



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MINISTRY OF INVESTMENTS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY CABINET SECRETARY TO LEAD A GOVERNMENT DELEGATION ON A 5 - DAY VISIT TO THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS.

The Ministry of Investments, Trade and Industry Cabinet Secretary, Moses Kuria is set to embark on a visit to the Republic of Belarus from June 6th to June 10th, 2023. The Cabinet Secretary will be joined by his counterpart from the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development, Honourable Mithika Linturi and representatives from Parliament as well as the Senate. The visit aims to foster stronger bilateral relations and explore potential joint partnership opportunities between the two countries.

While in the Republic of Belarus, the delegation will have the privilege of attending the prestigious 33RD **International Specialized Exhibition BELAGRO – 2023**. This exhibition, organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food of the Republic of Belarus, the Ministry of Industry of the Republic of Belarus, and the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Belarus, showcases the country's industrial potential and offers a platform for fruitful discussions and networking.

Belarus boasts a robust industrial sector, with several major state-owned companies making significant contributions to its manufacturing output. The country's key industrial sectors include food industry, manufacturing of refined petroleum products, chemical industry, manufacturing of machinery and equipment, metallurgy, and manufacturing of vehicles and transportation equipment.

Belarus, as a member of the Eurasian Economic Union, has a highly centralized economy that emphasizes full employment and a dominant state sector. With a GDP of \$195 billion in 2019, or \$20,900 per capita, Belarus ranks as the world's 72nd-largest economy by GDP based on purchasing power parity. The country has made significant strides in poverty reduction, boasting one of the lowest poverty rates in Europe.

The visit to Belarus holds great significance for strengthening trade and investment ties between Belarus and Kenya with an active focus on expanding cooperation in various sectors of collaboration such as agriculture, food industry, information technology, education, and more.

The proposed areas for discussion during the visit include:

1. **Goods Market Access:** Addressing barriers and promoting smooth trade flows between Kenya and Belarus, ensuring fair and equitable access to each other's markets, and exploring opportunities for increased trade volume.
2. **Food and Agriculture/Sanitary & Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures:** Enhancing cooperation in agricultural trade, improving food safety standards, and facilitating the exchange of agricultural products, benefiting both countries' agricultural sectors.
3. **Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT):** Addressing technical regulations and conformity assessment procedures that may impede trade, promoting mutual recognition of standards, and facilitating trade in industrial and consumer goods.
4. **Rules of Origin (ROOs), Customs Procedures, and Trade Remedies:** Establishing clear rules of origin to determine the national source of goods, streamlining customs procedures to facilitate trade, and discussing trade remedies to address unfair practices and ensure a level playing field.
5. **Services, Digital Trade, and Investment:** Exploring opportunities for collaboration in service sectors such as finance, telecommunications, and tourism, promoting digital trade, and encouraging investment flows between the two countries.

6. **Intellectual Property (IP):** Strengthening intellectual property rights protection, promoting innovation, technology transfer, and collaboration in research and development, fostering a conducive environment for knowledge-based industries.
7. **Commercial Cooperation:** Encouraging business-to-business interactions, fostering partnerships, and facilitating joint ventures between Kenyan and Belarusian companies, enhancing economic cooperation and expanding market access.
8. **Environment:** Addressing environmental concerns, promoting sustainable green development and financing, exploring clean technologies, and fostering cooperation in environmental conservation and climate change mitigation, contributing to both countries' green growth agendas.

The visit to Belarus presents a valuable opportunity for Kenyan traders to access the Belarusian market and expand their export opportunities. With the signing of the cooperation agreement between the Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BelCCI), Kenyan businesses have a platform to forge partnerships - aligning perfectly with Kenya's **Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA)** by providing Kenyan traders with new markets for their products and services, promoting economic growth, job creation, and ultimately contributing to the country's vision of inclusive and sustainable development.

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