

INTEGRATION AGENDA
We are still keen on
joining EAC

IN FOCUS
Tracking compliance to the
Common Market Protocol

TRADE & INVESTMENT
What Will Influence EAC
Trade in 2014

MEDIA AWARDS
Aby Agina: Crowned East
Africa's Finest



THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE. ONE DESTINY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EAC

ISSUE 22

MAY 2014



COMMON MARKET PROTOCOL Tracking EAC Compliance

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Clock Tower, Arusha @iLoveArt Photography

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FROM THE SG

2014: Exciting times for our region



The beginning of a new year is a time for celebration, for reflection, and for renewal of vows. I thank you all for your invaluable contribution to East African Integration during the year 2013. When I joined the EAC team in 2011, I outlined five priorities among the many other priorities for the next five years. I thank you all for working hard to achieve all of them.

We have brought to fruition the Single Customs Territory. I look forward to its implementation this year. We have seen significant and sustained removal of non tariff barriers to trade - and the results thereof are beginning to be felt by East Africans.

Implementation of the free movement of persons and labor provisions of the Common Market Protocol has received a major boost by the agreement on the use of Identity Cards as travel documents within East Africa for Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda. This will also be the year we finalize all preparations and procure the Next Generation Internationalized East African e-Passport which will be issued in 2015. These are exciting times.

Progress has been recorded on Mutual Recognition of Qualifications in East Africa and preparations for turning our region into a Single Higher Education Area by 2015 gained momentum. The year 2013 also saw deepening of financial integration. Our Central Banks started implementation of an East African Payments System, allowing East Africans to use their local currencies for transactions within the region.

2013 also saw East Africa reach a critical integration milestone with the conclusion and signing by the Heads of State of a Monetary Union Protocol. I wish to congratulate our Partner States for this historic landmark. We shall now redouble our efforts to make sure the provisions of the Protocol are implemented on time. The clock is ticking on our journey towards a Single Currency for East Africa.

Our Infrastructure program saw accelerated implementation in 2013. Investments in Rail, Energy and Ports and Harbors increased. Construction of the Standard Gauge railway started, the Ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam received increased attention, Financing for critical energy projects was secured and construction on a number of them started. Our One Stop Border Post construction Program is in high gear and a number of them will be inaugurated in 2014.

And finally the involvement of the people of East Africa in the integration agenda gained momentum. Media Owners and Practitioners committed to promoting Integration during the Media Summit, which they themselves organised and owned for the first time. The Secretary General' Forum with Civil Society, Private Sector, and other Interest Groups is proving to be an important engine for involvement of ordinary East Africans

in the integration process. Separate meetings with the Private Sector, focusing mainly on the Manufacturing Sector, are providing useful ideas for growing this critical sector.

Children through their Summit have been brought on board. The Youth are being mobilised, including through the Youth Ambassadors program. Local Government Authorities, farmers associations, and professional associations are increasingly becoming actors and allies in the journey to integration. Legislators, both within the EALA and the National Parliaments are mobilised and are beginning to be engines of mobilisation.

The East African Court of Justice has brought justice closer to the people through the opening of Sub Registries in all the Partner States. We should redouble our efforts in this area in 2014, reaching out to University Students, the Faith based Community, Women groups and the Diaspora.

The past year has shown us that our Community can achieve much, but that it is also fragile. We have seen East Africans suffer the indignities of being "illegal immigrants" in East Africa, and the challenges of differentiated implementation of decisions in our region.

I look forward to negotiations with the Republic of South Sudan on the terms of accession into the Community. The year 2013 ended with insecurity, and instability in South Sudan. We urge the Government of South Sudan and its opponents to firmly commit to the IGAD led process and return the Country to Peace and Stability.

During 2014, the Community will start the verification process for the accession of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the Community. I take this opportunity to wish the Government and People of Somalia Peace, Stability, and Prosperity.

East African Integration is pivotal for a resurgent, dynamic, prosperous, confident Africa. We all can be proud to be part of this historic Mission. Africa cannot and should not continue to simply agonize. It needs to organise, and in many ways, East Africa can be the beacon for this organisation. Let us all vow and determine to make it happen! 🇰🇪

A Happy and Prosperous 2014 to you all.

Aluta Continua

Dr Richard Sezibera
Ambassador
Secretary General



Global Community assured EAC is a safe and secure destination

Ministers responsible for tourism from the EAC Partner States and EAC Secretariat hosted an EAC Joint Event to promote the region as a Single Tourism Destination at the *Internationale Tourismus-Börse* (ITB) - a travel industry trade show in Berlin, Germany in March 2014.

In her statement, the Minister of State for Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage of the Republic of Uganda, Hon. Agnes Akiror Engunyu, reassured the world that despite several challenges, the region has agreed to tackle negative travel advisories targeting the region collectively.

She emphasized that Ministers responsible for Tourism in the Partner States have taken a new dimension of adopting a proactive approach to pre-empt the issuing of such negative travel advisories as well as addressing any negative travel advisory jointly as a Community.

While the EAC benefits significantly from the travel and tourism industry as a result of the resources it is endowed with, the industry does not stand alone. It is supported by other key sectors such as infrastructure, agriculture as well as capacity building in the sector.

In a bid to facilitate smoother travel within the region, the EAC is making strides in improving the intra-regional road network. The region is also working towards upgrading its water, rail and air sectors by reviewing regulations and policies at the regional level that will further boost travel.

In addition, the EAC seeks to strike the delicate balance between developing creative “products” that will continuously attract visitors to the region and sustaining natural resources. Measures are being taken to ensure the conservation and sustainable utilization of wildlife and other tourist sites, such as was working with Development Partners and Stakeholders to address the issue of poaching. 🇰🇪



CASSOA supports Partner States to successful ICAO Audits

As part of the process to monitor Contracting States' compliance with International Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPS), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) periodically conducts Audits around the globe.

This exercise is vital for the continued development and promotion of Air Transport as a preferred mode of travel in the Region. In the recent past the EAC's Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) has provided active support, guidance and advice in preparation and development of Corrective Action Plans (CAPs) of the Audits for the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and United Republic of Tanzania.

The ICAO Coordinated Validation Missions (ICVM) and Comprehensive System Approach (CSA) Audits were performed in Rwanda in 2012 and in Kenya, Tanzania and Burundi between May and November 2013. The Republic of Uganda is scheduled to undergo an ICVM Audit in June 2014.

The EAC Partner States were successful in the Audits albeit for numerous findings that need attention to address the lack of effective implementation. Most importantly, none of the States attracted a Significant Safety Concern (SSC) - a situation with the potential to seriously deter confidence in the industry, resulting into severe consequences to the aviation industry in the region.

In the mean time, the CASSOA Board of Directors has approved the revised Model EAC Air Navigation and Aerodrome Regulations and developed Manual of Standards for Units of Measurement for transmission to the Partner States for circulation and use by the national Civil Aviation Authorities and the aviation industry. Various Model EAC technical guidance materials were also approved for transmission and use in the region. 🇰🇪



EAC launches Payment & Settlement Systems Integration Project

The East African Community Secretariat in partnership with the African Development Bank (AfDB) launched an EAC Payment and Settlement Systems Integration Project (PSSIP) developed to boost the modernization, harmonization and regional integration of payment and settlement systems in the region.

Financial sector integration is the anchor that will make the EAC region a more viable destination for both foreign and domestic investment by bolstering the liquidity of the region's capital markets and creating financing avenues for investors and issuers.

The USD 23 million EAC-PSSIP project aims at enhancing convergence and regional integration of payment and settlement systems; strengthening a harmonized legislative and regulatory financial sector; and, building capacities in the Partner States.

The EAC in collaboration with various Development Partners is working towards the establishment of a single market in financial services at regional level among the EAC Partner States to support the broadening and deepening of the financial sector development of financial markets infrastructure.

There is thus need for stronger cooperation among the Partner States in several areas including financial inclusion, a robust legal and regulatory framework, adherence to international principles as well as the development of financial markets infrastructure.

The EAC-PSSIP launch is yet another important milestone in the implementation of Article 15 of the East African Monetary Union Protocol - Payment and Settlement Systems. It is a requirement for the development and implementation of secure, efficient, reliable and integrated payment and settlement system to ensure efficient flow of financial transactions within the Monetary Union. 🇰🇪



EADB named among top African Banks

Regional financier, East African Development Bank (EADB), has been named among the top development banks in Africa by the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI). The Bank clinched the second position, while African Export and Import Bank of Egypt took the number one slot. Nineteen (19) development banks from Africa participated in the review, which seeks to improve the effectiveness of development banks in delivering services to their customers and benchmarking their standards with similar institutions outside Africa.

The review focused on governance and management, financial prudential and operational standards. Specific parameters included management independence, commercial principles, accounting and auditing as well as management information systems and procedures. Others were corporate citizen governance standards, capital adequacy, profitability, asset quality, risk management and lending policies.

Commenting on the ranking, EADB Director General, Vivienne Yeda, said the top ranking was a result of the reforms the bank has undertaken to enhance its efficiency and strengthen its creditworthiness, such as heavy investment in risk management and management information systems.

“Our strengthened internal control framework and recognition by leading credit rating agencies will enhance our capacity to mobilise resources for the region and expand our business portfolio,” said Ms. Yeda.

This ranking confirms EADB's position as the apex financial institution of the East African Community.

The Bank has in recent years focused on financing projects implemented by private sector enterprises in sectors such as agriculture, agro-processing, manufacturing, construction, tourism and transport, as well as education and healthcare services in Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Rwanda. 🇰🇪

Renewable energy for a sustainable world

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

Tanzania has lost approximately 15% of its forest cover and more than 37% of its forest and woodland habitat. Seventy per cent of this deforestation is attributable to fuel wood production, while 90% of Tanzanian households continue to use charcoal as fuel. Quite simply, the production of wood charcoal is unsustainable. It causes severe damage to the environment and negatively affects the lives and health of many Tanzanians.

Violet Ayoub, who leads a nonprofit youth organization called Vision for Youth in Arusha, Tanzania (reg. 2002) is now introducing a social enterprise by Vision for Youth called; Bright Energy Africa (BEA).

“We recognized the need for a green energy alternative to traditional charcoal and firewood in local households and through BEA, we hope to bring clean energy products and services along with employment opportunities to an underprivileged population in our Arusha community, especially the youth,” Violet says.

She and her team have been producing hand-made briquettes, the main raw material, out of a small room in her house, using a home-made brick kiln and the sun as a drying agent. “So far, we have been able to produce 20kg per day of briquettes and supply over 50 households according to their fuel needs, but it is time to step out of this little room and become a powerhouse for Africa, and we would like East Africans to take that big, bold step with us!” she adds.

A briquette is a block of flammable matter used as fuel to start and maintain a fire. Briquettes are

used in fireplaces, stoves, ultimately anywhere you need fire. BEA's biomass briquettes are made from agricultural waste bought from local farmers such as plant leaves, sugarcane bagasse (after juice extraction), maize straw, saw dust and coconut shells.

Briquettes serve as a more sustainable energy alternative to wood and traditional charcoal, as they do not require the cutting down of trees. They burn longer and are smokeless, compared to current wood and charcoal fuel that create poor air quality for women and children in households, and release greenhouse gas emissions. 750 acres of forest per day can be salvaged with an alternative to firewood!

Employment, Youth & Female Empowerment: BEA, Vision 4 Youth hopes to create 70 jobs in total: 20 jobs for local farmers – from whom BEA will purchase agricultural waste - and 50 jobs for women and youth - as sales agents of BEA's biomass briquettes.

Violet has worked for years bringing opportunities to young people in her community through Vision for Youth and in her former role as Youth Secretary of her Parish. “With limited employment opportunities, we have trained over 70 unemployed youths with entrepreneurial skills through Vision 4 Youth.”

Through the support of East Africans, BEA can expand its production area and purchase production materials to start large scale production of clean biomass briquettes and create employment for thousands of individuals in the region. 🇰🇪



Briquette:
A block of flammable matter used as fuel to start and maintain a fire.



Sustainability:
750 acres of forest per day can be salvaged with an alternative to firewood.



Efficiency:

biomass briquettes are 40% more efficient, as well as hotter and longer lasting than firewood.



Upgrading links to the Northern Corridor

FLORIAN MUTABAZI

Tanzania and Kenya have mobilized resources to upgrade the Arusha-Holili/Taveta-Voi road which links the Northern Corridor to Kenya's Central Corridor. The road project is jointly financed by the Governments of Kenya and Tanzania contributing USD 15.6 million and USD 12.3 million, respectively.

The massive road project is expected to commence in June, this year and due for completion by June, 2018.

The African Development Bank (AfDB) has augmented funds for the project by approving two loans totalling USD 232.5 million for the 166 kilometre project, with Kenya receiving USD 113 million of the two loans approved by the AfDB while Tanzania will receive USD 120 million. The Bank facility constitutes 89.1 percent of the total project cost.

The project will comprise civil works for the new construction of the Arusha bypass, a 42.4 km stretch, and upgrading to dual carriageway standard of the Sakina-Tengeru section -14.1 km. the project will also include the construction of two roadside amenities at Tengeru, one on either side of the dual carriageway, on Tanzania side.

Also included in the project is upgrading from gravel to bitumen of the 89 km Taveta-Mwatate stretch; construction of the Taveta bypass - 12 km and two roadside amenities, at Bura and Maktau along the Mwatate-Taveta Road in Kenya.

The project road links the Northern Corridor to Kenya's Central Corridor across the common border of Tanzania and Kenya (Holili/Taveta) through Arusha, Minjingu and Babati to Singida.

The corridor at completion will link the port of Mombasa to northern and northwestern Tanzania and the landlocked

countries of Rwanda, Burundi, DRC and Uganda, providing an alternative route to the sea. This route will result in a reduction of the travel distance to Rwanda and Burundi by about 300 km and reduce the number of border crossings.

The completion of the road is expected to have a common carriageway width of 7.0m in both countries in conformity with the agreed EAC standards, which are also African Union (AU) and International standards for transit corridor roads.

Commenting on Arusha-Holili/Taveta-Voi Road project, EAC Principal Civil Engineer Mr Hosea Nyangweso said the 50-km stretch of the road that passes through the Tsavo West National Park in Kenya will however, have a speed restriction of 70 kph to comply with wildlife conservation standards in order to prevent vehicular – wildlife conflicts (accidents).

He noted that the project will enhance the transport services between Northern Tanzania and the Port of Mombasa, which is 300 km shorter than from the Port of Dar es Salaam. It is also expected to boost trade between the two countries and help to unlock the agricultural potential along the corridor. Currently it takes six hours between Arusha and Mombasa but upon completion of the project, this travel time will be reduced to just four hours.

The project feasibility studies and detailed designs were carried out by the EAC Secretariat from a Grant provided by the AfDB. The construction phase will be managed by the Kenya National Highways Authority (KeNHA) and the Tanzanian National Roads Agency (TANROADS), who are in the process of procuring contractors and supervision consultants through competitive bidding. 🇰🇪

Florian is a Media Centre Coordinator at the EAC Secretariat



Tracking EAC Compliance in the movement of capital, services and goods

Photo © Rudy Gharib, USAID

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

The rationale for the East African Community Common Market is compelling- it has the potential to build economies of scale, accelerate competitiveness, and bring the region closer to achieving its dream of a single investment destination. The Common Market can expand opportunities for the private sector and uplift the living standards of its citizens in a way that no Partner State can do on its own.

Full implementation of the Common Market is a challenging task. It calls for strong implementation by all parties, particularly the Partner States, so as to deliver the rights and freedoms enshrined in the EAC Common Market Protocol. This requires a robust implementation cycle: including planning, implementation and monitoring of progress.

The EAC Common Market Scorecard 2014, launched in February 2014, assesses progress toward the development of a common market in capital, services, and goods across the EAC Partner States -Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.

The EAC Common Market Protocol is one of the more ambitious regional integration agreements globally. The Protocol covers several commitments. To enable free movement of capital, 20 operations related to securities, direct investments, credit operations, and personal capital operations are required to be free of restrictions. For free movement of services, the Partner States have concluded negotiations to liberalize 7 of 12 sectors currently covered

“ Full implementation of the Common Market is a challenging task. It calls for strong implementation by all parties, particularly the Partner States, so as to deliver the rights and freedoms enshrined in the EAC Common Market Protocol. This requires a robust implementation cycle: including planning, implementation and monitoring of progress. ”

by WTO's General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS). They have also committed not to introduce new restrictions, and to eliminate existing ones. For goods, all Partner States are required to remove internal tariffs, implement a common external tariff, and remove non-tariff barriers to trade, among other commitments. If fully implemented, these measures will have a profound and positive impact on the economies of the Partner States.

Laws and regulations of the EAC Partner States however still present barriers to increased cross-border trade and foreign direct investment into the region. Legal and regulatory measures inconsistent to regional commitments to establish a common market impede regional integration. For capital, neither securities nor direct investment operations-except repatriation of proceeds from sale of assets-are free of legal restrictions across the bloc. For services, 67% of identified measures negatively affect foreign direct investment. Barriers to the movement of goods also affect investment: many investors start as traders, then gain confidence in a country's markets and move production there. But without such confidence, such investment will not happen.

Progress to eliminate restrictions has been slow, and some Partner States have introduced new measures despite their obligations under the EAC Common Market Protocol. Since the Protocol came into force in 2010, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda have introduced at least 10 restrictions on the movement of capital. In services, several new restrictions have been introduced or carried over from older laws since the Protocol was signed. And in goods, where obligations started earlier at the enactment of the Customs Union Protocol, 51 non-tariff barriers (NTBs) arising from regulatory measures by governments were identified between 2008 and June 2013.

Identified restrictions affect more than just market entry. Many of the restrictions on the free movement of capital, services, and goods inhibit or make entry into the market unduly expensive. But several forms of discrimination persist even after entering the market-such as different fees for transactions and government services, ceilings on the value of transactions, limits on the type and length of projects for service providers, and higher taxes for foreign firms. Some barriers, such as restrictions on personal capital transactions and on the transfer of shares in firms, affect even firms seeking to exit a particular economy.

A lenient attitude toward exemptions is slowing the development of the common market. Exemptions are legal mechanisms among Partner States to exclude individual Partner States from specific obligations to the common market. But when not closely regulated, exemptions can undermine the achievement of a common market. For example:



Apart from their membership in the EAC, all Partner States are also members of other regional integration schemes, making it very difficult to construct a common market enabling a free circulation of goods within the region.



All Partner States except Burundi restrict the free movement of capital for prudential reasons without notification



Some Partner States have not committed to fully liberalize their services trade.

The services sectors are important for EAC's growing economy. As the region's markets expand, so does the share of services in the economy. Services are also a strong avenue for export growth. A dynamic service economy can make significant contributions towards the achievement of EAC's development objectives of economic diversification, investment, employment generation, poverty reduction and an overall improvement of social welfare.

When goods circulate freely, manufacturers can access this larger market competitively and consumers get better choices and better products.



WHY MONITOR COMPLIANCE TO THE PROTOCOL?

The purpose of monitoring the implementation of regional integration arrangements is to ensure that the member countries comply with the assumed obligations. It touches on various policy areas, and can take place at different stages of integration and with various degrees of institutionalization.

In addition to being an element of 'good practice' in policy-making in general, in the context of regional integration, the need for monitoring is particularly relevant. It has been observed by many that although regional integration has a potential in the development of regional trade and in the promotion of economic growth, its actual contribution to growth and trade is not necessarily easy to demonstrate. This is often because of implementation problems, commonly related to domestic political factors, technical capacities in the government agencies, the multiplication of parallel and overlapping trade negotiation scenarios, and diverse and sometimes conflicting interests of various stakeholders.

Such exemptions, though legal, impede the implementation of the EAC common market. Similarly, the Partner States should make more ambitious commitments to liberalize the movement of services. In all instances, there should be participation by parties affected by such exemptions, including the private sector.



THE EAC COMMON MARKET SCORECARD

The rationale for creating the EAC Common Market is compelling- it would combine the region's economies, create new opportunities for the private sector and increase competitiveness. However, a common market requires that people, goods, services and capital move freely.

The EAC Common Market Scorecard measures the degree of Partner States' legal compliance with their obligations to liberalize the cross-border movement of capital, services and goods.

Strong and integrated financial markets in the region help mobilize domestic capital, raise the amount and productivity of investment, bolster competition in the financial sector, facilitate information flows, and improve corporate governance. They can also help make EAC a more attractive destination for both foreign and domestic investment by shoring up the liquidity of the region's capital markets and creating financing avenues for investors and issuers.

Monitoring helps address some of these constraints and thus contributes to good regional governance practices, such as openness, transparency, participation, accountability, effectiveness, and appropriateness.



WHAT THE SCORECARD MEASURES

The scorecard tracks de jure compliance with commitments by the EAC Partner States to enable a free cross-border movement of capital, services and goods. It provides an assessment of de jure compliance rather than de facto implementation of the integration commitments. The analysis is based on a review of 683 laws and regulations relevant to the common market (124 in capital, 545 in services and 14 in goods), along with key legal notices, reports and trade statistics.

The following are the main regional integration commitments that are the focus of the scorecard:



Freedom of Movement of Capital

Article 24 of the EAC Common Market Protocol requires the Partner States to eliminate restrictions on the free movement of capital - that includes restrictions based on nationality, place of residence, current payments, and where capital is invested. Annex VI of the protocol identifies 20 operations that should be free from legal and regulatory encumbrances. These operations cover securities, credit, direct investment and personal capital transactions. The scorecard reviews the laws and regulations concerning movement of capital in the five EAC Partner States determining how they comply with these key obligations.



Freedom of Movement of Services

Article 16 of the protocol guarantees the free movement of services supplied by nationals of EAC Partner States within the community. That includes supply of services from the territory of a Partner State to consumers in another Partner State, supply of services to consumers who have travelled abroad, foreign direct investment from one Partner State into another one, and temporary movement of professionals to supply services in another Partner State. Annex V of the protocol details the sectors covered by this agreement. The scorecard covers professional services (legal, accounting, architectural, and engineering), road transport, distribution (retail and wholesale), and telecommunication services.



Freedom of Movement of Goods

Under Article 5(2)(a) of the protocol, Partner States committed to eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade, establishing a common external tariff, and harmonizing and mutually recognizing certain trade standards. The Partner States are required to take all steps to achieve these obligations through national and regional laws and regulations. In addition, EAC customs laws bar Partner States from introducing measures inconsistent with these obligations. The scorecard examines legal obligations arising from the four commitments above, and entails a review of laws, regulations, legal notices and trade statistics relevant to the movement of goods in the EAC. 🇰🇪

This article is an abridged version of the Executive Summary of the East African Common Market Scorecard 2014, a co-publication of The World Bank, International Finance Corporation and the EAC Secretariat. The Full length report can be accessed at: <https://www.wbginvestmentclimate.org/publications/eac-market-scorecard-2014.cfm>



EAC STAFF VITAL TO COMMUNITY'S SUCCESS – KENYATTA

President Uhuru Kenyatta's visit to the East African Community Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania in March to meet the staff was a special occasion.

In his address, the president reminded the staff of the huge responsibility they shoulder.

"You are the heart of the Community and thus the engine that helps achieve the goals of the EAC", Kenyatta said. He added there was need to revamp EAC institutions and organs to respond to current challenges and help speed up the integration process.

The Secretary General, Amb Dr Richard Sezibera told President Kenyatta that one of the burning issues facing EAC staff is the mode of contracts especially for those in the professional category.

He said the staff are on fixed two term contracts, each with a 5 year tenure, whereby there is no vertical or horizontal mobility, no pension scheme, and this does not allow for the development of an independent Civil Service for East Africa.

He said during 2016/2017, Financial Year over 57 staff will exit at the same time unless these policies are changed.

Other issues raised during the interactive session included the need for alternative funding of the EAC budget, which is currently mostly donor dependent;

The President carefully listened all issues raised by EAC staff and reiterated that his visit to the headquarters was an indication of his commitment to the integration process. He pledged to take up all the issues raised to the summit level to ensure fairness noting that the future of personnel serving at the secretariat need to be guaranteed

President Kenyatta noted the importance of Partner States complementing rather than competing with each other and helping one another overcome their weaknesses to achieve the agenda of integration, adding that "we compete with other parts of the world. We need to draw from each other's strength so as to compete globally".





Regional peace, prerequisite to economic development

JOSEPH MU YA MANI

Depending on its context, there are several ways of defining “conflict”. Loosely, Conflict pertains to the opposing ideas and actions of different entities, thus resulting in an antagonistic state.

Conflict is inherent as long as society exists; it is a symbiotic form of relationships. But before delving deep into the subject, it is imperative to understand the basics of peace and conflict. Each of us possesses our own opinions, ideas and sets of beliefs. This diversity, is the basis of any conflict.

Considering conflict is a broad subject, I will touch on it as allowed for in the precincts of integration. Most important however; is how we are able to handle it. As a community of “One People, One Destiny” we should never for any minute let off our guards and perceive our diversity as walls, our diverse and rich cultures should be bridges and bonds that bind us together always!

To this effect, I feel it is apt to commend the EAC as a whole and the most pertinent departments that have always promoted peace programs such as peace education fora, seminars, training, and sensitization among others. Such programs are indispensable in promoting peace and peaceful coexistence, especially among a people of diverse cultures and ways of life.

The European Union, a community synonymous to the EAC

captures the importance of peace in the first paragraph of the preamble of its founding charter, the United Nations likewise laments of the untold grief and sorrow that violent conflict can cause humankind, and closer home, with the African Union it’s no different.

Early warning conflict mechanisms, a strong political will to maintain peace for the greater good, cooperation and a credible justice system are some of the key concepts that the EAC has adopted to ensure that violent conflict is put under check.

The Mwalimu Julius Nyerere Centre for Peace Research is a brilliant initiative that brings together East Africans from the different countries for training on a deeper understanding of peace and conflict so that they are better equipped to address and resolve outstanding differences before they escalate to volatile levels.

As we continue to reap the benefits of our conscious and collective efforts as a peaceful and integrated community, I must add, we live in the most exciting times, especially the youth, and we should not relent, WE ARE ONE PEOPLE... and **“If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other”**, Mother Teresa. 🇰🇪

Joseph is the Founder and Executive Board Chairperson of Tuwakuze Africa



The transformative power of youth in peace building

MILLY MINAYO MBEDI

One writer rightfully said, “Although we cannot solve the conflicts of the world, prevent the wars of tomorrow, and ensure progress for perpetuity, this is no excuse for inaction. Today, the silent majority of the world consists of young people, and they remain silent because of the weight of apathy and ignorance.”

The enduring image we have of youth in conflicts is a damaging one. The conflict youth is a helpless victim, unemployed, hopeless, a criminal and at times a child-soldier, inherently violent and easily manipulated, becoming perpetrators for survival.

By contrast, the potential of youth as positive agents of change and key actors in peace and development is barely recognized and rarely cultivated, even though youth around the world have demonstrated their ability to act as peace builders as well as key social and economic actors. Whatever the case might be, it is undeniable that socio-economic integration can succeed only if peace, stability and security are established throughout the region

The East African Community has made commendable progress by adopting various strategies that promote youth inclusion in the integration agenda, and even further in conflict prevention at the regional level.

Youth participation must be seen not only as an outcome, but also as a process for developing effective policy and programs that reduce youth exclusion and disengagement. It is only through deep meaningful engagements with the youth that concerted efforts can be made to move away from a homogenous narrative based on threat and fear, to igniting and harnessing the transformative power that the East African youth hold.

In conflict, we must learn from Herber Clark, America’s 31st President who said, “Older men declare war, but it is the young men who must fight and die.” 🇰🇪

Milly is a member of the East Africa Youth Ambassadors Platform and a Former EAC Youth Ambassador to Kenya



Media Summit 2013: enhancing media knowledge and participation

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

Media knowledge and participation in the region is crucial, as was articulated by the Minister of EAC Affairs of the Republic of Uganda Hon. Shem Bageine, during the 6th East African Media Summit in November 2013, in Kampala, Uganda. Themed: Taking EAC Agenda to the People: Enhancing Media Knowledge and Participation, the Summit brought together at least 200 participants including, media owners, regulators, chief executive officers of media houses, publishers, editors and journalists from across the region.

The organization of the 6th EAC Media Summit was re-structured, allowing the region's Media Fraternity to take full charge and ownership of the event. The EAC and EABC Secretariats shall continue to provide technical support, working closely with the Media fraternity up until they are able to fully fund and organize the event. The restructuring aims at amplifying the prestigious and respected EAC Media Summits and Awards in the calendars of journalists in the EAC Partner States.

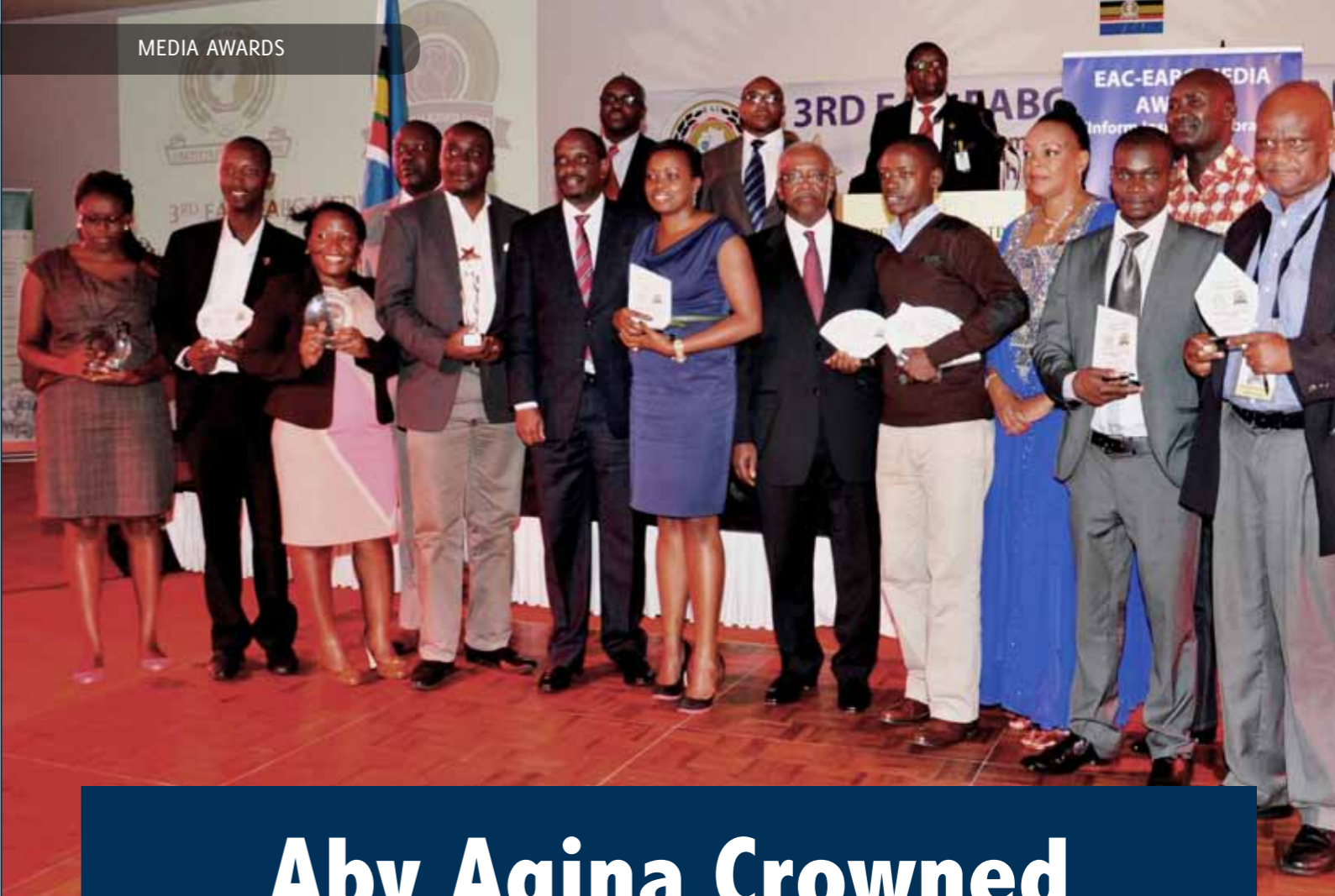
The 2013 Summit among others, discussed the establishment of a regional Media Advocacy and Regulatory body to spearhead the development of policies to guide the establishment of the East African Media Council – an entity to safeguard media freedom. The East African Media Council, as an apex body to the EAC, shall coordinate the harmonization of media laws and regulations - one of the key Resolutions of the 5th EAC Media Summit in 2012.

In Kampala, the imperative role media plays in articulating the EAC integration process was acknowledged, however, it was also

identified that media is yet to fully articulate the opportunities, challenges, fears and concerns of the EAC citizenry. Whereas citizens do not fully comprehend the EAC story, the media is faced with innumerable challenges in telling this story. The Summit admitted that there still exist stringent laws and policies in the region that hinder media practice and development, calling for the need to create partnerships. These partnerships should enable the media adequate access to information, aiding their reporting to go beyond daily events, to stories that foster and continuously promote regional integration and thus shaping a positive public opinion towards integration.

The media carries a prominent role in the process of socio-economic transformation of the region. It is also tasked with eliciting the participation of the people of East Africa in the integration process. Popular involvement and participation can only be realized by ensuring that the public is aware of the aims and objectives as well as the ongoing and planned projects and programmes of the East African Community.

It is therefore important for the media to engage stakeholders and rally support from citizens in the region and invent captivating ways of promoting the achievements that the region has accomplished. The EAC appreciates the media houses that are already giving airtime or editorial space to EAC regional integration issues and challenges the private and government media houses to offer more airtime and editorial space. 🇰🇪



Aby Agina Crowned East Africa's Finest

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

On a night of 28th November 2013, seven Journalists from the region were crowned for their effort in reporting on various aspects of the EAC integration, that the third edition of the East African Media Awards. In the event co-organized by the EAC and EABC, NTV's Aby Agina emerged the best journalist covering the EAC, taking home the Secretary General's Award, US\$2000, a Samsung Galaxy Tab 3, a plaque and a certificate. Presenting his package to him were the Guest of Honor, Ugandan Prime Minister Rt. Hon Amama Mbabazi and the EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera.

Each winner in the seven category competition received a US\$1000 cash prize, a plaque and a certificate. For their effort in telling the EAC story, runners up in each category garnered a cash prize of \$500.

The evening's other winners included Christabel Ligami for her notable business and financial reporting, taking home the EABC Chairman's Award, as well as the Health Reporting Award.

Eric Kabeera clinched the best entry in the Green Award – best coverage of environmental issues. Not stopping there, Kabeera also took home the Political Federation reporting award.

The Education Category award was handed to Zephania Ubwani, while Joshua Masinde of Daily Nation Kenya secured the Agriculture and Food Security Reporting Award.

Dicta Asiimwe and Isaac Mwangi clinched the first and second runners up in the Political Federation category respectively.

Mr. Bruno Birakwate a photographer from Rwanda won the EAC-GIZ Photographer's Inspiration Award, walking away with US\$500.

All the finalists were nominated by an independent Panel of Judges in October 2013, making the cut in a competitive process that had originally attracted 92 entries for seven Award categories. 🇰🇪



GONE DIGITAL: EAC Heads of State launch the East African Court of Justice (EAC) Case Management System.

(L-R): EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera; Second Vice President Hon. Seif Ali Iddi of Zanzibar; Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Dr. Pierre Habumuremyi of the Republic of Rwanda; President Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya; President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda, First Vice President Prosper Bazombanza of the Republic of Burundi and Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers Hon. Phyllis Kandie.



IT IS SINGED: President of Kenya and Chairperson of the EAC Summit, HE Uhuru Kenyatta signs the EAC Guset book during his visit to the EAC Headquarters, looking on are Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Cabinet Secretary for East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism in Kenya; Hon. Phyllis Kandie and EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera.



TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG: President of the United Republic of Tanzania, HE Jakaya Kikwete shares a moment with EAC Deputy Secretaries General, Mr. Charles Njoroge (l) and Mr. Jean Claude Nsengyumva (r).



A STYLISH DEPARTURE: President Uhuru Kenyatta enjoys a moment with Traditional Dancers during his visit to the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, March 2014.



Welcome!

The Akilah Institute for Women is a college that offers a unique model of market-relevant education empowering graduates for success in careers and leadership roles. [mission]

In 2010, Dave Hughes and Elizabeth Dearborn-Hughes founded the Akilah Institute for Women in Kigali, Rwanda. The institute prepares young women, particularly those from vulnerable backgrounds, for leadership roles within the fastest growing sectors of the economy. Two years ago, Akilah set its sights on an ambitious goal: to scale the success of our academic model and open a second campus in Bujumbura, Burundi. EAC's Gladys Nabwire spoke to the founders of the Institution, its objectives and what it holds for the future.

Q. Why was the Akilah Institute established?

A. After living in Rwanda for several years, we realized women were missing out on opportunities in the country's growing private sector largely due to a lack of skills and sector based knowledge. In 2010 Akilah was established as a unique post-secondary institution focused on preparing women leaders, providing practical industry knowledge and supporting students' career development.

At the 2013 Clinton Global Initiative, the Segal Family Foundation announced its commitment to help make our goal of opening second campus in Bujumbura a reality. Akilah Burundi is currently partnering with local NGOs to offer our initial IT and English courses.

Q. New learning institutions are established every day, what does Akilah hope to achieve?

A. Akilah's mission is to equip the next generation of female leaders and entrepreneurs in East Africa by providing a unique model of market-relevant education, empowering graduates for success in careers and leadership roles. While 90% of the population in Burundi relies on low-skill, low-paying jobs in the agriculture sector, our learning environment provides much-needed skill building in critical thinking, problem solving, and leadership. In addition, we are the only all women institution in Burundi. It is a place where women can thrive in a supportive environment while focusing on their long-term career goals.

Q. What attracted Akilah to Burundi?

A. One of the objectives stated in Burundi's Vision 2025 is to improve gender equity by educating young women and providing them with paths to economic empowerment. Given Akilah's mission and track record in Rwanda, Akilah Burundi is poised to make an impact on the country's growth and development. Current classes in Burundi aim to improve students' language skills, with a focus on English and IT in preparing the students for the initial year of the diploma program. The Diploma program is scheduled to begin in April 2014.

Q. Are there Partners or Supporters working with Akilah?

A. Akilah Burundi is made possible with the generous support of the Segal Family Foundation and the Kristin Linnea Skvarla Foundation. Akilah Burundi is also fortunate to be supported by several local NGOs and secondary schools in Bujumbura and throughout the provinces. We also receive support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Corbett Family Foundation, the L & R Uechtritz Foundation, and the Sonia Raymund Foundation.

Our Board of Directors includes Carmen Nibigira, the newly appointed Burundi Country Director of Tourism, and Michael Fairbanks, advisor to Rwandan President Paul Kagame. Former President of the World Bank Robert Zoellick is a longtime Akilah supporter. Finally, our deep partnerships with both local and international companies such as Marriott International enable Akilah to assist students with internships and job placement.

Q. How many branches of the institute are there worldwide and special focus on east Africa do you intend to expand the institute to other countries?

A. Akilah has developed a model of education that can be replicated to other communities across East Africa. Since opening its first campus in Kigali, Rwanda in 2010, we have also expanded to Bujumbura, Burundi. It is our aim to build future generations of women leaders and professionals in East Africa through the development of a network of campuses. Akilah will graduate 1,200 students by the year 2020.

Q. Other than being an all female institute, what else makes Akilah stand out from other institutes in East Africa offering similar programmes?

A. To start, Akilah works with private-sector partners every

step of the way in designing curricula that is in line with the needs of the current job market. When Akilah students graduate, they are already in high demand.

We offer a 3-year diploma program that includes a foundation year of leadership, English, IT and Math skills. This is followed by two years of intensive business courses and courses in the students major. We have two diploma tracks for students in Burundi – Hospitality Management and Entrepreneurship. In Rwanda, we offer the same programs in addition to Information Systems.

While maintaining high academic standards, Akilah uses unique teaching methodologies in the classroom, including Team Based Learning, Project Based Learning and experiential learning. Student participation is a key component of the learning process. Students apply the theories they learn in class through individual and group projects, analysis of case studies, designing solutions to business problems, creating business plans and more. Akilah focuses on critical thinking, hands-on learning, and mastering the English language -- the skills necessary for leaders to excel in the workforce.

Akilah is also committed to affordable education. Tuition is currently \$3,500 USD per year, and Akilah's scholarship fund covers 85% of that cost. This means a student enrolled into an Akilah programme only pays a fraction of the fee. This model makes our program accessible to women who may not otherwise pursue post-secondary education. In addition, we provide lunch, academic materials, career services, counseling, and assistance with internship and job placement, making the overall Akilah package financially attractive compared to other alternatives.

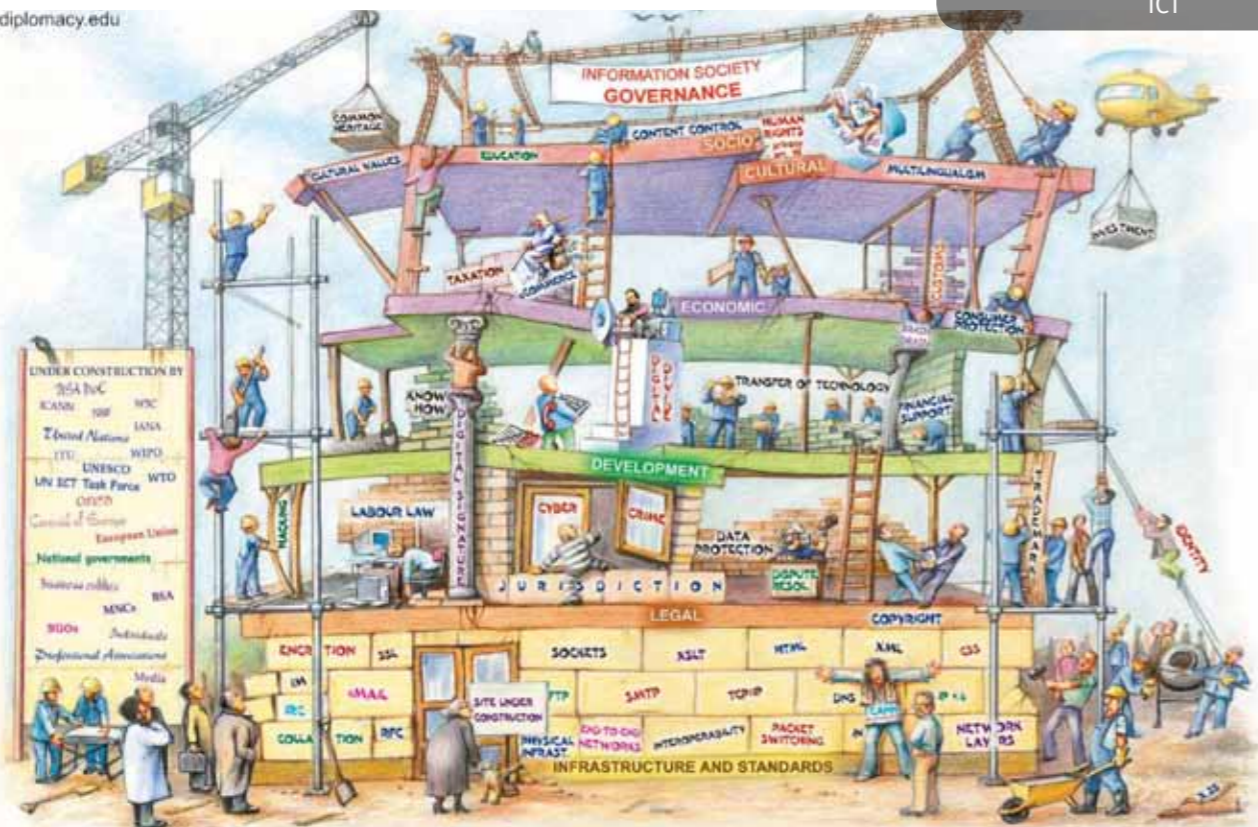
Q. Where does Akilah hope to be in the next ten years?

A. Akilah aims to build future generations of women leaders and professionals in East Africa through the development of a network of campuses. It is a target to graduate 1,200 students by the year 2020. 🇷🇺

Gladys is a Tourism Marketing Assistant at the EAC Secretariat



Aiming for infinite returns through investment in women



IG: A concept to boost EAC trade, governance & ICT

EPHRAIM PERCY KENYANITO

Internet Governance (IG)

The term Internet Governance (IG) encompasses a variety of subjects, from technical administration of the Internet to wider public policy issues such as: content regulation, privacy, freedom of expression, e-Commerce and cyber security among others.

Policies are set nationally regarding these matters but with advancement of ICT, more international co-operation is required in order to address common challenges such as Cyber-Terrorism.

For the past nine years, United Nations has organized annual Internet Governance Forums, commonly referred to as IGF, which bring together representatives from various Multi-Stakeholder constituencies such as: government, public civil society, academia, commercial/private sector and technical community in a Discussion Forum.

Who stands to benefit

Estimates have it that at least \$1.05 billion is transferred monthly through M-Pesa in East Africa. The mobile money transfer service was first launched in Kenya a few years ago, but has now spread across the region, and is replicated by almost all mobile phone operators.

The harmonization of ICT policies in the region and the creation of a solid cyber laws regime in the will protect citizens in their transactions and strengthen the implementation of the Common Market Protocol especially on the electronic services, an area of great potential for the region.

Harmonization of laws and regulations will enhance the telecommunications industry by better facilitating cross-border services (roaming) as well as investment. With more players in the industry, services quality and rates are bound to be more favorable and affordable by the citizens.

Regional IG efforts

In 2009, the EAC Task Force on CyberLaws, comprising representatives from the Partner States and the EAC Secretariat, with the support of UNCTAD drafted a modern and effective regional harmonized framework for CyberLaws and was subsequently adopted by EAC Council of Ministers.

In a bid to enhance regional ICT infrastructure, the EAC Broadband Infrastructure Network (EAC BIN) Project aims to establish and operate a cross-border broadband infrastructure network within the EAC. A study on the detailed pre-investment analysis and technical design for this network and was commissioned in May 2009.

Such initiatives should be encouraged as they fall within the Internet Governance framework and aspire to enhance administration of the Internet through a more transparent and efficient mechanism. With strengthened Internet Governance mechanisms in the EAC, the region stands to gain and with no opportunity to lose. Harmonized ICT policies will serve to leverage trade, governance and ICT integration in the region. 🇰🇪

Ephraim is an Author and Translator through various online publications such as Global Voices Online and The Daily Journalist. He also Interns for Transparency International and Accessnow.org

STACUS OJAMBO

East Africa is steadily becoming the number one tourist destination of the continent. The region is steadily growing in this vast sector of contributes highly to the regions annual gross revenue. With such big revenue, it is safe to say that tourism not only comprises of wildlife but encompasses other sectors like travel operations, accommodation, hospitality, recreation and transport services of which once harmonized could propel the region's tourism sector to new heights.

In spite of the fruitful benefits that the sector currently brings to the region, one could still be optimistic of much more once it has been integrated with the information technology sector. A marriage of the two would catapult East Africa's tourism to unexpected levels, bringing in more revenue to the region. In this regard, the region would be taking on Electronic tourism, commonly known as e-Tourism.

e-Tourism is basically the application of ICT's in the tourism industry. Its implementation has the capability to bind the disciplines of business management, Information systems management and tourism itself for a more competitive edge in the sector.

Implementation of e-Tourism could turn the region into a more attractive destination as compared to what it currently is. The concept of the World Wide Web, Internet, Intranets, ICT's, Extranets, e-Commerce, Intermediaries and Infomediaries brought together as one, could assist improving tourism within the region. The Internet as a communication tool has grown, having a far wider reach than the traditional tools like television and radio.

It is up to East Africa to exploit this resource to be a more recognized tourist destination than its competitors. If, as a region, we can take advantage of the Internet in transacting with trusted partners and interacting with stakeholders and customers, then we can begin to realize and appreciate the benefits of e-Tourism.

The concept of e-Tourism suggests that it is important to implement all business functions inclusive of e-commerce, e-Marketing, e-Finance, e-accounting, e-HRM, e-Procurement, e-Research and Development, e-Productivity, e-Planning and e-Management for all sectors of the tourism industry including travel, leisure, transport, tourism, hospitality and the public sector.

Therefore, if the region enforced e-Tourism as a strategy and employed databases that enable tourism organizations to manage their inventory making it accessible to its partners, it would be taking advantage of the following; Intermediaries that provide value added activities and services to buyers and sellers; for example travel agencies and tour operators used to be the traditional intermediaries, but with the Internet, companies and organizations can facilitate transactions between buyers, sellers and customers. A good example would be Microsoft's Expedia system - an Internet based travel website that helps the customer book airline tickets, hotel reservations, car rentals, vacation packages and various attractions all over the Internet.

Infomediaries that work as personal agents on the Internet for consumers assist them take control over information gathered about them for marketers. The most well-known Infomediary in the tourism are Trip Advisor, Holiday Check and Kayak that help customers to compare offers and prices by carrying out live queries to suppliers.

Social Media is also another platform that would be helpful in pushing the sector to new heights. These are online platforms that people can use to share opinions and experiences, photos, videos with each other for example Facebook, Twitter, Blog sites and many others.

It is therefore safe to say, should East Africa employ the above strategies to boost tourism in the region, it would be exploiting benefits such as;

- A 24hour Tourism business environment
- Reduced communication costs
- Time saving and cost reduction by enabling e-Procurement
- Enabling an effective and healthier competitive edge of the region
- Having a large inventory from which tourists can have a variety of selection for example with Expedia
- It will be easier to locate tourists worldwide at a reasonable cost

e-Tourism, the way forward for the region



- Ability for tourists to share experiences at a low cost through social media platforms like Facebook
- Enhance the operational and geographic scope by offering tools for global expansion
- An influx in number of tourists in the region increasing the tourism revenue

In conclusion, e-Tourism provides opportunities for business expansion in all geographical, marketing and operational senses. Provision of systems like e-Airlines, e-Ticketing, and e-Hospitality for hotels and lodges would enhance interactivity and building relationships with customers and partners to have a seamless and consistent flow of tourists to the region, thus developing and pushing the regions tourism to new heights.

A statistical report showed that 2.4 billion people access the Internet across the globe on a daily basis (www.newmediatrendwatch.com). It is therefore up to East Africa as a region to tap into this vast resource and exploit it to promote the regions tourism as a favored and more attractive destination than its competitors.

The application of e-Tourism and its ability to bind disciplines of management, information systems and tourism will favor the region highly. These technologies provide strategic tools to improve tourism and destinations at an operational and geographical level. Hence the prominence and attractiveness of destinations in the marketplace will gradually grow as a function of the invested technologies for customer and institutional interaction. Unless East Africa as region takes advantage of the emerging ICT's, it shall never fully appreciate and take full advantage of the tourism sector. 🇰🇪

Stacus is an Assistant Network Administrator at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ)

Let us take EAC integration to the next level

~ President Kenyatta says

BOBI ODIKO

His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of Kenya and Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State is adamant that, as Africans, we have it within our power to assault poverty, if only we can muster the self-belief.

When delivering the State of the EAC Address to the East African Legislative Assembly at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania in March this year, the Summit Chairperson called on the continent to wake up from its slumber and to take head-on, the steps necessary to rid itself of poverty. The Head of State remarked that despite the fact that the EAC had made some discoveries in natural resources, its citizens continued to live in abject poverty.

“In the last five years, our region has seen discoveries of new minerals and fossil deposits. Yet we have hardly scratched the surface of our wealth creation, while the number of our poor remains unacceptably high”, he said.

The year 2013 marked another milestone in the Community’s journey to full integration with the signing of the East African Monetary Union Protocol. It was a critical stage – a challenging one even – but the Community is determined to bring it completion.

The President maintained that it was important for the region to take advantage of the opportunities by fully embracing the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols and at the advent of the Monetary Union, and challenged the Assembly to be steadfast in service delivery.

On the Political Federation which is the ultimate goal of the integration process, President Kenyatta was emphatic that the Community would remain on course in a bid to cement the political unity of the region.

He however reiterated that Political Federation was a process and not an event.

Continent must “wake up from its slumber”, Summit Chair asserts

He remarked that the Summit would give its stand and clear direction on the roadmap ahead. This follows a revised draft model structure, roadmap and action plan for the East African Community Political Federation that was developed by experts and that has received views from various stakeholders, including the Assembly.

President Kenyatta further reiterated the importance of the on-going tripartite negotiations between the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), EAC and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC).

“The proposed grand free trade area comprises 26 countries, with a combined population of nearly 600 million people – accounting for nearly 57% of Africa’s population – and a total GDP of about one Trillion Dollars. Once complete (the negotiations), it will be the engine of the continent’s economic and political empowerment. I am satisfied with the pace of the negotiations. I look forward, as I am sure we all do, to the conclusion of these negotiations before the last quarter of 2014”, President Kenyatta remarked.

The President called for stringent measures to be put in place to address the re-emerging poaching of wildlife which he said, threatened to kill the tourism sector. “Sadly, East Africa has been identified as a major source region and a favourite transit route for this callous commerce”, President Kenyatta lamented.



“In the period between January and October 2013 alone, over ten tonnes of Ivory were intercepted at the Port of Mombasa,” he added. President Kenyatta thus called on the region’s security agencies and the wildlife management authorities to tighten the co-operation and to stem the menace.

The Head of State called for joint search of peace and political stability of the neighbourhood, especially in the Republics of Somalia, South Sudan and in the Great Lakes region. The Kenyan President further undertook to push for the amendments to the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC during his tenure.

“The Treaty has served us well but like our national constitutions, it is a living document, to be reviewed from time to time. It is my hope that the present examination of the Treaty will be hastened to align it to the realities of our present experience and our hopes for the future” he remarked. 🇰🇪

Bobi Odiko is the Senior Public Relations Officer of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)

QUOTING THE SUMMIT CHAIR

“Our exports too often leave our shores with little value added; our economies are inadequately diverse; we remain too loosely linked to make the most of our diverse strengths.”

“The transnational nature of terrorism vividly illustrates that my neighbour’s peace is my concern as much as his.”

“While we vigorously pursue integration, we remain equally aware of the great gains to be found in deeper Africa-wide market integration; in infrastructure development to enhance connectivity; and in industrial development to unfetter our continent’s productivity.”

“Let me pay tremendous tribute to the EAC Secretariat, Secretary-General Ambassador Richard Sezibera and his team for the sterling job they are doing. This team is at the heart of our success as a community.”

Regulating the oil and gas sector in East Africa

AISHA ABDALLAH

Substantial oil and gas discoveries have recently been made in the East African Community (EAC) Partner States, notably in Tanzania (Songo and Mnazi Bay), Uganda (Lake Albert graben) and Kenya (Lamu, Anza, Manderu and the Tertiary Rift sedimentary basins). This has transformed the region to a significant player in the oil and gas industry and been hailed as the driver for the modernisation in the region.

The EAC states, however, remain some of the world's least developed. Despite each member country's unique dynamics, there are some common challenges. These include establishing a fair tax regime, balancing community land rights with development needs, lack of local skills/capacity and disputes over national boundaries.

The EAC has prioritised the harmonization of tax laws. Notably, about 4 years ago there was an initiative to harmonise all tax laws in the EAC region which has since stalled. Currently, each EAC state has an independent legislative regime including: Kenya's Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act (Chapter 308) (last revised in 1986), the Ninth Schedule to the Income Tax Act, chapter 470, laws of Kenya); Tanzania's Petroleum (Exploration and Production) Act (passed in 1980 and a draft natural gas

policy circulated for stakeholder input in late 2012); Uganda's Petroleum (Refining, Conversion, Transmission and Midstream Storage) Act 2013, The Petroleum (Exploration, Development and Production) Act 2013, Petroleum (Exploration and Production)(Conduct of Exploration Operations) Regulations, 1993 and the National Oil and Gas Policy, 2008.

The multiple legal regimes in East Africa are a key deterrent to tax harmonisation and ensuring optimum benefit by both the region's populace as well as its investors. It is therefore necessary that the East African leadership takes a collective approach to facilitate an environment where all the stakeholders can mutually benefit. A standard East African legal regulatory framework coupled with the willpower of the EAC states to implement it would be a plausible starting point to attain this.

There is therefore a case for enacting a common framework to regulate the oil and gas sector in the region. 🇰🇪

Ms. Aisha Abdallah is an advocate of the High Court of Kenya and a Partner at Anjarwalla & Khanna Advocates where she heads the firm's Litigation Department



Mapping Culture and creative industries for prosperity

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

Culture and creative industries across the globe represent one of the most rapidly expanding sectors. Empirical studies carried out by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) show that the creative industries, based on copyright protection, contribute 5.2 % of the GDP and generate 5.5% of the employment in the forty (40) countries surveyed. The significant potential of the creative industries, their dynamics and overall impact on expanding trade and markets, as well as debt alleviation, explain the growing interest in this area in countries all over the world.

Currently implementing its 4th Development Strategy (2011-2016), the EAC acknowledges culture and creative industries as an emerging creative sector, contributing significantly to the regional economy in terms of revenue, employment creation, poverty reduction, export earnings and social and sustainable development.

Beginning July 2012, the EAC commissioned a regional mapping study of culture and creative industries - collecting socio-economic data on different segments such as music, film, video, crafts, visual arts, performing arts, sound recording, television and radio, computer software, museum and heritage sites, advertisement, publishing, design and fashion, among others.

Status of implementation

The Mapping Study has been fragmented into 3 phases:

Phase 1: FY 2012/2013 - development, pretesting and dissemination of mapping study tools in the EAC Partner States; field data collection and analysis undertaken in the Republics of Burundi and Uganda and National Status Reports produced.

Phase 2: FY2013/2014 - Field data collection and analysis in the Republics of Kenya and United Republic of Tanzania and production of National Status Reports on Culture and Creative Industries.

Phase 3: FY2014/2015- finalization of data collection, analysis and production of National Status Report on Culture in the Republic of Rwanda; Validation and production of the Regional Mapping Study Report on Culture and Creative Industries in the EAC.

Why a Mapping Study?

The initiative aims at strengthening the social dimension of the operationalization of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

As the region moves into a fully operational Common Market, it is vital to facilitate cultural practitioners and entrepreneurs with reliable information to enable them exploit the diverse cultural assets and creativity in our region for social and economic development.

This strategic intervention enables both Public and Private sectors invest in Culture and Sports industries, employment creation as well as improvement of household incomes in the region.

Ultimately, the mapping study's comprehensive regional report with information on the various segments of culture and creative industries in terms of: geographical distribution and concentration, regional statistics and global market opportunities, export (turnover), contribution to GDP and employment, royalties and copyrights and strategies for developing culture and creative industries in the EAC.

There is therefore a case for enacting a common framework to regulate the oil and gas sector in the region. 🇰🇪



Origin of trade in East Africa

DAMARIS WANBUI NYAGA

East Africa has a rich history of kingdoms and trade networks that are known to historians. In fact, it is home to one of the earliest known kingdoms in the world—Nubia (also known as Karmah and Kush). Other kingdoms that developed in East Africa include Aksum (about 1st to 10th century AD), the Buganda Kingdom (14th to 20th century AD), Rwanda (15th to 19th centuries AD), and the Swahili coast city-states (11th to 16th century AD).

Aksum (a large empire that was located in what is currently Ethiopia and Eritrea) and the Swahili Coast were first mentioned in the written historical record in a document called Periplus of the Erythraean Sea, a Greek trading guide dating to the 1st century AD. This document is evidence that the East African coast has long been a part of extensive trade networks throughout the Indian Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea.

It is reported that Arab commerce with the East African coast could go back as far as the 2nd century BC. East African trade with India came later, around the 7th century AD. As a consequence of the international trade that developed in this

region, markets became focused on urban centers along the coast with concentrations of wealth and power. Some of the most prominent market towns that developed are Mogadishu, Shanga, Kilwa, and Mombasa.

The merging of African, Arab, and Indian peoples along the East African coast (from southern Somalia to northern Mozambique) produced a unique language (Kiswahili) and culture (Swahili), which continues to spread across the EAC Partner States. Swahili is spoken today throughout East and Central Africa, but the majority of Swahili speakers reside in Tanzania and Kenya as a result of the East African trade along the coastline of these two countries.

Goods from Africa that were traded internationally along the Swahili coast included gold, ivory, and slaves. The slave trade in this region of Africa was conducted by both Arabs and Europeans. Arabs had been trading African slaves for over 1000 years, taking them to the Arabian Peninsula, Persian Gulf, and other regions of Asia. European slave traders came later in the 17th century, taking African slaves to various islands in the Indian

Ocean and the Americas. In total, an estimated 7 to 10 million Africans were taken as slaves across the Indian Ocean.

The colonial period in East Africa lasted until the early 1960s. Upon gaining independence, East African countries were left with the challenge of governing themselves and especially their economies. Furthermore, colonial economies were set up to benefit colonizers rather than the colony. This was still the case when East African countries gained independence. Our economies still focused on exportation of cheap raw materials to Westerners.

Each country within East Africa has a unique history of its struggle towards protecting its economy both before and after independence, and we are currently looking to explore ways of up-scaling trade to uplift our respective economies. Slave trade is now a past phenomenon which continues to be advocated against everywhere in the world.

Under the establishment of the East African Community Customs Union, Article 3 indicates the objectives of the EAC Customs Union as to: further liberalize intra-regional trade in goods on the basis of mutually beneficial trade arrangements among the Partner States; promote efficiency in production

within the Community; enhance domestic, cross border and foreign investment in the Community; and promote economic development in industrialization in the Community.

In addition, the East African Community Common Market was also established as a second stage for strengthening economic, social, cultural, political, technological and other ties for fast balanced and sustainable development of the Partner States.

The recently signed Monetary Union Protocol in Kampala; Uganda on 30th November 2013, - the latest development will fast-track harmonization of financial systems, establish a legal and regulatory financial framework and use of a common EAC currency within the region to mention but a few.

The above are policies, with some yet to be implemented, aimed to secure the future of trade within our 5 economies. Looking back, we have indeed come a long way and therefore slacking should not be an option given where we are today. 🇰🇪

Damaris is a Media Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat

Intra-EAC trade rises 22pc, defies barriers and politics

ADAM IHUCHA

East African countries traded more with each other in 2012 than in previous years, growing trade volumes by 22 per cent.

The data from the EAC Secretariat shows that intra-EAC trade grew to \$5.5 billion in 2012, up from \$4.5 billion recorded in 2011, even as the five member states – Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Burundi – dithered on the elimination of non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

The volume of trade is expected to go up this year with the elimination of a number of barriers across the region.

Fast-moving goods like oil, maize, oranges and cement were the major goods traded, as well as clothing, black tea and liquefied natural gas.

The figures do not include informal cross-border trade, which has been estimated to be as much as 40 per cent of formal trade.

The EAC statistics indicate that the growth was driven by the increase of imports and exports that went up by 20.7 per cent and 23 per cent, respectively.

This intra-regional trade, the data shows, is being driven by manufactured products, a sign of where investors should put their money.

Tanzania and Rwanda recorded increases in their contribution to total intra-EAC trade, while Kenya, Uganda, and Burundi reported drops. Despite the decline in intra-EAC trade, Kenya continued to dominate, accounting for nearly 36 per cent of total intra-EAC trade.

In real value, Kenya's sales to EAC members amounted to \$1.3 billion in 2012. Central Bank of Kenya data shows that the main destinations of Kenya's exports in the region were Uganda and Tanzania – it exported goods worth \$675 million to Uganda and \$472 million to Tanzania.

"Kenya's exports in EAC were mainly to Uganda 12.9 per cent and Tanzania 8.9 per cent," the CBK said in its latest Monthly Economic Review.

Total intra-regional exports increased from \$2.6 billion to \$3.2 billion during the same period, an increase of 23 per cent.

Kenya and Uganda accounted for an average of 37 and 24 per cent of the total intra-regional trade during 2011 and 2012.

During the same period, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi accounted for an average of 20, 12, and eight per cent, respectively.

Data shows that the total exports from Tanzania in 2011 and 2012 amounted to \$411 million and \$614 million, while the total imports from the region for the same period were \$376 million and \$678 million, respectively.

Intra-EAC trade has been rising since 2002. "Since launch of the Customs Union, and subsequently the Common Market, intra-EAC trade has increased from about \$2 billion in 2005 to \$5.5 billion in 2012," reads the EAC document.

Total intra-regional exports increased from around \$500 million in 2000 to \$3.2 billion in 2012, an increase of over 600 per cent.

Analysts say that although intra-EAC trade is in favour of Kenya, there are promising signs that all partners are gaining from the integration.

But despite the growth in trade, there have been some hindrances.

EAC director-general in charge of Customs and Trade Peter Kiguta said growth of intra-EAC-trade was hampered by the imposition of NTBs by member states against one another.

For instance, rather than do away with NTBs by December 2012 in accordance with the EAC plans, the members reportedly imposed 10 new ones, while 35 remained unresolved. Only 36 NTBs have been resolved.

Business executives say that NTBs are hurting trade among EAC countries, a situation that has, for example, contributed to the decline in Kenya's export trade in the region. Kenya's exports to EAC member states shrank by 1.8 per cent in 2012 from 2011, according to the Economic Survey 2013.

The East African Business Council expert Michael Baingana said the challenge is that trade between EAC member states is not facilitated.

He said issues of standard recognition and certification of product marks are the main problems because each regulatory body operates independently.

"But the positive side is that EAC is currently working on regulatory framework for the region. About 1,600 product standards are already considered EAC standards, meaning they can trade without being subjected to national standard regulations," Mr Baingana said.

However, critics warn that the EAC is too dependent on trade with the rest of the world – mainly the US, Asia, and Europe – to drive its growth.

East African Business Council executive director Andrew Luzze said EAC intra-trade at the moment stands at 13 per cent of the total trade volume, against the 87 per cent of the business quantity that goes to the rest of the world.

"This is an unhealthy trend. We are exporting thousands of jobs to the outside world while our own people are jobless. We are ought to change the trend," Mr Luzze said.

Records show that in the European Union, intra-trade accounts for 60 per cent of its total trade, while trade within the North America Free Trade Area accounts for 48 per cent of the total trade of its member states.

Tanzanian economist Johansein Rutaihwa said low intra-regional trade in EAC countries is also driven by cultural perspective among their citizens, thus more public education is needed.

"This goes hand in hand with having a mechanism of changing members' mentality to praise what EAC countries produce," Mr Rutaihwa explained.

Policy-makers also need to understand the importance of having good infrastructure for intra-trade to grow. 🇰🇪

The author, Adam Ihucha, is a Special correspondent for the East African. This article was first published in The East African newspaper in November 2013.

What will influence EAC trade in 2014

JACOB OTIENO

This will be a watershed year for East African people, We examine the issues and projects which may permanently change the way business is conducted in the region and how they will affect you.

Exit 2013, enter 2014. It is the year that will witness major milestones in the implementation and development of some of East Africa's mega projects. These projects are expected to define regional trade in 2014 and beyond. At the forefront of the mega projects is the ongoing construction of the three-phase Lamu Port-South Sudan-Ethiopia Transport (Lapsset) project.

The Lapsset project

Lapsset is one of the largest transport and infrastructure projects in East Africa. The US\$29.2 billion project was officially launched in March 2012 by former Kenyan President Mwai Kibaki accompanied by General Silva Kiir, South Sudan President and the late Ethiopian Prime Minister Menes Zenawi.

Once completed, the multibillion Lapsset project will comprise of new and ultramodern road and railway networks, three airports, oil refinery, oil pipeline, a port, and three resort cities. It will open up new communication links between the east African countries, which will in turn foster regional economic development and growth through facilitation of trade.

A parastatal to oversee the implementation of the project, the Lamu Port Southern Sudan Transport Development Authority has already been established, and its chairman, former EAC Secretary General, Amb. Francis Muthaura appointed.

E.A standard gauge railway

The East African standard gauge railway project, estimated to be worth US\$13.9 billion, is one that has attracted overwhelming attention and support.

Construction of the ultramodern railway network was commissioned in November last year and is expected to be complete in 2018. Construction of the railway set to connect the port of Mombasa with Kigali, Rwanda through Kampala, Uganda is expected to start this year.

The new railway will be used by both passenger and cargo trains moving three times faster than the current trains. The passenger train will move at a speed of 120 km/h before graduating to 160km/h once the East African region can generate enough electricity to power the trains.

It will fast-track movement of passengers, goods and services within and cross East Africa, thus saving on transportation time and cost and transforming the regional economy.

Single visa protocol

Traditionally, tourists travelling across East Africa had to obtain a visa for each of the countries they visit. It is not only costly, but also time consuming and discouraging to some of the travelers. However, starting January this year, tourists visiting Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda will only require one Visa.

The Visa will cost US\$100 as opposed to US\$150 they have been paying to get the same from the three countries.

The single visa initiative will market the region as a single tourist destination and is expected to lead to increase in the number of tourists travelling to East Africa.

Single Customs Territory

The East Africa is also expected to start reaping the benefits of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) that was established in October last year by the five EAC Partner States after it is fully implemented in 2014.

Implementation of the SCT that kicked off on 1st January 2014 will see the cost of doing business in East Africa go down by about 30%.

Each of the East African Community (EAC) Partner States; Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi, is expected to play an active role in its implementation.

Technically, implementation of the SCT will facilitate regional trade through elimination of barriers to cross border trade. This should, however, not be confused with the Common Market Protocol.

Export Promotion Strategy

According to the EAC Secretary General Dr. Sezibera, the East Africa Export Promotion Strategy 2013-2017 will come into force this year.

The four-pillar export promotion project, estimated to cost US\$86.3 million, was drafted last year by the five EAC members and is aimed at marketing East Africa as a single source of exports.

Promoting production of diversified but unique products, jointly marketing East Africa's exports in the global market, developing conducive business environment and institutional capacity building constitute the four pillars in the East Africa's export promotion strategy. And talking about production of diversified and unique products, Uganda is about to produce oil.

East Africa oil refinery project

Uganda is set to construct a US\$2 billion oil refinery with an initial capacity to process 60,000 barrels of oil per day and which will be doubled in the long run.

Over 70 global firms applied but only six have been shortlisted to construct the refinery. One of the six firms will be identified to lead the construction.

The five EAC countries will own 40% of the refinery with the remaining 60% being owned by the private investors. Talks on the development of this refinery, to be commissioned in 2017, are on top gear and a number of interstate dialogues are expected to take place in this year. 🇰🇪

This article was first published in The East African Business Agenda.

A tribute to East Africa's Sleeping Flower

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

There are not many people in the region who could be credited with fostering, and even reviving, the East African Community as Flora Musonda. She was appointed Director of Trade at the EAC Secretariat in 2005. Before joining the East African Community, Flora was a Senior Research Fellow at the reputable Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) in Dares Salaam, Tanzania.

Having completed her doctorate in Sweden in 1992, Flora came back home, armed with a PhD and having specialized in international trade, development issues and regional integration. She worked with the COMESA Secretariat where she coordinated a regional integration research programme. At the same time lecturing international trade at the University of Zambia.

With a passion for regional integration, Flora was part of the Team of Experts who molded the dream to revive the East African Community into a Treaty, the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. She was part of the

Tanzanian Negotiating Team and from time to time was called upon to put in plain words some theoretical and practical issues of regional integration to the team. Her tariff harmonization study with the World Bank propelled further the negotiating efforts for the EAC.

While at the ESRF, Flora played a key role in formulating the 1st and 2nd EAC Development Strategies dating 1997-2000 and 2001-2005 respectively. These Strategies focused on the implementation of the Treaty, regional projects and programmes, institutional development, and, most significantly, the launching in January 2005 of the East African Community Customs Union - the entry point of the Community.

In 2002, regional academicians in recognizing her work in regional integration, nominated and offered her an opportunity to be a Visiting Professor at the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. While in Switzerland, she published a book: *Regional integration in Africa: a closer look at the East African Community*. She was heavily involved in many other

integration studies and globalization issues and back-stopped the Ministry of Industries and Trade on trade policy issues, and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the Helsinki process and EAC Customs and Trade issues.

At the EAC Secretariat, Flora was in charge of the Trade Directorate, addressing Internal and External/Export promotion; WTO issues; standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing for goods and services produced and traded within the EAC; COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite; EAC-EU Economic Partnership Agreement; and EAC-US Trade and Investment Partnership.

She was a strong believer in the role of trade and investment as a critical engine for broad economic growth for the EAC region. Under her leadership, she ensured EAC Customs Union matters such as, export promotion schemes and special economic zones were fully implemented.

She was part of the WTO Trade Policy Review Team for EAC in Geneva, Switzerland in 2012 during which EAC Partner States trade and related policies were examined and evaluated with the objective of contributing to improving adherence by all Members of the WTO to rules, disciplines and commitments made under the WTO Agreements and by achieving greater transparency in, and understanding of, the trade policies and practices of WTO Members.

Flora played a critical role in the establishment of the EAC-US Commercial Dialogue, a consultative mechanism for a private - public sector dialogue on commerce between the EAC and the US through which both Parties will work to advance



private sector priorities that would strengthen their trade and investment relationship.

Dr Flora Musonda, 58, was briefly admitted to St Thomas Hospital in Arusha after complaining of body ache and passed away on 15 October 2013, in Arusha.

Being the independent, free spirit she was, she touched the lives of many, directly and indirectly. To many she was more than just a colleague, she was a Friend, a Sister, a Mother. She was a wonderful person and we are all lucky and honored to have met, known and worked with such a beautiful spirit and be a part of her life. She has left a legacy, one that East Africa will always remember. 🇰🇪



Euro Crisis: A lesson well learnt

CLOVIS RUGEMINTWARI

The Euro Crisis could have been contained if the solidarity among the Member States had not been repressed by the so-called “No Bailout Clause”, which states that neither the Union nor a Member State shall be liable for or assume the commitments of another Member State. This fundamental policy crash at the European level exacerbated the Euro Crisis, making it systemic. The Crisis brought to light how flawed the No Bailout Principle was when the Union stepped in to “Bailout” Greece.

Against the Crisis, as well as to prevent similar crises occurring in the future, the European Council adopted the European Stability Mechanism (ESM), a permanent crisis resolution mechanism for the countries of the Eurozone, with a maximum lending capacity of €500 billion. The ESM has been operating since October 2012, replacing two earlier temporary EU funding programmes: the European Financial Stability Facility (EFSF) and the European Financial Stabilisation Mechanism (EFSM).

The East African Monetary Union Protocol, signed 30 November 2013, comes with an innovative twist. By contrast to the Eurozone which acted ex post, the EAC proves to have learnt a thing or two from the Euro Crisis, the Protocol’s Article 10(3) (b) allows for: “*a stabilization facility to provide assistance to a Partner State experiencing or threatened with a severe exogenous economic shock*”.

Moreover, it is worth noting that if Article 6 - Macroeconomic Convergence Criteria and Article 9 - Public Debt Management of the Protocol are fully complied with, the EAC Monetary Union should not undergo a “Euro Crisis” type situation. But as the French proverb reminds us, with ‘ifs’ we could put Paris in a bottle. The Eurozone experience gives us ample evidence that the fiscal rules, laid down in the Stability and Growth Pact, have weakened over time, and procedures and measures put in place to enforce economic policy coordination are yet to be fully implemented.

Unfortunately, surveillance and monitoring mechanisms did not prevent Greece from manipulating her data and consequently triggering the Euro Crisis. The preventive risk sharing mechanisms embedded in the East African Monetary Union Protocol as a safeguard is indeed groundbreaking.

But again, we are keen for an explanation on how the facility will be funded and what lending capacity will be. 🇰🇪

Clovis is an Associate Professor at the University of Limoges, France.

Mainstreaming the “differently-abled” into the integration process

AMINA ADHAN

In line with its people-centered approach to integration, the East African Community in its Treaty has indeed recognized the empowerment of marginalized groups as crucial to achieving economic and social development in the region. Article 120(c) has called upon Partner States to adopt a common approach towards social security of marginalized groups such as Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

In line with inclusivity, the EAC has taken a number of steps to tackle PWD issues. A forum of experts in PWD in Kampala in 2009 kicked off the process. Analyzing Partner States’ national policies and the implementation of the United Nations Convention on Rights of Persons with Disability, the meeting clearly highlighted the gaps, and challenges of including Disability in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the current social protection initiatives in EAC Partner States.

The EAC People with Disability (PWD) Policy

The East African Disability Conference that soon followed the 2009 forum brought together different stakeholders to deliberate on a common policy framework for PWDs in the region. This conference’s outcomes materialized through the East African Community People with Disability Policy. The policy serves as a platform to ensure full and equal enjoyment of human rights by PWDs in the region.

Moreover the EAC PWD Policy serves as a benchmark for all other policies and programs on PWDs among the EAC Partner States. It is the foundation towards the promotion and enhancement of PWD roles, their contributions towards the EAC development agenda as well as an avenue to streamline coordination and harmonization of all PWD stakeholders’ efforts.



Economic Empowerment

It has been proposed that a regional disability development fund be set up and directed towards the special educational and vocational training needs of PWDs. The Policy outlines a social protection mechanism and steps towards political inclusion such as self representation by PWDs on the integration agenda. The East Africa Community has indeed passed a milestone in mainstreaming PWD issues through that will direct national legislation by the Partner States.

Full adoption and implementation of the policy will ensure PWDs have a stake at national development and regional integration. The EAC initiative towards social protection of marginalized groups indeed embodies its people centered development approach to integration while empowering those that a differently abled. 🇰🇪

Amina is an Intergovernmental Organizations Liaison with the Youth Alliance for Leadership and Development in Africa (YALDA)



We are still keen on joining EAC

HON. AGGREY TISA SABUNI

South Sudan welcomes the resolution that was passed by the EAC Council of Ministers to commence a formal process of negotiations for South Sudan's Accession to the East African Community. South Sudan has always been historically, culturally and ethnically a part of the greater East Africa Region.

In fact, already at the beginning of last century – Juba, South Sudan's capital – was a part of, the then, East African Customs Union set up by the British. We therefore view South Sudan's Accession to the EAC as a return of our country to its rightful place - as an integral part of the East African Region. Furthermore, we believe the EAC will not only be larger with South Sudan as a Member but also stronger.

South Sudan is a US\$7 billion economy with a significant natural resources base and a large domestic market. Our per

capita GDP, although distorted somewhat by oil income, is the highest in the region. In 2013, GDP per capita was forecasted to reach US\$ 1500 per person.

Throughout the last century South Sudanese did not have the freedom to choose their own destiny; first as a part of the British colonial system and then as part of the Republic of Sudan. It is only since the Proclamation of Independence in July, 2011 that South Sudan is free to make its regional and foreign policy. As part of this policy, we have made a clear statement that we want to join the East African Community. Only 3 months after independence H.E. Salva Kiir Mayardit, the President of the Republic of South Sudan signed a note verbale applying for EAC Membership.

Despite the fact that we are not, as of yet, formally a part of the EAC, de facto, we already have strong economic ties with

the EAC. Nearly all of our imports originate or transit through EAC countries. In fact recent estimates show that around half of South Sudan's total imports, worth US\$ 3 billion a year, are sourced from EAC Member states.

We are the biggest regional export market for Uganda. Kenyan Banks and Insurance companies are prominent players in our service sector. Thousands of EAC nationals are helping to rebuild our economy from the terrible destruction of the years of civil war. Implicitly, we already implement many of the freedoms that are spelled out in the EAC's Common Market Protocol.

South Sudan is already well integrated with East Africa but this integration is somewhat one-sided, 98% of South Sudan's exports are one commodity only – oil. Oil is exported predominately to Asian Markets - not regionally. Excluding timber which is exported for processing to EAC countries, South Sudan exports to the region are negligible.

While South Sudan shares a common culture and history with the EAC countries, our economic development diverges sharply from the rest of the region. On the contrary to EAC countries, South Sudan's is one of the world's most oil dependant economies. Our infrastructure has been either destroyed by years of struggle for independence or has never been developed.

At independence, we had nearly no paved road, electricity grids and limited health, education and government systems. As a result, South Sudan's development challenges and strategies differ from these of the rest of the EAC economies. Being the world's youngest nation, we have the world's newest currency, newest government and society.

As often in life, beginnings are difficult, and we continue to work hard to establish fully fledged government institutions, crucial public services and infrastructure. It is in the area of state-building where EAC Membership and expertise may be most beneficial for my country.

EAC Membership will support harmonization of our legal system, customs procedures and standards to those of the Community. We will be able to develop regional infrastructure which currently is lagging behind other regions. Regional integration efforts are only likely to succeed if benefits from integration are distributed, as far as possible, equally among Partner States.

Recent experiences of regional integrations show that, unless proper policies are in place, economic integration will strengthen regions that are already strong economically at the expense of those that are lagging behind.

South Sudan has only recently emerged from, what many consider to be, the longest conflict of the 20th Century. The conflict essentially stalled the development of any significant industrial activities or modernized agriculture in my country.

In light of the imminent commencement of negotiations for EAC Membership it is important to think through the policies and modalities that can ensure the development of South Sudan's industrial and agricultural sector so that it will be enhanced rather than constrained by EAC Membership.

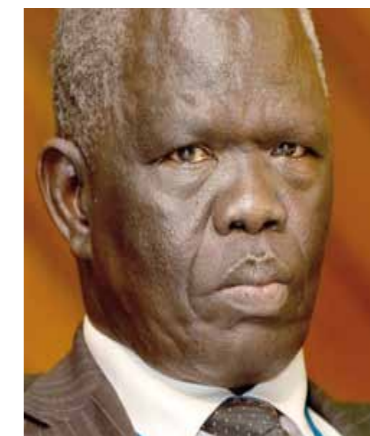
Despite some recent setbacks, the European Union continues to be a model Regional Integration Agreement that developed highly successful policies to mitigate regional disparities within the Union. We believe some of these policies may well be effectively implemented in the East African context.

Finally, South Sudan's prospective membership in the EAC is central to our regional integration strategy and is likely to become an anchor for our overall trade strategy.

Recognizing the problems that some African economies face with overlapping Membership in Regional Trade Agreements (RTAs), South Sudan would now like to concentrate its efforts on negotiations for EAC Membership. Once we become an EAC Member we will negotiate any new Trade Agreements as a block within the EAC. This is likely to provide clarity and predictability in our trading relations.

South Sudan's Application for EAC Membership shows that we are prepared to adhere to obligations stemming from the Membership. Despite our short history of independence we embrace the idea of East Africa's economic integration and feel that it is one of the key routes towards prosperity in the region and beyond.

However, in order to be successful the EAC needs to implement policies and programs that cater for the needs of the less developed countries/regions, such as South Sudan.



Hon. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni,
Minister of Finance,
Commerce, Investment
and Economic Planning;
Republic of South Sudan



EAC Single Customs Territory to enhance regional trade

BELINDA WERA

During its 15th Ordinary Summit in Kampala, Uganda, on November 30th 2013, the EAC Heads of State directed that the Single Customs Territory start on January 1st 2014 and be operationalized by June 2014.

The Single Customs Territory aims at liberalizing trade in the region as goods would circulate freely within the territory, the bloc will have a common legal framework that would ensure free circulation of goods with minimal or no border controls.

The application of cross border ICT systems and quality data collection at the regional level will improve coordination of the private and public sector agencies compliance to regional standards and instruments.

Implementation of the framework leads to the harmonization of standards for goods moved through the territory.

The interconnectivity of customs systems in the region facilitate seamless flow of information between customs stations, a payment system to manage transfers of revenues between Partner States; and legal provisions to enjoin Partner States to enforce customs debts on behalf of each other.

The Single custom territory will ultimately allow for faster movement of goods and ultimately lowering the cost of doing business in the region.

To further enhance operations of the Single Customs Territory, a single window system to enable exchange of information between cargo clearance agencies is being developed.

This will involve putting in place a mechanism for mutual recognition in respect of certificates and other administrative instruments issued by related agencies in Partner States.

There are a number of agencies operating at the ports and borders with different mandates in the clearance of cargo.

These include customs, port / airport authorities, bureau of standards, public health, police, food and drug authorities, military, immigration, pest control bodies, radiation authorities, clearing agencies, shipping agencies, banks, transport, shipping and handling companies.

The One Stop Border Post (OSBP) model shall also apply; Partner States may have representation of their government and licensed agencies at the ports of entry or exit.

The intra-regional trade in goods on the basis of mutually beneficial trade arrangements among the Partner States will in future be liberalized.

There will be efficiency in production within the Community which enhances domestic, cross border and foreign investment in the Community and ultimately promote economic development and diversification in industrialization in the Community. 🇰🇪

Belinda Wera is a Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat



Tripartite: improving social & economic welfare

BELINDA WERA

The Tripartite is an umbrella organization consisting of three of Africa's Regional Economic Communities (REC's), namely: the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA); the East Africa Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) the tripartite consists of 26 member countries.

The supreme objective of the Tripartite is to contribute to the broader objectives of the African Union (AU) that is accelerating economic integration of the continent and achieving sustainable economic development leading to; Poverty alleviation and improvement in quality of life for the people of the Eastern and Southern African Region.

Working towards improvement, coordination and harmonization of the various regional integration programmes of its member REC's the tripartite focuses on expanding and integrating trade and include the establishment of Free Trade Areas (FTA's), Custom Unions, Monetary Unions and Common Markets, as well as infrastructure development projects in transport, Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and energy.

VISION AND STRATEGY

In line with the African Unions Vision of "an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, driven by its own citizens and representing a dynamic force in the global arena", The Tripartite Vision is "to improve the economic and social welfare of the citizens of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite region through promoting regional economic growth by creating a conducive environment for regional trade to take place."

This robust Vision and Strategy is operationalized through a wide-ranging work programme whose main pillars include:

- ⚙️ Harmonization and improvement of functionality of regional trading arrangements and programmes, including establishing a Tripartite Free Trade Area encompassing its 26 member countries, which is a major step towards the realization of the African Economic Community;
- ⚙️ Enhancement of trade facilitation to improve the flow of goods along transport corridors by lowering transit times and the cost of trading. Significant progress is already being achieved on the North South Corridor which has been implemented as a pilot since 2007;
- ⚙️ Joint planning and implementation of infrastructure programmes which mainly comprise of surface (road, rail, border posts, and seaports) and air transport, ICT and energy. The physical interconnectivity through infrastructure development and improving operational efficiencies of border crossings and seaports are important factors in speeding up economic development and facilitating and expanding inter-regional trade, as well as trade with the rest of the world; and
- ⚙️ Free movement of business persons within the tripartite region to facilitate the conduct of business. 🇰🇪

Belinda is a Program Assistant at the Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Department



Fact Sheet on the Economic Partnership Agreements

European Commission  Trade

1 STATE OF PLAY

At the end of 2007 the Eastern African Community (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and

Uganda) agreed a region-to-region interim or "framework" EPA with the EU. This framework agreement mainly covered trade in goods and fisheries and has been a stepping stone towards a full EPA. A commitment was taken by both parties, to continue negotiations on agriculture, rules of origin, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Standards (SPS), Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT), customs and trade facilitation (C&TF) and to postpone the discussion on other trade-related rules and trade in services until a later stage.

The chapters on SPS, TBT, C&TF as well as on economic and development cooperation, on dispute settlement and institutional provisions have been completed and chapters on rules of origin, agriculture are at an advanced stage of discussion. All the provisions of the framework EPA concluded in 2007 together with the new chapters (completed and on-going negotiated) have been consolidated to a single text, the comprehensive or full EPA.

2 MAIN FEATURES OF THE FRAMEWORK EPA

- ➔ **Duty free quota free access** into the EU for all imports from EAC, with transition periods for rice and sugar;
- ➔ **Asymmetric** and **gradual** opening of the EAC to EU goods, taking full account of the differences in levels of development between them and the EU (see below);
- ➔ **Trade defence** provisions with safeguards allowing each party to reintroduce duties if imports of the other party disturb or threaten to disturb their economy;

- ➔ **Rules of Origin** (subject to review in the full EPA negotiations)
- ➔ **Dispute avoidance** and **settlement** provisions (more elaborate provisions will be negotiated for the full EPA);
- ➔ A chapter on **fisheries** (see below under "other features")

➔ GOODS COVERED BY LIBERALISATION

All imports from EAC countries have entered the EU duty and quota free since the 1st of January 2008 (1.1.2010 for rice and 1.10.2009 for sugar).

The EAC committed to liberalise 82.6% of imports from the EU by value. Under the EAC Customs Union, more than half of these imports from across the entire world are currently duty free. The remainder will be progressively liberalised within 15 years after the entry into force. 2.6% of it will be liberalised by 25 years. Thus, the EPA represents an effective liberalisation effort which is merely a portion of 82.6% on imports only from Europe over 25 years.

The Eastern African Community
East Africa is a geographically and economically homogeneous region committed to regional integration. The Eastern African Community (EAC) consists of Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda (all of which are Least Developed Countries or "LDCs") and Kenya (which is non-LDC). The EAC established a Customs Union in 2005 and full-fledged union with zero internal tariffs as from 2010. The EAC in fast tracking its economic integration process has ratified since July 2010 a more far-reaching Common Market Protocol and last November, signed a protocol on the East African Monetary Union. The integration agenda of the EAC is strongly political in nature as its ultimate goal is to become a Federation.

➔ GOODS EXCLUDED FROM LIBERALISATION

The EAC decided to exclude the following products from liberalisation; agricultural products, wines and spirits, chemicals, plastics, wood based paper, textiles and clothing, footwear, ceramic products, glassware, articles of base metal and vehicles.


➔ OTHER FEATURES

The agreement contains an extensive fisheries chapter, mainly aiming to reinforce cooperation on the sustainable use of resources (such as resource assessment and management, monitoring environmental, economic and social impacts, conformity with existing national laws and relevant international instruments, effective control and surveillance for combating illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing).

3 THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS

In June 2010, a Ministerial meeting held in Dar es Salaam noted that EAC was not ready to sign the FEPA but both parties agreed to seek a successor agreement to their framework (interim) agreement. The EAC has been determined to conclude a full EPA. However, the pace of negotiations is dependent on the on-going far-reaching regional integration process in EAC.

After a break of 14 months, the EAC and the EU resumed negotiations in September 2011 in Zanzibar. Since then, the regular pace of negotiations has yielded substantial progress on all issues including the economic and development cooperation chapter which was completed. The last round at ministerial level held in Brussels in January 2014 left a small set of outstanding issues in agriculture, rules of origin, the export taxes, MFN (non-discrimination) clause and the non-execution (human rights) clause.

The narrow set of outstanding issues together with existing packages on the table foster optimism on the outcome of the next meeting at technical and senior official aimed at resolving all of them, thus paving the way for a conclusive ministerial. 

EU-EAC Trade in Goods

The value of total trade flows between the Eastern African Community and the EU (27) is about €5.8bn, exports to the EU being dominated by a few products such as plants, flowers, coffee, vegetables, fish and tobacco. The EU mainly exports machinery, chemicals and vehicles to the EAC.

East Africa rolls out cross-border payment plan



EAC Payment and Settlement Systems Integration Project (EAC-PSSIP) financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to the tune of \$23 million aims to support the integration of payment and settlement systems in the region.

The project is expected to put in place well-functioning and integrated Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) systems in the region.


The system will save costs usually incurred in cross-border payments for EAC's \$5.5 billion intra-regional trade.

The East African Community (EAC) has launched a common platform that will allow traders to receive payments in real time and in local currencies, inching closer to a single financial market.

The EAC Payment and Settlement Systems Integration Project (EAC-PSSIP) financed by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to the tune of \$23 million aims to support the integration of payment and settlement systems in the region.

The project will enable the processing and settlement of payment obligations in a timely manner, enhance accountability and minimise errors.

"The system will also facilitate the development of innovative financial products while better managing risks" said AfDB head of mission, Jacob Mukete.

Specifically, the project is expected to put in place well-functioning and integrated Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) systems in the region. 

The YOU Ideology

Trapped 2.0: Don't Play You



Lying is not a social shock. It's "normal".
 The art of lying gets interesting when you lie to yourself.
 That's another level. Some people do it for so many years
 and in retrospect it's understandable because dealing with
 the hard cold truth about you can be difficult.
 Facing the naked, unmasked **YOU** can be tough.

Effective leaders are skilled at facing themselves.
 They don't shy away from their painful reality.
 It's never easy but leaders have to face the facts.
 Now, let's face **YOU**.

Are you stuck in a situation that you don't enjoy?
 What facts about you have you been running from?
 And how long do you plan to run?
 Change is only a mirage when we do this.

Sit down with pen and paper;
 Find out what it is about you that's kept you where you are.
 No blame game; don't play Bueso (see Trapped in the
 previous issue).
 What part did you play? I know it's tough, but do it.
 This exercise will bring clarity and give you a new vision.

Face **YOU**.
 It's worth it.

In the next Issue: **Plotting your move... then Doing it!**

Samuel Mpamugo
 theyouideology.com

BRAIN BASHERS

?? Tricycle Traveler

I want to travel 1,000 miles on an adult tricycle and I have two spare tyres.

However, I want to use all five tyres equally and have an equal mileage on each of the five tyres by the end of the trip.

Of course I can only use three tyres at a time, so I will have to change tyres during the trip.

At the end of the trip how many miles will each tyre have been used?

[HINT: How many tyre miles have been travelled?]

?? Puzzled!

Read each line aloud without making any mistakes. If you make a mistake you MUST start again without going any further.

- This is this puzzle
- This is is puzzle
- This is how puzzle
- This is to puzzle
- This is keep puzzle
- This is someone puzzle
- This is busy puzzle
- This is for puzzle
- This is about puzzle
- This is forty puzzle
- This is seconds! puzzle

[HINT: This is a forty second puzzle]

?? Seven Letters

Below you will find 10 well-known seven letter words, with only their endings remaining. Can you determine the words?

- ...IGY; ...AOH; ...ERG; ...YNX; ...LTH
- ...MOX; ...OVY; ...ESH; ...AWE; ...IPT

?? Word play

What four related words are merged here:

SWAS PURI UINM NTTU MGER MNER

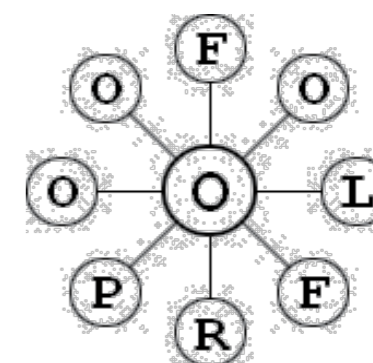
[HINT: The four items form a complete list]

?? Word Wheel

Using the BrainTracker grid below, how many words can you find? Each word must contain the central O and no letter can be used twice, however, the letters do not have to be connected. Proper nouns are not allowed, however, plurals are. Can you find the nine letter word?

Excellent: 20 words. Good: 16 words. Average: 14 words.

[HINT: The four items form a complete list]



600 miles. A total of 1,000 miles have been travelled and at any one time, three tyres are travelled, which is shared equally by the 5 tyres.

Now go back and read the THIRD word in each line from the top.

COMMON WORDS: floor, flop, fool, FOOLPROOF, poor, pro, proof, roof.
 for, fo, lo, loo, loop, lop, of, off, op, olo, pool, prodigy, PHARAOH, ICEBERG, PHARYNX, STEALTH, FLUMMOX, ANCHOVY, REFRESH, OVERAWAY, RECEIPT.

ALL WORDS: floor, flop, fool, FOOLPROOF, for, fo, lo, loo, loop, lop, of, off, op, olo, pool, pol, polo, pool, poor, pro, prof, proof, roof, roof.

SPRING, SUMMER, AUTUMN AND WINTER.

line from the top.

travelling, Therefore 3,000 tyre miles have been

travelling, which is shared equally by the 5 tyres.

PRODIGY, PHARAOH, ICEBERG, PHARYNX,

STEALTH, FLUMMOX, ANCHOVY, REFRESH,

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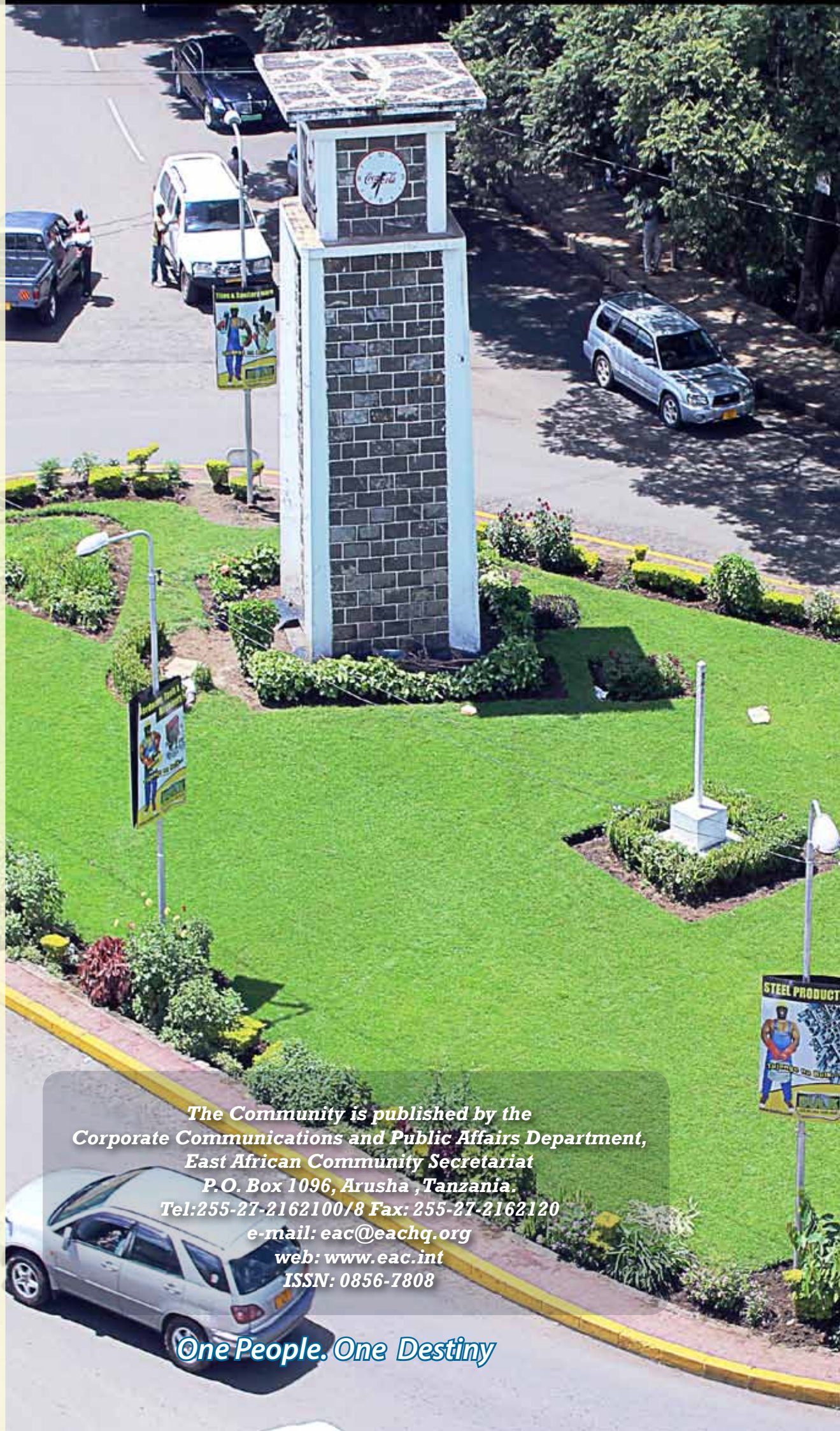
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Destination East Africa



*The Community is published by the
Corporate Communications and Public Affairs Department,
East African Community Secretariat
P.O. Box 1096, Arusha, Tanzania.
Tel: 255-27-2162100/8 Fax: 255-27-2162120
e-mail: eac@eachq.org
web: www.eac.int
ISSN: 0856-7808*

One People. One Destiny