



**AKADEMIYA**

*The Expertise We Need. The Africa We Want.*

**Press Release**

**AKADEMIYA2063 convenes Board Seminar to drive Policy Dialogue on Regional Trade**

Kigali, March 28, 2022 – AKADEMIYA2063 will host a Board Seminar on March 29 at the Kigali Marriot Hotel to advance policy dialogue in the area of regional trade. Themed "Regional Trade Outlook in Eastern Africa: Opportunities for Rwanda", the seminar will provide a forum for AKADEMIYA2063 to exchange with high-level stakeholders from the agriculture, trade, and other interconnected sectors while exploring the challenges and opportunities for Rwanda to boost its performance in the regional market.

"Last October, we launched our Five-Year Strategy for Transforming African economies, hinged upon a knowledge-driven theory of change which posits that linking knowledge supply to knowledge demand will yield better policies," said Dr. Ousmane Badiane, AKADEMIYA2063 Executive Chairperson. "Trade is a critical component of economic growth, which is the bedrock of Africa's development goals (Agenda 2063) based on inclusive growth and prosperity. Against the backdrop of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) underway since January 2022, lessons from the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), and the COVID-19 crisis, this seminar will address policy options to boost regional trading opportunities for Rwanda," he said.

Organized under the framework of AKADEMIYA2063's 4th Board of Trustees Meeting, the event will feature officials from the government and private sectors, notably: Hon. Dr. Gerardine Mukeshimana, Minister of Agriculture and Animal Resources; Ambassador Ertharin Cousin, Vice Chair, AKADEMIYA2063 Board of Trustees; Ms. Patience Mutesi, Country Director, TradeMark East Africa, Rwanda; Dr. Pierre Claver Rutayisire, Principal of the College of Business and Economics, University of Rwanda; Mr. Claude Bizimana, CEO, National Agricultural Export Development Board (NAEB); Mr. Joseph Mutabazi, Director of Trade and Business Development, Rwanda Private Sector Federation (PSF); and Mr. Antoine Marie Kajangwe, Director General of Trade and Investment at the Ministry of Trade and Industry.

## **About AKADEMIYA2063**

Established in 2020, AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa-based non-profit research organization with headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda and a regional office in Dakar, Senegal.

Inspired by the ambitions of Agenda 2063 and grounded in the recognition of the central importance of strong knowledge and evidence systems, the vision of AKADEMIYA2063 is an Africa with the expertise we need for the Africa we want. This expertise must be responsive to the continent's needs for data and analysis to ensure high-quality policy design and execution. Inclusive, evidence-informed policymaking is key to meeting the continent's development aspirations, creating wealth and changing livelihoods for the better.

AKADEMIYA2063's overall mission is to create, across Africa and led from its headquarters in Rwanda, state-of-the-art technical capacities to support the efforts by the Member States of the African Union to achieve the key goals of the African Union's Agenda 2063 of transforming national economies to boost growth and prosperity.

Following from its vision and mission, the main goal of AKADEMIYA2063 is to help meet Africa's needs at the continental, regional and national levels in terms of data, analytics and mutual learning for the effective implementation of Agenda 2063 and the realization of its outcomes by a critical mass of countries. AKADEMIYA2063 strives to meet its goals through programs organized under five strategic areas—policy innovation, knowledge systems, capacity creation and deployment, operational support and data management, digital products and technology—as well as partnerships and outreach activities. For more information, visit [www.akademiya2063.org](http://www.akademiya2063.org).

### **Media Inquiries**

Dr. Layih Butake

Director, Communication and Outreach, AKADEMIYA2063

[Lbutake@akademiya2063.org](mailto:Lbutake@akademiya2063.org).