



In this Issue

- Joint Communiqué: 17th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State
- EAC Heads of State Launch another Road to Connect Central and Northern Corridors
- EAC Launches First One Stop Border Post at Holili/Taveta
- Vice President of United Republic of Tanzania Graces Nanyuki (IX) Series
- 4th Annual EAC Secretary General's Forum for Private Sector, Civil Society and Other Interest Groups held in Dar
- Belgium and EU Pledge Continued Support to the EAC
- Japan Keen on EAC Growth
- Egypt to Strengthen Ties with EAC
- Sweden Pledges Continued Support to EAC Partnership Fund
- National Engagements for the Development of BIOPAMA Observatory Kick Off

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ 17TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE



1. THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE, THEIR EXCELLENCIES PRESIDENT DR. JOHN POMBE JOSEPH MAGUFULI OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA, PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA, PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA, AND H.E. DR. JOSEPH BUTORE, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, HELD THE 17TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE AT THE NGURDOTO MOUNTAIN LODGE IN ARUSHA, TANZANIA ON 2ND MARCH, 2016. H.E. DR. ALI MOHAMED SHEIN, PRESIDENT OF ZANZIBAR, AND H.E. JAMES WANI IGGA, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN WERE IN ATTENDANCE. THE HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT MET IN A WARM AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE.

2. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS COVERING THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 2014 – NOVEMBER 2015 AND NOTED THE STEADY PROGRESS MADE IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMMES OF THE COMMUNITY.

(Continued on page 2)

COMMUNIQUE (...cont)

(Continued from page 1)

3. THE SUMMIT CONSIDERED PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF KEY OUTSTANDING DECISIONS AND OTHER POLICY ISSUES OF STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE TO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND NOTED THAT THERE ARE: - COUNCIL DECISIONS/DIRECTIVES THAT HAVE REMAINED OUTSTANDING FOR MANY YEARS; DELAYS IN RATIFICATION OF PROTOCOLS; AND NOTED THAT THERE ARE BILLS ENACTED BY THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THAT HAVE REMAINED UNASSENTED TO.
4. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE SECRETARIAT TO AVAIL THE PARTNER STATES WITH A LIST OF ALL PROTOCOLS THAT HAVE NOT YET BEEN RATIFIED TO ENABLE THE PARTNER STATES EXPEDITIOUSLY RATIFY THEM AND DEPOSIT THE INSTRUMENTS OF RATIFICATION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL BY 30TH JULY, 2016.
5. THE SUMMIT DECIDED TO ASSENT TO BILLS WHICH HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO PARTNER STATES AT LEAST THREE (3) MONTHS PRIOR TO THE SUMMIT AND TO WHICH HEADS OF STATE HAVE GIVEN NO OBJECTION DURING THEIR ORDINARY SUMMIT.
6. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO IMPLEMENT ALL THE OUTSTANDING DECISIONS AND REPORT THE STATUS TO THE NEXT SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE.
7. THE SUMMIT DELEGATED ITS POWERS OF APPROVAL OF REVIEWS OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF AND THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY RULES OF ORIGIN TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTIONS 3,5 AND 6 OF THE SUMMIT (DELEGATION OF POWERS AND FUNCTIONS) ACT 2007 FOR A FURTHER THREE YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM 2ND MARCH 2016.
8. THE SUMMIT NOTED THE PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK FOR THE EAC INSTITUTIONAL REVIEW AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED FRAMEWORK AND GIVE A PROGRESS REPORT AT THE NEXT SUMMIT OF THE HEADS OF STATE.
9. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO REVIEW THE EAST AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK (EADB) CHARTER TO STREAMLINE IT INTO THE EAC MAIN STRUCTURE. THE SUMMIT FURTHER DIRECTED THE SECRETARIAT TO DEVELOP GUIDELINES FOR THE CREATION, GOVERNANCE AND REPORTING STRUCTURES FOR ALL THE INSTITUTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY.
10. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO FINALIZE THE WORK ON THE MODALITIES REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE FINANCING MECHANISM FOR THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY BASED ON VARIOUS OPTIONS, INCLUDING A HYBRID OF A LEVY AND EQUAL CONTRIBUTION WITH A COMMITMENT TO INCREASE THE BUDGET, THAT ENCOMPASSES THE PRINCIPLES OF EQUITY, SOLIDARITY AND EQUALITY, AND SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE NEXT SUMMIT FOR CONSIDERATION.
11. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED A REPORT OF THE COUNCIL ON THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN INTO THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AND DECIDED TO ADMIT THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN AS A MEMBER OF THE EAC. THE SUMMIT DESIGNATED THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT TO SIGN THE TREATY OF ACCESSION WITH THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH SUDAN.
12. THE SUMMIT NOTED THAT THE VERIFICATION EXERCISE FOR THE ADMISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA INTO THE EAC WAS NOT UNDERTAKEN, AS PREPARATIONS WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALIZED. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO UNDERTAKE THE VERIFICATION EXERCISE AND REPORT TO THE 18TH SUMMIT.
13. THE SUMMIT RECEIVED A REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON PROGRESS ON THE EAC POLITICAL FEDERATION. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED THE PROGRESS THUS FAR AND DECIDED TO FINALISE THE MATTER AT THE NEXT SUMMIT.
14. THE SUMMIT TOOK NOTE OF THE PROGRESS AND ROAD MAP TOWARDS FINALIZATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON AUTOMATIVE INDUSTRY IN THE EAC REGION; AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS AND REPORT TO THE 18TH SUMMIT.
15. THE SUMMIT TOOK NOTE OF THE PROGRESS MADE IN PROMOTING THE COTTON, TEXTILE, APPAREL AND LEATHER INDUSTRIES IN THE REGION AND DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO ENSURE THAT ALL IMPORTED SECOND HAND SHOES AND CLOTHES COMPLY WITH SANITARY REQUIREMENTS, IN THE PARTNER STATES. THE SUMMIT FURTHER DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO CONSIDER BANNING THE EXPORT OF RAW HIDES AND SKINS OUTSIDE THE EAC REGION.

(Continued on page 3)

COMMUNIQUE (...cont)

(Continued from page 2)

16. THE SUMMIT, BEING DESIROUS OF PROMOTING VERTICALLY INTEGRATED INDUSTRIES IN THE TEXTILE AND LEATHER SECTOR, DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO PROCURE THEIR TEXTILE AND FOOTWEAR REQUIREMENTS FROM WITHIN THE REGION WHERE QUALITY AND SUPPLY CAPACITIES ARE AVAILABLE COMPETITIVELY, WITH A VIEW TO PHASING OUT IMPORTATION OF USED TEXTILE AND FOOT WEAR WITHIN THREE YEARS. THE SUMMIT DIRECTED THE PARTNER STATES TO SENSITIZE ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND DIRECTED THE COUNCIL TO PROVIDE THE SUMMIT WITH AN ANNUAL REVIEW WITH A VIEW TO FAST TRACKING THE PROCESS.

17. THE SUMMIT ENDORSED AND LAUNCHED THE EAC VISION 2050. THE EAC HEADS OF STATE COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO IMPLEMENT THE EAC VISION AND ENSURE THAT BY 2050, THE EAC WILL HAVE BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO AN UPPER-MIDDLE INCOME REGION WITHIN A SECURE AND POLITICALLY UNITED EAST AFRICA BASED ON THE PRINCIPLES OF INCLUSIVENESS AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

18. THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE EAC HEADS OF STATE LAUNCHED THE NEW INTERNATIONAL EAST AFRICAN E-PASSPORT AND DIRECTED THAT COMMENCEMENT OF ISSUANCE OF THE EA E-PASSPORT TAKES EFFECT FROM 1ST JANUARY, 2017; AND IMPLEMENT THE PHASE OUT PROGRAMME FOR THE CURRENT EAST AFRICAN AND NATIONAL PASSPORTS FROM 1ST JANUARY, 2017 TO 31ST DECEMBER, 2018. THE HEADS OF STATE FURTHER DIRECTED PARTNER STATES TO UNDERTAKE AWARENESS CREATION PROGRAMMES AND OTHER CONTINUOUS OUTREACH PROGRAMMES ON THE NEW INTERNATIONAL EA E- PASSPORT.

19. THE SUMMIT, PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 42 (2) OF THE TREATY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAC, WITNESSED THE SWEARING INTO OFFICE OF MR. YUFNALIS NDEGE OKUBO FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AS THE NEW REGISTRAR OF THE EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE.

20. THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE EAC HEADS OF STATE LAUNCHED THE CODE OF CONDUCT TO FIGHT CORRUPTION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR. THE SUMMIT COMMENDED THE COMMITMENT AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN THE INTEGRATION PROCESS.

21. THEIR EXCELLENCIES THE EAC HEADS OF STATE AWARDED CERTIFICATES TO THE WINNERS OF THE EAC SECONDARY SCHOOLS ESSAY COMPETITION 2015.

22. THE SUMMIT APPOINTED MR. LIBERAT MFUMUKEKO FROM THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI AS THE NEW SECRETARY GENERAL. THE APPOINTMENT WILL TAKE EFFECT FROM 26TH APRIL, 2016. THE SUMMIT THANKED THE OUTGOING SECRETARY GENERAL, AMB. DR. RICHARD SEZIBERA, FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY AND WISHED HIM SUCCESS IN HIS FUTURE ENDEAVOURS.

23. THE SUMMIT RENEWED THE CONTRACT OF MR. CHARLES JACKSON KINYANJUI NJOROGI AS THE DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY FOR A FURTHER THREE (3) YEARS WITH EFFECT FROM 29TH JUNE 2016.

24. THE SUMMIT CLARIFIED THAT H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI IS THE EAC APPOINTED MEDIATOR FOR THE INTER-BURUNDI DIALOGUE. THE SUMMIT ALSO APPOINTED A TEAM UNDER H.E. BENJAMIN WILLIAM MKAPA FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA TO FACILITATE THE MEDIATION.

25. THE SUMMIT DECIDED THAT H.E. DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI CONTINUES AS THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR.

26. THE SUMMIT EXPRESSED ITS SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA FOLLOWING THE ATTACK BY AL-SHABAAB TERRORISTS ON THE KENYA DEFENCE FORCES' AMISOM BASE AT EL ADDE IN SOMALIA WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF KDF SOLDIERS. THE SUMMIT CONDEMNED THE ATTACK AND REAFFIRMED THE COMMUNITY'S RESOLVE TO COUNTER TERRORISM AND INSECURITY IN THE REGION.

27. THEIR EXCELLENCIES, PRESIDENT YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA; PRESIDENT UHURU KENYATTA OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA; PRESIDENT PAUL KAGAME OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA, AND; JOSEPH BUTORE, 2ND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI THANKED THEIR HOST, HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT DR. JOHN POMBE MAGUFULI OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA FOR THE WARM AND CORDIAL HOSPITALITY EXTENDED TO THEM AND THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATIONS DURING THEIR STAY IN TANZANIA.

DONE AT ARUSHA, THIS 2ND DAY OF MARCH, 2016

EAC Heads of State Launch another Road to Connect Central and Northern Corridors



East African Community Heads of State on 3 March 2016, launched the construction works for the Arusha - Holili/Taveta road which will provide an additional link between the Central and Northern Transport corridors.

The launch of the Tanzanian section of the Arusha - Holili road which will link up with the Taveta - Voi road on the Kenyan side comes in the wake of the 17th Ordinary EAC Heads of State Summit which was held at the Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge in Arusha on Wednesday.

Presidents John Magufuli (Tanzania), Uhuru Kenyatta (Kenya), Yoweri Museveni (Uganda), and Second Vice Presidents Joseph Butore (Burundi) and James Wani Igga (South Sudan) officially launched the works at Tengeru Township on the Arusha - Moshi road. Rwandan President Paul Kagame was represented at the event by his EAC Affairs Minister, Ms. Valentine Rugwabiza.

The Heads of State reaffirmed their commitment to facilitate intra-regional trade by implementing the Community's ambitious 10-year Infrastructure Development Strategy especially through the construction of a vast and reliable road network in addition to ports, railways and power generation plants.

Speaking at the event, President Magufuli who is also the Chairman of the Heads of State Summit, disclosed that the road would include the expansion of the 14.1 km stretch from Arusha to Tengeru and the 28.3 km Arusha by-pass which combined would cost US\$1.3 million.

President Magufuli thanked the Japanese government and the African Development Bank (AfDB) for agreeing to provide financing for the project.

(Continued on page 5)

...New road to reduce transport costs between Arusha and Voi, facilitate cross-border trade, enhance tourism, improve accessibility to markets and social services

(Continued from page 4)

Dr. Magufuli emphasized the need for building high quality roads noting that in Tanzania 67% of cargo was transported by road. He urged the road contractor to ensure the road was built to the required standards and warned that cancelling contracts due to poor performance was not unusual for him as a former roads minister.

He said industrialization was also a priority for the region saying this was the surest way to solve high rates of unemployment and poverty.



"We produce cotton, wool and leather which are used for manufacturing clothes and shoes. I don't see why our people should be wearing second hand clothes and shoes. Why should we export leather as a raw material and then import poor quality shoes which wear out within three to four days?" he asked.

On the EAC One Area Network which is now operational in Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya, Dr Magufuli said it was regrettable that Tanzania was yet to join the network due to rampant corruption at the Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA).

He revealed that TCRA had lost TShs 400 billion (\$183 million) in irregular deals, adding that those involved had not only been sacked but would also be investigated and prosecuted.

In his remarks, President Kenyatta said East Africans were ahead of their governments in the integration process, adding that the onus was on governments to enable people do business by removing barriers to trade.

"Governments should build roads, pool energy sources to ensure reliable power supply across the region and build industries. We should abandon the artificial borders put in place by the colonial powers which divided communities and now pose barriers to trade and movement of people. Let us eliminate these borders so that our people can move and trade freely," President Kenyatta said.

President Kenyatta said leaders in the region had resolved to work together in order to create wealth, employment and build industries which will promote exports.

"Value addition and manufacturing will increase our share of trade on the world market which is currently low," said the Kenyan leader, and expressed optimism that the liquid petroleum gas from Tanzania would soon be available for sale on the Kenyan market.

Speaking at the function, AfDB's Eastern Africa Regional Representative, Mr. Gabriel Negatu, said the completed road would reduce transport costs between Arusha and Voi to facilitate cross-border trade, enhance tourism, improve accessibility to markets and social services, thereby contributing to poverty reduction.

"Already, trade revenue on both sides of the border has increased significantly," said Mr. Negatu.

Also at the function were the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers Amb. Dr. Augustine Mahiga, Kenya's EAC Affairs and Labour Minister Phyllis Kandie, Japanese Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, H.E. Masaharu Yoshida and EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera. 

EAC Launches First One Stop Border Post at Holili/Taveta



The East African Community on 27 February 2016, officially launched the first One Stop Border Post (OSBP) in Holili/Taveta towns on the Kenya/Tanzania border.

The facility was built at the cost of approximately US\$12 million from TradeMark East Africa (TMEA).

The project was launched jointly by Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional and International Cooperation, Hon. Amb. Dr Augustine Mahiga, and Kenya's Labour and East African Affairs Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Phyllis Kandie.

Dr Mahiga said the One Stop Border Post will ease the movement of people from the two Partner States.

"It's a demonstration of the trust between the two countries and that the One People, One Destiny dream is slowly being realized through various East Africa Community initiatives," said Dr Mahiga.

The Minister reaffirmed Tanzania's commitment to the integration process by assenting to the OSBP Bill and concluding agreements for Management of OSBPs with all Partner States.

Dr Mahiga said the OSBP is set to increase efficiency by reducing time and transport costs incurred by businesses, farmers and transporters while crossing from one Partner State to the other.

(Continued on page 7)

...US\$117 million investment in OSBPs expected to return \$30 for every dollar invested

(Continued from page 6)

The Minister further said that the Arusha-Holili/Taveta-Voi road which was currently under construction would boost cross border trade and foster good neighbourliness between Kenya and Tanzania, adding that the two countries had demonstrated the political goodwill to implement EAC initiatives.

Dr Mahiga said the next step was capacity building in the management of OSBPs to ensure smooth operation and better service delivery.

In her remarks, Hon. Kandie said that in addition to facilitating farmers and business persons from Northern Tanzania to access the Kenyan market, the Holili/Taveta OSBP will also enhance mutual interactions, create synergy and unity of purpose.

"I am pleased to appraise the substantial progress already recorded in the construction of the Taveta-Mwatate-Voi road section. Already, 75% of the road is complete and opened for use. It is anticipated that by the end of this year, the outstanding works on that section will be complete and the people of Taveta and Northern Tanzania for the first time will travel to and from Mombasa and other parts of Kenya with ease," said Hon. Kandie, adding that the road would unlock the vast potential of the Taita-Taveta/Kilimanjaro region.

Hon. Kandie noted that Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) remained a big challenge on the economic front and should be addressed by all Partner States as a matter of urgency.

"NTBs constitute prolonged formalities, multiplicity of institutions, limited capacity at entry points, technical requirements and travel restrictions through convoys and time of day among others. These are implemented through protectionist tendencies among trading blocs commonly referred to as 'Behind the border measures'.

"The challenge that comes with the elimination of NTBs is their mutative nature. Their impact on intra-EAC trade flows is serious and real. They stifle trade; depress returns on investment, and add extra costs to goods traded across our borders," said the Cabinet Secretary.

She emphasized Kenya's commitment to continue working with other Partner States to strengthen regional mechanisms geared towards eliminating NTBs with a view of making the Community more competitive and promoting intra-regional trade.

EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, disclosed that the Holili/Taveta OSBP is the first among eight on the borders of the EAC Partner States that have been completed and are awaiting to be commissioned.

Dr Sezibera said the EAC realized that the economies of Partner States were interdependent, adding that the best approach was to work together to reduce the costs of doing business.

"This OSBP will boost trade by facilitating faster clearance of cargo, realize significant reduction in transport costs and ensure effective border control mechanisms are put in place," said the Secretary General.

Mr. Theo Lyimo, the Director OSBPs at TMEA, thanked their financiers especially - DFID, Canada, USAID and the World Bank for supporting the project.

"The One Stop Border Posts at Holili/Taveta are the first to be operationalised among the 15 OSBPs in East Africa and South Sudan through TradeMark East Africa's funding. We have invested about US\$117 million in OSBPs and One Access Road, and what is exciting about this is that we expect a return of \$30 for every dollar invested," said Lyimo.

Also present at the function was the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Dr Enos Bukuku and heads of diplomatic missions from the EAC Partner States. 

Vice President of United Republic of Tanzania Graces Nanyuki (IX) Series



The Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan on 3 March 2016, officially opened the 9th Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki IX) in Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania.

In her remarks, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania reiterated that democracy, rule of law and elections were key components in the regional integration dispensation and necessary for progress and development.

"Democracy, rule of law and human rights are today key precepts that are close to development. Political, social and economic governance of our countries and blocs would be ideally affected and negatively so, if we ignore the adherence to these universally agreed principles", H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan said. The Vice President further said that United Republic of Tanzania would soon append its signature to the African Charter on Democracy, elections and Governance.

"It is important that we in the region and continent for that matter, strive to enhance and strengthen good governance through the institutionalization of accountability and participatory democracy. It is on this vein that the Member States negotiated the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance that

was adopted in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in January 2007", the Vice President said.

"Mr Speaker, I want to assure you that the United Republic of Tanzania will do all that is possible in the not-too-distant future to sign, ratify and deposit the said instrument", she added. So far, only the Republic of Rwanda has ratified the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and deposited the instrument with the African Union.

The Vice President further re-assured legislators in attendance that United Republic of Tanzania would ensure elections are conclusive in Zanzibar later on in the month.

The Seminar organized by EALA in conjunction with the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA), is themed: "Compliance with African Union and Sub-Regional Blocs'; Election Benchmarks: A Case of the East African Community". The Seminar brings together an estimated 250 participants drawn from EALA, National Parliaments of the Partner States' and EAC Ambassadors. Also in attendance are representatives of the Civil Society Organizations.

(Continued on page 9)

... EALA Speaker calls on Election Management bodies to maintain credible registers and conduct polls in a transparent manner

(Continued from page 8)

H.E. Samia Suluhu Hassan called on Parliaments to enact laws that promote peaceful political competition and to follow up on the commitments of the National Election Management Bodies with regards to building electoral systems that underpin Africa's democracy.

In his remarks, the Speaker of EALA, Rt Hon. Daniel Fred Kidega reiterated that democratic elections were key for the continent and challenged the region to ratify the Protocol on African Charter on Governance and Democracy.

The Speaker rallied for a paradigm shift in the way elections are handled.

"There are lessons emerging from the electoral trends in Africa that have degenerated into conflicts as evidenced by the 1995 post-election violence in Zanzibar; the 2007 post-elections violence in Kenya; the 2010 pre and post-elections violence in Burundi and subsequently, the post elections violence in 2015", he remarked.

The Speaker remarked that other case studies on electoral violence were documented in the Republics of Zimbabwe, Lesotho and Guinea Bissau.

"The amount of energy invested in resolving the conflicts particularly in Kenya and Zimbabwe including the evidence of writing of new constitutions is critical in generating some lessons on the theme of institution building", he remarked.

"The Election Management bodies for example, should maintain credible registers and conduct the polls in a transparent manner while upholding the declaration of results", Rt Hon. Kidega said. The Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr Susan Kolimba termed the apt and timely given the fact that the cycle of electns had commenced.

Article 6 provides for the fundamental objectives of the Community which include rule of law and good governance.

The outcome of the seminar she said, would contribute to vast improvements of the electoral processes in the region.

On his part, the Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania, Rt Hon. Job Ndugai concurred with the view that it was time to review elections systems.

"When elections in East Africa go wrong, the consequences are felt in the neighbouring States including instability of trade, and movement of persons", Rt Hon. Ndugai said.

The representative of AWEPA, Mr. John Corrie remarked that elections in the region had continued to present challenges which need to be overcome. He said it was important for the region to find solutions to the Election related conflicts.

"I congratulate EAC and EALA for their efforts to ensure democratic strengthening of the region for instance in organizing several Electoral Observation Missions over the last decade. This is important because impartial, balanced and informed assessment of elections serves to protect the integrity of electoral processes", Mr. Corrie said.

He reiterated that AWEPA was committed to continue supporting the region at an appropriate time. He lauded EALA for its contribution to regionalism and Parliamentary Democracy through effective legislation, representation and oversight.

"We reiterate our commitment to the strengthening of your institution, to supporting regional Parliaments and more broadly to strengthening of Parliamentary democracy in Africa. Despite the challenges that may lie ahead, we will strive to accomplish our mission in a spirit of partnership, mutual learning, cooperation and friendship", Mr Corrie said.

The Seminar is facilitated by high profile speakers from within and beyond the EAC region who are analyzing and assessing Partner States' compliance with Africa, EAC sub-regional and Partner States' national election benchmarks.

The Seminar is likewise showcasing the relevance of Election Observation Missions in the contribution of strengthening Electoral Management processes in East Africa.

It takes place at a critical point in time when all EAC Partner States have either concluded, or are about to go through the electioneering period. On February 18th, 2016, Republic of Uganda went to elections while the United Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi held their polls in October 2015 and July 2015 respectively. On their part, Republic of Kenya and Republic of Rwanda are expected to go to elections next year.

The Seminar is revisiting the three key concepts of democracy, elections and the rule of law as well as the relationship among them. It is hoped the Seminar will enhance capacities of Parliamentarians to perform their core function in preventing electoral and related electoral conflicts is enhanced.

In addition, it is anticipated that Members of the National Assemblies will be provided with an opportunity to appreciate the progress made so far in the EAC integration process through the Election Observation Missions and therefore the issues discussed will subsequently find their way into the agenda of National Parliaments.



4th Annual EAC Secretary General's Forum for Private Sector, Civil Society and Other Interest Groups held in Dar



The 4th Annual Secretary General's Forum for Private Sector, Civil Society and Other Interest Groups was held from 3rd to 4th March 2016 in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania with participants drawn from the civil society, private sector and members of other interest groups from the Partner States.

Addressing the participants during the official closing session on 4th March, 2016, Dr. Ramadhan Mwinyi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional and International Cooperation, Tanzania noted that the forum was the best practice of how to engage dialoguing parties for the East Africa integration agenda.

"This being the 4th year of consistent dialogue is testament of the commitment of all stakeholders to an all-inclusive sustained engagement in the EAC integration process," said Dr Mwinyi

The Deputy Permanent Secretary who represented Minister of Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation, Amb. Augustine Philip Mahiga further pledged to the participants that the region will remain very active in responding to the needs of the civil society, private sector and other interest groups.

In his remarks, the EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera challenged the citizens to lead the anti-corruption crusade in East Africa by electing ethical leaders. "Democracy should be about citizens determining their stake in how they want to be governed, empowering citizens to become prosperous and improving the dialogue of what model of countries they want to have," said Dr. Sezibera

Amb. Sezibera emphasized the need for citizens in East Africa to stop rewarding corrupt and unethical leaders by not re-electing them back to office.

The German Ambassador to Tanzania and EAC, Amb. Egon Kochanke, while giving his remarks commended the EAC Secretariat and regional dialogue partners for having institutionalized the annual event saying the forum would yield positive outcomes for the integration process.

Amb. Kochanke further lauded the fact that out of 76 resolutions emanating from the dialogue over the past three years, more than 20 resolutions had been fully implemented, adding that about 40 resolutions were well on track to implementation. "We are impressed by the rich discussions that transpired throughout the forum and the diversity of citizens representations from all spheres of EAC," said the Ambassador

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sector Hon. Jesca Eriyo noted the private sector's notable progress towards improving governance through the launch of the Code of Conduct for the Private Sector by the EAC Heads of State at their 17th Ordinary Meeting held on 2nd March in Arusha.

On his part Prof. Adebayo Olukoshi of the Asia Institute of Democracy and Electoral Assistance in his keynote address, challenged African leaders to embrace social justice and democracy by establishing strong electoral independent institutions.

Meanwhile, the EAC Secretary General officially launched the new EAC mobile application which seeks to provide real time news updates and improve access to EAC information through mobile phones.

Also present at the Forum was the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Political Federation, Mr. Charles Njoroge

The 5th Annual Secretary General's forum will be held in September 2016. 

Belgium and EU Pledge Continued Support to the EAC

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, on 23 February 2016, received credentials from the Belgian and European Union Ambassadors who have been accredited to the East African Community.



While presenting his credentials to Dr Sezibera, Belgian Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, H.E. Paul Cartier, said his country was keen on strengthening her relations with the Community.

Amb. Cartier said Belgium wants to be part of the solution to various challenges facing the EAC.

In his remarks, Amb. Dr Sezibera thanked the Belgian government for her offer of additional support to the EAC, adding that a framework of agreement for cooperation will be developed between Belgium and the Community.

The Secretary General hailed Belgium for her contribution to the Partnership Fund, which has enabled the EAC to undertake programmes and projects in various sectors.

The Head of the EU Delegation to Tanzania and to the EAC, H.E. Mr. Roeland van de Geer, also presented his credentials to the Secretary General.

Amb. van de Geer noted that the EU's assistance to the EAC was broad covering almost all sectors of the integration agenda, reaffirming that the EU would continue providing this support. He urged the EAC to identify and prioritize the areas in which it would require increased support from the EU.

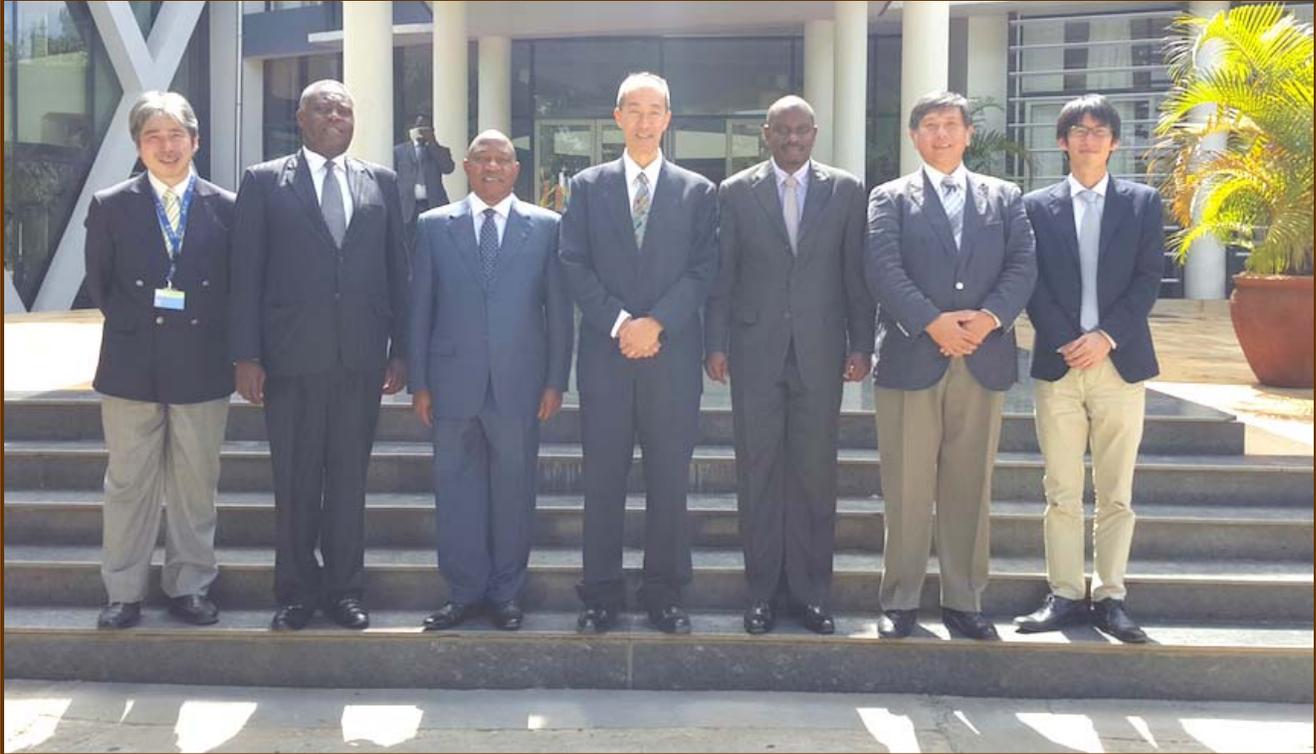
Amb. Sezibera and Amb. van de Geer agreed to hold bilateral talks to re-examine the cooperation framework between the EAC and the EU with the goal of making improvements, with technical teams from both sides exploring areas for future cooperation.



Amb. van de Geer conveyed the EU's condolences to the EAC and the family of the late Ms. Isabelle Wafubbwa, the Principal Political Affairs Officer, at the Community who passed on recently. He described Ms. Wafubbwa as having been instrumental in cooperation between the two regional economic communities especially in the field of political integration.



Japan Keen on EAC Growth



Japan has committed to support the EAC regional integration agenda and to strengthen areas of cooperation between herself and the East African Community. This was revealed on 18 February 2016, during a consultative meeting between representatives of the Government of Japan and the EAC Secretariat held at the EAC Headquarters, in Arusha.

The Deputy Ambassador of Japan to the United Republic of Tanzania, Counselor Hiroyuki Kubota underscored Japan's commitment to support and engage the EAC in various development projects and programmes between the two regions. "The Government of Japan firmly believes that in order to foster socio-economic development, the involvement of the private sector is key, and with this, the Government of Japan is committed to facilitating the involvement of the private sector in both regions to play its critical role in the EAC integration agenda," he remarked.

The EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera expressed his appreciation to the Government of Japan for the ongoing support to the EAC both at the regional as well as bilateral levels. "The collaboration with Japan ranks highly in terms of its contributions toward deeper EAC integration," he noted.

Amb. Sezibera highlighted Japan's critical role in supporting the EAC agenda, noting her support in the development of the One Stop Border Posts (both hard and soft infrastructure); development of the Vehicle Load Control and the One Stop Border Post laws that are currently under going gazettelement; co-financing with African

Development Bank of the Arusha – Namanga – Athi River Road and various ports projects at the bilateral levels.

Present at the consultations was Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Tanzania Office, Chief Representative, Mr Toshio Nagase who underscored Japan's commitment to deliver on all projects committed under the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD V), reaffirming that those with various implementation challenges would soon be back on track, such as the Bujumbura Port Project.

Mr Nagase further informed the meeting that preparations for TICAD VI where underway and will address two thematic areas: human resources development and regional connectivity. "I call upon the EAC to propose priority projects under TICAD VI that are aligned to the two TICAD VI themes," he added.

In concluding their consultations, the two parties agreed to look into modalities of hosting a side event, jointly sponsored by EAC and Japan, on the sidelines of TICAD VI slated for August 2016 in Nairobi, Kenya.

Present at the consultative meeting were JICA Tanzania Office Representative, Mr Nobuyuki Kobe, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Dr Enos Bukuku and EAC Director of Infrastructure, Mr Phillip Wambugu.



Egypt to Strengthen Ties with EAC



Egypt has committed to improve areas of cooperation between herself and the East African Community.

Egypt's new Ambassador to the Tanzania and the EAC, H.E. Mohammed Yasser Ala'Eldeen El Shawaf, said his country was eager to boost trade and technical cooperation with the EAC Partner States.

Amb. Shawaf made the remarks after he presented his credentials to the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha on 16 February 2016.

Welcoming the Egyptian ambassador, Dr. Sezibera described Egypt as an important trading partner for the EAC and praised its outstanding role in promoting negotiations for the Tripartite Free Trade Area (FTA) between the EAC, COMESA and SADC.

Dr Sezibera noted that the Tripartite FTA when fully implemented would move the African Continent from the margins of Global Trade, adding that it was a good basis for the Continental Free Trade Area envisioned by the African Union.

The Secretary General thanked Egypt for making a tariff offer to the EAC and went on to request Egypt to encourage the other member states to negotiate as a bloc instead of doing so as separate entities saying this would hasten the operationalization of the Tripartite FTA. ●

Sweden Pledges Continued Support to EAC Partnership Fund



Sweden has pledged to continue supporting the East African Community integration process.

Ambassador Katarina Rangnitt, the Swedish Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, said cooperation among the five EAC Partner States was crucial to relations between Sweden and East Africa.

Amb. Rangnitt was speaking when she presented her credentials to the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania on 16 February 2016.

Sweden has over the past nine years disbursed generous financial support amounting to 7,225,155 Swedish Kroner (US\$851,676) to the EAC, monies that have been channeled through the EAC Partnership Fund.

Welcoming the Swedish envoy, Amb. Dr Sezibera thanked Sweden for her support to the Community over the years noting that the Swedish support has been used for among other things the negotiations of the Economic Partnership Agreements between the EAC and the EU as well as boosting the health sector in the region.

Amb. Sezibera said the Partnership Fund has been used to finance not just the activities of the EAC Secretariat but the Community's specialized institutions such as the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and the Inter-University Council of East Africa.

The Secretary General briefed Amb. Rangnitt on the progress of the EAC integration saying the Community had made many achievements since the signing of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC on 30th November, 1999.

Amb. Sezibera said the EAC was seeking to ensure that the regional airspace was a unified territory throughout East Africa.

"As we increasingly become an effective Customs Union on the ground, we shall have to do the same for East Africa's Air-space," he said, adding that you cannot have a Customs Union on the ground only.

The Secretary General said the Community requires a lot of support to facilitate trade in services noting that significant progress had already been recorded in the free movement of goods as enshrined in the Common Market Protocol.

He pointed out other achievements as the reduction of Non-Tariff Barriers to the free movement of goods, the convertibility of the Partner States national currencies and cooperation in the development of infrastructure.

"Our Infrastructure programmes are largely on track. Many of the One Stop Border Posts have been completed, and are being operationalized. I congratulate the Partner States for ratifying the One Stop Border Bill, and the Axle Weight Control Bill. This puts our Community in good stead to strengthen the operations of our Customs Union," he said.

He disclosed that the EAC Heads of State Summit had agreed on a 10-year Infrastructure Development Strategy which among other things lays emphasis on public-private partnership investments in railways, roads, ports and energy in the region.

Amb. Rangnitt was accompanied by Mr. Ludvig Bontell, the Political and Commercial Affairs attaché at the Swedish Embassy in Dar es Salaam. 

National Engagements for the Development of BIOPAMA Observatory Kick Off



In 2015 the East African Community Secretariat became the host of the Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management that serves the East African Community (EAC) countries. Following a regional kick-off meeting to introduce the EAC Observatory to users and providers, a series of national engagements has been taking place in the EAC countries since the last quarter of 2015.

Engagements were undertaken in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Tanzania between October 2015 and February 2016, with preparations to convene the workshop in Burundi underway.

The purpose of the national engagements is to allow a larger group of stakeholders from each of the Partner States to engage at a more detailed level with the planned functioning of the Observatory and provide feedback and input into their needs and requirements as well as data they could contribute to the broader community.

The EAC National Engagement Workshops took place in Kenya on 22 October 2015, Uganda on 7th December 2015 and Rwanda on 10th December 2015, were an introduction and in-depth presentation on the Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) of the EAC Observatory for Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management. Experts and participants from various governmental and non-governmental institutions attended to discover the RRIS and contribute their knowledge on existing information and data as well as provide insights into key products needed in the EAC region to support Protected Areas decision-making.

The engagements in the three countries provided a platform for discussion on the RRIS and allowed for identifying the gaps and improvements that could be made, such as the need for technical training on the RRIS, the importance of promoting responsible and accountable data sharing and strategically identifying priority areas. From all three workshops there was mutual agreement that a focus on the development of a State of Protected Areas report, as a key product of the EAC Observatory, helps to prioritize data collection for input into the report and the report itself would be very useful to identify priority areas for interventions and resources.

Key partners for the EAC Observatory were also identified, such as the Centre of Excellence in Rwanda, the Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD) in Kenya and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs in Uganda. The two institutions and the government ministry in the respective countries focus on the collection of biodiversity data and natural resources data and making it accessible to interested parties, including local communities.

Reflecting on the results of the workshop in Uganda, Bob Kazungu, Forestry Officer at the Ministry of Water and Environment of Uganda stated: "The workshop was a success given the fact that the platform for data capture and sharing provides an avenue to have a one stop centre at the region to have information on biodiversity. As a country, we are struggling to obtain useful information that has been scattered in various institutions, and any such support is greatly appreciated. The meeting brought together experts in policy, data management and GIS & remote sensing, which provided varied means to forge a road map for effective data collection for BIOPAMA".



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*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.
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