



KEPSA AND NCIA TO PROMOTE MEDIATION IN COMMERCIAL DISPUTES RESOLUTION

NAIROBI, Kenya, October 6, 2022. The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) and the Nairobi Centre for International Arbitration (NCIA) have announced their collaboration to promote mediation as an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) mechanism in the region.

A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two entities will now provide a framework for the joint sensitization of private sector players and stakeholders on various aspects of mediation in resolving commercial disputes.

The MoU will further seek to leverage on NCIA Mediation Centre infrastructure for private mediation as well as facilitate a new fast-tracking mechanism where the Private Mediation Settlement Agreements reached at NCIA will be recognized and enforced by the courts.

Speaking during the signing ceremony, KEPSA Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Ms. Carole Kariuki hailed the signing as a milestone for KEPSA Members. NCIA CEO and Registrar, Mr. Lawrence Ngugi noted that the initiative was of particular significance in enhancing access to ADR for SMEs and which has been slow in the past.

The MoU signing comes just days after the second Annual International Conference on Arbitration and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) was held in Nairobi, under the auspices of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC-Kenya) and KEPSA.

At the conference that discussed emerging trends in ADR and arbitration in Africa it emerged that the preference for ADR in place of litigation was on the rise in Kenya, driven by growing international trade and investments in the region including business innovation, government spending on infrastructure projects, and the opening of new markets and industries.

Echoing the same sentiments, Ngugi observed the growing regional ADR market in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) as well as Francophone Africa with emerging opportunities in ADR advisory services.

He urged the private sector to embrace training on mediation, arbitration and adjudication offered by NCIA in the ongoing ADR capacity-building efforts in the country. On her part, Ms. Kariuki urged the private sector to pursue opportunities within the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) framework, saying it will be pivotal in accessing the new markets and growth opportunities for the East African Community.

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Signed:

**Carole Kariuki, E.B.S, M.B.S, H.S.C
CEO, KEPSA.**

About KEPSA

The Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA) is the apex body of the private sector in Kenya. KEPSA brings together local and foreign business associations, chambers of commerce, professional bodies, corporates, multinational companies, start-ups, Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) from all sectors of the economy in the country, representing over 1 million businesses under one umbrella, to enable them to speak in one voice when engaging the Government, development partners and other stakeholders on cross-cutting policy issues affecting private sector development. It also implements programs that ensure the growth of businesses and the social-economic development of the country.

KEPSA supports businesses with opportunities for training, networking, financial linkages, mentorships & coaching, access to markets, value chains and investment opportunities while working closely with many partners from across the world.

KEPSA serves as a federation of over 80 Associations and professional bodies and serves as the focal point of the East Africa Business Council (EABC) which is the apex body of businesses in East Africa.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.kepsa.or.ke>