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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **UGANDA TO HOST THE 14<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EAST AFRICAN PROCUREMENT FORUM AND BUSINESS EXPO 2023**

**KAMPALA, UGANDA:** The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Assets Authority (PPDA) has been selected to host the 14<sup>th</sup> annual East African Procurement Forum and introduce the East African Business Expo to take place from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 at Kololo Independence grounds in Kampala Uganda.

The East African Procurement Forum (EAPF) is an event which gathers Heads of public procurement regulatory bodies from the East African Community (EAC) member states and other participants on an annual basis.

The East African Procurement Forum and East African Business Expo is an opportunity to share experiences and challenges with the aim of improving country procurement systems while upholding the desire by member states to harmonize the systems towards a political federation.

The 14th East African Procurement Forum and East African Business Expo which is a four-day event will include Business Meetings, Conferences, Innovation, Networking, generate sales leads and building of valuable relationships, under the theme ***“Open Contracting as a vehicle for Sustainable Development.”***

For the first time ever, the East African Procurement forum will include the East African Business Expo which will attract procurement professionals and key industry suppliers from the 7 East African countries to share knowledge, best practice, network as well as avail opportunities for suppliers to showcase their products, goods and services.

PPDA will host partner procurement regulatory bodies including, The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) of Kenya, The Public Procurement Regulatory Authority (PPRA) of Tanzania, The Rwanda Public Procurement Authority, Agence de Regulation des Marches Public (ARMP) of Burundi, Agence de Regulation des Marches Public (ARMP) of DRC and the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Southern Sudan who together regulate over Two hundred thousand (200,000) suppliers with a procurement market size estimated at over 100 Billion USD annually.

Procurement Service Providers, Suppliers of Goods and Services, Consultants, institutions and Interest Groups are invited to participate as exhibitors or sponsors. The East African Business Expo provides an unrivalled opportunity to showcase products and services directly to key decision makers involved in procurement and purchasing.

**ENDS**

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**ABOUT THE EAST AFRICAN PROCUREMENT FORUM**

The East Africa Procurement Forum (EAPF) is an annual meeting of EAC public procurement regulatory bodies which convenes each year. The event, introduced in 2008, is rotating every year in different countries of the East African region. This year marks the 14th Forum and is taking place in Kampala, Uganda on 23-26 March 2023, at Kololo Ceremonial grounds.

The forum draws more than 300 delegates from the public sector, private sector, professional organizations, development partners, and civil society from the partner states of the EAC and other public procurement players from the African continent and across the globe. This gathering of senior procurement, purchasing, sourcing and supply chain executives makes it one of the must attend business event in the East African Region.

#### **ABOUT THE EXPO**

For those looking to do business with government institutions as well as international agencies in the East African Community, this Business Expo running alongside the Forum is a perfect opportunity.

Suppliers from the 7-member states of the East African community (EAC) will have an opportunity to engage with hundreds of procurement professionals at the highest level and learn more about their requirements and meet their needs. It is also an opportunity to be part of discussions regarding sourcing and doing business in the East African community.

Over 500 exhibitors are expected to showcase their offerings including the latest industry innovations, best practice and new technology solutions.

#### **EXPO Engagement Sessions.**

1. **Doing business across East Africa:**  
Getting to know the rules, regulations and opportunities for suppliers to do business across the East African Member states.
2. **Sustainable procurement:**  
How businesses can identify and reduce the environmental impacts of their supply chains.
3. **Diversity and inclusion:**  
Opportunities for Women and youth in procurement across the region.
4. **Presentation from East African crude oil pipeline (EACOP)**  
Partnering with CNOOC and Total Energies on opportunities under the oil and gas sector.
5. **Buyers meeting with suppliers:**  
International agency buyers such as AU, UN (arms such as UNDP, UNHCR UNICEF UNGM UNIDO, OCHA, UNFPA, WHO, WB, IMF,) and EAC among others, meeting East African Community suppliers to guide them on governing policies and procedures.
6. **Investment opportunities across East Africa by the different member states.**
7. **Bid support and using innovation to support procurement across the region.**