

Roman Films and Gerard Pauling,

business. He opened an office in Ntinda, Kampala and luck was on

mentors, such as Dr Mich and loyal clients. Among them is the

well. And always... final product."

EADB establishes \$13m fund to finance youth, women-led enterprises

By Simon Okitela

The East African Development Bank (EADB) has unveiled a \$13m (sh49b) fund dedicated to supporting youth and women-led enterprises across the East African region, in a move aimed at deepening inclusive financing in the region.

The fund, announced during the bank's governing council meeting in Kampala last week, is anchored in EADB's 2024-2028 Strategic Plan and the bank's mandate to promote sustainable and inclusive socio-economic development among its member states.

The move comes as EADB reported strong financial results, posting a 51% increase in profitability, with profit before tax rising to \$16.93m for the year ended December 2025, up from \$11.20m in the previous financial year.

EADB also recorded significant



Mwamba (left), the outgoing EADB board chairperson, handing over to Ggoobi during the bank's governing council meeting in Kampala last week

growth in its lending operations, with disbursements increasing by 140% and outstanding loans at the end of the year increasing by 52%, underscoring improved loan portfolio performance and operational efficiency.

Speaking on the sidelines of the

meeting, the outgoing governing council chairperson, Matia Kasaija, attributed EADB's strong performance to enhanced capacity to mobilise capital and deploy innovative financing solutions across diverse sectors.

"This strong performance is a

testament to EADB's enhanced capacity to mobilise resources and deploy innovative financing solutions. In the past year, we supported a more diverse range of projects across key sectors in our member states.

"We remain committed to delivering on our five-year strategic plan as we grow our investment portfolio and deepen developmental impact in the region," Kasaija said.

He added that the initiative to establish a dedicated fund to support youth and women-led enterprises reflects the bank's recognition of the critical role youth and women play in driving the region's socio-economic transformation.

"While the bigger position of the fund will be financed from the bank's profits, we have instructed management to continue with efforts to mobilise additional resources from development partners to grow its impact and ensure long-term

sustainability," Kasaija said.

During the same meeting, key leadership changes were made with Yusuf Murangwa from Rwanda confirmed as the new chairperson of the governing council.

Uganda's finance ministry permanent secretary and secretary to the Treasury, Dr Ramathan Ggoobi, was appointed chairperson of the board of directors for a two-year term, taking over from Tanzania's finance ministry permanent secretary, Dr Natu Mwamba.

The council meeting was attended by dignitaries from across the region, including Murangwa, the Rwanda Minister of Finance and Economic Planning; CPA John Mbadi Ng'ongo, the Kenya cabinet secretary for the national treasury and economic planning; Ambassador Khamis Mussa Omar, the Tanzanian minister of finance; as well as members of the EADB board of directors.

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