

BUSINESS UPDATE

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VITALS

Prime Rate	10.25%
- Central Bank of Eswatini	
Inflation Rate	2.6%
- Central Bank of Eswatini	
Mortgage Rate	10.50%
- Central Bank of Eswatini	
Bank Rate	6.75%
- Central Bank of Eswatini	
Petrol (u)	E20.60 per litre
Replacement	E20.60 per litre
Diesel	E21.00 per litre
Paraffin	E15.35 per litre

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

CORRECT AS AT 3 OCT 2025

CURRENCY	BUY	SELL
 US Dollar/SZL	17.2745	17.3245
 British Pound/SZL	23.2048	23.2720
 Japanese Yen/SZL	0.1170	0.1174
 Swiss Franc/SZL	21.6527	21.7045
 Botswana Pula/SZL	1.2092	1.2335
 Australian Dollar/SZL	11.3874	11.4220
 Canadian Dollar/SZL	12.3699	12.4021
 Euro/SZL	20.2379	20.2965
Gold	3,854.9300	
Oil	66.56	



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AFRICAN ALLIANCE STREAMLINES TRADE FINANCE:

Launches innovative supply chain solution with Ziada, Addendum

BY NOMFANELO MAZIYA

AFRICAN Alliance Alternatives has launched its innovative supply chain finance (SCF) solution in a joint partnership with Ziada Credit Solutions, a move set to dramatically enhance liquidity for businesses across the country.

Suppliers, who often face cash flow challenges due to extended payment terms imposed by large buyers, can now access cash immediately by selling their invoices on technology platforms like Addendum.

Simultaneously, buyers benefit as they could extend their procurement payment periods and retain more liquidity to manage their operations effectively. This dual benefit strengthens both ends of the supply chain, while creating an attractive new asset class for investors and local banks to consider.

The initiative was unveiled at the Working Capital Summit held at African Alliance's offices in Matsapha on Thursday, where key stakeholders gathered to discuss creating a sustainable financial ecosystem that supports small and medium enterprises (SMEs), corporates and investors alike in one pivotal move designed to expedite national economic growth as well as earn competitive yields.

Addendum Financial Technologies was invited to present as a potential platform provider, as a suitable tech-



African Alliance Portfolio Manager Roberto Marchi at the Working Capital Summit held at African Alliance's offices in Matsapha on Thursday (R) Ziada Credit founder Hardi Wilkins making his presentation.



nology platform is a key piece in the SCF solution. Addendum representatives presented that at the core of the platform were trade receivables (invoices) that suppliers discount on the technology platform. Addendum Financial Technologies Supply Chain Finance Manager Tokelo Matlou said the asset class leveraged the typically lower credit profiles of suppliers, which in isolation would command higher funding costs.

However, he said by structuring the transaction so that the ultimate credit risk rests with the buyer, the model creates a balanced risk-reward dynamic. Investors, on the other hand would benefit from exposure to higher-yielding instruments that

are backed by stronger buyer credit ratings effectively securing above-market returns at more than attractive credit risk levels. The move is designed to expedite national economic growth while offering investors competitive yields.

"Supply chain finance bridges a crucial economic gap by freeing up cash flows across the business value chain, creating a win-win situation for the parties involved. At the core of the platform are trade receivables (invoices) that suppliers discount on the technology platform.

This model is engineered to be highly appealing to investors. The model cleverly leverages the ultimate credit risk of the buyer, who typically has a stronger credit rat-

ing than the supplier. Investors thus gain exposure to higher-yielding instruments that are backed by the stronger buyer credit ratings, effectively securing above-market returns at attractive credit risk levels," he explained. Furthermore, the short-term nature of these instruments allows them to function similarly to treasury bills, with the ability to revolve at maturity, offering favourable liquidity windows for both banks and institutional investors.

African Alliance Alternatives envisions this launch as more than a product but as a catalyst for building a financing ecosystem that fosters SME development, supports large corporates and mobilises capital from investors seeking impactful opportunities and favourable returns.

"Supply chain finance is about more than working capital efficiency it is about empowering businesses, unlocking capital and creating a win-win for suppliers, buyers and investors alike," commented African Alliance Asset Management General Manager Victor Langa at the summit.

With the support of Ziada and the cutting-edge capabilities of technology platforms like Addendum, African Alliance's supply chain finance solution is set to transform how businesses manage liquidity and investors engage with trade finance opportunities, marking a new chapter in financial innovation for Eswatini.

Finance minister commends SCF, pledges government support

MINISTER of Finance Neal Rijkenberg voiced support for the newly launched supply chain finance (SCF) solution by African Alliance Alternatives in partnership with Ziada and Addendum.

While applauding the initiative as a beneficial tool for the economy, the minister clarified that the impetus for its use with government invoices must come directly from the suppliers. "It looks like a really good solution and it's being used around the world, so as government we will support it," Rijkenberg said.

He emphasised that the adoption of the programme for public sector invoices would be supplier-driven rather than government-mandated. "It won't be government leading the discussions here. It will be the suppliers. If the suppliers feel that they want to factor their government invoices, they haven't contacted us with the detailed specifics, but in general, it sounds like a great idea," said the minister. Rijkenberg concluded by endorsing the expected benefits, particularly for the small business sector. "I really do believe that Eswatini will benefit from it. It's very good to do something like this," he added.

'Supply chain finance key to unlocking SME growth, SOE accountability'

FOLLOWING the launch of African Alliance's supply chain finance (SCF) solution, an Addendum representative Tokelo Matloua made a proposition to government and corporate sector entities to embrace these financing programmes.

Matloua highlighted that SCF is not just a commercial tool but a powerful mechanism to foster economic growth, ensure liquidity for SMEs and improve public sector accountability.

"It would be a good idea for corporates in Eswatini to implement these supply chain finance programmes because they foster more economic growth. Suppliers can get their money immediately, which means they can deliver more products, goods and services for their clients, but also for some other things like investing in other projects because they are getting cash instantly," he said.

Matloua was quick to point out the need for expedited payment extends directly to State-owned enterprises (SOEs) and government institutions.

He emphasised that late payments by governments was not an



Addendum Financial Technologies, Supply Chain Finance Manager Tokelo Matloua.

Eswatini-unique issue, but governments all around the world could be slow payers.

"But with this structure, even a municipality, if they implement [SCF], suppliers get their money quicker.

"This means there wouldn't be that situation where suppliers say that government pays them after six months or however long.

"The platform forces the introduction of proper guidelines for people in the municipalities to expedite the process of invoicing," Matloua said.

He added that the core benefit

here was accountability and visibility. "This visibility will force public sector workers to say, 'Because we've got this platform, if we don't process the supplier's invoice on time and make sure they get it immediately, the platform brings that visibility and this would allow for accountability,'" he added.

Ultimately, the argument for SCF centres on supporting small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which are the backbone of job creation and economic stability.

"Typically, in any economy, SMEs drive the economy and jobs and employment. When they don't get paid immediately or on time, they might shut down.

"So, it's just about seeing how we can collaborate with government in fostering the economy, making sure that the benefits trickle down to SMEs," he noted.

Addendum stated that supply chain finance offers a tangible, technology-backed solution to bypass endemic payment delays, injecting immediate and predictable liquidity where it is needed most, to sustain and grow the nation's businesses.