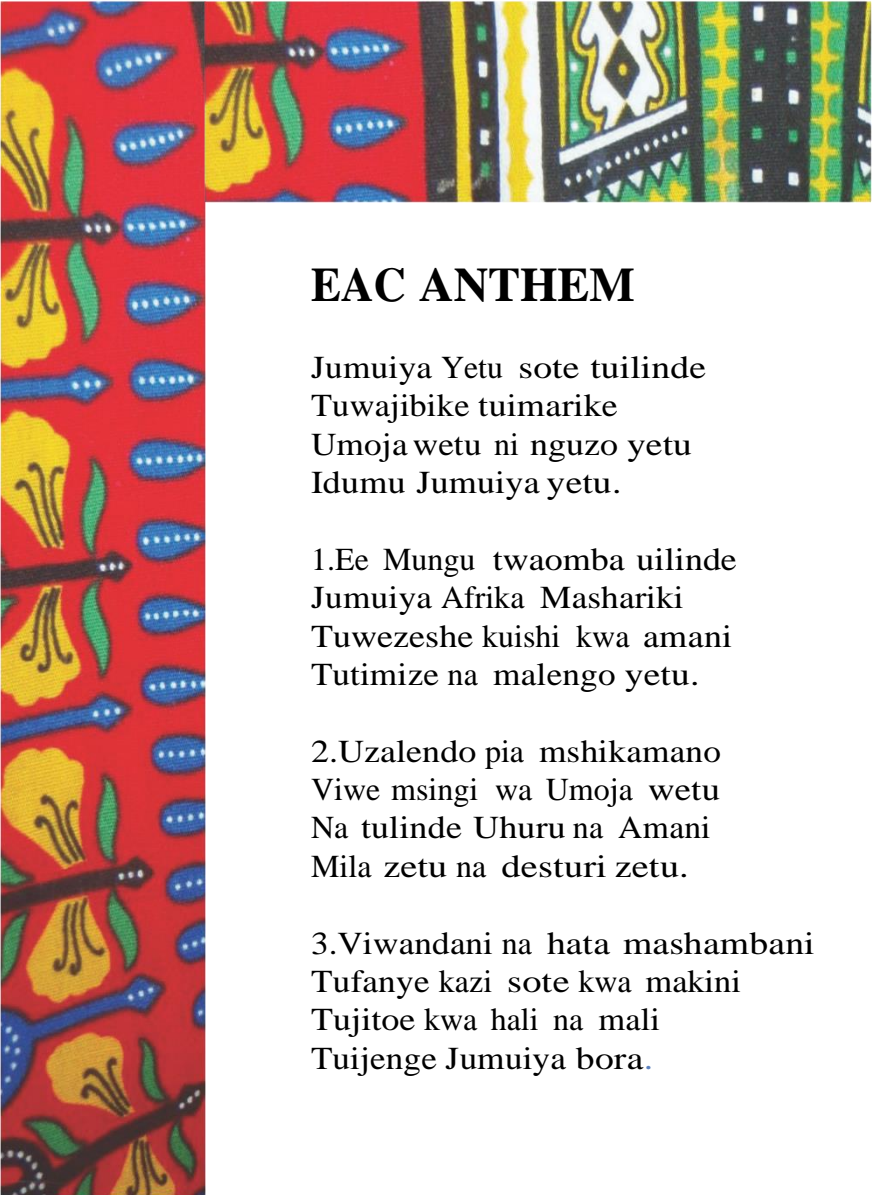East African Community

**PROGRESS
TOWARDS
EAC POLITICAL
INTEGRATION**
1999-2018

Edition
2018

EAC ANTHEM

Jumuiya Yetu sote tuilinde
Tuwajibike tuimarike
Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu
Idumu Jumuiya yetu.

1.Ee Mungu twaomba uilinde
Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani
Tutimize na malengo yetu.

2.Uzalendo pia mshikamano
Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu
Na tulinde Uhuru na Amani
Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

3.Viwandani na hata mashambani
Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini
Tujitoe kwa hali na mali
Tuijenge Jumuiya bora.

INTRODUCTION

The East African Community (EAC) is the regional i n t e r g o v e r n m e n t a l organization of the Republics of Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and South Sudan with its Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The Vision of the EAC is a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa. The Mission is to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.

Since the establishment of the EAC following the signing of the Treaty on 30th November
1999, sentential progress has been registered in the economic, political and socio-cultural sectors, these achievements include:

ECONOMIC BENEFITS

1. Establishment of the East African Community Customs Union in 2005, has led to increase of intra-regional trade through;

2. The establishment of the Single Customs Territory i.e. Where imports are cleared at the point of entry and revenues are collected at that point and remitted to the destination Partner State

3. One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) - the integrated land border management systems where customs and other government agencies of both neighboring countries work in the same office and clearance procedures are done once at the point of Exit thereby saving on time spent on clearing procedures at the borders

4. The removal of non-tariff barriers-(NTBs) - where barriers, that other than tax, restrict trade

5. Establishment and implementation of the East African Community Common Market in 2010, which guarantees the following freedoms and rights across borders;

- Free movement of Labour,
- Free movement of Persons
- Free movement of Capital
- Free movement of Goods and Services
- Right of Residence
- Right of Establishment

6. The signing of the Monetary Union Protocol in November 30, 2013, which aimed at a single currency for east Africa in 2024;

8. Convertibility of the currencies of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda;

9. Capital markets development and cross-listing of stocks;

10. Joint infrastructure development projects (e.g. Arusha- Namanga-Athi River Road and the Standard Gauge Railway both for the Northern and Central Corridors)

- Harmonization of the EAC axle load (vehicle weight) limit,
- Harmonization of standards for goods produced in East Africa and Reduction of national trade barriers,
- Implementation of preferential tariff discount,
- Free movement of stocks,
- Harmonizing operations of Ministries of Finance and Central Banks during national budget preparation and presentation,
- Mutual recognition of health certificates issued by nation bodies for goods traded in East Africa,
- Conclusion of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) with European Union (EU), giving easy access to EU market by EAC,
- EAC, SADC and COMESA Tripartite Initiative leading to Free Trade Area (FTA) and establishing a larger market with a single economic space,
- The operationalization of One Network Area with uniform call rates and elimination of roaming charges among some Partner States.

SOCIAL/CULTURAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Adoption of the EAC Anthem (Wimbowa Jumuiyaya Afrika Mashariki) in 2010 and its popularization in the Partner States,
- Operationalization of the East African passport and abolition of the visa requirements for the citizen of the East African Community,
- Implementation of seven-day grace period for personal motor vehicles crossing national borders of the EAC Partner States,
- Establishment of special immigration counters for East Africans at ports of entry,
- Issuance of temporary travel documents to facilitate travel within the region by EAC citizens,
- Harmonization of immigration forms at ports of entry,
- Abolition of student visas for East Africans,
- Standardization of University fees for citizens of East Africans,
- Implementation of student and lecturer exchange programmes at higher institutions of learning
- Implementation of cross-border disease control programmes (EAIDS net)
- Harmonization of procedures for granting work permits,

- Conduct of the annual EAC Military Sports and Culture Week
- *Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival* (JAMAFEST), a Biennial Arts and Culture
- The establishment of the Consultative Dialogue Framework for civil society, private dialogue framework (CDF) i.e. the forum in which the EAC interfaces with civil society, private sector and other interest groups,
- Development of EAC Policy and Strategy on persons with disabilities to mainstream PWD in EAC projects and programmes,
- Development of the EAC Gender Policy
- The East African Youth Network to mainstream youth in EAC projects and programmes,
- Establishment of EAC Clubs in Secondary Schools and Universities to create awareness and enhance ownership of the integration process,
- Establishment of annual Media Summit and Awards to engage the media on integration issues and recognize their role in sensitizing East Africans.
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POLITICAL/SECURITY/DEFENSE ACHIEVEMENTS

1. Political Affairs;

- Establishment of Ministries and Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs in all Partner States to coordinate and sensitize the public on the integration process.
- Institutionalization of Good Governance programmes which brings together national institutions of governance to exchange information and share best practices and dialogue on polices with a view of developing regional standards;
  a) EAC Forum of Chief Justices established to contribute to judicial policy formulation, strategies and programmes to promote good governance as well as upholding constitutionalism, rule of law and access to justice;
  b) EAC Forum of Electoral Commission to contribute towards standardization of electoral matters and enhancement of electoral democracy in the region. There is a Programme on Democracy and Electoral Processes which enhances the culture of democracy and embracing electoral competition in a mature and consensual spirit, leading to the establishment of the EAC Forum of Electoral Commission and Monitoring Election as well as development of EAC Principal of Electoral Observation and Evaluation,
  c) EAC Forum of Anticorruption Agencies to deliberate and dialogue on issues of corruption with a view of developing policies and standards of accountability in the region. This Programme on preventing and combating corruption enhances ethics and integrity through the establishment of the EAC Forum of Anti-Corruption Agencies.

and the sector initiated the drafting of the EAC Protocol on Preventing and Combating Corruption together with plan of action which is in its final stages for conclusion.

d) EAC Forum of Human Rights Commission to deliberate and initiate policies and enforcement of human rights standards and compliance leading to the development of Human Rights and Social Justices. Programme which calls for promotion and protection of rights and freedoms with regional benchmark, standards and effective structures. The programme brings together National Human Rights institutions,

e) Development of the EAC Protocol on Good Governance to entrench democracy, rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justices, equal opportunities and gender equality in the integration process,

f) EAC-COMESA roundtable for consolidating regional stability through peaceful election aimed at supporting reconciliation efforts and encourage dialogue among key political actors to appreciate the role of peaceful election and

g) Consultative meetings for political parties aimed at bringing political parties together to understand their role in the integration process;

h) EAC dialogue on political integration which brings together participation of all segments of East Africans to promote the principal of people centered and private sector driven Community;

i) Institutionalisation of the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform aimed at sensitization and awareness creations among the University community with the EAC University Students Debate aimed at promoting continuous dialogue among the youth and interest them in advocating for regional integration initiatives;

j)   The Nyerere Centre for Peace Research (NCPR) aimed at publication of EAC research Papers to promote continuous dialogue on core and emerging issues relevant within the scope of political integration thereby supporting policy making process. The EAC-NCPR Students` exchange training and internship capacity building programmes aimed at skills and knowledge enhancement in the areas of peace and conflict management, human rights and governance;

k)   Progress towards establishment of the East African Political Federation;

l)   The 18th Ordinary Summit of Heads of State adopted the Political Confederation as a transitional model for the East African Political Federation.

m)   The 19th Summit of Heads of State directing the Council of Ministers and Partner States to nominate and constitutes Team of experts to draft the Political Confederation Constitution

n)   Drafting of the EAC Political Confederation Constitution commences in 2018

2.   International Relations

a)   The conclusion of the protocol on privileges and immunities, of the community, its organs and institutions;

b)   Establishment of Sectoral Council on Foreign Policy Coordination to facilitate sector specific interventions;

c)   Establishment of program of accreditation of Diplomats to the EAC to promote and consolidate relations with built with those countries;

d)   Lobbying for international positions jointly through candidature committee to enable EAC citizens save and represent the EAC at an international level;

3. Peace and Security

a) Adoption and signing of the Peace and Security Protocol a key milestone in political integration which creates and a binding framework for sustainable peace, security and stability in the region;

b) Revision and updating of the Regional Strategy on Peace and Security and its implementation plan;

c) EAC Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Defense was upgraded into a Protocol which is in the process for ratification by Partner States;

d) Operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture through the APSA Support project;

e) Adoption of the Conflict Prevention Management and Resolution Mechanism (CPMR) which provides a framework for prevention, management, peaceful resolution and transformation of conflict in the East Africa region;

f) Establishment of an Early Warning Mechanism(EACWARN) to facilitate anticipation, preparedness and early responses to prevent, contain and manage situations that are likely to affect peace and security;

g) Establishment of the regional Early Warning Centre–Situation Room at the EAC Secretariat with a core function of data collection, conflict monitoring, analysis and development and formulation of response or policy options;

h) Establishment of the Panel of Eminent Persons whose role is to mediate through supporting conflict management and transformation through preventative diplomacy and peacemaking during conflict situations;

i) Establishment of the Directorate of Peace and Security is under way;
j) Control of small arms and light weapons to in line with the UN;
k) Program of Action on small arms and light weapons and the Nairobi Protocol;
l) Harmonization of criminal investigation, specialized policing through study exchange programmes for officers in Anti-Narcotic and Anti-Human Trafficking Units;
m) Maritime Security project aimed at supporting implementation of the East and Southern Africa /Indian Ocean (ESA-IO) Regional
n) Maritime Security Strategic and Action Plan;
o) Establishment of Regional Referral Forensic Centre to support exchange of knowledge and experience in the region;
p) Sector is collaborating with the Eastern and Southern Africa Anit-money Laundering group in fighting anti-money laundering and combating financing of terrorism;
q) Joint military exercises by EAC Partner States Defense Forces;
r) Establishment of fora for Chiefs of Police, Directors of CID and Directors of Operations and Intelligence to coordinate peace and security matters;
s) Joint patrols, sharing of criminal intelligence and surveillance to combat cross-border crime;
t) In partnership with OPCW, building capacity for Chemical Emergency Response;
u) Development of a framework for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security
v) Development of a framework to promote and provide a formal role for transboundary communities in border security,

NSTITUTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Establishment of the East African Court of Justice whose mandate is to interpret the Treaty and resolve of disputes that may arise from the integration process. The Court has opened Sub-Registries in the region helping citizens to access services of the Court without necessarily travelling to Arusha, where the Court sits.
- Establishment of the East African Legislative Assembly, whose mandate is to enact laws of the Community and sensitize the East Africans on the integration process.
- Establishment of the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) that governs the Partner States co-operation in the development and implementation of Science and Technology in the Community.
- Establishment of the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC) to coordinate and provide advice to the Partner States on all matters related to Kiswahili research, teaching, learning and development as the lingua franca of the Partner States.
- Establishment of the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) that coordinates and maps out a regional agenda on health research as well as the translation of its results into policy and practice within the Partner States.

- Establishment of the EAC Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) that works to ensure the civil aviation sector towards air transport services are safe, efficient and profitable as well as adoption of common policies and harmonisation of civil aviation rules and regulations.
- Establishment of Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), whose mandate is to coordinate the management of the fisheries resources of Lake Victoria for sustainable development and to spearhead aquaculture in the Community.
- Establishment of Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), whose mandate is to coordinate the various interventions on the Lake and its basin.
- Establishment of Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), IUCEA to coordinates harmonisation of higher education and training systems in East Africa, facilitates their strategic development and promotes internationally comparable standards and systems.whose mandate is to promote, develop and coordinate human resource development and research in the Community.
- Establishment of East African Competition Authority
- Establishment of East African Development Bank (EADB) to offer structured financial products and services to organisations in the health, education, hospitality and tourism, infrastructure development, energy and utilities, and agriculture sectors.

More Information on the EAC Regional Integration Process may be accessed from the EAC website (www.eac.int) and the following Ministries of EAC in the Partner States:

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of East African Community Affairs
P.O. Box 3138, Kampala, UGANDA
Email: meaca@meaca.go.ug

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African
Community Cooperation
P. O. Box 2933 Dodoma, TANZANIA
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Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation and
East African Community
P.O. Box 73, Kigali, RWANDA
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Principal Secretary
Ministry of East African Community
Labour and Social Protection
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Permanent Secretary
Ministry to the Office of the President
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P.O. Box 6056 Bujumbura, BURUNDI
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