



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
COUNCIL**



EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS

**REMARKS BY HONOURABLE FRANÇOIS KANIMBA AT THE 2ND EAST
AFRICAN MANUFACTURING AND BUSINESS SUMMIT
SERENA HOTEL, KIGALI, RWANDA
23rd MAY 2017**

- **The Right Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda;**
- **Honourable Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivenjinja, Chairperson of EAC Council of Ministers and Second Deputy Prime Minister, Republic of Uganda;**
- **Your Excellency, Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, Secretary General, UNCTAD;**
- **Mr. Audace Ndayizeye, Chairman of the East African Business Council;**
- **Honorable Cabinet Ministers Present;**
- **Your Excellencies Ambassadors Present;**
- **Secretary General of the East African Community;**
- **Manufacturers;**
- **Distinguished Delegates;**
- **Ladies and Gentlemen.**

I am delighted and honored to extend to all of you a warm welcome to Rwanda, on the occasion of the 2nd East Africa Manufacturing Business Summit that is appropriately themed '*Harnessing the Manufacturing Potential for Sustainable Economic Growth in East Africa*'. I especially welcome those of you who have travelled from afar to participate in this forum. Please consider Rwanda as your

home and I encourage you to take advantage of your presence in Kigali to explore what the city offers. Welcome to all of you!

I would like to thank our collaborating partners the East African Community Secretariat, the East African Business Council and all our EAC Partner States for their contribution to the organization of this important conference and indeed for their sustained support over the years to the EAC integration.

I am particularly encouraged by the choice of the topics and presenters reflecting a coherent endorsement of the new dynamic of industrialization in the region. I am informed that we have a total of one hundred presenters drawn from all the sectors of the economy and from various partners.

Right Honourable Prime Minister

Ladies and Gentlemen

The EAC Industrialisation Policy provide an avenue to promote the competitiveness of our modern industrial sector by placing strength on diversifying our manufacturing base, improving our R&D capacity, developing a strong SME manufacturing sector and boosting exports of manufactured goods.

In Rwanda, although our manufacturing sector is still steadily growing, to increase local supply of manufactured goods, the Government has embarked in the development of Special Economic Zones to address the shortcomings in the business environment by developing infrastructure and streamlining business regulations. Close cooperation with the private sector is at the core of the Rwandan development agenda as we pursue the private-sector led policy innovation required to thrive in the age of global value chains.

It was this collaboration that led to the development of the Made in Rwanda policy, a cross-cutting competitiveness policy that seeks to remove remaining supply-side bottlenecks hindering the development of the Rwandan industrial sector.

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

We're currently fostering economic activities in the following sectors: textiles, garments and leather industry, agriculture export crops, agri-business, construction, livestock, wood industry, minerals, tourism and ICT. We are glad to note that these sectors are also prioritized at a regional level and will be discussed in this Forum.

I wish to inform you that, Rwanda has started implementing the directives of the 16th Summit of Heads of States which directed the EAC Council of Ministers to study the modalities for the promotion of textiles and leather industries in the region as well as mechanisms for phasing out importation of used clothes, shoes, and other leather products.

I believe that this is the right time for stronger partnerships to be forged amongst various partners especially among the public and private sectors and member states but also the EAC and our fellow Regional Economic Communities. Let us therefore seize this moment and translate the political will prevailing in the EAC region into tangible results.

As I conclude, let me once again reiterate my call to all of us to take advantage of this new momentum. I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you, particularly the business people within and outside the region for sparing your valuable time to be part of this timely and important forum, and for your dedication to the advancement of the EAC integration agenda. There will be challenges, but there are also new opportunities for investors. I hope that through this Summit, we will be able to improve the manufacturing sector in the EAC region.

With these few remarks, it is now my privilege to welcome the guest of honour, the Right Honourable Prime Minister to address this gathering and officially open this summit. I wish you all fruitful deliberations

THANK YOU AND GODBLESS