

MANUFACTURING AFRICA



Manufacturing Africa aims to reduce poverty in Africa by attracting £1.2 billion of foreign direct investment into manufacturing and creating 90,000 jobs over 7 years (2019-2026). The programme is funded by the UK government through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)



Strengthening Partnerships with Tanzania's Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA)



Tanzania's Export Processing Zones Authority (EPZA) was established in 2005 following the enactment of the Export Processing Zones Act 2002. The key mandate was to oversee the Export Processing Zones Program. Later, in 2011, the law was amended, and EPZA's mandate was expanded to oversee Special Economic Zones (SEZ). To date, EPZA oversees 10 Central Government SEZs, five local government SEZs, and 12 privately owned SEZs.



EPZA's fundamental objective is to drive industrialization in the export sector to stimulate economic growth in Tanzania. Some interventions include facilitating tax exemptions for exporters in its programme and streamlined regulations, which result in reduced operational costs for exporters.



By collaborating with government entities like the Ministry of Industry and Trade, EPZA aligns its initiatives with national economic policies and promotes Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to enhance resource mobilization and service delivery. Additionally, the authority provides modern infrastructure, including transportation and logistics facilities, to support efficient production processes.

Positioning Tanzania as an Export Hub



The EPZA plays a critical role in positioning Tanzania as an export hub in the region. With the ongoing construction of critical infrastructures such as the standard gauge railway and the proposed rehabilitation of the TAZARA railway, the role of the EPZA is poised to become even more important in facilitating exporters to reach the regional markets (EAC and SADC). More broadly, the implementation of the Africa Intercontinental Free Trade Area provides yet another opportunity that EPZA can meaningfully play to support exporters in Tanzania.

EPZA-MA Potential Synergies

MA intervention in the manufacturing sector aligns squarely with the EPZA mandate to support the growth of the manufacturing sector in Tanzania. Key potential synergies include:



Technical Assistance

MA could work with EPZA to conduct studies in the manufacturing sub-sectors that have not gained traction with EPZA to understand the bottlenecks and inform the policy response.



MA support to SEZ-housed companies

MA will bring a global wealth of knowledge and expertise in transaction facilitation that could enhance exporters' ability to raise capital in foreign direct investment. This will likely lead to the growth of these exporters, more local sourcing, leading to job creation, and eventually, broader economic transformations.



This programme is funded by UK aid from the UK government; however, the views expressed do not necessarily express the UK government's official policies.

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