



JOINT KENYA-ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

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FOREWORD



Arabian Exposition of the United Arab Emirates is, of course, not new to Kenya. The Exhibition group first appeared in Kenya in 1996 when "Afro-Arab '96" was successfully staged in Nairobi. The current Exhibitions , ' Infrastructure Africa'2008 , ' Best of India'2008 and Fashion Africa'2008, are thus 11-12-13th ventures by the resourceful Chairman of the group, Mr. Hamad Rashid Al Nuami, a distinguished and well-known UAE national

The Joint Chamber prides itself in having been closely associated with the last two exhibitions and intends to be fully involved in ensuring that the current exhibition joins the ranks of successful exhibitions held in Nairobi, Kenya. The Joint Chamber, established with the noble aim of promoting trade and commerce between the Arab world on the one hand and Kenya in particular and African countries in general, on the other, has an inescapable duty to render all possible help and assistance to ensure that the aims of the Exhibition are fully realized.

The Joint Kenya - Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry joins all well-meaning Kenyans in welcoming all participants to our country. The visitors will find a vibrant, experienced and hard working population keen in doing business with them. Kenya enjoys a liberalized economic regime and the exhibitors should take full advantage of this. Kenya is also a member of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern African countries (COMESA), an economic block stretching from Egypt in the north to South Africa in the south.

Within the block, there is zero -- rated duty on movement of products locally produced. the exhibitors would therefore be well advised to consider investing in Kenya so that their products could flow freely without the encumbrance of custom's duties to the millions of consumers in COMESA countries. It is a large market and the exhibitors, apart from showing and selling their products at the Exhibition, would be well-advised to seriously think in terms of locally producing their goods. They could either go into it alone or take in local partners. One of the attractions and beauty of Kenya is that it is an open and free country that welcomes all.

This explains why the Chairman of Arabian Exposition has chosen Kenya for the 10th time. Nairobi is not only a capital of the nation of over 36 million people but Kenya is also a regional center for a growing economic block.

Prospects are exciting.

May the Exhibitions reach the height of success

O.A. FAKIH
DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL