Katiba: Civil society calls for changes

By ERICK KASENDERA
Special Correspondent

Tanzania’s civil society is shifting its focus from the anticipated constitutional review to push for electoral reforms to ensure that the next general election in 2020 is free and fair.

Constitution review is not included in the proposed Ministry of Constitutional Affairs 2017/2018 budget estimates, which has raised concern that the constitution review was never a priority for the current government.

The Tanzania Constitution Forum, an umbrella organisation bringing together 22 civil society organisations advocating for constitutional reforms, believes that the constitution review process was unattainable.

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Cycling through EA to promote tourism

Magazine

THE MAGAZINE

Kenya gets ready to export oil this month

TRUCKS AND TANKS: In final lap, three firms are awarded contracts to provide specialised tanktainers and transport the crude to Mombasa

$2b Each tanktainer will carry 130 barrels of crude oil and has to be secured on a flatbed truck. One barrel is equivalent to 159 litres.

25,000 L Tullow in October 2016 floated a tender for trucks to transport oil over a distance of 1,000 kilometres in insulated tanktainers, each with minimum capacity of 25,000 litres.

Full agenda for Heads of State Summit

TRACKING PROGRESS: Top on the list is giving direction to the Community after a sluggish year for regional projects

A tight agenda awaits the East Africa Community Heads of State when they meet in Dar es Salaam this week for a Summit that has been postponed three times. This is amid speculation of a falling out between some of the leaders on the direction the bloc should take. That the Summit will not be postponed this time seems assured. The EAC Secretariat has sent out an invitation to all the delegates to attend the meeting on May 20. It will be preceded by meetings of technocrats responsible for various sectors over three days before the Council of Ministers meets a day before the Summit to prepare resolutions for the heads of state to consider.

Top on the agenda is giving direction to the Community after what has been a year of sluggish implementation of projects. The presidents are expected to track the progress of integrating South Sudan and decide whether it will be fully integrated into the EAC as from July. It has already nominated its members for EALA and the EACJ.
MOBILE MONEY, DATA TO DOMINATE
Safaricom's future earnings

By VICTOR KIPROP
Special Correspondent

KENYAN TELCO Safaricom is expected to grow steadily in the mid-term after it reported a profit of Sh847 million for the year ended March 2017. Its revenue mix is expected to change to a point where voice will be a minor contributor.

"In the next five years, M-Pesa - boosted by the rise in number of daily transactions and data, supported by better access to smartphones - will be the largest contributor to Safaricom's revenue," said Stephanie Kimani, an economist at CBA Group.

Safaricom’s share price has jumped to a six-month high of Ksh22 (80c) on the Nairobi Securities Exchange as investors appeared to back the company's future prospects. This followed the market’s two-day offering of voice and SMS as July. The company has been liberalising access to the mobile money service M-Pesa, which has been accepted.

"We are already seeing voice and SMS being cannibalised by data. Many M-Pesa users have innumerable opportunities for revenue growth," said Tracy Kibunyu, an analyst at Africa Alliance.

Voice services, Safaricom's largest source of revenue, have dropped by 10 per cent in the past six years. However, its contribution to the firm’s total revenue has dropped substantially from 64 per cent to 63 per cent, as data services increased from two per cent to 14 per cent, signifying a shift from traditional revenue streams. Revenue from SMS declined by 37 per cent to Ksh147 ($167 million), M-Pesa has increased its contribution from Ksh18.9 billion ($196 million) in 2012 to Ksh55 billion ($501 million) in the latest results. This means it now accounts for 36 per cent of the company’s revenue, up from 16 per cent within five years.

"We are already seeing voice and SMS being cannibalised by data. Many M-Pesa users have innumerable opportunities for revenue growth," said Tracy Kibunyu, an analyst at Africa Alliance.

In February, Safaricom survived a split of its business after the government opposed the recommendations of an international consultant to separate Safaricom from its hugely successful mobile money service M-Pesa. The government has been pushing the company to examine the country’s telecommunications industry, followed by sustained calls by industry players to have Safaricom declared a dominant player. While the pressure has since died down, analysts believe that it’s only a matter of time before the issue comes up again.

"I would not be surprised if similar calls re-emerge due to the "monopolistic" nature of the business," Ms Kimani said.

Last week, ICT Cabinet Secretary Joseph Mucheru said mobile money interoperability would be implemented as early as July. The implementation, which will allow users to send money from one operator to another, could change the mobile money market and become more evenly spread among the operators.

TRADE MARK
EAST AFRICA
Growing Prosperity Through Trade

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organisation funded by a range of development agencies to promote regional trade and economic integration in East Africa. TMEA is implementing a Cross Border Trade (CBT) programme in the DRC to improve economic stability and social cohesion in the borders of DRC and East Africa Community (EAC).

In light of this, TMEA wishes to engage a reputable registered consultancy firm/corporation to undertake the following assignments:

- CONSULTANCY TO MAP PRODUCTION TRADE FLOWS FOR POTENTIAL EXPORT SECTORS AND FEASIBILITY STUDY OF WAREHOUSING AND CROSS BORDER MARKETS IN BUKAVU, DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) – (PRQ20161084)
- CONSULTANCY TO DEVELOP A BORDERLANDS PROGRAMME IN THE EASTERN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC) – BORDERS WITH THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) – (PRQ20161235)

Terms of reference for these consultancies and the Request for Proposals (RFP) documents can be obtained at http://www.trademarkea.com/get-involved/procurement. All queries relating to the tender should be emailed to procurement@trademarkea.com.

The closing date for submission is 12 June 2017. Bidders may bid for one or both tenders.

You are further advised that only applications from registered firms/consortiums will be accepted.

Intercessia and qualified consultancy firms/consortiums must register and apply online ONLY on the TMEA procurement portal at the website: http://procurement.trademarkea.com and all attachments must be 10 MBs or less.

TMEA cannot answer any query relating to the tender five days or less prior to the submission deadline.

WE ARE ALREADY SEEING VOICE AND SMS BEING CANNIBALISED BY DATA. DATA AND M-PESA HAVE INNUMERABLE OPPORTUNITIES FOR REVENUE GROWTH.

Tracy Kibunyu, an analyst at Africa Alliance

A full in tray awaits presidents at EAC summit

The EAC Secretariat has sent out an invitation to all the delegates

A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

The EastAfrican

A tight agenda awaits the East Africa Community Heads of State Summit when it meets in Dar es Salaam this week, for a meeting that has been postponed three times. This is an occasion of a falling out between some of the leaders on the direction the bloc should take.

That the Summit will not be postponed this time is assured. The EAC Secretariat has sent out an invitation to all the delegates to attend the meeting on May 20.

It will be preceded by meetings of technocrats responsible for various sectors, that three days before the Council of Ministers meets a day before the Summit to prepare the heads of state for the heads of state to consider.

On the agenda is a discussion of the Joint Security Assessment report on the direction the bloc leaders on the direction the bloc should take.

The EAC Secretariat has sent out an invitation to all the delegates to attend the meeting on May 20.

The Joint Security Assessment report on the direction the bloc should take.

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