

CONCEPT NOTE

Public Private Dialogue (PPD);

Right Honorable Prime Minister Meeting the Private Sector

Date: 20th MARCH, 2013

Time: 3:00pm – 06:00pm

Venue: Serena Hotel

I. BACKGROUND

The private sector is becoming increasingly aware of its role for long term economic growth. With a conducive environment and a wider region within which to trade, both the public and private sectors are now even more aware of their complementary roles towards sustainable development, and poverty alleviation. Therefore, not only does Governments need to ensure a conducive investment climate to spur private sector engagement, it also has the responsibility of recognizing the private sector's needs and challenges so that it can have an effective and progressive influence in policy-making decisions.

II. CONTEXT

A useful analogy is to consider the role of Government as being similar to the role of any private enterprise in serving its clients, except that Government should view its clients as the private sector at large. Any successful entrepreneur would agree that the two key rules of running a successful business are to “understand the needs of customers”, and “provide a quality service to customers”. The same principles can be applied to Government which should, likewise, seek to (i) Understand the needs of the private sector; and (ii) Provide a high quality and well targeted service to the same private sector. This new attitude towards the private sector has increasingly become an integral part of a new development paradigm for private sector development. Therefore, from a technical perspective; a key challenge for government is to design policies that effectively leverage private capital and know-how to deliver modalities and instruments that address inclusive growth and development at the scale and pace needed.

III. OBJECTIVES

Bearing in mind the background and context above, the objective of this event is to bring together Heads of Association Committees, and private sector representatives of all provinces, districts, and Kigali City, to discuss issues that are specifically geared towards rapidly stimulating economic transformation with the private sector as the main engine. The objective of his forum, therefore, is to (i) provide policy makers with an assessment of the nature of the business environment surrounding Rwanda's private sector; (ii) gain insight into their strengths and weaknesses; and (iii) nurture trust, professionalism, and service delivery in a bid to encourage collaboration for a more organised private sector that works with modernized mechanisms that offer efficient and effective service delivery.

IV. RATIONALE AND SCOPE

The *raison d'être* to facilitate events that nurture such dialogue with the private sector puts into consideration the need to lay strong foundations for private sector development, private sector-led economic policy, and special public interventions – as and when necessary – to offer the private sector support. The long-term aim is to continuously build a progressive partnership between either side (i.e., public and private); recognize and address constraints that are faced

by entrepreneurial growth; and ensure that private sector development remains significantly at the heart of the country's socio-economic growth. Strategic efforts such as these can be seen as a major step towards implementing "Vision 2020" owing to the fact that steps such as these could prospectively and very progressively transform Rwanda into more of a producing rather than consuming country (i.e., exporting more and importing less). The key action(s) in these efforts is to work towards (i) **policy**-related private sector reforms; (ii) **advocacy** for private sector development; and (iii) interventions aimed at improving the **competitiveness** of Rwanda's private sector.

V. THEMATIC FOCUS

The overall thematic focus of this event is to offer a forum for dialogue on the opportunities and challenges related to private sector engagement bearing in mind the need to improve service delivery, which is very crucial in all sectors of business ; offer access to finance including collective investment, specifically for SME's ; initiate PPD with, and through, partner/regulation agencies like RPPA, RBS, RURA, REMA ; create Public Private Partnership as and when the need arises ; recognize the areas of high priority for Government in which the private sector should invest, e.g., energy, industrialisation, mining, agri-business, tourism, etc. Specifically, however, the forum will discuss...;

- Major constraints faced by different aspects of the private sector.
- Reforms that may be needed to enable SMEs to flourish.
- Support mechanisms in the context of new and emerging challenges.
- Opportunities existing and being offered within the context of regional markets and economic integration.
- How/where the private sector sees opportunities to expand business while more effectively enhancing its engagement in development processes.
- Explore how the private sector can come together even more to collaborate effectively, and map out its role and potential contributions to the new development agenda.