

Zambia – JANUARY 2019 COMESA INFORMATION

1. Somalia seeks to invest in COMESA Region January 10, 2019

Charge d’Affaires at the Embassy of Somalia in Lusaka, Mr. Ahmed Abdirahman Sheikh Nur has revealed that his country is looking for areas to invest in within the COMESA region. Mr Ahmed said this in Lusaka when he paid a courtesy call on Secretary General Ms Chileshe Kapwepwe at the COMESA Secretariat.

Mr. Ahmed said some of the areas of interest are Livestock, Fisheries and Infrastructure development. He indicated that Somalia has over 50 million heads of cattle and therefore stands to contribute greatly to the leather sector in the region and beyond.

In welcoming the diplomat, Secretary General Chileshe Kapwepwe said she looks forward to Somalia fully completing the re-admission process to the COMESA market. She said COMESA is ready to provide a platform for Somalia to look for potential investment areas in that various sectors.

The Secretary General indicated that supporting Somalia’s investment portfolios in the region will help spur job creation among the youths and women in the region especially that COMESA is supporting investments which are aligned to value addition to the raw materials.

2. RAERESA appoints consultant to develop renewable energy and energy efficiency strategy for the EA-SA-IO region

COMESA through the Regional Association of Energy Regulators of Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA) has appointed a Zambian firm to develop a Synthesized Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency strategy for the EA-SA-IO region.

The short-term consultancy contract worth US\$124,506 was awarded to Centre for Energy and Environment and Engineering of Zambia (CEEZ) after further negotiation on the proposed scope of work and work plan. CEEZ representative Professor Francis Yambayamba and Dr. Seif Elnasr, signed on behalf of the respective organization.

Dr. Elnasr called on the consultant to expedite the job with precision and speed as the region is in a hurry to develop facilities that will provide energy for the development of regional economies.

One of the gaps identified in the energy sector is the absence of a synthesized renewable energy and energy efficiency strategy for the ESA-IO region. Therefore, once developed, the strategy is required to provide an integrated framework in the development of renewable energy and energy efficiency to support the achievement of the region’s clean energy goals.

The overall objective of the project is to enhance a sustainable regional energy market in the EA-SA-IO region, which is conducive to investment and promoting sustainable development. The project is relevant for the African Union’s Agenda 2030 and 2063.

3. COMESA court moves to digital justice system

The Court of Justice of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) is implementing a paperless digital courtroom after signing-up with CaseLines – the world’s leading global provider of digital evidence management.

Aiding improvements in the rule of law, CaseLines is a critical tool that helps nations meet the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 16 by transforming the quality and efficiency of justice across Africa.

CaseLines software eliminates the need for paper in court by introducing an entirely digital platform with tools which allow the creation and presentation of a fully digital bundle including multi-media evidence; collaboration tools for enhanced pre-trial preparation and secure validated videoconferencing for virtual hearing.

Covering 21 Member states, the supra-national COMESA Court, based in Khartoum, Sudan, sits with twelve judges, each from different Member States with seven judges in the First Instance Division and five in the Appellate Division. Today, lawyers bring cases from all the Member States, incurring considerable time and cost to file applications and send copies of evidence to the Court. CaseLines provides a solution to this challenge, helping to increase the efficiency and security surrounding legal proceedings.

4. COMESA to intensify lobbying its MS to sign air transport commitment

COMESA will this year intensify advocacy activities in 15 of its 21 Member States to ensure they sign the Solemn Commitment to Implement the Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM). So far only six COMESA countries comprising Egypt, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Kenya, Rwanda and Zimbabwe have signed the commitment.

On 28 – 29 January 2019, Africa aviation industry stakeholders met in Dakar, Senegal, and agreed to finalize and execute the SAATM Implementation Road Map in 2019. They also agreed on the need for early completion of the 55-country study on SAATM socio-economic benefits to Africa.

The Single African Air Transport Market was launched by the African Union Heads of State and Government in January 2018. Shortly after, a prioritized joint action plan for 2018-2019 was developed by aviation industry stakeholders to operationalize the SAATM. "One of the key activities in the prioritized action plan was the signing and implementation of the Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) between African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC) and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs)," said Mr. Bernard Dzawanda, COMESA Senior Transport Economist who attended the Dakar meeting on the implementation of the Prioritized Action Plan for Operationalization of the Single African Air Transport Market 2018 – 2019. COMESA signed the memorandum on the establishment of SAATM with AFCAC in 2018.

"COMESA will intensify lobbying for the implementation of SAATM at its statutory meetings which involve directors of civil aviation, joint technical committee and ministers of infrastructure meetings from its Member States," said Mr. Dzawanda.

Upcoming Event

25-28 March 2019, Technical and ministerial meeting on industry, Nairobi

(Source: <https://www.comesa.int/>)