if not checked has dire consequences not only to the economy but also to the lives of citizens.

However, much as it is a global problem it affects different Countries differently. Needless to say poor democratic and governance practices have been known to exacerbate the effects of corruption.

With support from the Democratic Governance Facility (DGF), Transparency International Uganda hosted a dissemination workshop to share results of the 2019 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) on Thursday, 23rd January 2020 at Hotel Africana. Each year, Transparency International the global coalition against corruption generates the CPI which scores and ranks countries/territories based on how corrupt a Country's public sector is perceived to be by experts and business executives.

Uganda's score remains low and currently ranks 149 with the score of 26. This is attributed to; Government failure to prosecute the corrupt public officials, political patronage, ineffective and poorly resourced institutions, social acceptance of the vice and the culture of impunity, among others. These and many more have led to unequal opportunities for all and have created a vicious circle between corruption, unequal distribution of power and inequalities in the distribution of wealth, it is still far too easy for the rich and powerful to exploit the opaqueness of the global financial systems to enrich themselves at the expense of the public good.

"In many Countries, people are deprived of their most basic needs and end up going to bed hungry every night because of corruption, while the powerful and corrupt enjoy lavish lifestyles with impunity," said Jose Ugaz, former Chair of Transparency International

"Let's have the service delivery in our public institutions streamlined to curb corruption." Said Gideon Badagawa, Executive Director, PSFU. He added that the private sector will continue speaking up to stop corruption, and support in facilitating the relevant institutions to enforce and implement corruption laws.

For more information: <https://tiuganda.org/>

BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP WITH TURKEY TO PROMOTE INVESTMENT & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Amb. Karem Alp with his team made a courtesy call to the Executive Director, Gideon Badagawa at PSFU Offices on 15th January, 2020 to discuss investment opportunities and possible partnerships with business companies in Uganda.

In his opening remarks, he congratulated the Executive Director for the good business being done in Uganda and the important role PSFU was playing in ensuring good business environment.

He stated that Turkey which is ranked among the 20 strong economies in the world and a member of G8 Summit has a population of 80 Million people with approximately 43 million plus Refugees, earns US\$43M from tourism and is the biggest producer and consumer of coffee in the world.

He further stated that Turkey with 43 Embassies in Africa has similarities with Uganda in terms of being a peaceful and land locked country endowed with rich natural resources particularly in agriculture and known as tourist destinations.

He recognized and appreciated that in 2019 Uganda and Turkey organized two successful business forums in Kampala and one in Turkey. In 2020, two business Expos are planned one in Uganda and another one Turkey.

He stated that Turkey was involved in mechanized agriculture and fish farming for profits. It was exporting more to Uganda which was importing more from there and wanted to create a sustainable business relationship for both countries to benefit equally.

He cited Bosnia and Herzegovina a small and land locked country located in the southeastern Europe, with a population of 3.8 people which was once the poorest nation but is now ranked highly because of its human development, an economy dominated by the industry and agriculture sectors, followed by the tourism and service sectors with social security and universal healthcare system, and primary- and secondary-level education is tuition-free.

He therefore stated that Uganda has business opportunities which could be taken advantage of to improve its economy provided there was preparedness and commitment. He said that Turkey Government ordered that all the meat needed be purchased from South Sudan but if failed to meet the demand and they decided to look for other countries to supply.

He introduced Ms. Ozen Demircioglu a Mechanical Engineer takes leadership of Kiva Han Istanbul 1554 in Istanbul to share her business experience in coffee.

Ms. Demircioglu stated that Kiva Han was named after the world's first coffee shop that opened in Constantinople (Istanbul), in Turkey 1475. Since coffee was of such great importance then; Turkish law deemed it legal for a woman to divorce her husband if he failed to provide her with her daily cup.

She added that as of today, coffee is still just as significant to Kiva Han and the company aims to bringing the entire experience of coffee roasting process to the everyday coffee lover with beans sourced from only the best organic growers from around the world, where they are carefully selected. They roast coffee beans on daily basis and always have the highest quality. She stated that Uganda has good coffee but which was not known in the world. She was interested in adding value to the Ugandan coffee and to generate revenue from it using lowest cost means.

The business forum dates will be communicated in due course.

EMIRICORP, A BUSINESS GROUP FROM UAE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES ITS OPERATIONS IN UGANDA

23RD January 2020, Kampala. Gideon Badagawa, Executive Director PSFU attended the official launch of Emiricorp in Uganda yesterday at Sheraton Hotel Kampala. Emiricorp is a multi-disciplinary business group from the UAE and will be operating in Kampala, Uganda. They work closely with local partners in to provide world-class products and services.

Gideon led the discussion on the key areas of collaboration between Uganda and the group. As we gear up for Dubai EXPO 2020, the key areas of collaboration include Tourism, Trade, Transport, Agriculture, ICT and other Technologies. The launch was well attended by Ministry of Trade, UIA, HE the Emir of the Emirates and several business people both from UAE and Uganda.



CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

On 30 January 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak of coronavirus disease (COVID-19) a Public Health Emergency of International Concern. The new virus is highly infectious and transmits by respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. The world at large has been affected, including Uganda, where the first case was reported on March 21.

This is a call to all our members and stakeholders to take caution and stay safe. Follow the recommended guidelines;

How to avoid the risk of coronavirus infection



Wash your hands frequently using soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.



Cover mouth and nose with flexed elbow or tissue when coughing or sneezing. Dispose of used tissue immediately.



Avoid close contact with anyone who has cold or flu-like symptoms.



Seek medical care early if you or your child has a fever, cough or difficulty breathing.