

# Scribes to compete for EAC awards

By IDDY MWEMA

EAST Africa Business Council (EABC) has advised journalists to submit articles relating to EAC matters ahead of its summit which will offer awards to outstanding entries.

The summit, which is expected to be held in Nairobi from August 18 to 19, this year, is expected to offer better prizes to winning journalists than preceding years.

Apart from the awards, stakeholders from the media fraternity will have an opportunity to discuss various issues and challenges related to the media industry in the region.

Addressing journalists in Dar es Salaam yesterday, the acting Head of Communication Department of EAC in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East Africa and International

Cooperation, Ms Robi Bwiru, urged scribes to use the chance in order to be recognized inside and outside the region.

The awards are being offered in appreciation for the work of journalists in educating citizens on the Community's day-to-day activities and opportunities available.

"Scribes from all the member states have the chance to submit their articles on various activities of the Community, and thus we recommend journalists from our country to make use of the awards and the summit ahead," she advised.

According to Ms Bwiru, for the past few years, there has been poor participation amongst Tanzanian journalists, a situation that has led to few winners in the country. She added that statistics

show that Tanzanian journalists were good in reporting on EAC related issues.

This year's awards will feature nine categories including business, environment, political federation, agriculture and food and security, higher education and women economic empowering reporting.

Others include categories for the best health, EAC- Inspirational photographer award and the overall gift dubbed as EAC Secretary General's Award.

On the other hand, the Head of Communication from the same Ministry, Ms Mindi Kasiga, called on the public private partnership with media owners in funding their journalists in various local and international meetings to ease the burden for the ministry to cover all the expenses.