

38<sup>th</sup> Public Dialogue

SACU and Namibia: The Future

13 July 2017, 08h30 - Furstenhof Hotel, Windhoek

**Keynote Speaker**

Hon. Calle Schlettwein, Minister of Finance – Ministry of Finance (TBC)

**Speaker**

Ms. Paulina M. Elago, Executive Secretary - SACU

**Discussants**

Rowland Brown, Co-Founder Cirrus - Capital

Ndiitah Nghipondoka Robiati, CEO Namibia Trade Forum

It is a pleasure to be able to bring together very prominent figures in the ambit of trade within the Southern African environment. The speakers will discuss current and prospective issues that are important to the existence of SACU. Although the Agreement is in place for 14 years there is a lot of unfinished business with regard to SACU. Two of the major issues are the SACU Tariff Board and the Dispute Settlement Mechanism. Without these two very important institutions the Agreement cannot functioning properly and it will raise the concerns of the Member States especially the smaller members of the Customs Union. Also an institutional concern is the absence of National Bodies. Only South Africa has instituted a National Body as such while the rest of the SACU Member States have not yet finalised these important parts of the Agreement.

SACU is the most advanced Trade Agreement on the African continent, with a common external tariff and very few internal trade prohibitions. It is also the only Trade Agreement with a common revenue pool with proceeds shared to an agreed upon formula between the Member States.

Kindly confirm attendance with **Ms. Cheryl Kahambea** at **office@fesnam.org.na** by Tel. **061 417 500**