



## **REMARKS BY EABC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, MS LILIAN AWINJA AT THE LAUNCH OF THE INAUGURAL EABC REGIONAL BUSINESS EXCELLENCE AWARDS INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, NAIROBI KENYA 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2018**

Fellow business leaders  
Members of the Business Community  
EABC Chairman & Board Directors  
Our Development Partners  
EAC Partner States Governments  
EAC Secretariat  
Media Colleagues  
Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to you all. Welcome. Karibuni.

On behalf of The EABC Secretariat, I sincerely thank you for honouring our invitation to come here today to partner with us as we mark an exciting milestone for EABC.

**Before I get into my remarks, allow me to introduce you to our Board Members as well as my colleagues from the EABC Secretariat**

**Introduce Self – Lilian Awinja, ED**

**Chairman – Mr. Jim kabeho**

**Vice Chairman – Nick Nesbitt**

**Eng. Obath – friend of EABC and representing the panel of judges**

**Ambassador Kiilu / Mbithe**

**Patrick, Lamech**

- As you may be aware, November 2017 marked 20 years since the establishment of The East African Business Council (EABC).
- We are an apex body of business associations and corporates from the six East African Community partner States of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi & South Sudan.
- EABC's mandate is two-fold: (i) to provide a regional platform through which the business community can present their policy concerns with the overall aim of creating a more conducive business environment and; (ii) to promote EAC's private sector regional and global competitiveness in trade and investment through addressing challenges experienced by EABC members at organizational and firm level.
- With these mandates, EABC has been instrumental in spearheading various initiatives to foster the spirit of EAC within corporate circles.

- The EABC Secretariat has outlined a number of activities and events to celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary milestone.
- The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary provides an opportunity for EABC to take stock of where we have come from, to celebrate our achievements across various fronts as well as reposition ourselves for the future in line with the evolving and dynamic policy and business environments both regionally and globally.
- We have planned a series of activities and events that will provide an opportunity not only to celebrate but also to demonstrate the critical importance of private sector participation in the EAC integration process.

### **The Inaugural Regional EABC Business Excellence Awards (BEA)**

- Today, I would like to speak about the launch of the inaugural '**Regional EABC Business Excellence Awards.**'
- It is the first time that EABC is doing these awards and, to the best of our knowledge, these will be the first regional business awards for corporate organisations.
- These Awards are aimed at showcasing and celebrating businesses that have achieved excellence in various aspects of their operations across East Africa, keeping with the spirit of the East African integration.
- As you are all aware, the business sector is a driving force in East Africa's economy through the creation of jobs and opportunities that enable citizens to earn a living and thrive as well as being a major player in the integration process.
- The idea to host these awards was thus born out of the need for a platform upon which the Council will honour businesses that have achieved success through their vision, operations and business ethics.

### **Award Categories**

The Regional EABC Business Excellence Awards will be organized across three categories.

- The first category is the **Overall East African Regional Company.**
- Secondly, we will have a **cross cutting** category of awards which will recognize business that have excelled in the following industries: Manufacturing, Services, SME, Woman owned enterprise, Green Economy, Innovation and Corporate Social Responsibility.
- A third category will award companies excelling in a **specific industry** and will reward outstanding companies across 7 industries, namely Financial Services, Transport and Logistics (including airline), Media, Tourism & Hospitality, Building & Construction and Extractive & Mining sector.
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- **Entry process**

- Entry is open to any company that is established in any of the EAC Partner States
- Each company is eligible to submit bids for up to three categories of the awards. This may include one entry for the overall award and any two entries for either the cross cutting category or the sector specific categories.
- The three entries may also be from the cross cutting and sector specific categories only.
- Entries will be completed online through a dedicated portal (page) that will sit within the EABC website.
- To enter, one will need to visit the EABC website and register in the portal. You will be required to give basic information about your organisation after which you can choose the category or categories that you wish to enter in and compete for awards.
- The portal contains more detailed information on the awards such as the criteria for

## **Judging Panel**

- We have put together a six-member Panel of Judges to adjudicate entries. The Panel comprises individuals who command in-depth understanding of the EAC integration processes, the business dynamics of the EAC region as well as the role that the private sector can play in shaping the development of the region.
- The members of the Panel are:
  1. Ms. Consolata Ndayishimiye, former Chairperson of EABC, Leading business person in The Republic of Burundi.
  2. Eng. Patrick Obath, Associate Director, Adam Smith International Africa Limited and business leader in The Republic of Kenya.
  3. Mr. Faustin Mbundu, former Chairperson of EABC, former chair of Private Sector Federation (PSF) Rwanda, Chairman MFK Group and leading business person in The Republic of Rwanda.
  4. Mr. Moses Ogwal Goli, Director of Policy, Private Sector Foundation, Uganda.
  5. Mr. Godfrey Simbeye, Executive Director, Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF)
  6. Ms. Jennifer Gache, Senior Industrial Engineer, East African Community Secretariat.
- To ensure objectivity, transparency and accuracy in the judging process, the Secretariat will work with **PriceWaterhouseCoopers** as Audit partners. Their mandate will be to review the end to end process of the Business Excellence Awards.

- The EABC Business Excellence Awards process will commence today, 10th January, 2018 and will run until 7<sup>th</sup> February, 2018.
- The judging and verification process will run from 8<sup>th</sup> February to 7<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.
- Each category will have three finalists, who will be announced on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.
- The ultimate winners will be feted at a Gala Dinner scheduled for 23<sup>rd</sup> March, 2018 here in Nairobi at KICC.
- Winners will receive a trophy and certificate of recognition in addition to earning the ultimate accolade of business excellence among peers in the East African region.

**-Ends-**