

# SEZ AUTHORITY Newsletter

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## CEO's REMARKS

### Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Stakeholders,

This first quarter of the year has been quite eventful here at SEZA and I am filled with immense pride and optimism for the transformative strides the Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) has made in collaboration with our valued partners. From groundbreaking initiatives to strategic partnerships, SEZA continues to drive Kenya's economic growth, innovation, and sustainability. One of the highlights of this quarter was the comprehensive site inspection at Riwa City Special Economic Zone, conducted in partnership with the County Government of Homabay under the leadership of Her Excellency Governor Gladys Wanga. This inspection highlighted our shared commitment to developing world-class infrastructure and creating opportunities that will uplift communities across the region. Riwa City SEZ is poised to become a hub of economic activity, attracting investments and generate employment for the people of Homabay and beyond.

Equally noteworthy was the successful launch of the Chanzo Capital Accelerator Program at Onespace, located within the TRIFIC Special Economic Zone. The program provides a platform for startups and SMEs to thrive, while empowering and positioning Kenyan businesses as leaders in the global innovation economy. We support and are dedicated to nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship such as this program in Kenya. Perhaps the most exciting development this quarter was the groundbreaking ceremonies of two innovative companies at the Naivasha Special Economic Zone in Mai Mahiu. The first one was TAD Motors in partnership with MICA who are setting up a new Electric Vehicles (EV) assembly plant. The plant will create up to 1,500 jobs, offering life-changing opportunities for the local community while aligning with our vision of promoting inclusive economic growth. TAD Motors and MICA's dedication to making electric vehicles more affordable and accessible for Kenyans is a game-changer. This initiative will not only accelerate the adoption of green transportation but also improve the quality of life for countless citizens by reducing reliance on fossil fuels and lowering our carbon footprint.

Adding to these remarkable achievements the second company to break ground this quarter was Crystal Frozen and Chilled Foods SEZ Limited. This groundbreaking ceremony is a significant milestone in the agricultural sector here in Kenya. Specializing in the production of frozen fries and vegetables, the facility will play an important role in the country's Agro-processing sector. The investment further reflects a robust investor confidence in Kenya's economy and the strategic measures implemented to attract investments in our Special Economic Zones. This development will enhance food security and drive industrialization and value addition within the agricultural sector. As we celebrate these achievements, I am reminded of the power of collaboration and shared vision. SEZA's success reflects the collective efforts of our partners, stakeholders, and the Kenyan people. We remain steadfast in our mission to create an enabling environment for investment, job creation, and economic transformation. We are confident that the foundations laid this quarter will yield lasting benefits for generations to come.

Warm regards,  
Dr. Kenneth Chelule, EBS  
CEO, Special Economic Zones Authority



## Site Inspection to Advance the Operationalization of Riwa City SEZ

The Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA), in collaboration with the County Government of Homabay, led by Her Excellency Governor Gladys Wanga, recently conducted a comprehensive site inspection at Riwa City Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

This crucial exercise brought together key stakeholders, including representatives from the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), National Land Commission (NLC), National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), and Kenya Shipyard Limited.

In addition to these strategic partners, three prominent investors from Rift Valley Products, Victory Farms, and Made in Thurwa joined the visit and expressed their enthusiasm for establishing enterprises within the zone. Their involvement signifies growing confidence in the potential of Riwa City SEZ as a hub for business and investment.

**Homa Bay County Governor Hon. Gladys Wanga and SEZA Licensing Manager at the Riwa SEZ site inspection**

The inspection focused on evaluating both the custom and non-custom areas of the zone to ensure alignment with operational standards. The County Government has prioritized infrastructure improvements and utility enhancements to support the seamless operationalization of Riwa City SEZ.

Speaking during the visit, Her Excellency Governor Gladys Wanga highlighted the zone's transformative potential, stating: "Riwa City SEZ is poised to be a catalyst for economic growth and development in Homabay County. We are committed to creating an enabling environment for businesses and investors alike."

SEZA remains dedicated to working closely with all stakeholders to accelerate the zone's operational readiness and unlock its immense economic potential.



# Chanzo Capital Accelerator Program Officially Launched at TRIFIC SEZ

The Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) was at the successful launch of the Chanzo Capital Accelerator Program at Onespace, located in the heart of TRIFIC Special Economic Zone. This momentous event was graced by Hon. Rebecca Miano, EGH, alongside distinguished SEZA leadership, including the Chair of the Authority, Mr. Fred Muteti, EBS, and the CEO, Dr. Kenneth Chelule, PhD, EBS. The Chanzo Capital Accelerator Program is designed to catalyze growth and innovation by providing tailored support to startups and entrepreneurs operating within TRIFIC SEZ. The bold initiative will promote business development, create opportunities, and drive economic transformation in the region.



CS MITi Hon. Rebecca Miano, SEZA chairman Fred Muteti, SEZA CEO Dr. Kenneth Chelule at the launch of Chanzo Capital Accelerator Program at the TRIFIC SEZ.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Rebecca Miano emphasized the importance of nurturing entrepreneurship, saying: ***"This initiative is a testament to our commitment to empowering businesses and creating sustainable economic growth. SEZA is dedicated to ensuring that the TRIFIC SEZ remains a hub for innovation and investment."***

The program will offer participants access to mentorship, funding opportunities, and collaborative spaces within TRIFIC SEZ, positioning them for long-term success in competitive markets.

We extend our gratitude to all stakeholders who contributed to the successful launch of this groundbreaking program. Together, we are paving the way for a vibrant and resilient economic future.





## DRIVING TOWARDS A GREENER FUTURE: TAD MOTORS AND MICA: BREAKS GROUND AT NAIVASHA SEZ.

The Special Economic Zones Authority (SEZA) and the Ministry of Trade, Investments, and Industry successfully hosted the 9th African SEZs Annual Meeting from November 25th-27th, 2024, at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC). This significant event convened over 400 delegates from across Africa, representing 85 Special Economic Zones from 45 countries, alongside over 30 experts and national and international media representatives, SEZ Developers, investors and other key stakeholders. The meeting themed *'Building Resilient, Inclusive & Sustainable Economies: The Role of African SEZs in Attracting Impactful Investments & Redefining Competitiveness'*, focused on and explored the vital role of Special Economic Zones (SEZs) in Africa's economic transformation.

The President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Dr. William Ruto, officially opened the Annual Meeting, and was accompanied by other high-level dignitaries, including the Prime Cabinet Secretary Hon. Musalia Mudavadi, Cabinet Secretary of the Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry (MITI),



**The PS SDIP, Abubakar Hassan, Nakuru County Deputy Governor Hon David Kones, SEZA Chairman Fred Muteti, SEZA CEO Dr. Kenneth Chelule and guests at the Crystal Frozen and Chill Foods Groundbreaking ceremony**

Hon. Salim Mvurya, Principal Secretary, State Department for Investment Promotion, Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Industry Dr. Juma Mukhwana, and other government officials. The president also visited the exhibits by the Kenyan SEZs which included Nairobi Gate SEZ, TRIFFIC SEZ, Rockplant SEZ and Mt Elgon SEZ.

Their participation emphasizes Kenya's commitment to promoting sustainable development and enhancing the competitiveness of its SEZs as a key pillar of the country's economic agenda.



## Crystal Frozen and Chilled Foods SEZ Limited Lays Foundation at the Naivasha SEZ

Crystal Frozen and Chilled Foods SEZ Limited broke ground at the Naivasha Special Economic Zone (SEZ). The establishment of this facility represented a key advancement in Kenya's industrial and economic growth. Specializing in the production of frozen fries and vegetables, the facility will play an important role in the country's Agro-processing sector.

This development reinforces Kenya's commitment to strengthen industrialization and value addition within the agricultural sector. The ripple effects of this project will be felt in the broader economy through supply chain linkages and increased productivity. The focus on frozen food production aligns with the global demand for high-quality, processed agricultural products. This endeavor will leverage local agricultural produce, ensuring farmers benefit from consistent demand and fair pricing. The company is also set to enhance job creation, boost export opportunities, and contribute to the diversification of the economy.

The ground-breaking ceremony was attended by the cabinet Secretary Ministry for Investments, Trade and Industry (MITI) Hon Salim Mvurya, Principal Secretary of State Department of Investment Promotion (SDIP) Abubakar Hassan Abubakar, The Deputy Governor of Nakuru County Hon David Kones, Naivasha Constituency MP Hon Jayne Kihara, SEZA CEO Dr Kenneth Chelule amongst other dignitaries. Speaking during the ceremony Hon. Salim Mvurya, emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring prompt investment and development within these zones. He directed the Special Economic Zones Authority to strictly enforce this directive, making it clear that investors must establish their presence on the ground within six months or risk losing their licenses.

As the construction begins, the Crystal Frozen and Chilled Foods SEZ Limited facility stands as a dawn of progress and collaboration. It exemplifies the successful partnership between private investors and the government, paving the way for a thriving industrial landscape.

Kenya's journey toward economic growth and industrialization takes a bold step forward and we at SEZA are here to nurture the transformative impact of this facility on the economy and the lives of Kenyans.



# Gearing Up for the 9th Annual AEZO Meeting in Nairobi



The countdown is on for the 9th Annual Africa Economic Zones Organization (AEZO) meeting, set to take place at the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC) in Nairobi in November 2024. As Kenya prepares to welcome high-level delegates from across Africa and beyond, months of meticulous planning and coordination have gone into ensuring the success of this landmark event.

The preparations, which began in August, have involved close collaboration between SEZA, AEZO staff, and key government ministries and agencies. These engagements focused on logistics, security, and protocol arrangements to guarantee a smooth experience for all attendees. Additionally, SEZ developers and enterprises across Kenya have played a vital role in resource mobilization, reinforcing the country's commitment to positioning its SEZs as leading investment hubs.

With just weeks to go, final touches are being made to ensure a seamless and impactful event. The AEZO annual meeting, themed "Building Resilient, Inclusive & Sustainable Economies: The Role of African SEZs in Attracting Impactful Investments and Redefining Competitiveness," is expected to attract policymakers, investors, and industry leaders eager to explore Africa's economic transformation through Special Economic Zones.

As the host, SEZA is excited to showcase Kenya's growing SEZ ecosystem and highlight opportunities for investment, job creation, and sustainable development. The momentum is building, and all eyes are on Nairobi as it prepares to welcome the future of African SEZs! Stay tuned for more updates as we count down to this highly anticipated event.



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