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## EAC, GERMANY SIGN €37 MILLION AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT REGIONAL INTEGRATION



The Federal Republic of Germany on 23 January 2016, signed an intergovernmental agreement with the East African Community (EAC) to support the economic integration, regional health facilities and water resource management.

Germany signed a total of 37 million euros in grants to the EAC for 2016-2018, highlighting the strong commitment to support the integration process in East Africa.

- 10 million euro in financial assistance will be invested in the establishment of a regional network of reference laboratories for communicable diseases. With this project, the German Government responds to a request for support from the EAC for the prevention and control of epidemic outbreaks in the region. Another 10 million euros in financial assistance will be used for Integrated Water Resource

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## Since cooperation began in 1998 the total volume of German support to the EAC amounts to almost €213 million




Management of Lake Victoria aiming at improving water provision and management of water resources. Both projects will be implemented by KfW development bank.

- 17 million euros in technical assistance will be made available to further support of the economic integration process, including a contribution to the EAC partnership fund. The programme is focusing on institutional strengthening of the EAC Secretariat and on supporting the implementation of the Customs Union, Common Market Protocols and Monetary Union. This includes the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers such as tax harmonisation as well as Mutual Recognition Agreements for qualifications. At the same time Germany will support the EAC in promoting private investment especially in the pharmaceutical sector, including the establishment of a regional quality infrastructure for the pharmaceutical sector. These projects will be implemented by GIZ and PTB – German Metrology Institute.

During the signing ceremony, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, the EAC Secretary General, thanked the German government for her continued support to the Integration Agenda especially at a time when integration is facing challenges across the world. He said this particular financing agreement comes at the right time when the Community is finalising its new Vision 2050.

Mr. John Reyels, Chargé d` Affaires of the German Embassy Dar es Salaam, said: "Our support underlines the importance we give to the East African Community. The EAC is a role model and pace-setter in Africa and we are proud working closely with you in order to contribute to the well-being and prosperity of the citizens of this region."

Since cooperation began in 1998 the total volume of German support to the EAC amounts to almost 213 million euro. Germany also has substantial bilateral cooperation with all five EAC Partner States. 



## EALA Concerned about Republic of Burundi



The East African Legislative Assembly holds that there are serious and sufficient grounds showing gross human rights violations have taken place and continue in the Republic of Burundi unabated.

The Assembly views that the EAC under the Treaty obligation, the African Union under the Constitutive Act, the United Nations and other international players owe a duty of care and responsibility to protection of the people of Burundi. In addition, EALA requests the Summit of the EAC Heads of State to do all that is possible to stop the humanitarian, human rights and political crises in the country.

The Assembly on 5 February 2016, debated and adopted the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in Burundi.

With it, the Assembly lauded the commitments taken by the African Union (AU) on the issue of sending a high level mission to Burundi to discuss deployment of an African Union preventive and protection force to secure the wellbeing of citizens. In the same vein, it underscored the need for the continental bloc to deploy a non-partisan preventive and protection force to secure the wellbeing of the citizens and to stop the gross human rights violations.

The Assembly also urged the EAC Summit of Heads of State to affirm that EAC has a duty of care and responsibility to protect the people of Burundi from violence and to guarantee their safety and security.

Of equal importance is the need for the EAC Summit to consider and support establishment of a credible investigative mechanism to independently investigate all allegations of human rights violations in Burundi. While supporting the work of the Office of the mediator, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Assembly is emphatic that an all-inclusive, participatory and credible process of dialogue in and outside of Burundi shall bring peace to the country.

The Report of the Committee follows the recent Public Hearing workshop on Burundi which delved into the Petition presented to the EALA Speaker by the Pan African Lawyers Union (PALU) and other regional Civil Society Organisations on the subject matter in November 2015.

On January 14-15, 2016, the Committee received the oral presentation from the petitioners as well as the contributions from representatives of the opposition Political Parties and civil Society Organisations. On 25 January 2016, a high powered delegation from the Government of Burundi, also came to Arusha to

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# EAC to Benefit from USAID Strategic Plan 2016-2022




## ...Regional integration is an important element for economic development in East Africa

Ms. Candace Buzzard, the new Deputy Mission Director of Kenya and East Africa for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) on 27 January 2016, paid a courtesy visit to EAC's Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera at the EAC Headquarters. She was accompanied by Mr. Matt Rees, Deputy for Trade Africa, Mr. Donald Keene, Resident Legal Officer and Ms. Cristina Olive, Office Director, Strategic Planning and Analysis.

In receiving the Deputy Mission Director, Dr. Sezibera thanked USAID for its continued support and strong partnership. Reterritating on the importance of regional integration as a means to access regional markets and gain competition advantages in efficiency and productivity outputs, Dr. Sezibera said, "these elements can only be realised by having no restrictions on the movement of goods, services, labour and capital within the East Africa."

The visit constituted of a presentation of the draft USAID Regional Strategic Plan 2016-2022 to the Secretary General, and dialogue on ways in which the two organizations can align their key priorities for the next five years.

USAID's five-year strategic plan will focus on increased trade, investment and food security; health services and systems for marginalized and vulnerable populations; increased security of populations vulnerable to regional threats and strengthening East African institutions' leadership and learning.

Ms. Buzzard acknowledged the efforts that the Community has made for some of the region's most remote regions to access trade, adding that "this has not only promoted prosperity in those regions, but has also delivered better livelihoods to their communities, thus putting EAC in the forefront as a model for Integration." 



# EAC Region to see more Competitive Economies, Increased Free Movement of its Citizenry



**Through the support of Trade Mark East Africa (TMEA), EAC has managed to reduce the transport transfer time of containers from Dar es Salaam-Mombasa port to Bujumbura/Kigali by 12%**

The EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, on 1 February 2016, held discussions with TMEA CEO, Mr. Frank Matsaert to plan for TMEA's support for the next phase, 2016-2022.

The meeting took place today at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, and was attended by Dr. Enos Bukuku, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Mr. David Stanton, TMEA Director General, and ministerial representatives from the five Partner States.

With the aim of improving the quality of life of East Africans through competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments, the EAC, through TMEA support, has improved the infrastructure at Mombasa Port; constructed road network between Ntungamo to Mirama Hill in Uganda and Port Reitz to Kipevu West in Kenya; improved on the customs clearance time along the borders and carried out several sensitization campaigns to small cross border traders on the opportunities and facilities of the Integration Process.

"I wish to express my gratitude to TMEA for supporting the Integration Agenda," said Dr. Sezibera. "As we move more towards monetary and fiscal integration, we need to strengthen institutional capacities, nurture vibrant trade and enhance financial markets within the region," he said.

Despite the challenges since the re-establishment of the EAC, there is no doubt that Partner States have made considerable progress in their efforts to integrate. Efforts have been made in the harmonization of policies, while improvements have been made in the areas of trade, macroeconomic policies, infrastructure, and ICTs.

The decision by Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), East African Community (EAC) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) to establish a single free trade zone for the 26 member countries goes a long way to deepen the integration agenda for the Community.

"We are very keen on continuing supporting the Integration Agenda," said Mr. Matsaert. "With strong commitment and guidance from the Secretary General and his team, we will be able to carve out key priority activities to carry out in the next phase," he said.



## ...Cease all atrocities and killings legislators say, as EAC Summit urged to concert efforts in finding solutions to the humanitarian crisis

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make their submissions. before the Committee retreated to make its report.

The stakeholders who spoke on 15 January 2016 broadly agreed with the petition, elaborated arguments asserting that the crisis in Burundi was a political problem. They further clarified how the situation had mutated into an ethnic problem, citing parallels with the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Most presenters according to the Report gave a gruesome picture of the nature of the crimes and human rights abuses including details on refugees and internal displacements, arrests and detentions.

"Pictures of some of the notable instances of murders were further shown and submitted for record," Hon Abdullah Mwinyi, Chair of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution said.

On its part, the Government of Republic of Burundi that appeared before the Committee on January 25, 2016 took a long-term view of the Burundi crisis including the post-colonial history.

The delegation led by Hon Leontine Nzeyimana, Minister for EAC Affairs in Burundi however included a mix of representatives from government, political parties, and civil society. On her part, the minister noted: 'As it has been happening in Burundi since the early 1960's, the electioneering period was marked by negative propaganda intended to create in Burundi a political and institutional instability.

According to the Report, the delegates submitted that EALA was a major role to play in helping Burundi to restore order. While presenting the report to an attentive House yesterday, Hon Mwinyi noted numerous outstanding issues that require resolution and careful thinking through. Among these areas are political with all presenters at the hearing acknowledging, that Burundi faces a crisis. With regards to human rights violations, delegates pointed out to instances of human rights abuse – albeit attributing them to either side.

They included rape, extra-judicial killings, assassinations, detentions, and unexplained disappearances. Evidence of mass graves and gruesome pictures of unspeakable mutilations were put on record. The Committee further remarked it was not aware of any homogeneity among the youth.

"There is now enough credible evidence from UN and other Human Rights sources that confirm that Imbonerakure (Youth group) plays the function of a party militia", a section of the report said.

"Indeed, it has been repeatedly reported that they have been involved in "arbitrary" arrest of members of the opposition "under the guise of national police or SNR officers. Their presence is so strong it may have overshadowed the presence of youth groups affiliated to other parties who, as the Committee heard, also exist. Not only have Imbonerakure been involved in the gradual breakdown of law and order, this context has allowed more merchants of violence who are not necessarily active disputants or members of the Imbonerakure to also partake to a gradually deteriorating political environment", a section of the report said.


The importance of this crisis to the EAC, the Report added, was brought home by accusations leveled against a Partner state by the Government-led delegation. Except for one Report, the delegation was unable to provide adequate evidence to the Committee to validate the claim that the Republic of Rwanda is hosting and militarily training Burundi refugees.

"They also claimed that the Secretary General of the EAC was biased but did not provide any evidence for the claim", Hon Mwinyi said.

At debate time, Hon Abubakar Zein remarked that the report had pricked the conscience of the Assembly and lamented that not much had been done to contain the humanitarian and political crisis. He said it was time for the region to move fast with regards to operationalising the East African Parliamentary Institute in order to build capacity for Parliamentary Democracy and the enhancement of peace and security initiatives.

Hon Hafsa Mossi said it was important to stand in solidarity with the Republic of Burundi. "We cannot have solutions by imposing sanctions on the EAC Partner State", she said. Hon Peter Mathuki said it was vital for the region to find solutions to the happenings in Burundi while Hon Nancy Abisai called for a participatory approach involving all stakeholders. Hon Odette Nyiramilimo said insecurity in one of the Partner States would easily lead to insecurity in another and appealed for peaceful solutions to the crisis, sentiments which were also shared by Hon Taslima Twaha and Hon Angela Kizigha.

Hon Mumbi Ngaru remarked that leadership was key at this point in time and said it was wrong to point fingers at each other. Hon Isabelle Ndahayo requested the Assembly to enable the Committee to visit Burundi to further assess the situation.

The Minister for EAC, Burundi, Hon Leontine Nzeyimana thanked the Committee and the Assembly for the report and for handling the entire process which was difficult due to the sensitivities with objectivity. 

## Awori Hands Over Tanzania Election Observation Report to EAC Secretary General



### ...Awori commends Tanzania for carrying out peaceful elections in October 2015

H.E. Moody Awori, Former Kenyan Vice President, on 9 January 2016, presented Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, EAC Secretary General, with the final observation report from the Presidential and Parliamentary Elections held in Tanzania last year. The ceremony took place at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

While receiving the Report, the Secretary General thanked the Former Vice President for his leadership and commitment to the EAC Elections Observers Mission, adding that, "the collaboration between the EAC and other stakeholders led to sustainable peace in the country."

In October 2015, a 55-member team was deployed to Dar es Salaam to observe the country's General Elections in both Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar. The Mission was drawn from different complementary disciplines that included members of the East African Legislative Assembly, as well as members of the National Assemblies Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Burundi, National Electoral Commissions, National Human Rights Commissions, Civil society organizations, and youth representatives from the EAC Youth Ambassadors Forum.

"I was very happy to observe the steadfastness, determination, patience and orderliness with which Tanzania conducted her General Elections, said H.E. Awori. "These and many other positives that have also been highlighted in the report, can be used as benchmarks for which other countries can borrow good practices from," he said.

The report consists of recommendations to streamline and improve the electoral process for future elections in Tanzania.





# EAC to Deploy Election Observer Mission to the Republic of Uganda



**...Former President of United Republic of Tanzania  
H.E Ali Hassan Mwinyi to head the team**

The East African Community is set to deploy an Election Observer Mission team to General Election taking place on 18th February 2016 in the Republic of Uganda.

A 50 member Short-Term Election Observer Mission Team which is being led by H.E Ali Hassan Mwinyi, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania is due to arrive in Kampala, Uganda, on 9 February 2016, to observe the General Elections slated for 18th February 2016 in Uganda. The Mission's mandate is to observe the overall electoral environment, pre-election activities, the polling day, the counting and tallying of results


The Mission is preceded by a Pre-Elections Assessment Team which was deployed from 31st January 2016 to assess the level of preparedness by key stakeholders and prepare a report that will inform the Short Term Election Observation Mission.

The members of the EAC Election Observer Mission has been drawn from different but complementary disciplines and

includes, members of the East African Legislative Assembly, delegates from four Partner States (Kenya, United Republic Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi), EAC Youth Ambassadors , Mission Leader ,Mission Coordinator ,One EAC Executive Staff and technical officers from the Secretariat as well as EALA.

The exclusion of members from the Republic of Uganda is consistent with the adopted practice on the Principles of Election Observation and Evaluation which precludes nationals of the host country from participating as Election Observations in their own countries.

The EAC Observer Mission is a response to the invitation of the Uganda Electoral Commission as well as the decision of the EAC Council of Ministers on observation of elections in the Partner States.

The Mission is expected to prepare a report that will be submitted to, among others, the Electoral Commission of Uganda, through the EAC Council of Ministers for consideration and implementation. The Mission will depart Uganda on 21 February 2016. 



## EAC Secretary General receives Credentials from Finnish Ambassador



The East African Community Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, on 22 January 2016, received credentials from the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Finland to the EAC, H.E. Pekka Hukka.

Speaking at the function, Amb. Hukka said that his appointment was out of his government's commitment to deepen its cooperation with the EAC, noting the significance of regional integration not only for East Africans, but as an important source of growth for the continent as well.

Expressing his gratitude to the Finnish Government for her dynamic support to the EAC, the Secretary General shed light on the region's increased market size, which has led the Community to expand on cross-border production chains.

Finland is a regular contributor to the Partnership Fund, a basket fund which enables the Community to make significant achievements in various sectors.



# Let Us Streamline Acquisition of Work and Residence Permits - EALA

The Assembly is calling on the Partner States to commence the process of uniformly abolishing work and residence permit fees as well as in the facilitation of portability of social benefits. In the same vein, the Assembly is set to work jointly with regional advocacy bodies to engage in sensitization and popularization of the Common Market Protocol among other related issues.

On 27 January 2016, the Assembly debated and adopted the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the petition to EALA regarding work/residence permits in the EAC for the citizens of the Partner States.



The Report presented by Hon.

Dr Odette Nyiramilimo, Chair of the Committee indicates that a number of areas of co-operation and implementation of the Common Market Protocol remain in the remit of individual Partner States and thus calls for advocacy to enable harmonization at the regional level. The Committee further observes that the issue of portability of social benefits is key and undertakes to continue work with the East African Trade Union Confederation (EATUC) and the East African Employers Association (EAEO), who are drafting a Bill on the same.

The issue of portability of social benefits is already been discussed bilaterally among some Partner States. In addition, EALA is to formalize its engagement with the East African Business Council and other private sector players in the region. The Council is further requested to continuously develop interventions to enhance the business environment in the region and fast track development of policies and strategies on key issues to enhance implementation.

The said petition was presented to the EALA Speaker, Rt Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega by the East African Trade Union Confederation and the East African Employers Association in March 2015. The EATUC/EAEO has made 17 prayers in their request. Such include the harmonization of the standards and processes of acquiring permits as well as the future amendment of Annex 2 of the Common Market Protocol to review the roadmap for free movement of workers given he fact that the current one ended in 2015.

The annex according to the petitioners should put in place a roadmap for the gradual implementation of free labour mobility which eventually comprises all sectors and all categories of blue and white collar workers. Furthermore, the petitioners want the new revised annex to put in place a tripartite mechanism (Employers, Trade Unions and Government) at the EAC level and should be administered at national level through the tripartite fora. The

petitioners also want the standardization of the process of the work permits and the eventual removal of the permits.

At debate time, Hon Martin Ngoga called for the harmonization of the procedures of acquiring permits while Hon Susan Nakawuki said Partner States should not be seen to be introducing barriers that hamper process of acquisition of the permits. Hon Dr James Ndahiro remarked that though the Common Market Protocol had many benefits, citizens of the region continued to face a myriad of challenges. He remarked that it was necessary for EAC Partner States to prioritise integration.

"Integration seems to be taking second place in some of our Partner States. We need to prioritise it so we do not waste the meagre resources", the legislator remarked.

Hon Dora Byamukama congratulated the Secretary General of the Community for introducing the EAC Scorecard on the Common Market Protocol remarking that it enabled the region to take stock of the on-going developments. The legislator called for the speedy harmonization of the student visa fees across board as a way of introducing equal opportunities.

Hon Christophe Bazivamo remarked that in the Republic of Rwanda, it took 3 days to process and issue a permit and about 12 hours to register a company. Furthermore, the work permit fees for East Africans has been abolished.

"If the costs of issuing permits is high, it is not developmental. It stops people from coming to work, to invest and to develop," he added. Hon Abdullah Mwinyi urged the Partner States to adhere to the Protocol and to the principle of non-discrimination of EAC citizens when it comes to enjoying privileges.





## Assembly Must Safeguard its Independence and Immunities



The East African Legislative Assembly has urged Partner States, Organs and Institutions of the Community to uphold and apply the principles and provisions as enshrined in the Treaty in respect to privileges of Members of EALA. In this regard, it is now official the tenure of the four Members of EALA from Burundi whom the Burundi National Assembly had wanted recalled from the Assembly, will be upheld.

On 4 February 2016, the Assembly has passed a Report of the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges on the consideration of a Resolution moved under Rule 30 (J) of the Assembly Rules and Procedures on a matter of Privileges arising from a threat of tenure of office of Office of four Members of EALA. The Report was presented by Hon. Peter Mathuki, Chairperson of the Committee.

The Assembly also passed the Resolution on the same – which was the main subject matter but with amendments contained in the Report of the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges.

The Resolution moved in November 2015 by Hon. AbuBakr Ogle, had advised the Assembly to urge Partner States not to introduce attempts to manipulate institutions, threaten Members or undermine their status, terming such a move unlawful and an affront to the principles under the EAC Treaty.

The Resolution (then had) condemned in the strongest term possible all attempts to undermine the authority of the Assembly and claims to the privileges and status of its Members. However, the Committee in its Report on 4 February 2016, suggested and made changes to the Resolution reaffirming to the position taken by the Speaker of EALA as communicated to the Speaker of Burundi National Assembly on the matter.

In November 2015, the Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly, Rt Hon. Pascal Nyabenda wrote to the EALA Speaker, ceasing membership of four Members from Burundi to EALA. The four are Hon. Jeremie Ngendakumana, Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro, Hon. Yves Nsabimana and Hon. Dr Martin Nduwimana.

The letter stated that the conditions through which they (the four Members) presented themselves for elections had now changed. It said in part that the party on whose strength two Members were elected to EALA was no longer represented in the Burundi National Assembly. Two other Members had on their part ceased to be Members of their parties having duly resigned.

In his response to the said letter, the Speaker of EALA after consultations noted that the request was not tenable owing to the fact

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## ... Matters of privileges of House and Members key as it adopts Report of the Legal Rules and Privileges Committee



that it had contravened section 51 of the EAC Treaty among other provisions. Hitherto, the Counsel to the Community offered legal opinion on the matter after acquaintance with the Constitution of the Republic of Burundi and the Electoral laws in the country.

The Resolution which was seconded by Hon. Dr James Ndahiro noted that matters of privileges of Members touch on the integrity and independence of the Assembly and that any threats bring with it a potential to undermine the authority of the Assembly and compromises its functioning under the EAC Treaty.

Justifying the matter on the floor of the House, Hon. ABuBakr Ogle remarked that independence and privileges of the House were vital. The Resolution further appeals to the Organs and Institutions of the Community to guarantee safety and security of all Members of EALA and staff as well as those of other Institutions of the Community.

The motion was moved under Rule 30 (j) of the Rules of Procedure which allows for a motion raising a question of privilege to be asked without notice.

The Resolution was however not debated. In its place, the EALA Speaker, Rt Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega, made a ruling deferring the matter to the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges for immediate digestion.

During the 4 February debate, Hon. Abubakar Zein said the sovereignty of Members of the Assembly was key and that it was imperative for the Assembly to analyse the context in which the letter was written as well as the impact such would have on them. He said it was important for the Members of the Assembly to feel safe to carry on with their mandate.

Hon. Mumbi Ngaru said that it was necessary for the Report of the Committee to have gone deeper bearing in mind that the tenure of Members must come to an end at some point.

Hon. Joseph Kiangoi said the provisions of membership of EALA within the EAC Treaty was clear, while Hon. Dora Byamukama stated that the Motion was delicate and thus it was necessary to be considerate and diplomatic in handling the matter.

Hon. Chris Opoka said the said the legitimacy of membership of the four Members in question cannot be said to have ceased simply because their parties were not in Parliament. Others who supported the Report and the Resolution included Hon. Dr Martin Nduwimana, Hon. Sarah Bonaya and Hon. Martin Ngoga.

The Minister in the Office of the President in charge of EAC Affairs, Hon. Leontine Nzeyimana stated that it was necessary for the law of the Partner States to be respected stating that Partner States had interests in the Community and that such must be respected.





## EALA Calls for Full Implementation of the Common Market Protocol, cites sensitisation as key in the process



The Regional Assembly is urging Partner States to “up their game” in sensitization activities particularly when it comes to the Common Market Protocol in order to raise awareness and showcase benefits to the citizens of the region.

At the same time, the EALA wants Partner States to adopt a phased implementation of the EAC Common Market by prioritizing aspects that carry quick wins or deliver immediate multiplier effects. This move shall endear citizens to take advantage of the benefits that shall accrue from the Common Market protocol.

The Assembly on 2 February 2016, debated and adopted the Report of an Oversight activity on the Security related challenges of implementing the Common Market Protocol along the Central Corridor.


The Report presented to the House by the Chair of the Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution Committee, Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi follows the oversight activity undertaken by the Committee in the United Republic of Tanzania in November 2015.

The activity aimed at appreciating first-hand, the existing security related operational challenges of implementing the Common Market Protocol along the Central Corridor; Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) constraints including numerous police road blocks and check points; and the ongoing reforms and projects on course to ease cargo transportation in landlocked Partner States of Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda.

The objective of the Committee was to comprehend and appreciate the implementation of the Common Market Protocol along the Central Corridor and to ascertain the challenges faced in the implementation.

The Committee held a field trip visiting Dar es Salaam, all through to Vigwaza weighbridge and roadblocks. It further interacted with various stakeholders including officials of the Ministry of EAC, Ministry of Labour and Employment and the Tanzania Bureau of Standards (TBS). Others included the Business Community, Members of the Tanzania Police Force and the Tanzania Roads Agency (TANROADS) Officials.

The Committee observed that United Republic of Tanzania had developed a national Common Market Protocol implementation strategy and a national Committee to realize the same. It further strengthened the National Monitoring Committee for Elimination of Non-Tariff barriers and had commenced on the issuance of the machine readable identifications.

The Committee was nonetheless informed that implementation of the Common Market Protocol continued to lag behind owing to a number of factors including; Inadequate awareness among Private Sector, implementing agencies and the general public on the provisions and implementation of EAC CMP as well as delays by the sectoral Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDA's) to amend national laws relevant to the said Protocol. In addition, the Committee took cognisance of the funding requirements for smooth implementation of the EAC Protocol. 

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