ABEC

AFRICA BUSINESS ETHICS CONFERENCE

Africa Business Ethics CONFERENCE 2021

BUSINESS ETHICS & SUSTAINABILITY; A CASE FOR SELF-REGULATION

Conference Abridged Report

EVENT HOST: milestones

EVENT ORGANIZER: Wezesha Biashara Network

EVENT PARTNERS: Takaful Insurance of Africa; CIPE Center for International Private Enterprise; KEPSA; KNCCI Growing your Business together

"The new transactional currency between global businesses is ethics. Upholding ethics builds on long-term partnership and ensures business continuity"

Ms. Fatma Elmaawy
Convener & Second Vice President
Kenya National Chamber of Commerce & Industrialization

"The conference is unique as it focuses on the importance of ethics in businesses and explores how companies that focus on business integrity create and develop competitive businesses"

Mr. Lars Benson
Regional Director
CIPE Africa

"You cannot police ethics, we can only put punitive measures and individuals can only make personal decisions to be ethical"

CAS Hon. David Osiany
Chief Administrative Secretary
Ministry of industrialization trade & enterprise development

Wezesha Biashara Network
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Africa Business Ethics Conference

The Africa Business Ethics Conference (ABEC) is a business-community-led global forum for convening a broad stakeholder group that includes the private sector in Africa to address the complex and peculiar challenges posed by corruption. ABEC takes place annually in an African country and convenes global and regional experts, civil society, the media, and policy makers along with the organized private sector.

The third Africa Business Ethics Conference (ABEC) 2021 themed; ***"Business Ethics and Sustainability; A Case for Self-Regulation"*** was held in Nairobi, Kenya at the Trade Mark Hotel as a hybrid event from the 7th to 8th December 2021. Africa Business Ethics Conference (ABEC) is a private sector led global forum for convening stakeholders to address the complex and peculiar challenges posed by corruption in the host country and Africa at large. ABEC takes place annually in one African country convening global and regional experts, civil society, the media, and policy makers along with the organized private sector.

At ABEC 2019 discussions centered on ***Best practices for better business; the role of the private sector in promoting transparency & accountability*** that called for access to information to citizens, entrenching democracy, good governance, transparency, accountability and rule of law in the country, promotion of a free, independent & responsible media, political goodwill, collective action & multi-Sectoral approach to tackle corruption, professionalism and institutionalism, independence of constitutional bodies like the Judiciary & ODPP and whistleblowing. ABEC 2020 held in Lagos, Nigeria held discussions on ***Tackling corruption to reduce poverty and unemployment in Africa: A necessity for building resilience.*** The outcome was the need for a broad, collective commitment to ethics and integrity as the new frontier for growth and sustainable development in African economies, with a particular focus on supporting MSMEs.

ABEC 2021

To build on the strong foundation and gains of ABEC 2019 &2020 conference, ABEC 2021 brought together a broad spectrum of stakeholders including private sector represented by the following sectors energy; transport; wholesale and retail; manufacturing, hospitality and food services, finance and insurance and professional service, Media, Civil Society Organizations and National & County government representatives

The conference was hosted by Milestones Resource Solutions (MRS), organized by Wezesha Biashara Network in partnership with Center for International Private Enterprise, Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), KEPSA foundation- Multi-Sectoral Forum (MSF), Kenya National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KNCCI) and Takaful Insurance of Africa. It brought together over 430 delegates from 27 countries (Kenya, Botswana, Niger, Nigeria, South Africa, Algeria, Morocco, Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia, Sudan, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Ukraine, UK, UAE, Seychelles, Cameroon, Lesotho, Rwanda, Tunisia, Ethiopia, Egypt, Ghana, Mauritania, USA and Zimbabwe). Eight Kenyan Counties –regional governments (Kiambu, Muranga, Mombasa, Turkana Machakos, Kirinyaga, Nairobi and West Pokot) were represented in Kenya. The Kenya National Government was represented by 13 officials including two in senior position – a Cabinet Administrative Secretary from the Ministry of Industrialization, Trade and Enterprise Development Hon David Osiany HSC & the Central Bank Governor Dr Patrick Njoroge who officiated the event.

Social media reached over 13 Million impressions, it had over 2.3 Million views and engaged over 134 contributors. Media coverage was effected through print and electronic media across major local channels and newspapers to generate 6 headlines.

Conference Objectives

i. To provide information and practical tools on successful business solutions to reduce corruption and promote self-regulation.

ii. Highlight the importance of ethics and integrity in developing economic opportunities.

iii. Provide a platform for constructive dialogue and engagement towards greater responsible business engagement and practice in delivering SDG 16: promoting just, peaceful, and inclusive societies.

iv. Provide business and networking opportunities

Conference Topics

The conference commenced with a look back at the milestones that had been achieved since the launch of the Africa Business Ethics Conference in 2019 and then a look at the status of the fight against corruption. The other issues engaged included reviewing an enabling environment for self-regulation, The Pan-African experience comparative case study and a review of the Kenya anti-corruption legislative landscape: with a focus on the Bribery Act 2016, the role of government in combatting corruption in state agencies and supporting the private sector to self-regulate and the Beneficial Owners Transparency. The event also served as the launch of Ethics 1st, an online business ethics platforms.

ABEC 2021 Conference Resolutions

- Set up a **Task Force** that will bring together BMOs, thought leaders, and non-state actors, to be coordinated by the conference organizers to consider further the role of the private sector in developing practical and actionable anti-corruption compliance solutions
- Explore the development of a **Kenya Corruption Risk Index** at both a national and county level
- Create opportunities for **public participation** in Business Ownership Transparency, general compliance and awareness especially for the MSMEs
- Help **build a participating platform to convene stakeholders**, identify and follow up on specific actions to improve transparency, integrity and good governance to support inclusive growth.
- Provide private sectors leadership to improve transparency standards; i.e. open contracting standard, asset disclosure standard to support the implementation of open government.
- Support businesses to embrace the Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) 12 target 12.6 to adopt sustainable practices and integrate sustainability information in their reporting cycles.
- Continually **promote a culture** of personal responsibility, professionalism by use of tools and platforms such as **Ethics 1st**

The Africa Business Ethics Conference 2022

The 4th Africa Business Ethics Conference (ABEC) 2022 will held on **7th & 8th December 2022** in **Nairobi, Kenya.** The event will take place prior to the International Anti-Corruption Day under the theme, "***Reimagining a new Kenya; Restoring Integrity through Public and Private Sector Partnerships.***"

The conference will provide opportunities for speakers, sponsors and other participants to network. Speakers will have a platform to position themselves as key influential business and thought leaders in Africa on business ethics. Sponsors will be given a platform to showcase their latest products, innovations and solutions to an industry that is eager to learn.

The conference convener is Milestones Resource Solutions a management and training consultancy firm that facilitates people development for organizational effectives and growth.

The conference is organized by Wezesha Biashara Network a Non-profit Organization that advocates for small and growing business to create an enabling environment for businesses to thrive. Wezesha Biashara Network offers a network of SMEs, representative associations and sector players which provides an articulate, organized and credible collective voice to advocate for cross-cutting issues affecting the sector.

We welcome you to participate as a sponsor or speaker; please contact Lorraine (0727 903 128) or Job (0727 385 552).

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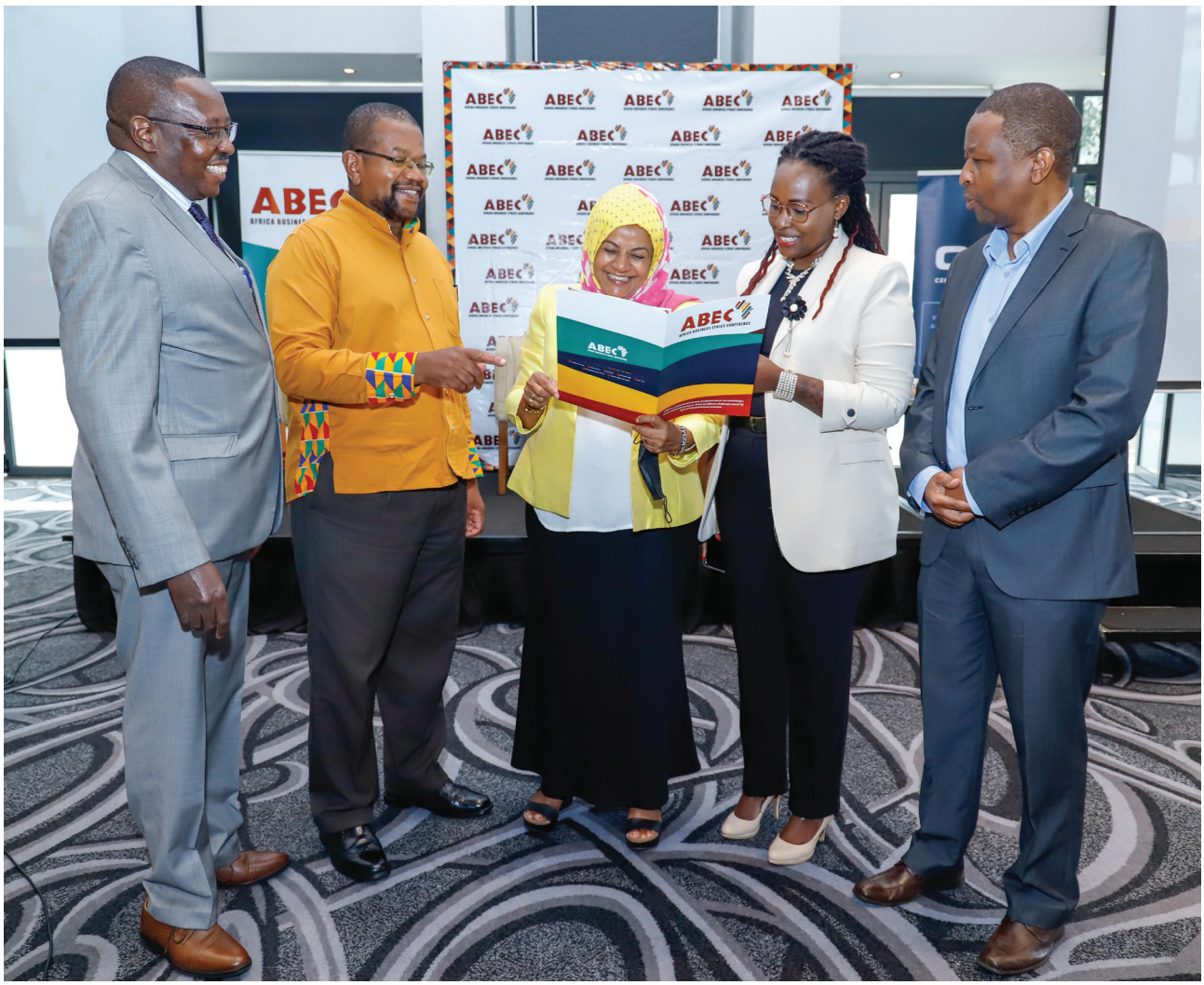

Eng James Mwangi, Arch. Lee Karuri, Ms. Fatma Elmaawy, Ms. Rachel Muthoga, Mr. Ben Kiragu

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"In an organization, leaders have to be the first ones to be ethical, they must preach it, live it and demonstrate it all the time."

Eng. Patrick Obath
Chairperson
KEPSA Foundation

"It is our responsibility to invest for future generations through establishing a foundation of doing things right even when no one is watching"

Dr. Patrick Njoroge
Governor
Central Bank of Kenya

"Individual efforts in the fight against corruption are key, however working together through collective action brings about a bigger impact."

Ms. Olajobi Makinwa
Chief Intergovernmental Relations & Africa
United Nations Global Compact

SAVE THE DATE
DEC 07 2022
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Africa Ethics Business Ethics
CONFERENCE 2022

Reimagining a new Kenya: Restoring Integrity through Public and Private Sector Partnerships

Date: 7th & 8th December 2022

VENUE: NAIROBI, KENYA

Register using the link below to go live

Registration Link: https://africa-abec.org/register-2