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EAC TABLES US\$ 100 MILLION BUDGET TO EALA



The EAC on 26 May 2016, presented Budget estimates for the Financial Year 2016/2017 totalling US\$101,374,589 to the East African Legislative Assembly sitting in Arusha. Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation, Hon. Dr Susan Kolimba presented the Budget speech to an attentive House on behalf of the substantive Minister and Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr Augustine Mahiga.

The 2016/2017 Budget is a drop down from US\$110,660,098 Million presented to the House in the previous Financial Year. The Budget prioritizes the full implementation of the EAC Single Customs Territory, enhanced implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol especially additional commitments and interconnectivity of border immigration systems and procedures across Partner States and enhancement of productivity and value addition in key productive sectors.

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... EAC Elimination of NTBs Bill, 2015 to spur business and enhance the free movement aspects



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The budget also takes cognisance of development of cross-border infrastructure and harmonisation of laws, policies and standards in respective sub-sectors, implementation of a liberalised EAC air-space, enhanced implementation a One Area Network in telecommunications and the implementation of EAC Peace and Security initiatives.

According to the Minister, other key specific priorities are strengthening of the legal and judicial systems, enhancement of Information, Communication and Education to promote popular participation of the citizenry in the EAC integration process and promotion of education, science and technology for creative and productive human resources.

The Chair of Council termed the establishment of a policy framework and institutional structures for establishment of the EAC Political Federation as another key priority area in the coming financial year.

The Budget is allocated to the Organs and Institutions of the EAC as follows; East African Community Secretariat (US\$ 57, 872, 785), East African Legislative Assembly (US\$ 16,034,324) and the East African Court of Justice (US\$ 4,286,477).

The Inter-University Council for East Africa shall receive (US\$ 4,553,890), Lake Victoria Basin Commission (US\$ 11,214,708) while US\$ 2,131,422 is earmarked for the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization. On their part, the East African Science and Technology Commission shall receive (US\$ 1,161,438), East African Kiswahili Commission (US\$ 1,134,542) and the East African Health Research Commission (US\$ 1,397,438). The East African Competition Authority is to benefit from US\$ 587,565 in the Financial Year.

The 2016/2017 Budget is to be financed by Partner State contributions (US\$ 47,565,377) compared to US\$ 47,566,973 in the current Financial Year; Development Partners support (US\$ 46,717,601) which is a significant drop from US\$ 58,555,635 of the previous year. The Member Universities will inject US\$ 431, 923, General Reserves US\$ 6,354, 248 and miscellaneous revenue US\$ 305,440.

The EAC Political Federation is yet a key priority area on the agenda in the coming Financial Year as the mode of the regional Constitution making process commences. The same applies to strengthening of regional and international relations through mobilisation of Partner States' diplomatic missions and the East African diaspora for effective participation in EAC integration processes and building of multilateral/international networks in pursuit of EAC objectives.

The Minister highlighted a number of achievements registered in the Financial Year 2015/2016, notably, the upscaling of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) through finalisation of operational instruments of the business manuals, deployment of SCT Monitoring and Evaluation tools and deployment of staff in some Partner States. The Minister remarked that 10 out of the 15 One Stop Border Posts were already operational.

The chair of the Council of Ministers further stated that the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Bill (NTB), 2015 passed by EALA was undergoing assent and would spur business and enhance the free movement aspects. The Minister told the House that National Monitoring Committees on NTBs and the EAC Regional Forum on NTBs had continued to spearhead the elimination of NTBs affecting Intra-EAC trade.

In order to strengthen the Monetary Union, the Minister said draft Bills for the establishment of the East African Monetary Institute and the East African Statistics Bureau were been developed and negotiated by the Partner States. The Minister informed the House that in a bid to harmonise tax regimes, the EAC Secretariat had continued with efforts for closed co-ordination of fiscal policies with focus on critical areas for harmonisation.

Under Infrastructure development, the Minister informed the House of on-going construction works especially on the Northern Corridor. The Minister said the Arusha-Holili/Taveta-Voi road project and the second multinational road projects in the region had commenced.

"In addition, the Secretariat signed a grant agreement amounting to US\$ 2.68 million in November 2014 with the AfDB through the NEPAD Infrastructure Project Preparation Facility (NEPAD-IPPF) for the feasibility studies and detailed designs of two key links for the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi to the Central Corridor. These

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... Partner States expected to issue new international EA e-Passport in January 2017

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are the 250km long Nyakanazi – Kasulu – Manyovu road in Tanzania linking to the 78km long Rumonge –Bujumbura road in Burundi, and the 92km long Lusahunga – Rusumo road in Tanzania linking to the 70km long Kayonza – Kigali road in Rwanda”, the Minister said.

Hon Dr Kolimba further remarked that progress with regards to the construction of the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge railway stood at approximately 70% as at March 2016.

On Industrialisation and SMEs Development, the Chair of Council said that the EAC had developed a draft Industrialisation Bill and that it was awaiting legal scrubbing and input before it is presented to the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs for consideration.

Within the Energy Sector, the Minister informed an attentive House that implementation of power projects under the East African Power Master Plan had resulted in the addition of 425 MW over the last two years raising the region's installed capacity from 4,468 MW to 4,893 MW against a peak demand for 3,326 MW for the interconnected system last year.

In the Tourism and wildlife sector, the Minister informed the House that a regional strategy to combat poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife projects was been developed by the Secretariat.

“In the next financial year, 2016/17 the priorities for the Tourism and Wildlife sector will include, among others, developing guidelines for smooth cross border tour operations, implementation of the regional strategy to combat poaching and the illegal trade in wildlife and wildlife products, finalizing the development of a tourism legal framework, training of more hotel assessors from Partner States and transferring training program of hotel assessors to training colleges in hospitality in Partner States”, the Minister remarked.

On health matters, the Minister informed the House of progress in promotion of integration of health sector and interventions to address challenges facing the sector in line with Article 118 of the Treaty.

On the Common Market, the Chair of Council remarked that the region was keen to ensure implementation of the Protocol. “Mr. Speaker, this August House may be pleased to note that during the 17th Ordinary Sitting of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, the new International East African Electronic Passport was launched. The East African e-Passport represents; the ordinary; official/ service and diplomatic Passports. The introduction of the new e-Passport is a milestone that will see our Partner States join global initiatives where over 100 countries are implementing the electronic passports”, the Minister said.

“The Partner States are expected to issue the new international EA e- passport in to their citizens in January 2017 and make necessary arrangements with relevant authorities to implement the passport”, he added.

The Minister remarked that consultations with stakeholders in the employment subsector such as the East African Trade Union Confederation (EATUC) and Employers' Associations have been undertaken on the process of harmonization of the work/residence permit fees pursuant to Regulation 6(9) of the East African Common Market (Free Movement of Workers) Regulations Annex II and regulation 6(5) of the East African Community Common Market (Right of Residence) Regulations.

On matters of political affairs, the Minister informed the House of steps been taken to lay ground for political integration. The 31st Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers in May 2015, the Minister said, established a Sub-Committee of Ministers Responsible for EAC Affairs to consider the concept note, Terms of Reference (ToRs); Roadmap for the Constitution Making Process, and; to determine the Model of the EAC Political Federation for consideration. The Sub-Committee met in February 2016 and made a report to the Council on the basis of which the Council reported to the 17th Ordinary Meeting of the Summit. The report was to the effect that the Partner States had generated convergence on a Confederation as the Model of the East African Federation.

The Minister said that the Community was keen to ensure regional peace and security initiatives are realized. The sector players have a critical role in ensuring the facilitation of the enjoyment of freedoms and rights guaranteed by the Treaty. The sub-sector continued regular consultations towards joint action against Terrorism, Small arms and Light weapons trafficking, human and narcotics trafficking, theft of motor vehicles and other cross border crimes. To this extent a training manual and operating procedures on public order management with a human rights perspective at the 14th Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization – Annual General Meeting (EAPPCCO- AGM) was launched, the Minister informed the House.

“The next financial year will be dedicated to conclusion of another three harmonized Standing Operating Procedures remains an omnipresent threat to the enjoyment of these freedoms and rights. Attention will be paid to transnational crimes that feed terrorism and terror infrastructure”, he said.

In a bid to improve financial management and reporting, the Minister remarked that the Secretariat has rolled over the Sun systems to all EAC institutions which were prior to, using different financial management systems. The Budget Management System (BMS) which was developed and installed was as well rolled out to all EAC Institutions, making it easy to prepare Annual Operational Plans, MTEF budget and monitor its execution. As a result of these improvements, budgets and financial reports are timely, well prepared and submitted, the Minister said.



Arusha Hosts First Session of Inter-Burundi Dialogue



The Inter-Burundi Dialogue resumed on 21 to 24 May 2016 at the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC) in the United Republic of Tanzania under the leadership of Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Facilitator of the process, H. E. Benjamin Mkapa.

An Invitation to attend the Dialogue was extended to a broad spectrum of stakeholders including Government Officials, all former Heads of State of Burundi, the National Commission for Inter-Burundi Dialogue (CNDI), Political Parties registered in Burundi, Civil Society Organizations, Faith Based Groups, Prominent Political Actors inside and outside Burundi, as well as Women and Youth Groups. An Invitation was also sent to the Diplomatic Community in Tanzania, United Nation, African Union, and EAC Partner States.

In his closing remarks at the end of the 4-day dialogue, the Facilitator thanked all stakeholders for honouring the invitation to Arusha to participate in consultations on the Inter-Burundi Dialogue. "The high turnout has been very impressive and I feel very encouraged. I am also particularly touched by the presence of our international partners who have expressed support to the process", he remarked.

The Facilitator acknowledged the consultations were fruitful with no acrimonious interventions. "All of you showed a high degree of civility, patriotism and a great desire to own the dialogue. It is evident that you are yearning for peace and a stop to killings and assassinations," he added. President Mkapa noted that there is tremendous aversion to violence, targeted killings, and the realisation that war is not a solution to the crisis stating, "Some of you have expressed concerns about the economic decline obtaining in the country because of the crisis".

The Facilitator informed the participants of the Dialogue that he would continue and complete the consultations with those who did not attend the Arusha session, but whom he felt might have positive contributions to make to the process. He added is desire to consult with the Mediator, President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Museveni, in order to determine the way forward.

"Thereafter, I plan to convene a dialogue session possibly during the third week of June," he added.

The Facilitator has requested all stakeholders to prepare themselves and choose representatives who will be able to present their views fully at the next sessions. He has also requested delegations prepare written memoranda outlining their positions on the way forward to be presented in the next session. 



EALA Swears in EAC Secretary General, Hon. Amb. Mfumukeko as Ex-Officio Member



The EAC Secretary General, Hon. Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, on 24 May 2016, took Oath of Allegiance as an Ex-Officio of the Assembly as the 6th Meeting of the 4th Session commenced in Arusha, Tanzania this afternoon.

Hon. Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko was sworn in by the Clerk to the Assembly in a brief ceremony witnessed by the Speaker and Members of EALA in line with the Rule 5 of the Rules and Procedures of the Assembly. The Rule 5(4) of the Rules of Procedure say in part that: "No Member can sit or participate in the proceedings of the House until the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to the Treaty is taken".

Rule 5(5) specifically states that "when a Member first attends to take his or her seat other than at the first sitting of a new House, he or she shall be brought to the table by two Members and presented by them to the Speaker who shall then administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance".

Hon. Mfumukeko was ushered in to the House by EALA Members, Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo and Hon. Hafsa Mossi.

Hon. Amb. Mfumukeko was appointed during the February 2016 Summit of EAC Heads of State to replace Hon. Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera. Prior to the appointment as Secretary General, Hon. Mfumukeko was the Deputy Secretary General, Finance and Administration at the EAC.

Hon. Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko has over twenty one years' work experience in both private and public sector. Prior to joining the EAC, Hon. Amb. Mfumukeko was the Director General of the Burundi Electricity and Water National Company between 2013 to 2015 and President of the Steering Committee of the East African Power Pool. He has served as a Senior Advisor to the President of the Republic of Burundi in charge of Economic Affairs (2012-2013) and as Director General of the Burundi Investment Promotion Authority (2009-2012). ●

Germany Ambassador Pays Courtesy Call on EAC Secretary General



The Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the United Republic of Tanzania, and also accredited to the EAC bloc, H.E. Egon Kochanke, on 9 May 2016, paid a courtesy call on Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, the Secretary General of the East African Community.

The Secretary General and his guest discussed a wide range of issues geared towards deepening cooperation between Germany and the East African Community.

Speaking during the discussion, the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, thanked the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany for its support to the EAC spanning the years since the re-establishment of the Cooperation between the three founding EAC Partner States to the present, when the Community has expanded to include the republics of Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan.

"We have truly benefited from the German support which has catalyzed other Development Partners to support our projects and programmes"

Burundi Peace Process

On the Burundi peace process, the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko briefed H.E. Egon Kochanke that Burundi has made substantial progress in establishing and maintaining peace and stability. He noted that attainment of peace and stability in Burundi amounts to peace and stability in the entire region, adding that regional and international stakeholders should actively engage in the attainment of these objectives.

South Sudan Accession to EAC

The EAC Secretary General informed the Germany Ambassador that South Sudan has been given six months to complete the ratification process of the Accession Treaty signed on 15th April 2016, after which the country will be a full member of the EAC.

On his part, H.E. Egon Kochanke congratulated Mr. Mfumukeko for his appointment and noted the impressive progress in the EAC integration process and re-affirmed to the Secretary General his country's continued support to the EAC Projects and programs. "We are very happy with our relationship with EAC and I am looking forward to a strong partnership in the development of the regional bloc", asserted the Germany Ambassador. 

Belgium Ambassador Pays Courtesy Call on EAC Secretary General



The Ambassador of Belgium to the United Republic of Tanzania, and also accredited to the EAC bloc, H.E. Paul Cartier, on 23 May 2016, paid a courtesy call on Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, the Secretary General of the East African Community.

The Secretary General and his guest discussed among other things the possible areas of cooperation especially in the area of Education and Energy.

During their discussions Amb. Mfumukeko briefed the Belgium Envoy the proposed reforms at the EAC Secretariat geared towards cost cutting. The EAC Chief disclosed to H.E. Paul Cartier that he has been consulting with the key various EAC stakeholders on how to minimise costs at the Secretariat. Amb Mfumukeko pledged to make an official statement at the meeting with key Development Partners on the 7th of June, 2016 in Dar es Salaam.

In his part H.E. Paul Cartier congratulated Amb. Mfumukeko for his appointment and noted the impressive progress in the EAC integration process.

Commenting on the progress of the dialogue process for Burundi Peace Talks currently being held in Arusha, the Belgium Envoy hailed the Facilitator of the Inter-Burundi Dialogue former President of United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Benjamini Mkapa for being able to mobilise a large number of representative to attend the dialogue. At least 83 delegates have turned up representing various stakeholders in Burundi.

The Ambassador however expressed concerns about the negative publicity of the event in some of the media channels in the region. Both Secretary General and the Ambassador were in agreement with the clarion call by the Facilitator for renouncing the violence in Burundi. ●

EAC Bureau of Speakers Holds 11th Meeting



EAC Speakers are optimistic that the operationalisation of the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) shall go the mile in building capacities for legislators, Parliamentary staff and other stakeholders in Parliamentary practice and contribute to widening and deepening integration.

The operationalisation is expected in the next Financial Year once the EAPI Act, 2011, is gazetted by the EAC Council of Ministers. In addition, the EAC Bureau of Speakers considered a number of key areas deemed to strengthen integration as they held a one day Forum in Arusha, on 29 April 2016.

In the regard, National legislatures and EALA are to commence on the process of budgeting within the Financial Year 2016/17 with the anticipated launch of the EAPI now in high gear. Under the EAPI Act, 2011, the EAC Speakers form the Board of Trustees and they are expected to act conclusively on where the Institute shall be hosted and advise the Council of Ministers on the same.

At the Bureau meeting, EALA Speaker, Rt Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega also took over the Chair from the Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania, Rt Hon. Job Ndugai. The chair which is rotational is held by the Speaker for a year.

Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Rt Hon. Justin Muturi and Speaker of the Senate, Rt Hon. Ekwee Ethuro as well as the President (Speaker) of the Burundi Senate, Rt Hon. Reverien

Ndikuriyo attended the Forum. Parliament of Rwanda was represented by the Deputy Speaker, Hon. Jean d'Arc Uwamaninpaye while the 2nd Deputy Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly, Hon. Edouard Nduwimana represented the Speaker, Rt Hon. Pascal Nyabenda. The Bureau received the apologies of the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda, Rt Hon. Rebecca Kadaga.

The Bureau of EAC Speakers further amended the Rules of Procedures governing the Forum. With it, the Speakers amended Clause 1.1 of the Rules to include the Speakers and Presidents of the Senate as members of the Forum. In addition, they revised clause 1.2 on definitions deleting the terms "National Assemblies/Parliaments" and substitute thereof with the words "National Legislature however designated" wherever they appear in the Rules.

The meeting also underscored the need of enhancing the functional relations between the National Legislatures and EALA. The National Legislatures have continued to play their oversight role on matters on EAC Affairs in their respective jurisdictions including the need to expedite amendments to the EAC Treaty.

It was agreed thus EALA submits the proposed amendments to the Treaty that it submitted to the EAC Council of Ministers with the National Legislatures. In addition, a workshop of the network

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... EAC Elections Act, 2012, envisages formation of the EAC Elections Board

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of senior Parliamentary Officers is anticipated in the later half of the year.

In his remarks, the Speaker of EALA, Rt Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega reiterated the Bureau's enormous contribution in strengthening the role of EAC Parliaments in the integration process in line with Article 49 (2) and 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. He extended his appreciation to all Speakers of all the National Legislatures for the support extended to EALA during the Plenary Sitzings in the respective Parliaments.

He noted that Parliamentary elections have by and large been democratic, contributing to the consolidation of democracy in EAC.

"I note that in 2015, new Members were elected to the Parliaments of Burundi and Tanzania and in year 2016, citizens of Uganda elected their representatives to the Parliament of Uganda. In the coming year, the Bureau expects citizens of the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda to go through the same democratic process of giving their representatives fresh mandate", Rt Hon. Kidega said.

He informed the Bureau of Speakers that EALA had passed the EAC Elections Act, 2012, which envisages formation of the EAC Elections Board whose functions inter alia include: developing, setting standards and advising Partner States on best electoral practices. The Board's mandate is to harmonise electoral standards to be adhered to by the National Electoral Commissions, noting that this is a fundamental contribution by EALA towards strengthening electoral processes in the region as a way to consolidating democracy.

Rt Hon. Justin Muturi, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly said it was vital for Partner States to move towards the alignment of national political activities and trends with regional integration objectives, deepen integration and rapid socio-economic transformation so as to prepare for and ultimately sustain the Political Federation. The Speaker presented an interesting paper on the "Role of the Speaker in maintaining discipline and decorum in the House".

Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, Rt Hon. Ekwee Ethuro on his part, reiterated need for the African region to address critical issues with regards to elections and their aftermath.

Rt Hon. Ethuro who is also one of the six Vice Presidents of the Geneva-based Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) highlighted that as Kenya was preparing for elections in 2017, it needs to be cognizant of the fact that many crises in the region surround elections.

"Violent acts are becoming instruments of insecurity and therefore, we must confront the challenges being faced by the region. There is need for the region to act as "brothers and sisters"

keepers and to help to find lasting solutions", Rt Hon Ethuro said. The Senate of Kenya Speaker further appealed to the Bureau of Speakers to assist Burundi to foster peace and reconciliation in every possible way.

Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania, Rt Hon. Job Ndogai remarked the United Republic of Tanzania was making great strides in its role as an active Member of EAC and EALA and observed that President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H. E. John Magufuli and his Rwanda counterpart, H.E. Paul Kagame, had inaugurated a One Stop Border Post (OSBP) on the 6th April, 2016, which is an important milestone towards facilitating Regional Trade and deepening EAC integration.

President of the Senate of Burundi, Rt Hon. Reverien Ndikuriyo, highlighted concerns orchestrated by international media emanating from a move to reject the candidature of President Pierre Nkurunziza for a third term by the opposition and the civil society were merely perceptions. He said such perceptions had culminated into violence and termed such reports as hype and part of an international conspiracy to destabilize Burundi.

On terrorism, Rt Hon. Ndikuriyo noted with concern the damage and pain inflicted by the atrocious acts to the globe. He asserted Burundi's position that there were no 'good' or 'bad' terrorists, and that all such groupings have to be fought ferociously. He thus challenged his EAC counterparts to stand together in solidarity to protect the destiny of the Community.

Deputy Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly, Hon. Edouard Nduwimana noted that Burundi is facing financial challenges due to economic sanctions imposed by the European Union. He appealed to the EAC Partner States to beseech for the lifting of all sanctions. Hon. Nduwimana further affirmed that Burundi was ready to put in place all pieces of legislation required for the success of the EAC integration and to promote Inter-Parliamentary co-operation.

Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda, Hon. Uwamanimpaye Jean d'Arc commended the Bureau of Speakers for creating an opportunity for the Parliament to assess the achievements made, share experiences and challenges facing Speakers in their duty.

She noted that Rwanda had made tremendous progress since it joined the EAC in 2007 and the country was already reaping from the benefits of been part of the bloc. She informed the meeting that Rwanda had embarked on a policy to facilitate free movement of people, goods and services by removing all barriers that hindered trade within the region.



The Bureau of the EAC Speakers is the umbrella body that EALA and the National Assemblies utilise to champion the cause of Parliaments in the region, that of enacting legislation, oversight and representation and plays a key advisory role to the Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

Members Hail Chair of EAC Summit for Delivering Concise State of EAC Address



The Assembly on 24 May 2016, debated and hailed the Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State for the concise exposition of the EAC policy contained in the State of the EAC Address delivered to EALA at the March Session.

At debate, Hon. Shyrose Bhanji termed the speech as enlightening and said it had laid ground on a number of important matters in the integration agenda. The Speech cited the implementation of the Customs Union as key but added that a number of agencies should be able to issue the certificate of origin so that accessibility is realised.

Hon. Abubakar Zein reiterated that it was necessary for the region to contain corruption and remove bad governance in order to realise progress of the EAC. Hon. Mike Sebalu termed disasters as a matter that the region must collectively address.

"There is no sovereignty when it comes to matters concerning disasters", he said. Hon. Mumbi Ngaru on her part termed sensitisation as fundamental and said there was need for more adequate funding, a sentiment that was echoed by Hon. Bernard Mulengani and Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro as well. On her part, Hon. Judith Pareno said that East Africans continued to face a number of challenges at the borders citing frequent stops by the authorities while Hon. Dora Byamukama called for closer working relations between the Private Sector under the East African Business Council and the Assembly.

The Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Rt Hon. Majaliwa, Kassim Majaliwa delivered the State of EAC Address on behalf of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Chair of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, H.E. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, at the commencement of the 5th Meeting of the 4th Session of the 3rd Assembly in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on March 8th, 2016.

The Speech, gave a score-card on a number of areas related to the pillars of integration.

The Speech highlighted the adoption of the use of One Stop Business Posts (OSBPs) as a trade facilitation concept to minimise delays at the border posts and on the major corridors in the region. The House was informed that out of the 15 borders earmarked to operate as OSBPs, 7 had been completed and 4 others were operating as OSBPs using bilateral agreements.

The Prime Minister remarked that intra-EAC Trade was expected to register phenomenal increase in the next few years. "Trade is now at 23%, over and above intra-African Trade figure of 12%. "There has been a 300% increase in the value of trade from 2 Billion USD in 2005 to 6 Billion USD in 2014," Rt. Hon Majaliwa told the House in March.

"These numbers coupled with the combined GDP of 110.3 Billion makes our region a formidable trading bloc", he added. The Chair of the EAC Heads of State Summit urged the region to push for

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...The novelty of the State of EAC Address dates back to the year 2008

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total removal of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). "We all admit that we have done well in eliminating tariff related barriers, we must resolve to do away with the remaining ones," the Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State added, citing the examples of removal of various roadblocks in the region.

On Infrastructure, it was stated that Partner States were actively engaged in the Standard Gauge Railway with Republic of Kenya having completed coverage of about 200 km out of 472 km of formation as of September last year.

On the Common Market, the EAC Chair of Summit gave an account of achievements realised in the Partner States to date. He remarked that Republic of Burundi now recognises the academic qualifications, experiences obtained, licenses and certifications obtained for the workers from other EAC Partner States.

The United Republic of Tanzania on its part, has issued a total of 3,222 simplified Certificates of Origin were issued as at June 2015 as compared to 2,355 certificates issued in 2014. In Kenya, the Prime Minister said development of an SMS based NTBs Reporting System to facilitate reporting and subsequent elimination of NTBs had been initiated.

The Republic of Rwanda, according to the Chair of the Summit, had eliminated all Non-Tariff Barriers and further harmonised demographic and social statistics for undertaking agricultural surveys and census. All the initiatives he added, were geared towards enhancing the Common Market Protocol. In Uganda, the value of goods from other Partner States accorded zero-tariff treatment grew by 9% while 360 EAC standards on traded goods had been adopted and were in application.

During debate, Hon. Martin Ngoga remarked that while the policy statements made were positive, there was a mismatch with the bureaucrats in the Partner States paying less attention to implementation of the policy statements.

Hon. Bernard Mulengani, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, Hon. Patricia Hjabakiga, Hon. Nancy Abisai and Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza also rose in support of the motion. Others were Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi, Hon. Chris Opoka, Hon. Ussi Maryam, Hon. Mukasa Mbidde and Hon. Dr James Ndahiro.

The State of EAC Address is delivered annually to the EALA by the Chairperson of the EAC Heads of State. The State of EAC Address sets the momentum and impetus for the integration process by reflecting on general policies that relate to the Community's progress while outlining the strategic challenges which require attention.

The novelty of the State of EAC Address dates back to the year 2008 when H.E. President Yoweri Museveni made the first inaugural Address to EALA in Arusha.



IUCEA Calls on Universities to Develop Innovative Products and Solutions



The Executive Secretary of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Prof. Alexandre Lyambabaje has called on universities to take a further step from publications to development of innovative products and policies.

Prof Alexandre was addressing a High Level Dialogue Meeting of Vice-Chancellors, Deputy Vice-Chancellors and Heads of Commissions/Councils for Higher Education and members of East African Higher Education Quality Assurance Network (EAQAN). The meeting was the culmination of the EAQAN Forum which kicked off on 16 May, 2016, followed by EAQAN General Assembly on 18 May 2016. Both events took place at the Imperial Golf View Hotel in Entebbe, Uganda.

The meeting was also attended by participants from Ghana, Ivory Coast and Somalia to learn from East African countries on the development of quality assurance systems in universities.

Prof. Lyambabaje told the participants of the meeting that among the priority areas of the Inter-University Council for East Africa's coordination is to promote and encourage research within higher learning institutions. He however, expressed that in some cases, it has been realized that some universities are prioritizing the end result of their work as publications which of course go with promotion of staff instead of innovation and products as end results.

He therefore urged universities to view publishing in a different aspect of moving from publications to development of innovative products and policies which will contribute to the development of socio-economic transformation in the East African region.

On the efforts being made in the development of quality assurance systems in East African universities, the Executive Secretary, emphasized the importance of communicating quality assurance matters in a user friendly language to enable its articulation and understanding by diverse stakeholders, among them being policy makers, administrators and ordinary people. He stressed that by making quality assurance issues in higher education understood by stakeholders, contributes into attracting more support and realization of the objectives of interventions which results in more funding from governments, partners and other stakeholders.

"We need also to assess how effectively the developed tools in quality assurance are used in our institutions" said Prof. Lyambabaje citing an example of the current trend where many parents in the East African region are sending their children to study in universities outside East Africa especially abroad. According to Prof. Lyambabaje, there must be a reason for parents doing so.

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... IUCEA to continue setting aside funds to support staff mobility in universities

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He therefore called for universities to create confidence in parents and develop higher learning institutions to enable retain students in East African universities. In addition to that Prof Lyambabaje sees the need for streamlining administration so that university teaching staff and professors feel valued and at the end being retained.

On preparation of pre-university students Prof. Lyambabaje compared secondary school leavers as industrial raw materials of universities who need proper preparation. Citing an example of industrial products which involves different processes of production from first stage to the last which is an end product, Prof. Lyambabaje urged the participants to look critically on how prepared are secondary school students which according to him are like raw materials for universities expecting to be processed to the end product which is the labor market.

Commenting on challenges facing public universities whose human resources are shifting to private universities, Prof. Lyambabaje suggested a dialogue between public and privates universities and working out strategies on how to share the best available human resources, since both public and private universities have the same goals of serving the Community.

The Executive Secretary assured the participants that IUCEA will continue setting aside some funds to support staff mobility in universities but he called for the universities and IUCEA to sit together and find out strategies for co-founding the staff mobility programme so that many universities benefit from that initiative.

Informing the participants on the progress made on the Eastern and Southern African Centers of Excellency (ACE II) project, which will serve as an incentive of students mobility within the region Prof. Lyambabaje revealed to the participants that, the World Bank has lend 140 million USD Dollars to Governments to establish Regional Centers of Excellency to the participating countries which are Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania Uganda Zimbabwe and Zambia. Among the 24 established Centers of Excellency 15 are in the East African Partner States of which each country will receive 6 million USD to establish one center.

On benchmarking of study programmes Prof. Lyambabaje told the participants that a number of benchmark of study programmes have been developed while others are underway. However the Executive Secretary observed the need to commit more funds to speed up and complete the process. He informed the participants that IUCEA is working out strategies which will make sure that more funds are committed to develop other programme benchmarks within the shortest time possible and be in use since the completion of that exercise will contribute to the realization of East African Common Higher Education Area.

On supporting of East African innovative ideas Prof. Lyambabaje revealed to the participants that IUCEA is holding its Annual Meeting under the theme "Research and Innovation towards



Socio-Economic Transformation of East African Community" where key note presentations and experiences will be shared from Makerere University on Kiira Car Project, Nelson Mandela African Institute of Science and Technology on Low Coast Water Filter and M-PESA on growing financial inclusion from Kenya which has proved to be the best tool in transferring money within the East African region and beyond. "How do we support such initiatives" asked Prof Lyambabaje.

In his remarks to the conference, Prof. Opuda-Asibo John, the Executive Director, National Council for Higher Education, Uganda, urged EAQAN to be more effective by going beyond from what it is doing currently and play the role of advising university senates and even present papers which can be discussed at senate levels. He urged QA Committees in universities to promote academic freedom and research and building staff capacity in quality assurance matters. Prof. Opuda observed the need for Senior Professors to support young university staff so that they grow in their fields.

Commending the work done in collaboration with IUCEA, Dr. Helmut Blumbach, the Germany Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Director, Regional Office for Africa, said that DAAD and IUCEA are in the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding whose thematic areas for future collaboration will include: strengthening partnership and collaboration between industries and universities in curriculum development, training and applied research and internationalization of higher education. At the end of the meeting, Dr. Helmut Blumbach and Prof. Alexandre Lyambabaje signed that Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration in the next five years.

The Forum and Dialogue meeting were organized by IUCEA in collaboration with the National Council for Higher Education, (NCHE), Uganda, the Germany Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Germany Rectors' Conference (HRK). EAQAN Network was established as an avenue to bring together quality assurance practitioners, top administrators of Higher Education Institutions, Executives members of national accreditation bodies, higher education researchers and policy makers to share ideas on quality assurance practices, challenges and prospects in the East African Higher Education Area.



EAC Commemorates Europe Day at 2nd Annual LEAC Conference

The Second Annual Conference on Leiden-East African Community (LEAC) Law was held on 5 May 2016, as part of the annual commemoration of the Europe Day at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The conference themed: 'From Rules to Reality' was graced by Amb. Roeland van de Geer, the European Union (EU) Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania and to the EAC.

The Second Annual LEAC Conference was organised with the support of the EAC, the EU delegation to Tanzania, the East African Court of Justice and Europa Institute of Leiden Law School. It brought together judges, academicians, legal practitioners, business people and government and EAC officials to discuss the importance and opportunities for building a legal community to support and inspire East African integration including the steps needed to create a thriving legal community for the EAC, and how the community can work towards realising the set out objectives for the bloc and its citizens.



Addressing the gathering, Amb. Roeland van de Geer commended the leadership at the EAC Headquarters for hosting the event on behalf of the EU and pointed out that it was now a consolidated tradition for the EU and the EAC to organise, on the occasion of the EU Day, a conference on an important topic in the framework of EU's support to the regional integration. "This year we chose to celebrate the launch of a textbook titled; EAC Law, Institutional, Substantive and Comparative EU Law Aspects", the EU envoy affirmed.

On behalf of the EAC Secretary General Mr Liberat Mfumukeko, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Dr. Enos Bukuku, hailed the EU for its valuable support and contribution to the EAC integration agenda affirming that; "Indeed, EU's support in EAC's programmes, activities and projects has made a significant impact on the integration agenda. He said EAC had benefited from exchange of knowledge and best practices from the EU, apart from the financial support. "We count on continued support from the EU as well as on exchange of information and experiences on integration."

Dr Bukuku appreciated the efforts of the editors of the textbook on EAC Law which was launched at the event. The textbook is co-authored by Hon. Justice Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice; Prof. John Eudes Ruhangisa, Judge of the High Court of Tanzania and former Registrar of EACJ; Dr. Armin Cuyvers, Assistant Professor of EU Law at Leiden University and Co-Chair of the Leiden Centre for East African Law and Prof. Tom Ottervanger, Professor of EU Law at Leiden University and founder of the Leiden Centre for East African Law. Prof. Tom presented the first comprehensive textbook on EAC law to Dr Bukuku, who received it on behalf of the EAC Secretary General.

At the same occasion, Hon. Justice Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) applauded

the relationship EAC has fostered with the EU, stating that "EAC greatly values the strategic operations of the EU and upholds it as one of its very committed development partners". "This book is result of a unique collaboration between the East African Court of Justice, the Leiden Centre for East African Law and an exclusive selection of EAC law experts in the different EAC Partner States.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. John Eudes Ruhangisa reflected on the main concerns of legal practitioners across the region and emphasised the need for Partner States to draw a line between supranationalism and inter-governmentalism as stipulated in the EAC Treaty.

"It is clear that the law within EAC takes precedence over national laws and hence Partner States should not use their sovereignty to derail the integration agenda". The former and founder registrar of EACJ also identified different articles within the EAC Treaty that are in contradiction and urged Members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) to make both necessary and sufficient amendments to the EAC Treaty to avoid further misconceptions.

Among the panelists during the discussions were the Chair; Dr. Armin Cuyvers, Prof. Kennedy Gastorn (University of Dar Es Salaam Law School), Leonard Obura Aloo (Lecturer at University of Nairobi), Dr. Khotic C. Kamanga (University of Dar Es Salaam Law School) and Dr. Elvis Mbembe Binda (Lecturer at University of Rwanda).

Discussions centred on the essential questions on the creation of a legal community, the political commitment of the Partner States to the education of the next generation of EAC citizens, among others. Other participants in attendance included university students mainly pursuing law within the EAC region as well as representatives from Civil Society Organisations, EAC Youth Ambassadors, and the East African Law Society.





Call for Papers and Instructions for Interested Authors

The East African Community Secretariat, within the broad mandate of the Secretariat as prescribed under Article 71 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, intends to publish an East African Community Law Journal (Law Journal). Interested authors, willing to engage in discourses on East African Community law and able to abide with the guidelines, are invited to submit scholarly manuscripts for consideration.

For instructions visit:

<http://eac.int/news-and-media/press-releases/20160504/call-papers-interested-authors-east-african-community-law-journal>

The Law Journal reserves the right to decline publishing manuscripts that do not meet its editorial expectations.

Please also note that submission of a manuscript and its acceptance, does not guarantee publication of the same as the Law Journal will only go in print when funds are available.

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