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EAST AFRICA TEXTILE AND LEATHER WEEK (EATLW) 2024: A RESOUNDING SUCCESS!

Nairobi, Kenya – May 26, 2024 – The 3rd edition of the East Africa Textile and Leather Week (EATLW) 2024 has concluded with remarkable success, drawing in 2,150 visitors from over 30 countries over the course of three days at the Sarit Expo Centre in Nairobi. This premier event, which showcased the best in the textile, leather, and fashion industries across East Africa, proved to be an invaluable platform for networking, innovation, and sustainable development.

The grand opening on May 23rd was led by Dr. Juma Mukhwana, Principal Secretary for the State Department of Industry, Ministry of Investments, Trade, and Industry. Dr. Mukhwana highlighted the immense potential of Africa as the next frontier for investment, with Kenya positioned as a prime destination due to its investments in renewable energy, a young and educated workforce, and state-of-the-art infrastructure such as export processing zones and industrial parks. *"The future is bright, and you are all here at the right time"* he remarked, before officially declaring the exhibition open.

The opening ceremony also featured remarks from key partners, including Peter Nyachwaya, Ag. Director-Research and Innovation at KEPROBA, and Alice Atogo, General Manager, Operations and Investor Support at the Export Processing Zones Authority, alongside representatives from the International Trade Centre (ITC) and the Africa Leather and Leather Products Institute (ALLPI).

Mr. Skander Negasi, CEO of Trade and Fairs Group, the organizing company, expressed his gratitude for the overwhelming response and support from all stakeholders. *"We are thrilled by the turnout and engagement throughout the event. EATLW 2024 has been more than just a trade show; it has been a platform for networking, innovation, and driving sustainable development in the textile and leather sectors."*

A significant highlight of the event was the participation of over 100 exhibitors from over 30 countries, including 11 exhibitors from Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Tanzania, supported by the European Union-funded EU-EAC Market Access Upgrade Programme Phase II (EU-EAC MARKUP II) implemented by the International Trade Centre (ITC) in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat and national partners in the recipient countries. ITC facilitated discussions with Business Support Organizations on regional value chains, providing opportunities for advancing regional collaboration and improving the overall competitiveness of the leather sector in the EAC.

ITC also organized a round table meeting to discuss the progress of implementing the EAC Leather and Leather Products Strategy in each country and explore options to enhance coordination at both national and regional levels. Additionally, two seminars focusing on regional trade, traceability, and sustainability in the leather sector, and ways to trade with Europe were held during the event.

The fashion show was another major highlight, featuring stunning designs from talented designers across the region.

As we reflect on the success of EATLW 2024, we extend our heartfelt thanks to all participating companies, visitors, and partners. We look forward to seeing you all next year as we continue to build and strengthen the textile and leather industries in East Africa.

For more information and updates, visit our website www.eatlw.com and follow us on social media.

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