



**MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
OFFICE OF THE CABINET SECRETARY**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**Ugandan Trade Delegation on High-Level Mission to Study Kenya's SEZ Model**

**Nairobi:** Today, Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry, Hon. Lee Kinyanjui, welcomed a high-powered delegation from Uganda led by Gen. Wilson Mbadi, Uganda's Minister for Trade, Industry and Cooperatives. The Ugandan team is in Kenya for a three-day benchmarking mission, focusing on the country's flagship Special Economic Zones (SEZs), Konza Technopolis, and the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS).

The Ugandan team includes senior officials from the Uganda Free Zones Authority, Uganda Export Promotion Board, and the Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS). Their visit underscores the growing regional interest in Kenya's SEZ framework as a blueprint for driving industrialization and boosting trade competitiveness across East Africa.

"As members of the East African Community, we have much to learn from one another. Collaborating more closely is not only strategic but essential if we are to achieve our shared industrialization goals," said Hon. Kinyanjui during the meeting.

He noted that industrialization in Africa has lagged due to policy and regulatory bottlenecks. The creation of SEZs aims to reverse this trend by offering investor-friendly environments through tax incentives, subsidized power, affordable land leases, and fully-serviced infrastructure.

Kenya has gazetted 37 Special Economic Zones which have already attracted over USD 1.2 billion in investment, created 12,000 direct jobs, and 30,000 indirect jobs. These zones serve as pivotal nodes in driving Kenya's industrial ambitions while also supporting regional frameworks such as the EAC, AfCFTA, and COMESA.

Hon. Kinyanjui emphasized the importance of mutual recognition of standards across the region to boost intra-African trade, reduce regulatory duplication, and ensure high-quality products circulate freely.

Gen. Mbadi lauded Kenya's openness and highlighted Uganda's intent to expand its own SEZ framework.

"We are keen to learn from the Kenya experience to do things better. SEZs and free zones are key to stimulating industrialization. Once basic infrastructure is in

place, it reduces the cost of doing business and creates opportunities for jobs, wealth creation, and government revenue," he stated.

During the visit, the Ugandan delegation will tour key industrialization nodes including KEPROBA, SEZA, EPZA, Konza Technopolis, and Tatu City. Uganda currently has 15 free zones under development, and insights from Kenya will inform their operational rollout.

This strategic exchange underlines the growing importance of regional collaboration in industrial policy as African nations work toward shared economic resilience and prosperity.

**Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry**  
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