



THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EAC

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EAC VOWS to Invest More in Manufacturing

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Keeping the Integration Flame burning



EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko

April 26, 2017 marked exactly one year since I took over office as the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC). Over that one year, the Community has made giant strides in the integration journey.

The EAC emerged as the fastest integrating Regional Economic Community (REC) in Africa according to the Africa Regional Integration Index Report 2016, jointly conducted by the African Union, African Development Bank and the UN Economic Commission for Africa.

The study, which covered eight RECs in Africa, identified the EAC as the best performing REC on the continent in terms of regional integration.

The Community has made substantial progress in moving forward the four pillars of regional integration, namely: the Customs Union; Common Market; Monetary Union; and Political Federation.

The implementation of the East African Monetary Union (EAMU) Protocol is well underway. The 35th Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers considered and adopted two Bills aimed at actualizing the EAMU, namely the East African Monetary Institute Bill and the East African Statistics Bureau Bill.

The East African Monetary Institute is a transitional mechanism to the East African Central Bank, which will issue the single currency for the region that is expected to be in place by the year 2024. The East African Statistics Institute, on the other hand, is critical for macro-economic convergence and harmonisation, as it will provide accurate data and information as the Community moves towards a single currency.

On the Political Federation, the EAC Heads of State, at their 18th Ordinary Meeting held at State House, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania on 20th May, 2017, adopted the Political Confederation as a transitional model of the East African Political Federation and directed the Council of Ministers to constitute a team of constitutional experts to draft the Constitution for the Political Confederation and report to the 19th Summit meeting.

As part of efforts to improve service delivery, the EAC Secretariat is continuing with the rollout of the Quality Management System based on ISO 9001:2008, after having been ISO Certified. Besides improving our processes and operations, the ISO certification also goes a long way to confirm that our processes meet internationally recognised standards.

We are also working overdrive to integrate the Republic of South Sudan (RSS) into the Community. In March, I headed an EAC delegation that visited RSS to discuss with the young nation's leaders the modalities of integrating the country into the EAC. The delegation met with H.E. President Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of RSS as well as Ministers and other top government officials.

During this visit, it was agreed that RSS would soon appoint a Judge to sit on the bench of the First Instance Division of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ). EACJ Judges are appointed by the EAC Heads of State Summit on the recommendation of Partner States. This has since been fulfilled with the Summit appointing Dr. Charles Oyo Nyawello to be a Judge on the First Instance Division during their 18th Ordinary Meeting held at State House in Dar es Salaam on 20th May 2017.

RSS will later appoint a Judge to the Appellate Division of the EACJ once the relevant Article in the EAC Treaty is amended to raise the number of judges from five to six. It was further agreed that the RSS Judiciary would also provide office space for the EACJ to establish a sub-registry like is the case in the capital cities of the all the other Partner States.

To ensure the smooth integration of South Sudan into the Community, the EAC Secretariat has put in place plans to undertake a comprehensive capacity building programme on integration process for RSS Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). The capacity building process for MDAs will focus on all aspects around the EAC integration.

We at the EAC Secretariat will continue to make efforts to keep the flame of integration burning as we move towards a united and prosperous East Africa.



EAKC to host

1st International Kiswahili Conference

The East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC), an institution of the EAC, is set to hold the 1st International Kiswahili Conference in September 2017. Themed “Transforming the East African Community through Kiswahili”, the Conference aims to mobilize policy makers and practitioners, development partners, the media, scholars and other Kiswahili stakeholders into creative thinking on how the East African Community can grow and change by adopting and implementing Sustainable Development Goals so as to survive and thrive in an ever- changing environment characterized by innovation and transformation.

Creative, innovative and transformative development and use of Kiswahili have the potential for enhancing relevant knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to tackle the challenges that come with Sustainable Development Goals.

The Sustainable Development Goals provide Kiswahili with a huge opportunity to help in solving development challenges facing the region. The Conference is premised on the logic that the post-2015 development agenda is going to shape policies, programmes and projects worldwide for the next fifteen years.

Each and every Sustainable Development Goal and target provides an opportunity for Kiswahili to support communication. The goals and targets present great avenues for Kiswahili to demonstrate shared value while contributing towards local, national and regional sustainable growth.

The goal of the Conference is to discuss how the development and use of Kiswahili can stimulate new ideas, solve problems, and implement solutions to challenges of sustainable development in the EAC.

It is hoped that Conference participants will redefine the challenges and opportunities that come with Sustainable Development Goals, come up with new, innovative responses and solutions, and take action.

The Conference will not only assist Partner States create better solutions to Sustainable Development Goals, but will engender a positive experience that will help speed up their adoption.



FAO and EAC to Address Youth Employment

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the East Africa Community (EAC) have signed a Grant Agreement intended to promote urban and rural agriculture and agribusiness to improve youth employment in the region. The total budget of the Grant is US\$ 440,000 for one year.

The agreement, which took place on the margins of the 28th African Union Summit themed “Harnessing Africa’s Demographic Dividend by Investing in Youth”, was signed by Amb. Libérat Mfumukeko, the Secretary General for EAC and Dr Patrick Kormawa, the Subregional Coordinator for Eastern Africa and FAO Representative to the AU and UN Economic Commission for Africa.

The agreement allows FAO and EAC to find a path for young people to secure decent work opportunities, as well as explore innovative e-business models in the agricultural sector.

Despite relatively high economic growth in the Partner States of the East African Community, youth unemployment remains a great concern for the region, as it slows down economies and causes social problems.

The two institutions have the tools to respond to unemployment in the EAC region. FAO has developed the expertise on youth, agriculture, livelihoods and migration. EAC, on its part, has prepared its Youth Policy, a corner stone for many emerging public and private initiatives.

The agreement aims to enhance the capacity of the target countries and the EAC Secretariat to develop and implement youth-in-agriculture initiatives and to improve the East African youth’s access to information, resources and employment opportunities in the agricultural sector.

Key activities of the new intervention would include the development of a sub-regional strategy and country action plans for promoting decent employment for youth in the agricultural sector; the elaboration of a framework for sustainable youth employment initiatives, the dissemination of best practices, business models and opportunities for youth, and the support to scaling e-business models in agriculture.



How to Tackle Repetitive Droughts in the Horn of Africa

By ESTHER NGUMBI

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) recently declared that millions of citizens in the Horn of Africa face food shortages. Owing to a persistent lack of rainfall between October and December, as many as 12 million people across Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are in dire need of food assistance.

But this is not new. Almost every year, around the same time, similar headlines appear in the news. For example, in 2014, 2015 and in 2016, news of drought and famine across the Horn of Africa was in the headlines. It is a cruel cycle that is likely to repeat itself again and again despite the fact that many of these countries are doing their best to prevent drought and other climate-related disasters.

Various strategies

Drought mitigation strategies in the Horn of Africa include both short-term approaches, such as distributing food to those affected and long-term approaches such as planting drought-tolerant crop varieties that can withstand insufficient rainfall, or diversifying one's crop and income base so that there is something to fall back on when drought strikes.

Kenya's government, for example, is supplying food to areas worst hit by drought, and is also working on sustainable long-term solutions such as investing in community water sources so that they do not depend on rain-fed agriculture.

In addition, Kenya has established a national drought management authority that oversees all matters related to drought management and advises citizens on incoming droughts.

Ethiopia, too, has put in place several drought mitigation strategies, including launching The Productive Safety Net Programme, which enables the rural-poor communities facing chronic food insecurity to resist shocks, create assets and become food self-sufficient.

Such efforts have not gone unnoticed and the recently appointed UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres commended the Ethiopian government on their response to the 2016 drought.

Localized efforts

The question then becomes: what can be done differently to avoid these repetitive cycles of drought and bring the hunger crisis in the Horn of Africa to a definitive end? How can we build better resilience to climate-related disasters?

First, there is need for increased strategic integration and coordination between governments and NGOs. They need to coordinate their efforts aiming to help farmers become more resilient to drought and other climate change-related disasters.

In Kenya, for example, there are many organisations that are investing significantly into building resilience to drought and climate change for farmers. The government, NGOs, foundations, and CGIAR's research programme on climate change all work towards this goal, but there is little coordination between them.

Responding to climate change and building sustainable drought resilience will require a dedicated and coordinated effort.

Better coordination can increase efficiency in dealing with drought and equipping citizens with tools and other resources that they need to be able to successfully respond to climate change.

Coordinated efforts can also offer the best option for strengthening livelihoods through improved agricultural productivity and they can build the capability of households to diversify their incomes in order to manage drought-induced shocks.

Countries are already working towards strengthening the coordination between government agencies and NGOs in their efforts to address persistent droughts.

The Kenyan President, Uhuru Kenyatta, called for streamlining of relief assistance being given by different ministries. He asked for all drought relief help to be distributed through one channel.

Most importantly, recent discussions about the need to strengthen drought risk management strategies across the African continent have resulted in the proposal for the formation of Drought Resilient and Prepared Africa (DRAPA), a new strategic framework that focuses on enhancing resilience to drought throughout Africa, while inspiring individual African countries to develop their own short and long-term drought mitigation plans.

The DRAPA will be working towards getting regional institutes that deal with drought mitigation together under African Union leadership, and enforcing their collaboration with the international community, including UN agencies such as the FAO.

How to get results

Once integration and coordination of drought relief efforts has been achieved, there will be the need to create innovative ways to disseminate available information and solutions to farmers. There is a need for this sort of information to be widely available with open access, so that farmers and citizens can take action.

Projects working towards disseminating information are already beginning to emerge in Africa. For example, mobile phones are being used to send climate information to farmers so that they can plan and put appropriate drought mitigation strategies in place.

In Ethiopia, real-time maps generated through the Satellite-Assisted Pastoral Resource Management (SAPARM) initiative are relayed to pastoralists who use them in times of drought to find pasture for their animals.

Another innovative approach to disseminate information is being used by "maarifa knowledge centres". These are innovative one-stop information centres that are run by Arid Lands Information Network. These modified shipping containers are used as a local hub for information on climate change, including updated information on drought and ways to mitigate it.

While these current efforts by governments, NGOs, Africans and the international community to avoid these repetitive cycles of drought will definitely make a difference, it is important to note that the success of these efforts will vary depending on the country and the commitment of their elected leaders.

Similarly, these initiatives' success will also depend on the continued collaboration and sustained commitment by all the stakeholders involved. Furthermore, other political reasons including the political stability of these countries may hinder the success of these initiatives.

Investing in short and long-term localized initiatives to mitigate drought and innovative ways to disseminate available information to farmers accompanied by strategic, well-planned and coordinated region-wide drought mitigation strategies can help the African continent to break this cyclic nature of droughts once and for all. Time is ripe.



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Petroleum Exploration in East Africa - What lies beneath?

By The Community Team

The broad goal of the East African Community (EAC) is economic, social and political integration so as to create wealth in the region and enhance competitiveness through increased production, trade and investment. The EAC thus seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of East Africa through its mission of widening and deepening integration and vision of a prosperous, competitive and politically united East Africa.

Given the importance of energy in realizing this vision, the EAC Partner States have agreed to cooperate in joint exploration and development of energy resources found within the Community and to promote investment within the sector. The EAC Partner States seek to promote exploitation of both renewable and non-renewable energy sources in the most optimal way for the mutual benefit of East Africans.

In this regard, the EAC has been holding the East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition biennially since 2003 to promote exploration, development and production of oil and gas. The main objective of the Conference and Exhibition is to promote investment in the oil and gas sector by demonstrating to the world the potential that lies within the region and sharing information on the status of development of the sector in each Partner State.

The 8th edition of the East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition (EAPCE'17) was held from 7th to 9th June 2017 in Bujumbura, Burundi. The 2017 edition of the Conference was held under the theme: *East Africa - An Emerging Hotspot for Oil and Gas Exploration, Infrastructure Development and Commercialization.*

The East African Region has a total of 28 prospective sedimentary basins with over 37 international oil and gas companies licensed in the region to date. The petroleum resources discovered in the East African region are estimated at 2 billion barrels of oil in place and 3 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of natural gas. Additional resources continue to be discovered by aggressive exploration programmes in the region.

The East African Partner States have continued to register a large number of petroleum companies applying for exploration acreage. This is attributed to the attractiveness of legal and fiscal regime of the Partner States. In addition, efforts have been made in updating the existing database through additional seismic acquisition and reprocessing of pre-existing data. The current status of petroleum exploration in the Partner States is highlighted below:

Burundi:

Often called "The Heart of Africa", Burundi is located between 2°45' and 4°30' latitude South and covers an area of 27,834 km². Various studies have been conducted since 1959 for petroleum exploration on the Rusizi

Basin and in the Lake Tanganyika Basin. These basins are part of the East African Rift System and are located between Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Tanzania and Zambia. This Rift System is dated from Cenozoic (Tertiary) and is divided into 2 branches: the Eastern arm and the Western arm, The Lake Tanganyika and the plain of Rusizi belong to the Western branch which consists of sedimentary basins marked by deep lakes (Malawi and Tanganyika). In Burundi, these basins cover an area of 2,968.1 km²

Geological studies, Gravimetric, aeromagnetic and seismic surveys have been conducted in the two basins and the average sediments thickness is estimated to be more than 3,000 meters.

The exploration areas of Rusizi and Lake Tanganyika basins have been divided into four blocks: A (793,1 km²), B (697,1 km²), C (664 km²) and D (813,4 km²). Block A is onshore, on Rusizi basin while Blocks B, C, and D are offshore in Lake Tanganyika basin from North to South respectively.

Block C is allocated to A-Z Petroleum Products Limited and Surestream Petroleum Limited for exploration. Since the fall in oil and crude petroleum prices, fieldwork on Block A has been suspended, however there are plans to conduct a 2D seismic campaign soon.

Blocks A, B and D are available to potential investors as the Government of Burundi continues to encourage oil companies to invest in petroleum exploration in the country. The government is also reviewing the Petroleum Code dated 1976 with the aim of attracting more investors.

Kenya:

The Geology of Kenya can be grouped into five succession groups namely; Archean (Nyanzian and Kavirondian), Proterozoic (Mozambique Belt and Bukoban), Palaeozoic/Mesozoic sediments, Tertiary/Quaternary volcanics and Tertiary/Quaternary.

Kenya has four sedimentary Basins namely; Lamu, Anza, Mander and Tertiary Basins covering an area of about 500,000 km². Exploration for oil and gas started in Kenya in the 1950's. The basins are divided into 62 exploration blocks, which are at various stages of exploration. To date, over 80,000 km² of 2D and 10,000 km² of 3D seismic data has been acquired with over 70 exploratory wells drilled. Commercial oil discoveries have been made in the onshore blocks in the South Lokichar basin with recoverable reserves of 750 million barrels of oil (mmbo). The discoveries were made in 9 wells. Non-commercial discoveries of oil and gas have also been made in the offshore blocks in the Mbawa-1 and Sunbird-1 wells of the Lamu basin.

To fast track the development of the discovered resources the Government of Kenya has initiated the Field Development Plan (FDP) for the oil fields in the South Lokichar basin covering blocks 13T and 10Bb

operated by Tullow Oil. Well extended Testing (EWT) has been done in the Amosing -1 and Ngamia-1 wells in the same basin. Currently the government is exploring ways of early oil production and its evacuation.

To modernize the licensing regime, the Kenya government has reviewed the laws concerning the Production Sharing Contract (PSC) to capture some of the emerging issues in the industry. The Bills have been debated in Parliament for enactment.

Rwanda:

Petroleum Exploration in Rwanda is in its fetal phase. Exploration activities started in 2007. The potential area for exploration is located in the western part of the country specifically under Lake Kivu. The whole exploration area covers about 1,600 km².

To date, Satellite images analysis, aero magnetic and gravity survey, geochemical analysis and genetic characterization of gases in Lake Kivu, EIA for 2D seismic survey, and reconnaissance 2D Seismic Survey have been undertaken. The Government of Rwanda has been working hard on legal and regulatory tools. The law governing Petroleum Exploration and Production Activities is now gazette and the Upstream Petroleum Policy under review.

The Government of Rwanda is working on engaging a petroleum company to undertake technical activities inline with conducting a detailed 2D seismic survey over Lake Kivu block.

As part of the Western Branch of the African rift valley, Lake Kivu was formed in the course of the Volcano chain. This lake contains enormous quantities of dissolved gas: an estimated 250 billion m³ of carbon dioxide (CO₂) and 55 billion m³ of Methane gas (CH₄). The Government of Rwanda has engaged in the development of a modern gas production facility to convert the gas in Lake Kivu into electrical power. In that framework, a 2MW power plant was successfully put in place as a pilot project and the latter has attracted many other developers not only for power generation but also for fertilizers and liquid fuel. Currently, an American company known as CONTOUR GLOBAL through its local subsidiary, KivuWatt Ltd, has developed a methane gas to power project, which is supplying to the national grid with 25MW of electricity. This project is being extended for an additional of 75MW in order to have 100 MW of electricity as the design goal of the KivuWatt Project. Another developer, Symbion Power, has been awarded a 50-megawatt Independent Power Production (IPP) project using methane gas from Lake Kivu. The first barge of Symbion Power Project will provide 14 MW of electricity 15 months after the project reaches financial close. The full 50 MW will be commissioned within 36 months after the agreement is completed.

Tanzania

The country covers an area of about 947,300 km² with a number of coastal and inland basins covering 534,000 km² and the rest are Cratonic rocks. These sedimentary basins are categorized into four tectonic morphological groups such as; Coastal basins, Karoo rift basins, Modern rift basins and the Cratonic sag basins, each of the basins has been affected by rifting at one time or another, except for the Cratonic sag basins.

The country has been intermittently explored over the last 60 years. Most of the multinational petroleum companies were represented in the area at one time or another. The country has continued to undertake geological and geophysical works to update the existing database to attract more investment in the sector.

To date more than 100,000 kilometers of 2D seismic have been acquired onshore, shelf, deep-offshore as well as in land lakes and over 16,388 km² of 3D seismic acquired in the deep sea.

Tanzania has drilled a total of 92 wells both off-shore and onshore with total Gas Initial in Place discovered of 57.41 Tcf. The total amount of gas discovered in the offshore blocks (1,2,3 & 4) is 47.13 Tcf while onshore (Songosongo, Mnazi Bay, Mkuranga, Kiliwani, Ntoria and Mambakofi) total of 10.28 Tcf were discovered.

The country is producing an average of 140 million standard cubic feet per day (mmscfd) of Gas from Songosongo and Mnazi bay for power generation and industrial use as well as domestic use.

The Tanzania Petroleum Development Corporation (TPDC) together with offshore Tanzania Operators (Shell, Statoil, Exxon Mobile, Ophir, Pavilion and BG) are currently developing the concepts for Liquefied natural gas.

The Government, through TPDC, embarked on the construction of natural gas processing plants and a pipeline from Mtwara to Dar es Salaam. The project was commissioned in September 2015. It is expected that the project will immediately address natural gas needs for the existing and future projects in the country. Currently the gas is used for power production to generate 730 MW. It is also used for heating in 38 industries, for domestic and for vehicles as Compressed natural gas in Dar es Salaam city.

Uganda

There are six sedimentary basins in Uganda, out of which the Albertine Graben is the most prospective for petroleum exploration. The graben forms the northern most part of the western arm of the East African Rift System, stretching from the border with Sudan in the north to Lake

Edward in the south, a distance of over 500km. The graben is shared with the Democratic Republic of Congo and averages 45km in width, with a total area in excess of 22,000 km² on the Ugandan part.

Currently, the graben is subdivided into eleven Exploration Areas, out of which five are licensed.

Uganda's oil and gas sector has generally transitioned from the exploration and appraisal phase to the development phase in preparation for sustainable production of the petroleum resources that have been discovered. The country has three licensed operators undertaking petroleum exploration, development and production activities. To date 7,254 kilometres of 2D and 1948 km² of 3D seismic data have been acquired. One hundred and twenty exploration and appraisal wells have been drilled in the country with 106 of these wells encountering oil and/or gas. This work has led to the discovery of 21 oil and/or gas fields in the Albertine Graben.

Appraisal of these discoveries has established that petroleum resources in these fields are now estimated at over 6.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent (bboe) in place with 1.4 billion barrels of these resources estimated to be recoverable.

The Government of Uganda and various partners are currently undertaking the necessary developments to effect the commercialization of the resources. The commercialization is planned to include development of a 60,000 billion barrel per day (bbl/day) modular refinery starting with an initial processing capacity of 30,000 bbl/day, use of crude oil to generate electricity in short term and development of an export pipeline. The refinery development is currently in progress. Government is sourcing for a lead investor while the necessary studies on the least cost route for transporting Uganda's crude oil to the East African coast to access the international market were concluded and the export route will be through Tanzania at Tanga Port.

Also, following the putting in place of a new legal framework for the oil and gas sector, the government of Uganda resumed in 2015 the process of licensing acreage in the Albertine Graben for petroleum exploration, development and production through implementation of a competitive licensing round. Seven companies submitted proposals for five blocks. The proposals were evaluated and consequently, 4 out of the 7 companies that bid for acreage were awarded exploration blocks and are currently in negotiation for the Production Sharing Agreements with the Government.



EAC Unveils US\$ 110 Million Budget

By BOBI ODIKO

The East African Community Budget for the Financial Year 2017/2018 is \$110,130,183.

Uganda's State Minister for EAC, Hon Julius Maganda, presented the Budget estimates to the East African Legislative Assembly in Arusha in May, on behalf of the 2nd Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC, Uganda and Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivenjija.

The 2017/2018 Budget themed: "Accelerating Implementation of the EAC Integration Agenda" is a step-up from the previous year's \$101,374,589. The Budget prioritizes the consolidation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) to cover all imports and intra-EAC traded goods, infrastructure development in the region and further liberalization of free movement of skilled labour across the Partner States.

Other key areas Hon Maganda said, include enhancement of regional industrial development through investment in key priority sectors and improvement of agricultural productivity with an aim to enhancing food security. Also of essence is the promotion of regional peace, security and good governance, on the one side and institutional transformation to spearhead the Community's agenda on the other.

The Minister cited a number of assumptions on which this year's budget is pegged on to include the continued and consolidated political support of the EAC integration and the availability of adequate financial resources and remittances. Political stability and good governance as well as safe and stable security across the region are other areas of consideration.

The Minister made note of the challenges the Community will have to which may include persistent delays in remittance of funds from Partner States and Development Partners and limited financial resources (overall budget declining yet the demand is increasing on the Community to deliver more services to East Africans), occasioned by reduced support from Development Partners.

"Delayed harmonization of national laws that impact on the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol and understaffing, which is seriously impacting on effectiveness and efficiency in implementation of projects and programmes are other challenges, we need to address", the Minister added.

The Minister however reiterated mitigation strategies to address the challenges, stating that, "the Community will closely follow-up on the remittances by Partner States to facilitate timely implementation of programmes and implement the institutional review as per the directive of the 17th Summit of the Heads of State."

The EAC Political Federation is yet another key priority area on the agenda in the coming Financial Year. In a bid to promote good governance, the EAC will dispatch Election Observer Missions to observe general elections in the Republic of Kenya and Republic of Rwanda in August 2017. The Minister also affirmed that the Community will continue to hold the annual EAC University Debates. The debates, which lead to the appointment of the Youth Ambassadors, have been critical in promoting the agenda of integration among the University student community.

On Peace and security, the Minister succinctly called for measures to ensure effective policing to counter terrorism and crime.

"The success of the EAC integration process must be supported by a predictable security environment. During the reporting period, the Peace and Security sector continued regular consultations towards joint action against Terrorism and other transnational and cross border organized crimes. The next Financial Year will see Standing Operating Procedures in Policing function developed as well as operationalization of the Police Regional Centres of Excellence in the Partner States", he said.

On the global economic performance outlook, the Minister noted that the global economy had expanded by 2.9 % in 2016 compared to a revised growth of 3.1% in 2015. The slowed growth was occasioned by constrained global trade, subdued investment and heightened policy uncertainty associated with the United Kingdom’s decision to leave the European Union (EU) and elections in the United States of America (USA).

“The real GDP in the EAC is estimated to have grown by 6.1% compared to 5.8 % growth recorded in 2015. The growth was largely supported by investment in public infrastructure, buoyant private consumption and low oil prices. Tanzania recorded the highest real GDP growth in the region, expanding by 7.2% in 2016, compared to a growth of 7.0 % in 2015. Kenya and Uganda recorded improved economic performance of 5.8 % and 4.8 % respectively in 2016, compared to 5.7 and 4.8 % in 2015. Rwanda recorded a decelerated growth of 6.0 % compared to 6.9 % in 2015. Real GDP in Burundi contracted by 0.5 % in 2016 compared to a contraction of 4.0% in 2015,” he said.

The Minister highlighted a number of achievements registered in the Financial Year 2016/2017, 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.

Hon Maganda maintained the consolidation of the Customs Union remained a key priority during the period under review. The operationalization of the Single Customs Territory, the establishment of One Stop Border Posts and the development of the regional Customs instruments underpinned the drive to promote conducive trade and investment in the region.

Following the successes registered during the initial stages of the Single Customs Territory, the roll out of goods cleared under the Single Customs Territory was expanded both on the Northern and Central Corridors.

On legislation, the Minister stated that the One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) Act was fully assented to and gazetted for its commencement. The OSBP Regulations were finalized by the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial Affairs and adopted during the 35th Meeting of the Council of Ministers.

The Chair of the Council of Ministers further stated that the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Bill (NTB), 2015, passed by EALA was undergoing assent and would spur business and enhance the free movement aspects. The United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uganda have assented to the Act. The Act, according to Hon Maganda, has been sent to remaining Partner States for assent.

The EAC Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) Act is expected to address outstanding NTBs in the EAC Time Bound Programme (TBP) in pursuit of promotion of Intra-EAC Trade and to curtail the proliferation of NTBs in the region. According to Hon Maganda, the status of NTBs in EAC region as at the end of December 2016, indicated that sixteen (16) NTBs are unresolved, four (4) new NTBs had been reported, and one hundred and thirteen (113) NTBs had been cumulatively resolved since 2009.

The Minister noted that the Secretariat was undertaking the acquisition of Infrastructure to support the payment and settlement systems in the region. He said a number of payment systems had been procured with the support of the African Development Bank (AfDB). The Minister said auto-

mated clearing house systems (ACHs) to accommodate cheque truncation system for National Bank of Rwanda was in place with disaster recovery sites and business continuity infrastructure for Central Bank of Kenya, National Bank of Rwanda and Bank of Tanzania now secured.

“At the same time, an upgrade of the large value payment system-UNISS is ongoing in Uganda and the bidding documents for the upgrade of Central Bank of Kenya and Bank of Tanzania large value systems have been submitted to AfDB for consideration and approval”, he added.

Hon Maganda said bids to procure and implement disaster recovery and business continuity infrastructure equipment for Bank of the Republic of Burundi were successfully evaluated and the contract to for SWIFT connectivity to enable the Burundi integrate to the East African Payment System (EAPS) signed in March 2016.

On Infrastructure, the Minister acknowledged the completion in May 2017 of the 90 Km long Taveta – Mwatate road, itself, a part of the multinational Arusha – Holili/Taveta – Voi road.

In addition, the Minister said feasibility studies and detailed designs of two key links for the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi to the Central Corridor commenced in April, 2016.

“One project is the 250-km long Nyakanazi – Kasulu – Manyovu road in Tanzania linking to the 78-km long Rumonge –Bujumbura road in Burundi. The other is the 92-km long Lusahunga – Rusumo road in Tanzania linking to the 70-km long Kayonza – Kigali road in Rwanda” Hon Maganda said. On railways, the Minister noted the near completion of the Mombasa-Nairobi Standard Gauge Railway line in Kenya, adding that its inauguration was scheduled for June, 2017. Similarly, construction of the new Standard Gauge Railway of the Kampala-Malaba section in Uganda, is expected to commence during FY 2017/18. For the Central Corridor, the construction of the Dar-es-Salam-Morogoro section commenced in April, 2017.

On agriculture and food security, the EAC is strongly committed to support implementation of the June 2014, African Heads of State Malabo Declaration on Agriculture Growth and Transformation in Africa.

The Minister remarked the 34th Council of Ministers had adopted the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy and the EAC Livestock policy. “The process of developing an implementation strategy for the food and nutrition security policy has commenced, whereas the development of the implementation strategy for the livestock policy will commence in the early days of the new financial year”, he added.

On energy, the Minister remarked that all efforts were underway to increase production and to reduce costs, saying it was expensive in the region.

“Energy in EAC region remains expensive with a regional average cost of 15US Cents at the grid three times higher than 5 US cents in Ethiopia. He remarked that shared hydropower plants and interconnectors were some of the initiatives been used to reduce costs”, he said.

The Minister stated that the implementation of projects under the Power Master Plan, which had raised the region’s installed capacity from 4,635MW in 2015 to 4,893.3MW in 2016, against a peak demand of 3,587.3MW in 2016 for the interconnected system.



The Minister also presented the priorities for the Tourism and Wildlife sector to include exploring innovative ways to brand EAC as a Single Tourist Destination and development of more diverse promotional materials. He further remarked that the region would be undertaking awareness programmes and other initiatives geared towards full implementation of the Single Tourist Visa by all Partner States.

In the area of EAC Health Systems and Health Policies Harmonization and Integration, the Council had in the financial year 2016/17, approved

and officially launched several documents including the EAC Regional Health Policy (2016) and the EAC Health Sector Strategic Plan (2015-2020).

In order to strengthen the Monetary Union, the Minister said the Council will initiate Bills to establish, key EAC Institutions. He outlined them as the East African Monetary Institute Bill, 2017 and The EAC Statistics Bureau Bill, 2017 to establish the EAC Statistics Bureau.

Bobi is a Senior Public Relations Officer at the East African Legislative Assembly

Budget Figures

East African Community Secretariat	US\$ 60,183,201
East African Legislative Assembly	US\$ 17,996,959
East African Court of Justice	US\$ 4,140,166
The Inter-University Council for East Africa	US\$ 6,766,928
Lake Victoria Basin Commission	US\$ 11,960,643
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization	US\$ 2,466,655
East African Science and Technology Commission	US\$ 1,500,164
East African Kiswahili Commission	US\$ 1,553,098
East African Health Research Commission	US\$ 2,225,324
East African Competition Authority	US\$ 1,337,045

How the Budget will be Funded

Partner State contributions through Ministries of EAC Affairs	- US\$ 50,226,522
Partner State contributions through other Agencies	- US\$ 6,397,685
Development Partners support	- US\$ 52,868,638
Member Universities	- US\$ 303,435
Other Income	- US\$ 333,903

Women in Leadership in the East African Community

By HELLEN T. SHWANDA



Leadership entails conceiving a vision and articulating goals that lift people out of their petty preoccupations and uniting them in pursuit of objectives worthy of their best efforts. This is according to John Gardener.

Globally, women are known to be dynamic leaders if they are given a chance and the East African Community is no exception. According to the 2014 UN Report women and girls represent half of the world's population and therefore also half of its potential.

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Uganda, Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan.

Article 121 of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC is about the Role of Women in Socio-economic Development. It states that; "the Partner States recognize that women make a significant contribution toward the process of socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth and that it is impossible to implement effective programmes for the economic and social development of the Partner States without the full participation of women."

The three EAC Organs, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), and the Secretariat have made great strides in empowering women in leadership positions. There are several women in key leadership positions in these three organs; Members of Parliament, the Principal Judge of the EACJ and the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration. However, statistics show that the Male: Female ratio at EAC is 3:1.

My recent academic research findings on "Challenges in the Participation of Professional Women in Leadership. A Case Study of the East African Community" further indicate that despite the tremendous progress in women emancipation, numbers of women in leadership at the Executive level in EAC are low, with the majority of them at medium management levels and contributing positively to the Vision of EAC - a prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa. This state of affairs could be attributed to the several challenges women encounter in the bid to occupy Professional positions. Some of these challenges include: family and work responsibilities, lack of mentors, gender bias and discrimination.

Though there are so many educated and professional women in East Africa, their participation in leadership positions has been and continues to be below expectations. There is no doubt that women constitute a major portion of the working force in various sectors of the economy, hence the need for their mainstreaming in senior leadership. Examples of strong and dynamic women in EAC Organs include: Hon Lady Justice Monica Mugenyi, EACJ Principal Judge; Hon. Jesca Eriyo, EAC Deputy Secretary General; Hon. Dr. Margaret Zziwa,

former Speaker of EALA; Hon. Beatrice Kiraso, former EAC Deputy Secretary General; Ms. Mary Makoffu, Director Social Sectors; Ms. Ruth Simba, Director Human Resources and Administration and the late Isabelle Waffubwa, former Principal Political Affairs Officer, EAC Secretariat to mention a few.

There are many challenges that hinder women from effectively participating in leadership positions in the EAC. For instance, when the former Speaker of EALA was removed from office, she was replaced with a man; the same applied to the position that was formerly occupied by Ms. Waffubwa. It is always not possible to replace a successful woman in leadership with another one. In such a situation, the ability of women to continue to influence the EAC is lost.

Gender-balance leadership is vital for EAC to realise its mission, which is to widen and deepen Economic, Political, Social and Culture integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investment.

Enhancing women leadership in EAC is possible. This can be achieved by introducing gender equity programs that provide a supportive environment for women so as to realise the EAC 2030 theme of 'Leave No One Behind' in areas of education, equitable wages and protection from gender violence.

There are many things that can be done to improve on the current women leadership situation in EAC.

I shall highlight a few: upgrading the Gender Department to a Directorate of Gender; having deliberate programmes to mainstream women in leadership positions as many of them are concentrated in the middle level cadre; formulation and implementation of affirmative action to help women into senior leadership in the Community, so that more women are involved in decision-making processes; developing an appropriate capacity building programme to support women rise into higher leadership positions; establishment of a fund to assist women employees acquire higher qualifications that can enable them ascend to higher leadership positions, with a special focus on the mid-level managers, the majority of whom are women and last but not least, setting up a Breast Feeding facility at EAC Complex for young mothers. This has been done in the Parliament of Uganda for the Members of Parliament and staff.

If the above is implemented, the EAC shall be on the right path to implement Article 121 of the EAC Treaty and also achieving Sustainable Development Goal No.5; which is to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Remember, gender equality is a human right. As the theme of this year's Women's Day stated, 'Be Bold for Change'; there is need for a paradigm shift in the EAC women leadership arena.

Hellen is a Personal Secretary to the Judges and the Deputy Registrar of the East African Court of Justice. She is keen on the role of women in socio-economic development and her latest publication in the International Journal of Science and Research (IJSR) is titled "Challenges in Participation of Professional Women in Leadership; A Case Study of the East African Community".

Domestic Violence and Poverty in Africa When the Husband's Beating Stick is Like Butter

By DR. LUC CHRISTIAENSEN



According to the latest statistics, 51% of African women report that being beaten by their husbands is justified if they either go out without permission, neglect the children, argue back, refuse to have sex, or burn the food. This is startling.

To be sure, the numbers reflect attitudes, not incidence. About one third of African women report to have experienced domestic violence (physical or sexual). But the attitudes are arguably even more pernicious. They shape behavior, reflect social norms toward conflict resolution, also outside the home, and could bear importantly on development and poverty reduction. They are also correlated with the incidence of violence. In assessing people's poverty status and well-being, a much more systematic discussion of the acceptance and incidence of domestic violence is called for.

So, what has been happening to women's attitudes and incidence towards domestic violence following Africa's hopeful economic turn-around? Two decades of systematic data collection through the Demographic and Health Surveys make it possible to examine this. The latest Poverty in a Rising Africa report summarizes the findings.

In some ways, the news is good. The prevalence of both acceptance and incidence of domestic violence declined by about 10 percentage points between the first (2000-6) and second half (2007-2013) of the 2000s. But that can only be the beginning. At 51%, acceptance of domestic violence is still exceptionally high, and more than twice the average in the rest of the developing world. With 20% of women in North America reporting to have been affected by domestic violence, domestic violence also remains an issue worldwide.

Yet acceptance is not uniform across countries. It appears deeply ingrained in some societies (77% acceptance rates in Mali and Uganda); in others, only a minority consents (13% in Malawi, 21% in Mozambique). The link with a country's overall level of development (or household income within countries) is weak; acceptance rates are only 7.6 percentage points lower in upper middle and high-income countries, controlling for other country traits.

On the other hand, acceptance is 16 percentage points higher in resource rich countries. This once again underscores the stark human development penalty of being born in a resource rich country: life expectancy is 4.5 years lower; illiteracy rates are 3.1% higher, and female

adults and children are 3.7 and 2.1% more likely to be undernourished respectively (controlling for other country and household traits).

Tolerance of domestic violence is also 9.2 percentage points higher among women in fragile states. Social norms toward domestic violence and political violence can and should not be seen in isolation. The cross-country correlation coefficient with the incidence of casualties from political violence is 0.4.

What about the future? Unsurprisingly, the main distinguishing factor in acceptance of domestic violence is education, much more so than income, or even age. Highly educated women are 31% less likely to be tolerant of domestic violence than women with no education, and women with secondary education are 16% less likely to be tolerant.

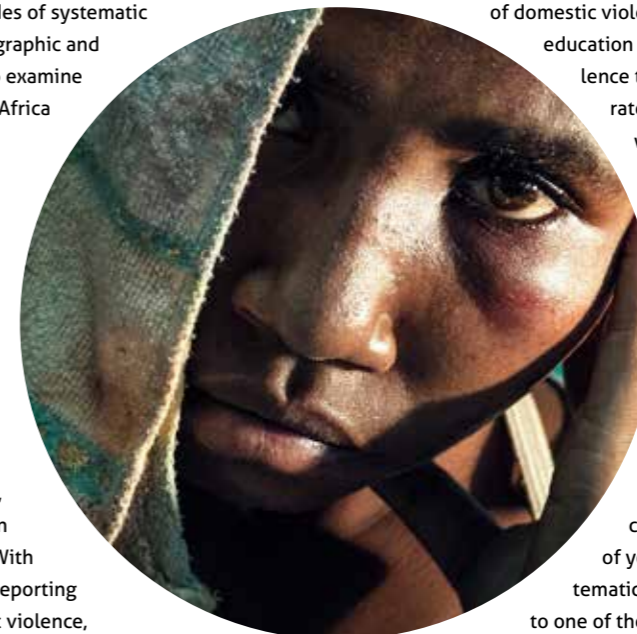
Education does, however, not automatically translate in a lower incidence of domestic violence. In fact, women with primary and secondary education are more likely to have experienced domestic violence than uneducated women, among whom incidence rates are (ceteris paribus) similar to rates among women with higher education, a puzzle which deserves further inquiry.

Income also reduces tolerance of domestic violence, though disturbingly, tolerance is greater among younger women! It declines with age. Might this be because its incidence rises, as women get older, as the data show that domestic violence is more common in the 20-35 age group than among the 15-19 age group?

The issue of gender-based violence has been creeping up the policy agenda over the past couple of years, not least because of the much more systematic data now available. This attests in no small way to one of the undercurrents in the Poverty in a Rising Africa report, which is that what isn't measured, does not get attention. The hope now is that these data will also be used more systematically to shed light on the evolution of the attitudes and incidence of domestic violence and that such discussions will indeed become part and parcel of any national, regional or global assessment of poverty.

The understanding of poverty cannot be relegated to the monetary realm only. Furthermore, social norms that condone violence also perpetuate it. With younger women still substantially more tolerant of domestic violence, a generational shift in mindset is, unfortunately, yet to come. Before the husband's beating stick no longer feels like butter, as a saying in Amharic would hold, a long way lies ahead.

Dr. Christiaensen is a Lead Agriculture Economist at the World Bank





AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP

“50 MILLION WOMEN SPEAK”

A Platform to Support Women Empowerment

On 15th of July 2016, the African Development Bank (AfDB) approved US\$ 12.4 million grant for a project called “50 million Women Speak” to create a networking platform dedicated to sub-Saharan women entrepreneurs. The grant will be spread between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS).

The project is an innovative social media platform to enable women to start, grow and scale their business through the dynamic exchange of ideas. According to Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, the AfDB’s Special Envoy on Gender this digital/virtual marketplace will connect business-women to encourage peer-to-peer learning, mentoring, and information and knowledge sharing.

The platform will cover 36 countries and will be accessible on mobile phones. It will enable women to access business training, mentorship, financial services and locally-relevant business information, while building their own networks of contacts.

The project will be implemented within a period of three years starting from 2017. The number of monthly platform users could reach 50,000 women in 2022, and by developing their businesses they expected to create 10% more jobs.

In Africa like in many parts of the world, women business owners continue to face gender-specific barriers such as lower levels of education and business training, weak property rights that deprive them of collateral and tangible assets, legal barriers that impede their economic activities and cultural barriers that discourage women from thriving as entrepreneurs.

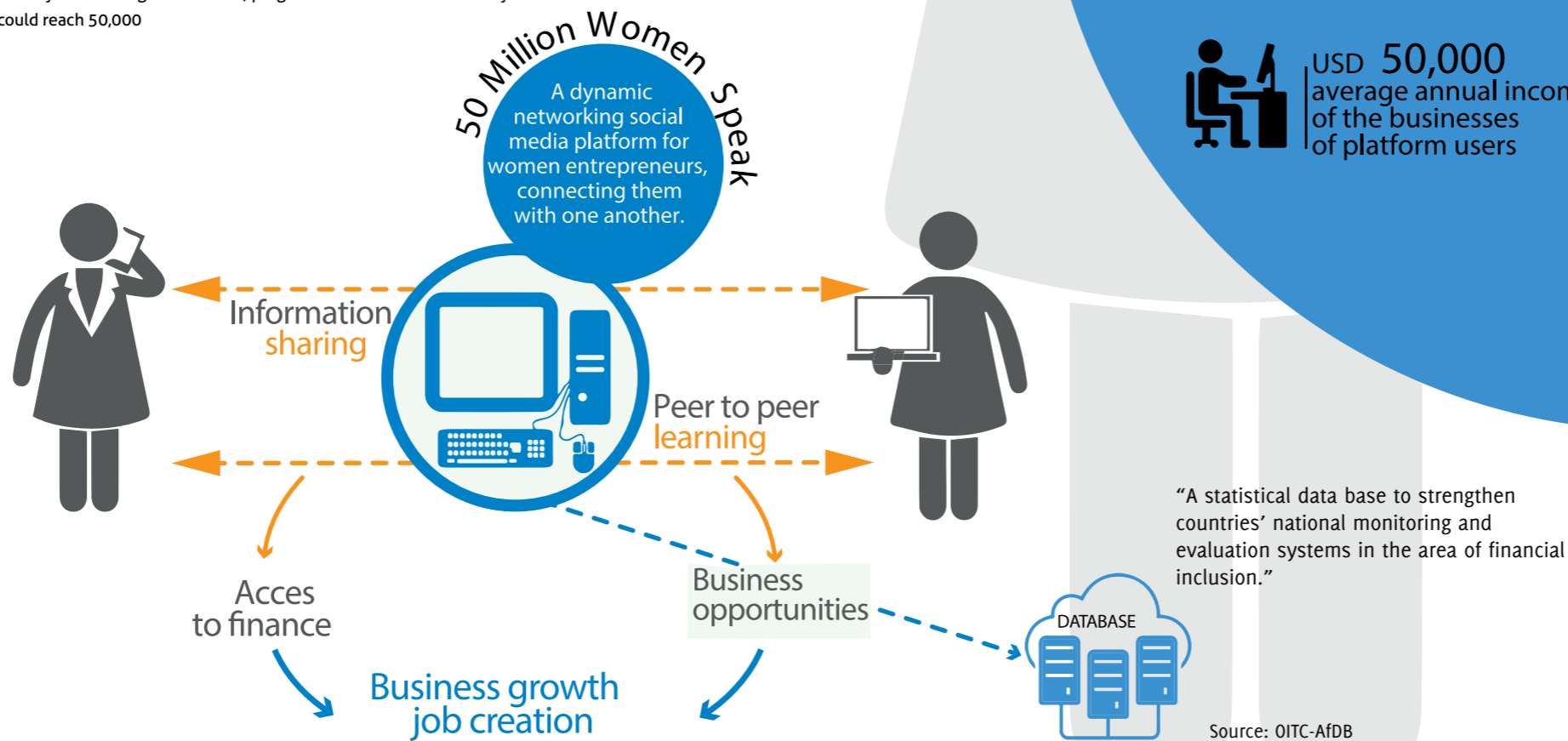
The consequence is that women have challenges accessing financial and non-financial services and so the size and growth of their businesses suffer. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the financing gap for women is estimated at over US\$ 20 billion and is likely to be more acute among younger and upstart women. “Platform users will learn about their rights and the way to obtain financial support,” said Salieu

Jack, Chief ICT Engineer & Project’s Team Leader at the AfDB. In the concerned countries, the rate of women entrepreneurs with access to banking loans could jump from 4% to 10% by 2022.

The launch of the regional platform will be coordinated with the creation of Country Teams, which will include Regional Economic Communities (RECs) specialized institutions for content gathering and dissemination, publicity, outreach, and advocacy, targeting women entrepreneurs in their respective member states.

Hosted by COMESA and co-piloted by EAC and ECOWAS, the platform will also provide an opportunity to capture important statistics on financial inclusion in Africa. Its related statistical database should be able to provide sound and accurate data both on SMEs led by women and Financial Institutions products by country. It should hence contribute to generating and sharing knowledge on women’s access to financial and non-financial services in Regional Member Countries.









The “50 Million Women Speak” project will form part of the Innovation Lab, one of the Pillars of the Affirmative Finance Action for Women in Africa (AFA-WA) program that was launched in May 2016.



Women entrepreneurship what changes

2017

2022 (achievement)

	Creation of webplatform and mobile application		50,000 monthly active platform users
	Deployment of country-teams for content gathering, sensitization and training		80 teams deployed and operational
	4% of women entrepreneurs have access to loans		10% of women entrepreneurs have access to loans
	USD 50,000 average annual income of the businesses of platform users		USD 100,000 average annual income of the businesses of platform users

Source: OITC-AfDB

#IWD2017 - Being Bold for Change

By DAMARIS WAMBUI NYAGA

International Women's Day is a worldwide event that celebrates women's achievements – from the political to the social – while calling for gender equality.

It has been observed since the early 1900s and is now recognized each year on March 8. It is not affiliated with any one group, but brings together governments, women's organizations, corporations and charities.

The day is marked around the world with arts performances, talks, and rallies, networking events, conferences and marches.

Last year, there was a *Google Doodle* marking the celebration featuring women and girls across the world who complete the sentence 'One day I will', talking about their dreams and ambitions.

International Women's Day is convened annually to celebrate women's achievements throughout history and across nations. It is also known as the United Nations (UN) Day for Women's Rights and International Peace.

The History

It's difficult to say exactly when IWD (as it is known today) began. Its roots can be traced to 1908, when 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding voting rights, better pay and shorter working hours.

A year later, the first National Woman's Day was observed in the United States on February 28, in accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America.

In 1910, a woman called Clara Zetkin – leader of the 'women's office for the Social Democratic Party in Germany – tabled the idea of an International Women's Day. She suggested that every country should celebrate women on one day every year to push for their demands.

A conference of more than 100 women from 17 countries agreed to her suggestion and IWD was finally acknowledged. In 1911, it was celebrated for the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on March 19.

In 1913, it was decided to transfer IWD to March 8, and it has been celebrated on that day ever since. The day was only recognized by the United Nations in 1975, but ever since it has created a theme each year for the celebration.

2017 Theme

The theme for IWD 2017 was **#BeBoldForChange** - encouraging people to step up and take groundbreaking action to help drive gender equality. It was an active message that resonated with the millions of women, girls and men who took to the streets to march this year, in opposition to divisive politics. The theme's focus was 'Women in the Changing World of Work, Planet 50-50 in 2030' and it was aimed at encouraging effective action for advancing and recognizing women in all aspects of life.

The theme was developed in cognizance that the global understanding of work is changing with significant implications on the day-to-day lives of women. While in most parts of the world, women have made tremendous progress in building competencies to access decent work; there exists huge inequalities, informality of labor, violence and environmental impacts in other societies.

Commemoration of IWD at EAC

The East African Community (EAC) women, during this year's International Women's Day partook in a colorful march to the local market in Arusha; 'Soko Kuu'. The march also brought together a broad spectrum of women stakeholders.

The market march orchestrated by the Tanzanian Army Brass Band based in Monduli, Arusha, was organized by EAC and the Arusha Municipal Council in collaboration with GIZ and ILO, in a bid to offer material support aimed at improving the working conditions of the market cleaners, most of whom are women.

On arrival at the market, participants engaged in a cleaning exercise of the market's environs before officially handing over the purchased cleaning equipment to the market's management. Witnessing this were Council representatives including Acting City Director; Mariam Kimolo and the Ward Councilor; Abdulrasul Tojo.

Speaking briefly at the market, EAC Deputy Secretary general in charge of Finance and Administration, Hon. Jesca Eriyo, urged women to work towards taking up leadership positions at the work place, noting that there are very few women worldwide in top positions within the labor force. She also called for men's support of women, not only at the work place but the society at large. Hon. Eriyo highly commended the men present at the event for taking time to participate in the IWD celebrations.

On behalf of the market businesswomen was Mariam Okashi who particularly thanked EAC and GIZ for their generous support in not only providing cleaning equipment, but for having a bigger picture in mind: a clean and safe working environment for the market vendors as well, for both women and men.

Participants marched back to the EAC headquarters where they gathered for the official IWD celebrations. Gracing this momentous occasion as Guest of Honor was the East African Court of Justice Judge President; His Lordship Hon. Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja.

In her official opening remarks at the event, Hon. Jesca Eriyo highlighted that IWD can be an important catalyst and vehicle for driving greater change for women and moving closer to gender parity bearing in mind, article 5(e) in the EAC Treaty which stipulates gender mainstreaming in all its endeavors and enhancement of the role of women in cultural, social, political, economic and technological development, whereas articles 121 and 122 emphasize the role of women in socio economic development and in Business. She also encouraged men to support women at the workplace by creating a conducive environment for them to thrive and fully unleash their potential.

Also addressing participants at the official opening was the GIZ Deputy Programme Manager; Kirsten Focken, who began by stating that 'the presence of both men and women at the event was a symbol of unity, support and solidarity to the gender parity and equality campaign which is reinforced by the commemoration of IWD at EAC'.

She particularly emphasized GIZ's support towards women in small scale cross-border trade adding that this is what triggered the development of the Simplified Guide for Micro and Small Scale Women Cross Border Traders and Service Providers within EAC.

Delivering the keynote address was the ILO Director-East Africa Office; Mary Kwar. She commended EAC for its efforts this year in engaging women at different capacities at the event to consolidate their efforts towards this year's IWD theme. She also challenged EAC to set labor standards, develop policies and devise programmes promoting decent work for women for them to thrive in the work place within the region, reiterating; "...for women to have equal opportunities, they have to be protected by laws".

Presiding over the official IWD celebrations was East African Business Council Executive Director; Lilian Awinja, East African Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI) Director; Marren Akatsa-Bukachi, who gave a motivational talk at the event and the East African Women in Business Platform (EAWiBP) Coordinator; Nancy Gitonga.

EAWiBP brings together business and professional women from across the EAC region. The Platform is taking proactive steps to increase women's participation in intra – EAC trade, EAC integration process and economic empowerment. EAWiBP works towards achieving its goals through policy advocacy and by linking business women to skills, information, markets, capital and technical assistance.

The programme also included presentations on opportunities for Women in the EAC-Case Studies of the Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa women projects. At the closing, the Director of Social Sectors; Mary Makoffu was pleased to give a vote of thanks to all the participants at the event on behalf of EAC and later, together with Hon. Jesca Eriyo and the ILO and GIZ representatives, officiated the launch of the *Simplified Guide for Micro and Small Scale Women Cross Border Traders and Service Providers within the EAC for dissemination*.



EAC and ICGLR sign MoU to Promote Peace and Security in East Africa

By SIMON PETER OWAKA

The East African Community (EAC) and the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region have resolved to adapt common approaches in enhancing peace and security in the East African region.

A joint communiqué issued after a two-day meeting at the ICGLR headquarters in Bujumbura, Burundi and signed by ICGLR Executive Secretary Amb. Zachary Muburi-Muita and EAC Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, noted that a stable and secure region would create a conducive environment for investment and economic growth.

Amb. Muburi-Muita and Amb. Mfumukeko said that the East African region faces the twin challenges of poverty and underdevelopment, which in turn exacerbate conflicts.

The two leaders agreed to enhance collaboration in five major areas, namely: democracy and good governance; peace and security; economic development and regional integration; cross cutting issues, and; issues affecting gender, women, and children.

They further agreed to undertake joint election observer missions in member states and to cooperate in enforcing certification mechanisms in the area of natural resources, especially minerals.

EAC and ICGLR will also conduct joint studies in specific areas of interest and collaborate in capacity building for law enforcement officers and security forces on human rights and the rule of law.

The two organisations will also cooperate in developing a counter-terrorism strategy for the Great Lakes Region in addition to mobilizing resources for implementation of the planned activities.

"Their Excellencies also agreed to enhance information sharing on key issues under the common areas of interest in their mandate in addition to involving the mass media in highlighting the implementation of the activities," adds the communiqué.

Amb. Muburi-Muita and Amb. Mfumukeko further identified for joint intervention the training of civil society and women mediators in conflict resolution, and journalists and gender-based violence and elections.

EAC and ICGLR had an existing MoU that was signed in 2010, and the two-day meeting was meant to identify new areas of collaboration for purposes of translating the MoU into reality.

The EAC is an intergovernmental organisation composed of six countries in the African Great Lakes region in eastern Africa, namely: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.

ICGLR is an intergovernmental organization of the countries in the African Great Lakes Region, a focus of which is jointly combating transnational crime and terrorism at a regional level. ICGLR's approach to counterterrorism is to combine the spheres of terrorism and transnational crime more broadly and to address the associated issues at a regional level.

ICGLR's strategy includes improving national and regional cooperation and capacity building, enacting counterterrorism legislation and increasing security measures, improving technological integration, and enhancing public awareness.

The member states of the ICGLR are Angola, Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Republic of South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, and Zambia.

Simon Peter is a Senior Public Relations Officer at the EAC Secretariat

e-Cargo Tracking System to Save Costs on Northern Corridor

By CHRISTABEL LIGAMI

Business owners in Uganda, Kenya and Rwanda are expected to save on the cost and time of transporting cargo on the Northern Corridor following the launch of a joint electronic cargo tracking system.

The US\$ 4.4 million Regional Electronic Cargo Tracking System (RECTs) will enable the three countries to track movement of goods along the Northern Corridor from the port of Mombasa to Kampala and Kigali.

The system is expected to reduce transit time, cargo theft and diversion of goods in transit, which will then reduce the cost of doing business along the corridor.

RECTs will also eliminate the need for physical escorts and monitoring of sensitive cargo, such as batteries, fuel and cigarettes.

The system was officially launched by revenue authorities of Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda in Kampala and will be free as the tax bodies will meet all operational costs.

"The system will help us monitor goods from end to end; it will ease cargo handling, improve revenue collection and reduce diversion of untaxed goods into the market. It will lead to improved fair trade as goods that have not been taxed will not be diverted to distort the market. This will benefit our traders and assure potential investors of a level playing field in our region," said Uganda Revenue Authority Commissioner-General Doris Akol.

The system comprises tracker satellites, central command centres in each of the revenue authorities in Nairobi, Kampala and Kigali, smart gates and rapid response units.

An electronic seal is attached to transit cargo vehicles and gives real-time updates such as vehicle location and speed, and if the container is tampered with or not.

Importers, transporters, and the revenue authorities will be able to access this information. Rapid response units are stationed along sections of the Northern Corridor identified as notorious for diversion of goods. They will respond to alerts received from the command centres about suspicious behaviour like diversion from the designated route, unusually long stopovers, or attempts to open a container. The rapid response units will investigate and resolve such issues immediately.

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DfID) financed the joint project through TradeMark East Africa. "The launch of RECTs marks an important milestone towards our shared goal of reducing by a third the time it takes to import and export goods from Uganda," said DfID in a statement.

Frank Matsaert, TMEA CEO, said the efficiency of RECTs will ingrain fair terms of trade by creating a level playing field for both importers and local industries as it helps in eliminating diversion of cargo.

The system will also help seal loopholes that cause losses in revenue through suspected under-declaration of the value of exports or theft of cargo.

Uganda was the first country to launch the electronic cargo tracking system in 2014. It has since helped traders in the country reduce the time of transporting cargo from Mombasa from 6 days to a one-and-a-half days.

It costs transporters from US\$ 200- US\$ 250 per day when trucks are delayed along the transit routes. Part or all of this cost is passed on to the owner of the goods. As a result, the cost of transport tends to increase the farther inland the destination of the cargo is, not only because of distance but also the number of stops along the way.

Christabel is a seasoned Journalist based in Nairobi. This article was first published by The East African



Enriching Farmers through Mobile Information

By TRADEMARK EAST AFRICA

George Karari, 56, is a Kenyan smallholder farmer living in the rural area of Kikuyu, on the outskirts of Nairobi. He farms four and half acres of mostly maize and potatoes for home consumption and as a cash crop.

George grew up in a farming community and learnt the ways of the soil from his mother. Like many farmers in Africa, over the years his crops have been subject to the vagaries of weather, climate, soil, disease and market prices, leaving George to support his wife and six children in shifting economic circumstances. He learnt from experience, from other farmers and from government education programmes, but often the information came after the event – too late to prevent late planting or a poor harvest.

In March 2015, George signed up to a new, free mobile information service for farmers, called 'iShamba', (the Swahili word, *shamba*, means garden or farm). The idea was simple: to allow farmers to subscribe to mobile information on two crops, or livestock, on which they would receive weekly text messages, with vital facts to assist them in getting the most out of their products.

George subscribes to maize and potato help lines, which send him up-to-date, weather information (straight from *aWhere.com*, a digital platform offering weather information based on accurate data) and market prices supplied by the National Farmers Information Service. In addition, George receives farming tips through text messages aligned to his two crops, the season, and to the region in which he farms.

The weather advice may tell George that the rainy season will start in two weeks, giving him a chance to prepare his soil and start planting. The agronomy tips will give him advice on the best way to plant his maize or potatoes and will follow up with regular tips through to harvesting, post harvesting and storage. Once it is time to sell the crop, the market prices that iShamba sends will guide George when he negotiates a selling price.

"Before iShamba, I used to walk to the market centres and ask around to find out prices", says George. "Today, I get them on my phone. By the time I am going to the market I know the prices. It helps me determine my products costs."

iShamba is accompanied by a sophisticated digital platform allowing farmers to ask a question in a text message, which is translated onto the digital platform where agronomy experts receive and answer it. Equally, farmers can phone straight in to the iShamba call centre, manned by specialist staff, with their questions.

"Whenever I have a problem I call the centre", affirms George. "It's quite amazing. Before, I tried to get information from extension services, but I could not always get it immediately, at the right time."

Answering hundreds and thousands of questions

The concept of iShamba was born out of necessity, emanating from a Kenyan reality TV and Radio farm-make-over programme called '*Shamba Shape Up*'. In weekly episodes *Shamba Shape Up* visits farmers around the country, advising on better farming practices. At the end of the show viewers are invited to write in for more information, which is sent out in a leaflet format.

David Campbell is a director of The Mediae Company, which produces *Shamba Shape Up*. He has worked in the agricultural communications sector for over 30 years. "Two hundred and fifty thousand people request leaflets after every episode", he explains. "Then we started getting questions by text message, hundreds and thousands of questions. We answered them, or we put them on a website. We looped in our partners to answer what we could not. We felt there was a need for a platform where farmers could interact with us and get answers to their questions, within 24 hours, in text message form."

To get iShamba off the ground, in 2014 The Mediae Company applied to the TradeMark East Africa Advocacy and Challenge Fund (TRAC) for initial funding. TRAC promotes innovation through investment in projects that will boost trade in the East African Community. It also looks to fund projects that are commercially viable and which incentivise the private sector to increase access to markets for the poor. The projects should also deliver social welfare gains, increase competitiveness and enhance value chains, and promote cross border trade.



TRAC granted the funding on condition that iShamba completed four milestones: Develop an iShamba content and database; Launch an iShamba service and open a call centre; Subscribe 15,000 people with 5 percent of them adopting a new crop or variety or improved practice; and subscribed farmers' yields had to improve by 10 percent.

iShamba met the milestones and more. Today it has 350,000 subscribers, each receiving free advice on farming practices, the weather and the markets, with regional variations. It also links up with input suppliers, veterinary companies and agribusinesses to give them the benefit of interacting with thousands of potential customers (with possible discounts for subscribers). And in October 2016 the iShamba team launched the iShamba premium service, which has added benefits for a small monthly charge. David Campbell estimates that about 10 percent of current subscribers will take up this offer.

"To expand", says Campbell, "we needed to get the premium model going, getting people to pay different prices depending on the level of service they want; and to get companies paying for their customers to be premium members. So, if you have a loan for a cow then the lender will lend another 500 shillings so that the borrower will be a premium member and will get constant advice on taking care of the cow. The lender is happy to do this because the borrower is more likely to pay off the loan if the cow is taken care of. So credit worthiness increases as a premium member."

Saturdays and Sundays are particularly busy days in the iShamba call centre, following the airing of *Shamba Shape Up* where viewers are encouraged to join iShamba. About 1,000 people per month sign up as a result and call centre staff are kept busy with new subscribers.

The system works

Recent research that tracked iShamba subscribers against non-subscribers shows that over a 6 month period iShamba farmers had potato yields 50% greater than non-iShamba farmers; that iShamba farmers are more likely to grow a new crop than non-iShamba farmers; and that 65% of iShamba farmers change a farming practice as a result of a message received, with 80% of those increasing their output as a result.

iShamba needs to work, to help farmers meet the growing demand for food. According to the Food and Agriculture Organization, "In order to tackle the triple challenge of producing more food, creating more jobs and enhancing the natural resource base, there is a need for competitive and sustainably productive farms... and small family farmers lie at the heart of the solution."

Back in Kikuyu, George Karari is preparing his soil to plant in time for the coming rainy season. Rain is his only source of water for his crops so he has to get it right. Thanks to iShamba he has a rough idea of when the rains will start and when he should plant.

"Information is power", he declares. "I am not rich, but when you have information and are able to solve a problem, then that's a part of riches."

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Fashion and Textile Industries can Grow African Economies

By EMANUELA GREGORIO

African culture is on the rise, not just on the continent but across the globe. The life and music of Fela Kuti attracted thousands to the Broadway musical in New York and elsewhere. Nollywood produces more than 1,800 movies per year and has turned into a US\$ 3.3 billion industry, according to the 2015 article by Jake Bright in *Fortune Magazine* entitled "Meet 'Nollywood': The Second largest movie industry in the world". African movies and music can now be accessed through online platforms across the world.

Africa-inspired designs are now regularly shown on the catwalks in fashion shows in Paris, London and Milan. Michelle Obama, Former First Lady of the US, wears African-influenced clothing from Nigerian designer Duro Olowu. Fashion is big business: the combined apparel and footwear market in Sub-Saharan Africa is estimated to be worth US\$ 31 billion according to Data from Euromonitor International.

This shows that African culture is an asset. Yet we are only starting to recognize its potential to support development, create jobs, integrate countries, connect societies and strengthen identities. These so-called "creative industries", i.e. African music, dance, clothing, TV and cuisine, can earn billions of dollars for African countries and create jobs for our growing workforce.

It is important to look at these industries through a value-chain approach to see the contribution that a "made in Africa" brand can make to African economies. Creative industries can diversify the economic base of our countries and attract tourism. Technological changes in manufacturing, distribution and marketing are driving the growth of these industries in which many young men and women would like to work.

The fashion industry is expected to double in the next 10 years, generating up to US\$ 5 trillion annually. In the USA alone, every year US\$ 284 billion are spent on fashion retail, through the purchase of 19 billion garments. This presents a tremendous opportunity for Africa at various levels of the value chain: from design to production to marketing, the fashion industry is a profitable business.



What does Africa need to do to build its fashion industry?

The good news is that the fashion industry is already developing. But it is still in its infancy. The textile industry value chain begins with the production of cotton, spinning and twisting of the fibre into yarn, the weaving and knitting of the yarn into fabric, and the bleaching, dyeing and printing of the fabric to obtain the fashionable garments that we all wear today.

At each step of the value chain, more value is added and additional jobs are created. Targeting the fashion industry means targeting the whole value chain, from the smallholder farmers to the fashion designers. The fashion industry in particular holds considerable potential to motivate and bring change to some of the most disadvantaged people, especially women and youth, while advancing structural transformation.

At the African Development Bank, we look at these global value chains to see how each country can join in at a particular stage based on its comparative advantage. Today, international textile firms are looking at Africa not only for the purpose of production in view of increasing labour costs in Asia. They are also looking at Africa to take advantage of the growing African consumer market. This presents an opportunity for African countries to find their place in these value chains, from the producers of raw materials on up.

Creating the right policy environment for businesses to thrive and attract investments is essential. The Government of Rwanda is a good example: it is one of Africa's most competitive economies and a top reformer in improving the business environment. And it has recognized that fashion means business. This has created the foundation to attract foreign investors to work with local designers, establish garment factories and boost the textile and fashion industries. H&M is building a factory in Ethiopia and PVH is looking at Kenya for the production of its brands, including Calvin Klein and Tommy Hilffiger.



Emanuela is an Economist at the AfDB's Department of Gender, Women and CSOs

But the cost of doing business is still too high. Energy shortages, high costs and poor access to energy, combined with high costs incurred by transport, logistics and custom facilities, can erode the advantages of lower labour costs and impede a country's ambitions to industrialize. Sub-Saharan Africa consumes a mere 181 kWh in power. Compare this with 13,000 kWh in the US and 6,500 kWh in Europe and it is obvious how little this is – 1.4% of what the US consumes and 2.8% of what Europe consumes. About half of all firms across Africa have their own generator to complement or replace electricity supplies as needed. This represents a big disadvantage for firms trying to grow their business.

Finally, building an industry requires investing in the skills and qualifications of people. Achieving high quality production flexibility while raising productivity is only possible with a workforce that has the necessary skills. As governments become increasingly aware that apparel production offers large-scale employment opportunities, they need translate this awareness into investments in their people. Lesotho, Ethiopia and Kenya, for instance, have recognized this and are establishing training centres and tertiary institutions to promote the technical qualifications for people in the textile and apparel industries.

What can we do?

Industrialization is one of the African Development Bank's High 5 strategic priorities. Africa currently accounts for just 1.9% of global manufacturing. There is an urgent need for Africa to rapidly industrialize and add value to everything that it produces, instead of exporting raw materials that make it susceptible to global price volatilities. The fashion industry is a case in point. Instead of exporting raw cotton, Africa needs to move to the top of the global value chain and produce garments targeted at the growing African and global consumer class. By fostering value chain development, the Bank prioritizes, among others, the agriculture and agro-processing industries, given their potential for value addition, and close interactions with the textile, fashion and clothing industries.

The AfDB initiative 'Fashionomics' intends to support micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) operating in the African fashion and textile sectors. The Bank is currently undertaking a study that was launched in September 2016, looking at the feasibility of setting up a Fashionomics online platform with the aim of strengthening the value chains in the textile and fashion industries. The platform will link designers throughout Africa with other designers, buyers, and suppliers. It will also connect them to financial services providers and mentors to help them grow their businesses.



EAC Vows to Invest More in Manufacturing

By FLORIAN MUTABAZI

The EAC has identified strategic areas for industrial development in the region that bear comparative advantage and where significant private sector investment is needed to unlock potentials. These strategic sectors include: agro-processing and agri-business; mineral processing; pharmaceuticals; construction materials; fertilizers & agro-chemicals as well as the strengthened leather & textiles and automotive sector.

According to statistics disclosed at the 2nd EAC Manufacturing Business Summit and Exhibition in Kigali, Rwanda, the EAC region is very attractive with a combined population of 160 million and a combined GDP of over US\$150 billion and should automatically offer a market large enough to allow for explosive growth of the manufacturing sector.

Though the region has registered some achievements in terms of improving the business environment, a lot remains to be done for the EAC to unlock its full potential in the manufacturing sector as the region aims to attain middle income economy status through industrialization.

Speaking during the 2nd EAC Manufacturing Business Summit and Exhibition, Rwanda Prime Minister, Anastase Murekezi said the region's manufacturing sector has huge potential and collective effort will be crucial for countries to exploit it.

He disclosed that the broad EAC Industrialisation Strategy (2012-2032) has identified strategic actions related to mineral processing, fertilisers and agrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, petro-chemicals and gas processing, agro-processing, and energy. The Minister added that we region must focus on these priority interventions consistently.

In the same occasion, the EAC Secretary General Amb Liberat Mfumukeko, informed the summit that region had already borne fruits in the integration efforts. These efforts have led to improvements in intra-EAC trade performance between 2006 and 2013 whereby total intra-EAC trade increased from US\$ 1.55 billion to US\$ 4.85 billion. On the other hand, EAC exports increased from US\$ 1.23 billion to US\$ 3.41 billion while imports increased from US\$ 0.32 billion to US\$1.44 billion.

It is for these reasons, the Secretary General called on the private sector to steadfastly work with the governments of EAC Partner States to identify industrial sectors where targeted support is required so as to unlock their

growth and developmental potential.

Amb. Mfumukeko reiterated the intents of the EAC to explore pragmatic policies needed to take the region to the next level of industrial development based on international governance environment and comparative and competitive advantage available in the region.

According to the various presentations at the summit, it is evident that the region's manufacturing sector currently contributes a paltry 10 % to the EAC'S regions' GDP as compared to the agricultural sector at 34.7%, the extractive sector at 10.8% and services at 44.8%.

The potential and scope for manufacturing and agri-business driven economic development path in the region is vast, gauging by the apparent manufacturing deficit in the region, where up to 70% of total demand for imports is attributable to manufactured products. Similarly, opportunities for agri-business across the region are substantial, considering the good agro-ecological conditions in most parts of the EAC and growing demand trajectories in both regional and international markets.

Mr. Ali Mfuruki, Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer of Infotech Investment Group, urged regional manufacturers and policymakers to pay attention on how people were doing things elsewhere in the world. He said unless people own up to the latter, the region will not see the desired change happening.

"We go on to write papers and books and research documents complaining about capital, but there is a lot of wasted African capital on the Continent that we don not put to use; not because of the risks we claim are there but because our mentality simply is not there," Mfuruki said.

In the process to push for more investment in the manufacturing sector in the region, the EAC Secretariat started the Manufacturing Business Summit and Exhibition platform for governments and private sector to engage in dialogue on critical steps needed to leverage higher levels of investment in the region's manufacturing sector.

The first edition of the Manufacturing Business Summit in East Africa was held from 1st to 2nd September 2015 in Kampala, Uganda while the 2nd edition was held from 23rd - 25th May, 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda.

Climate Change and Globalization Likely to Increase the Outbreak of Epidemics

By THE COMMUNITY TEAM

Climate change, globalization, increased human-animal interactions, anti-microbial resistance and gaps in national healthcare systems are the most likely factors to increase the outbreak of epidemics in East Africa.

Professor Japhet Killewo, of the Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences in the United Republic of Tanzania, said that the world today was changing at an alarming rate with populations living with disease outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics.

Prof. Killewo said that times were also changing with countries increasingly experiencing a rapid increase in natural and man-made disasters.

Prof. Killewo said that countries within the EAC region and other parts of Africa were simply not prepared for the next epidemic.

"When an epidemic strikes, before we know it, people start dying and when the healthcare system attempts to handle the situation, healthcare workers too, start dying, and suddenly there is no one to handle the situation. Healthcare systems become paralyzed," said Prof. Killewo, alluding to the Ebola outbreak which swept across West Africa three years ago.

Prof. Killewo was giving the keynote address themed *Preparedness for, and control of Disease Outbreaks, Epidemics and Pandemics, in the Context of Climate Change, Globalization and Gaps in Health Systems* during the 6th East African Health and Scientific Conference that was held in Bujumbura, Burundi from 29th - 31st March, 2017.

Prof. Killewo attributed the continent's epidemic unpreparedness to the inability by national surveillance systems that identify disease pathogens and/or track cases of disease to execute their mandates effectively.

"Our health infrastructure is also very poor. During the Ebola outbreak in 2014, fewer people accessed healthcare services because of fear, and more people died from malaria, HIV and TB," said the medic. However, Prof. Killewo said that all was not lost citing World Health Organisation statistics over the years indicating declining mortality, decreasing mortality of child under five years of age, decreasing cases of malaria and measles not just in Africa but the world as a whole.

Prof. Killewo warned that global warming – an increase in the average atmospheric temperature, which is sufficient to cause climate change – was on the rise. He described climate change as a transformation in global or regional climate patterns, attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.

"Some of the effects of climate change include rising seas, changes in rainfall patterns, drought and flooding, and the more frequent spread of diseases. These diseases include mosquito-borne diseases such as malaria, Dengue fever and encephalitis, and water-borne diseases such as cholera," he said, adding that climate change would increase pressure on food security pushing more people to alternative food sources where they encounter new diseases.

He disclosed diseases were coming up fast due to the rising global population; a surge in animal meat consumption, dramatic increases in land use and agriculture, accelerated encroachment on natural habitats for wildlife, and increased demand for natural resources, "All the above conditions collectively conspire to increase the frequency of interactions between people, their domestic animals and wildlife and the opportunities for new diseases to emerge," said Prof. Killewo.

Prof. Killewo said that globalization had resulted in world travel which ensures that nothing was local anymore allowing diseases to spread very fast across borders.



Tanzania's Minister for Health and Social Welfare, Hon. Umyy Mwalimu (left), with US Ambassador to Burundi, Ms. Anne Casper, and Prof. Sammy Kibiki, Executive Secretary of the East African Health Research Commission, during the official opening ceremony of the 6th East African Health Conference and Exhibition in Bujumbura.

"People, animals and environment have converged and new, deadly disease have emerged."

Prof. Killewo revealed that a new global health paradigm called 'One Health' or 'Eco-Health' had been formulated to promote sectoral collaboration. The paradigm paves the way for preparedness, prevention, detection and response to these diseases.

The university don noted that the world was currently witnessing 5-8 Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) per year, with number projected to increase to 30 new EIDs by the year 2030.

He warned that common diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and cholera will no longer be treatable due to anti-microbial resistance (AMR). He said epidemics of these diseases were already occurring at alarming rates but added that AMR could be prevented.

On preparedness to tackle epidemics and EIDs, Prof. Killewo said medical practitioners must use "Risk-Based" Models to Target Surveillance.

"The origins of newly emergent diseases have been found to strongly correlate with specific geographic areas, animal hosts, microbial agents and 'high risk' populations."

He said that the geographical distribution or home range of fruit bats corresponds with countries which have experienced Ebola outbreaks.

He described 'high risk' populations as people with high levels of exposure to wild animals such as hunters, butchers, traders and consumers of wild game; settlers and domestic animals near wildlife areas, and; loggers, miners, road builders.

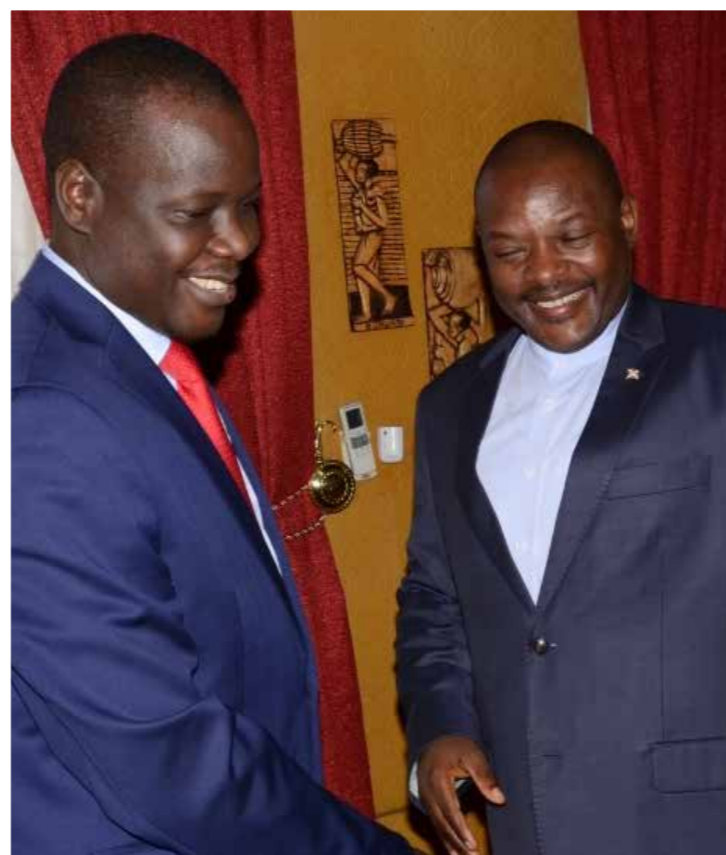
"Using these 'risk-based' models we will be better prepared to prevent, detect and respond to these potential epidemics and pandemics."

He disclosed that WHO had developed several guidelines for preparedness of epidemics/pandemics. The WHO guidelines involve four steps: Pre-epidemic preparedness; Alert Phase; Outbreak, Response and Containment Operations, and; Post-epidemic evaluation to help encounter the next wave of epidemic.

"The good news is most emerging pandemic threats are preventable if we can start from the animal world where these viruses may exist even without causing any diseases among them."



ON A LIGHT NOTE: Tanzania President H.E. Dr John Magufuli shares a light moment with Kenya Deputy President H.E. William Ruto in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.



KARIBU: President of Burundi, H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza welcomes Speaker of the 3rd East African Legislative Assembly, Rt. Hon. Daniel Kidega to State House in Bujumbura.



BOLD FOR CHANGE: EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration, Hon. Jesca Eriyo and ILO Director-East Africa Office, Mary Kwar lead a colorful march in commemoration of the International Women's Day (IWD) in Arusha, Tanzania.

PICTORIAL



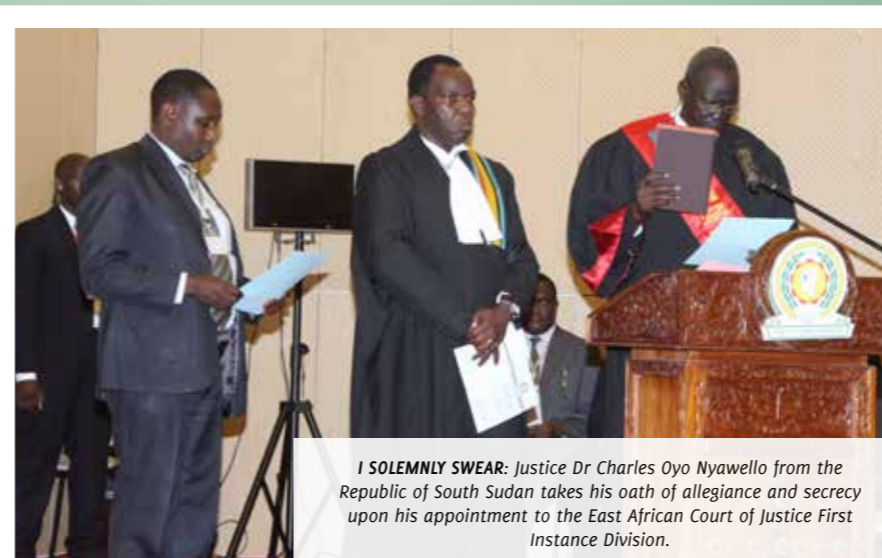
WELCOME ON BOARD: Presidential Envoy of the Republic of South Sudan, H. E. Hon. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni congratulates Eng. Stephen Mlote from Tanzania upon his appointment as Deputy Secretary General of the East African Community.



NEVER AGAIN: Judge President of East African Court of Justice, Justice Dr Emmnuael Ugirashebuja and his wife lay a wreath during the 23rd Kwibuka Commemoration of Genocide Against the Tutsi held at the EAC Headquarters.



A FIRM PARTNERSHIP: EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko welcomes the Director of East Africa Local Governments/Authorities Association (EALGA), Eastern Africa Regional Office, Dr. Juma Menhya to his office.



I SOLEMNLY SWEAR: Justice Dr Charles Oyo Nyawello from the Republic of South Sudan takes his oath of allegiance and secrecy upon his appointment to the East African Court of Justice First Instance Division.



THE SEAT: Tanzania Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Amb. Dr Augustine Mahiga (r) hands over Chairmanship of the EAC Council of Ministers to Uganda Minister of East African Community Affairs, Rt. Hon. Kirunda Kivejinja.

Efficient Services Sector Key for EAC to Achieve Accelerated Economic Growth

By The COMMUNITY TEAM

In 2014, the EAC Secretariat, in partnership with the World Bank and International Finance Corporation (IFC) launched the first East African Common Market Scorecard. This initiative signaled Partner States' commitment to achieving regional integration and to doing so in a transparent way.

The East African Common Market Scorecard initiative contributes to the implementation of the Common Market by allowing Partner States to track their progress in fulfilling their commitments to liberalization under the Common Market Protocol.

The Scorecard examines selected commitments made by Partner States, outlines progress in removing East African legislative and regulatory restrictions to complying with the Protocol, and recommends reform measures.

In doing so, it allows Partner States to identify key areas for improvement and, along with the EAC Secretariat and development partners, chart a path to eliminate remaining barriers to a fuller regional market.

According to the second publication of the Scorecard, the East African Common Market Scorecard 2016 (CMS 2016), the EAC Partner States have undertaken a number of reforms over the past four years to facilitate implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol. The Scorecard says that Partner States have implemented significant reforms in the free movement of Capital, Goods and Services that are enshrined in the Common Market Protocol.

The CMS 2016, however, notes that there is still cause for concern as numerous barriers remain in all the three areas. Also worrying, according to the Scorecard is the fact that new measures have been implemented that hinder regional trade and investment.

The Scorecard indicates that in the case of free movement of goods, Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs), which often emerge when tariffs have been eliminated, have been addressed more quickly during the 2016 reference period than during the 2014 period falling from an average of 34 to 8 months per NTB.

With respect to the free movement of capital, three Partner States – Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda – have undertaken a total of 11 reforms including measures that enhance the region's securities capacities by adding a framework for trading in derivatives in Kenya and Uganda.

The report observes that Kenya undertook 3 reforms but added 1 restriction; Tanzania and Rwanda each eliminated 1 Non-conforming Measure (NCM). It adds that Uganda also had 1 reform but added 1 restriction.

Under the CMP, Partner States committed to liberalize 20 capital market operations. However, at the end of December 2015, the reference period for CMS 2016, only 2 of these 20 operations were free in all Partner States showing no improvement since 2014. Eleven reforms have been undertaken since the publication of CMS 2014, all in the securities area, notes the report.

Since the publication of the 2014 CMS, both Kenya and Uganda adopted a regulatory framework for derivatives and thus removed 2 of the restrictions recorded in 2014.

"In the CMS 2016 results, Kenya has met the threshold of no restrictions on the 14 operations measures relating to securities. Uganda also enacted reforms affecting 2 of the operations but continues to have residency restrictions on the local purchase of shares or other securities and of bonds and other debt instruments by charging non-residents withholding tax rate of 15% on dividends from listed companies while residents are charged 10%," notes the report.

"In terms of credit operations, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda continue to be open to both borrowing and lending abroad by residents. Burundi and Tan-

zania both restricted lending abroad by residents in 2014," it adds.

The report observes that on personal capital operations, all EAC Partner States – except Tanzania – require that all amounts above US\$ 10,000 should be declared on exit or entry. However, Partner States do not restrict the operation.

"Tanzania places a US\$ 10,000 limit for residents traveling abroad with foreign currency, including to EAC Partner States. Tanzania also provides that funds due from assurance policies taken outside Tanzania may only be transferred into or from Tanzania if servicing such policies is done using externally generated funds."

CMS 2016 notes that only 2 out of the 20 capital operations are free in all Partner States, namely external borrowing by residents and repatriation of proceeds from sale of assets. All other 18 operations have at least one Partner State restricting the operation.

The Scorecard, among other things, recommends that to release regional capital for private sector growth, the EAC should prioritize the rollback of laws, regulations and investment codes that impede investment.

On the Free Movement of Services, the CMS 2016 notes that although Partner States have committed to liberalization in a number of service sectors, they followed a positive list approach, scheduling only those sub-sectors they were willing to open up.

"Non-conforming Measures (NCMs) have increased in the telecommunications sector – largely because telecommunications commitments did not take effect until 2015, so all countries were rated as having zero NCMs. The vast majority – about two thirds – of NCMs are in professional services," says the report.

The report notes that for the EAC to achieve the accelerated economic growth and development envisaged in the CMP, an efficient services sector is key, given its centrality to the proper functioning of every other sector. It recommends the amendment of the relevant provisions on trade in services under the CMP, noting that this will not only deepen integration in services in the EAC, but also greatly boost and attract investment within and into the EAC region.

On the Free Movement of Goods, the report points out that as was the case in 2014, all Partner States have eliminated tariffs on goods originating from within the EAC. All Partner States therefore score full marks in CMS 2016 for compliance with the Rules of Origin (RoO) following the revised RoO.

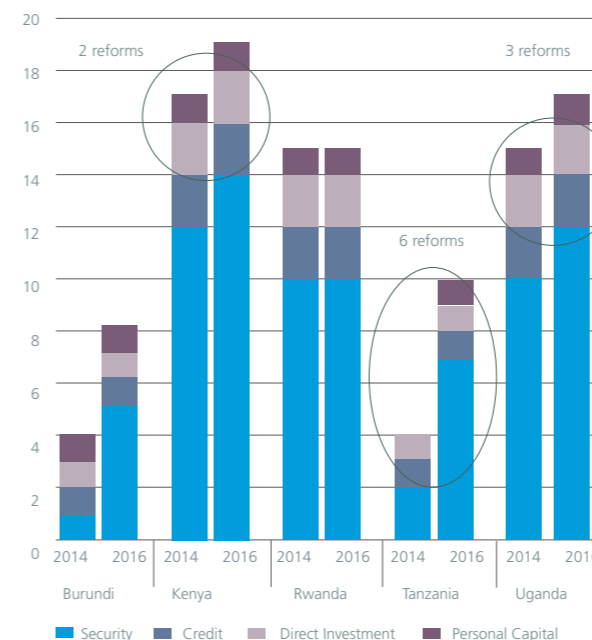
"Despite this legal compliance, the CMS 2016 results point to the continued use of tariff equivalent measures primarily arising from the non-recognition of RoO certificates among EAC Partner States, thus triggering application of tariffs on goods that would have otherwise not attracted import duties and the application of charges of tariff equivalence," says the report.

The report observes that Partner States continue to apply charges on each other's goods that are equivalent to the tariffs that were removed to facilitate free movement of goods.

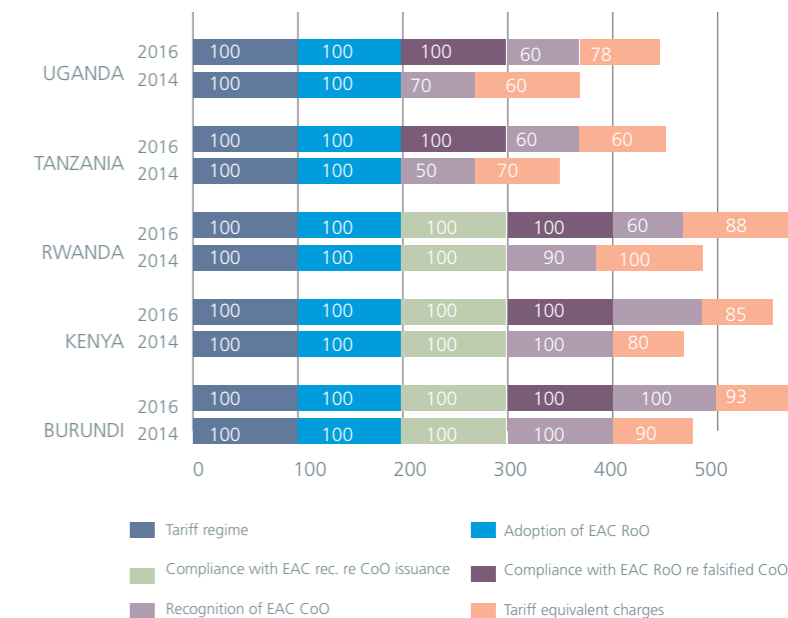
"These charges include charges levied on imports by various government agencies and local authorities or county governments, road user charges, charges associated with all cases of non-recognition of Certificates of Origin. In total, there were 35 such charges, 28 new charges which were imposed in the CMS 2016 review period and seven (7) charges carried from the CMS 2014."

The report, among other things, calls for the: elimination of Tariffs and charges with equivalent effect; elimination of NTBs, and; harmonization and mutual recognition of Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Standards (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

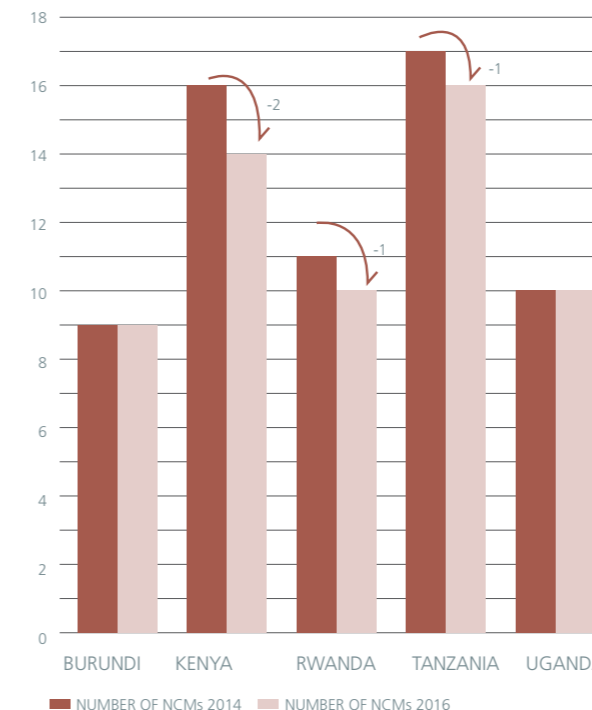
Number of restriction-free capital transactions by country and measure (2014 and 2016)



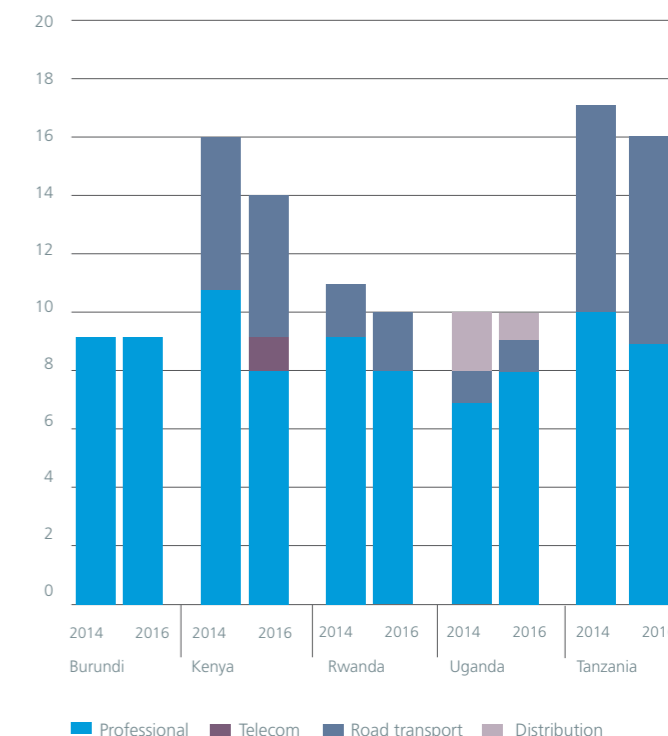
Converted Scored by element by country, 2014 and 2016



Reforms in freedom of movement of services: Number of NCMs by Partner State (2014 and 2016)



NCM distribution by country 2014 and 2016



Source: CMS 2016 Database



Integration Made Real for Citizens

By JOYCE KEVIN ABALO KIMARO



Since becoming operational in 2016, the Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA) has made monumental strides in making integration real for citizens.

IIDEA reaches out to citizens and show their real-life experiences of regional integration. The initiative jointly developed by the EAC Secretariat, Regional Dialogue Committee and GIZ provides financial, technical and advisory support to 15 innovative projects proposed and implemented by civil society, private sector and other interest groups.

These innovative projects demonstrate the tangible opportunities brought about by the EAC Common Market Protocol to citizens. As a result, they lead citizen involvement in regional integration by example and show citizens that the EAC is more than a collection of treaties, protocols and frameworks, but a lived reality.

Two of the current 15 IIDEA projects have been completed: Performance Art for Youth Africa (PAYA) by Danceteam Africa and Tour d'EAC 2016 by Campfire Logs Guild.

These are their stories and experiences of regional integration.

Danceteam Africa

Danceteam Africa promoted social integration and empowered 200 young artists from Tanzania and Kenya through PAYA 2016. These young artists were able to grow artistically and individually, experience and demonstrate the free movement of people across borders and build connections with their fellow East Africans.

To sustain the above initiative, a platform dubbed 'Artist for Youth East Africa' (AYEA) was developed in order to provide a networking platform for East African artists. Through this platform, cultural integration and cooperation will be advanced in order to make a significant contribution towards holistic and cooperative development in East Africa.

Campfire Logs Guild

The Tour d'EAC 2016 was a daily 10-hour, action packed cycling expedition across five EAC Partner States over a course of 30 days. The Team comprised of 15 EAC citizens from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

They enjoyed the free movement of person in the region as well as enhanced social integration. While on the tour, the cyclists engaged in activities that emphasized and supported the integration agenda by organizing dialogue in form of public meetings, workshops and press conferences, culminating in the Grand Finale in December 2016.

Through this trail-blazing project, citizens received clear messages about the regional integration process and agenda and were mobilised in favour of the EAC. The expedition of these courageous cyclists generated a significant amount of media attention to their activities and the cause of regional integration.

Successes

With only two of IIDEA's shorter-term projects complete, the initiative is already achieving excellent results. In addition to showcasing the tangible benefits of regional integration in areas ranging from cross-bor-

der mobility, trade, market access, cultural exchange, social integration, and the empowerment of women and young people, our partners are demonstrating that regional integration should be owned and supported by citizens of the EAC Partner States. They are not only showing citizens that integration is real, but that it is creating opportunities that are ripe for the taking. In so doing, IIDEA is providing strong potential for citizens to tap the tangible benefits accruing from market-driven and people-centred integration.

Challenges

While IIDEA has provided an effective mechanism for bringing citizens closer to regional integration, a number of challenges have been identified to date.

Reports from the innovators have highlighted that the implementation of policies is uneven in some areas, particularly in the free movement of people, goods and services. Both the Campfire Logs Guild and Danceteam Africa where faced with challenges while crossing Tanzanian borders.

In the case of Campfire Logs, they reported harassment by immigration officials when exiting into Burundi.

When Danceteam Africa were traveling with young Tanzanian artists into Kenya, they were compelled to pay US\$ 20 per Yellow Fever vaccination card, but the young artists were never administered the Yellow Fever vaccination.

These experiences from the field demonstrate that work remains to be done to allow the people of East Africa enjoy their rights and freedoms enshrined in the EAC Common Market Protocol.

Way forward

Based on their experiences, the projects have made the following recommendations for policymakers to help advance regional integration at the grassroots:

- The EAC should do more to sensitize citizens at the grassroots about the integration agenda.
- Improve road infrastructure across the Community to aid the movement of goods, services and people.
- Border officials require better training on EAC Protocols to facilitate easy movement of citizens, goods and services.
- Yellow Fever Vaccinations Certificates should be made easily available and vaccines administered to citizens of the EAC Partner States

To find out more about IIDEA, visit our website: www.eaciidea.net

Joyce is a Senior Advisor with the Incubator for Integration and Development in East Africa (IIDEA)



Campfire Logs Guild

"I hail the astute 15 young men and woman who have decided to ride bikes across the member states of EAC not for any intentions than enhancing and empowering the unity of the people of EAC towards regional integration. Indeed it is patriotism of a kind that shall accelerate a more steady social security and economic development and integration of East Africa."

Hon. Alhaj Abdul Nadduli

Danceteam Africa

"Because culture is a basic need, we remain committed to uniting the people of East Africa through arts and culture. For the benefit of our people and the future generation, for the common good of all and in the name of tolerance, exchange and understanding.

We must believe that unity in diversity of our cultures and expressions will allow meaningful social and economic progress as well as strengthen the identity of the East African people.

We remain supportive of the existing East African Community, its various initiatives and unwavering commitment to the region. We believe in the role of culture in regional integration and are committed to total unity of the arts and cultural sector as a unique strength."

Artists for Youth East Africa Constitution Preamble

Let's 'Buy East Africa to Develop East Africa'

By KENNETH AGUTAMBA



At Friday's opening of Bank of Kigali's service centre on Kigali Heights, I was honoured to meet several eminent gentlemen and a lady that loyally follow my column in the New Times, the best motivation for any writer; they also gave me some honest feedback regarding my profile picture.

"It makes you look like a giant," said one gentleman. Disclaimer: I am only half a giant.

"You actually look older in the picture," said another gentleman.

I am actually 360 months old, a long time if you are polite enough not to convert it into years.

Another gentleman teased me about the green jacket and the striped shirt. The banter left me in such a great mood that I could have written a wonderful romance essay that night.

To be fair, the feedback on Friday about my profile picture is consistent with what others have told me before.

Pictures are lovely. They are a form of writing and a good way of advancing viewpoints. In media framing, pictures are the best tool of composition and currently, the best case study is the media's pictorial representation of the cantankerous US President Donald Trump.

Based on the feedback, I will be changing my profile picture, soon. But it is not only me with a picture to fix; East Africa's picture of regional integration is increasingly becoming blurry as members place more focus on their respective national priorities.

Originally, the picture we drew from East Africa's rhetoric on regional integration was that member countries were harmonizing their respective national dreams to form one giant regional dream spacious enough for all citizens of the now six member states.

Instead, what we have ironies that are inconsistent with the Common Market, which has been in force since 2010 in line with the provisions of the EAC Treaty.

The Common Market led us into drawing a beautiful picture of a borderless market large enough for the region's 150 million citizens. It was an exciting picture whose pixels included free movement of goods, persons, labour, and right to establishment of residence.

Yet on a closer look, it is a picture that is visible in some countries, blurry in others and completely invisible in others.

Three months ago, Uganda's trade ministry launched a "BUBU" policy unpacked as 'Buy Uganda, Build Uganda' whose objective is to 'boost small and medium local manufacturers who, left on their own, are unable to compete at par with their foreign counterparts.'

A year ago, Kenya announced a similar initiative known as 'Buy Kenya, Build Kenya', which pledged to 'enforce policies to ensure that increased consumption of goods and services produced locally.'

The background to these two countries' policies is imbedded in their respective national frameworks and clearly in conflict with efforts to build a bigger regional market for East African manufacturers to freely compete.

It appears that the idea of East Africa as one economic bloc has refused to register in our minds, so we are now 'arming' the region's manufacturers against each other yet we should be arming them to join efforts in reducing the region's international trade deficit.

There is a good exception in the *Made in Rwanda* initiative whose core objective is not to 'arm' Rwandan manufacturers against their East African counterparts, but rather to generally help reduce the country's international trade deficit.

As a region, we should be promoting 'Buy East Africa, Build East Africa.' That way, we could have combined efforts of made in Rwanda, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi and South Sudan arming East African manufacturers against international imports from Europe and Asia.

There are other tendencies in the region that we must discourage.

For instance, a Burundian friend who has been working and residing in one of East Africa's six member states for the last two years may be forced to return home because of some workplace sentiments that suggest her position should be filled by a national from that country.



Sentiments such as those that stigmatize people based on their nationalities should not be permitted residence in an East African Common Market that allows for free movement of labour and establishment of residence.

Again, Rwanda offers a good example; recently I went to the immigration office to renew my work permit and after noticing that I have progressively been living and working here for the last eight years, an official wondered why I couldn't simply apply for citizenship.

While I found the suggestion strongly appealing, it also drew a question; why not simply make an East African passport accessible to more people as it gives you citizenship in all six member states? The African passport maybe a good idea but regional passports make more sense.

Unfortunately, these are tough times for regional integration as groupings such as EU, hitherto seen as role models are now disintegrating as nationalism gains the upper hand. At the moment, the picture of East Africa's Regional Integration is not an accurate reflection of reality.

Kenneth is a Marketing & PR Manager at the Bank of Kigali. He is an experienced Columnist with a demonstrated history of working in the newspaper industry. His column appears in The Sunday Times and carries thoughts on just about everything Rwanda, her neighbourhood and beyond.

1st East African Manufacturing Business Summit resolved on 2nd September 2015 that...

Public and private procurement is key to creating necessary demand for locally manufactured products as well as promoting technology based business start-ups. To this end, the governments of East Africa Partner States and the private sector are called upon to prioritize in their procurement, the sourcing of locally manufactured products including agro-food, furniture, motor-vehicles, parts, apparels and footwear.

The EAC Secretariat in collaboration with East African Business Council (EABC) should prepare a regional promotional strategy for the implementation of Buy-East Africa-Build-East Africa scheme (BEABEA).

New Chapter of Growth in Tourism for East Africa

By APOLINARI TAIRO

Tourism between East Africa and the United States is expected to herald the new beginning of direct flights to America from Nairobi, with a new chapter of growth in regional tourism.

After Jomo Kenyatta International Airport (JKIA) won Category One status from the United States Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in February this year, there are new hopes heralding East African tourism, looking for faster growth through the Kenyan entry point. By attaining the highest International Aviation Safety Assessment status, Kenya is now standing as East Africa's aviation hub for American tourists booked to the East African Community (EAC) member states most of whom are lacking key tourist services.

Kenya's Transport Cabinet Secretary, James Macharia, was quoted by The East African saying that Kenya Airways and other interested local operators will fly directly from Kenya to the United States once the necessary approvals and last point of departure (LPD) rights are granted. Mr Macharia said that with the attainment of Category One status, Kenya Airways would immediately apply for approval to codeshare with US airlines while concurrently pursuing approval for direct flights. RwandAir, the other major airline in the EAC says going through Kenya is also an opportunity the airline can explore. Jimmy Musoni, the Head of Commercial Planning at RwandAir, noted, however, that they were yet to undertake a study to weigh their options.

Direct flights to the US will significantly reduce the time taken between the US and East Africa to as little as a day. Passengers will also save on the time it takes transiting through Europe or the Middle East. To this date, travellers between East Africa and the US have to transit through London, Amsterdam, Istanbul, Dubai, or Addis Ababa, whose airports have been approved for direct flights to the United States. Flying to the US from Nairobi and connecting via Addis Ababa takes approximately 30 hours and some layover time, which can be up to 15 hours, at a cost of about US\$ 1,620 for a one-way trip.

There are a few direct flights from Lagos, Nigeria, to New York, and a traveller from Nairobi connecting via Nigeria will take approximately 23 hours. If one chooses to connect via Oliver Tambo Airport in Johannesburg from Nairobi, the journey will be 20 hours. Direct flights are usually more expensive than connecting ones and so travellers should expect shorter but costlier flights.

Although it may be a while before Kenya Airways commences direct flights to the US, the development is a major win for JKIA, as the airport and national carrier, Kenya Airways, can now consolidate United States-bound traffic that has been leaking through hubs in Europe and the Middle East.

Director General of the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, Gilbert Kibe, said it will take 8 months before direct flights between United States and Kenya take off, but the Authority will have to be vetted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) on competence in overseeing the airspace. The Kenya Airports Authority will also have to undergo a security audit by the US Transport Safety Authority to ensure passengers from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport pose no threat once on American soil. If a clean bill of health is given, the airport will be given a last point of departure approval. Airlines wishing to run direct flights to the United States from JKIA will then individually apply for commercial and technical licenses.

For travellers, tickets to the United States via Europe or the Middle East are bound to become cheaper as competition between the Middle East and European-registered airlines heats up.



Kenya's efforts to attain the higher status started in October 2014, when the FAA conducted a technical review of the safety oversight system in Kenya. This was followed by a Corrective Action Plan that was developed in Washington in January 2015 to address deficiencies identified in the technical review. A total of 81 corrective actions were developed. Last year, FAA inspectors were in Kenya and cleared the way for the final audit after they were satisfied that the Kenyan government had put in place all requisite measures. Apart from coming up with a new Civil Aviation Law, Kenya also set up a Civil Aviation Tribunal as part of the requirements.

The Kenyan government has invested in the expansion of airport infrastructure at JKIA, which now boasts a new Terminal 1-A for international arrivals and departures.

The chief executive officer of the Kenya Association of Hotel Keepers, Mike Macharia, was quoted, saying easy access was important for development of Kenyan tourist economy. The association is in the middle of a study of how tourism numbers will be affected by the opening up of direct flights. "We are doing a value chain analysis, interviewing market players like grocers, butchers, and drinks suppliers to see how easy access to and from the US will lead to a shift in trade," Mr. Macharia said.

He said the tourism market has not leveraged the Middle and Far East markets of Japan and Korea, or even markets like the French and German;

after these countries stopped their own direct flights to Kenya. "Cancelling a route is very easy but getting it back is a long process; we have been trying to persuade charter flights to fly direct from these countries to Kenya, but it is yet to happen," said Mr. Macharia.

Tanzania, the closer neighbour to Kenya, is looking to benefit from the FAA's approval of Jomo Kenyatta International Airport for direct flights from the United States. Lacking a reliable and internationally-recognized airline company, Tanzania is still going at a snail's pace in East African aviation business, with only a single, privately-owned airline company, Precision Air, flying domestic and regional routes. The politically-run Air Tanzania Company Limited (ATCL) is still limping with 2 Canadian-made 76-seater Bombardier D8 Q400 aircraft bought in September last year. Hired from Government Flights, at least, to revive the wingless airline, the 2 aircraft serve only but few domestic routes with additional flights to Comoro islands in the Indian Ocean.

Nairobi still remains the hub of East African tourism, having good and reliable connections across the 5 continents through Kenya Airways, the leading airline in East Africa.

Apolinari is an eTurboNews (eTN) Correspondent based in Tanzania. This article was first published by eTN.

Promoting Sustainable Development through Community Based Conservation

By JOHN BENEDICT TAYLOR



Amos Angoni, 43, lives in Mloka, a village seven kilometers from Selous National Park, East Africa's biggest Game Reserve. Amos and his family live below the US\$ 1 per day estimate, falling below the poverty line. Mloka residents are wheat farmers, and that is as far as it goes. In search for a source of protein, Amos and his peers often make camp within the game reserve, their activity - Poaching.

This is not the type of poaching we hear of on National Geographic and other conservation programmes or catch a glimpse of on billboards, boldly saying, "Only Elephants should wear Ivory". Amos and his peers have no desire for trophies, worth millions of dollars in black markets world wide; their interest - Game Meat, often the only source of protein in their village.



A hunting camp is not a two or three-day affair, on average such camp sits for 30 days. This will involve various activities including setting snares that might come in handy during the next hunting run.

Angoni's wife, Maria, 35, and mother of six, keeps the homestead. For a mother in a village such as Mloka, preparing a meal is no easy chore. She takes an 8-kilometer walk in search for fuel. This walk takes her into

the Game Reserve. Logging is rampant here, and once again, not for the monies but as a source of fuel.

This narrative is all too familiar in most communities that neighbor most of the region's Game Reserves and protected areas. The on-going degradation of the region's natural resources calls for a change in approach in the management of wildlife and natural resources. This is addressed by a move that regards the local communities an integral player in conservation - Community Based Conservation.

Conservation of biological diversity is a popular crusade. The global conservation movement is reluctant to accept that although conservation is about species and ecological phenomena, it is a socio-economic process that affects and is affected by human welfare.

The involvement of local communities and other stakeholders in the management and conservation of wildlife and natural resources helps in improving natural resources' productivity, alleviate poverty, increase environmental sustainability, and makes rules governing access to wildlife and natural resources enforceable. Involvement of local communities in conservation and management of these resources depends on governments' commitment and requires time and resources to develop consensus among stakeholders, establish new institutional arrangements, decentralize finance and administration, ensure appropriate rules and incentives for local involvement, as well as build organizational capacity at the local level.

Community Based Conservation is a promising approach towards conserving wildlife outside of the core-protected areas through the involvement on local communities. Their participation in wildlife management decisions, sustainable utilization of natural resources, and the distribution of income generated from wildlife and natural resources at a local level can help to limit over-exploitation and habitat degradation by the local communities.

The involvement of villages in the management of wildlife and natural resources is of fundamental importance in conservation. The objective of recent conservatism programs is to share power and benefits with the local communities, giving them a say in the management of wildlife and natural resources on their own land as well as use the material benefits as an incentive for the long term conservation of these resources.

Until recently, there was no devolution of management of natural resources in local communities. In the past, the colonial and the independent state introduced a systematic dilution of customary possession to natural resources and land, inhibiting access by the majority of people who live adjacent to national parks and game reserves.

In recent years, a number of factors have generated need and continue to exert pressure for the existence of Community Based Conservation. These factors include poverty, limited ability of local authorities and central government to manage these resources, coupled with the opportunities offered by the liberalized market. Furthermore, the existence of persistent poverty around such concentrations of wildlife and natural resources has created an absurd situation of the co-existence of abject poverty and abundance of resources, with all its potential for alleviating this poverty.

Conservation should not be against the people; it should involve them in making decisions and hence help in managing the resources that reside in their environs.

Binding Policy Issues

Natural resources are governed by several policies. These include Wildlife, Forest, Water, Bee-Keeping, Fisheries, Land as well as Environment policies. Developed in recent times, these policies all possess elements involving communities in the management of wildlife and natural resources within their localities. However, these policies are sector oriented, overlooking the fact that the environment itself is functionally and ecologically integrated and interdependent.

The policy issues relating to Community Based Conservation initiatives are very general and the legal aspects unclear, leaving considerable room for conflict. Although most of the natural resource management policies have been revised, there are no clearly defined mechanisms for revenue sharing, partnerships with other stakeholders or players. The policies and policy issues are binding as far as each natural resource sector is concerned, but there is limited cohesion for policy issues that cut across.

Creating a good relationship between local communities and the management of protected areas should provide job opportunities and access to finance to start small community projects such as bee keeping, poultry, tree nurseries as well as for women's groups; creating an avenue

to improve the standards of living of the villagers. With such projects off the ground, villagers will not depend on bush meat as a main source of protein but have other alternatives. Villages will also have alternative sources of building materials and fuel to address their daily needs.

The promotion of conservation of wildlife and its habitat outside core protected areas called for the establishment of Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs) by central authorities. The subsequent transfer of the management of WMAs to local communities, has paved way to better supervision of corridors, migration routes and buffer zones in addition to ensuring local communities obtain substantial tangible benefits from wildlife conservation.

Recent studies and pilot projects have proven that wildlife and natural resources management and conservation initiatives are most effective when local communities are involved in the conservation and sharing of benefits cycle.

The contribution of wildlife and natural resources to any community is not only monetary gains to individuals but have the prospects of putting into place social welfare services such as schools, healthcare centers, market places and other facilities for various social activities. This will further aid in creating the community's awareness of the benefits of conservation, thus their willingness to play a part in the efforts.

The essence of involving local communities in conservation is to improve relations between individual conservationist initiatives and local communities. It is also aimed at ensuring that the interests of protected areas, with regard to wildlife and natural resource conservation, and community welfare are presented at all levels while effectively facilitating the sharing of benefits to target communities and assisting communities gain access to information, resources and services which promote sustainable development.

The author is a Professional Hunter with a passion for conservation and poverty alleviation in communities bordering protected areas.



East Africa

Long Distance Runners & Gold Medals

By BEN OAKLEY



Put "East African running" into a search engine and you'll get thousands of results exploring the question of what makes these long distance runners so good.

Everyone is searching for the secret explanation so what does the research evidence point to? There is not one simple answer but here are my thoughts.

In athletics terms many people associate East Africa with Kenyan and Ethiopian distance running. Intriguingly, the majority of these runners come from three mountainous districts beside the Rift Valley: Nandi in Kenya, the most successful district, and Arsi and Shewa in Ethiopia.

Some people say that since these runners and their forebears live and train at altitude, they're bound to be good. "Altitude natives", through long-term exposure combined with endurance training, have increased red blood cells, which is one neat explanation of their excellence in endurance events.

However, scientists highlight that any advantages of living at over 2000m are also available to those in Mexico, the Andes, and large parts of central Asia.

So why are these clusters of running excellence found in only three districts?

For me, this is where history plays its part. Bale and Sang's prize-winning book on Kenyan running describes the influence of missionaries and the British army in promoting modern athletics.

Once this more formal type of running took root and success started to come, the tradition of distance running in the region became self-perpetuating. That is why, I think, East Africa has a running tradition and say, Mexico does not.

Do biological factors play a part?

Two convenient explanations are diet and/or "special" genes. We need not spend too long thinking about diet. Yes, a reasonably nutritious diet is needed to train hard but that is about all.

Genetics has received considerably more research attention. Some have suggested that East Africans' genes might be predisposed to endurance events but many studies have concluded the same thing - there is, at present, no evidence of this.

My reading suggests the efficiency of an East African runner's light and lean body could be a significant factor.

Some reports explain how good these runners are at dipping down like boxers or Tour de France cyclists to "make the weight" i.e. deliberately losing weight before competing.

It also pays to be small and light in high temperatures since a body dissipates heat more easily - note that most Olympic venues are very hot (e.g. Beijing, Sydney, Atlanta, Barcelona, Seoul etc.).

The term "running economy" has been used in studying the lower energy use of East African runners compared to Caucasians. The main explanation researchers put forward is that carrying a few less grams on the feet and ankles (a common feature of the East African body shape) means these runners require less energy to maintain a fast pace.

This efficiency argument makes sense, as do reports of the quality, not quantity, of their training. Tough sessions at very high heart rates are reported, which are apparently different to those used in other countries. So these runners tend to work hard and train differently.

In addition, many elite runners (about 50-70%) have run long distances in childhood to get to school: a very sound base for intense training in the future.

Economic reward

It is a cliché to talk of athletes finding a way out from poverty but picture this. You are in your mid-teens and are a good runner. In the next village someone has just won US\$ 2,500 in a minor half-marathon overseas - four times the annual salary of your parents.

You've seen how hard they train to achieve this and a member of your school has also won a senior championship medal to much acclaim; the medallist now supports the whole of their extended family.

You've already got a keen group of people to train with and people keep congratulating you on your progress. Would you give it a go?

In this environment I think talented runners are more likely to take on the commitment, leading to more chances of success, more role models, more talent scouts and increased training expertise.

Meanwhile, consider the psychology of competing against runners from East Africa. You would need to be mentally strong to counter the consistently attributed differences that I have outlined.

Scientists have suggested that it is difficult to break the ongoing East African running stereotype; some runners of other races believe that they cannot compete with the East Africans whilst those from the region believe that they are better runners.

Of these explanations the influence of biology is hotly debated but overall the work ethic needed to succeed at the top level takes place in a social and economic milieu that, for me, is a major influence.

Ben Oakley is Head of Sport and Fitness at the Open University and previously worked as the Olympic windsurfing coach, attending the Games in 1988 and 1992. He has worked in higher education since 1995 and published work on professional practices in coaching and sports policy.

Recently he has lead the development of online teaching materials in sport and been the academic consultant for the BBC Olympic Dreams series.

East Africa Competition Authority

By Damaris Nyaga



The EAC Competition Authority is an independent body of EAC mandated to develop appropriate procedures for addressing trade practices and transactions that unduly limit fair competition as well as protect consumers from substandard goods all while undertaking public sensitization and consultations with stakeholders. The Competition Authority is subject to judicial review by the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), as provided for in Section 44 and 46 of the Competition Act, 2006.

The Authority has 5 Commissioners who were appointed by the EAC Council of Ministers in February 2016. The Commissioners were nominees submitted by each Partner State.

The Commissioners of the EAC Competition Authority include Mr. Innocent Habarugira from the Republic of Burundi, Mr. Francis K. Kariuki from the Republic of Kenya, Dr. Frederick Ringo from the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Didas M. Kayihura from the Republic of Rwanda and Mr. Sam K. Watasa from the Republic of Uganda.

Competition advocacy entails providing information to citizens and businesses on competition whereas consultation involves asking stakeholders for comments and advice regarding the Authority's enforcement practice and on matters it intends to regulate.

In relation to participation, the Authority is expected to provide Partner States' governments with comments and advise relating to the compatibility of Partner States' regulatory activities with requirements of the EAC Competition Act. The Authority is also obligated to publish an annual report as well as occasional reports.

The enforcement of the EAC Competition Act, 2006 will trigger obligations for enterprises operating in various sectors as well as for Partner States. In particular, it is necessary for the Authority to evaluate what mechanisms will be used to implement the EAC Competition Act in a context where only two EAC Partner States have operational national competition authorities and one EAC Partner State lacks a competition law.

Given the confidential and sensitive nature of the matters to be handled by the Ad Hoc Competition Authority, the Commissioners took an Oath of Secrecy and an Oath of Allegiance during their swearing in which took place at the EAC Headquarters in November 2016, before they embarked on discharging their services to the Community.

The Commissioners have to date developed the Authority's guiding principles and rules of procedure which spell out how it will conduct its business.

The You Ideology

You are Enough, You do not Need Validation

By Samuel Mpamugo

If you've lived long enough, you'll relate to a person's need for validation. Subconsciously or not, we're always asking, "I'm I doing okay?" We go about life wondering if we're getting it right. At each turn, we look out for signs – from loved ones, institutions and other sources – that confirm we're doing well.

We're energized by the assurance from what we consider credible sources and frustrated by the lack of affirming words or action.

That said; when should we be affirmed? When do we qualify for the pat on the back?

The Lie and Struggle

Our fast-paced modern culture communicates a clear message: do more, be more, get more. We call it: 'the grind', 'the rat race', 'the hustle' – whatever the term – the idea is to constantly break your own record because your life depends on it.

Get a degree, get a job, get married, get kids, buy a home, get more degrees, get a better job, move to a nicer neighbourhood, climb the corporate ladder, climb higher – and the demands never end. Is it ever enough? When at each peak, you're told to do more.

I'm for hard work and attaining higher levels, but my concern is the nagging inadequacy that people experience with success – a situation where success becomes the struggle.

Society lies to you that you will be worthy of respect (or be enough) as a human being only when you achieve (and keep achieving) higher goals – and not before. It's a lie because the goal post is constantly shifting. You achieve a milestone only to have another set before you. It can be exhausting when your value as a person is tied to getting or being more. This lie creates undue pressure. For many, the pressure mounts daily

because they're convinced that they must first acquire more stuff before self-worth is conferred on them. So they grind away, getting more, hardly content and still feel unworthy.

See Your Worth

Contentment is the belief that you are enough as a human being at each point in life as you work hard at getting better and attaining higher levels.

For instance, I have a bachelor's degree and currently pursuing my MBA. But before I get my graduate degree, I appreciate who I am now.

I am adequate and secure in my person as I push for better. Before the MBA, my worth is in place. I make the MBA, it doesn't make me. Right now, I am enough as a person.

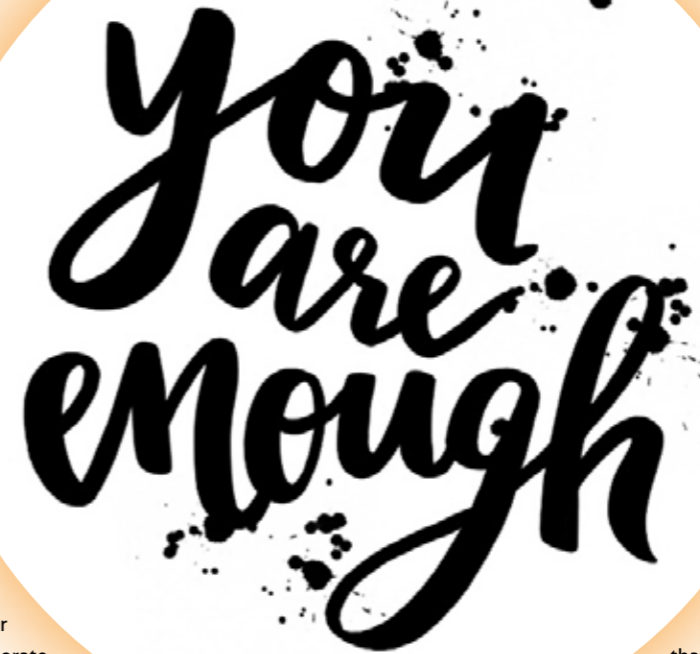
Some people achieve goal after goal and remain confused about their adequacy as persons. It's a tough place to be because you're blinded to who you are, what you've done and what you already have.

Enjoy Where You Are

If no one has told you (or you probably need reminding), I would like to clearly state that: **YOU ARE ENOUGH!** Yes, YOU. So far, you've done well and I appreciate the person that you've become in your journey. Right now, you are a person of value. It's not dependent on how much more you achieve, but the fact that you're a human being – and that's enough!

You're not yet a billionaire, but you're a millionaire (or not) – for now, that's enough! You may not be the perfect parent or spouse, but you work hard to improve – that's enough. You work hard on your job and you're getting better – that's enough. Appreciate and enjoy where you are as you plot the next level. Celebrate who you are now and what you've attained as you grow. You are enough!

www.theyouideology.com



Brain Bashers

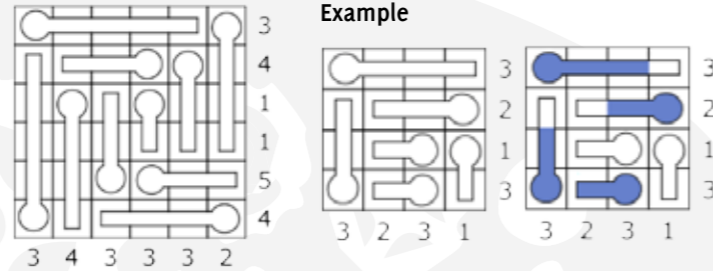
1

Below you will find well-known eight letter words, with only their endings remaining. Can you determine the words?

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| RUE | JAR |
| DIL | ANY |
| POX | GTH |
| ELF | OIA |
| IGE | HOG |
| TOO | DIX |
| FIN | UPT |

2

Can you fill the thermometers with mercury, such that the numbers outside the grid indicate how many cells in each row and column contain mercury. Mercury always starts filling from the bottom of a thermometer and not every thermometer has to contain mercury.



3

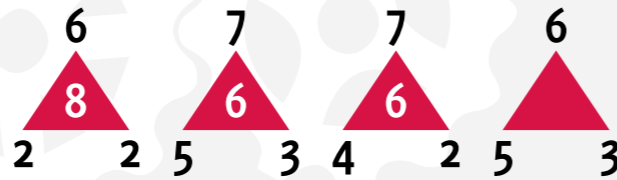


Just last week, Stacey's nieces and nephews met up to go to the cinema to see the latest blockbuster. From the clues below, can you determine the order in which they stood in the ticket queue?

Sam was in front of Sarah. Stuart was behind Sandra and Sally. Sally was in front of Sharon and Steve. Sabrina was behind Stuart, Simon and Steve. Steve was in front of Sabrina, Simon and Shane. Shane was behind Simon, Sharon and Sabrina. Sandra was in front of Sarah. Simon was in front of Sam, Stuart and Sandra. Sarah was in front of Sharon. Sabrina was in front of Sam and Shane. Sarah was behind Sandra, Sally and Sabrina. Stuart was in front of Sarah. Simon was behind Sally.

4

The Empty Triangle



Question: Which figure should be placed in the empty triangle?

This puzzle works your executive functions in your frontal lobes by using your pattern recognition, hypothesis testing, and logic. Let us know how you do!

5

There is a concert that starts in just 17 minutes and all of the band members must all cross a bridge to get there. The four members begin on the same side of the bridge and you must help them to get across to the other side. Due to the age of the bridge, a maximum of two people can cross at one time. To make matters worse, it is night-time and there is only one torch. The torch is always required when crossing the bridge and the torch must be walked back and forth, it cannot be thrown, etc. Each band member walks at a different speed and a pair must walk together at the rate of the slower man:

- Alan takes 1 minute to cross
- Bill takes 2 minutes to cross
- Carl takes 5 minutes to cross
- Dave takes 10 minutes to cross

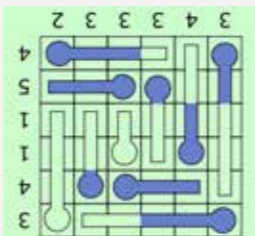
For example, if Alan and Dave walk across first, it takes them 10 minutes to cross. If Alan then returns with the torch, a total of 11 minutes will have passed. There is no trick behind this, it is the simple movement of resources in the appropriate order.

Alan and Bill cross - 2 min | Alan returns - 1 min | Carl and Dave cross - 10 min | Bill returns - 2 min | Alan and Bill cross - 2 min = Total - 17 min

Answer: 3
Solution: The top number minus the bottom left-hand number is multiplied by the bottom right-hand number to give the number inside the triangle.
Sally
Steve
Simon
Sandra
Stuart
Sabrina
Sam
Sarah
Sharon
Shane

4

3



2

CONSTRUE NIGHTJAR
DAFFODIL MAHOGANY or EPIPHANY
SMALLPOX STRENGTH
YOURSSELF PARANOIDIA
PRESTIGE HEDGECOCK
COCKATOO APPENDIX
PARAFIN BANKRUPT

5

1



GIRLS NOT BRIDES

Day of the African Child 2017

This year's theme:

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development for Children in Africa: Accelerating Protection, Empowerment and Equal Opportunity - is a reminder of the linkages between the regional and global agendas on development, and the importance of promoting child rights - including by addressing child marriage.

SDG Target 5.3 (Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations) echoes Article 21 of the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (which prohibits child marriage and urges governments to establish 18 as the minimum age of marriage).

Agenda 2063, the African Union's fifty-year vision for the development of the continent, includes a commitment to "mobilize a concerted drive towards immediately ending child marriages, female genital mutilation and other harmful cultural practices that discriminate against women"

All three highlight that ending child marriage is critical to bringing about lasting change in the lives of children across Africa and worldwide.



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ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY