



The Secretary General WEEKLY NEWS

Deepening Integration, Widening Cooperation.

July 24, 2021



KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL (SG) OFFICE IN THE WEEK

- **EAC SG holds meeting with EU Trade Advisor on areas of collaboration around the EACPass and EU Digital Covid Certificate**
- **EAC SG holds a meeting with Dr. Julius Muia, Chairperson of the EAC Sectoral Council on Finance and Economic Affairs on the progress of the EAC Monetary Union**
- **EAC SG interaction with the Secretariat Directorates**

EAC SG HOLDS MEETING WITH EU TRADE ADVISOR ON AREAS OF COLLABORATION AROUND THE EACPASS AND EU COVID CERTIFICATE



From left; Mr. Martijn Boelen, European Union (EU) Trade Advisor to the Republic of Kenya and Dr. Peter Mathuki, EAC Secretary General. Below, Eng. Daniel Murenzi, EAC Principal Information Technology Officer

Friday 23rd July 2021; The EAC Secretary-General, Dr. Peter Mathuki held a meeting with European Union (EU) Trade Advisor to the Republic of Kenya, Mr. Martijn Boelen, on areas of collaboration to facilitate safe travel of EAC citizens in Europe and vice-versa.

Dr. Mathuki noted that in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, cross-border movement has been severely disrupted with mandatory testing and sometimes quarantine holding back travelers across the globe. "Measures enforced to curb the spread of COVID-19 such as border controls and lockdowns have further interrupted global supply chains, cross border trade, movements of goods and persons and resulted in a dip on EAC economies," he said.

In efforts to resume normalcy in travel, various regional blocs are exploring ways of easing movement.

On 1st July 2021, the EU Digital COVID Certificate (EUDCC) Regulation was entered into application, allowing EU citizens and residents to have their Digital COVID Certificates issued and verified across the EU.

The EUDCC previously termed the Digital Green Certificate, works in a way that sees all the citizens'/ residents' details logged into a single system, which is able to verify the pass/certificate holder's coronavirus status. This can either be through vaccination, a recent negative test result, or proof of recovery from the virus. Mr Boelen noted the EU Digital COVID Certificate is accepted in all EU Member States and will help to ensure that restrictions currently in place can be lifted in a coordinated manner.

Dr Mathuki shared that the East African Community has developed a proof of concept for the EACPass, set to verify digital certificates for COVID-19 Negative tests and Vaccination when implemented.

He noted that the 20th EAC Sectoral Council on Health, held on 23rd April 2021, directed the EAC to fast track the implementation of the EACPass and ensure that all countries share names of all accredited laboratories for Covid-19 testing that will be linked to the EACPass.

“The EACPass will help to identify fraudulent PCR certificates, verify results from accredited labs and verify PCR results prior to a passenger’s travel; with higher data privacy and also built interoperability standards that will support other travel Apps,” he added.

On his part, Eng. Daniel Murenzi, EAC Principal Information Technology Officer noted that the Pass is based on HL7 FHIR International Standards system for the EAC Citizens crossing borders.

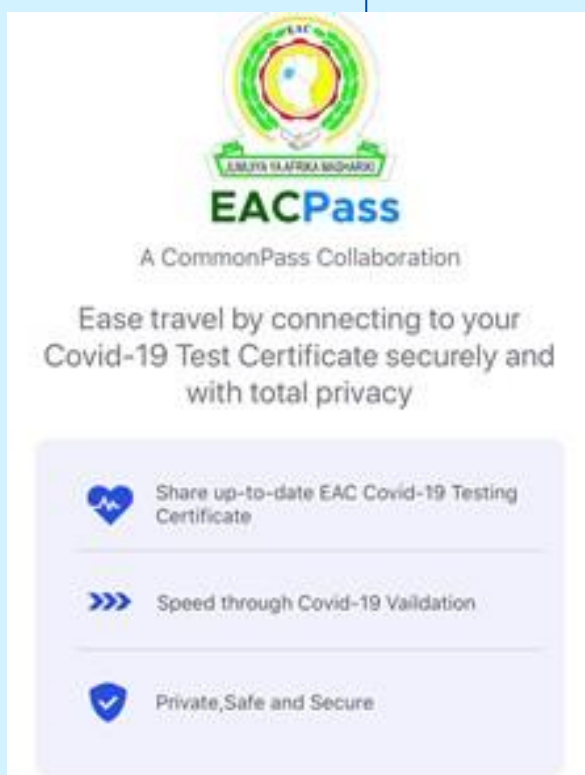
“It is directly integrated to all EAC 6 countries central depository (National Laboratories) and only accredited laboratories are the ones approved to carry out PCR Covid-19 tests for travelers,” he said.

Murenzi outlined that travellers will be required to undertake mandatory COVID-19 testing in the designated accredited clinic/laboratory/health center/hospital of each EAC partner States.

The authorized and accredited testing facilities in each country is then set to upload COVID-19 data to the respective Ministry of Health (MOH) repository.

“Only PCR Negative COVID-19 results for travelers are pushed automatically to EACPass which is accessible on both google play store and Apple store (Apps are hosted on iOS and Android) for easy download of users,” he explained.

The EAC is currently collaborating with other international travel passes like the EUDCC and CommonPass to share information to facilitate the travels of EAC citizens.



EAC SG INTERACTION WITH THE SECRETARIAT DIRECTORATES



The East African Secretary-General this week held a series of meetings with staff from the various directorates at the EAC Head Quarters. The objective of the meeting was to get to know the staff and familiarise with the activities carried out by various departments.

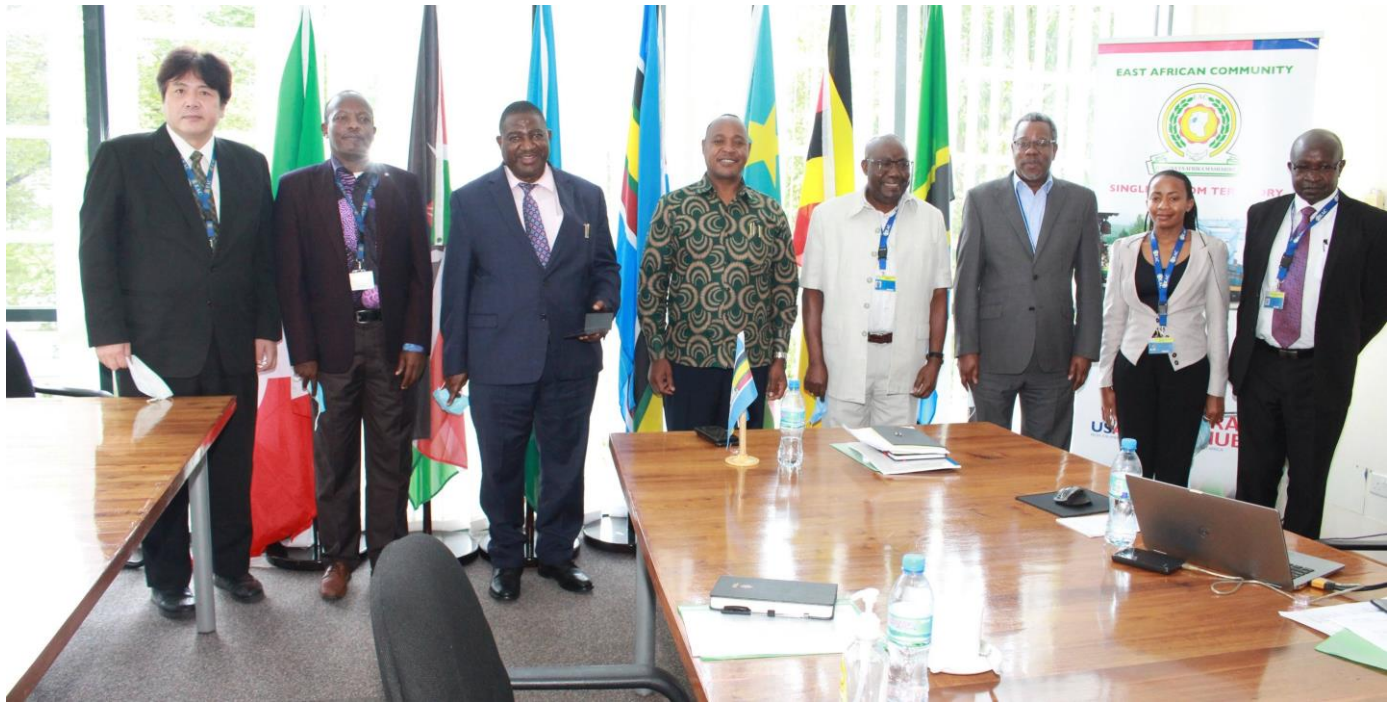
The meeting was also set to bring forth the various challenges affecting the departments and deliberate on sustainable solutions to resolve them.

Dr Mathuki emphasised on close coordination with EAC Partner States and implementing priority projects, to enhance integration and benefits to the citizens.

EAC SG INTERACTION WITH THE SECRETARIAT DIRECTORATES



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COURTESY CALL



EAC SG Dr. Peter Mathuki held a meeting with Dr. Julius Muia, Chair of the EAC Sectoral Council on Finance and Economic Affairs, in Nairobi, Kenya, on the progress of the EAC Monetary Union

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- ♦ NASA Awards USD 1 million Grant to Improve Carbon Monitoring in East Africa
- ♦ East Africa's first food-systems living lab opens
- ♦ East African Community approves regional COVID-19 tourism recovery plan
- ♦ EAC end-year meet to review monetary union roadmap
- ♦ Cyclists ride against Covid wave in quest for unified and greener EAC
- ♦ 60 percent of Tanzanians to be vaccinated
- ♦ Arusha assured of more Covid-19 testing centres
- ♦ Uganda Shs7b plant to stabilise power supply in Entebbe
- ♦ Kenya to gain from Sh10bn EU geothermal power fund

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♦ **EAC SG engagement with the Ministry of East African Community -Uganda, on strengthening regional integration**
- ♦ **EAC SG participates in Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) activities**
- ♦ **EAC SG engagement with Vice Chancellors of National Universities of the East African Community.**
- ♦ **EAC SG engagement with National Private Sector Associations & Chambers of Commerce**



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