



Republic of Rwanda

Ministry of Trade and Industry

New

Rwanda marks Africa Industrialization Day



20th November, 2015, Rwanda marks the Industrialization Day; an event which took place at Special Economic Zone, Strawtec factory, Masoro in Kigali.

Speaking at the event, the minister for Trade and industry François Kanimba said that Industrialization Day provides milestone for African countries to review and reflect on their industrialization strategies, and where necessary adapt to new and emerging economic development, both internally and externally.

“Africa industrialization day provides an opportunity for stakeholders from different industrial clusters to share experiences, opportunities and challenges they have encountered, as well as agreeing on appropriate actions to take for the future” Kanimba said.

The focus of the event today is to link research institutions with manufacturers in order to try and address one of our greatest constraints to enhanced industrialization, namely the skills gap in the industrial sector.

Skills development programs, as well as the promotion of entrepreneurship programs targeting youth and women with entrepreneurship acumen, are already being implemented by MINICOM through the SME cluster strategy, as well as within other Government programs such as National Employment Program Framework and Community Processing Center Programme, he added.

Robert Bayigamba, the chairman of Rwanda Association of Manufacturers (RAM) lauded the Government of Rwanda for a conducive environment that the government of Rwanda has given to them through sound policies and the establishment of appropriate infrastructure such as Kigali Special Economic Zone.

André Habimana, The Head of United Nations, Industrial Development Operations in Rwanda (UNIDO) said that the focus on improving the institutions and the overall business environment is probably the most effective way of relaxing the growth constraints SMEs face.

“Even if much have been done in Rwanda, much more need to be done to ensure inclusive and sustainable industrial development through SMEs development,” Habimana said.

Statistics from National Institute of Statistics of Rwanda (NISIR) indicate that Rwanda’s industrial sector contributed 14 per cent to the national economy during the second quarter of 2015 and activities of the industrial sector grew by 10 per cent during the same period.

November 20th was declared Africa Industrialization Day during the 25th General Session of the Organization of African Unity and Assembly of Heads of State - July 1989. Africa Industrialization Day was reaffirmed by the UN General Assembly on December 22th, 1989.

Africa Industrialization Day 2015 was celebrated under the theme ‘SME’s for poverty eradication and job creation for women and youth.

The majority of the Rwandan workforce is aged between 16 and 35 years and constitutes 61.5% of the population and about 125 000 individuals join the labor market every year and most of them fall into this age category (youth and women), according to Minister for Trade and Industry, François Kanimba.