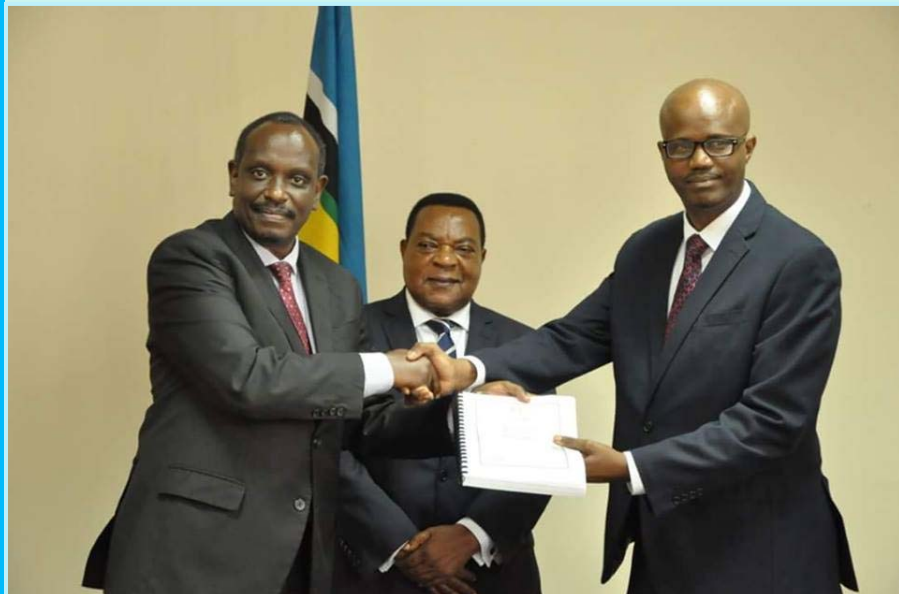




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EAC GETS NEW BOSS



on 25 April 2016, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera handed over the seat of Secretary General to Mr. Libérat Mfumukeko.

Mr Libérat Mfumukeko was appointed to the position on 2 March 2016 by the Summit of the EAC Heads of State for a single five-year term. Prior to his appointment as Secretary General, Mr Mfumukeko served the East African Community in the capacity of Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration.

Mr Mfumukeko joined the EAC from another position of leadership – Director General, Burundi Water and Electricity Utility (REGIDESO), the last position he held prior to joining the EAC. He has also held the Chairmanship of the Steering Committee of the East African Power Pool (EAPP).

Mr Mfumukeko brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his new position, with vast international experience including the establishment of the Burundi Investment Promotion Authority (API) in 2009.

The new Secretary General boasts international, intercultural and linguistic skills, with fluency in French, English, Kirundi, Kiswahili and Russian as well as having worked in France, Russia, USA, DR Congo, Rwanda, Ivory Coast and Cameroon.



COMMUNIQUÉ: SIGNING CEREMONY OF THE TREATY OF ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY



1. THEIR EXCELLENCIES GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, AND DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE HAVE THIS FRIDAY THE 15TH OF APRIL 2016, SIGNED THE TREATY OF ACCESSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN DAR ES SALAAM, TANZANIA. THE HEADS OF STATE MET AND SIGNED THE TREATY OF ACCESSION IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.

2. H.E. DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI WAS DESIGNATED ON 2ND MARCH, 2016 BY THE SUMMIT OF EAC HEADS OF STATE AT THEIR 17TH ORDINARY MEETING, ON ITS BEHALF, TO SIGN THE TREATY OF ACCESSION WITH H.E. GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

3. H.E. DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI THANKED H.E. GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT FOR TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO FORMALLY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN LESS THAN FOUR MONTHS AFTER THE COUNTRY ATTAINED INDEPENDENCE.

4. THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE HEADS OF STATE NOTED THAT THE ENTRY OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY WAS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE ENTIRE REGION.

5. H.E. GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT THANKED THE SUMMIT OF EAC HEADS OF STATE FOR AGREEING TO ADMIT THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY.

6. H.E. GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT OBSERVED THAT THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN'S ADMISSION INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY WAS THE FULFILMENT OF A DREAM HELD BY THE COUNTRY'S FOREFATHERS MORE THAN FIFTY YEARS AGO, ADDING THAT IT MARKED A DECISIVE SHIFT IN THE COUNTRY'S FOREIGN AND ECONOMIC POLICY.

7. H.E. DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI DIRECTED THE EAC SECRETARIAT TO URGENTLY DEVELOP A ROADMAP FOR FAST-TRACKING THE INTEGRATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE ACTIVITIES, PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY.

8. H.E. GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN, THANKED HIS EXCELLENCY DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE, FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO HIM AND HIS DELEGATION DURING THEIR STAY IN TANZANIA.

.....
H.E. DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI,
 PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA;
 AND CHAIRPERSON, EAC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE

.....
H.E. GENERAL SALVA KIIR MAYARDIT,
 PRESIDENT, REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN

Done at Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania this 15th day of April 2016

EAC Secretary General Receives Uganda Election Observation Report



H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, Former President of the United Republic of Tanzania, on 23 April 2016, presented Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, the EAC Secretary General, with the final observation report from the recently concluded General Elections held in 18th February 2016, in the Republic of Uganda. The ceremony took place at the residence of the Former President in Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

"I was very happy to observe the patience and orderliness with which the people of Uganda conducted her General Elections," said H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi. "These and many other things that have also been highlighted in the report, can be used as benchmarks for which other countries can borrow good practices from," he added.

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

The report consists of recommendations to streamline and improve the electoral process for future in the Republic of Uganda. The EAC Observer Mission Report will be submitted to, among others, the Electoral Commission of Uganda, through the EAC Council of Ministers for consideration and implementation. ●

H.E Kenneth Kaunda roots for Pan-Africanism



Founding Father of the Republic of Zambia, Dr Kenneth David Kaunda wants the continent to strengthen regional integration and keep tabs on Pan-Africanism to stimulate progress and development. The former President of the Republic of Zambia has maintained there is real hope for the continent with the young people at the helm, saying success is assured if they continued in their quest to build Africa.


H.E. Kenneth Kaunda made the remarks when he met the EALA Speaker, Rt Hon. Daniel Kidega who paid a courtesy call at the Office of the Former President in Lusaka, Zambia. The former President urged African leaders not to betray the fathers of the independence in the continent. "When I see progress in Africa, I feel happy that we continue to adhere to the solid foundation laid by Their Excellencies, Milton Obote, Julius Kambarage Nyerere and Jomo Kenyatta among others," he added.

The EALA Speaker, Rt Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega assured Dr Kaunda that the integration process was very much on track. He briefed the former President of the progress realised so far at the EAC in general and the EALA in particular. He remarked that the Founding Fathers of the EAC had envisaged a strong bloc of the Partner States. He said that the region had continued to intensely benefit from integration and that the bloc was today bigger.

"Your Excellency, the region today boasts of a stronger GDP and now has six countries. The Republic of South Sudan just joined the EAC at the recent 17th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State. They now join the Republics of Burundi and Rwanda as well as the three original Partner States in strengthening the bloc," the Speaker said. He further remarked that African democracies were progressing although the path was not necessarily smooth.

In attendance were EALA Member, Hon. Makongoro Nyerere and Senior Public Relations Officer, Bobi Odiko.

H.E. Dr Kenneth David Kaunda, fondly known as KK in Zambia, served as the first President of Zambia, from 1964 to 1991. Hitherto, Dr Kaunda was a leading figure in his country's independence movement.

While in power he hosted many of the movements fighting for independence or black equality in other countries around the region, including South Africa's African National Congress. After ceding power in the first multi-party elections in 1991, H.E. Dr Kaunda regained stature as one of Africa's political giants, helping mediate crises in Zimbabwe and Kenya. Dr Kaunda was also a campaigner in the fight against HIV and AIDS. 

EAC Secretary General Addresses Assembly

EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera on 10 March 2016, delivered a moving Speech as the Assembly completed week one of its deliberations.

The EAC Secretary General's speech gave a score-card of deliverables during his tenure at the helm before an attentive House. The Secretary General cited five key areas in the broad vision and remarked that under his five year tour of duty, the bloc had witnessed significant achievements.

On the Customs Union, Amb. Dr Sezibera remarked that sustained campaigns to ensure realisation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) had duly paid off.

"Today, should one visit the Port of Dar es Salaam right here, you will witness revenue officials from the rest of the Partner States clearing goods", he said.

The time within which it takes to clear goods has reduced tremendously. At the central corridor it now takes 3 days, down from the 18 days while in the northern corridor, there is significant reduction from 21 days to 5 days," Amb. Dr Sezibera said.

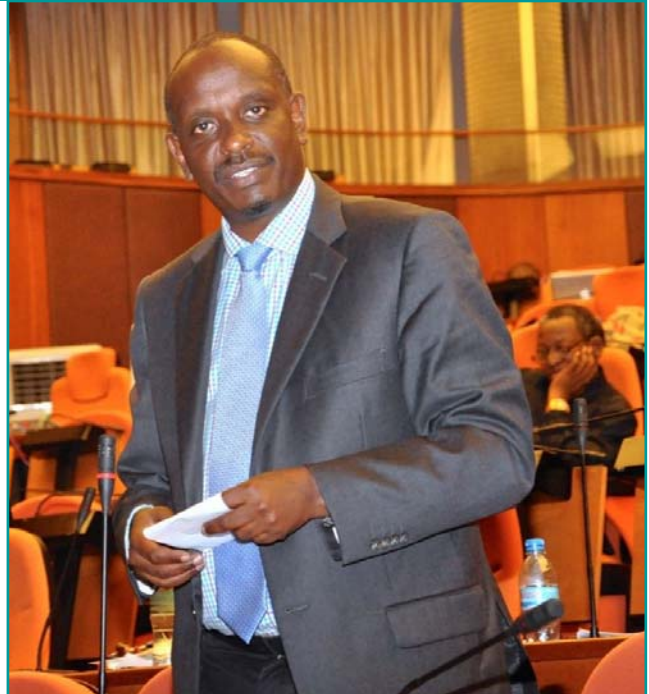
He remarked that there was sustained pressure to rid the region of Non-Tariff Barriers and such, were paying off while the port clearance times were also reduced from three weeks to under ten days.

On the Common Market, Amb. Dr Sezibera remarked that three Partner States, the Republics of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, had employed the Inter-State passes to enhance free movement and said Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania would soon join in to the initiative. The EAC boss termed the recent introduction of the International EAC e-Passport as a critical milestone in the integration dispensation.

The Secretary General further termed the conclusion and ratification of the Monetary Union as a major milestone. "Despite the skepticism as a result of the challenges witnessed in Europe, the Monetary Union Protocol was completed and speedily ratified", Amb. Dr Sezibera said. He further remarked that the Central Banks had established a real-time settlement mode paving way for the EAC payment system to be a reality.

On other areas, the Secretary General informed the House of the tremendous progress realized. He said the ten year infrastructure programme would set the region apart from other parts of the continent in terms of competitiveness.

"For the first time, the region is laying the Standard Railway Gauge and making unprecedented advances in investment of energy. The region shall soon be able to transfer power from one Partner State to another as a result of the inter-connectors", he said.



The Secretary General stated that citizens of the region were now fully involved in the integration process.

The Secretary General further remarked that he was elated to be leaving the Community at a time when its Vision is in place. The EAC Vision 2050 anticipates the contrive of the bloc into an upper middle income region within a secure and politically united East Africa based on the principles of inclusiveness and accountability.

"It is in this era that per capita income is expected to rise up to USD 10,000 per person up from the current per capita income of USD 1000", Amb. Sezibera said.

At the same time, the region intends to create about 2.3 million jobs by 2032 in the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

The Secretary General of the EAC further informed the House of the completion of the Institutional Review of the EAC and said the Directorates of Finance and Planning had been ISO certified.

The Secretary General said there were challenges that need to be addressed including harmonization and approximation of laws in the Partner States to conform to the Common Market Protocol.

The remarks of the Secretary General were delivered to the House pursuant to Rule 40 of the EALA Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and the matter was not debated.



Nairobi Hosts EAC Military Command Post Exercise codenamed Ushirikiano Imara 2016



A two-weeks regional Military Command Post Training Exercise codenamed Ushirikiano Imara 2015 concluded 31 March 2016, at Kenya's Humanitarian Peace Support School, in Embakasi, Nairobi.

More than 250 members of the armed forces, police and civilian components from the EAC Partner States took part in the joint command post exercise meant to practice participants in the planning and conduct of peace support operations, counter terrorism, counter piracy, media and disaster management.

The exercise was also meant to improve the capabilities to combat complex security challenges and sought to harmonise the working relationships and improve military interoperability between the EAC Partner States' Armed Forces.

In his address to the participants and invited guests at the closing ceremony, Kenya's Defence Principal Secretary, Amb. Peter Kaberia commended the EAC Secretariat for organising military activities within the framework of the EAC Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs, among them the Command Post Exercises.

At the same occasion, Lt General Joseph Kasaon, the Vice Chief of the Defence Forces noted that training was an important aspect in the military and it was a major pre-occupation in peacetime.

Lt Gen. Kasaon, who was representing the Chief of Defence Forces Gen. Samson Mwathethe, said "the exercise came at a time when the region and indeed the continent was facing diverse challenges both military and ideological emanating from the changing nature of our society", adding that "the Northern part of Africa and the Horn are struggling with violent extremism that threatens to spread southwards and therefore we in the EAC are the buffer for the rest of Africa and must therefore stand together to ensure that peace and security prevails".

The Vice Chief of the Defence Forces asserted that the modern day soldier was constantly confronted with a faceless and borderless enemy and therefore the need to have a concerted approach

(Continued on page 7)

...unity, peace, stability and strength to defend our common interests



(Continued from page 6)


against the enemy and to remain steadfast in joint preparations to face the current and future challenges to the region.

On behalf of the Secretary General of East African Community, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Political Federation, Mr Charles Njoroge reiterated that it was a great inspiration to the people of East Africa to see members of the Armed Forces together with the Police and civilians gathered under the auspices of the Community participating in the Military Command Post Exercise.

"This is a living testimony that EAC integration is moving towards greater heights and the event offered concrete hope and prospects for future integration and progress for the people of East Africa".

He said the EAC Co-operation in Defence offers great scope and prospects for the consolidation of East African regional integration and development process. "It emphasises that we need unity, peace, stability and strength to defend our common interests".

During the two-weeks exercise, several guests visited and shared with the Contingents on peace and security as a prerequisite for regional integration and development process, including Hon. Dr Augustine Philip Mahiga, the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Minister for Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Kenya's Defence Cabinet Secretary, Amb. Dr Raychelle Awuor Omamo graced the opening ceremony on 24th March 2016. Both the opening and closing ceremonies of the exercise were graced by Uganda's 3rd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of EAC Affairs, Rt Hon. Dr Ali Haji Kirunda Kivejinja, Ministers, Ambassadors, regional top military officers, and the media. 

EAC Secretary General Calls for Strong Cooperation in Public Health




The EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera participated at the 27th Crans Montana Forum held in Dakhla, Morocco under the high patronage of his Majesty, the King of Morocco, Mohammed VI.

The four-day Forum, which concluded yesterday, was officially opened by the King of Morocco who called out to Africa to regain its right both in history and geography to become a key partner in international cooperation mechanisms and driver of progress in cooperation.

King Mohammed VI stressed the need to build south-south cooperation that is based on potential, skills and expertise of all stakeholders that will result in a homogeneous strategic vision designed to promote the development of states and meet the needs of the African population. "South-south cooperation seeks to implement concrete programs in targeted areas to achieve measurable outcomes in terms of growth and well-being of the population in economic, social, cultural and environmental domains", said the King.

Dr. Sezibera while making his presentation on Public Health, a common issue for all, discussed the need for Africa to learn from the Ebola crisis; that managing epidemics requires a strong regional cooperation and building interconnected laboratories. The Secretary General further emphasized that the lessons learned from the Ebola epidemic demonstrated that health security is not an issue to be left purely to health workers.

"Investment in health systems, regional cooperation, building one-stop health centers, and a multi sectoral approach will be key drivers of success in managing emerging epidemics", said Dr. Sezibera.

Rev. Jesse Jackson a renowned civil rights activist from USA led the forum in awarding over 40 'New Leaders for Tomorrow'; men and women younger than 42 years of age who have demonstrated extraordinary potential in leadership through professional success and community services in their home countries. The forum was attended by over 1,000 foreign dignitaries, drawn from over 130 countries worldwide, who discussed matters pertaining to the environment, energy, food security, and ethics in governance, among others that affect Africa. 

Aga Khan University - Arusha Campus Construction in the Offing



Construction of the Aga Khan University (AKU) is in the offing in Arusha, Tanzania and the move is viewed as a catalyst for positive transformation that will see the city expand as the intellectual, social and political hub for East Africa. The Arusha Campus project which is part of a planned US\$ 500 million expansion in East Africa by H.H the Aga Khan, seeks to enroll Arts and Science students from across the region, notably from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. There will be two graduate professional schools in the first phase; Hospitality, Leisure and Tourism and Architecture and Human Settlement.

In solidarity, EAC Executives paid a visit to the proposed site situated 4km from Arusha Airport on Dodoma road. The site covers 3200acres out of which the potential area for development rests on 1700acres.

On behalf of the EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Jesca Eriyo accompanied the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Rt Hon. Daniel Kidega and the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, Hon. Justice Emmanuel Ugirashebutja to the Aga Khan University (AKU) site in Arusha.

Receiving the Executives from EAC was the Director, Aga Khan University Campus Development in Tanzania, Nizar Jaffer Somji. Others were the Diplomatic Representative of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in Uganda, Mahmood H. Ahmed; the Director of Site and Facilities, Murad Jivan; Resident Architect, Amina Hirani; Special Projects Manager, Azmina Jivan; Resident Representative, Amin Kurji; Nursery Manager, Roshan Hemani and Community Engagement Officer, Lazaro Ole Mongoi.

In 2007, H.H the Aga Khan announced plans to build a major new university campus in Arusha. The decision to erect a new campus in Arusha stemmed from his faith in the future of the East African Region. The new development represents the biggest expansion for AKU since it opened its first campus in Karachi, Pakistan about 25 years back.

AKU's ambitious 15 year-plan includes a significant commitment of global resources to the East African region through the expansion of the University's presence in Arusha, transforming EAC's capital into a "regional intellectual epicenter".

(Continued on page 9)

... design plan for construction of project at final stages



(Continued from page 8)

Before a tour of the site was a presentation on the site plan outlining some of the facilities the project will offer in its first phase. These include: a primary and secondary school, a university, housing for students and staff, a training hotel and retail outlets and a university hospital in future.

Currently, the design plan for the construction of the project is at its final stages and execution of the design plan is expected to commence soon after its completion. On-site activities within the project include a reforestation programme which is ongoing and community engagement activities such as health camps, community based savings groups, fodder distribution among others.

In his remarks, the Speaker was utterly impressed with the project plan and commended AKDN's efforts to not only invest in a bid to make profit but also to benefit the surrounding population, an effort he termed as '*humanitarian capitalism*'. He remarked that the Assembly was keen to enact relevant piece(s) of legislation that would anchor the vision of the Aga Khan.

Being her first visit to the Arusha Campus site, the Deputy Secretary General stated that she was eager to see the project materialize. Hon. Jesca Eriyo also emphasized that; "The community needs to know that the project is for their benefit therefore raising awareness about the project, creating job opportunities for the youth within the project and identifying areas of co-investment and partnerships with the locals by engaging CSOs and other community based interest groups is key in order to build the capacity of the community economically as underpinned in the project's objectives."

The EACJ Judge President concluded with a congratulatory message to H.H the Aga Khan for the success of the Aga Khan Foundation projects so far, adding that the EAC is highly committed to offer as much support to ensure that the upcoming project is a success for the benefit of future EAC generations.



Spain Accredits Envoy to EAC Bloc



The government of Spain has accredited its Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, Mr Felix Costales Artieda, to also serve as Ambassador to the East African Community.

His Excellency Felix Costales Artieda presented his accreditation letter to the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera on 8 April 2016.

Amb. Felix Artieda informed the Secretary General that his government attaches great importance to regional economic groupings such as the EAC and congratulated the EAC Secretary General for the wonderful regional initiative.

"Count on Spain's support because the goals of the Community are excellent for the prosperity of the people in the region", asserted the Spain Envoy, adding that "regional integration initiatives take time but you need to continue so as to build a strong and powerful bloc".

While receiving the Spain Envoy, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera hailed the existing cordial relations between the EAC and Spain. The Secretary General welcomed the support from the Spanish Government geared towards enabling the Community to achieve its ambitious agenda.

Dr Sezibera briefed him on the progress being registered by the Community so far that include implementation of Protocols on the Customs Union, Common Market and East African Monetary Union.



Three Bills Sail Through First Reading in House

~ EAC Sectional Properties Bill, 2016; EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2016 & the EAC Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 2016

On 15 March 2016, three Bills sailed through the respective 1st Readings as the East African Legislative Assembly resumed its business in Dar es Salaam.

The Bills are the EAC Sectional Properties Bill, 2016, the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2016 and the EAC Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

The EAC Sectional Properties Bill, 2016 aims to regulate division of buildings into units and the individual ownership of the units. The Bill deals with the division of buildings into units and registration of sectional properties. It further seeks to vest the management of common property in a corporation consisting of persons who own units in the parcels to which sectional plan relates.

Part two of the Bill deals with the division of buildings into units and registration of sectional properties. In this part, the Bill seeks to apply the laws in Partner States for the time being in force governing the registration of land titles to the registration of sectional properties under the Bill.


According to the mover, Hon. Dr James Ndahiro, the Bill emanates from the Common Market Protocol which anticipates free movement and rights to establishment. He remarks that not all East Africans have the ability to purchase their own property and thus given an opportunity to purchase part of a building, such individuals earn some financial assets.

Hon. Dr Ndahiro further states that a legal framework is necessary to enable any willing investor to develop in a neighbouring Partner State. Generally, a sectional title describes separate ownership of units or sections within a complex, development or scheme. When one purchases into a sectional title complex, you purchase a section or sections and an undivided share of the common property. These are collectively known as units. The Bill on its part defines a unit as a space that is situated within a building and described in a sectional plan by reference to floors, walls and ceilings within the building.



The sale of units, holding of sale proceeds in trust, termination of developers' management agreement and renting of units are among the matters provided also for in the Bill.

Another Bill which sailed through this morning is the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2016. The Bill anchors the EAC Supplementary Budget estimates amounting to USD 1,566, 941 for the Financial Year 2015/16 to facilitate the activities of the EAC Organs and Institutions. The Bill was moved by the 3rd Deputy Prime Minister of Republic of Uganda, Rt Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja, on behalf of the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr Augustine Mahiga.

The EAC Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 2016 also sailed through the first reading. The object of the Bill is to amend the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004 to facilitate smooth implementation of the Act, particularly on the implementation of commitments made under the protocol establishing the EAC Customs Union. The Bill moved by Hon. Dr Augustine Mahiga, Chairperson, Council of Ministers, thus provides for application of the COMESA and SADC preferential tariff arrangements which the Partner States agreed to implement. 

Assembly Enacts Legislation on Disaster Risk Reduction

The East African Legislative Assembly on 10 March 2016, passed the Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Bill, 2013, paving way for the region to take necessary disaster preparedness, management, protection and mitigation measures as well as in handling disasters in a more co-ordinated way.

The Bill sailed through smoothly at the Committee stage with Members adopting clause after clause of the same or with amendments before it came up for Third Reading. Debate on the Bill had commenced yesterday before the Speaker ruled that it be finalised this afternoon.

The Object of the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Bill 2013 is to provide a legal framework for the intervention and assistance for people affected by climate change and natural related hazards and to protect the natural environment through integration of comprehensive disaster risk reduction and management practices in the EAC.

The passage of the Bill is a culmination of about two years of work during which time the Assembly has consistently advocated for it.

Debate on the Bill, originally moved for second reading in August 2013, was halted following a request by the Council of Ministers to consult and consider its policy implications. At the same time, the move was to allow for pursuit of the ratification of the EAC Protocol on Peace and Security which among other objectives, provides for co-operation in DRR management and crisis response. The Protocol on Peace and Security has since been ratified by all Partner States.

At the sitting in January 2016 in Arusha, debate was once again adjourned. This was occasioned by a Motion moved by the Chair of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr Susan A. Kolimba. The Motion sailed through but after further amendment tabled by Chair of the Regional Affairs and Resolution Committee, Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi, under Rule 30 (a) to have the Bill brought back to the House at the March Sitting.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo said the Bill anticipates support for both natural and man-made disasters. Yesterday, the Minister for EAC, Republic of Burundi, Hon. Leontine Nzeyimana informed the House the Council of Ministers had no objection to the passage of the Bill.

At debate time, Hon. Judith Pareno said the Bill had been before the House for a period of two years. "I recall that at time of public hearings and immediately thereafter, we had several disasters including the fire at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport, the Central Market in Bujumbura and even the Westgate tragedy", the legislator said.

"Disasters do not come knocking doors or give notice", it is necessary that we pass the Bill", she added.

Hon. Mike Kennedy Sebalu said the passage of the Bill was timely so as to mitigate the different disasters that have befallen the region.



"The frequency of disasters that have befallen our Partner States cannot be over-emphasised. We must create an environment that is less of disasters and thus a legal framework is the right way to go, Hon. Sebalu noted.

Hon. Adam Kimbisa said fire, drought and terrorism were some of the disasters the region continued to face. "All disasters care less about when to occur, where or when to hit," the legislator said. He remarked that countries in the west had invested better in coping mechanisms than in the continent. "We must equally invest in risk reduction activities", he added.

Hon. Martin Ngoga said the passage of the law was urgent. "It is a reflection of how prepared we are to protect the lives of the citizens", Hon. Ngoga said.

Also rising in support of the debate was Hon. Saoli Ole Nkanee, Hon. Dora Byamukama, Hon. Sarah Bonaya and Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza.

The passage of the Bill whose original mover is Hon. Patricia Haja-bakiga, is a culmination of a process whose idea began five years ago. In December 2010, EALA Committee on Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources held key discussions with a delegation from the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR).

The meeting was called to raise awareness within the legislature on the importance of disaster risk reduction as an instrument for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). EALA and UNISDR further agreed to collaborate to develop a model legislation which can be used to support the efforts of the EAC Partner States in building disaster resilience in East Africa.

The next stage is the process of Assent by the EAC Heads of State in line with Article 63 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.



EAC to Support Liquid Telecom Group Initiative



The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera on 8 April 2016, received Mr Sam Nkusi, Group Executive of Liquid Telecom, the leading independent data, voice and IP provider in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa. The Secretary General, who was accompanied by Eng. Robert Achieng, EAC Senior Engineer in charge of Planning and Communications, warmly welcomed the Liquid Telecom Group Executive to the EAC Headquarters.

Mr Nkusi briefed Amb. Sezibera on the operations of Liquid Telecom and said the company was embarking on a project to build a new submarine cable infrastructure that will provide a cost-effective and reliable link for land-locked, southern, central and east African countries to the Internet and to the world.

“Leveraging Liquid Telecom’s 20,000km-long fibre optic terrestrial network, this pan-African private sector project will support fast growing needs for Internet connectivity and help Africa’s Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector leapfrog towards achieving its Sustainable Development Goals” noted the Liquid Telecom CEO.

Mr. Nkusi reiterated that the cable, running along the East coast of Africa and into the Red Sea, will take a less congested route to Europe, and will interconnect with all existing networks and with other international submarine cables. According to Liquid Telecom, this will also address the need for mobile operators to increase internet speed delivered over their mobile broadband networks.

He said the project was a major step towards fulfilling EAC’s mission to widen and deepen Economic, Political, Social and Cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa.

The Secretary General hailed the private sector-led initiative and affirmed the Secretariat and the Community’s support to the project and urged Partner States to support the project. He noted that the biggest support EAC could provide towards the overall implementation of the project would be to provide a Cross-Border Inter-Connectivity Regulatory Framework in order to guide and facilitate inter-connections across borders within the EAC, and could possibly be shared with other regional economic blocks in Africa. ●

Dar Hosts 4th EAC Partnership Fund High-Level Dialogue



The 4th High-Level Dialogue of the EAC Partnership Fund was held on 25 March 25, 2016 in Dar es Salaam Tanzania. The dialogue was attended by Heads of Diplomatic missions accredited to the EAC and also members the EAC Partnership Fund.

The dialogue was co-chaired by the Norwegian Ambassador, H.E. Hanne Kaarstad and the EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera.

Addressing the Heads of Diplomatic missions, the Secretary General of the East African Community Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera expressed his appreciation for the support he has received from the development partners and noted that for the EAC Partnership Fund was more than monetary support. "The Partnership Fund is a forum for dialogue, creates avenues for discussing key integration issues and mobilizing political support for EAC regional integration", added Dr Sezibera.

The EAC Secretary General noted the positive growth of the fund since 2011, and called on Development Partners to honour their pledges through actualizing pending disbursements which currently stand at 24% for the financial year 2015/16.

Dr. Sezibera underscored the importance of the basket fund to the EAC, noting the significant support the Partnership Fund has given to the EAC including: financial support to the Implementation of the Customs Union and Common Market Protocols; Private Sector development; finalization of the One-Stop Border Post regulations; negotiations and finalization of the EAC Monetary Union Protocol; institutional strengthening including the EAC Institutional Review; enhancing public awareness of the EAC; and development of EAC Vision 2050 among many other projects that have been completed or currently ongoing.

The Secretary General further disclosed to the Heads of the Diplomatic missions that the use of Video-Conferencing facilities at EAC has significantly reduced the need for physical meetings by one third, resulting in huge cost savings.

The EAC Chief called upon Trademark East Africa to join the Partnership Fund in order to better synchronize prioritization of EAC integration projects. Dr. Sezibera urged the Development Partners to provide technical and financial support to South Sudan being a young country joining the EAC.

In her welcome remarks, Amb. Kaarstad, on behalf of the Development Partners thanked the outgoing EAC Secretary General for the constructive cooperation and tirelessly promoting the work of the EAC as established in the Treaty and protocols.

"The large turnout this afternoon is a testament to a strong and continued interest in the EAC's role and in the regional integration processes", said Amb Kaarstad.

Amb. Kaarstad further emphasized, "the accomplishments of the Secretary General span all pillars of the EAC integration. The benefits of easier movement of people, goods, services and capital are the results. The EAC has under Dr Sezibera progressed in eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers, harmonizing common and external tariffs as well as standards and quality".

Amb. Kaarstad noted that although the Development Partners account for 43% of final budget at the EAC, a small portion of this goes through the Partnership Fund.



EALA Speaker Calls for Paradigm Shift in Politics to Embrace Youth

The EALA Speaker Rt Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega is calling for the full participation of the youth in all spheres of society including in Parliament and other decision making bodies. The Speaker further wants a paradigm shift in the rejuvenation of democracy to one that is driven by a change agenda that is youth friendly.

Rt Hon. Kidega was speaking while addressing the 134th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly in Lusaka, Zambia on March 20th, 2016. The IPU Assembly which is attended by over 600 Parliamentarians and close to 75 Speakers from the globe is themed: "Rejuvenating Democracy: Giving Voice to the Youth".

The EALA Speaker remarked that the waning interest in formal politics by the youth was resultant from a number of factors citing dissatisfaction with politicians together with lack of trust in initiatives by Governments as strong barriers to the participation of the young persons.

The Speaker informed the IPU Assembly that Parliaments needed to take on a new advocacy role towards ensuring democracy is realised as a basic minimum.

"Parliaments and political parties should ensure democracy thrives right from the very basic levels of administration. If democracy is rejuvenated, young people are more likely to fortify their full participation and to contribute to development", Speaker Kidega said.

"The idea to create slots for youth in Parliaments is also very welcome. Youth make up about 60% of the world's population but unfortunately, disparity in representation in Parliaments is extremely undesirable", he added.

Rt Hon. Kidega further urged youth to be fully involved in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) saying they were best placed to contribute to the delivery of the new generation ideas.

EALA's delegation to the IPU consists of Hon. Makongoro Nyere, Clerk to the Assembly, Kenneth Madete and senior staff.

Zambia's Head of State, H.E. President Edgar Lungu opened the 134th IPU Assembly. In his address, the President challenged youths to contest for positions at the forthcoming general elections in Zambia on August 11, 2016 and subsequently, to actively participate in decision-making processes and other programmes of development.

"I am urging youths to aspire for Parliamentary and local Government elections. Therefore, in implementing the National Youth Policy with our partners, we want to promote the inclu-



sion and active participation of youths in decision-making processes, policy development, programming and project implementation, as outlined in the policy," he said.

President Lungu also reaffirmed the need to invest in youths as it was a worthwhile endeavour because of their potential to contribute to the country's development.

He said the Government had established the National Youth Development Council which was a principal advisor to Government on youth matters.

At the IPU, a new report dubbed "Youth participation in national Parliaments 2016", states that youth continue to be chronically under-represented in the world's Parliaments at a time when the global youth population is the largest it has ever been in history.

According to the report, only 1.9 per cent of the world's 45,000 Parliamentarians are aged below 30, a fact it deems undesirable.

Meanwhile, the IPU has welcomed back Comoros, Egypt and Guyana as Members of the Organisation. Their admission has increased the IPU membership to 170, marking a significant step forward in the Organisation's goal to achieve universal membership according to the President of the IPU, Hon. Saber Chowdhury.

Parliamentary elections in Egypt at the end of 2015 had paved the way for the country to rejoin IPU. The 2011 revolution, which led to the dissolution of Parliament the following year, had left Egypt's membership in abeyance. Egypt, which had first joined IPU in 1924, had been one of IPU's oldest continuous Members.



**Editorial Team:**

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

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*For further information please contact:
Richard Owora Othieno, Head of Department | Email: othieno@eachq.org | Tel: +255 784 835021*