

Regional experts seek markets in cotton, textile industry

Experts will work with the local cotton and textile industry at the second East African Business and entrepreneurship conference from September 26 to 28, **Dorothy Nakaweesi** writes.

Cotton production, processing and trade of both raw and processed products is highly influenced by policies of major producing countries, through price support, tariff protection, production subsidies and stock piling that destabilise prices. The competitiveness of cotton industry in East African Community (EAC) is faced by challenges such as low yields, ginning overcapacity, low ginning out-turn ratio and inefficient value addition.

Ms Lilian Awinja, the chief executive officer of East African Business Council (EABC) says: "Value addition in cotton and textile industry into innovative aesthetic accessories, interior designs and fashion can create more jobs in the region. But only 15 per cent of EAC cotton is processed locally, while 85 per cent is exported in form of lint to other

countries."

To develop this industry to cut back on the import bill, experts in this sector hope to work with the local cotton and textile industry at the second East African Business and Entrepreneurship Conference & Exhibition in Dar es Salaam Tanzania.

Expectations

According to Ms Awinja, the regional experts are expected to develop with plans and policies to promote the sector

Shs543b

WORTH OF SECOND-HAND CLOTHING IMPORTS TO EAST AFRICA



A woman shows displays a fabric made at her textile company. PHOTO BY RACHEL MABALA

performance, productivity and quality.

"It is a high time that EAC countries embarked on manufacturing apparels such as inner garments, ties, scarfs that require low level technology and skills as the region works on a phase-out approach of imported second-hand clothes," Ms Awinja noted.

She said there is a huge opportunity for the African fashion and design industry, to be in the spotlight on the interna-

tional market.

Furthermore, the East African Diaspora will be strongly engaged to amplify investment into the region. The simultaneous exhibition will give participants the possibility to present themselves and serve as points of contact for their organisations and businesses.

EA imports \$151m (Shs543b) of second-hand clothing, most of which comes from charities in the developed world.

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1. Kigezi Twimuke Co Ltd (KTCL) has a 66.4 hectare tea plantation located in Buhara sub county, Kabale District. It is desirous of getting a tea plantation management partner on a benefits sharing arrangement
2. KTCL therefore invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the listed procurement in the table below:

S/N	Subject of procurement	Reference Number	Security amount Ug Shs.	Cost of tender document	Date and time of pre-bid meeting and plantation inspection	Date and time of Bid submission	Date and time of Bid opening
1	Tea plantation management on benefits sharing basis	KTCL/ BOD/9/2017	Ugx 20,000,000	Ugx 200,000	19/09/2017 at 10:00a.m	03/10/2017 from 8.00am to 05:00 p.m	10/10/2017 at 11:00 a.m

3. Bidding will be conducted according to the open domestic bidding procedures, contained in the public procurement and dispos of Public Assets Act 2003. This invitation is open to all eligible bidders
4. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the address given below on all working days from 9.00a.m 05.00p.m.
5. Bidding documents may be purchased at pre-bid meeting upon presentation of a written application and presentation of a ba payment deposit slip of a non-refundable fee as indicated for tender documents in the table above, in cash, to our bankers; DF