



### In this Issue

- EALA Passes EAC Budget for FY2016/17
- Secretary General Institutes Expenditure Rationalisation Reforms in EAC Organs and Institutions
- Moshi Hosts Strategic Retreat for Permanent/Principal Secretaries Responsible for EAC Affairs
- Secretary General Swears-in New Executive Secretary for LVBC
- EAC Secretary General Meets Development Partners in Dar
- EAC Secretary General Meets Ambassador of China, H.E LU Youqing
- EAC Secretary General and Ambassador of Ireland to Tanzania Hold Talks in Arusha
- EAC Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) now operational in Kampala
- Lead by Example, EALA Speaker Challenges Legislators
- EALA Passes Bill on PWDs, Wants Dignified, Humane Treatment for All
- Fisheries Management Plan III (FMP III) for Lake Victoria Fisheries Launched in Arusha
- Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence (ACE II) Project Approved
- East Africa Kiswahili Commission Holds Strategic Meetings in Nairobi

## EALA PASSES EAC BUDGET FOR FY 2016/17



The East African Legislative Assembly on 2 June 2016, debated and passed the 2016/17 Budget totaling US\$ 101,374,589 with amendments following reallocations.

Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation, Hon. Dr Susan Kolimba presented the Budget speech to an attentive House on behalf of the substantive Minister and Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr Augustine Mahiga.

The 2016/2017 Budget is a drop down from US\$ 110,660,098 Million presented to the House in the previous Financial Year. The Budget themed Towards Full Implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol and Enhancing the Implementation of the Monetary Union Protocol prioritises the full implementation of the EAC Single Customs Territory, enhanced implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol especially additional commitments and interconnectivity of border immigration systems.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## ... EALA calls for review of EAC Budget Act, 2008



*(Continued from page 1)*

Prior to passing of the Budget, the Assembly resolved itself into a Committee of Ways and Means to consider the Financial Statement for 2016/17 and a similar Committee of Supply to approve the Estimates of Expenditure for the same.

With it, the Assembly also passed the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2016.

Debate of the Budget Speech was preceded by the presentation of the Committee on General Purpose on the EAC Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2016/17 by the Committee's Chairperson, Hon. Dr Odette Nyiramilimo on 1 June 2016.

The Report indicates that the Community would focus on a number of areas in the coming Financial Year including the full implementation of the Single Customs Territory, as well as the enhanced implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

Other key priority areas are development of infrastructure, institutional strengthening and the implementation of EAC Peace and Security initiatives.

In reviewing its recommendations, the Committee once again emphasises the efficient use of Community resources and the proper delimitation of the role and responsibilities of the finance and advisory committee. With it comes the need to align the budget with the EAC objectives and its strategic objectives. On the size of the budget, the Committee notes the downward trend over the last three years against a number of programmes and projects of the Community.

It thus recommends for the Council of Ministers to look seriously into the issue of inadequate funding, allow it (the Committee) to hold deliberations with the Council on sustainable funding as well as proposals for strong legislative and institutional support for the Common Market and the Monetary Union stages.

*(Continued on page 3)*



## ... passage of EAC Elimination of NTBs Bill, 2015 key towards enhancing regional trade

*(Continued from page 2)*

The Assembly is also emphatic that Partner States must desist from using the General reserves as a source of funds to substitute remittances, a move it terms as a high risk in terms of liquidity on the one side and that of litigation on the other.

On IT systems, the Assembly acknowledges the technological advancements taking place and observes that the Budget Management System has created challenges in terms of inflexible budget descriptions and objectives that are not aligned to departments. It thus recommends an IT systems audit to determine the strength and full proof status.

There is also need to review the EAC Budget Act, 2008 according to the Committee to enable the budget process to be made more effective, transparent and based on a legal framework.

The report also takes an analysis of a number of offices at the EAC and Organs and Institutions.

Following reallocations by the House, the Budget is allocated to the Organs and Institutions of the EAC as follows:

- East African Community Secretariat - US\$ 57, 741, 185;
- East African Legislative Assembly - US\$ 16,086,224;
- East African Court of Justice - US\$ 4,286,477;
- Inter-University Council for East Africa - US\$ 4,553,890;
- Lake Victoria Basin Commission - US\$ 11,214,708;
- Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation - US\$ 2,131,422;
- East African Science and Technology Commission - US\$ 1,196,542;
- East African Kiswahili Commission - US\$ 1,179,542;
- East African Health Research Commission - US\$ 1,397,438 and
- East African Competition Authority - US\$ 1,587,565.

The Report notes some of the successes registered in the Financial Year 2015/2016, 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.



It cites the passage of the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Bill (NTB), 2015 which is undergoing assent as key towards enhancing business and the free movement aspects. At the same time, formation of the National Monitoring Committees on NTBs and the EAC Regional Forum on NTBs has continued to spearhead the elimination of NTBs affecting Intra-EAC trade.

Another success noted concerns the draft Bills for the establishment of the East African Monetary Institute and the East African Statistics Bureau and these are being negotiated by the Partner States. The report notes the continued attempts by the EAC Secretariat co-ordinate fiscal policies with focus on critical areas for harmonisation.

The Report also notes of a number of challenges during the Financial Year. Such include the slow pace of harmonisation of domestic taxes to facilitate the functioning of the Single Customs Territory, and inadequate staffing particularly in the run-up to the exit of staff in 2017. The long decision making processes and the delays in remittances of funds from partner States and Development partners are also cited as bottlenecks.

The debate was preceded by the passage of the EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2016 amounting to US\$ 1,569,941 for the Financial Year ending 30th June 2016. The Supplementary estimates were not passed at the previous 5th Meeting of the 4th Session held in Dar Es Salaam in March 2016.



# Secretary General Institutes Expenditure Rationalisation Reforms in EAC Organs and Institutions

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, has instituted stringent expenditure reforms in the East African Community Organs and Institutions with immediate effect.

Amb. Mfumukeko, who took over the mantle from Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera as the Chief Executive of the regional organization on 26th April, 2016, noted that the EAC Organs and Institutions had been experiencing liquidity challenges as a result of delays in disbursement of contributions by both the Partner States and Development Partners.

Article 67 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC says that the Secretary General shall be the Accounting Officer of the Community.

In a Financial Management Circular dated 18th May, 2016, aimed at addressing the financial crunch at the Community, Amb. Mfumukeko says the EAC management has introduced cost cutting measures and reforms on the key expenditure items to be implemented immediately in all the Organs and Institutions of the Community.



The Secretary General said the measures and reforms are a product of intense consultations he has had with Executive Staff, Heads of Institutions, Directors, Professional and General Staff of the Community over the past few weeks.

Some of the measures include the following:

## Technical Meetings Involving Delegates from Partner States and EAC Staff

The duration of meetings shall be rationalised. Technical meetings shall be conducted for a period not exceeding Four (4) working days. The number of delegates from Partner States facilitated through the EAC Budget shall not exceed two (2) from each Partner State; for each meeting, correspondence shall be sent to Partner States indicating that delegates should be nominated from relevant sectors who can actively contribute to the success of the meetings and that they consult widely with relevant stakeholders in Partner States prior to coming to meetings.

In order to reduce conference costs:

(i) Where possible, the use of free of charge Government-owned facilities should be encouraged;

(ii) The Procurement Unit shall negotiate for corporate conference and accommodation rates in each Partner State.

The EAC delegations to technical meetings shall not be more than three (3) Members of Staff.

Preparation for and facilitation of Policy (Council and Sectoral Council) meetings held outside duty station:

(i) There shall be preparatory meetings involving all staff with agenda items at the Headquarters, to review background papers and brief the EAC representatives to the said meetings;

(ii) Participation in Policy meetings: Directors and Technical Officers shall facilitate the session of Senior Officials only, while Directors, Heads of Institutions and Executives, shall participate in the Coordination Committee (Permanent/Principal Secretaries session) and Ministers/Cabinet Secretary session. The team facilitating the rapporteur is required throughout the duration of the meeting.

For Meetings involving Partner States' delegates and staff held out of station, but within a radius of less than 150km of two (2) hour's drive from the duty station, the travel days for the staff shall be the actual first and last days of the meeting.

*(Continued on page 5)*

## ●●● At least 25% of EAC meetings to use video conferencing facility

*(Continued from page 4)*

### Meeting involving EAC Staff only or with Consultants

Meetings involving staff members only or with consultants, shall be held at EAC premises using conference halls/meeting rooms within the duty station.

Where an assignment/activity/training/retreat require more concentration, justification shall be provided to support taking the staff members outside the duty station. This decision shall be taken by the Secretary General or the officers with sub-delegated authority of the accounting officer i.e. the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration, the Clerk of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the Registrar of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and Heads of Institutions.

### Enhancing Staff Presence at Duty Station

Members of staff will only be allowed to be away from their respective duty station(s) for not more than 50% of their time. Exceptions shall be considered on individual basis provided that the cumulative number of days for a particular month does not exceed 65% of the time. These ceilings exclude days for participation in EALA and EACJ sittings.

Travel Clearance by the respective Director and DSG, or equivalent authorities in other Organs and Institutions, prior to travelling, is mandatory.

### Consultancy Expenses

Prior to budgeting procurement of consultancies, which are not implementing a particular Council directive, a request shall be submitted to Management and considered by a Multi-disciplinary Advisory Committee. This is to save expenditure on short-term studies, trainings, which can be undertaken or facilitated by the EAC Professional Staff.

### Video Conferencing

At least 25% of EAC meetings shall use video conferencing facility. EAC shall invest in improving video-conference facility, both at Secretariat and Partner States level, to accommodate as many meetings as possible, at the same time.

### Air Tickets

As meetings are well planned on the EAC Calendar of Activities, Meeting Forms indicating the budget line to be charged shall be issued one month in advance and tickets two weeks prior to the date of the meeting, to avoid high costs that may arise from late bookings.

All air tickets shall be booked and issued based on the most direct route.

Per Diem Rates Applicable under Development Partners' Support to EAC

The Partnership Fund MoU between EAC and Development Partners shall be amended to reflect the application of Travel Policy as contained in the PRAG (EU Per diem Rates), with effect from 1st July, 2016.


During the negotiation of financing agreements with Development Partners, EAC shall be flexible to apply Development Partners' Travel Policies with a view to attracting more support. Thus there will be No Top Up claim by a staff when implementing an activity funded by Development Partners under these terms.

A Projects Coordination Unit will be established by 1st of July, 2016 to enhance effective communication and reporting to Partner States, EALA and Development Partners. This will also ensure that EAC has a one stop desk and repository for information on all projects. The unit will ensure joint planning and budgeting, timely and coordinated implementation, reporting and auditing of projects.

### Dormant Projects Supported by Development Partners

The following shall apply in order to avoid EAC incurring recurrent costs on behalf of Development Partners:

- a) The contract of Project Staff will be tied to the life of the specific project except where the project runs for more than five years, the contract of the staff shall be broken into five years and renewable once;
- b) In the event a Development Partner withdraws support to a running project, the contracts of the staff under this project shall be terminated, and;
- c) Where a project faces delayed disbursements for more than three (3) months without communication for the delay or commitment on further disbursement from the Development Partner, the contracts for staff under this project shall be terminated.

All Staff of EAC Organs and Institutions are under the obligation to enforce the implementation of these new measures. 



# Moshi Hosts Strategic Retreat for Permanent/Principal Secretaries Responsible for EAC Affairs



A four-day strategic retreat for the Permanent/Principal Secretaries (PSSs) responsible for EAC Affairs in the Partner States concluded 17 June 2016, in Moshi, Tanzania, with a firm resolve by the PSSs to upscale their oversight role on the EAC Organs and Institutions, as well as the integration agenda.

The Retreat was attended by Amb. Dr. Azizi Mlima, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania; Mrs. Edith Mwanje, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of East African Community Affairs in Uganda; Amb. Jean Rigi, Permanent Secretary Ministry to the Office of the President Responsible for EAC Affairs in Burundi; Ms. Betty Maina Principal Secretary responsible for East African Affairs, Ministry of Labour and East African Affairs in Kenya; and Mr. Innocent Safari, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of East African Community Affairs in Rwanda. The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, all the Heads of the EAC Institutions, Registrar of the EACJ, Senior Officials from Partner States and staff of the EAC Secretariat were in attendance.

The Retreat was chaired by Amb. Dr. Aziz P. Mlima, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, the United Republic of Tanzania, who pointed out that the Retreat came at a time when a lot of milestones were being recorded in the EAC integration process and the matters for discussion were critical to the integration agenda. He called upon the Permanent/Principal Secretaries to provide the utmost input in the deliberations for the benefit of the Community.

Addressing the Permanent/Principal Secretaries, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko pointed out that the Community was regarded as one of the best performing Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in Africa and yet it still faced many challenges that needed to be addressed. He noted

that the items on the agenda for the Retreat, notably the proposed implementation framework for the Institutional Review was critical for the efficient and effective performance of the Community and as such needed to be addressed urgently.

The Secretary General emphasized the pivotal role played by the Permanent/Principal Secretaries as members of the Coordination Committee, in making recommendations that would facilitate the deepening of the integration process and contribute to making the Community a stronger regional Institution. He said "the strong people-centred policies and systems were key to the success of the Community as an Organisation".

## On Institutional Review

The Community initiated an Institutional Review process in 2008 and undertook a detailed Internal Review process in 2011. An In-depth Functional Analysis was done in 2013 and a comprehensive stakeholder consultations carried out in 2014. The detailed Review Report was submitted to the Council of Ministers in 2015. The Report proposes a wide range of changes in the institutional structure and management of the EAC.

The 33rd Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers held on 29th February 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania considered the proposals and decided that the outcome of EAC Institutional review be implemented in two phases; the initial phase and the consolidation phase which will require transforming EAC Secretariat into a Commission.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## ... Secretariat to put in place a quick feedback mechanism to accelerate the implementation of priority EAC projects and programmes

*(Continued from page 6)*

The Council also decided the Community will retain the current EAC Executive structure in the short-term with the following amendments; the positions of Deputy Secretaries General to be reorganized around the following clusters namely: Economic Affairs; Political Affairs; Infrastructure; and Social Services.

The Council devolved all the operational responsibilities to the respective Directors, and for the Deputy Secretaries General to retain policy implementation oversight, monitoring and strategic functions. The Council also established the position of Director General (DG) - Corporate Management to be responsible for Finance and Administration matters as well as other support services currently reporting directly to the Secretary General (Corporate Communications and Public Affairs, Resource Mobilization). In addition, the functions of Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation to be included under the proposed portfolio

At the Moshi Retreat, the Permanent/Principal Secretaries considered implementation framework for the EAC institutional review and, among others, directed the Secretariat to fully operationalize the Ad hoc EAC Service Commission by 1st July, 2016.

The Retreat directed the Secretariat to develop a proposal on how the approved clusters shall be implemented, including a review of the current functions to determine the alignment and present this proposal to the Ad hoc EAC Service Commission for consideration. The Retreat directed the Secretariat to develop within two (2) years a framework for transition to the Commission taking cognizance of existing studies and other comparative information on other similar RECs.

### Constraints faced in implementing Article 71 of the Treaty

The Retreat of Permanent/Principal Secretaries deliberated on a presentation by the Secretariat on constraints it faces when implementing Article 71 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. The Permanent/Principal Secretaries, among others, tasked the Secretariat to develop a framework for carrying out investigation of breaches of the Treaty in the Partner States and Partner States to assist the Secretariat when carrying out the investigation; and the Secretariat to develop proposals on sanctions that can be imposed on the Partner States that breach the Treaty for consideration by the Council of Ministers.

### Recruitment of General Staff

The retreat discussed the current moratorium on the recruitment of General Staff in the Organs and Institutions and the urgent need to have it lifted taking into consideration its adverse effects on the operations of the Community.

The Retreat recommended to the Sectoral Council of Ministers Responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning that the Secretariat be allowed to recruit and fill in the vacant General Staff positions under G1 to G3 within the approved budget. And that the recruitment of General Staff under G4 to G5 be undertaken based on disaggregated Points of the Quota System (such as computation of Quota Points be done separately for General Staff on G4 and G5). There was the need for Partner States to expedite the process of ratification of the Protocol on Immunities and Privileges by November 2016.

### Exit of over 50 Professional Staff from EAC Service

The Retreat took note of the pending exit of 52 professional staff from the EAC Secretariat from July 2016 to November 2017, after completion of their terms. The Permanent/Principal Secretaries thanked the exiting staff for their valuable contribution to the Community and directed the Secretariat to commence the recruitment process to fill the positions, in line with the decision of the 33rd Council of Ministers. The Secretariat was tasked to develop a smooth transition plan to ensure that operations of the Community are not adversely affected by the mass exit.

### Roadmap for the Integration of the Republic Of South Sudan (RSS) Into EAC

Following the successful negotiations between the EAC and RSS on the latter's accession to the Community, the RSS signed the Accession Treaty in Dar es Salaam on 15th April 2016.

While the full admission of RSS will be confirmed by the ratification and depositing the Instruments of Ratification of the Accession to the Treaty (latest by 1st October, 2016, with the Secretary General, the Retreat recommended to Sectoral Council of Ministers Responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning to, among others, approve an exploratory mission at the Coordination Committee level with co-opted members from the Secretariat, Organs and Institutions of the Community to RSS to engage the Government on the proposed roadmap.

### Improving Efficiency in the Community

The Retreat tasked the Secretariat to put in place a quick feedback mechanism to accelerate the implementation of priority EAC projects and programmes including monitoring and evaluation and an online portal for such projects and programmes to enable Partner States track progress directly. The Secretariat was also tasked to develop a framework for effective Monitoring and Evaluation on the activities of the Community involving stakeholders within the Secretariat, Institutions and the Partner States.

Rationalizing meetings and optimizing the utilization of video conferencing facilities as well as exploring the possibilities of utilizing other technologies were some of the tasks given to the Secretariat.

The Secretariat was directed to develop a draft concept paper on a program for young professionals that will identify and systematically deploy young professionals in the EAC to build capacity in regional integration matters. Also the Secretariat was directed to propose priority areas that could be championed by individual Partner States and table the proposal at the Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers Responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning of October, 2016.

The Secretariat will also compile a draft list of Decisions that could be considered for Decision Making by Simple Majority and submit the list at the Sectoral Council of EAC Affairs and Planning in October, 2016 for consideration.



## Secretary General Swears-in New Executive Secretary for LVBC



On 17 June 2016, the newly appointed Executive Secretary of Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), Dr. Ali Said Matano took the Oath of Allegiance before the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. Present at the brief ceremony was the EAC Director for Human Resource and Administration, Mr. Joseph Ochwada and other senior staff of the Community.

Dr. Ali Said Matano (Kenyan) solemnly swore to be faithful and bear true allegiance to the East African Community and to preserve, protect and defend the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community as by law established.

Dr. Ali Said Matano now officially assumes office as the new Executive Secretary of Lake Victoria Basin Commission following the expiry of Dr. Canisius Kanangire's (Rwandan) tenure on 26th May 2016.

Dr. Matano's appointment was endorsed by the 33rd Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers that took place on 27th May 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania. This was after his appointment was approved by the Sectoral Council of Ministers for the Lake Victoria Basin.

LVBC is a specialized Institution of the East African Community responsible for coordinating the sustainable development agenda of the Lake Victoria Basin, with its Headquarters located in Kisumu, Kenya.

Dr. Matano was the LVBC's Programmes and Projects Development Officer. The post of Executive Secretary rotates amongst the five Partner States. ●



## EAC Secretary General Meets Development Partners in Dar



The EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberate Mfumukeko, on 7 June 2016, held a high level committee meeting with EAC Development Partners. The meeting brought together Ambassadors, High Commissioners, Heads of Delegation/ Missions and Organisations supporting the EAC integration agenda.

The meeting discussed several issues pertaining the role of the Development Partners in the EAC integration agenda as well as the achievements registered to date.

The Secretary General highlighted his vision for the next five years including the cost reduction reforms already under implementation at the EAC secretariat.

"We have established an interim project coordination unit, that will be a one-stop desk to better facilitate effective joint planning and budgeting for all projects in EAC", noted the Secretary General. He further reaffirmed his commitment to ensure value for money, transparency and accountability in the use of the funds contributed by the Development Partners.

The Development Partners, through their Chairperson, H.E. Hanne-Marie Kaarstad, Norwegian Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, lauded the new Secretary General on his initiatives. " We commend the establishment of the project coordination unit and are committed to continue supporting the EAC integration agenda," added the Ambassador.

The Secretary General was accompanied Deputy Secretaries General Dr. Enos Bukuku, in charge of Planning and Infrastructure and Mr. Charles Njoroge, in charge of Political Federation. ●

## EAC Secretary General Meets Ambassador of China, H.E Lû Youqing



The Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the United Republic of Tanzania, and also accredited to the EAC bloc, H.E. Lû Youqing on 28 June 2016, paid a courtesy call to Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, the Secretary General of the East African Community. The Secretary General and his guest discussed among other things the possible areas of cooperation and the need to organise investment conferences to China led by the East African Business Council.

Amb. Liberat recognized the significance of China in EAC noting that China is a potentially big partner for the bloc. He acknowledged the contribution made by China in the infrastructure sector, particularly, rails; roads and air transport geared at enhancing trade in the region.

The Secretary General thanked China for her contribution towards the Burundi Dialogue Process and invited China to contribute to other projects and programmes, through the EAC Partnership Fund.

On his part, H.E. Lû Youqing, recognised the remarkable progress that EAC had made. He expressed China's growing interest in augmenting its cooperation with EAC, specifically the China/EAC/FTA Cooperation, noting that it would positively impact EAC products going to China market especially agricultural products.

The Ambassador re-affirmed China's commitment to support Integration interconnections i.e. Railway, Airlines and Industrialisation and stressed the need to fast track the signing of the MoU on China/EAC Aviation Cooperation.

He informed the Secretary General that China was finalising the process of donating vehicles to EAC to enhance its capacity. The Chinese envoy further expressed hope that the Secretary General would continue the strong cooperation with China. ●

## EAC Secretary General and Ambassador of Ireland to Tanzania Hold Talks in Arusha



The Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland to the United Republic of Tanzania, and also accredited to the EAC bloc, H.E. Fionnuala Gilsean yesterday paid a courtesy call to Amb. Libérat Mfumukeko, the Secretary General of the East African Community.

The Secretary General and his guest discussed among other things the possible areas of cooperation especially in the implementation of the Common Market Protocol and in particular, the Free Movement of Persons. Amb. Mfumukeko informed the Ireland envoy that the implementation of the next EAC Development Strategy would commence in 2017 and the EAC was counting on Ireland's support to realise its goals.

Commenting on the progress of the Burundi Peace Talks, Amb. Mfumukeko updated Her Excellency that H.E. Benjamin Mkapa had recently met a group of politicians in Brussels as a continuation of the consultations that had been held in Arusha in May. He mentioned that the talks required further negotiations between all the parties involved and assured his counterpart that EAC was supporting an all-inclusive dialogue process.

On South Sudan, the Secretary General informed the Ireland

Ambassador that South Sudan has been given six months to complete the ratification process of the Accession Treaty signed on 15th April 2016, after which the country will be a full member of the EAC.

On her part, H.E. Fionnuala Gilsean commended the impressive progress made by EAC, especially the finalisation of ambitious Protocols and Policies. She emphasised the need of reaching and sensitising the common citizenry of the real benefits of integration noting that lack of this was one of key reasons for Brexit. She informed Amb. Mfumukeko that the decision by UK to exit EU would have great implications especially in Northern Ireland, which is still part of EU. On the Burundi Dialogue Process, the Ambassador underlined the need to have a strong dialogue plan that would accommodate the views of all stakeholders involved.

The Ireland Ambassador affirmed to the Secretary General her country's continued support to the EAC projects and programmes confirming that Ireland was committed to contributing to the EAC Partnership Fund. She expressed hope that this would continue to build on the strong relationship and partnership between Ireland and EAC. ●



# EAC Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) now operational in Kampala



A new Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) to complement and strengthen the ongoing EAC Partner States' initiatives in the areas of policy and capacity development, knowledge management and raising awareness as well as investment and business promotion is now operational at the Makerere University College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) in Kampala, Uganda.

The East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (EACREEE) was inaugurated by the Minister designate Hon. Irene Muloni of the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Development of Uganda. The Minister reaffirmed the continued support of the Uganda government to the EACREEE and called on Partner States and Development Partners as well as the private sector to give full support to the Centre.

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Jesca Eriyo pointed out that the focus of the energy sector is to ensure availability of sufficient, reliable, cost effective and environmentally friendly energy sources in the region across borders; promoting electricity interconnectivity to facilitate the broader EAC objectives of attracting investments

and promoting competitiveness and trade.

"The Centre we are launching today will provide the following services to different clients and target groups said the Deputy Secretary General:

1. Develop and implement a coherent regional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (RE&EE) policy framework for the EAC and facilitate its implementation at national levels;
2. Develop and execute regional programs and projects with other Partners and mobilize funding; create synergies with ongoing programs;
3. Operate as key entry point for the implementation of international funding to mitigate climate change in the Energy sector;
4. Provide co-funding for demand-driven programs and pro-

*(Continued on page 13)*

## ... Centre expected to reduce political, regulatory, institutional, technical, and social barriers in the region

(Continued from page 12)

jects executed by the private and public sector or civil society in the region (e.g. call for proposals and tenders);

5. provide a framework for capacity building activities and strengthen networks between research and training institutions as well as organize training of trainers workshops;
6. Update and provide RE&EE information and data for investors;
7. Act as Think Tank, Lobbying Agent and Advisory Platform for RE&EE in East Africa;
8. Networking and co-organization of conferences, forums and workshops; and lastly
9. Facilitate North-South and South-South cooperation for knowledge and technology transfer".

Mr. Philippe Scholtès, the Managing Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), emphasized the importance of inclusive and sustainable industrial development, as well as the role of sustainable energy and private-public partnerships (PPP) in this respect. He said that the global network of regional sustainable Energy Centres assists Development Partners in effective and efficient way.

Mr. Günter Engelits, Head of Office, Austrian Development Cooperation (ADA) in Uganda, said the Centre is expected to reduce political, regulatory, institutional, technical, and social barriers in the region, and support the achievement of sustainable energy for all, as well as the promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The EACREEE is supported by UNIDO and the Austrian Development Agency, and is part of the Global Network of Regional Sustainable Energy Centres. The Network currently includes the EACREEE, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) based in Cape Verde, and the Caribbean Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (CCREEE) in Barbados. The Pacific Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (PCREEE) and the SADC Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (SACREEE) are expected to be launched by the end of 2016.



## Lead by Example, EALA Speaker Challenges Legislators



Legislators should consistently be at the forefront with regards to enlightening constituents on the laws passed and on their overall mandate, EALA Speaker, Rt Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega has said. At the same time, the Speaker is urging the Parliamentarians to ensure Governments of the day avail resources and consequently, service delivery to people is fully realized.

Rt Hon. Kidega made the call when he delivered a paper entitled "Leadership and Legislative Decision Making" at a seminar for legislators of the Parliament of Tanzania in Dodoma on 12 June 2016.

At the seminar, the Speaker took the legislators who numbered over 70, through the topic on leadership and legislative decision making in line with the mandate of Parliament which is legislation, oversight and representation. The Speaker delved on the theories of leadership – which include the autocratic, bureaucratic and delegative styles and on practical lessons of leadership on parliamentary affairs. Two discussants, Hon. Anna Abdalla, a former long serving cabinet Minister and Member of Parliament and Hon. Stephen Masele, a current legislator, also provided invaluable input and insights at the seminar.

Rt Hon. Kidega called on the Parliamentarians to pay key attention to the Appropriation Bill as a key deliverable in ensuring the resources are availed to their people. In the same dispensation, the Speaker called for oversight to ensure that the monies appropriated were put in the right place and that citizens were made well versed on the issues - as a way of creating awareness.

"Citizens might not think of the national budget for example – delivered this past week in the EAC Partner States as a law, but in reality, it is probably the most important piece of legislation enacted each year. As the peoples' representatives, you must follow up on the issues contained therein (Appropriation Bill), and keep your constituents informed while overseeing on the usage of resources," Rt Hon. Kidega said.

(Continued on page 14)



## there is need for a balance between Party whipping and freedom of Party Members to exercise their minds ~Rt Hon. Kidega



*(Continued from page 13)*

The Speaker implored Members to make effective use of the oversight tools including the Public Accounts Committees and the Public Audits. He termed Oversight as one of the crucial modes of checks and balances to ensure that programs are carried out legally, effectively and for the purposes for which they were intended.

The International Republican Institute (IRI), Tanzania and the Office of the Clerk of the Parliament of Tanzania, organized the two-day workshop on Leadership (June 11-12th, 2016) as well as legislative strategies and public policy. Its main aim was to enable youth and women Members of the Parliament to sharpen their skills and to provide them with a tools to increase efficiency as they perform their duties.

The EALA Speaker remarked that the new trend of the "tyranny of numbers" in many Parliaments were leading Members of the minority in the Houses towards embracing "activism within the Legislatures".

"Legislators must find a way of dealing with the tyranny of numbers. However, we must not demean the sanctity of Parliament by transforming ourselves into activists. It may be a considerable move for Parliamentarians from either side to consider formation of caucuses in the House from across the political divide to push for matters. It is a given that Parliamentarians worldwide can work with caucuses as a useful tool to promote agenda", he said.

"It is important for those in the ruling party to listen to what the opposition is saying. But the opposition parties in the House must also contribute ideas that are relevant also as way of enhancing governance," Rt Hon. Kidega said. "Both parties must be seen to provide leadership and enhance representation of the publics", he added.

The Speaker told Parliamentarians to seek for objectivity at all times and to speak the truth. He cited challenges being faced by legislators as that of balancing the promises made versus the realities on the

ground, competing demands between constituents and other stakeholders whose priorities may differ, as well as what may be construed to be personal interests of the legislators vis a vis the bigger picture.

He said there was need for a balance between Party whipping and allowing for freedom of Party Members to exercise their minds. The Speaker implored Members to be well read, researched and to understand the Standing Orders of the Parliament. "It is also important to enhance your debating skills, listen and to be astute negotiators", he added.

Former legislator, Hon Anna Abdalla remarked that the challenges facing women in Parliament transcended party politics and there was need for Members to look at the bigger picture. Hon Abdalla who spent close to twenty years in Cabinet of the United Republic of Tanzania said the right time to clean up the image of politics was now.

"Pessimists often say, politics is a dirty game. Looking at the attendance here today, I would not at all say you all partake of the dirt. But we must enhance the image by sticking to what is right and by offering leadership and guidance", the former legislator stated.

Hon Stephen Masele remarked that it was important for young Parliamentarians to learn from their seniors and to similarly share the experiences. He termed mentorship as a key component of leadership.

According to the IRI Resident Director, Robina Namusisi, Parliamentarians are representative of the diversity in the country as a whole. Therefore, various leadership traits are evident among this large group of leaders. The Resident Director termed the seminar a learning opportunity for legislators to identify their leadership traits and styles and how to use them in their legislative position.

"This is indeed a platform for peer learning as well as sharing lessons learnt and experiences. As well as, an opportunity to review public policies and policy making processes in Tanzania", Ms Namusisi added.





# EALA Passes Bill on PWDs, Wants Dignified, Humane Treatment for All

The East African legislative Assembly on 1 June 2016, passed legislation granting Persons with Disabilities with full protection to enjoy their rights as enjoyed by other citizens of the region.

The object of the East African Community Persons with Disability Bill, 2015, moved by Hon Dr James Ndahiro, is to provide a comprehensive legal framework for the protection of the rights of Persons with Disabilities in the Community. The Bill is premised under Article 120 (c) of the Treaty for the EAC.

The purpose of this Bill is to:

- to take appropriate and effective measures including policy, legislative, administrative and budgetary steps to ensure and protect the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;
- to recognize that disability is not inability and providing special safety nets for PWDs;
- to ensure and improve access to rehabilitation, education, training and community sports;
- to guide, coordinate and harmonize interventions for People with Disabilities by Stakeholders.

The debate on the Bill was preceded by the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the same subject matter presented by the Chairperson, Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramillimo.

The report was a culmination of public hearings held in the Partner States and it followed intensive consultation with various stakeholders. The Committee observed that issues of People with Disabilities cut across many sectors and enacting such legislation would go a long way in mainstreaming their issues. The Committee further observed that the Partner States largely agreed on most provisions of the Bill which were among others need for assessment and interventions at all levels including pre-school inclusiveness education, sensitisation and awareness raising, equal opportunities and affirmative action.

The Committee further seeks the provision of tax exempted free mobile assisted devices, learning materials, need for disaggregated data by disability groupings, vulnerability and marginalization, as well as a financial assistance through cash transfers grants and various specific amenities.



In Burundi, the Committee was informed that the Bill should give more prominence to employment of persons with disability in the Private Sector to be strengthened by reserving slots as well as enforcement of the provisions of quotas. While visiting Kenya, stakeholders informed the Committee of the need for Partner States to have universal accessibility and disability inclusion at all stages and levels of all disaster risk reduction policies.

“Such need to include Internally Displaced Persons with disabilities are entitled to access all services that are available including accessible shelters, water and sanitation, education and health”, a section of the Report reads.

While in Rwanda, the Committee learned that equality and non-discrimination should be enhanced to ensure the facilitation of PWDs to equally participate in economic and business affairs.

Members were told in the meeting with stakeholders in the United Republic of Tanzania that the piece of legislation must clearly discourage foster homes for PWDs as it somehow contradicts with the concept of disability inclusion at different levels.

It was instead observed that the Bill should look at disability along-side all the pillars of integration so as to ensure full integration for people with disabilities during the integration process.



# Fisheries Management Plan III (FMP III) for Lake Victoria Fisheries Launched in Arusha

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Management Plan III (FMP III) 2016 – 2020 whose goal is: "Recovery of biomass of Nile perch with Sustainable utilisation of fisheries resources of Lake Victoria basin with equitable opportunities and benefits", was yesterday launched at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania on 28 June 2016.

The FMP III is expected to guide the sustainable management of the fisheries resources and thus contribute to poverty alleviation and improvement of livelihoods, in line with the EAC Vision and Strategy Framework for Management and Development of the Lake Victoria basin; "a prosperous population, living in a healthy and sustainably managed environment providing equitable opportunities and benefits".

Gracing the event as the Guest of Honour was Dr. Yohana Budeba; the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Tanzania, who launched the FMP III. In his remarks, he welcomed the fisheries stakeholders present at the meeting to the venue. He began by emphasising the value of fisheries as a resource within the EAC region, adding that it provides massive opportunities because it is a source of income, it creates employment opportunities in both industrial and artisanal processing, it is a source of food rich in omega III, iron, zinc and calcium which can go a long way in addressing malnutrition and stunted growth in children and it also attracts foreign exchange from exports to more than 20 countries internationally.

Also present at the launch was the Executive Secretary for Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation; Godfrey Monor who reported that there are several challenges that the Lake Victoria Fisheries is faced with which FMP III aims to address. These include: increased fishing pressure as a result of increasing demand and rising prices of fish and fisheries products; inadequate and unsustainable funding to implement research and agreed management interventions; increased illegalities due to weak enforcement; inadequate infrastructure for fish quality and safety, under developed aquaculture to meet the demand of fish and relieve fishing pressure from capture fishery, and other challenges caused by climate change. "In order to curtail the decline of natural resources within and around the Lake, the commitment from the Partner States should be translated to action for sustainability of our fisheries resources".

On behalf of Hon. Jesca Eriyo; the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, the Senior Livestock and Fisheries Officer; Timothy Wesonga affirmed that the FMP III was developed in a consultative manner in which key stakeholders were consulted and involved. Therefore, there was a reckonable sense of ownership and participation in the development of the FMP III. "The FMP III is amongst a number of instruments developed by EAC to direct the management of fisheries resources in Lake Victoria. Other EAC fisheries instruments that have been developed include the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures, the Aquaculture Strategy, FMP I and II and the upcoming Fisheries and aquaculture Sector Policy which is being developed to guide the sector for better management. "Now that we have a number of instru-



ments in place, efforts should be concerted towards implementing these instruments."

In a bid to support this, he urged that the national governments involved in the Lake Victoria fisheries resource management process to mainstream their collaborative approach by factoring in strategic investments for this purpose in their national budgets in the next financial year." Mr. Wesonga also appreciated the efforts of the Task Force in developing the FMP III document and proposed that they should explore avenues for mobilisation of funds to support implementation of the FMP III.

The FMP III aims to address emerging issues in the Lake Victoria fisheries with focus on: introduction of user rights in the management of Lake Victoria; introduction of a domesticated Fishing Craft Management System (FCMS) for Lake Victoria waters; introduction of fisheries and aquaculture incubation enterprises; demand driven research; use of Information Technology to better manage the fisheries resources and regular economic evaluation of fisheries resources.

In his closing remarks, the Permanent Secretary encouraged close collaboration between LVFO and LVBC in addressing the issues around Lake Victoria and fisheries resources, highlighting the dependence of fish on water as their natural habitat. Dr. Yohana also called upon the Directors of Fisheries management and Research to strengthen linkages with the Devolved/Decentralised Governments in implementing the FMP III.

He concluded by appreciating the support from Lake Victoria Environment Management Project Phase II (LVEMP II), funded by the World Bank. He also commended members from the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO), Partner States representatives from the Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministries, the Beach Management Unit stakeholders, Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), the LVBC Executive Secretary Dr. Ali Said Matano and the EAC Secretariat, all present at the launch for their efforts and participation.



# Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence (ACE II) Project Approved

## ACE II Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project



The World Bank Board has approved the Eastern and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence Project (ACE II).

Each of the 24 Africa Centres of Excellence (ACE) will be funded up to US\$6 million over the project period of five years.

The objective of the ACE II project is to strengthen selected Eastern and Southern Africa higher education institutions to deliver quality postgraduate education and build collaborative research capacity in the regional priority areas.

The selected ACEs are expected to address specific development challenges facing the region through graduate training in Master's, PhD, and short-term courses and applied research in the form of partnerships and collaborations with other institutions and the private sector.

Eight participating countries – Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia – are committing \$140 million, credit from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank Group to finance the selected ACEs.

The ACEs were selected through an open, objective, transparent and merit-based competitive process based on the following criteria:

- proposal that addressed a specific challenge in one of the five priority areas in the region – industry, agriculture, health, education and applied statistics;
- proposal of the highest quality;
- hosting institution had evident capacity;
- selection that provided for geographical balance; and
- the hosting country had International Development Association (IDA) funding eligibility and availability.

All these ACEs are expected to perform the following tasks:

- build institutional capacity to provide quality post-graduate education with relevance to the labor market;
- build institutional capacity to conduct high quality applied research, relevant to addressing a key development challenge/priority;
- develop and enhance partnerships with other academic institutions (national, regional and international) to pursue academic excellence;

(d) develop and enhance partnerships with industry and the private sector to generate greater impact;

(e) improve governance and management of the institution and set up a role model for other higher education institutions; and

(f) deliver outreach, and create an impact, to society by delivering excellent teaching and producing high quality applied research.

Over the project duration of five years, collectively these ACEs are expected to enroll more than 3,500 graduate students in the regional development priority areas, out of which more than 700 will be PhD students and more than 1,000 will be female students, publish almost 1,500 journal articles, launch more than 300 research collaborations with private sector and other institutions, and generate almost US\$30 million in external revenue.

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), an institution of the East African Community, was selected by the Regional Steering Committee of the ACE II project as the Regional Facilitation Unit. IUCEA will provide overall coordination, facilitation and administration to the project implementation under the oversight of the Regional Steering Committee. IUCEA, with assistance from the World Bank, coordinated the project preparation including the ACE selection process. IUCEA will provide forums for industry-academic engagement for ACEs to share knowledge on collaborative research ideas. IUCEA will also supervise a competitive scholarship program in which 30 regional students in STEM will be financed for two years to attain a Master's degree in any of the ACEs. An IDA grant of US\$8 million will finance these activities.

The project will operate under the overall guidance and oversight of the Regional Steering Committee, which comprises of members from participating countries, the private sector and academic experts of international stature.

It is envisaged that at the end of the project the centres will have developed sufficient capacity to become sustainable regional hubs for training and research in their specialised fields, capable of leading efforts to address priority development challenges and improve lives in the region.

The ACE II project is expected to close in October, 2021.





## East Africa Kiswahili Commission Holds Strategic Meetings in Nairobi



The Principal Secretary (PS), State Department of East African Community Integration, Ministry of EAC, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Kenya Ms. Betty Maina has lauded Kiswahili stakeholders in East Africa for championing the development and use of the language in regional integration.

Addressing participants at the official opening of a two-day Validation Workshop for the Strategic Plan of the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC) on 23 June 2016, at the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) in Nairobi, Ms. Maina commended delegates drawn from all the EAC Partner States for using Kiswahili to sensitize the citizenry on the integration process and progress. Noting that Kiswahili is an integral part of the integration project and sustainable development for the region, the PS called for concerted efforts to support the Commission.

The PS called on the stakeholders to distil specific actionable areas that would have visible and tangible results that will be applicable and presentable to the public and other stakeholders. She challenged the stakeholders to brainstorm on possible sources of alternative funding to facilitate and enhance staff expansion and infrastructural development. She reminded the Commission that while considering request for supplementary budget, it should go beyond traditional funding and think about alternative resource mobilization.

The Executive Secretary of the East African Kiswahili Commission, Prof Kenneth Simala assured participants of the Commission's commitment to executing its mandate of coordinating and

promoting the development and use of Kiswahili in East Africa and the diaspora, where Kiswahili is the fastest spreading African language.

The Validation Workshop was closed on Friday 24th June, 2016 by Mr. Joe Okudo, Principal Secretary, State Department of Arts and Culture; Ministry of Sports, Culture and the Arts who noted that Kiswahili is quickly becoming a Pan-African language of identity. He urged stakeholders to take the lead in promoting the development and use of Kiswahili.

The Validation Workshop was the third in a week-long series of meetings organized by the EAKC to discuss effective operationalization and implementation of its mandate. The workshops were attended by over 143 delegates from across the Community.

At the end of the Workshop, the following milestones were achieved: Draft Policy on University Kiswahili Staff-Student Exchange Programme in East Africa and beyond; Linkages initiated between staff and students of Kiswahili in East African Universities; National Associations of Chairpersons of Departments of Kiswahili in East African Universities; East African Association of Chairpersons of Departments of Kiswahili at Universities; National Associations of Kiswahili Media Operators in East Africa; East African Association of Kiswahili Media Operators; Workshop Report on 'Curriculum Reform, Change and Innovation at Universities in East Africa'. Workshop Proceedings from Facilitators (to be edited into a ten-chapter book) Validated EAKC Strategic Plan (2016/7 -2020/1); and Report of the Validation Workshop.



**Editorial Team:**

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

Visit the EAC Web Portal at <http://www.eac.int> to read these and more stories online.  
You can also download the EAC Newsletter by logging onto <http://www.news.eac.int>

*EAC Update e-newsletter is published by the Department of Corporate Communications and Public Affairs  
East African Community (EAC) | P.O. Box 1096 | Arusha - Tanzania.  
[www.eac.int](http://www.eac.int)*

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