

## A platform for growth in the International Western Region CAIPs Conference



President Dr. William Ruto, PS (SDI) Dr. Juma Mukhwana and Western Region Leaders at the State House, Nairobi

The Government of Kenya, in partnership with County Governments, has rolled out an pioneering initiative to establish the County Aggregation Industrial Parks (CAIPs). These parks are meant to drive industrial development at the county level by promoting structured value chain ecosystems, attract private investors, and create jobs, which are key steps toward achieving both Vision 2030 and the Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA). In Western Kenya, counties such as Kakamega, Bungoma, Busia, Vihiga, and Trans Nzoia have taken the lead in this transformative project by allocating land and commencing the construction of the CAIPs. To speed up the projects, Kakamega County, in partnership with the Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry (MITI) and the Kenya Development Corporation (KDC), are preparing to host a major international conference to push the project forward.

This International Conference will provide a high-level forum for bringing together important players, such as policymakers and government representatives, local and foreign investors, financial institutions, business leaders and entrepreneurs, academic institutions, and development partners. The conference also intends to investigate partnership and investment options that are essential to the operationalization of CAIPs. More than 1,000 attendees and 200 exhibitors are anticipated to attend the conference, which will offer a chance for networking, information exchange, and cooperation to support CAIP success.

The Keynote Conference to stimulate discussions on Industrialization, Economic Transformation, and Investment in Western Kenya is planned for 14-17th May, 2025. This initiative marks a significant step towards industrialization of Kenya and will position the Western region as a hub for manufacturing, value addition, and economic development

## Kenya's manufacturing sector poised for growth amid emerging geopolitical opportunities

Kenya's manufacturing sector has been aligning with new global opportunities to boost economic resilience and competitiveness. The nation is focusing on growing its pharmaceutical and textile industries through targeted policy initiatives and market expansion efforts.

Cabinet Secretary for Investments, Trade and Industry (MITI), Hon. Lee Kinyanjui and PS for Industry, Dr. Juma Mukhwana, graced the launch of the 2025 Manufacturing Priority Agenda by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM). The event highlighted the importance of capitalizing on export market opportunities for Kenyan manufacturers. The event also brought together key players from the construction sector, highlighting how crucial policy frameworks, infrastructure development, and investment incentives are for driving industrial growth.

The Government has similarly put a lot of effort into improving infrastructure to ensure the efficient movement of goods and services. However, to truly maximize the benefits of these investments, it's crucial to have a strong and expanded manufacturing sector.

Focusing on pharmaceuticals and textiles is a smart strategy to leverage Kenya's strengths in these fields. The pharmaceutical industry has the potential to position Kenya as a leading supplier of essential medicines throughout Africa. This shift could lessen the country's dependence on imports and generate more local employment opportunities. Meanwhile, the textile sector stands to thrive as well, bolstered by favourable initiatives such as the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA). These measures enable Kenyan manufacturers to tap into both regional and global markets.

The launch of the 2025 Manufacturing Priority Agenda had several notable figures present, including KAM Chairperson Jane Karuku, and other key stakeholders. Their attendance highlighted the government's dedication to creating a supportive business environment and establishing Kenya as a leading manufacturing centre in the region.



CS MITI Hon Lee Kinyanjui addressing the participants

## COMESA leather strategy launched

Industry PS Dr. Juma Mukhwana and Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) Secretary General (SG) H.E Chileshe Kapwepwe, unveil the COMESA strategy 2025-2029.

PS Mukhwana, who was the event's Chief Guest, noted the need for African countries to work together and create bigger value chains in order to succeed in manufacturing.

The strategy covers 22 countries in Africa



PS Juma Mukhwana and COMESA SG H.E Chileshe Kapwepwe at the launch

## National Government steps in to ease access to cotton seeds for farmers across the country'

In a move aimed at revitalizing Kenya's cotton industry, the National Government has intervened to ease access to cotton seeds, ensuring farmers are well-resourced for the upcoming planting season.

During a stakeholder's distribution event in Kilifi, Lamu, and Tana River Counties, Mr. Karanja Njora, the Secretary Administration, in the State Department for Industry (SDI) emphasized the need to take advantage of the ongoing rains. "The rains are here and we are wasting no time".

The government's initiative will make cotton seedlings easily accessible to cooperative farmers in these regions, giving them an opportunity to be ahead of the planting season. This initiative is aimed at revitalizing the textile industry to foster increased cotton yields.

Mr. Njora highlighted that the success of this program will be fundamental in re-establishing the cotton sector.

In Siaya County, Director Stanley Koske led the State Department for Industry delegation to deliver 1275Kgs of BT Cotton Seeds to farmers cooperatives

The seeds will cover a total acreage of 850 acres.

In a move aimed at revitalizing the cotton sector, the government targets the sustainability of cotton supply that will in turn support the Buy Kenya, Build Kenya initiative. This will enhance creation of jobs and will also position the country in the global textile market.

During a Cotton Stakeholder Engagement Mission in Homabay County, 1500Kgs of BT Cotton Seeds were distributed to farmers through cooperatives. This will cover a total of 1000 acres.

The farmers were also sensitized on agronomic practices and cooperative governance together with other government initiatives such as CAIPS.



Offloading of cotton seeds



SDI officers distributing cotton seeds to farmers



Parked bales of cotton seeds



