



Making Free Trade Zones useful to agriculture

Policymakers across Africa are making efforts to provide the most conducive condition for the food industry to thrive. In the last 10 years, attention has been given to upgrading the agricultural transportation system, including the establishment of logistics and manufacturing clusters, to lift food production. President, Dr Adesina Akinwunmi noted that special economic zones are helping to grow the economies of many countries. "They have contributed exports worth \$3.5 trillion, roughly 20 per cent of global trade in goods."

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The second phase of the Diamniadio Integrated Industrial Park has just been launched and is planned to cover an area of 40 hectares, for an investment of CFAF 60 billion with financing from EximBank China. More than 235,000 meters of hangar space...

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ZIMBABWE - Studies for the implementation of SEZs in Umvumila

Early this year, Bulawayo City Council (BCC) announced that it had started engaging potential consultants to undertake feasibility studies for Umvumila area as part of progress towards implementation of SEZs in the city...

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KENYA - EPZA, Taita County Sign MOU to Set Up Export Zone

The Export Processing Zone Authority (EPZA) has signed a memorandum of understanding with Taita Taveta County government to set up a project in the area. It is estimated that more than 10,000 jobs will be created on completion of the Export...

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LIBYA - Misurata Free Zone Main Infrastructure Project Completion

Nearly 95% of site A infrastructure works has been achieved. This includes access roads, electrical supply, street lighting, water supply, sewage, drainage while work is still ongoing on optical fiber networking. The project which expected to be completed...

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NIGERIA - World's largest oil refinery project at Lekki Free Zone

XCMG Construction Machinery will be working together with Dangote Industries Limited on the world's largest oil refinery project to be located at Lekki Free Zone in Lagos, Nigeria. Built with an investment of nearly \$35.3B billion...

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ETHIOPIA - Adama Industrial Park Generates 7.7 Mn Usd

Adama Industrial Park has generated 7.7 million USD in the current fiscal year while all of the factory sheds have been transferred to manufacturers. The park is equipped with modern sheds built by the government and private firms and it is mainly used by textile...

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KENYA - South African companies invest USD 100 million at Tatu City

Investment by South African companies has topped USD 100 million at Tatu City. The 5,000-acre Special Economic Zone – located 30 minutes from central Nairobi – represents one of the largest concentrations of South African foreign direct investment...

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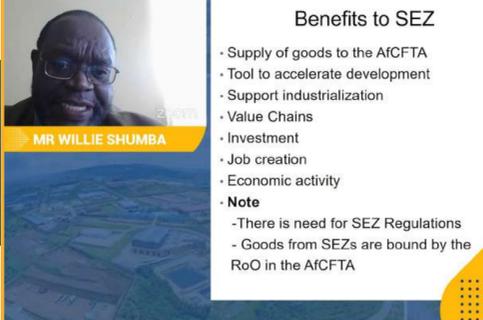


NIGERIA - Free Trade Zones will improve GDP when operational

The Senate Committee on Trade, Industry and Investment has stated that the Dangote, Lekki, Alaro City, and the Lagos Free Zone (Lekki mega free zone quadrant and the Eko Atlantic free zone) will significantly improve the lives of Nigerians and the country's...

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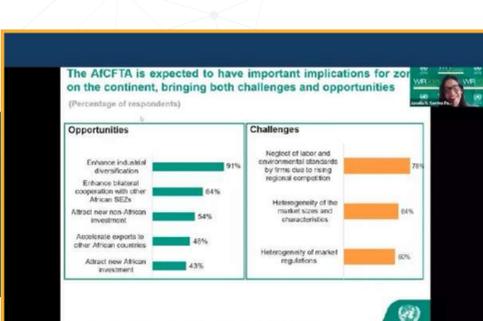
Benefits to SEZ

- Supply of goods to the AfCFTA
- Tool to accelerate development
- Support industrialization
- Value Chains
- Investment
- Job creation
- Economic activity
- **Note**
- There is need for SEZ Regulations
- Goods from SEZs are bound by the RoO in the AfCFTA

AEZO Webinar - Mr Willie Shumba testimonial on "AfCFTA & SEZ"

The intervention of Mr Willie Shumba, International Expert in Trade, Customs & Trade Facilitation at African Union Commission (AUC) revolved around the status of the AfCFTA implementation during which he presented the agreement important updates. His speech focused mainly on the benefits of the AfCFTA for SEZs while highlighting the Article 23 on Special Economic Arrangements/Zones that support the establishment of SEZs for the purpose of accelerating development and the exoneration of SEZ's products from any regulations.

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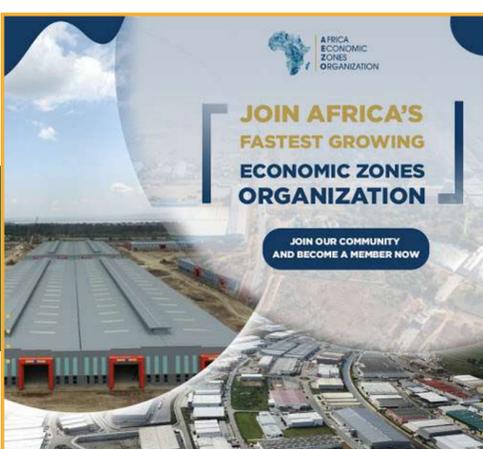
AEZO Webinar - Dr Amelia U. Santos-Paulino testimonial on "AfCFTA challenges & opportunities"

Dr Amelia U. Santos-Paulino, Chief of the Investment Issues & Analysis Section at UNCTAD, shared during the Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) session at the AICE Conference, the opportunities and challenges of greater integration for African Special Economic Zones.

According to a recent UNCTAD survey of SEZ stakeholders in Africa carried out in collaboration with the African Economic Zones Organization, FDI in SEZs is expected to increase by 15 per cent from other members of AfCFTA and by 30 per cent from outside Africa. The survey revealed that the vast majority of African SEZs view the AfCFTA with optimism: over 85 percent of respondents expect FDI from Africa to increase or significantly increase, while almost the entirety of respondents (95 per cent) expect investment from outside Africa to do so. In the context of enhanced regional integration, international investors are likely to increasingly pursue regional market-seeking investments, considering African SEZs as points of entry into the whole continental market, therefore scaling up FDI towards the most competitive zones.

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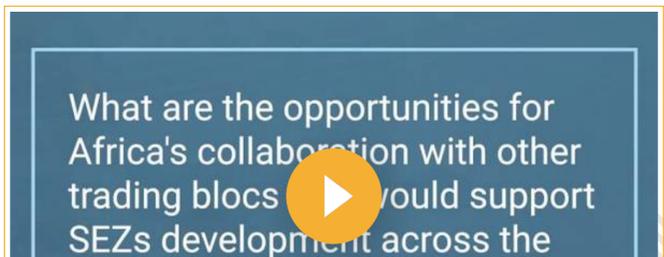
Africa Economic Zones Organization provides Members with high-level business development and strategic networking opportunities with consultants, services providers, policymakers, multilateral organizations and key business decision makers from around the world.

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VIDEO OF THE WEEK

What are the opportunities for Africa's collaboration with other trading blocs that would support Special Economic Zones (SEZs) development across the continent ?

According to Dr Mike Pfister, Senior Economic Advisor at the OECD, SEZs are the main reason of the success of the AfCFTA. Trading blocs such as the AfCFTA and SEZs are playing a mutual role in helping each other. Since the intra-regional trades in Africa is already full of potential as it increases of about 14% each year, this type of agreement seems to be crucial to take the intra-regional trade to the next level.



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