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PRESIDENT MUSEVENI DELIVERS STATE OF EAC ADDRESS TO EALA



The President of Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of Summit of EAC Heads of State, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is rooting for all efforts towards an effective integration of the continent. To this extent, the Head of State wants the EAC region to go full throttle and unite the markets for prosperity of the people.

The President who was addressing the 2nd Sitting of the 1st Session of the 4th Assembly reiterated that the region stood to gain much more as a unified front. "This integration is not about the leaders but the people who produce wealth", he said. Why do we talk about hunger while in Uganda for example, we have a huge crop of maize – about 5 Million tonnes capable of sufficiently meeting our needs? the President pondered.

"We need a situation where all producers in the Partner States are able to freely sell their produce ", President Museveni remarked. "I have in the past for example contributed to the prosperity of Kenyan farmers in Mbarara where I purchased their (Kenya Co-operative Creameries) milk. This is the kind of thing I am talking about", he added.

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... President Museveni calls for the Continent to speak with one voice.



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The Head of State said fraternity of the people of East Africa was another key area capable of fast tracking integration. He remarked the populace in the EAC region were severally either linked by either culture, language or history. The President therefore maintained that socio-economic development was very key in the integration dispensation.

President Museveni also cited strategic security as key in integration. "Africans need to solve their own problems – in this world you cannot survive if you are weak – and this is of our own making. Why can't we make Africa strong", President Museveni stated and called for the continent to speak with one voice. He remarked that United States of America President Donald Trump had albeit in inappropriate language, told Africans the truth.

President Museveni also called for the region to effect better use of the existing common natural resources for its own prosperity citing Lake Victoria as a case in point. "This among other resources should be managed on an East African basis and we have the ability to manage the resources collectively - so such may save us in future for East Africa's destiny", the President remarked.


The President hailed the EAC forefathers for their vision in uniting the region way back in the 1960s and said the collapse of the envisaged Union led to some of the present-day challenges and catastrophic events. "In Uganda for example, we could not have had the Idi Amin challenge, – had we succeeded in forming a unified government. The genocide in

Rwanda for example, could also not have happened – if there was a unified an East African Community union.

The President cited the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) talks with the European Union as key adding that negotiating as a unified EAC bloc was instrumental. "The likes of China, India, EU and Russia are large – and powerful. Our strength lies in bargaining 'collectively'. I am duly hopeful – we shall".

The President lauded and congratulated the Speaker of EALA, Rt Hon Martin Ngoga for his election and said he was content the principle of rotation had been maintained. "I recall already Kenya, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania had already benefited from the Speakership – while Republic of Burundi has the position of the Secretary General in the EAC".

The President maintained that the oversight role of EALA was key and assured the Speaker of his support. He maintained that EALA was core to the integration process. "I cannot miss your invitations – he said in response to the Speakers remark, who lauded him for attending all previous events of the Assembly. I will keep coming", he added.

In attendance were key government officials, former Speakers of EALA, former EALA Members, representatives of the diplomatic corps, representatives of the Private Sector as well as the representatives of the EAC Youth Ambassadors platform among others. 

EAC Secretary General Calls for Implementation of Critical Activities in 2018



The EAC Secretary General, Amb Liberat Mfumukeko, has called for serious prioritizing of the available resources to ensure critical activities in the integration process are implemented by the EAC Secretariat in 2018.

Amb. Mfumukeko noted that 2017 had been a challenging year for the EAC and singled out the first and second quarters of the 2017/2018 Financial Year, adding that the Community had experienced serious financial challenges during this period.

Delivering the Secretary General's New Year Address 2018 to the staff of the EAC Organs and Institutions, Amb. Mfumukeko, urged staff not be discouraged by the challenges faced in 2017 by quoting one great man named T. Harv Eker who said *"if you want to make a permanent change, stop focusing on the size of your problems and start focusing on the size of you."*

The Secretary General outlined the tremendous achievements made in the EAC integration process in 2017 despite all the challenges as follows:

Single Customs Territory: He disclosed that the main priority was to attain the full roll-out of intra-trade and imports regime under the Single Customs Territory. Most important was the operationalization of 10 One Stop Border Posts, three (3) of which were officially launched with the most recent being the official launch of the Mutukula One Stop Border Post (OSBP) located on the Uganda/Tanzania border in November last year after Holili/Taveta and Rusumo.

Common Market: Partner States continued to facilitate free movement of goods, services, labor and capital and accord rights of establishment and residence to firms and citizens from other Partner States. Last year, the (non-tariff barriers) NTBs Act, 2015 was assented by all the Partner States and regulations to operationalize it were developed.

Also a total of 104 standards were approved by Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) in June 2017 as East African Standards and 108 international standards endorsed for adoption by the Partner States in accordance with the EAC procedures. This brings to date, the cumulative total number of harmonized standards to 1,428 for the period 2000 - to June 2017. In addition to this, negotiations of Mutual Recognition Agreements for Land Surveyors were concluded.

Amb Mfumukeko disclosed to the staff that in 2017, the Secretariat, in close collaboration with Partner States continued the fight against NTBs in the region. Partner States assented to the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Act 2017. The Act was gazetted and published. During the same year, a draft Export Promotion Strategy 2018-2023 was developed and is now ready for consideration by all stakeholders.

For 2018, the SG urged Partner States to finalise the regulations for successful implementation of the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Act 2017 and intensify monitoring of trade flows along EAC common borders.

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“The proposed 5th Development Strategy if implemented fully, will be a game changer in the region,” ~ Amb. Mfumukeko

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Energy and Infrastructure: The Secretary General said that the EAC adopted its Energy Security Policy Framework, making it the first regional economic community to adopt an Energy Security Policy Framework in Africa. This framework aims at providing regional guidance to Partner States in the management and mitigation of the challenges in energy security. The Partner States have acknowledged that energy is pivotal to the regional integration agenda and have therefore set ambitious development plans prioritizing the energy sector.



On Infrastructure, he said the EAC was able to secure funding amounting to US\$1.5 million from the AfDB for studies for the Masaka-Mutukula / Bugene-Kasulo road (Tanzania/ Uganda). This is in addition to the 2.2 Million USD which was secured for the ongoing studies of the Multinational road projects: Nyakanazi-Kasulu-Manyovu / Rumonge-Bujumbura road (Tanzania/Burundi), Lusahunga-Rusumo/Kayanza-Kigali road (Tanzania/Rwanda) expected to be completed by March 2018.

In addition to this, the Tripartite Transit Transport Programme amounting to 18 million Euros was launched during the 1st Tripartite Sectoral Ministerial Committee on Infrastructure (TSMCI) meeting held in October, 2017


Industrialization Sector: Amb Mfumukeko disclosed to the staff that 2017 EAC launched the EAC Industrial Competitiveness Report. The report was developed to provide direction as the EAC seek to attain the industrialization goals of the Community by expanding market opportunities for the industrial sector in the region and improving the competitiveness of the region, in line with the EAC Industrialization Policy and Strategy.

Gender Sector: EAC registered a key milestone with the enactment of The EAC Gender Equality, Equity and Development Bill, by the 3rd Assembly 2016 early last year. The Bill gives effect to the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights as it expressly prohibits all forms of exploitation, cruel, inhuman or degrading traditional practices

Agriculture Sector: The Secretary General disclosed that the EAC Regional Agriculture Investment Plan was validated. The Plan seeks to catalyze the realization of the EAC Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) goals in five investment thematic areas, namely: Increasing regional agricultural production and food supply; Enhancing food utilization; Promoting agribusiness, value addition and agro-industry; Promoting sustainable natural resource use and management, and; Strengthening capacities of EAC regional agricultural institutions.

Meanwhile, Amb Mfumukeko talked about the elapsing of the 4th EAC Development Strategy 2011-2016, adding that the preparation of the 5th EAC Development Strategy was at an advanced stage. “The proposed 5th development strategy if implemented fully, will be a game changer in the region. It will contribute to eradication of poverty, improved health care and enhance the education standards,” said Secretary General.

He thanked Development Partners for their continued support in 2017 and called for improvement in coordination of projects and communication of results for all projects funded by the Partnership Fund.

The 2018 New Year's message to staff was also attended by the EAC Deputies Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration hon. Jesca Eriyo, Planning and Infrastructure Eng. Steven Mlote, Productive and Social Sector, Hon Christophe Bazivamo and Political Federation, Mr. Charles Njoroge. The EAC Director General Customs and Trade, Mr. Kenneth Bagamuhunda was also in attendance 

All set for the Joint EAC Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development in Kampala, Uganda

The EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the EAC Partner States and International Development Partners are in the final preparations for the Joint EAC Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development scheduled for 21st -22nd February, 2018 at Speke Resort Munyonyo, in Kampala, Uganda.

The joint Heads of State Retreat themed "*Deepening and widening regional integration through Infrastructure and Health Sector Development in the EAC Partner States*" is aimed at accelerating the attainment of the objectives of the EAC Development Strategy, African Union Agenda 2063 and the Sustainable Development Goals in the infrastructure and health sectors in the EAC.

The Heads of State will address infrastructure and health development and financing in East Africa. The Retreat will be followed by the 19th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State to be held in Kampala on 23rd February, 2018.

The Retreat is expected to give impetus to infrastructure and health development by way of harnessing political support for regional flagship projects, funding commitments, and Public-Private Partnerships arrangements.

The retreat will be preceded by the separate infrastructure and health sector investors' and donors' round-tables on 21st February 2018. Also to be held prior to the Retreat will be Ministerial Session of the 36th Meeting of the Council of Ministers and the Ministerial Session of the 35th Extra-Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

The separate donor round tables will be held at ministerial level and will review progress of implementation of previously prioritized infrastructure projects and deliberate on investment opportunities and funds mobilization strategies for quicker delivery of prioritized regional infrastructure and health projects.

The Retreat Programme includes an International Infrastructure and Health Sector Exhibition that will run from 21st to 22nd February, 2018. The Exhibition will provide a platform for players in the Infrastructure and Health sectors to showcase new products and services as well as exhibit the latest advances in research and innovation.

Participants

The retreat is expected to have about 700 participants including local and international exhibitors. Ministers, Permanent/Principal Secretaries and Senior Officials from government institutions and agencies; high-level guests from the international community including AU, Heads of State from the Tripartite (COMESA, EAC and SADC), ECOWAS, IGAD and sub-regional organizations are expected to attend.

Also expected are multi-lateral and bi-lateral development partners, international financial institutions, corridor management agencies, local and international investors/private sector, Universities, and civil society and EAC Organs and Institutions.

Exhibition

Exhibitors will include Pharmaceutical and Medical Technologies Manufactures and Dealers; Health Insurance Providers; Regional Centres of Excellence for Healthcare; Network of Reference Laboratories; Traditional/alternative Medicine Producers, Infrastructure Contractors (Ports, Railways, Airlines, Oil and Gas); Investment Banks; Telecommunication Companies; Civil Society Organizations; among others.

The registration fees for participation in the international health and infrastructure exhibitions is categorized as follows:

- Platinum = US\$ 3,000 for 2 days
- Gold = US\$ 2,000 for 2 days
- Silver = US 1,000 for 2 days

The Deadline for registration as an Exhibitor is 12th February 2018.

For more information on participation, registration and exhibition fees requirements, please go through the retreat website: www.eacihr17.eac.int





21st - 22nd February 2018 | Kampala, Uganda

Joint EAC Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development

Incorporating Separate Infrastructure and Health Sector Investors and Donors Roundtable and International Exhibition

EAC

Deepening and Widening Regional Integration through Infrastructure and Health Sector Development in the EAC Partner States

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Kampala Hosts EALA Plenary



The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) has resumed business by holding its Plenary Session in Kampala, Uganda. The Plenary which started on January 22nd 2018, through to February 9, 2018, is the Second Meeting of the First Session of the Forth Assembly.

The Assembly which is to be presided by the Speaker, Rt. Hon Ngoga K. Martin, shall during the three-week period discuss the following legislative business:

Debate three key Bills; the EAC Oaths Bill, 2017, the EAC Statistics Bureau Bill, 2017 and the EAC Monetary Institute Bill, 2017.

Hold Plenary to establish and elect Members to the six Committees of the Assembly. They include the Committee on Accounts, the Committee on General Purpose and the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution. Others are the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges, the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment, and the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources.

The session shall also see the Legislators pose questions to the Council of Ministers, debate and adopt Motions and Resolutions.

The object of the EAC Monetary Institute Bill, 2017, is to provide for the establishment of the East African Monetary Institute (EAMI) as an institution of the Community responsible for preparatory work for the EAC Monetary Union. In accordance with Article 23 of the Protocol on the EAC Monetary Union, the Bill is

expected to provide for the functions, governance and funding for the Institute as well as other related matters.

Closely related to the EAMI Bill is the EAC Statistics Bureau Bill, 2017, which also seeks to establish the Statistics Bureau as an Institution of the Community under Article 9 of the Treaty and Article 21 of the Protocol on Establishment of the EAC Monetary Union. The Bill provides for the functions, powers, governance and its funding with a view to establishing an institution responsible for statistics in a bid to support the East African Monetary Union.

On its part, the East African Community Oaths Bill, 2017, anticipates to provide for the taking and administering of Oaths in relation to the specific persons appointed to serve in the Organs or Institutions of the Community or required to take oath before giving evidence at the East African Court of Justice.

The Bill moved by the Chair of the Council of Ministers, Rt Hon Ali Kirunda Kivejinja, avers that whereas there are specific persons who are required by the Treaty like in the case of the Judges and Registrars of the EACJ if in justice matters, or an Act of the Community like in the case of EALA Members, in all other cases, oaths of allegiance are administered and taken in accordance with staff rules and regulations or by practice. The Bill therefore hopes to cure the lacuna by providing for the administration of an oath as a statute.



EAC Secretariat Facilitates Burundi Parliamentarians' Benchmarking Visit to Tanzania Food and Drug Authority

The East African Community Secretariat facilitated a four-day benchmarking visit for Burundi Parliamentarians to the Tanzania Food and Drug Authority (TFDA) and Ministries responsible for Health, Agriculture, and Trade in the United Republic of Tanzania, as part of the support to Burundi government to enable it fast-track the enactment and implementation of the Burundi National Pharmaceuticals Regulation Law that is currently before the Parliament of Burundi.

The benchmarking visit, which begun on Wednesday 20th December 2017, was also part of the EAC Secretariat's efforts to enable the Government of Burundi to establish and fully operationalize the Autorite' Burundaise de Regulation des Medicaments et des Aliments (ABREMA) as public autonomous or semiautonomous body and legally designated to oversee effective regulation of food and medicinal products in the country in accordance to the regional and international best practices.

The 22-Member delegation, was led by Hon. Felix Niragira, MP and Burundi's President of Justice and Human Rights Commission, and consists of Members of the Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Environment and Community Development; Committee on Accounts, Finances, Economic Affairs and Planning; Committee on Justice and Human Rights; Committee on Social Affairs, Repatriation of Refugees, Equality and Fight against AIDS. Others included Technical Experts from the Ministries responsible for Health, Agriculture, Trade/Commerce and the Burundi National Bureau of Standards (BBN).

Addressing the delegation this morning Friday 22nd December, at the Ministry of Health offices in Dodoma, the Deputy Minister of Trade, Industry and Investment, Hon. Eng. Stella Manyanya commended the commitment of the Legislators in the benchmarking visit having driven a long distance from Dar es Salaam and reaching Dodoma past midnight.

She said the implementation of the EAC Council decision by Burundi on the establishment of National Authority responsible for food and drugs will lay an equal play ground for the EAC Partner States in monitoring regulations harmonization, an initiative that the Partner states had worked on for so long.

She said establishment of National Authorities helps to minimize non-tariff barriers (NTBs). "The commitment of the Republic of Burundi to implement the Council decision is a step forward to resolve some of the unnecessary NTBs in the region", affirmed the Hon. Eng. Stella Manyanya.

At the same occasion, Hon. Felix Niragira, MP and Burundi's President of Justice and Human Rights Commission, applauded the EAC Secretariat for organizing and facilitating the bench-




marking visit and said the visit was very fruitful; and will enable the Burundi Parliamentarians to make informed decision on enacting National Pharmaceuticals Regulation Law that is before Assembly. He said Tanzania was chosen for the benchmarking visit because of it (Tanzania) was a sister Partner State and TFDA was well established with long experience.

On Thursday 21st December, the delegation visited the Tanzania Food and Drug Authority Headquarters in Dar es Salaam, where the Ag. Director General, Dr. Danstan Hipolite shared with them the roles and responsibilities of TFDA, its Policies, Legal Framework and Governance Structure, as an Executive Government Agency under the Ministry responsible for Health mandated to control safety, quality and effectiveness food, medicines, cosmetics and medical devices including vitro diagnostics in Tanzania.

The Ag. Director General underscored the milestones of TFDA, that include, among others, being ISO 9001:2008 certified since June 2009 and ISO 9001:2015 (August 2017); putting in place key regulatory systems, processes and procedures; and setting up a WHO Prequalified medicines testing lab since Jan, 2011. TFDA's Food and Microbiology laboratories were accredited to ISO/IEC 17025:2005 since September 2012 and its HR capacity has increased from 52 in 2003 to the current 293 with seven (7) operational zone/branch offices and inspectors in 10 major ports of entry are some of the milestones.

TFDA's Legal Counsel, Iskari C. Fute took the Burundi delegation step by step on Tanzania Food, Drugs and Cosmetics Act, Cap 219 including the Preliminary and Administrative/General Provisions; Provisions regarding Food; Provisions regarding Drugs; Cosmetics; Packaging and Labeling; Promotion; Enforcement and Legal Proceedings; among others.

Earlier, members of the delegation visited Shellys Pharmaceutical Company and were received by the General Manager, Mr. Yajas Ulla, who briefed them on how the Company was operating under the Tanzania Law on Food and Drugs. 

Call for Strengthened Legislature as EALA ends Induction Programme



Eminent East Africans have stepped up calls for further strengthening of the regional Assembly and the integration process as the week-long induction programme of the new Members ended in Kampala.

The Speaker Emeritus (2nd Assembly) of EALA, Rt Hon Abdirahin Abdi challenged the 4th EALA to push for its autonomy if it is to effectively undertake its mandate. Rt Hon Abdi is categorical that administrative and financial autonomy will give the regional Assembly the much-needed impetus and space to drive the integration process.

In his paper entitled, *"Thoughts and Experiences, Lessons learnt and recommendations about the operations of EALA and the EAC in General"*, Rt Hon Abdi implored the legislators to take advantage of the provisions of the Treaty in the quest to re-energise the workings of EALA. "I urge you to generate your own work and to demand Council reports in line with Provisions of Article 49(2) (d) and 59 of the Treaty", he said.

The former Speaker also added that the decisions of the Assembly were determined by majority vote and thus EALA should not be bogged down by the principle of consensus.

The former Speaker who presided over EALA during the period June 2007-2012, told the legislators not only to prioritize key activities – but to allocate the resources in the same direction.

On his part, immediate former Speaker of the 3rd Assembly, Rt Hon Daniel F. Kidega called on new Members to spend time on research in order to effectively contribute to the debates in the house from a standpoint of information. He reiterated the need for Members to effectively utilize the Committees – which he said, make significant contribution to the work of the Assembly.

He maintained that as a regional legislature, it was necessary for Members to avoid taking country positions in the debates but rather to embrace the regional standpoint. "The idea of integrating EAC and the region must always be the bigger picture", Rt Hon Kidega said.

Rt Hon Kidega also urged the new legislators to embrace financial discipline and decorum in their work.

Addressing the House, former EAC Secretary General, Hon Amanywa Mushega said the original EAC took off on a sure footing – but various reasons hinged on different political ideologies led to its collapse. "The memories of the old Community however lingered on since there were real tangible benefits", he said, leading to efforts to revive it. Other factors such as globalization, the need for wider markets as well as the historical and political ties also played a key part in revival strategies, Hon Mushega stated.

The former Secretary General called for inculcation of confidence building measures as a stepping stone to real integration and said the Community is supposed to be people-centred and private sector driven. He however lamented that more needs to be done to spark a conducive environment for the private sector to thrive. Hon Mushega also said the dictates of good governance and adherence to universal principles of human rights should be adhered to.

On the question of whether the current EAC is on track, the former Secretary General retorted that: for the better part, the EAC had remained on track. However, the question of timing and speed was of the essence.



5th EAC Development Strategy : A Synopsis

The EAC Development Strategy, 2016/17 - 2020/21 is the fifth in the normal EAC series of development strategies to date, yet it also constitutes the first regional Development Strategy under the EAC Vision 2050 – in a series of seven Development Strategies to be undertaken along the road to the Vision 2050. The overall Goal of the Development Strategy is: “to build a firm foundation for transforming the East African Community into a stable, competitive and sustainable lower-middle income region by 2021”, while its overarching theme is: “accelerating a people-centred and market-driven integration”.

The 5th EAC Development Strategy also builds on the achievements registered under the 4th EAC Development Strategy, while also taking due cognizance of the challenges experienced and lessons learnt during Strategy implementation.

The 5th Development Strategy also takes into account the existing and emerging regional development issues and priorities, while also seeking to optimize regional growth opportunities, and also honouring EAC's development partnership obligations at the inter-regional, continental and global levels – including, inter alia, with regard to COMESA, SADC, AU Agenda 2063 and the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, mainly defined by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Strategic Development Direction for the EAC (2016/17 – 2020/21)

Besides being in line with the EAC Vision 2050 imperatives, this Development Strategy is also, inter alia, partly informed by the identified key regional development priorities. These priorities include:

1. Consolidation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) to cover all imports and intra-EAC traded goods, including agricultural and other widely consumed products;
2. Infrastructure development in the region;
3. Enhancing free movement of all Factors of Production and other areas of cooperation across the Partner States as envisaged under the Common Market and Monetary Union Protocols;
4. Enhancement of regional industrial development through investment in key priority sectors, skills development, technological advancement and innovation to stimulate economic development;
5. Improvement of agricultural productivity, value addition and facilitation of movement of agricultural goods to enhance food security in the region;
6. Promotion of regional peace, security and good governance; and institutional transformation at the regional and Partner State levels.

Accordingly, the Development Strategy also articulates eleven (11) Strategic Development Objectives (SDOs) to be attained over the 5-year Plan period. These include: (i) accelerating and consolidat-

ing sustainable production, productivity, value addition, trade and marketing in key regional growth and productive sectors – with emphasis on rural development, agriculture, fisheries, livestock, food and nutrition security, and high value industrialization; (ii) investing in enhancement of the stock and quality of multi-dimensional strategic infrastructure and related services, to support and accelerate sustainable regional integration and competitiveness; and (iii) strengthening the social dimensions of the regional integration process to deliver quality, effective and efficient socio-economic services – with emphasis on enhancing human capital development, gainful employment and decent work, health status, as well as overall welfare of the people of East Africa. The SDOs also include: (iv) strengthening mechanisms and strategies for ensuring enhanced investment in clean and sustainable energy production and access, as a driver and enabler of economic competitiveness and sustainable regional development; (v) increasing investment in Science, Technology and Innovation (STI), as key drivers and enablers of sustainable regional development and socio-economic transformation, as well as creating an enabling environment for their application; and (vi) enhancing regional mechanisms and strategies for ensuring sustainable natural resource utilization and conservation, environmental sustainability and climate change management. The same Strategic Development Objectives also include: (vii) attaining a fully functioning Customs Union; (viii) accelerating the full implementation of the Common Market Protocol, including protection of fair competition, and of the Monetary Union; and (ix) accelerating strategies and mechanisms for establishment of a Political Federation, with emphasis on ensuring sustained stability, political commitment, good governance and accountability. The SDOs to be attained further include: (x) developing and strengthening the capacity of all EAC Organs and Institutions to effectively execute their mandates; and (xi) enhancing knowledge management, information sharing, awareness creation and participation of the East African people in the integration process. These Strategic Development Objectives will be operationalized by appropriate sets of Strategic Interventions at Pillar, Sectoral, Sub-sectoral, Organ and Institution levels.

In order to achieve the above objectives, the EAC will pursue a number of development strategies including: prioritizing – at both the regional and Partner State levels – enhanced investment in infrastructure development, while also maintaining macro-economic stability in the region; accelerating implementation of EAC Industrialization Policy and Strategy; enhancing investment and undertaking the necessary reforms in the strategic area of human capital development, with emphasis on skills development; fast-tracking the implementation of EAC Common Market and Monetary Union Protocols; increasing efficiency of the public sector and competitiveness of the private sector in all Partner States; putting in place and strengthening the necessary policies – at the regional and Partner State levels, aimed at enhancing planned and controlled urbanization; enhancement of the institutions and legal frameworks for good governance in all the EAC Partner States; and ensuring appropriate mainstreaming of the key cross-cutting issues across all growth sectors.



Court Grants Interim Injunction Restraining Government of Uganda from collecting Excise Duty form BAT (U) Ltd

The First Instance Division of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), has granted an interim injunction to the British American Tobacco (BAT) (Uganda) Limited, restraining and prohibiting the Government of Uganda and the Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) from collect excise duty due to discriminatory rates, pending hearing and determination of the Reference.

The Court in its ruling further stated that it was aware that the interim injunction in this case would inhibit the URA's right to collect the additional duties billed to the Applicant, however, that the right must be weighed against the injustice of leaving the Applicant company to bear the brunt of a possibly misconstrued law that could indict it to the payment of exorbitant funds in excise duty pending the determination of the case.

The Applicant in his Application stated that, the Act is discriminatory in as far as it imposed a higher excise duty rate on goods imported into Uganda from Kenya and imposed a lower rate on goods manufactured in Uganda. BAT contended that goods from the East Africa Community be given equal treatment.

The Court also took the view that the justice of the matter dictates that the Respondent would suffer less injury from being temporarily prevented from exercising its right to collect the extra excise duty billed to the Applicant if the interim orders sought in the present Application were granted, than the injury the Applicant stands to suffer as the consequence of paying the additional duty.

BAT Uganda Limited (the Applicant), filed a case before the Court challenging the legality of the excise duty (Amendment) Act No. 11 of 2017 which was enacted in July 2017. The Applicant argues that the act contravenes the Treaty, the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols for the Establishment of the East African Community. The Applicant contends that the Act infringes Article 6(d), (e), 7(1) (c) 75(1), (4), (6) & 80(1) (f) of the Treaty, Articles 15 (1) & (2) of the Customs Union Protocol, as well as Articles 4,5, 6 & 32) of the Common Market Protocol.



In his Application, BAT submitted that in 2014, Uganda enacted the Excise Duty Act No. 11 of 2014, which among other things, made provision for an excise duty on cigarettes that uniformly applied to all such goods originating from any of the EAC Partner States. However in 2017, the said Act was amended to create a distinction between locally manufactured goods and imported goods.

Under the Amended Act, whereas the Applicant's goods were initially treated as locally manufactured goods, they were subsequently re-classified by URA to be goods from a foreign country on account of their originating from Kenya, and subjected to the applicable excise duty.

BAT hence filed the Reference challenging the legality of sections 2(a) and (b) of Uganda Excise Duty in question.

The Ruling was delivered by Hon. Lady Justice Monica Mugenyi (Principal Judge).

Mr. Peter Kauma, representing the Applicant, Ms. Margret Nabakooza, Mr. Richard Adrole representing the Respondent, the Attorney General of Uganda, were all present to receive the ruling of the Court.



MPs from the Parliament of Saxony in Germany Pay Courtesy Visit to the EAC




On 25 January 2018, seven Members of Parliament of the Committee on Constitution and Law of the Parliament of Saxony in Germany, under the leadership of its Chairman Mr Martin Modschiedler, paid a courtesy visit to the EAC Headquarters in Arusha.

The aim of this visit was to learn more about the East African Community and its people, covering issues of intercultural communication and legal compliance regarding to culture, economy, religion and the rule of law.

Mr Richard Owora, Head of the EAC Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at the EAC, introduced the Parliamentarians to the history of the EAC and its main areas of activity.

The group was impressed by the challenge ahead of the EAC Partner States to harmonize their processes and work together to achieve a legal and constitutional system that all Partner States are committed to.

The MPs observed that the EAC infrastructure projects are set to better facilitate the ease of business in the EAC, lead to economic growth and improve people's lives.

The MPs expressed their hope that the EAC will continue to work together with Germany and the European Union. 



EAC Secretariat in a Bid to Enhance Pandemic Preparedness in the Region



The One Health approach was put into practice, when experts from the East African Community; the World Health Organization; the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; the World Organization for Animal Health; the East, Central and Southern Africa Health Community; the East African Health Research Commission; KfW Development Bank and EPOS Health Management met for a three day planning workshop for the 'Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region' project at the EAC Headquarters.

The Pandemic Preparedness project seeks to strengthen the capacity of the EAC Secretariat in its effort to support the EAC Partner States in institutionalizing the One Health approach. The project also aims at assisting in the operationalization of the EAC Regional Pandemic Preparedness Plan as well as the development of a Regional Risk and Crisis Communication Strategy.

The EAC region is home to numerous biologic agents that occur naturally in the environment. These have caused outbreaks including the Ebola Virus disease, Bird Flu as well as Rift Valley, Marburg and Crimean Congo Fevers among others. In order to prevent diseases that can jeopardize public health, economic stability and the lives and livelihoods of the people in the EAC region, Partner States need to be prepared. Being prepared calls for the inclusion of state of the art epidemiologic surveillance, detection and diagnosis capabilities.

High levels of risk awareness among relevant stakeholders and continuous horizontal and vertical cooperation and information exchange between them and between the countries accompanied

by sound, culturally adapted risk and crisis communication are important to meet this objective.

About two thirds of the infectious diseases with epidemic potential are zoonoses: they can be transmitted between animals and humans. The international community has recognized that combating the sources of epidemics requires close cooperation among various disciplines. The One Health approach brings together medical doctors and veterinarians; climate, environmental and agricultural experts; as well as representatives from commerce and tourism in a cross-sectoral, integrative disease management approach.

The planning workshop focused on four main activities that will be implemented by the project in the coming months :

1. The development of a Regional Risk and Crisis Communication Strategy;
2. The development of a One Health curriculum on Pandemic Preparedness and planning;
3. Realization of a Joint Cross-Border Simulation Exercise; and
4. The undertaking of a subsequent field simulation exercise that will include multiple stakeholders from international organizations and from all EAC Partner States.



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