

## **Africa Textile Renaissance: ARISE IIP, Rieter, and Afreximbank Unite to Revitalize African Textile Manufacturing**

ARISE IIP, a leading pan-African developer and operator of world-class industrial parks, has partnered with the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) and Rieter, a global leader in textile manufacturing technology, to launch the "Africa Textile Renaissance Plan." This groundbreaking collaboration aims to revitalize Africa's textile sector, creating a dynamic new chapter in the continent's industrial landscape.

On October 14, 2024, the three partners signed a transformative framework agreement to establish a 500,000 metric ton capacity for cotton processing across Africa over the next three to five years, backed by a substantial USD 5 billion financing initiative. The Africa Textile Renaissance Plan focuses on a comprehensive strategy to expand textile manufacturing, bolster exports, create jobs, and build a sustainable financing model. Key objectives include:

- Establishing an initial 500,000 metric tons of African cotton transformation capacity, with the potential to double this capacity.
- Developing local expertise for machine repair, creating up to 500,000 new jobs.
- Reducing Africa's textile imports while strengthening export capabilities, especially under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA).
- Enhancing full value addition within Africa, aiming for exports worldwide.

- Implementing a robust financing structure to support these initiatives.

The project will prioritize countries with strong infrastructure, such as energy availability, and establish training centers to build technical skills. The financing process will be streamlined with standardized loan documentation, a rapid two-month application process, and standardized business plan templates.

In addition to securing project financing, Rieter has committed to establishing a gradual manufacturing presence in Africa, which includes setting up a repair and maintenance facility at ARISE's industrial park in Benin, establishing spare parts warehousing, and introducing phased machine assembly operations.

Gagan Gupta, CEO and Founder of ARISE IIP, shared his enthusiasm: "The Africa Textile Renaissance Plan represents a significant milestone in the continent's industrial development. This initiative will not only boost local manufacturing and create thousands of jobs but also position Africa as a global leader in sustainable textile production."

Prof. Benedict Oramah, President of Afreximbank, hailed the initiative as a "game-changer" for African trade, stating, "By transforming Africa's cotton into high-value textile products, we are driving industrialization and building a competitive export base. This partnership is a testament to Afreximbank's unwavering commitment to Africa's economic growth."

Thomas Oetterli, CEO of Rieter Group, added: "We are thrilled to support this essential initiative with our expertise and commitment. The Africa Textile Renaissance Plan marks a vital step forward for the future of Africa's textile industry."

This partnership is set to ignite a new era for African textiles, combining infrastructure, financing, and technical expertise to create a sustainable and globally competitive textile ecosystem across the continent.

