



## EAC boss to officiate youth forum on elections, democracy

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THE Secretary General of the East African Community, ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko will today grace the official opening of a three-day Regional Youth Forum on Elections and democracy in Africa to be held at the EAC headquarters here.

Information obtained from the regional's bloc website yesterday says, the EAC boss will officiate the forum which seeks to provide a collaborative, open and inclusive space for young people to critically and objectively reflect on the progress made so far; challenges encountered; and prospects for enhancing meaningful youth participation in Africa's democratisation processes, particularly in its electoral processes.

Convened under the auspices of the African Governance Architecture (AGA) Youth Engagement Strategy (AGA-YES), to assess young people's

participation in electoral processes in Africa, the forum will also provide a platform for reflection on barriers and opportunities for meaningful youth participation in electoral processes at the individual, organisational and societal levels. "It will also create functional linkages between national and regional networks as well as their initiatives aimed at empowering young people to meaningfully participate in political processes in general and electoral processes in particular among others," read part of the information obtained from the EAC home page.

Themed Enhancing Young People's Meaningful Participation in Electoral Processes in Africa, the forum is also expected to come up with actionable recommendations grounded in a rights-based approach to youth political participation to improve individual programming of African Union (AU) Organs, and Regional Economic Communities (RECs);

enhance efforts towards meaningful youth participation in political parties, government ministries, and agencies, including the media.

Among other things, the gathering is also expected to enhance capacity of youth-led or -focused organisations and networks to foster young people's participation in democratic elections and ensure accountability and transparency; as well as provide baseline information and also disseminated to facilitate sharing of best practices and lessons learned among the AU member states.

Participants for the forum include Youth-led and oriented organisations implementing activities that are related to youth in electoral processes, Youth representatives from political parties, Elections Commissions, Civil Society Organisation (CSOs) Non-Governmental Organisations, government and Members of Parliaments.