Forum lines up top business minds in Uganda

By Walter Wafula

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Isabel Aguilera, one of the world's most influential women according to *Forbes* magazine, is set to give a keynote speech at this year's Monitor Thought Leaders' Forum in Uganda.

The forum aims to sharpen business leaders who are looking at innovative ways of dealing with today's challenging economic and business environment. The forum this years will take place in Kampala on 13 November 2012 under the theme "Business Paradox and How to Win".

Aguilera is a former president of General Electric (Spain and Portugal), former chief executive officer of Google (Spain and Portugal), and has served as general manager of director of the board at Dell Computers, Compaq and Hewlett Packard and Vodafone.

Ahead of the conference, Richard Byarugaba, the managing director of National Social Security Fund Uganda and one of the other panelist notes that it is very important that Ugandan companies style up especially in corporate governance because it's one of the elements that ensure people deliver value to their customers and shareholders.

"Thought leaders forum is an opportunity to learn and exchange ideas thus Ugandan leaders must come to this forum so that they can share the best out there and yes, Isabel has been involved and we can use her experience as an opportunity to try and improve on our own management styles," he said.

Warid Telecom's chief executive officer, Shailendra Naidu adds, "For companies to remain relevant and competitive, they ought to embrace good leadership skills. I therefore encourage business leaders and managers to attend the Thought Leaders Forum."

Other panellists include; Jennifer Musisi, executive director of Kampala Capital City Authority; Maggie Kigozi, the former executive director at Uganda Investment Authority; Allen Kagina, the commissioner general of Uganda Revenue Authority; Prof. Wasswa Balunywa, the principal of Makerere University Business School; and Philip Odera, the managing director of Stanbic Bank Uganda.

This is the second time the Monitor Thought Leaders Forum's is being held in Kampala, Uganda. The first was held in November 2011 with Don Strickland, a former Apple Inc and Kodak Vice President as the keynote speaker.

The forum is an initiative of The Monitor Publications Limited, a multimedia company, aimed at positioning the *Daily Monitor* newspaper as an intelligent newspaper in the Ugandan print media market.

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