EASEA
One Market, Infinite Opportunities

East African Securities Exchange Association

PRESS RELEASE

Regional Securities Exchange and Depository Leaders Convene in Kigali to Advance East Africa's Capital Market Integration

Kigali, Rwanda | 31 July 2026 - Chief Executive Officers and senior leaders of securities exchanges and depositories from Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Somalia have convened in Kigali for the 36th East African Securities Exchanges Association (EASEA) annual meeting. The meeting is focused on strategies to advance regional cooperation and deepen the integration of East Africa's capital markets under their share vision of one market infinite opportunities.

Hosted by the Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE), the meeting brought together leaders of member exchanges and depositories to deliberate on strategic priorities for the region's securities markets, including the promotion of cross-listed products, and harmonization of regional cross-listing policies to improve market accessibility and liquidity.

Paul Bwiso, Chief Executive Officer of the Uganda Securities Exchange and Chair of EASEA, emphasised the importance of leveraging the collective knowledge and experience of member exchanges to identify opportunities and address challenges across the region.

"The one gap I think we can take advantage of is utilizing all this information collectively to ensure that we take advantage of opportunities but also bridge any gaps or challenges that may arise during those periods."

Bwiso also called for more regular engagement among member exchanges to maintain momentum and support implementation of agreed priorities, including quarterly engagements at the technical level.

Pierre Célestin Rwabukumba, Chief Executive Officer of the Rwanda Stock Exchange, underscored the importance of a shared regional agenda in unlocking greater opportunities for East Africa's capital markets.

"We came together as EASEA to ensure that we have a collective agenda at the East African securities markets level. The Association is there to bridge the gaps that our markets may have. 'One Market, Infinite Opportunities' is really something we should look forward to."

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A key focus of the meeting was adoption of a forward-looking EASEA strategy to guide the Association's priorities and strengthen collaboration among member exchanges. The strategy shall focus on having fifty million active investors by the tear 2030. Technology, Product Diversification, market awareness and inclusion as well as post trade efficiencies including adoption of virtue assets and tokenization to enhance post trade efficiencies.

The strategy highlights significant potential to expand investor participation across the region. While approximately four million investors currently access the participating markets directly, the wider region represents a potential investor base of more than 180 million people.

The Regional leaders collectively observed that;

"We are starting at a footing of around four million investors accessing our markets directly, to a potential of 180 million. Going forward, we are going to target at least 50 million investors to access our market by 2030."

The Executive Committee further deliberated on strengthening regional market connectivity through greater collaboration among exchanges, improved coordination with regulators and increased promotion of cross-listed products. Discussions also touched on the role of regulatory cooperation, including engagement with the East African Securities Regulatory Authorities (EASRA), in supporting greater alignment across regional markets.

The meeting comes as EASEA seeks to translate its regional vision of "One Market, Infinite Opportunities" into practical initiatives that can improve market access, deepen liquidity and expand investment opportunities across participating markets.

As the meeting concluded, the Executive Committee reaffirmed its commitment to implementing the strategies and ideas discussed, strengthening collaboration among member exchanges and advancing the continued integration of the region's capital markets.

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