



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION (EASTEKO)

PRESS RELEASE

EALA concluded ‘On-Spot Assessment Tour’ by visiting EASTEKO

- EASTEKO Headquarters, Kigali, Rwanda: February Friday, 23rd February 2018 -

Members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) paid a field visit at the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTEKO) on Friday, 23rd February 2018, to assess the institutional progress of EASTEKO.

Regional legislators were concluding their ‘On-Spot Tour’ in the EAC Region where they were appreciating the integration infrastructure in the EAC and visiting East African Community institutions which facilitate the implementation of the integration agenda.

Dr Saidi Kibeya, the Deputy Executive Secretary and Head of Programme Development at EASTEKO, welcomed the EALA Members, and presented on-going programmatic activities in implementing the EASTEKO Strategic Plan. Odeth Bateta, Principal Administrative Officer, outlined the Commission major challenges including inadequate and costly office space, lack of sufficient staff, slow process of amending EASTEKO Protocol among others.

In Finance matters, Methusela Y. Mbajo, Principal Accountant presented the Budget, financial records for the 6 months ended 31 December 2017, challenges faced and recommendations.

In his remarks Hon. Mathias Kasamba, the Head of Delegation of EALA Members, committed their engagement to consider and integrate the EASTEKO presentations into their reports and recommended EALA support to the EAC Council.

“All in their (EASTEKO) achievements are remarkable, but also they have similar challenges like other new EAC institutions in terms of institutional capacity, in terms of resources remittances from the Partner States,” expressed Hon. Kasamba, in the interview with the local press.

“One of the most important challenging element is the failure by the Partner States to remit adequate resources to the institutions they have made obligations to. We are going to fall it up, our oversight function is to continuously re-remind Partner States to remit resources so the functionality of those institutions is well facilitated,” he added.

The visit was closed by a field tour to K-Lab and Fab-Lab which constitute an ICT Hub and Incubator in Rwanda.

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