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JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ: 18TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE



1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT, PRESIDENT DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, DEPUTY PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT HIS EXCELLENCY GASTON SINDIMWO OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, HON. FRANCOIS KANIMBA, MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REPRESENTING HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, AND HON. AGGREY TISA SABUNI, ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT REPRESENTING HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN HELD THE 18TH ORDINARY SUMMIT MEETING OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE ON 20TH MAY, 2017 IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.

2. THE HEADS OF STATE COMMENDED THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA FOR CHAIRING THE AFFAIRS OF THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS AND WELCOMED THE NEW CHAIRPERSON, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA.

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE (...cont)

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3. THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT MET IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.
4. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED THE ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS FOR THE PERIOD 1ST DECEMBER 2015 TO 18TH MAY 2017, AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO RESOLVE THE OUTSTANDING ISSUES AND REPORT PROGRESS TO THE 19TH SUMMIT.
5. THE HEADS OF STATE CONSIDERED A REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS OF THE SUMMIT AND NOTED THE PROGRESS. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED PARTNER STATES AND THE SECRETARIAT TO IMPLEMENT THE OUTSTANDING DECISIONS AND THE PARTNER STATES TO DEPOSIT WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION OF OUTSTANDING PROTOCOLS BY 30TH NOVEMBER 2017.
6. THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED WITH CONCERN THE DECLINING INTRA-EAC TRADE AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO RESOLVE THE LONG-OUTSTANDING NON-TARIFF BARRIERS AND REPORT TO THE 19TH SUMMIT.
7. THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THAT THE REMAINING PARTNER STATES THAT HAVE NOT SIGNED THE EU-EAC ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT (EPA) ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO DO SO PENDING CLARIFICATION OF ISSUES THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED IN THE AGREEMENT. IT WAS HOWEVER AGREED THAT DUE TO THIS ACTION KENYA SHOULD NOT BE DISADVANTAGED SINCE SHE HAS ALREADY SIGNED THE AGREEMENT. IN VIEW OF THIS DECISION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA AS THE NEW CHAIR OF THE SUMMIT, WAS MANDATED WITHIN ONE MONTH TO REACH OUT TO THE EUROPEAN UNION (EU) TO COMMUNICATE THE EAC CIRCUMSTANCES. IN THE EVENT THAT AN ACCEPTABLE WAY FORWARD IS NOT REACHED WITH THE EU WITHIN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS, THE CHAIRPERSON WAS AUTHORISED TO EXPLORE THE USE OF VARIABLE GEOMETRY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EPA BY EAC PARTNER STATES WORKING WITH THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS. THE SUMMIT ALSO AGREED THAT THE EU SANCTIONS ON BURUNDI SHOULD BE DISCUSSED ALONGSIDE THE EPA DISCUSSIONS.
8. THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THE PROGRESS ON THE ISSUE OF SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISM FOR THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND DIRECTED THE MINISTERS OF FINANCE TO MEET AND FINALIZE WORK ON THE MODALITIES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISM FOR THE COMMUNITY AND REPORT TO THE 19TH SUMMIT.
9. THE HEADS OF STATE DELIBERATED ON THE EAC POLITICAL FEDERATION AND NOTED THE COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS. THE HEADS OF STATE ADOPTED THE POLITICAL CONFEDERATION AS A TRANSITIONAL MODEL OF THE EAST AFRICAN POLITICAL FEDERATION AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO CONSTITUTE A TEAM OF CONSTITUTIONAL EXPERTS TO DRAFT THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE POLITICAL CONFEDERATION AND REPORT TO THE 19TH SUMMIT.
10. THE SUMMIT APPOINTED ENG. STEPHEN DAUDI MALEKELA MLOTE FROM THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AS DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY FOR A THREE YEAR TERM WITH EFFECT FROM 20TH MAY 2017.
11. THE HEADS OF STATE COMMENDED DR. ENOS S. BUKUKU, THE OUTGOING DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AND WISHED HIM WELL IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.
12. THE HEADS OF STATE, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 24 (2) OF THE TREATY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, APPOINTED JUSTICE DR. CHARLES OYO NYAWELLO, FROM THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN AS JUDGE TO THE FIRST INSTANCE DIVISION OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE AND PRESIDED OVER HIS SWEARING IN CEREMONY.
13. THE HEADS OF STATE CONSIDERED A REPORT ON THE ROADMAP FOR THE ACCELERATED INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAC AND NOTED THE STEADY PROGRESS OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE COMMUNITY.
14. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED THE PROGRESS REPORT ON THE EAC INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND NOTED THAT PHASE ONE OF THE INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW WAS BEING IMPLEMENTED AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO EXPEDITE ITS FULL IMPLEMENTATION AND REPORT TO THE 19TH SUMMIT.

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JOINT COMMUNIQUE (...cont)



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15. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED A REPORT ON THE VERIFICATION FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA INTO THE EAC. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO FOLLOW-UP ON THE MATTER AND REPORT TO THE 19TH SUMMIT.

16. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE MODALITIES FOR PROMOTION OF MOTOR VEHICLE ASSEMBLY IN THE REGION AIMED AT REDUCING THE IMPORTATION OF USED MOTOR VEHICLES FROM OUTSIDE THE COMMUNITY AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO FINALIZE THE MATTER AND REPORT TO THE 19TH SUMMIT.

17. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE TEXTILE AND LEATHER SECTOR WITH A VIEW TO DEVELOPING A STRONG AND COMPETITIVE DOMESTIC SECTOR THAT GIVES CONSUMERS BETTER CHOICE THAN IMPORTED USED TEXTILE AND FOOTWEAR AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO FINALIZE THE MATTER AND REPORT TO THE 19TH SUMMIT.

18. THE HEADS OF STATE ASSENTED TO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT (AMMENDMENT) BILL 2016, THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SUPPLEMENTARY APPROPRIATION BILL 2016, AND THE EAC APPROPRIATION BILL 2016.

19. THE HEADS OF STATE PRESENTED AWARDS TO THE WINNERS OF THE EAC STUDENTS ESSAY COMPETITION, 2016 AND COMMENDED THE STUDENTS FOR THEIR INTEREST IN THE INTEGRATION AGENDA.

20. THE HEADS OF STATE DECLARED THE EAC AS A COMMON HIGHER EDUCATION AREA IN ORDER TO HARMONIZE AND ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN THE REGION. THE HEADS OF STATE DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO OPERATIONALIZE THE TRANSFORMATION.

21. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED A PROGRESS REPORT FROM H.E. BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA, THE FACILITATOR OF THE INTER-BURUNDI DIALOGUE AND THANKED HIM FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE DIALOGUE. THE SUMMIT FULLY ENDORSED THE ASSESSMENT AND ADOPTED THE REPORT.

22. THE HEADS OF STATE RECEIVED AN UPDATE AND CLARIFICATIONS FROM THE 1ST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI ON THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI AND THE INTER-BURUNDI DIALOGUE.

23. THEIR EXCELLENCIES PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, DEPUTY PRESIDENT WILLIAM RUTO OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, 1ST VICE PRESIDENT HIS EXCELLENCY GASTON SINDIMWO OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, HON. FRANCOIS KANIMBA, MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, AND HON. AGGREY TISA SABUNI, ECONOMIC ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN THANKED THEIR HOST, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, FOR THE WARM WELCOME AND HOSPITALITY ACCORDED TO THEM AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA.

EAC Tables USD 110M Budget to EALA



The EAC on 25 May 2017, presented for consideration Budget estimates for the Financial Year 2017/2018, totaling \$110,130,183 to the East African Legislative Assembly Sitting in Arusha. Uganda's State Minister for EAC, Hon Julius Maganda, presented the Budget Speech to an attentive House on behalf of the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC, Uganda and Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivenjija.

The 2017/2018 Budget themed: *"Accelerating Implementation of the EAC Integration Agenda"* is a step-up from \$101,374,589 presented to the House in the previous Financial Year. The Budget speech prioritizes on the consolidation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) to cover all imports and intra-EAC traded goods, infrastructure development in the region and further liberalization of free movement of skilled labour across the Partner States.

Other key areas Hon Maganda said, include enhancement of regional industrial development through investment in key priority sectors and improvement of agricultural productivity with an aim to enhancing food security. Also of essence is the promotion of regional peace, security and good governance, on the one side and institutional transformation to spearhead the Community's agenda on the other.

The Budget is allocated to the Organs and Institutions of the EAC as follows; East African Community Secretariat (\$60, 183, 201), East African Legislative Assembly (\$17, 996, 959) and the East African Court of Justice (\$4,140,166).

The Inter-University Council for East Africa shall receive (\$6,766,928), Lake Victoria

Basin Commission (\$11,960,643) while \$ 2,466,655 is earmarked for the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization. On their part, the East African Science and Technology Commission shall receive (\$ 1,500, 164), East African Kiswahili Commission (\$ 1,553,098) and the East African Health Research Commission (\$ 2,225,324). The East African Competition Authority is to benefit from \$1,337,045 in the Financial Year 2017/18.

The 2017/2018 Budget is to be financed by Partner State contributions through the Ministries of EAC Affairs (\$50,226,522); Ministries responsible for Education – (\$ 4,848,431) and Ministries responsible for Fisheries (\$ 1, 549,254). Development Partners will support the Community to the tune of (\$52, 868,638) while Member Universities will inject in to the kitty \$ 303, 435. The miscellaneous revenue is pegged at \$ 333,903.

The Minister cited a number of assumptions on which this year's budget is pegged on to include the continued and consolidated political support of the EAC integration and the availability of adequate financial resources and remittances. Political stability and good governance as well as safe and stable security across the region are other areas of consideration.

The Minister informed the House of challenges the Community will have to address. "Mr. Speaker, the key anticipated challenges during the implementation of Community programmes and pro-

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**“The success of the EAC integration process must be supported by a predictable security environment”
- Hon. Maganda**

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jects may include: persistent delays in remittance of funds from Partner States and Development Partners and limited financial resources (overall budget declining yet the demand is increasing on the Community to deliver more services to East Africans), occasioned by reduced support from Development Partners”, the Minister said.

“Delayed harmonization of national laws that impact on the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol and understaffing, which is seriously impacting on effectiveness and efficiency in implementation of projects and programmes are other challenges, we need to address”, the Minister added.

The Minister however reiterated mitigation strategies to address the challenges. “Mr. Speaker, the Community will closely follow-up on the remittances by Partner States to facilitate timely implementation of programmes and implement the institutional review as per the directive of the 17th Summit of the Heads of State,” he said.

The EAC Political Federation is yet another key priority area on the agenda in the coming Financial Year. In a bid to promote good governance, the EAC will dispatch Election Observer Missions to observe general elections in the Republic of Kenya and Republic of Rwanda in August 2017. The Minister also affirmed that the Community will continue to hold the annual EAC University Debates. The debates which lead to the appointment of the Youth Ambassadors have been critical in promoting the agenda of integration among the University student community.

On Peace and security, the Minister succinctly called for measures to ensure effective policing to counter terrorism and crime.

“The success of the EAC integration process must be supported by a predictable security environment. During the reporting period, the Peace and Security sector continued regular consultations towards joint action against Terrorism and other transnational and cross border organized crimes. The next Financial Year will see Standing Operating Procedures in Policing function developed as well as operationalization of the Police Regional Centres of Excellence in the Partner States”, he said.

On the global economic performance outlook, the Minister informed the House the global economy had expanded by 2.9 % in 2016 compared to a revised growth of 3.1% in 2015. The slowed growth was occasioned by constrained global trade, subdued investment and heightened policy uncertainty associated with the United Kingdom's decision to leave the European Union (EU) and elections in the United States of America (USA).

“The real GDP in the EAC is estimated to have grown by 6.1% compared to 5.8 % growth recorded in 2015. The growth was largely supported by investment in public infrastructure, buoyant private consumption and low oil prices. Tanzania recorded the highest real GDP growth in the region, expanding by 7.2% in 2016, compared to a growth of 7.0 % in 2015. Kenya and Uganda recorded improved economic performance of 5.8 % and

4.8 % respectively in 2016, compared to 5.7 and 4.8 % in 2015. Rwanda recorded a decelerated growth of 6.0 % compared to 6.9 % in 2015. Real GDP in Burundi contracted by 0.5 % in 2016 compared to a contraction of 4.0% in 2015,” he said.

The Minister highlighted a number of achievements registered in the Financial Year 2016/2017, notably, the upscaling of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) through finalisation of operational instruments of the business manuals, deployment of SCT Monitoring and Evaluation tools and deployment of staff in some Partner States.

Hon Maganda maintained the consolidation of the Customs Union remained a key priority during the period under review. The operationalization of the Single Customs Territory, the establishment of One Stop Border Posts and the development of the regional Customs instruments underpinned the drive to promote conducive trade and investment in the region.

Following the successes registered during the initial stages of the Single Customs Territory, the roll out of goods cleared under the Single Customs Territory was expanded both on the Northern and Central Corridors.

On legislation, the Minister informed the House the One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) Act was fully assented to and gazetted for its commencement. The OSBP Regulations were finalized by the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs and adopted during the 35th Meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The Chair of the Council of Ministers further stated that the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Bill (NTB), 2015, passed by EALA was undergoing assent and would spur business and enhance the free movement aspects. The United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uganda have assented to the Act. The Act, according to Hon Maganda, has been sent to remaining Partner States for assent.

The EAC Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) Act is expected to address outstanding NTBs in the EAC Time Bound Programme (TBP) in pursuit of promotion of Intra-EAC Trade and to curtail the proliferation of NTBs in the region. According to Hon Maganda, the status of NTBs in EAC region as at the end of December 2016, indicated that sixteen (16) NTBs are unresolved, four (4) new NTBs had been reported, and one hundred and thirteen (113) NTBs had been cumulatively resolved since 2009.

The Minister informed the House the Secretariat was undertaking the acquisition of Infrastructure to support the payment and settlement systems in the region. He said a number of payment systems had been procured with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB). The Minister said automated clearing house systems (ACHs) to accommodate cheque truncation system for National Bank of Rwanda was in place with disaster recovery sites and business continuity infrastructure for Central Bank of Kenya, National Bank of Rwanda and Bank of Tanzania now secured.

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Energy remains expensive with a regional average cost of 15 US Cents at the grid, three times higher than 5 US cents in Ethiopia.

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“At the same time, an upgrade of the large value payment system-UNISS is ongoing in Uganda and the bidding documents for the upgrade of Central Bank of Kenya and Bank of Tanzania large value systems have been submitted to AfDB for consideration and approval”, he added.

Hon Maganda said bids to procure and implement disaster recovery and business continuity infrastructure equipment for Bank of the Republic of Burundi were successfully evaluated and the contract to for SWIFT connectivity to enable the Burundi integrate to the East African Payment System (EAPS) signed in March 2016.

On Infrastructure, the Minister informed the House of the completion in May 2017 of the 90 Km long Taveta – Mwatate road, itself, a part of the multinational Arusha – Holili/Taveta – Voi road.

In addition, the Minister said feasibility studies and detailed designs of two key links for the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi to the Central Corridor commenced in April, 2016.

“One project is the 250-km long Nyakanazi – Kasulu – Manyovu road in Tanzania linking to the 78-km long Rumonge –Bujumbura road in Burundi. The other is the 92-km long Lusahunga – Rusumo road in Tanzania linking to the 70-km long Kayonza – Kigali road in Rwanda” Hon Maganda said.

On railways, the Minister informed the House of the near completion of the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway line in Kenya, adding that its inauguration was scheduled for June, 2017. Similarly, construction of the new Standard Gauge Railway of the Kampala-Malaba section in Uganda, is expected to commence during FY 2017/18. For the Central Corridor, the construction of the Dar-es-Salam-Morogoro section commenced in April, 2017.

On agriculture and food security, the EAC is strongly committed to support implementation of the June 2014, African Heads of State Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Growth and Transformation in Africa.

The Minister remarked the 34th Council of Ministers had adopted the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the EAC Livestock policy. “The process of developing an implementation strategy for the food and nutrition security policy has commenced, whereas the development of the implementation strategy for the livestock policy will commence in the early days of the new financial year”, he added.



On energy, the Minister remarked that all efforts were underway to increase production and to reduce costs, saying it was expensive in the region.

“Energy in EAC region remains expensive with a regional average cost of 15US Cents at the grid three times higher than 5 US cents in Ethiopia. He remarked that shared hydropower plants and interconnectors were some of the initiatives been used to reduce costs”, he said.

The Minister informed the House of implementation of projects under the Power Master Plan, which had raised the region’s installed capacity from 4,635MW in 2015 to 4,893.3MW in 2016, against a peak demand of 3,587.3MW in 2016 for the interconnected system.

The Minister also presented the priorities for the Tourism and Wildlife sector to include exploring innovative ways to brand EAC as a Single Tourist Destination and development of more diverse promotional materials. He further remarked that the region would be undertaking awareness programmes and other initiatives geared towards full implementation of the Single Tourist Visa by all Partner States.

In the area of EAC Health Systems and Health Policies Harmonization and Integration, the Council had in the financial year 2016/17, approved and officially launched several documents including the EAC Regional Health Policy (2016) and the EAC Health Sector Strategic Plan (2015-2020).

In order to strengthen the Monetary Union, the Minister said the Council will initiate Bills to establish, key EAC Institutions. He outlined them as the East African Monetary Institute Bill, 2017 and The EAC Statistics Bureau Bill, 2017 to establish the EAC Statistics Bureau.



Design Competition for New Corporate Identity Launched at the University of Juba, South Sudan

The Secretary General of South Sudan Secretariat for the East African Community, Hon. Mou Mou Athian Kuol, on Tuesday launched the design competition for a corporate identity for the EAC at the Main Hall of the University of Juba, Republic of South Sudan (RSS).

Addressing students, members of the academic and non-academic staff, Hon. Mou Mou called upon the students and youth in South Sudan to take advantage of the opportunity being offered by the Community with regard to developing a new EAC corporate identity, as directed by the EAC Council of Ministers.

Hon. Mou Mou told the university community that South Sudan's admission to the Community was a reaffirmation of the country's commitment to seek economic, social and cultural political integration with the citizens of the EAC, adding that RSS's entry into the Community marked a major shift in the country's foreign and economic policy.

"It is only since the proclamation of independence in 2011 that South Sudan was free to make its own regional and foreign policy and as part of this policy, we have made it clear that we want to be a part of EAC," said the Secretary General.

Hon. Mou Mou told his audience that as part of integrating the RSS into the Community, the EAC Heads of State appointed Justice Dr. Charles Oyo Nyawello, from RSS as Judge to the First Instance Division of the East African Court of Justice during their 18th Ordinary Meeting held on 20th May, 2017 in Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

"Every citizen of the regional bloc including South Sudanese can now log cases in this regional Court. South Sudan will soon become a part of the visa-free area of the EAC and as a result, South Sudanese citizens will no longer need visas to travel to the region and vice versa for EAC citizens travelling to South Sudan," said Mou Mou.

He further revealed that RSS has already nominated nine Members of Parliament to the 4th East African Legislative Assembly, which will be inaugurated in July 2017 in Arusha, adding that the country had already appointed a Defence Liaison Officer from the Ministry of Defence and Veterans' Affairs who will be shortly reporting for duty at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha.

The Secretary General urged the youth from South Sudan specializing in graphic arts and design to work hard and participate




actively in the competition saying winners would be given awards.

The 24th meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning held on 30th June, 2016 in Nairobi, adopted the proposed EAC Brand Architecture Strategy and directed the EAC Secretariat to engage the Youth in the region to develop the new EAC corporate identity.

The EAC Brand Architecture Strategy proposes several activities that include re-designing a new EAC emblem and logo, developing a common unique identifier for all Organs and Institutions; developing one primary (main) EAC corporate colour and one secondary colour; and developing a single visual identity emblem for the Community.

There are several gaps that have been identified in the current EAC corporate identity, which the design competition is expected to address.

Prior to the launch of the Competition, the Secretariat undertook a sensitization workshop on the EAC Brand Architecture for the students mainly from the College of Arts, Music and Drama, who were joined by a few youth groups involved in graphic design from Juba and its environs.

Guidelines for participating in the EAC Brand Architecture Design Competition is available on www.eac.int. The Competition period is from 1st June 2017 to 31st August 2017. 

Bujumbura to Host 8th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition

The EAC Secretariat, the Government of Burundi and other EAC Partner States are finalizing preparations for the 8th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition (EAPCE'17) set to be held in Bujumbura, Burundi from 7th to 9th June 2017.

The three-day conference themed "East Africa - An Emerging Hotspot for Oil and Gas Exploration, Infrastructure Development and Commercialization" will bring together top players in the oil and gas sector as well as policy and decision makers from the region to dialogue on the potential that lies within the region while sharing information on the status of development of the sector in each Partner State.

EAPCE'17 will include an exhibition where investors, enterprises, researchers and academia will collectively showcase new products and services as well as exhibit the latest advances in the exploitation of both renewable and non-renewable energy sources.

The Conference programme also integrates field excursions to selected sites in each Partner State for participants to see the rich geological variety that the region possesses as well as the touristic attractions that the region is well known for.

H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi, has been invited to grace the official opening ceremony of the Conference.

Other high level dignitaries expected to attend the Conference include Amb. Libérat Mfumukeko, the EAC Secretary General as well as line Ministers and heads of the respective Agencies from all EAC Partner States, who shall engage stakeholders on critical steps needed to leverage higher levels of investment in the oil and gas sector.

Speaking ahead of the Conference, the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Libérat Mfumukeko said the Conference provides unique networking opportunities with government, private sector, regional organizations, academia, technology developers, investors and civil society.


"Recent discoveries of oil and gas in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania in addition to the existing oil industry in South Sudan have positioned East Africa as the world's most promising frontier for petroleum exploration and development," added Amb. Mfumukeko.

The Secretary General said the EAC Partner State shall share their policy, legal and regulatory frameworks and other initiatives aimed at continually improving the enabling environment in the sector.

EAPCE'17 is taking place at the peak of EAC's transforming into a Common Market. This transformation is geared towards providing great opportunities for business and investment in all sectors as the single market provides for free movement of goods, capital and services within the region.

EAPCE'17 will among others address the following critical issues:

- Exploration and development in the East African Rift and Coastal Basins as well as Deep water and Inland Basins;
- Commercialization of discovered oil and gas resources from field development, reservoir management and data management;
- Local content in Africa and how it is likely to impact the future development of the petroleum sector;
- The latest technological advancements in the petroleum sector; and
- The balance needed between environmental management and the development of the petroleum value chain.

Registration for participation at the Conference closes on 6th June 2017. For more information on EAPCE'17, visit the conference website: www.eapce17.eac.int 





EAPCE'17



THE 8TH EAST AFRICAN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Le Panoramique Hotel, Bujumbura, Burundi
7th - 9th June, 2017



THEME

EAST AFRICA - An Emerging Hotspot for Oil and Gas Exploration, Infrastructure Development and Commercialization



www.eapce17.eac.int

EU to Continue Offering Assistance to EAC



The European Union (EU) will continue to offer its assistance, to the best of its abilities, to the East African Community (EAC).

The Head of the EU Delegation to Tanzania and the EAC, Amb. Roeland Van de Geer, said that over the seven year period from 2014 to 2020, the EU and the EAC were addressing key challenges in East Africa by jointly implementing an ambitious development programme through the 85 million Euro 11th European Development Fund.

Amb. Van de Geer further said that, in addition, EU Member states were also making available considerable amounts in development support to the EAC.

"However important aid may be, trade and investment are crucial for a better future for all East Africans," said the envoy.

Amb. Van de Geer said the EU would continue to partner with the EAC in development cooperation and the promotion of peace, security and democracy in the East African region.

He noted that the two blocs had witnessed increased cooperation over the past two decades, adding that the wide ranging cooperation would continue in the political, economic and developmental fields.

Amb. Van de Geer was addressing guests during a cocktail event to mark the Europe Day 2017 at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.


He acknowledged that despite many years of unprecedented economic growth, Europe today suffers from serious economic difficulties.

"Difficult as the times may be, our Union, built on solidarity and on the strong commitment to peace and development, see these tough times as an opportunity for change, improvement and reform. Our collective European response is a new level of joint economic governance intended to speed up economic recovery, thus contributing to global improvement," he said, adding that there was a silver lining to these challenges.

"Europe is not turning inwards; on the contrary, the current situation calls for well-coordinated and determined international action and narrow cooperation with our partners worldwide, in Asia, the Americas, Oceania and certainly also in Africa, the continent to which Europe feels so closely connected," said Amb. Van de Geer.

In his remarks, EAC Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko said that the EU provides good lessons to the EAC on the integration journey.

Amb. Mfumukeko said the EAC was particularly keen to learn from the EU on how it had managed crises such as war, poverty and disease over the years.

The event was attended by EAC staff, the business community and members of the diplomatic community in Arusha. 

Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda Officiates EACJ Plenary and Strategic Plan Meeting in Entebbe



The Chief Justice of the Republic of Uganda, Justice Bart Katurebe officially opened the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) mid-year plenary and strategic plan meeting which set off in Entebbe, Uganda. His Lordship represented by the Honourable Justice Eldad D. Mwangusya, judge of the Supreme Court Uganda, said that decentralization of the operations in the East African Court of Justice to each Member State is a noble idea and a grand milestone in terms of enhancing access to justice to the citizens of the region. "I therefore congratulate the Court on realizing the objective of bringing regional justice closer to the East Africans, Uganda in particular"

His Lordship further said that, he is reliably informed that towards the end of the negotiations of the Common Market Protocol, the EACJ was already in the Process of preparing its 5-year Strategic Plan 2011/15, among the main strategic issues identified was the need to improve the Court's visibility in the Partner States. He added that the establishment of the sub-registries was identified as one of the ways the existence and presence of the EACJ would be better felt at Partner States level and "I believe this will remain a focal point in the Court's future strategic planning and management and that the same will be fully utilized." The Chief Justice stated.

Justice Mwangusya, also added that, as a regional court, the EACJ is expected to offer leadership, not only in terms of jurisprudence but also in innovative practices. I am therefore glad to learn of the technological achievements that have been realized by the Court, I am aware the Court introduced a case manage-

ment and recording system which is already operational." He noted. In the Chief Justice's speech further said that, the Court sub-registries located in the Member States can now file and upload cases online where the Registrar and other staff in Arusha can have access and take them through the process from initiation to disposal electronically.

In addition, His Lordship, the Chief Justice went ahead and acknowledged the signing of the Protocol on extension of the jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice to matters of trade and investment. That this development came at a time when EAC Member States were in process of implementing the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols. That the implementation will definitely give rise to disputes among traders and investors in the region. He also added that once the Protocol is ratified by the Partner States, the citizens will be able to file cases concerning trade and investment disputes across the region and this will make the Court not only busier but also more relevant to the entire citizenry in the region.

The Chief Justice Hon. Bert Katurebe, emphasized on the good co-operation between the EACJ and the Judiciary of Uganda. "We have been sharing some of our Judges with the Court, at the moment, we have 2 of our Judges, Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire of the Appellate Division and Justice Monica Mugenyi Principal Judge of the First Instance Division, I wish to appreciate the

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“Judicial branch an essential element of the infrastructure of the East African Society.” - EACJ Judge President

two Judges for carrying our flag high” His Lordship stated. He also went further and pointed out the other areas for further co-operation of the Court, which they might exploit, training, judicial exchange and benchmarking are areas for greater co-operation. He also emphasized that, they hope to deepen the co-operation with the Court in technical and legal aspects such as the use of information technology in Court processes and administration, prompt sharing of court decisions and jurisprudence, research, among others.

His Lordship, strongly pointed out that, the participation by the Ugandan judiciary in the EACJ's programs will significantly add to ideas that contribute to the harmonization of their laws and procedures towards the uniform dispensation of justice in the region and greater integration. That this is in line with the requirement in Article 126 of the Treaty which states that: “In order to promote the achievement of the objective of the Community set out in Article 5, the Partner States shall encourage the standardization of the judgements of Courts within the Community.

Finally, the Chief Justice’ s representative, concluded by reaffirming their commitment to offering further support to the activities of the EACJ as may be required and in line with the integration agenda.

The President of the Court, Justice Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja also in his opening remarks, pointed out that, the Judicial branch is an essential element of the infrastructure of the East African Society. Like most infrastructure projects, any judiciary requires continual maintenance, upkeep and renovation. He also added that, the Judicial branch, just like any other branch, is in a constant evolutionary mode, it develops over time influenced by events by social and political change and in turn its development yield further transformation. Rules and practices change, and in changing, they change themselves and us. That It is for this reason that we deemed it necessary to organize this second retreat with a view of taking stock of what has happened and charting the way forward in the coming years.

His Lordship further said that, the Judiciary of Uganda has over years undergone a tremendous transformation. “We are grateful that we will share the experiences of Uganda. I am also very sure that we will draw a lot of lessons and inspirations in the experiences” the Court's President expressed. He again added that the Interdependence of our respective judiciaries require our greater consciousness to collaborate because as he recently pointed out in a colloquium organized by the Mechanism for the International Criminal Tribunal, more is demanded of them Judges in their societies and in the East African Community of which are part. “We have common vested interests in each other's success”. That initiatives such as this retreat and insights from national judiciaries in all partner states of East African Community help us all contributed to that success.

Justice Ugirashebuja again said that, it is important to note that even though the Court may draw certain lessons from national jurisdictions such as Uganda, the East African Court of Justice can only draw those lessons which can be applicable to the circumstances the Court finds itself in. That the East African Court



of Justice is a treaty-based court established by the EAC partner states and thus does not enjoy the strong protections enjoyed by National Judiciaries entrenched in constitutions. Needless, to recount the well-known scenario of how the Court underwent significant changes by a stroke of a pen after the ruling in the landmark case of Anyang Nyong.

He finally said that the developments have occurred which justify the need for this meeting. First, the East African Legislative Assembly passed the EACJ Administration of Justice Bill. That It is yet to be assented to by the Partner States of the EAC; the Council of Ministers granted financial and administrative autonomy of the Court, details of which the Court Judges will discuss in this Plenary. Second, the Court has an elaborate case management system which has not been utilized to its full capacity. He emphasized that, It is generally recognized that maintaining court files on paper is outmoded. That IT could be used more extensively and effectively to improve process in this era of communication is indisputable. Third, that the first Strategic Plan of the Court came to an end and they are in the process of developing a second Strategic Plan. He therefore added that all these changes as well as best practices found in other international jurisdictions as well as national jurisdiction will enrich their discussions in this meeting.

The President concluded by saying that Justice is central to the ongoing prosperity and fairness of our democratic society. That for this reason, it is important that the Judiciary is actively involved in leading and shaping the Justice system, in concert with other stakeholders.

In attendance were all the Judges of the EACJ, the Registrar, Deputy and other support Staff of the Court.



The Kigali Resolutions on Manufacturing



The 2nd East African Manufacturing Business Summit and Exhibition (EAMBS) was held in Kigali, Rwanda from 23rd to 25th May, 2017.

Over 300 top executives in the manufacturing and agribusiness sectors, high-ranking policy and decision makers, as well as leading financial institutions from Africa and beyond participated in the Summit.

The three day Summit concluded with the following resolutions:

1. The 2nd East African Manufacturing Business Summit was held in Kigali, Rwanda at Kigali, Serena Hotel on 23-25 May 2017. The Business summit was officially opened by Rt. Hon Anastase Murekezi Prime Minister of the Republic of Rwanda.
2. The Summit was attended by Rt. Hon. Dr. Ali M. Kirunda Kivejinja, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Republic of Uganda who is also Chairperson of the East African Community Council of Ministers; H.E. Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, UNCTAD Secretary General; Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, Secretary General of the EAC; Hon François Kanimba, Minister of Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs, Republic of Rwanda; Mr. Patrick Nduati Mwangi,

representing Cabinet Secretary for Industrialization and Enterprise Development, Republic of Kenya; Mrs. Edith Mwanje, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of East African Community Affairs, Republic of Uganda; Amb. Dr. Aziz Ponary Mlima, Permanent Secretary Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, the United Republic of Tanzania; Ms. Betty Maina, EBS, Principal Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Kenya; Ms. Rosemary Mbabazi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs, Republic of Rwanda; Hon. Jesca Eriyo, Deputy Secretary General, in charge of Finance and Administration, East African Community; Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, Deputy Secretary General, in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, East African Community; Mr. Denis Karera, EABC Vice Chairman; Ms. Lilian Awinja, Executive Director of the East African Business Council; private sector foundations; manufacturers from across East Africa and beyond; EAC Institutions; Development Partners; Regional Economic Communities (RECs); and other international organizations including: EASTECO, IUCEA; CASSOA, EACHRC UNIDO, UNECA, TMEA, GIZ, PTB, BDI JICA, IGAD, COMESA, ICGLR, ARSO, OECD, IGCLR, PTB, EAC Staff among others. In attendance were also exhibitors from the EAC region and beyond.

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Kigali Resolutions on Manufacturing

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3. The 2nd Manufacturing Business Summit was jointly organized by East Africa Community Secretariat and East Africa Business Council and hosted by the Government of Rwanda. The summit themed, 'Harnessing the Manufacturing Potential for Sustainable Economic Growth in East Africa' aimed at deepening the gains made in developing the manufacturing sector following the holding of the first Summit in September 2015.

4. The forum made the following resolutions on this date of 25th May 2017:

I. Both the public and private sectors are key to driving industrialization in the region. However noting the capital intensive nature of most of the large scale industrialization projects, there is a need for partnerships that are government led. The region to develop regional policy frameworks for government led industrialization mega projects that can drive up manufacturing in the region. EAC Partner States to commit to a percentage of national budgets allocated for industrial development.

II. Deployment of appropriate skills to suit industry remains a challenge of enhanced productivity in industry. EAC Partner States to develop national policy and law that make industrial internship mandatory, especially for engineers, technologists and scientists. Further Partner States academia to work closely with private sector associations to formulate regional skills development programmes targeting specific skills required by the private sector schools, TVET and university curriculum.

III. For purposes of item no. II on appropriate skills to suit industry and to enable the various sectors of manufacturing to effectively advocate their various sector issues in one voice, EAC and EABC to facilitate establishment of regional sectoral private sector platforms to promote dialogue and interactions among public, private sector and development partners on policy matters in each of the sub sectors, as well as to promote business partnerships, and information and knowledge exchange. (EAC Secretariat / EABC to establish Web Portals).

IV. EAC should develop supply capacity to be able to participate in supply of materials for infrastructural projects and other mega projects among others taking note that this is a long-term course. EAC should develop a regional local content policy and strategy for better coordination of local content initiatives. To guide this development, the EAC is to undertake baseline studies on local content in all lead economic sectors to guide review of policies, legal and regulatory frameworks for a regional local content policy development.

V. Noting that the current EAC CET structure does not work effectively for manufacturing in the region, EAC in partnership with EABC; to detail in a comprehensive, evidence-based, and consolidated way priority for the CET review proposing four to five bands as appropriate. The overall aim is to address degree of processing and encourage backward and forward value addition linkages in the total value chain of the manufacturing sector as EAC Partner States embark on comprehensive review of EAC CET. Comprehensive tariff

anomalies assessment should be undertaken targeting sectors such as cotton, textiles, and apparels; motor vehicles, wood & furniture among others, dairy, edible oils, cereals, leather. Further the region is to put in place web portals for the sectors to facilitate information sharing.

VI. Noting the unique role of the EAC Diaspora to contribute to skills in the region and to amplify and sustain economic development through the volume of remittances as an important source of external development finance; EAC and EABC to put in place a Framework for engaging the diaspors to enable manufacturers tap into diaspora funds in the region. EAC to conduct a comprehensive study on the innovative financing instruments to be deployed to promote investment in manufacturing. Including the options of creating diaspora investment vehicles.


VII. Regional national policies/regulations are pursued as opposed to having single /common policies segmenting and fragmenting the market which limits the scope for economies of scale and escalates the cost of doing business. The region to develop and adopt common sectoral policy and visions to ensure stability and create uniform business environment for manufacturing-.

VIII. Observed that economic and special zones generate additional economic activity leading to promotion of exports of goods; promotion of investment from domestic and foreign sources; and development of infrastructure facilities; to attract large investments. In this regards EAC and EABC were urged to develop cross country coordination and collaboration platforms for efficient competitive value chains (platforms) and to undertake learning missions to enable design of effective Special Economic Zones (SEZs). The development of such infrastructure to also take into account development of facilities for small and medium enterprises.

IX. The role of science, technology and innovation should be given priority in the discourse on manufacturing. Considering that entrepreneurship drives science, technology and innovation EAC and EABC to develop an Entrepreneurship policy as a platform for anchoring an entrepreneurial culture.

X. Considering the effect of plastics and chemicals on the environment and on industrial development; Partner States need to put in place environmental safeguards for plastics and chemicals in order that environmental sustainability is not an opportunity cost to industrial development.

XI. EAC, EABC, National Bureau of Standards and ARSO to work hand in hand and to take appropriate measures to widen awareness and enforce standards compliance in all industrial businesses towards facilitating intra EAC trade and trade in general.

XII. EAC and EABC to fast track implementation of mutual recognition agreements between EAC Bureaux of Standards. 

The Tripartite Task Force Infrastructure Sub-Committee (ISC) meets in Arusha

The Tripartite Task Force Infrastructure Sub-Committee meeting to consider progress of projects and programmes under the Infrastructure Pillar of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) concluded on 12th May, 2017 in Arusha, Tanzania.

The two-day meeting chaired by the Director of Infrastructure at the EAC Secretariat, Dr Kamugisha Kazaura was attended by the representative from Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the host EAC.

Delivering his opening remarks on behalf of the Secretary General, Dr Kazaura, appreciated the support from the EU for funding the Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Project (TTTFP) from the EDF 11 funding cycle for the next five years. The support will go a long way in facilitating harmonization of the transport standards, regulatory frameworks and specifications in the Eastern and Southern African Region.

The representative of SADC, Mr. Lovemore Bingandadi, thanked the EAC for convening the meeting and reiterated SADC's commitment to work with COMESA and EAC to accelerate the implementation of the Tripartite Infrastructure programmes.

On his part, Mr. Bernard Dzawanda from COMESA, pledged to work with the other RECs in the implementation of the Tripartite Infrastructure programmes. He lauded the EAC for enacting regional legislation that made it easier for Partner States to implement regional policies and standards and called for replication of the practice across all Tripartite RECs.

The meeting discussed the progress in the implementation of the Tripartite Infrastructure Projects and Programmes in the areas of Tripartite Transport and Facilitation Programme, Corridors Infrastructure Development, Civil Aviation, Maritime Transport, Ports, ICT and Energy. The Tripartite RECs and Member States have developed Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP) which has received funding amounting to 18 million Euros under the 11th EDF.


Implementation of the programme is expected to commence in July 2017. It was noted that the lack of an integrated and liberalized road transport market in the East and Southern African



(EA-SA) region poses numerous obstacles to trade by causing severe delays and increased transport costs, as well as challenges to road safety and durability. This programme (which builds on previous REC programs) addresses these challenges through the implementation of harmonized road transport policies, laws, regulations, systems and standards that affect drivers, loads, vehicles and road infrastructure in the countries of the EA-SA region.

All RECs forming the Tripartite have prioritized the development of corridors to facilitate transit transport and expand trade within and between the respective regions.

In the Civil Aviation Sub Sector, the meeting noted that the Tripartite is currently playing the key role in the full implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision and establishment of a single African Air Transport Market as adopted by the African Union Assembly in January 2015. The full liberalization in the Tripartite region will lead to the removal of all restrictions on access, price, frequency and capacity in intra-African Air Transport market, free exercise of the first five freedom rights and the reduction of Air Transport Cost.

The report of the Tripartite Task force Infrastructure Sub-Committee meeting will be considered by the Tripartite Sectoral Committee of Ministers of Infrastructure (TSCMI) scheduled in July 2017. 

1st Meeting of the Technical Committee on TVET Convened in Nairobi

The EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) organized the 1st meeting of the Technical Committee (TECHCOM) on Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) at the Safari Park Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

The EAC developed a specific harmonization strategy for TVET which covers a wide range of issues geared towards harmonizing the EAC Partner States education systems and curricula.

The 11th Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports, directed the EAC Secretariat to establish a dedicated Technical Committee for TVET (TVET TECHCOM) with specific Terms of Reference to spearhead the harmonization of TVET within the EAC.

In attendance at the opening session of the meeting were the Minister of Education from the Republic of Uganda; Hon. Dr. John Munying'o, the Principal Secretary (P.S) in charge of Vocational and Technical Training; Dr. Dinah Mwinzi, Bomet County (Kenya) Member of Parliament and a member of Parliamentary Sub-Committee on TVET; Hon. Dr. Cecilia Ngetich, Minister of General Education and Instruction from the Republic of South Sudan; Hon. Deng Deng Hoc Yai and the Minister of Primary, Secondary and Vocational Education, Sports, Tourism, Socio-Cultural Affairs and Citizenship from the Democratic Republic of Congo invited as an observer; Hon. Muganza Wakandwa.

In her remarks, the Swiss Embassy representative, Ms. Caroline Tissot, said that the TVET harmonization initiative would contribute to deepening EAC's cooperation in the key areas of education and skills, for the youth.

"Youth unemployment is a major challenge hence vocational training can contribute to equipping the youth with skills, facilitating their integration in the labour market or their ability to create their own activity," said Ms. Tissot.

South Sudan's Minister for General Education and Instruction, Mr. Deng Deng Hoc Yai, said that the challenges facing East Africa in promoting TVET were many but not insurmountable, adding that they could be overcome through cooperation among the Partner States.

In his remarks, EAC Principal Culture and Sports Officer, Mr. Bernard Bakaye, who represented the Secretary General noted that, currently, Partner States run different curriculum development systems for the centralized and decentralized components of their TVET systems.

"It was in light of the above regards that the Council of Ministers found it necessary to establish an East African TVET Experts Forum: The EAC Technical Committee (EAC-TECHCOM) that is ex-



pected to meet periodically to pursue harmonization of TVET in the region," said Mr. Bakaye.

"Our collective mission as East Africans remains to work towards a skilled, productive and integrated East Africa whose overriding agenda is to improve the living conditions of our people, people moving and interacting freely across borders in fulfillment of their dreams and ambitions," he added.

The purpose of the 1st meeting of the TVET TECHCOM is to provide a platform for regional experts, policy makers and selected key stakeholders working in the TVET sector including Development Partners from GIZ, UNESCO as well as the Private Sector to share information about the opportunities, challenges, lessons learnt and record good practices on harnessing TVET to promote citizens' mobility within and among member countries through the facilitation of a national and regional harmonization and mutual recognition of TVET.



Four Key Bills Sail Through First Reading



Four crucial Bills sailed through the First Reading in the House on 30 May 2017.

The EAC Youth Council Bill, 2017, the EAC Mining Bill 2017, the EAC Appropriation Bill 2017 and the EAC Cross Border Trade in Professional Services Bill, 2017, were read for the first time yesterday and committed to the relevant committees.

The EAC Cross Border Trade in Professional Services Bill, 2017, which is expected to be a boost to the Common Market Protocol, is moved by Hon Fred Mukasa Mbidde. The Bill hopes to provide for the conduct and regulation of Cross Border Trade in Professional Services in the Community and to make provisions for purposes connected to the practice of professions through borders of the Community.

The Bill is premised on Article 104 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC under which the Partner States undertook to adopt measures to achieve free movement of persons, labour and services and to ensure the enjoyment of the right of establishment and residence of the citizens within the Community.

At the same time, the Bill should see the operationalisation of Article 76 of the Treaty which provides for free movement of labour, goods, services, capital and the rights of establishment. In the same regard, it takes into account the provisions of article 10 on free movement of workers and Article 11 on harmonisation and mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications.

The EAC Mining Bill 2017, moved by Hon Chris Opoka-Okumu hopes to provide legal framework for the regulation of mining operations in the Community. It seeks to implement the EAC Vision 2050 and specifically to operationalise Article 114(2) (c) (iv) of the EAC Treaty which calls for harmonisation of mining regulations to ensure environmentally friendly and sound mining practices.

The Bill further provides for a transparent and accountable mechanism for the reporting of mining and mineral related activities in the Community. It is to ultimately reduce the differences in the operating environment for the mining sector.

Not to be left behind are the youth who make a significant percentage of the EAC populace following the introduction of the EAC Youth Council Bill, 2017. The Bill moved by Hon Susan Nakawuki, is premised on Article 120 of the EAC Treaty and seeks to implement the EAC Youth Policy 2014 which is an integral part of the 4th EAC Development Strategy 2011/2012 – 2015/2016. The Bill recognises that Partner States have diverse laws and policies regarding the youth in their territories. The Bill therefore attempts to uniformise the laws and regulations pertaining to youth in the Community.

The Appropriation Bill, 2017 on its part, makes provision for appropriation out of the budget of EAC for specified amounts of money for the services and purposes of the Community for the Financial Year ending 30th June 2018.



**Editorial Team:**

Owora Richard Othieno; Simon Peter Owaka; Aileen Mallya; Bobi Odiko; Annah Nabaasa; Florian Mutabazi; Damaris Wambui; J.R.Luwali (Photographer) & Mukhtar Abdul Bolyao (Photographer)

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www.eac.int

For further information please contact:

Richard Owora Othieno, Head of Department | Email: OOthieno@eachq.org | Tel: +255 (0)27 216 2100