**COMESA RIA BUDGET PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**YEAR 2019**

**INTRODUCTION**

1. RIA hereby presents its Budget Performance Report covering the period from January 1st, 2019 to June 30th, 2019.
2. The Sub-Committee is invited to note that the Council of Ministers, at its Thirty-Five Meeting which was held in Lusaka - Zambia, approved a total budget of COM$ 532.045 to cover staff and operational costs of the Regional Investment Agency (RIA) for the year 2019.
3. This report summarizes RIA’s activities and achievements realized with the 2019 budget and work plan for the period covered by this report. It also provides a summary of the performance of RIA so far in 2019 in achieving the objectives set forth in by budget and work plan.



**Notes to the Budget Performance Report and projection till Dec-2019**

**HOSPITALITY BUDGET LINE**

36.00% was spent as at June 2019.

*The remaining balance will cover* Hospitality during upcoming meetings

**BOARD EXPENSES BUDGET LINE**

COMESA RIA 2019 Board meeting will be held from the 3rd till the 5th of September 2019 back to back with (COMESA and COMESA NIPAS’ Executive Strategic Planning and Experience Sharing Seminar)

**TRAVEL BUDGET LINE**

40.00% was spent as at June 2019.

*The remaining balance will cover* other planned missions such as:

1. Sub-committee meeting
2. Administrative and Budgetary meeting
3. Policy Organs annual meeting
4. WAIPA annual Conference
5. GBF annual meeting in Dubai
6. Africa Investment Forum

**PRODUCTION OF PUBLICATIONS&MARKETING BUDGET LINE**

8.00% was spent as at June 2019, RIA designed and printed the following

1- Designing and Printing Tunisia Business Guide

*The remaining balance will cover* designing and producing COMESA RIA Investment Teaser. Printing COMESA 2019 Handbook, designing and printing Uganda Business Guide.

**TELEPHONE, EMAIL AND FAX BUDGET LINE**

51.00% was spent as at June 2019. To cover RIA’s ADSL subscription, as well as monthly international phone bills.

*The remaining balance will cover* international phone bills and ADSL subscription from July till December 2019

**CONSULT RIA**

*The remaining balance will cover the following:*

* Implementation of COMESA and COMESA NIPAS’ Executive Strategic Planning and Experience Sharing Seminar
* COMESA RIA Handbook

**MOTOR VEHICLE**

37% was spent as at June 2019. On RIA car insurance, Maintenance and Fuel

**SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES OF COMESA REGIONAL INVESTMENT AGENCY**

**JANUARY 2018 – SEPTEMBER 2018**

This summary provides an overview of COMESA Regional Investment Agency’s (COMESA RIA) activities and its impact on the visibility of the COMESA region and its Member States investment environment during the period January – September 2018.

During the period under review COMESA RIA has been able to highlight COMESA Member States’ comprehensive reform efforts, investment opportunities and business environment through conducting various promotional activities and programmes. Furthermore, COMESA RIA continued to position itself as an information hub for investors and regional and international FDI stakeholders and show the COMESA opportunity through the preparation of various general and country specific FDI and business environment-related research studies and promotional materials. On the capacity building front, RIA is currently preparing to conduct a number of regional and country-level workshops for improved overall capacity to attract and facilitate investments. In addition, COMESA RIA disseminated and provided business news and information about regulatory frameworks, incentives, procedures, and successful investment projects implemented in the COMESA region.

On the investment promotion front, COMESA RIA, for the third consecutive year and upon the success of Africa 2017 forum, is co-organizing the third edition of Afirca 2018 forum in cooperation with the Egyptian Government – represented by the Ministry of Investment and International Cooperation –, with the objective of establishing Business for Africa Forum and Young Entrepreneurs Day “YED” as an annual landmark event targeting the promotion and facilitation of pan-African businesses.

Africa 2018 forum; Business for Africa and the World. Africa 2018 is held under the high patronage and participation of H. E. Abdel Fattah Al Sisi, President of Egypt, from the 8th to the 10th December 2018 in Sharm El Sheikh.

The forum is expected to witness the following events

* 3rd edition of Business for Africa forum
* 2nd edition of Young Entrepreneurs Day “YED” forum
* 1st edition of Women Empowering Africa (WEA)
* Presidential round-tables
* In addition to a number of partner events in cooperation with IFC, WBG, EBRD and AfDB

Invitations have already been sent to all African Heads of State, high-level government officials, prominent African business leaders and investors, regional and international organizations and financial institutions, in addition to all African Investment Promotion Agencies.

Furthermore, COMESA RIA partnered with a number of international business and investment organizations to enhance RIA and the COMESA region’s visibility such as the Annual Investment Meeting (AIM2018). In addition to the promotion of investment-related conferences held by Member States through RIA’s online portal and social media channels.

On the information front, COMESA RIA developed and published various research studies and promotional publications such as COMESA Investment Teaser 2018 which was developed in collaboration with all COMESA IPAs, Doing Business Guide in Mauritius and Doing Business Guide in Eswatini. In addition to other publications dedicated to Africa 2018 forum. In addition, COMESA RIA updated all COMESA Member States’ profiles on RIA’s online portal to provide a more in-depth presentation of each Member State. In addition to that, a downloadable document country profile that includes a more detailed profile will be available on the portal.

On the capacity building front, COMESA RIA is currently organizing a number of capacity building events on the side-lines of Africa 2018 forum during the period 5th and 7th December 2018. The workshops aimed at building the capacities of COMESA and other African IPAs IPAs in areas of proactive investment promotion strategies and efficient use of social media and online channels in investment promotion. In addition to an experience sharing event, where IPAs will be able to share their success sorties, challenges and solutions in attracting and retaining foreign investments.

Furthermore, COMESA RIA developed and submitted various capacity building proposals – in collaboration with COMESA NIPAs - to raise the capcities of a number of COMESA IPAs including Sudan, Malawi, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Seychelles and Uganda, in different areas of investment promotion and facilitation.