



# **10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the COMCEC Trade Working Group**

## **MEMBER COUNTRY PRESENTATION**

**By**

**The Gambia**

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**Presenters:**

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# PRESENTATION OUTLINE

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1. Country Profile
2. Strategy and Policy Frameworks for EPZs
3. Legal and Regulatory Frameworks for EPZs
4. Mechanisms for Facilitating Establishment of EPZs
5. Registration Requirements for EPZ License
6. Priority Sectors
7. Incentives for Investors
8. Established EPZ Holders Classified by Sector
9. Challenges for Development of EPZs

# COUNTRY PROFILE

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- Location: A small sub-tropical country In West Africa, between latitudes 13:45W and 16:50W.
- Capital: Banjul
- Total Area: 11,300 Sq km (4361 Sq. Miles)
- Land: 10,000 Sq Km
- Population: 1.9 million people
- Official Language: English
- Local Languages: Mandinka, Wollof, Fula, Jola, Sarahule, Serere, Manjago, Creole
- Religion: Muslim 90%, Christian 9%, Others 1%
- Climate: Pleasant Sub tropical – Wet Season (June to October)
- Currency: GMD Dalasi



# STRATEGY AND POLICY FRAMEWORKS FOR EPZS

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- ✘ The Gambia's strategic priorities for encouraging the development of Export Processing Zones (EPZs) is defined in the Gambia National Trade Policy.
- ✘ The just concluded National Development Plan 2018-2022 envisages the development of organized industrial zones in priority areas throughout the country.

# LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

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The legal and regulatory frameworks for the development and operation of Export Processing (EPZs) are contained in:

- Customs and Excise Act 2010
- GIEPA Act 2015

# MECHANISMS FOR FACILITATING EPZS

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- ❖ The Gambia Revenue Authority and Gambia Investment and Export Promotion Agency have been mandated by law to facilitate the effective functioning of EPZs in the Gambia.
- ❖ To do this, a Multi-Stakeholder Committee for the Award of Special Investment Certificates and Export Processing Zone Licenses has been established.
- ❖ The Investment Monitoring Committee provides oversight for ensuring EPZ license holders' compliance with the 80% threshold of export outputs to international markets.



# REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EPZ LICENSE

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An application for a license to operate within an Export Processing Zone must be made by completing an EPZ License form available at GIEPA. The application form must be accompanied by:

- **Business Registration Certificate** of the company applying for the license;
- **Certificate of Incorporation** if the business is a Limited Liability Company;
- **Tax Identification Certificate** of the company applying for the license;
- **Business Plan and Proposal** of the company applying for the license; and
- **The Memorandum & Articles of Association** of the company applying for the license

# PRIORITY SECTORS

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- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Manufacturing
- Fisheries
- Mining & Mineral Exploration
- Forestry
- Services
- Energy



# INCENTIVES FOR INVESTORS

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EPZL holders exporting at least 80% of outputs shall have the following incentives as provided for in Section 70 of the GIEPA ACT 2015.

- Corporate or Turnover Tax
- Value Added Tax on Imported Direct Inputs
- Import Duty on Imported Direct Inputs
- Excise Duty on Imported Direct Inputs
- Waiver on Municipal Tax

# ESTABLISHED EPZL HOLDERS CLASSIFIED BY SECTOR

Company	Sector	Sub-sector	Proposed Capital USD
Reliance Oil Mills	Agriculture	Groundnut Processing	300,000
A Plus Fishing	Fisheries	Fishing & Processing	1,196,536
Golden Leads Import & Export	Fisheries	Processing & Export	843,752
Premier Green	Agriculture	Banana & Pineapple	300,000
Isocalm Gambia	Manufacturing	Manufacturing of Composite	600,000

# CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPMENT OF EPZS

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## ➤ **Political Support**

In the past, GIEPA has suffered some setbacks from Government interferences. However, with the new dispensation, Government has shown political commitment.

## ➤ **Legal and Regulatory Framework**

The legal and regulatory environment is fairly conducive and enabling especially with the establishment of Single Window Business Registration Office.

## ➤ **Institutional Framework**

Lack of an autonomous, centralized management and coordination office.



# CHALLENGES CONTD.

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## ➤ **Links to International and Domestic Economic**

- 1.Limited knowledge on zone management.
- 2.Limited knowledge about technical regulations and standards in international markets.

## ➤ **Infrastructure**

- 1.The GIEPA Business Park's 168 ha is hugely underdeveloped with only 2 factory cells occupying 4.4 ha of the developed area of 8.8 ha;
- 2.Low infrastructural development: sea port facilities, electricity, roads, etc.

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**Thank You**