



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EABC Steadfast to Collaborate with the Private Sector in the Republic of South Sudan

- EABC opens a new chapter of collaborating with the Private Sector in the Republic of South Sudan.
- South Sudan business community urged to seize trade and investment opportunities in EAC.

Juba, South Sudan, 10th May, 2018:- The East African Business Council (EABC), the apex body of Private Sector associations and corporates in the East African Community is holding a multi-stakeholder Dialogue Forum on EAC Integration with the government, the Private Sector and the civil society; to establish strong links and collaboration with the people of the Republic of South Sudan.

In attendance are high level policy decision makers and business leaders including Honorable Moses Hassan Tiel, Minister for Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs, Republic of South Sudan, Hon. Agak Lual- Under Secretary Ministry of Trade Industry and EAC Affairs, Hon. Mou Mou Athian Kuol, Under Secretary in charge of Accession Secretariat along with Mr. Jim Kabeho, EABC Chairman today at the Juba Grand hotel. Mr. Simon Akuei Deng of South Sudan National Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture, Mr. John Kalisa, Country Director TMEA South Sudan as well as Officials from the Ministry Finance and Economic Planning, Ministry of Trade, Investment and Industry, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the Republic of South Sudan and the South Sudan Business Forum are expected to take part in the deliberations on EAC Integration.

The forum aims to shed light on the successes and milestones achieved in the EAC integration Process, key concerns that the Private Sector face while doing business in the Republic of South Sudan as well as raise awareness on the role of the Public Sector, the Private Sector and Civil Society in EAC regional Integration.

Mr. Jim Kabeho, EABC Chairman congratulates the Republic of South Sudan for the accession to the East African Community. He urges the government of Republic of South Sudan to fast track preparation to implement various commitments under EAC to ensure that the people of the Republic of Sudan gain immensely from trade and investment cooperation with other five EAC Partner States.

“Public-Private partnership has been one of the key factors behind most of the achievements attained in the EAC region.” said Mr. Kabeho, EABC Chairman.

The EABC has an observer status to the East African Community and participates in all relevant activities and deliberations at the EAC Secretariat, the Council of Ministers as well as the Heads of State Summit.

“Article 128 of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC recognizes the role of the Private Sector in the economic development of East Africa “said Mr. Jim Kabeho, EABC Chairman.

The forum plays a key role in forming alliance between the Private Sector in the Republic of South Sudan and the EABC. The alliances will support to carry out activities and gather information, especially on national positions and concerns for the Private Sector in South Sudan, for further advocacy and harmonization at regional level by the council.

“The challenges faced by the Private Sector in South Sudan while doing business across the EAC region will be incorporated in EABC regional policy advocacy agenda.” said Mr. Jim Kabeho.

Mr. Jim Kabeho, Chairman urges the business community of South Sudan to join the EAC to benefit from business to business engagement, business to government engagement, information on available opportunities across the region and beyond, training, capacity building, advisory services on trade policy and law as well as opportunity to influence policy reforms.

About EABC

The East African Business Council (EABC) is the apex body of Private Sector associations and corporates from the 6 East African Countries. It was established in 1997 to foster the interests of the Private Sector in the integration process of the East African Community. Originally comprising members from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, its membership was expanded to include Private Sector from Burundi and Rwanda as well as South Sudan.

The EABC's overarching objective is to be an effective change agent for fostering an enabling business environment and to promote Private Sector's regional and global competitiveness in trade and investment. The council therefore provides a regional platform through which the business community can present their concerns at the EAC policy level, with the overall aim of creating a more conducive business environment through targeted policy reforms. Additionally, the EABC also work towards promoting Private Sector's regional & global competitiveness in trade and Investment through addressing challenges experienced by Members at organizational and firm level; and through provision of tailored market intelligence.

The EABC National Focal Points carry out activities and gather information, especially on national positions at national levels, which are harmonized at regional level. The National Focal Points are recognized in the structure of the EABC and in the EABC Articles of Association. The current EABC Nation Focal Points are:

- Federal Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Burundi
- Kenya Private Sector Alliance

- Private Sector Federation Rwanda
- Private Sector Foundation Uganda
- Tanzania Private Sector Foundation

The EABC's key stakeholders are primarily the EAC Secretariat, the Business Community as represented through Members and their affiliates, National Policy Makers, EAC organs and institutions and other key national and regional organizations working towards enhancing Private Sector participation in the EAC and global integration. The EABC has an "Observer Status" at the EAC, which enables the council to represent members concerns and interests in all relevant EAC activities and deliberations, not only at the Secretariat but also in other organs and institutions. www.eabc.info

For media queries, please contact:

Patrick Moshi, EABC Communications Officer

Email: communications@eabc-online.com Cell +255 758 489761