

CONCEPT NOTE

SOUTH SUDAN - UGANDA BUSINESS FORUM 2022



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UGANDA**
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Juba, South Sudan

BACKGROUND

The Republic of Uganda and the Republic of South Sudan share strong cultural, economic and political ties and are both member states of the East African Community. The case for the two countries to promote the commercial interests and welfare of their citizens, by engaging in open trade and enhancing mutual investment, is a compelling one; especially since both Uganda and South Sudan are landlocked, with almost 500km of border between them.

GROWING TRADE

As one of the largest importers of Ugandan goods, South Sudan is a strategic trading and investment partner for Uganda. The trade between the two countries is both formal and informal, with the latter being more dominant. In 2020, Uganda exported \$357M to South Sudan, and imported \$32M from her northern neighbour;

including from South Sudan, Precious Metals (\$82.2M), Metals (\$3.68m), and Chemical Products (\$220k); and from Uganda Vegetable Products (\$86.8M), Foodstuffs (\$85.9M), and Transportation (\$32.9M). In the last 8 years, Ugandan exports to South Sudan have increased at an annualized rate of 46%, from 17.3M in 2012 to \$357M in 2020, while South Sudan exports to Uganda have increased at an annualized rate of 220%, from \$7.79k in 2012 to \$86.7M in 2020. This, not taking into account of the large volumes of informal trade that happens across our borders.

STRONG ECONOMIC TIES

Bi-lateral trade has benefitted both countries through employment creation and creating market access for agricultural and manufactured products, resulting in increased revenue for both businesses and the governments. The Elegu-Nimule-Juba route is the main transport corridor by road, with One Stop Border Posts at Nimule and Elegu. Uganda Airlines now operates 9 weekly flights direct to Juba, extending access for both Uganda and South Sudan.

GROWING TOGETHER

An estimated 900,000-1,500,000 Ugandans operate across the border in South Sudan with their businesses valued at about 900 million dollars. At least 1,500 Ugandans work in South Sudan in the construction industry and 1,200 Ugandan professionals work in the service industry in non-governmental organizations, ministries and industries. Uganda and South Sudan have a robust educational exchange, with over 100,000 students from South Sudan enrolled in Ugandan schools and universities, and numerous professionally trained educators from Uganda are practicing in schools in South Sudan.

Considerable economic opportunities exist for the mutual benefit of traders and investors from Uganda and South Sudan, but unrest at the border and inside South Sudan remains the main concern for the Ugandan business community, alongside regulatory issues around taxation, immigration and the state of the infrastructure. In addition, there is low awareness in the private sectors in both countries about available opportunities, and very limited coordination between the public and private sectors.



SOUTH SUDAN – UGANDA BUSINESS FORUM 2022

The first of its kind, the South Sudan – Uganda Business Forum will be an interactive event that will engage both the public and private sectors from both countries through open discussion, information sharing and working sessions. The Forum will serve as a platform to explore new business opportunities and to address the challenges that affect trade and investment between Uganda and South Sudan in key sectors including Security, Energy and Mining, Agriculture, Education, Tourism, Manufacturing, Infrastructure, Construction and Professional Services.

The Forum will be held over two days, with 200 delegates expected to attend the symposium in person in Juba, while other participants from the region, the rest of Africa and the world, will follow the discussions via livestream, through the forum online portal.

OBJECTIVES

To create an enabling platform that allows the South Sudan – Uganda public and private sectors to discuss business challenges, identify opportunities, share experiences and create business to business networks.

- ✓ To establish a South Sudan – Uganda Joint Business Forum
- ✓ To raise awareness about investment and business opportunities in both countries
- ✓ To boost bilateral trade and investment flow
- ✓ To showcase the Uganda and South Sudan private sectors through a business exhibition
- ✓ To facilitate public-private sector dialogue to solve business hurdles between Uganda and South Sudan

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Private Sector

An overview of opportunities for:

- Sharing challenges in doing business
- Getting credible, first-hand information on investment climate, trade and business
- Accessing finance for business and investment
- Understanding regulatory, taxation and legal regime
- Networking for potential partnerships

Public Sector

Understanding of:

- Private sector needs, to invest and do business
- Needed reforms to promote an improved business environment
- Value of public-private dialogue



TARGET AUDIENCE

Private Sector

- Large, Medium, Small and Start-Up companies from Uganda and South Sudan
- Potential investors from the region and the rest of the world
- Transport and Cargo companies
- Banks, microfinance, and other financiers
- Manufacturer, Trader and Transport Associations
- Education Institutions
- Agricultural Producers and Agro industries
- Leading local and regional media

Public Sector

- Government Ministers, Policymakers, public sector agencies and business support institutions covering Security, Taxation, Trade, Finance, Immigration, Investment, Tourism and the East African Community
- International Organisations, multinational agencies and development partners

REGISTRATION TO PARTICIPATE



Participation in the Forum will be free, and end to end registration and accreditation to participate will be managed online at the event website at www.southsudanuganda.biz, that will serve as the information hub for the Forum with the programme, panel discussions, speaker profiles, exhibition details, participating businesses, logistics and travel advisory, and general information about Uganda and South Sudan. Registration to exhibit in Juba will also be done online.

THEME

Enhancing Bilateral Trade and Investment through Industrialization and Infrastructure Development

VENUE

Beijing Hotel, Juba, South Sudan

DATES

18th – 20th July, 2022

WHY ATTEND?

Advocate

Bring private sector issues of concern, before officials, policy makers and decision makers from both the Uganda and South Sudan Governments.

Network

With delegates across several sectors, and explore strategic partnerships and joint ventures

Explore

New business and investment opportunities for your organisation in sector specific sessions

Showcase

Products and services at the Business Exhibition, and make direct sales

Engage

Set up private meetings with identified partners and investors with counterparts in areas of common business interest

Identify

Concrete interventions and solutions that will promote trade and investment between Uganda and South Sudan

Learn

From sector experts in various thematic areas, including the legal and regulatory policies in Uganda and South Sudan

Share

Trade and investment concerns and challenges with high profile government officials, on hand to respond

FORUM FORMAT

The Forum will be held over two working days, and will feature:

Panel Discussions

Speakers and panelists will include senior Uganda and South Sudan Officials, private sector business leaders, technical experts, academia and donors with informative and relevant discussions across select sectors including Finance and Investment, Security, Trade, Taxation, Immigration, Agriculture and Education; concluding with a question and answer session to engage the audience.

Presentations

A cross section of speakers from Government and the private sector will make detailed presentations on a range of topics that focus on how best to exploit investment opportunities and overcome bottlenecks to bilateral trade between Uganda and South Sudan.

Business to Business/Government Sessions

For more focused discussions, participants will have choice of sector specific breakout sessions to attend. B2B/G sessions will enable direct interactions among participants with common business interests, to share information, experiences and form partnerships.

Business Exhibition

For registered companies from South Sudan and Uganda to showcase their capabilities, products and services at an exhibition fee of USD 300, payable online at the event website.

Welcome Dinner

For invited guests from the public and private sectors, hosted by the Uganda Embassy in Juba



ORGANISED BY



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, JUBA, SOUTH SUDAN

Hai Amarat, Plot 254, Airport Road
juba@mofa.go.ug
ugandaembassy.juba@yahoo.com
+211 926 503 330 / +211 918 924 700
P.O Box 66, Juba, South Sudan



EMBASSY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, KAMPALA, UGANDA

info@embrssug.org
+ 256 414 230 272 / +256 414 271 625
Plot 2, Sezibwa Road, Nakasero
P O Box 25664, Kampala Uganda

For more information about the
Business Forum, contact
Patience Tindyebwa
patience@tch-uganda.com

SOUTH SUDAN FACT FILE

The Republic of South Sudan became the youngest nation in Africa after gaining independence on 9 July 2011. The estimated population is over 13 million with a growth rate of 2.58%, and English is the official language. The currency of South Sudan is the South Sudanese Pound (SSP) and the national GDP is USD 4.67 Billion. South Sudan is the most oil dependent in the world, with oil exports accounting for almost the totality of exports, and for around 80% of gross domestic product (GDP) directly and indirectly. According to UNCTAD's 2021 World Investment Report, FDI inflows to South Sudan increased from USD -232 million in 2019 to USD 18 million in 2020, despite the global economic and health crisis triggered by the Covid-19 pandemic. Although half of the South Sudan is arable, very little agricultural land is routinely cultivated, making South Sudan the largest informal food importer in the East African Community, of which it became a full member of in 2016.

UGANDA FACT FILE

Uganda, has a population of over 44 million people and a GDP of USD 38 billion. The Uganda Government has an open, liberal financial system that welcomes foreign direct investment (FDI) and offers tax incentives to FDI (minimum of USD 250,000). FDI in Uganda surged by 80% to USD 1.75 billion in FY 2018/2019, driven by the construction and manufacturing sub-sectors. In part, this has made Uganda the second largest FDI recipient in the EAC region and fastest growing economy in the region. Uganda's stock of outstanding private sector credit grew by 5 percent from USD 4.74 billion at the end June 2020 to USD 4.98 billion at the end of December 2020.