CS Hon. Peter Munya visit to EPZ Athi River

Cabinet Secretary for Industry, Trade and Cooperatives, Hon. Peter Munya took time off his busy schedule to visit EPZ Athi River to look at how the Authority can attract more investments in the EPZ program.

As the country seeks to make more economic strides through manufacturing in the next four years, Hon. Munya noted that EPZ Authority whose mandate is to promote and facilitate export oriented investments remains a key Government agency in the realization of the Big Four Agenda.

During the visit, the Cabinet Secretary held discussions with the EPZA Board of Directors and Management as well as toured Tensenses Africa EPZ Limited, a macadamia processing plant and the proposed Kinanie Leatherpark.

The first global conference on the sustainable blue economy was held in Kenya focusing on creating economic growth, ensuring healthy waters and building safe communities while harnessing the potential of oceans, seas, lakes and rivers through innovation, scientific advances and best practices.

The conference, co-hosted by Canada and Japan also presented immense opportunities for the growth of Kenya’s economy in key sectors such as fisheries, tourism, maritime transport, off-shore mining among others, anchored on sustainability, climate change and controlling pollution, accelerated economic growth, jobs and poverty alleviation.

African countries are embracing the blue economy for its potential as it plays a major role in the continent’s structural transformation, sustainable economic progress, and social development.

The largest sectors of the current African aquatic and ocean based economy are fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, transport, ports, coastal mining, and energy.

The EPZ Vision:
To be a Leading, Globally Competitive Agency for the attraction of Export Oriented Investments and Trade
The demand for organic and fair-trade macadamia nuts in the export market has seen more EPZ enterprises set up to engage in the value addition of the produce.

In August 2018, Tensenses Africa EPZ Limited, located within EPZ Athi River commenced its operations to join the growing list of EPZ macadamia processing enterprises. The Zone also hosts Eureka Nuts EPZ Ltd., Farmica EPZ Ltd., Mac Nut International EPZ Ltd., and Wondernut International EPZ Ltd.

Other EPZ enterprises are Exotic EPZ Limited at Sameer Industrial Park, Nairobi, Jungle Macs EPZ Limited in Thika, Privammuts in Embu, Sasini Nuts in Ndumberi, Kiambu County and Farm Gate East Africa EPZ Ltd. in Mombasa County.

Other than food and confectionary industries, macadamia by-products have become popular in the cosmetics industry further creating investment opportunities for macadamia oil extraction; another eligible activity in the EPZ program.

The seed cake that remains after oil extraction can be used as a constituent of livestock feeds while the shells are a perfect alternative source of fuel especially for industries.
EPZA and Kakamega County sign MoU to set up industrial park

EPZA Authority and Kakamega County Government have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the establishment of an industrial park in Mumias sub-county.

The County’s partnership with EPZA is one of its strategy to boost its industrialization plan while aligning itself with the manufacturing pillar of the country’s Big Four Agenda.

To fast-track the project, Kakamega County will develop key infrastructure - road network and water supply.

Speaking during the MoU signing ceremony held at Kakamega County Government headquarters, Dr. Meshack Kimeu, General Manager, Operations and Investor Support Directorate at EPZA noted that the Authority was committed to partnering with more counties to establish additional industrial parks.

Through the EPZ program, a tool for regional development, the Authority is seeking to establish more zones in all the 47 counties to replicate the economic development impacts that the program has had in the regions they are already situated in.

Mr. Kassim Were Ali, County Executive Committee Member for Trade, Industrialization and Tourism expressed optimism that the partnership was capable of creating more than 5,000 jobs once the industrial park is developed and a variety of projects commence.

Kakamega county is rich in a variety of agricultural products which present EPZ investment opportunities in agro-processing and value addition manufacturing.

Export Promotion Council (EPC) in partnership with key stakeholders such as EPZ Authority is organizing the inaugural Kenya Exporter of the Year Awards (KEYA) 2019.

The awards seek to recognize excellence and remarkable achievements in the Kenya Export sector.

EPZ enterprises are encouraged to register and participate in the inaugural awards ceremony once all the details are finalized.

For more information and details on the registration, contact:

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Tel: 0722205875/0734228534.
EPZA VISION: To be a Leading, Globally Competitive Agency for the attraction of Export Oriented Investments and Trade

VISITS

Right: A delegation from the Burundi National Parliamentary Commission during their information gathering mission to EPZA on the regulation of the pharmaceutical sector in Kenya.

The delegation also had an opportunity to visit Dinlas Pharma EPZ Limited, a new EPZ pharmaceutical plant located along the Nairobi - Mombasa road that recently commenced production.

The EPZ enterprise will be producing a range of pharmaceutical and allied health products in various dosage forms - tablets, capsules, syrups and ointments for the region as well as the European market.

EPZA hosts its counterparts

Left: Mr. George Makateto, Ag. CEO, EPZA receives a token of appreciation for hosting a delegation from the Nigeria Export Processing Zones Authority (NEPZA).

The delegation were on a learning experience of how the EPZ program in Kenya functions and what they can learn as they move forward in strengthening their programs.

Information sharing is encouraged and practiced as part of the EAC Protocol which has established a common customs territory among the five East African States.

Under the auspices of The Africa Free Zones, member countries are encouraged to exchange information and experiences on their EPZ and Free Zones program.

Right: The NEPZA delegation during their visit at Leatherlife EPZ Limited, a wattle tannin extract enterprise within EPZ Athi River.
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Ms. Betty Maina, Principal Secretary, State Department of Investment and Industry when she visited the EPZA exhibition booth at the Nairobi International Trade Fair 2018.

The Authority was among the State Department’s Agencies showcasing various export products under the theme, promoting innovation and technology in agriculture and trade.

With her is Mr. Jonathan Chifallu, GM, Investment and Corporate Communications, EPZA.

LEFT: Hon. Peter Munya, Cabinet Secretary, Industry, Trade and Cooperatives in a group photo with members of the EPZA Board of Directors during his visit to EPZ Athi River.

Front row from left: Mr. Walter Kamau (Alternate Member/Kenya Association of Manufacturers), Ms. Josephine Onunga, (Alternate Member/Principal Secretary, State Department of Investment & Industry), Mr. John Masaba (Member/Private Sector), Mr. George Makateto (Ag. CEO, EPZA), Cabinet Secretary Hon. Peter Munya, Mr. Paul Gicheru, (Chairman of the EPZA Board), Hon. Ksioi Munyao (Member/Private Sector), Ms. Eva Buyu - Msando (Member/Private Sector) and Mr. Stanley Kagera (Alternate Member/ Principal Secretary, The National Treasury).

Back row from right: Mr. Benson Chacha (Alternate Member/Commissioner of Customs Services), Dr. Lydia Ndiragu (Alternate Member/Governor Central Bank of Kenya), Mrs. Abigael Mbagaya Mukolwe (Alternate Member/National Land Commission) and Mr. Laban Onditi (Member, Kenya National Chamber for Commerce & Industry).

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