

Hundreds turn up for funeral of EAC staff

By MTUA SALIRA of EANA

HUNDREDS of mourners turned up on Wednesday to pay last respects to one of prominent staff of the East African Community (EAC) Secretariat, Mrs Patricia Mariday Famzilber (41), who was laid to rest at her parents' native home in Kibosho, Kilimanjaro region.

Patricia suddenly collapsed and passed on as she was being rushed to the hospital on the eve of the Christmas in Arusha.

She gasped her last breath in the hands of her aged parents who were escorting her to the hospital.

"We are in great sense of loss, shock and disbelief," stated the EAC Secretary General, Dr Richard Sezibera, in his remarks at the funeral which was read on his behalf by the EAC Deputy Secretary General (in-charge of Planning and Infrastructure), Dr Enos Bukuku.

Dr Sezibera described the deceased as diligent, hard working and was a friendly personality where every staff member and other officials from the EAC Partner States were at ease to work or associate with the late Patricia, who was attached in the Office of the Deputy Secretary General in-charge of Political Federation.

The deceased joined the EAC in 2007 and worked in different departments.

Before joining the EAC, the deceased worked for ten years with the General Tyre Company in Arusha from 1993.

The brother of the deceased, Gilbert Mariday, a priest, stunned the large crowd when he bravely presided over the funeral service, including the final sermon as the body of his sister was being lowered to its ultimate destination.

Priest Mariday said that in her late sister's short-lived life, the deceased demonstrated commitment to the family, church, work and friends. She was just short of four months to celebrate her 42nd birthday.

The deceased is survived by a daughter (five and half years old) and husband.