Festival report JAMAFEST 2017:
"Culture and creative industries; the engine for unity and employment creation"

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Festival Report

JAMAFEST 2017

“Culture and Creative Industries; the Engine for Unity and Employment Creation”

7 - 15 September 2017 | Kampala, Uganda
The success of the 3rd edition of Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival, JAMAFEST 2017, held in Kampala Uganda under the theme: “Culture and Creative Industries: An Engine for Unity and Employment Creation”, brought special pride and gave the EAC renewed confidence as the region strives towards economic and cultural integration. This event spurred so much enthusiasm in the region for celebrating the excellence of East African Cultural Diversity. Perceptions of the EAC integration process have been refreshed and updated internationally, paving the way for us to engage with our partners in new ways.

JAMAFEST is aimed at promoting our regional socio-cultural integration through arts and culture by providing a platform to showcase culture as a primary driver of EAC integration and sustainable development; bringing together East African cultural practitioners and administrators to celebrate the rich and diverse cultural heritage of the region and providing space for intercultural dialogue among East African people.

Looking at the increased enthusiasm of the Artists, Culture professionals, Policy Makers, private sector as well as the outstanding attendance of the general public during all the events of JAMAFEST 2017, I am delighted to note that the objective of JAMAFEST is being achieved.

JAMAFEST 2017 was a significant step for the region to harness its abundance of creative talents and rich cultural assets to promote economic growth, job creation and social inclusion. Events such as these demand and deserve our continued full support.

On behalf of the EAC Secretariat, I would like to sincerely thank the Republic of Uganda for hosting a truly successful Festival. I salute the other EAC Partner States for actively participating in the event, and acknowledge the efforts of both the national and regional steering committees that organized the Festival, the Participants, Sponsors and Partners.

Liberat Mfumukeko
Ambassador
Secretary General
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Jamafest is an acronym for Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival, the Kiswahili rendering for the EAC Arts and Culture Festival which aims to promote regional socio-cultural integration through arts and culture by providing a platform to showcase culture as a primary driver of regional integration.

It is envisaged to be held biennially and hosted by Partner States rotationally.

Jamafest came to life after the EAC Council of Ministers in September 2011 directed the EAC Secretariat to organize regular festivals of the kind, and Rwanda was consequently selected to host the first edition of the Festival in 2013, and Kenya hosting the 2015 edition.

The third edition, Jamanfest 2017 was hosted by the Republic of Uganda and the main activities took place at Kololo Ceremonial Grounds in Kampala.

The Festival was a weeklong affair running from 9 to 14 September 2017.

The Festival theme was Culture and creative industries: An Engine for unity and Employment Creation.

The Festival featured a carnival, art exhibitions, a ‘Village of Countries’, a symposium, live performances, films, literary works, a fashion show and comedy.

The next edition of the Festival takes place in 2019.
The Carnival

A Carnival with a difference

The Jamafest Carnival, marked with an array of colours and sounds, sets the tone for the festival. In 2017, the Carnival was along Kampala Road, with 5 different performance stages, showcasing the cultural diversity of the region. Streets flooded with Kampala residents, affairs of the day where put on hold to celebrate the spirit of integration.
Cultural Performances

Sights and scenes from Jamafest 2017
The Jamafest Art Exhibition and Demonstrations presented East African artisans an opportunity to showcase some of the finest the region has to offer. The demonstrations included the art and skills required in embroidery, food processing, painting, as well as craft making.
The Jamafest Cultural Open Market was one of the main attractions at the Festival. The market ensured thousands of curious visitors trooped in throughout the week to discover what each of the EAC Partner States had to offer in terms of culture, in the process promoting socio-cultural exchanges among East Africans.

FESTIVAL FACT:
The general public voted Rwanda the best exhibition area for display of products and customer care.
Festival in Figures

42,800
Total number of estimated Festival-goers

7
Number of days Jamafest lasted

1,286
Number of participants from the six EAC Partner States

10,000
Estimated number of visitors to the Jamafest Cultural Open Market

15,900
Number of visits to the Jamafest website

82
Performances during the Festival week

19
Academic Papers presented at the Symposium on arts and culture

800
Participants at the Symposium
The Jamafest 2017 Symposium was organized by the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, the Republic of Uganda under the theme “Culture and Creative Industries: An Engine for Unity and Employment Creation”.

The Symposium provided a forum for academicians, cultural practitioners, policy makers and cultural managers to interact, interrogate and discuss various thematic issues and challenges related to the promotion of the Arts and Culture as an engine for socioeconomic development in the region.

The Symposium featured the following thematic areas:

• Critical Analysis of Ethical Cultural Issues in Science and Technology in East Africa.
• Cultural Values of Ingenious Peoples of East Africa in the Management and Conservation of Natural Resources and Environment.
• Cultural Diversity for Human Peace, Reconciliation and Development in East Africa.
• Arts Education in East Africa.
• Culture and Cultural Industries for Regional & National Development.
• Harnessing Legal and Policy Framework for Cultural Development.
• Fostering and Developing languages for Regional Culture Exchange and Development.

The Symposium recommended that the EAC Secretariat develops an action plan for implementation of the recommendations of the Symposium with clear timeframes.
In Pictures
Jamafest 2017 memorable moments
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Members of the Jamafest Regional Steering Committee:

- Jane S. Mpagi (Uganda)
- Benon Moses Kigenyi (Uganda)
- Naumo Juliana Akoryo (Uganda)
- Naboth Namanya (Uganda)
- Francis P. Ojede (Uganda)
- Eunice Tumwebaze (Uganda)
- Mucyo Noel (Rwanda)
- Sinzinkayo Leonard (Burundi)
- Phyllis Watwana (Kenya)
- Sharon Soharto Konchellah (Kenya)
- Joyce N. Fisco (Tanzania)
- Shamoun Hashim Ali (Tanzania)
- Mary Makoffu (EAC Secretariat)
- Bakaye Lubega (EAC Secretariat)
- Nazira T Shiyo (EAC Secretariat)