

# MEGA EXPO

## Logistics Expo To Boost Oil Service Providers

By Moses Ssemakula

The Uganda Freight Forwarders Association (UFFA) and the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum (UCMP), are jointly organizing the inaugural Regional Logistics EXPO 2017 and the 3rd Annual Oil & Gas Convention scheduled for April 25 to April 27, 2017 at Serena Hotel.

The joint event will be held under two themes: "Transforming Uganda into a Regional Logistics Hub - What is your role?" And "Oil & Gas Doors Open In Uganda."

Announcing the upcoming event, Dr Ely Karuhanga, the Chairman of the UCMP, noted that more than 800,000 tonnes of equipment is expected to be transported to the Albertine oil region as Uganda seeks to achieve First Oil by 2020.

"After the launch of the Front End Engineering Design (FEED) for the crude export pipeline from Hoima to the Port of Tanga in Tanzania and the same for Nwoya and Buliisa exploration areas, the stage is now set for Uganda's oil and gas industry to take off. This presents a huge opportunity for our freight and logistics counterparts," said Karuhanga.

He added, "However, for this to be realized, the logistics industry has to attain very high capacity and become extremely efficient. Hence this upcoming forum intends to come up with solutions that will boost our logistics to



**Elly Karuhanga (L), Jennifer Mwijukye (C), & Dorothy Byenkya (R) from KEA while unveiling the Expo at PSFU offices in Kampala(Photo by Moses Ssemakula)**

meet the high demands of the oil sector."

As such, Karuhanga noted, with over 1000 delegates expected from across the world, the symposium will present an opportunity for joint-venture partnerships within the logistics industry, between local players and their large international counterparts to build the

capacity needed to serve the oil industry.

Echoing the importance of collaborating with the oil and gas sector, Jennifer K Mwijukye, the outgoing chairperson of the UFFA acknowledged that indeed these were exciting times for the two business associations, hence the need to join forces and define

strategic economic interventions that can spur sustained economic growth in Uganda.

"Both the logistics and oil industries believe that transforming Uganda into a regional logistics' hub will significantly help the country attain its middle income aspirations," noted Mwijukye.

## Total Hands Over Shs130m To Winners

By Moses Ssemakula

Total Uganda has handed over the balance of 65 Million out of Shs 130 million to two of the three winners of the 2015 "Startupper of The Year by Total" Challenge.

While handing over the prize money at the Total Head office at 8th street industrial area, Florentin de LOPPINOT, the Managing Director of Total Uganda, applauded the three winners for their efforts.

"We energize your lives today as winners, you were bold and unrelenting, you persevered, pushed the limits and embodied the true spirit of entrepreneurship and

that is exactly what we were looking for in the Startupper of The Year by Total challenge. Total through Startupper aimed at identifying, rewarding and supporting the best projects in enterprise creation and development in Uganda," noted Florentin.

The Startupper of The Year by Total is one of Total's global initiatives than ran across 34 African countries, to support innovative projects and contribute towards sustainable socio-economic development of all the countries where the fuel giant operates. The prize money will go towards developing and growing the winning projects.

## AFRIEF Boosts Research

By Our Reporter

The Africa Islamic Economic Foundation (AFRIEF) and M/s M. A. Kajubi & Co. Advocates have announced that they have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enter into a strategic collaboration to foster professional exchange and dialogue, scholarly research and collaboration across the thematic areas of Islamic economics and finance, education, sustainable development and halal economy in the Republic of Uganda.

The two collaborating parties will bring together their capabilities and expertise to nurture the creative role of national and international scholarly and professional communication and collaboration in the development and dissemination of knowledge, learning, research and facilitation

of innovative programmes of action aiming at improving livelihoods in the Republic of Uganda.

The agreement also signals the commitment of AFRIEF and M/s M. A. Kajubi & Co. Advocates to address key challenges facing the Islamic Finance industry in Uganda on professional development and ethics, through raising the levels of awareness, knowledge and professional standards across the broad spectrum of the Islamic finance sector.

Baba Yunus Muhammad, President of Africa Islamic Economic Foundation commented: "Frankly speaking, this collaboration is another important milestone in our commitment to advancing Islamic economics and finance in Africa, and together, we aim to embrace the role of scientific research."

## KCB Gets Shs38bn For Lending To Smes

By Moses Ssemakula

Small and medium scale enterprises are set to benefit from easy access to lending facilities from KCB Bank Uganda after the bank got an extended 10M euros (Shs 38b) loan facility from the European Investment Bank (EIB).

The credit line will be available to sectors across all the SMEs with the exception of areas such as tobacco, military equipment and mining. Mathias Muhimbisa, the Executive Director KCB Bank Uganda said that SMEs will now have access to loans ranging from Shs50M to Shs1bn to fund expansion of

their business in terms of additional projects.

Small and Medium Enterprises will benefit from the reduced interest rate for fairly long term borrowing of 5-7 years and tailor made SME workshops covering the vital must-knows of SME management.

According to the bank, the credit facility will benefit over 380 SMEs across the country with an average loan limit of Shs100 Million. "This therefore extends our current foot print across the SME sector as we avail the much-needed funding to the segment to ensure economic growth," noted Muhimbisa.

## Kajjuka Warns On Geodata

By Moses Ssemakula

Absence of geodata in the mining sector has been cited as a strong factor that limits huge collections from economies with minerals.

During a two-day workshop organized by the African Union Commission (AUC) in partnership with the British Geographical Survey (BGS) and the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum (UCMP), stakeholders from across Africa jointly agreed that through placing innovative ways, geodata (geo scientific

data) can be generated, managed and used to contribute to social and economic structural transformation, wealth creation, and poverty reduction.

Richard Kajjuka, the Vice President of the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum noted, "While Africa has always been endowed with rich natural resources, the continent has not fully benefited from them due to an assortment of factors. One of the major holdbacks is the limited availability of geodata to guide policy and investment."

## Insurers In Big Do

Uganda Insurers Association (UIA), the umbrella organization for all insurance companies in Uganda, hosted their annual Life Agent of the Year Awards at their offices in Kololo over the weekend.

Established in 2011, the Life Agent of the Year awards acknowledge the contributions that life agents make towards growing the insurance industry in Uganda. Since their inception, the awards have progressively led to an improvement in the quality of individual life insurance

business in Uganda.

Speaking about the 2016 awards, UIA Chief Executive Officer Ms. Miriam Magala noted that the Life insurance business registers a growth of 34% annually and this speaks to the appetite that the market still has for life insurance. "The Life insurance category has one of the healthiest growth amongst all insurance categories- this means that insurers are responding to the needs of the market with value driven products," she stated.