



# EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF SACU



**Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago**  
Executive Secretary of SACU

Ms. Paulina Mbala Elago, is a Trade Economist, currently serving as the second Executive Secretary for the Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Secretariat since the 1<sup>st</sup> of April 2014. Her appointment as the Executive Secretary of SACU was renewed for the second term in 2019.

Prior to heading the SACU Secretariat, Ms. Elago served as the Tanzania Country Director, for TradeMark East Africa (TMEA). She was responsible for designing, managing and implementation of the TMEA Tanzania's multi-million dollars Country Programme designed to support implementation of East African Community (EAC) regional integration Programmes. This includes improving intra-regional trade and trade competitiveness through improved trade facilitation, streamlined procedures and the development of trade related infrastructure to enhance efficiency at the port and border posts.

Ms. Elago has over 25 years of professional experience in International Trade, primarily trade policy, regional integration, trade facilitation, investment environment reforms, trade related capacity building and trade related infrastructure development. Additionally, she boasts of 10 years' experience in managing and delivering multi-donor, multi-country, and multi-year development programmes to support regional integration and trade competitiveness, primarily in Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) States including institutional support to regional integration organisations across the ACP region.

She has also served as Deputy Chief of Party for the Southern Africa Global Competitiveness Hub in Gaborone, Botswana, Economic Adviser at the Commonwealth Secretariat in London and as Chief Trade Negotiator for the Government of Namibia. She has in-depth knowledge and understanding of the trade and socio-economic development context on the African continent especially SACU, SADC and EAC sub-regions, across the ACP and Commonwealth groupings as well as the global arena.

