

Sub-Saharan Africa Business Environment Report (SABER) Project

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The Sub-Saharan Business Environment Report (SABER), aims to provide business information at a ready glance. It is part of a four-year project funded by the Center for African Studies and the Center for International Business Research and Education (CIBER) at the University of Florida, and the CIBER at the University of South Carolina. SABER's diverse audiences range from academics (faculty and students) to policy makers and business persons (owners, managers, and consultants). We hope the report will also be used in business schools in Africa and elsewhere. SABER aims to provide the most current annual business information from a wide diversity of sources, and quantitative tables prepared by SABER's authors. Print copies are distributed and an electronic version is available online at <http://web.africa.ufl.edu/> and <http://warrington.ufl.edu/ciber/publications/saber.asp>.

SABER considers the 20 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) with the largest GDPs (Gross Domestic Product, one of the main comparative world indicators) and organizes them into four regions. First, regional summaries highlight and evaluate the major trends. Then illustrative Country Reports review the year's events and data under six categories: Political Stability; Economic Growth and Trade; Foreign Direct Investment (FDI); Business Climate, Financial Markets and Microfinance; Infrastructure and Telecommunications; and Health and Social Aspects. Points given aim to be descriptive and illustrative of 2010-2011 events, rather than all inclusive. The Country Reports summarize the political, economic, and social situation, as well as the many

business deals using information from a multitude of books, articles, news stories, and online sites for the current year.

SABER's comprehensive tables provide data on the main world and local indicators: economic, capital markets, trade, and FDI; import/export and business ease; political freedom & governance; infrastructure and telecommunications; and social aspects and health. We have focused on constructing a set of the most useful country and regional

in this era of globalization within Africa, and with North America, Asia, and Europe.

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indicators that can be viewed easily - the information is gleaned from raw data in many publications, databases, and websites.

We aim to distinguish attractive from problematic in terms of business and socio-economic-political conditions. African entrepreneurship ranges from local, to regional, and to global, and from micro/small-scale to large and multinational. FDI and business deals span the globe, as do African exports and imports. We emphasize African links, deals, and exports & imports