

MEDIA RELEASE

APPOINTMENT OF A NEW EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FOR THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN CUSTOMS UNION (SACU)

Ms Tswelopele Moremi's term as Executive Secretary of SACU came to an end on 18 January 2014, a position she held since January 2004.

The SACU Council of Ministers have subsequently appointed **Ms Paulina Mbala Elago**, a Namibian national, to the position of **SACU Executive Secretary**. Ms Elago has been appointed for a term of 5 years and is scheduled to assume her duties in this portfolio on **1 April 2014**. Prior to this appointment Ms Elago was serving as Country Director for Tanzania, for Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA), where she was responsible for designing, managing and implementation of the TMEA Tanzania's country programme designed to support implementation of East African Community (EAC) regional integration frameworks, improving intra-regional trade and trade competitiveness through improved trade facilitation, streamlined procedures and infrastructure development.

Ms Elago, has over twenty years of professional experience in International Trade, primarily trade policy, regional integration and trade related capacity building. She also boasts of 10 years' experience in managing and delivering multi country and multi-year programmes, development programmes to support regional integration, primarily in Africa, Pacific and Caribbean (ACP) States and regional organisations across ACP regions and served as a Chief Trade Negotiator for the Government of Namibia. She has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the trade and Socio – economic context of the SACU and SADC regions as well as the global arena.

In the interim period, the Chairperson of the SACU Council of Ministers appointed **Mr John Anthony Faul** as **Acting Executive Secretary of SACU**, until such time that Ms Elago takes up the position on 1 April 2014. Mr Faul is an experienced member of the Executive Leadership in the Secretariat and is currently employed by SACU as Director responsible for Trade Negotiations, Policy Development & Research, a position he has held since 2005.

SACU is a Customs Union which comprises five countries, namely Botswana, Lesotho, Namibia, South Africa and Swaziland with its Headquarters being in Windhoek, Namibia. It has been in existence since 1910.

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DR L.V. KETSO (MP), MINISTER OF FINANCE, KINGDOM OF LESOTHO

& CHAIRPERSON OF THE SACU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

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Email: info@sacu.int

Web: www.sacu.int
