



## Press release

### Regional trade and development forum kicks off in Uganda

- *Forum will deliberate on key trade bottlenecks in East African region, new funding systems, opportunities in e-government and facilitating women in trade*

**Kampala, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018:** TradeMark East Africa will for the next two days host a regional trade forum at Speke Resort and Conference Centre in Munyonyo, Uganda. Uganda President H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni will open the event.

The forum is expected to address key issues around trade facilitation – including achieving results through partnerships, Information Communication and Technology for Trade, the future of East Africa's infrastructure, increased participation of women and trade in East Africa among others.

The event comes at a time when TMEA is starting its second phase (2018-2023) with a budget of about \$380 million for infrastructure development, trade facilitation and private sector growth. This serves as an opportunity to reflect on the progress that East Africa has made and the priorities that the region should focus on to unlock its potential and compete in global trade.

Speaking before the event, TradeMark East Africa, Chief Executive Officer, Frank Matsaert noted: *“We have come a long way as a region. We have made significant gains in reducing trade bottlenecks to grow prosperity in East Africa. Through the forum, we will be reviewing achievements made so far and exploring solutions to key trade challenges.”*

Key speakers that will be present at the forum include - H.E President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, US Ambassador to Uganda Ms. Deborah Malac, Denmark Ambassador to Uganda Mr. Mogens Pedersen and Finland Ambassador to Kenya Ms. Tarja Fernandes. Also expected at the forum are Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi the Secretary General, UNCTAD; Liberat Mfumukeko, Secretary General, East African Community and Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Director, International Trade Centre among others.

Hon. Amelia Kyabadde, Uganda Minister of Trade, Industry and Cooperatives, will on Thursday March 1 2018 chair a plenary session on women and trade. Other topics that will be addressed at the forum include – e-government for trade, trade logistics, East African ports and rail, among others.

**-ENDS-**



**For media enquiries, please contact:**

Elisha Kamau | Hill + Knowlton Strategies | +254734265862

Ann Mbiruru | TradeMark East Africa | +254722339840

**About TradeMark East Africa**

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is a not for profit trade specialist organization funded by a range of development agencies with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through trade. TMEA works closely with East African Community (EAC) institutions, national governments, the private sector and civil society organizations. TMEA seeks to increase trade by unlocking economic potential through 3 main strategic objectives:

- Increasing physical access to markets;
- Enhancing trade environment; and
- Improving business competitiveness.

Increased trade contributes to increased economic growth, a reduction in poverty and subsequently increased prosperity. TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi with branches in Arusha, Bujumbura, Dar er Salaam, Juba, Kampala and Kigali.

For more information about the Trade Development Forum, visit <https://eatdf.trademarkea.com>