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COMMUNIQUE: 17TH EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE EAC



1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES PRESIDENT DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT, PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, DEPUTY PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA; AND AMB. ALAIN AIMÉ NYAMITWE, MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI REPRESENTING PRESIDENT PIERRE NKURUZINZA HELD THE 17TH EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT MEETING OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE ON 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2016 IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA. IN ATTENDANCE WERE H.E ALI MOHAMED SHEIN, PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR, AND HON AGGREY TISA SABUNI, SPECIAL ENVOY OF GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.

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COMMUNIQUE: 17TH EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE EAC

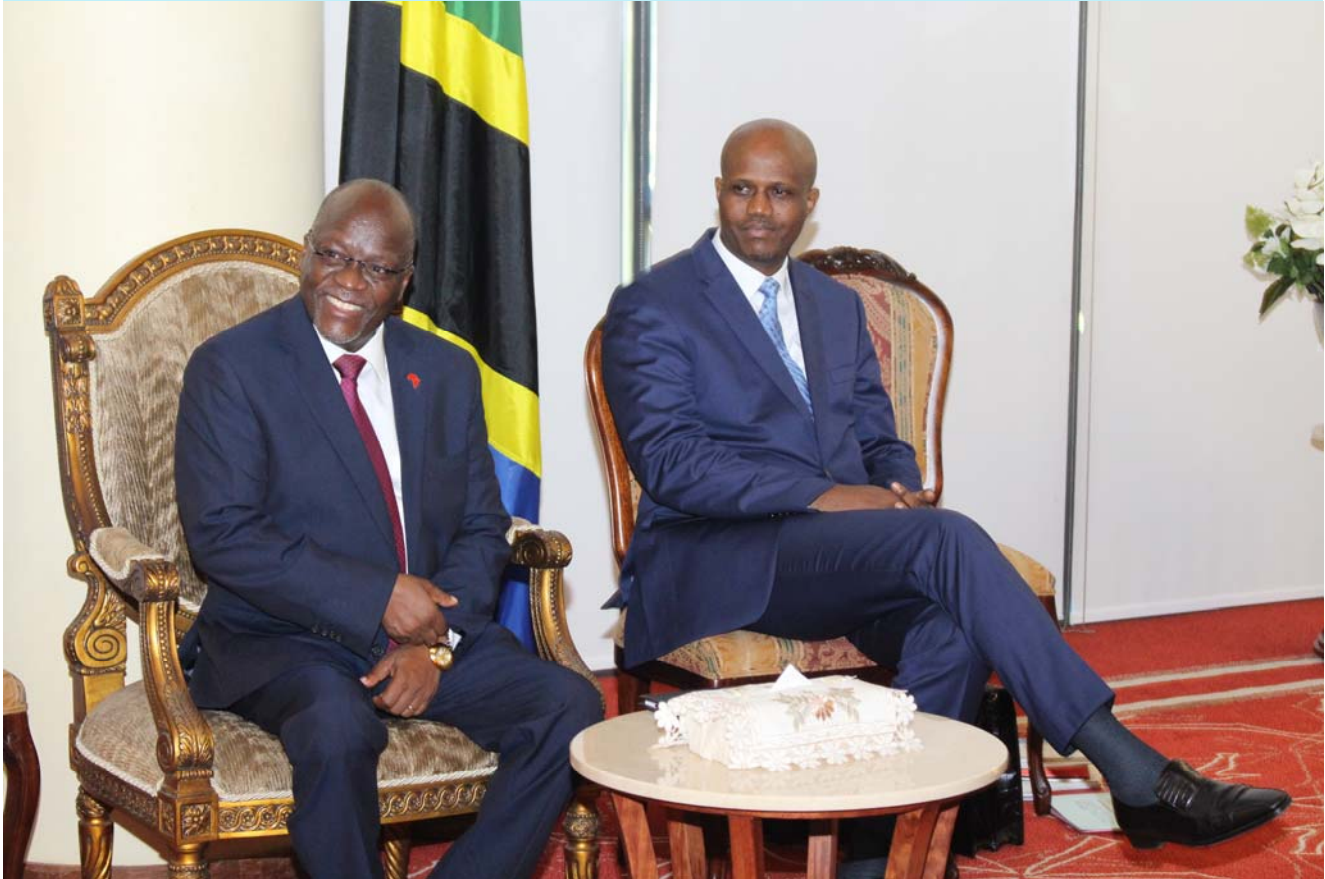


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2. THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT MET IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.
3. THE HEADS OF STATE CONSIDERED A REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON EU-EAC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA) AND NOTED THAT TWO PARTNER STATES HAVE SIGNED THE EPA. THE SUMMIT REQUESTED FOR THREE MONTHS TO FINALISE ON THE CLARIFICATION OF THE CONCERNS OF SOME OF THE REMAINING PARTNER STATES BEFORE CONSIDERING THE SIGNATURE OF EPA AS A BLOC. THE SUMMIT CALLED UPON EU NOT TO PENALISE THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND DIRECTED THE SECRETARIAT TO COMMUNICATE TO EU ON THIS MATTER.
4. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED A REPORT FROM H. E. BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA, THE FACILITATOR OF THE INTER- BURUNDI DIALOGUE. THE SUMMIT ENDORSED ALL THE RECOMMENDATIONS AS PROPOSED IN H. E BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA'S REPORT ON THE INTER BURUNDI DIALOGUE AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO AVAIL A BUDGET FOR THE INTER BURUNDI DIALOGUE.
5. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED A REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN AND CONGRATULATED THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN FOR THE TIMELY DEPOSITING OF THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL. THE HEADS OF STATE DIRECTED THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PRESENT THE ROADMAP FOR THE ACCELERATED INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAC AT THE 18TH SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATES SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER, 2016.
6. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED THE REPORT OF THE 33RD EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF

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COMMUNIQUE: 17TH EXTRA-ORDINARY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE OF THE EAC



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MINISTERS RECOMMENDING TO THE SUMMIT THE APPOINTMENT OF HON. CHRISTOPHE BAZIVAMO FROM THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA AS A DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY.

7. THE HEADS OF STATE APPOINTED HON. CHRISTOPHE BAZIVAMO AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY TO A THREE YEAR TERM WITH EFFECT FROM 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2016 AND PRESIDED OVER HIS SWEARING IN CEREMONY.
8. THEIR EXCELLENCIES PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, DEPUTY PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND AMB. ALAIN AIMÉ NYAMITWE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI THANKED THEIR

HOST, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT, FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THEM AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN DAR ES SALAAM.

.....
H.E DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

.....
H.E YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

.....
H.E PAUL KAGAME
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

.....
H.E WILLIAM RUTO
DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

.....
AMB. ALAIN AIMÉ NYAMITWE
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION REPUBLIC
OF BURUNDI

Done at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania this 8th day of September 2016

Republic of South Sudan Deposits Instruments of Ratification on the Accession of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC



The Republic of South Sudan on 5 September 2016, deposited the instrument of ratification on the Accession to the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community to the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Depositing the instrument of ratification with the Secretary General of the East African Community means the Republic of South Sudan is now a new family member of the East African Community with full and equal rights, obligations and privileges.

"I would, therefore, like to seize this opportunity to commend President Salva Kiir, the Government and the entire people of the Republic of South Sudan for their tireless efforts and commitment that enabled them to achieve this important milestone", the Secretary General said at a short ceremony attended by the Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers and Tanzania's Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Amb. Dr. Augustine Mahiga; Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community, Labour and Social Protection,

Hon. Phyllis Kandie; Burundi's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hon. Alain Aime Nyamitwe, and the one in the Office of the President responsible for EAC Affairs, Hon. Leontine Nzeyimana; Permanent Secretaries/ Principal Secretaries from Partner States, EAC Deputy Secretaries Generals, Counsel to the Community and members of media.

In addition, on the Republic of South Sudan were Secretary General, South Sudan EAC Secretariat, Mou Mou Athian Kuol, South Sudan Ambassador to Tanzania, Mariano Deng Ngor, Director of East African Community, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Amb. Agnes Oswaha and Legal Counsel, Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Juba, South Sudan, Lawrence Loro Kamilo.

Amb. Mfumukeko disclosed that now that South Sudan have taken a step further, the Secretariat will seek guidance from the Council of Ministers on developing a detailed roadmap for

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●●● South Sudan to undertake programmes to enhance overall EAC competitiveness



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integrating the Republic of South Sudan into the ongoing EAC projects and programmes. "We shall be informing the Leadership in Juba of every step we shall be taking in this regard".

The EAC Chief called upon the media to fully participate in integrating the Republic of South Sudan in the EAC by reporting objectively on the issues at hand. He said EAC attaches great importance to the role of the Media in promoting awareness, discourse and involvement of the broad range of stakeholders in the East African regional integration process.

The EAC Secretary General also reiterated to both national, regional and International media on their role to get the region and the new Partner State to embrace regional integra-

tion with passion, dedication and commitment for the benefit of the present and future generations of the Community.

On his part, the Presidential Envoy of the Republic of South Sudan, H. E. Hon. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni said membership in EAC for Republic of South Sudan will henceforth mean that the country will never be the same again. "The EAC integration process is important for South Sudan. Currently, the EAC is the most advanced Regional bloc on the African Continent".

He noted that South Sudan's membership in the EAC is likely to provide concrete benefits to the country and the region as a whole, adding that "deep regional integration programmes that South Sudan shall soon undertake are likely to enhance overall EAC competitiveness which will lead to higher economic growth, employment creation and poverty reduction".



Amb. Mfumukeko meets Hon. Phyllis Kandie in Nairobi

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko met with the Republic of Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community, Labour and Social Protection, Hon. Phyllis Kandie, on 30 August 2016 in her office in Nairobi, Kenya.

Amb. Mfumukeko briefed the Cabinet Secretary on five possible areas of strategic focus for the Community in the next five years (during his tenure), which include among others; consolidation of the East African Community Customs Union with focus on expansion of the list of goods under the Single Customs Territory (SCT) to cover all imports and intra-EAC traded goods including agricultural and other widely consumed products.

Implementation of the Common Market, particularly enhanced efficiency in utilisation of natural resources and further liberalization of free movement of skilled labour across the Partner States; enhancement of regional industrial development through investment in key priority sectors, skills development, technological advancement and innovation to stimulate economic development are also the strategic priority areas being proposed by the Secretary General.

Others on the list include improvement of agricultural productivity, value addition and facilitation of movement of agricultural goods to enhance food security in the region; promotion of regional peace, security and good governance; and lastly institutional transformation to, among other objectives, inculcate ethical leadership and enhance integrity in the management of the Community's resources.

The Secretary General updated the Cabinet Secretary on the progress being made in the implementation of the reforms he instituted in the EAC Organs and Institutions in May 2016 that target cost reduction in the EAC projects and programmes. Amb. Mfumukeko disclosed that the reforms, which target savings to the tune of US\$ 6 million in the Financial Year 2016/2017, were already showing positive results in that for the first three months of implementation (May to August 2016), the first estimates point to savings of US \$588,768 in travel expenditures.


The Secretary General also shared with Hon. Phyllis Kandie



some of the challenges the EAC Secretariat is facing as a result of delayed budget contributions from the Partner States and the long delay in getting disbursement from African Union, which is impacting on some programmes including that of the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) Project.

The Secretary General also updated Hon. Kandie on the state of preparations for the upcoming 34th Meeting of the Council of Ministers scheduled for 1st to 5th of September 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania, and the 17th Extra-ordinary Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community scheduled for 8th September 2016 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Hon. Phyllis Kandie reiterated Kenya's support to Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko's leadership and his efforts geared towards implementing reforms that focus on cutting cost at the EAC Secretariat. She said all Partner States were going through austerity measures so the Secretariat is not an exception.

The Cabinet Secretary counseled the Secretary General on the need for firm leadership, saying "firm leadership and making tough and well informed decisions for the benefit of regional integration were part of your job requirements". 

ECOWAS, TMEA Delegations visit EAC Secretariat in Arusha

Officials from the Departments of Trade, Customs and Infrastructure of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) led by Transport Facilitation and Policy Expert, Mr. Appiah Christian and Trademark East Africa led by Director General, David Stanton on 13 September 2016, paid a working visit to the EAC Headquarters and held discussions with the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko and other EAC Senior officials.

The purpose of their visit was to gain insight on major developments realized as well as challenges experienced within the EAC especially on areas of Trade and Customs, Investment, and infrastructure as well as sharing experience of the same from ECOWAS.



In his welcoming remarks, the Secretary General hailed the good relationship between EAC and ECOWAS as well as the increasing opportunities for inter-regional trade brought about by the establishment of regional economic communities (RECs) in Africa.

Amb. Mfumukeko, emphasised the increasing collaboration between the EAC and ECOWAS. He said the EAC was keen on what ECOWAS has attained in the area of financial integration and movements of people.

Noting the establishment of a tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) between the East African Community (EAC), South African Development Community (SADC) and the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the Secretary General said he looked forward to the FTA linking up with ECOWAS and other RECs to form an African Continental FTA (CFTA).

Accompanying the Secretary General, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Dr Enos Bukuku, briefed the ECOWAS delegation on the major developments taking place in the integration process, notably the operationalization of the EAC Customs Union especially on the Single Customs Territory and status of implementation of the infrastructure projects going on in the region.

Dr Bukuku informed the delegation that the EAC region was undertaking ambitious regional infrastructure development programme in roads, railways, telecommunications and civil aviation. He hailed the Trademark East Africa for their support to some of the projects particularly One Stop Border Post (OSPB) and the Establishment of Single Customs Territory.

The EAC official informed the delegation that EAC is a people-centered

community and the involvement of the private sector, women and youth entrepreneurs, as well as ordinary citizens of East Africa in the integration agenda is critical.

On his part, the leader of delegation from ECOWAS, Mr. Appiah Christian, thanked his host for the warm reception and hospitality accorded to them and commended the EAC Secretariat for the enormous work done that has led to important milestones in the integration process.

Speaking on the ECOWAS administrative structure, Mr Appiah informed the EAC team that in January 2007, the Secretariat of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with its headquarters in Abuja was transformed into a Commission headed by a President, assisted by a Vice President and Commissioners.

By becoming a Commission with enhanced powers and Commissioners in charge of smaller and clearly defined sectors, the ECOWAS Secretariat has more impact and become more visible in Member States, asserted Mr. Appiah Christian.

He elaborated a number of projects and programmes under ECOWAS Vision 2020 which focus on making ECOWAS more closer to the people than ever before.

The Director General of Trademark East Africa, Mr. David Stanton said that Trademark was very happy with the relationship with EAC. "I am looking forward to a strong partnership in the development of the regional bloc and facilitating more regional bloc study visits in future".



Assembly wants Kiswahili Adopted as one of the Official Languages of the Community

EALA is to push for recognition of Kiswahili as one of the official languages of the Community. On 25 August 2016, EALA passed a Resolution to urge the Summit of EAC to amend the Treaty for the establishment of the Community to provide for Kiswahili as one of the official Languages of the Community.

At the same time, the Council of Ministers should allocate adequate resources to EAC Kiswahili Commission to effectively carry out its mandate. The Resolution moved by Hon Abubakar Zein wants the Partner States to promote and allow the use of Kiswahili in official domains. The Resolution which received wide acclaim, was seconded by Hon Shyrose Bhanji and Hon Abdullah Mwinyi.

The Resolution appreciates that language is one of the most important aspects of human life by being a vessel of human philosophy, values, attitudes, identity and meaning of life. The Resolution states that Kiswahili is the fastest spreading African globe across the globe and that the African Union has made Kiswahili one of its official languages.

Analysts contend that making Kiswahili one of the official languages of the Community is one way to deepen and widen the integration process. According to Hon Zein, embracing the Kiswahili language is also bound to increase the participation of the people of East Africa in the Affairs of the Community as well as promote African culture. Kiswahili is flexible and has its root in the bantu language which constitute more than 50 per cent of African population.

The regional legislators commended the Resolution saying its passage would enable the immediate negation of the perception that the Assembly is for the elitist population and instead embrace the principle of a people-centred Community.

Several legislators supported the Resolution terming it as timely. Hon Kessy Nderakindo said the use of Kiswahili would boost education and give confidence to the students. Hon Martin Ngoga said that Kiswahili brought people together since it was widely spoken.

"I really should have contributed to this debate in Kiswahili," the legislator said to the amusement of the Assembly Members. On his part, Hon Joseph Kiangoi said it was time for East Africans to be proud of their culture. "Let us embrace Kiswahili, it is part of our culture", he said.



Hon Abdullah Mwinyi noted that Kiswahili was key as a common language. He said the United Republic of Tanzania which embraced diversity in culture embraced Kiswahili as a uniting factor. Hon Adam Kimbisa said Kiswahili was indeed the "lingua franca" of the Community while Hon Mike Sebalu said the Assembly also should embrace Kiswahili for its richness.

Hon Shyrose Bhanji, who seconded the Motion said the language would unite the region and help to create an east African spirit. Hon Dora Byamukama hailed the move as positive for the region. "The Assembly also needs to be practical to acknowledge that there are some Partner States such as Uganda have a large population that does not speak Kiswahili and in the Treaty there is a provision for development as a lingua franca", she said.

"There is need to do more to develop Kiswahili in the country," she said. On her part, Hon Dr Odette Nyiramilimo called for the establishment of a Kiswahili Learning Centre to enable staff, Members and all stakeholders involved in the integration process to fully comprehend the language.

Kiswahili is a Bantu language and the first language of the Swahili people. It is a lingua franca of the East African Community and the Great Lakes region. According to the wikipedia, the closely related Comorian language, (Shikomor), also spoken in Mayote Island (Shimaore) is closely related to Kiswahili.



EACJ Hears Appeal Challenging President of Uganda on Alleged Refusal to Appoint More Judges to Judiciary



The East African Court of Justice's Appellate Division on 19 August 2016, heard an appeal filed by Mr. Simon Peter Ochieng and John Tusiime (the Appellants, both Ugandans) challenging the decision of the First Instance Division which was delivered on 17th August, 2015.

The matter came for the bench of the Appellate Division that includes Honourable Justices Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja (Judge President); Liboire Nkurunziza, (Vice President); Justice James Ogoola; Justice Edward Rutakangwa; and Justice Aaron Ringera.

The Court's First Instance Division when delivering its judgment had ruled that the President of the Republic of Uganda had not arbitrarily refused to appoint the Judges of the High Court, Court of Appeal and Supreme Court of Uganda. The Appellants in their petition hold that the First Instance Divi-

sion erred in law and urged the Appellate Division to overrule the decision of the lower Court.

The Counsel for the Appellants, Mr. Ladislaus Rwakafuzi, submitted that the First Instance Division held that the Applicants had not proved that the President of Uganda had not arbitrarily refused to exercise his power in appointing the Judges of the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal because the appointment of Judges was an ongoing process because it included pre-appointment, exercising due diligence by the President who is the appointing authority.

The First Instance Division further ruled that there was lack of resources particularly a need for a certificate of financial implication and that the Judges could not be appointed with-

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... “for a government to wait to have Judges that go so much below the number that is required by the Constitution, is a governance” - Rwakafuzi

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out the certificate of financial implications. It also held that the President had not received the recommendations of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC).

Lawyer Rwakafuzi reiterated his previous submissions before the lower court that the President of Uganda was exercising powers he didn't have when he refused to appoint the number of Judges as recommended to him by the (JSC) particularly the Justices of the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court by 23rd December, 2013 when the Appellants filed their case before the Court. He added that by that time, the Court of Appeal had only seven (7) Judges instead of fifteen (15), and the Supreme Court had five (5) instead of eleven (11).



Rwakafuzi submitted that Ms. Christine Kaahwa, the Counsel for the Respondent, had in the hearing of this case before the First Instance Division, filed a letter from the JSC that there was already an appointment of the Chief Justice and the Deputy Chief Justice and that they were planning to appoint seven (7) more Justices for the Court of Appeal and six (6) more Judges for the Supreme Court, which the Applicants thought to be an admission that there was a failure of appointment of judges, a Respondent's argument that was accepted, that the appointment of Judges was ongoing.

The Appellant's lawyer further said that it was well known that when the Judges are appointed, they were of different ages at the time they are appointed and that it is within the law as to when those Judges will retire and therefore it cannot be surprising to any establishment as to when there will be a vacancy, that vacancies are known before hand. Rwakafuzi added that, for a government to wait to have Judges that go so much below the number that is required by the Constitution, was governance issue and that is why the Appellants came to Court and thought that it was an arbitrary exercise of power and interferes with the independence of the Courts.


Rwakafuzi again said that, the Supreme Court is established by Article 30 of the Constitution of Uganda, which provides that “the Supreme Court shall consist of the Chief Justice and such number of Justices not being less than six (6) as Parliament shall by law describe.”

He also said that the Judicature Act was amended in 2011 to increase the number of the Supreme Court Judges to eleven (11) and that the JSC forwarded the names of the

Persons for appointment to the President accordingly, that therefore the refusal of appointment of Judges as recommended by the JSC and as required by the law was arbitrary refusal and an infringement of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community under Article 6 (d) and (e). The Applicant asked Court to find that the President acted arbitrarily.

On her part, Ms. Kaahwa, the Counsel for the Respondent submitted that, the Budget Act of Uganda, Section 10 states that “every bill introduced in Parliament shall be accompanied by its indicative financial implications if any on revenue and expenditure for the period of two years after coming into effect.” Ms. Kaahwa contended that the Section shows the estimates of what it would cost to implement the provisions of the Act but it does not show specifically that that money has been set aside, but an estimate for the appointments to effect those appointments.

She also submitted that since the Judicature Act provides the Judges of the Supreme Court to be nine (9) and the Court of Appeal to be fifteen (15), the appointment was work in progress and that there were no time frames within which to appoint those Judges and the First Instance Division agreed with the Respondent's argument.

Ms. Kaahwa concluded by asking the Court to uphold the judgment of the First Instance and also find that those are internal mechanisms which this Court should not be going into. She also added that this is still a public interest litigation and each party should bear their costs. 

EALA Calls for Speedy Uptake of Single Tourism Visa



The East African legislative Assembly is pushing for the introduction of the single tourism visa to boost the tourism sector in the region. At the same time, the Assembly avers that Hotel classification in East Africa continue to face challenges which include poor planning in the construction modalities and therefore urges the EAC to establish a mechanism for funds to support the initiative and enhanced capacity building.

EALA on 25 August 2016, passed a report of the oversight activity on hotel classification and preparedness for a Single Tourist Visa. The report was presented by the Chair of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, Hon Christophe Bazivamo.

In the report, EALA urges the Council of Ministers to fast-track and complete the study on the implementation of the EAC One Single Tourist Visa which commenced three years ago. EALA further wants the EAC Council to fast-track ratification of the Protocol on Tourism and Wildlife Management and for the EAC to provide additional resources for the Tourism and Wildlife Management Unit.

The Oversight report follows an on-spot assessment of selected hotels in EAC Partner States by the Committee on Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) and a further workshop aimed at identifying progress made, existing gaps, challenges and charting a way forward in this respect in order to ensure sustainable development of the sector.

The objectives of the Oversight activities included stock taking of the progress so far made in implementing EAC projects and programmes within the context of the EAC Tourism and Wildlife Marketing plan and strategy, interfacing with hoteliers and other stakeholders in the Tourism industry and suggesting recommendations for improvements

in the tourism sector for the benefit of citizens of East Africa.

The Treaty for the EAC states that Partner States shall establish a common code of private and public tour and travel operators, standardize hotel classifications and harmonise the professional standards of agents in the tourism and travel industry within the Community.

The Partner States are also obligated to develop a regional strategy for tourism promotion whereby individual efforts are reinforced by regional action.

The report takes an incisive study of hotels' classification, looks at the challenges in the Partner States and makes specific recommendations as well. During debate, Hon Adam Kimbisa said there was need to ensure inter-connectivity and infrastructure to support systems of the One Single Tourist Visa.

Hon Nusura Tiperu said the region has vast tourist attractions and added that it was time for the single visa to be put in place. "There needs to be more information and data available on tourism to ensure visitors benefit on the tourist facilities", she said. The legislator urged the Council of Ministers to ensure the Secretariat is well staffed and capacitated.

Hon Mike Sebalu, Hon Shyrose Bhanji and Hon Isabelle Ndahayo supported the adoption of the report. In June this year, the East African Tourism Platform met in Arusha to push for a common visa in the region. EATP which promotes East Africa as a single destination founded on growth, dynamism and investment wants the sector to embrace the visa and market the region as a single tourism destination in addition to understanding that common challenges need to be solved by agreeable yet common strategic solutions. ●

Nairobi Hosts 2nd EAC Child Rights Conference



The EAC Child Policy (2016) was launched on 25 August 2016 at the 2nd EAC Child Rights Conference at the Desmond Tutu Conference Centre in Nairobi, Kenya. The EAC Child Policy provides a functional regional framework to facilitate the development, coordination and strengthening of Partner States towards the realization of Children's rights and wellbeing.

Officiating at the official opening of the Conference and launch of the Policy, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Jesca Eriyo, on behalf of the Secretary General of the East African Community Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, disclosed that the document sets out priority areas that include strengthening national child protection systems and community mechanisms within the EAC region; and developing an integrated approach to providing quality education, health and social protection to children, among others".

The EAC official urged Partner States and all stakeholders to use the conference as a platform to forge and strengthen partnerships for the successful implementation of the policy.

"It is our duty to ensure a bright future for today's children as they are the pillars of the EAC. Investment in children is an EAC Treaty mandate which calls for Partner States to closely cooperate in the field of social welfare and to develop a common approach towards disadvantaged and marginalized groups including children, the youth, the elderly, and persons with disabilities".

The 2nd EAC Child Rights Conference is being attended by representatives of children from the Partner States, Hon. Members of Parliament from Partner States, Permanent/Principal Secretaries in charge of children Affairs, Representatives of the Coordinating Ministries, Interagency Working Group on Children (Plan International, Save the Children International, African Platform for Social Protection, African Child Policy Forum, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, RIATT-ESA and World Vision International), among others.

The Interagency Working Group on Children (Plan International, Save the Children International, African Platform for Social Protection, African Child Policy Forum, Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation, RIATT-ESA and World Vision International), GIZ, EAC Secretariat, UNICEF and the Department of Children Services Kenya provided financial, technical and logistical support towards the successful holding of this 2nd EAC Child Rights Conference.

The first EAC Child Conference was held in Bujumbura, Burundi in 2012. Since the Bujumbura conference, the EAC Secretariat spearheaded the development of the EAC Child Policy, which was adopted by the 3rd meeting of the Sectoral Council on Gender, Youth, Children, Social Protection and Community Development in March, 2016. ●

Mount Kenya University - 2016 East African University Debate Champions



The East African University Debate (EAUDC) championship 2016 hosted by University of Rwanda's College of Education saw Mount Kenya University (MKU) clinching the top place.

The five-day event that attracted 11 universities was organised by Aspire Debate Rwanda and EAC-YAP Rwanda, in partnership with University of Rwanda, and MINEAC, among others, under the theme 'Better together as youth for deeper East African Communities Integration'.

The competitors were placed into groups of four, where proposers were dubbed 'Government' while opposers were 'Opposition'. The groups had to express their knowledge about regional integration, particularly under the motion, 'Monetary Union is Unrealistic to achieve in 2024'.

Rachael Uwase, the East African Community (EAC) youth ambassador to Rwanda, said the aim of the competition was to help the youth learn about EAC affairs so that they can participate and contribute to the integration process.

"So far we have achieved one of the main goal, which is to give knowledge about different stages of the integration process, for instance the topics that were discussed such as customs union, monetary union and others," she said.

Nathan Gashayija, the director-general of MINEAC, said such competitions should be encouraged in all institutions because apart from being informative, they also promote people-centred integration.

"It's not simply debating, but the youth can inspire government officials to work hard because the topics discussed are of regional importance. Such competitions also prepare the young generation to be able to tackle future problems," he says.

Gashayija urged the youth to be ambassadors and help in spreading the importance of debate to other people around the East African Community.

David Ntambiye, the co-ordinator of Aspire Debate Rwanda, said the competition provided an opportunity for youth to come together to find solutions for future problems.

"Skills from debating are as important as those of entrepreneurs because one needs to be a critical thinker and confident enough to express their ideas and skills, which can only be achieved if one is a good debater," he said.

Nine Rwandan and two Ugandan universities turned up for the competition, where each participant was awarded certificate of merit.

Kenya Institute of Management (KIM), Kepler University, University of Rwanda's College of Education, University of Rwanda's College of Medicine and Sciences, University of Kigali and Mount Kenya University (MKU) were among the universities that attended from Rwanda. Uganda was represented by Kyambogo and Mukono universities.



Call for Exhibitions: Academia-Public-Private Partnership Forum and Exhibitions 2016



Academia-Public-Private Partnership Forum and Exhibitions 2016 Quality Education, Research and Innovation as Drivers of New Economies in the East African Community



Jointly Organised By

Inter-University Council for East Africa, East African Development Bank and East African Business Council, under the Auspices of the East African Community

Background

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), the East African Business Council (EABC) and the East African Development Bank (EADB) are jointly organizing the Academia-Public-Private Partnership Forum and Exhibitions 2016, which will be held under the theme "Quality Education, Research and Innovation as Drivers of New Economies in the EAC". The Forum, which will be hosted by the Aga Khan University, an IUCEA member university, is expected to demonstrate some of the practical outputs emanating from research and innovation in the region, in the form of innovative products and services to drive the new economies, focusing on ICT, tourism, agro-industry, financial services, and oil and gas. Other discussions will focus on the establishment of centres of excellence in East Africa, including the Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence (ACE II) project (supported by the World Bank), East Africa's Centres of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences (supported by African Development Bank), and the proposed centres of excellence in humanities and social sciences (supported by IUCEA). Finally, there will be a session on the implications of the declaration of East Africa as a Common Higher education Area.

Running parallel with the Forum will be exhibitions, that are intended to enable the academia, the public and the private sectors to display the practical aspects of their operations, products, services and achievements as a way of enhancing linkages between the academia, the public and the private sectors in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship development in the region.

Call for Participation in the Exhibitions

Higher education institutions, private sector institutions, and public institutions are hereby invited to participate in the Exhibi-

tions. Participation in the Exhibitions will be an excellent opportunity to showcase institutional profiles, services, and products to various stakeholders, including the academia, the private sector, and the general public. The exhibitions will also provide the opportunity for the exhibitors to interact with the best and most ambitious talents in the private sector and academia, for the eventual productive engagement between these complimentary systems.

Dates and Venue for the Exhibitions

The 2016 Forum and Exhibitions will be held on October 20-21 2016 at the Diamond Jubilee Hall, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The decision to host the Forum at the university is to encourage participation of academic and non-academic staff, students and the general public.

Registration Fee for Participation

Each participating IUCEA member higher education institutions and members of the EABC and EADB will be provided with one free booth. If there is an institution that requires more space for exhibition, kindly let the organizers know in advance (this will cost US\$ 200 per extra exhibition booth/stand). Maximum 2 participants per institution will be supported with teas and lunch.

Participation for non-members of IUCEA, EABC and EADB will be charged at US\$ 500 per exhibition booth/stand.

Those intending to participate in the Exhibitions should register at www.iucea.org/forum by **30th September, 2016**.



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