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The region plays together,
to stay together

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THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE. ONE DESTINY

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FRESH WATER

A resource EAC can't afford to waste

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FROM THE SG

State of EAC Affairs



AMB. DR. RICHARD SEZIBERA , EAC SECRETARY GENERAL

The Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania have made public their concerns regarding the meetings held by the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Uganda during a number of meetings at Heads of State level.

There have also been persistent press reports including misrepresentations on the matter.

As the Secretary General of the East African Community, I have consulted the five Partner States on this state of affairs.

On the sidelines of the 19th Sectoral Council of Ministers Responsible for East African Community Affairs held on 1st November 2013 at the Royal Palace Hotel in Bujumbura, Burundi, the Ministers in the spirit of consolidating and strengthening East African Integration, exchanged on progress occasioned by the meetings mentioned above as well as the challenges that have arisen.

East Africans are urged not to be unduly alarmed because the challenges are being addressed and will be further considered by the Council of Ministers at its 28th Meeting scheduled for 28th November 2013 and make recommendations to the Summit.

Partner States committed themselves to implement the Protocols on the Common Market and the Customs Union, and in particular laying the requisite infrastructure, and removal of barriers to the free movement of goods, services and people.

I have been encouraged by a renewed dynamism to remove Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to Trade. The Private Sector are optimistic that progress will accelerate on both the Northern and Central Corridors. I share their optimism. I also look forward to the implementation of the EAC Single Customs Territory, conclusion of negotiations on a Single Tourist Visa and decision on an International East African Passport. 🇰🇪



Germany injects €20M into EAC baby jabs programme


The Federal Republic of Germany has injected 20 million Euros to support an EAC immunisation programme that will be implemented in collaboration with the GAVI Alliance in the region.

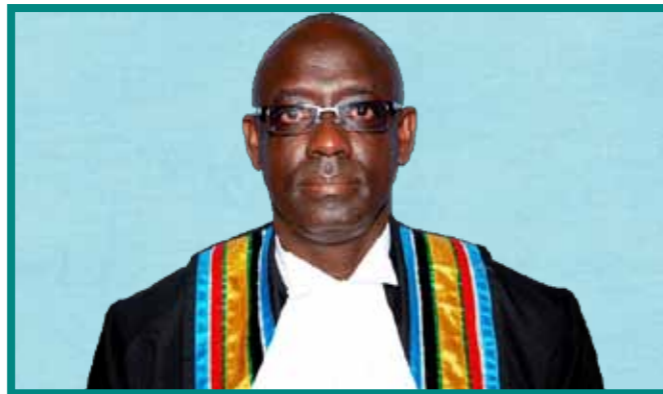
The 20 million Euros German support for the EAC regional immunization programme will contribute towards the East African Community Open Health Initiative (OHI) on innovations to improve maternal, newborn and child health outcomes in the East African Community Partner States.

The OHI, launched in March 2013, is a sub-regional collaborative effort that seeks to promote innovative interventions, enhance data and information for better results and provide stronger oversight of progress and resources in line with recommendations of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health and the Commission on Information and Accountability.

The OHI is expected to boost reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health (RMNCH) progress by harnessing the collective knowledge and market size of the different participating countries, with the help of an acceleration fund to catalyze efforts to improve women's and children's health.

The strong support by Germany underlines the wish to further strengthen the long-standing and deep relationship with the East African Community with the objective to contribute to the well-being and prosperity of its citizens.

The GAVI Alliance is a public-private global health partnership committed to saving children's lives and protecting people's health by increasing access to immunization in poor countries. 



Former EACJ Judge appointed Minister of Justice & Attorney General of Rwanda


Former Principal Judge of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) Hon. Mr. Justice Johnston Busingye was appointed Justice Minister and Attorney General of the Republic of Rwanda May 25 2013 by his Excellence Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.

His Lordship was appointed a Judge at the EACJ in June 2008 and as Principal Judge of the First Instance Division in November 2008. Justice Busingye's five year tenure at EACJ ended June 27 2013.

Hon. Mr. Justice Busingye left a memorable benchmark during his leadership as Principal Judge, having heard and determined forty one cases during his term, a clear indication of his zeal and determination on timely service delivery.

The East African Court of Justice and the East African Community as a whole benefited immensely from his service and have faith in his new appointment as the Minister of Justice and Attorney General of the Republic of Rwanda. The Region as a whole will benefit from his entrusted services. The EACJ is very sure of the Ministry's support in delivering fair and quality justice to EAC citizens.

Justice Busingye expresses his delight serving the people of the region; "it was nice while it lasted, EACJ has been a place that taught, natured and probably contributed to my current service in my country", he said. "I am privileged working with the Court, which I served with all courage, all the efforts and that what I did not do, the New Principal Judge, will do it", he added.

Justice Busingye's Principle Judge seat at the EAC is now occupied by Hon. Mr. Justice Jean Bosco Butasi, who was appointed in June 2008 from the Republic of Burundi. 



EALA joins fight against poaching in the region

EALA has recently joined in the fight involving several stakeholders to stem poaching in the region. At its Sitting in Arusha, EALA moved an important Resolution calling for a halt to elephant killings and trafficking of ivory.


The Resolution moved by Hon Abubakar Ogle noted that investment in wildlife law enforcement was inadequate to deal with the increasing emerging threats as a result of embolden criminal cartels. Hon Ogle said the region had a role to play in halting the trade.

"No African elephant range state is immune to the ongoing killing of elephants to feed ivory demand in the Far East and a workable solution to the crisis is needed, the Resolution said in part.

The Members welcomed the creation of the International Consortium for Combating Wildlife Crime involving the UNEP, Interpol and the World Bank among others and noted the importance of realising the set targets. Rising up in support of the motion was Hon Patricia Hajabakiga, Hon Adam Kimbisa, Hon Joseph Kiangoi, the Counsel to the Community, Hon Wilbert Kaahwa and the Chair of the Council of Ministers, Hon Shem Bageine.

The Resolution thus called on the EAC Partner States to categorise elephant poaching and ivory traffic as an economic crime and a national and regional crisis.

It is important for the EAC Partner States to co-operate to identify wildlife crime hotspots and to conduct co-ordinated investigations and undertake joint crackdown on corruption. At the same time, the region needs to eliminate any corrupt tendencies that abet poaching of elephants for their ivory.

In this regard, EALA urged the region scale up engagement with regional and global enforcement agencies in order to crack down on key cartels and continue to use the services provided by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC) comprising of the UNODC, CITES, Interpol, WCO, World Bank and Caucus Foundation (ICCF) among others. 



New Chair for East African Business Council

During its 14th Annual General Meeting held in Arusha on 31 May 2013, the East African Business Council elected Mr. Vimal Shah as the Chair of its Board of Directors.


Mr. Vimal Shah took over from Hon. Gerald Ssendaula, who had served as Chair since March 2012.

The new EABC Chair indicated that during his tenure focus will be placed on raising the profile of the Private Sector in the East African Community as well as enhancing its regional and global competitiveness.

"We want to see a borderless East Africa so that internally the region's 130 million people can move about freely and can also trade freely as if it was one country," he said.

He added that Standards need to be harmonised – businesses should be harmonised so that people get the best of products and services at the best prices. "The public should see and enjoy the fringe benefits of the creation of the East Africa Community."

The new Chair highlighted his key priorities will include fast tracking the harmonisation of Domestic Taxes, ratification of the EAC Agreement on avoidance of double taxation, monitoring removal of Non-Tariff Barriers, fast tracking the introduction of the EAC Single Tourist Visa, harmonisation of work permit regimes as well as domestication of the EAC Air space.

Mr. Shah brings a wealth of experience to the position of EABC Chair, having worked with the private sector for several years. He is the current CEO of the BIDCO Group, a leading manufacturer, marketer and distributor of edible oils, fats and hygienic products with operations in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The company further distributes its products to over 16 countries in Eastern and Southern Africa. 

Railways, a catalyst for socio-economic development

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

Infrastructure development remains a prime mover for socio-economic development of the EAC and, therefore, continues to receive the utmost political attention by all Partner States in the EAC Region.

Railways are the main artery of inland transport in an economy. They are an energy-efficient mode of transportation, ideally suitable for large scale movement of manpower, bulk commodities and for long distance travel. They are the lifeline of a region and hold great importance in its socio-economic development. A well-established railway system brings together people from the farthest corners of the region and makes possible the conduct of business, sightseeing, pilgrimage and education. It improves the quality of life and thus helps to accelerate the growth of industry and agriculture.

Indian Railway (IR) is the largest rail network in Asia as well as the world's second largest under a single management. It has been a key component of India's transport sector for over 150 years. It is India's largest employer with over 1.4 million employees. It plays an

important role in not only meeting the infrastructural needs of the country, but also in binding together the dispersed areas and promoting national integration.

In East Africa, the East African Railways Master Plan was completed in February 2009. It spells out the frameworks and priorities for the development of railways in the region. The plan facilitated development of a large number of feasibility studies, detailed designs and bankable railway projects identified in the Master Plan.

Some of the completed feasibility studies and preliminary designs cover sections of the Dar-es-Salaam-Isaka-Kigali/Keza-Musongati line as well as Kenya-Uganda railway line (Mombasa-Nairobi-Kampala) which had been identified as some of the key priorities for rehabilitation or reconstruction and/or upgrading to standard gauge.

The region endeavors to develop railway links that will spur socio-economic development as well as enhance integration.

EAC RAILWAYS PRIORITY PROJECTS



Construction of Uvinza-Musongati railway line: connecting Musongati (Burundi) to the Kigoma-Tabora railway line (Tanzania), via a maritime component.



Construction of Dar es Salaam-Isaka-Kigali/Keza-Gitega-Musongati railway line: linking Dar-es-Salaam port to Rwanda and Burundi.



Completion (detailed designs) and construction: Lamu-Isiolo-Moyale-Addis Ababa standard gauge railway, Lamu-Isiolo-Nadapal/Nakodok-Juba standard gauge railway line, Nairobi-Isiolo-Moyale-Addis Ababa standard gauge railway line under the LAPSET Corridor Project: opening up the LAPSET corridor linking EAC to Ethiopia and South Sudan through Lamu Port.



Rehabilitation of Kenya-Uganda railway: Mombasa-Nairobi-Malaba-Kampala with a branch line to Kisumu & Tororo-Pakwach: increasing capacity and efficiency of bulk cargo transportation along the Northern Corridor and adjoining spur from Tororo to Pakwach.



Rehabilitation of Voi-Taveta Branch to link Kenya and Tanzania railway networks: linking Kenya-Uganda railway and Tanzanian railway systems.



Upgrading (standard gauge) of Mombasa-Nairobi-Malaba-Kampala-Kasese line and construction of the Kasese-Bihanga-Kigali-Bujumbura line and Kasese-Kisangani line: linking Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC to Mombasa port through Uganda.



Upgrading (standard gauge) of Tororo-Pakwach line and construction to standard gauge of the Pakwach-Gulu-Atiak-Nimule-Juba line: vital in linking Kenya, Uganda and South Sudan.



Upgrading and Construction of Tanga (Mwambani)-Arusha-Musoma with spurs to Minjingu and Lake Natron line, linking to New Kampala Port at Bukasa via Lake Victoria: linking Uganda to Tanzania through Musoma, Arusha and Tanga.



Development of Mtwara-Mbamba Bay railway with spurs to Liganga, Mlimba and Mchuchuma: connecting EAC to Malawi and Zambia through Mbamba Bay and linking Mtwara port to Liganga iron ore and Mchuchuma coal fields.



IN FOCUS

IN FOCUS

When the curtains fell on the 2013 edition of the Military Games and Culture Event, Kenya with five gold medals and one silver finished as the most decorated team, but the entire EAC left Nairobi triumphant, reminded yet again that when the region that plays together, it stays together.

ABOUT THE GAMES

The EAC Military Sports and Culture Events have been held on a rotational basis since 2005 when the first edition was held in Kampala, Uganda. Subsequent editions were held in Nairobi, Kenya (2006), Zanzibar/Tanzania (2007), Kampala (2008), Kigali, Rwanda (2009) and Bujumbura, Burundi (2011).

The Military Sports and Culture Event is held within the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in Defence, which was signed in 1998 and revised in 2001. The MoU has specific provisions for areas of co-operation that include exchange of visits and regular meetings of the Defence Chiefs and other cadre of the defence forces; joint training; joint exercises and promotion of various joint sports and cultural activities.

The primary objective of the Military Sports and Culture Event is not competition, rather, it aims to contribute to confidence building and nurturing a spirit of sportsmanship among the EAC Partner States' Defence Forces and provide a platform for individual soldiers to demonstrate their immense talents and diverse cultures.



The region plays together, to stay together

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

Every time the teams lined up pre-match at the sports venues in Nairobi, Kenya, you'd never imagine they were poised to do battle in a matter of minutes. While a fierce competitive spirit simmered beneath, it was always easily subjugated by an overwhelming sense of camaraderie. And there was nothing pretended about that. That's what years of mutual cooperation, and confidence building, yields.

In August 2013, more than 500 men and women from the Defence Forces of the EAC Partner States checked into Nairobi for the EAC Military Sports and Culture Event, the second time the country was hosting the affair that had already done its regional rotation to Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi between 2005 and 2011. In Nairobi, they would once again square off in disciplines ranging from handball (men), football (men), netball (women), cross-country marathon (men and women) and basketball (men).

In opening the Games, Kenya President His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta had reaffirmed the importance of collaboration in defence, noting that "society has continued to look upon the military to show the way forward especially towards the promotion of peace and solidarity and you must never fail them".

For Secretary General Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, the EAC's strategic vision for a common security future is best guaranteed by the moulding of an East African soldier and a unified territorial defence system, and the annual EAC Military Sports and Culture events provide the platform to mould that soldier and for the Partner States Defence Forces to build confidence among themselves.

Dr. Sezibera also reckons that so long as the countries of the region are co-operating among themselves, they will have neither reason nor cause to resort to violent conflict among them.

CATEGORY WINNERS

Basketball	Kenya
Cross Country (M)	Kenya
Cross Country (W)	Kenya
Football	Kenya
Handball	Kenya
Netball	Tanzania

MEDALS TABLE

Team	G	S	B
Kenya	5	1	0
Uganda	0	2	3
Burundi	0	1	0
Tanzania	1	2	2
Rwanda	0	0	1



A FIRM HANDSHAKE

President Jakaya Kikwete shakes hands with President Paul Kagame shortly after their meeting during the Great Lakes Summit in Kampala, Uganda

Fresh Water: a resource EAC can't afford to waste

WIVINE NTAMUBANO

Two decades ago, at the International Conference on Water and the Environment meeting convened in Dublin, Ireland, in 1992, four main principles of water emerged. These have become the cornerstones of subsequent water sector reform, the global blue print in guiding the Integrated Eater Resources Management (IWRM) implementation process. The principles brought about a paradigm shift in the ways we manage our water resources - from a reactive to a proactive and holistic approach.

The Dublin IWRM Principles:

- i) Fresh water is a finite and vulnerable resource, essential to sustain life, development and the environment;
- ii) Water development and management should be based on a participatory approach, involving users, planners and policymakers at all levels;
- iii) Women play a central part in the provision, management and safeguarding of water; and
- iv) Water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognised as an economic good as well as a social good.

Based on these principles, IWRM may be defined as a systematic process for the sustainable development, allocation and monitoring of water resource use in the context of social, economic and environmental objectives. It is cross-sectoral and therefore in stark contrast to the traditional sectoral approach that has been adopted by many countries. It has been further broadened to incorporate participatory decision-making of all stakeholders.

The EAC recognizes that sustainable water development and management will be a catalyst for development and social transformation. It further recognizes that water has an economic value in all its competing uses and should be recognized as an economic good. Past fail-

ure to recognize the economic value of water has led to wasteful and environmentally damaging uses of the resource.

The EAC Partner States face largely similar challenges in water resources; - droughts, floods, erratic rains, chronic food insecurity; water borne diseases accounting for large share of disease incidence in the region and in this respect, water availability has become a major constraint in realisation of socio-economic development.

As a consequence, the EAC has embarked on the development of various tools to address the many water challenges which are mainly being driven by water becoming scarce due to the limited natural endowment, increase in population, and neglected management of the resource base all leading to serious degradation.

THE EAST AFRICA WATER VISION

The East Africa Water Vision reflects how best to use, protect, manage and develop water resources. The Water Vision provides a clear framework for sustainable management of regional water resources, clarifying roles and responsibilities; while increasing accountability, reducing conflict, improving the integrated management of resources, providing water security for present and future generations, as well as optimizing public funds through more effective use of resources.

REGIONAL WATER POLICY AND STRATEGY

To progress on this front, the EAC is in the process of developing a regional water policy and strategy.

These instruments once developed and implemented will revert the current dwindling trend of fresh water availability by creating mechanisms for managing water resources efficiently and effectively (addressing both quantity and quality), moving towards integrated river basin management, translating awareness into political will and capacity, moving towards adequate, safe



The water vision focuses more critically on *Water for People; Water for Food and Rural Development; Water for Economic Development and Water for the Environment.*

and affordable water services by 2025, minimizing water related disaster particularly drought and flood, improving understanding and analysis of water situation and trends, improving management of trans-boundary water resources and ensuring environment health and conservation.

Furthermore, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), an EAC institution, has also developed various water management programmes to address numerous water resources challenges of the Lake Victoria Basin. Among those programmes are the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Project (LVWATSAN), the Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project (LVEMP II).

The LVEMP II is a trans-boundary project designed to achieve two development/global environmental objectives. First, the project is meant to improve collaborative management of trans-boundary natural resources of Lake Victoria Basin and, secondly, reduce environmental stress in the targeted pollution hotspots and selected degraded sub-catchments as a means of improving the livelihoods of communities who depend on the natural resources of the Basin.

The Inter-University Council of East Africa (IU-CEA) is a specialized institution of the EAC Secretariat which has been spearheading research in water resources management at the catchment level through issuance of research grants to young water and environmental professionals from regional universities.

It must be noted that, economic development, industrialization, energy and food security, health and other sectoral activities can only be guaranteed with adequate availability of water both in quantity and quality.

We need therefore to come together in the spirit of integration and deepen and widen water resources management for the future prosperity of the region. The EAC Secretariat together with its specialized institutions is on the right path in the promotion of integrated water resources management in the region. 🇰🇪

The author is the Principal Environment & Natural Resources Officer at the EAC Secretariat

A ray of hope for our environment

DAMARIS WAMBUI

The need to empower East Africans on the importance of environmental conservation is becoming more crucial day by day. Water is one of the most basic needs of all living things in the universe. It has been reported that it is the leading cause of worldwide deaths of more than 14,000 people daily as well as deadly diseases.

On the 23rd of August the IUCN; (International Union for Conservation of Nature), visited the EAC Headquarters to give a general brief on IUCN's work in Eastern and Southern Africa Region to seek ways of strengthening collaboration between IUCN and EAC and address any other matter of interest between these two organizations. The main aim of IUCN is to help find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environmental and development challenges.

Chairing the meeting was Deputy Secretary General-Productive and Social Sectors; Hon. Jesca Eriyo who shed light on the current EAC structures, activities and priority programmes within the fields of biodiversity, water shade management, conservation and climate change. From IUCN were the IUCN Regional Director; Ali Kaka, the Technical Director of Water and Wetlands (Nairobi) Programme; Dr. Eliot Taylor, IUCN Programme Coordinator; Ms. Mine Pabari and Bilateral Relations Officer; Ms. Kaori Yasuda.

Some key ideas were deliberated including sensitizing people on the need to conserve the environment especially at the grass root level by enlightening them about alternative sources of livelihood and fuel. An initiative to work together with banks to facilitate loans with minimal

interest rates was reported to have been established in some Southern African countries which had consequently reduced the destruction of the ecosystem for short-lived financial solutions.

Mapping water resources and coming up with water maintenance programmes at a regional level was yet another solution tabled as an initiative that should be established due to the high rate of rural-urban migration, which has in effect deteriorated the quality of water within the entire East African region as a result of pollution, lack of water catchment areas and congestion of urban centers.

One of the latest achievements of IUCN that was presented is that it has been able to develop technology that generates information about the status of a certain environment. It is able to identify whether there is enough water within that area and even access the quality of water within that environment. This kind of technology when introduced will enable us to know what kind of measures should be taken where and generally facilitate improvement of the quality of our environment throughout the East African region.

EAC and IUCN agreed to establish a follow-up framework towards this course in order to effectively concretize initiatives that were discussed on regional conservation of nature which includes water, among others. 🇰🇪

Damaris is a Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat.

After Euro Crisis, dos and don'ts for EAC

CLOVIS RUGEMINTWARI

As the East African Community moves to the next critical levels of integration, Partner States will, more than ever before, be called upon to commit the requisite resources and political will for the attainment of the Common Market, the Monetary Union, and the ultimate stage of a Political Federation. However, there are key lessons the region ought to pick from the Euro Crisis when moving toward the Monetary Union. This article highlights two key lessons that we can draw from the flaws of the European Monetary Union.

1 Rules are necessary but not sufficient if they are not binding.

Since 1999, the Maastricht rules threaten to slap hefty fines on Euro member countries that exceed the budget deficit limit of 3% of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and a total debt of 60% of GDP, yet Germany, Italy and France were the first ones to break them without being fined. When Greece was accepted to become the 12th country to join the Euro in 2001, its public debt was more than 100% of GDP. Worse, the Euro Crisis started at the end of 2009, when the extent of Greek falsifications of its data on public finances was revealed, showing that its deficit would be 12.5% of GDP, far above its previous forecast of 3.7% of GDP. Nevertheless, Greece triggered the Euro Crisis but was not its cause. At the core of it is the unfinished architecture of economic governance which concentrated monetary policy in the European Central Bank while leaving fiscal policy to individual member states. This leads to:

2 Monetary Union and Political Federation should be considered interdependent.

The Euro Crisis plainly revealed that the problems underlying it were institutional. This is why all stakeholders unanimously agreed to urgently embark on the path towards a banking union, fiscal union, and political union. The first of these three reforms is at an advanced stage as the European Parliament voted on 12 September 2013 to set up the Single Supervisory Mechanism which will be completed by a Single European Resolution System and a Common Deposit Insurance. Similarly, the issuance of common debt under study by the euro-area Member States will lead to more political integration as it would require more decisions to be taken at European level when it comes to public expenditure, revenues and borrowing. All these envisaged institutional reforms being federal in nature; the current crisis wouldn't have occurred if the political federation existed already.

Interestingly, it is worth noting that in this regard the EAC Treaty is ahead of European integration as it has explicitly committed itself to creating a Political Federation. The fast-tracking project of Political Federation goes in this direction but it is surprising that none of the reasons above has been put forward to justify its urgency. I hope this article contributes in filling this gap. 🇰🇪

The author is an Associate Professor at University of Limoges, France.



Attaining the Habitat agenda

BOBI ODIKO

As the clock ticks fast on the period set to realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), EALA is urging the region to expend more resources in ensuring the HABITAT agenda is realized. At the same time, the Assembly is recommending the indicator on improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020 should be reviewed to reflect a percentage increment as opposed to a numerical figure. This sums up the key result areas of the EALA conference on Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that also marked the 25th Anniversary celebrations of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) held in Arusha on August 19-20, 2013.

The Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Mohammed Gharib Bilal, opened the two day conference. In his remarks, the Vice President underscored the need for the constant monitoring of the goal towards ensuring 'shelter for all' as an important agenda in socio-economic development.

The Vice President remarked that the United Republic of Tanzania had taken measures aimed at addressing the challenges of unplanned settlements and slums in the urban population and was undertaking a study with the assistance of the UN-HABITAT. The Study, Dr. Bilal

added, is currently been mapped out in Bagamoyo, Dar es Salaam and Morogoro under the four themes of governance, slums, gender, HIV/AIDS and environment.

He noted that the government would in the financial year 2013/14 implement the Big Results Now (BRN) initiative which supplements the MDGs with a view to fast tracking poverty alleviation in Tanzania and towards accelerating socio-economic development.

The Vice President urged the EAC Partner States to consistently pursue the development agenda with more vigour and focus than ever before.

'On various occasions, the EAC Summit of Heads of State has directed the Council and the Secretariat to invest more of their energies in agricultural development and food security; infrastructure (both social and economic) industrial development and private sector promotion. This is key', he added.

The Vice President urged legislators to re-focus their oversight activities in the development agenda.

'Legislators should not only be critical to their governments but they must assess what has been achieved, where the failures are and the reasons whether they resulted from inadequate resources, misplaced priorities or they simply point to governance, and recommend issues', he remarked.

Present were EALA Members, legislators from South Africa, Kenya, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Burundi and key representatives from the UN-HABITAT.

In her remarks, the EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa urged stakeholders to ensure the region realizes its full potential on the MDGs.

'The status of our cities, have become very unmanageable, congestion, pollution, garbage and dust. But who is responsible? Are city authorities adequate and sufficient to deal with this mess? the Speaker questioned.

The Speaker urged Parliamentarians to rise to the occasion and to address issues that face the people.

'As Parliamentarians, we must raise to the moment and follow up on these critical issues through enacting laws, or holding accountable on policies regarding descent and affordable housing, sustainable cities, and also equitable share of resources in terms of sectors, like health (MDGs 2, 4 and 5) education (4 and 6), water (7) food production, fuel and energy provisions, housing, among others which mainly affect the most vulnerable sections of our society' the Speaker noted.

Unemployment and under-employment were cited as two devastating challenges afflicting youth and constraining their very survival in the EAC region.

Statistics reveal that only 11% of school graduates can acquire jobs in the public sector. In the Republic of Kenya for example, 72% of the unemployed population is below 30 years of age. Unemployment means the region may not be able to comfortably realize MDG No: 1 - Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

The two day conference featured presentations on a wide spectrum of issues on MDGs with each region expected to share their experiences in the subject matter. Presentations from Civil Society Organisations on Global Habitat issues including urban planning and settlement and challenges the continent is facing are also on the card.

Under the GPH umbrella, Parliamentarians have set themselves the goal of ensuring that their respective Governments increasingly address issues in the attainment of the Habitat Agenda by mainly focusing on areas of housing, sustainable urban and city development, human settlement, water and sanitation. 🇰🇪

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





President of the United Republic of Tanzania, HE Jakaya Kikwete enjoys a moment with Maasai dancers during an EAC event.



EAC Officials catch a break during the commemoration of the EU Day held at the EAC Headquarters.



Hon. Bagaine, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers receives a birthday gift from the Secretary General.



President Uhuru Kenyatta visits the EAC stall during the Nairobi International Trade Fair; October 2013.



EAC Official, Mr Jean Claude Nsengiyumva (R) shares a moment with Member of the European Parliament, Dr. Hans-Gert Poettering.



A firm handshake between Amb. Sezibera (L) and Hon. Mwinyi, EALA MP as Hon. Kaahwa, Counsel to the Community looks on.



Flags at the EAC Headquarters fly at half mast in honor of the Victims of Kenya's Westgate Mall terror attack; September 2013.



EAC Election Observer Mission to the Parliamentary Elections in the Republic of Rwanda; September 2013.



Region's youth urged to tap opportunities

VIOLET AYOUB

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Jesca Eriyo wants the youth in East Africa to respond to the available opportunities to advance self growth and in turn, the growth of the East African economy as a whole.

This she said while addressing youth from the EAC Partner States during the commemoration of the International Youth Day in Arusha, Tanzania. Organized by Arusha based Vision for Youth (V4Y) and sponsored by the EAC Secretariat, the grandeur 12 August 2013 event was hosted at the EAC Headquarters.


For the region to prosper the youth need qualifications and professionalism to enable them compete favorably for employment opportunities within the region. Hon. Eriyo's take on the matter revolves around the many challenges youth are faced with in achieving their goals, including the vicious cycle of drug abuse, increased prevalence of HIV and the lack of professionalism among the youth. She reckons this vice has failed young people in finding employment and emphasized it is the youth's obligation to break this cycle.

The youth population is on the rise worldwide and it is estimated that by 2033, sixty percent of the world's population will be youth with an estimated sixty percent of that being teenagers from within the East African region. With

such statistics there is need to concede that the youth are the source of the region's future socio-economic development and this is the East African Community's rationale in investing in youth.

V4Y strongly advocate for skills development among the youth. High on their agenda are business and management skills development. It is thus vital that young people are encouraged and continue joining entrepreneurial groups, for hands on training, experience as well as start-up guidance and assistance. Indeed governments have their role to play in socio-economic development, however, the blame ball of unemployment and poverty should no longer be thrown at our governments only.

To crown the International Youth Day celebrations, V4Y together with the youth carried out various community service initiatives in the city of Arusha, including cleaning the government hospital and central bus station, as well as voluntary activities such as HIV testing and counseling and tree planting within central business district.

More than 250 East African youth participated in the 12 August commemoration. 

The author is the Executive Director of Vision 4 Youth.



A Tribute to Our Brothers and Sisters who fell Victim to the September 21, 2013 Westgate Mall Terror Attack in Nairobi, Kenya.



University students on integration opportunities

PAMELA KANORA & BARBARA KABOHA

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania was the host city for the 2nd EAC University Students Debate on Regional Integration held 2 -3 September this year and organised by the EAC Nyerere Center for Peace Research in collaboration with GIZ.

The two-day Debate themed, “Understanding the Opportunities and Challenges arising from the EAC integration for Youth in East Africa”, brought together at least 100 students from universities and other education institutions from across the EAC region to interrogate the motion that the opportunities of EAC integration for youth outweigh the challenges.

In a riveting day-long exercise, East African students went about passionately making cases for and against

opportunities of regional integration for youth. With a particularly powerful analogy, a student from Tanzania described the road to integration as one that requires progress, albeit the magnitude – “If you cannot run, walk and if you cannot walk crawl; but whatever you do, keep moving”.

Students that stood to oppose the motion argued that while regional integration has its opportunities for the youth; language, culture as well as different levels of economic development among the Partner States hinder youth from embracing these opportunities. The worries voiced by those opposed to the motion revolved around weak State institutions, slow implementation of commitments made at the regional level (exacerbated by the absence of enforcement mechanisms), limited

participation by the citizenry and a lack of awareness of key EAC initiatives, as well as different levels of democracy and governance among the Partner States.

Supporters of the motion urged the harmonisation of education systems, the Common Market Protocol and its provisions including the free movement of persons, labour, capital and goods provide room for human enterprise development, and thus presenting the youth in a region with scores of opportunities.

At the closing gala dinner, the best five debaters at the event were recognized and awarded certificates which were presented by EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Political Federation Mr. Charles Njoroge. The Best Debaters were Effie Omondi (Kenya); Apuuli Babigumira (Uganda); Michael Mayambala (Uganda); Daphine Arinda (Uganda); and Charles Mwangi (Kenya) were names Best Debaters by the Judges.

At the same gala five of the participants were appointed EAC Youth Ambassadors; Yves Nduwayezu (Burundi),

Effie Omondi (Kenya), Sandra Mukesha (Rwanda), Bertha Tamara (Tanzania) and Appuli Babigumira (Uganda). Five other participants, Josiane Nganinka (Burundi), Charles Mwangi (Kenya), Dorice Mutoni (Rwanda), Alice Musetti (Tanzania) and Michael Mayambala (Uganda) were appointed Deputy Ambassadors.

EAC YOUTH AMBASSADORS PLATFORM

The gala dinner also saw the launch of the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform (EAC-YAP). The Platform aims at facilitating structured engagement of the EAC with the appointed EAC Youth Ambassadors; both the alumni and the newly appointed to ensure sustainable EAC Youth Ambassador engagement with the EAC.

ABOUT THE DEBATE

The main objective of the Debate is to promote continuous dialogue among the youth and interest them in advocating regional integration initiatives. The Debate is expected to provide a platform for the youth to participate in and contribute to policy formulation on issues that constitute the EAC youth agenda.

The 18th Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning noted the recommendations of the 1st Debate and directed its institutionalization into an annual event.

The event involved six participants from each EAC Partner State, drawn from national universities and other institutions of higher learning. Each student received a Certificate of Participation. 🇰🇪🇷🇼🇹🇺🇬

Pamela Kanora is a Research Assistant at the EAC Secretariat. This article was co-authored by Barbara Kaboha a Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat



Unleashing the 'Cheetah' generation

MILLY MBEDI

Kofi Annan once said "Young people should be at the forefront of global change and innovation. Empowered, they can be key agents for development and peace. If, however, they are left on society's margins, all of us will be impoverished. Let us ensure that all young people have every opportunity to participate fully in the lives of their societies."

These are undisputedly exciting times for the youth - the "cheetah generation," as it is increasingly identified. The East African Community is increasingly gaining economic, social and political significance in national policy deci-

sions and strategies. The potential for East Africa's youth to serve as drivers of economic growth are apparent when comparing its demographic trends with other world regions, such as East Asia. It is therefore vital that the youth are wholly involved in matters that affect them like integration.

Five Youth Ambassadors, Desire Bigirimana (Burundi), Milly Mbedi (Kenya), Gasheegu Muramira (Rwanda), Raymond Maro (Tanzania) and Tayebwa James (Uganda) were appointed during the inaugural EAC University Students' Debate to sensitize the youth about the inte-

gration process. The Ambassadorial team has conscientiously worked to engage and empower young people to enhance their contribution to the EAC integration agenda through valuable peer training on EAC structures and processes over the last one year. Through our tenure, as the focal points on youth affairs in the region, with our vigor, zeal and zest and of course with a new speed towards adopting lasting solutions we were able to overcome numerous challenges, albeit in an unstructured manner. Today, a structure has been established - the East African Community Youth Ambassadors Platform (EAC-YAP).

The EAC-YAP is the archetype of youth engagement in the integration process. It will empower young people to participate actively in society to improve their own lives by advocating for their interests as well as capable to sensitize peers on the integration process. This platform offers the youth an opportunity to identify with ongoing regional programmes, raise issues affecting them and share experiences for the youth in their nations and the region that would help realize the goal of having a political federation.

President Obama, once correctly asserted that "We've learned that it will not be giants like Nkrumah and Kenyatta who will determine Africa's future. It will be the young people brimming with talent and energy and hope who can claim the future that so many in previous generations never realized." While African governments are increasingly putting youth concerns at the heart of the development agenda, a lot more remains to be done. Indeed the "Cheetahs" should own the development wave in the region and embrace the fact that we have to be the change.

I am an optimist with bucketfuls of hope. Like the great African patriots, I believe to my core that this region of ours will prosper. I am confident that for this century to be ours we, the Cheetahs must work to make it so. 🇰🇪

Milly is a 2011/2012 EAC Youth Ambassador from Kenya

Who is Milly?



Milly Minayo Mbedi was Kenya's 2011/2012 EAC Youth Ambassador. She is currently completing her pupillage at Anjarwalla and Khanna Advocates, a top premier law firm in Kenya in compliance of the post graduate diploma requirements in law required at the Kenya School of Law.

She has served as Secretary General of the Law Students Association of Moi University (LSAMU)-Annex Campus; President of the International Court Justice under the Kenya Model of the United Nations, Moi University-Annex Campus and the Administrative Coordinator of the Disaster Management Club. In addition to that, she was also the Catering Director of the Electoral Commission of the Moi University Students' organization (MUSO) and the Vice Chairperson of the Red Cross club, Moi University-Annex Campus.

Milly is an energetic, self motivated and social individual with a proven record of being a team player. She is passionate about youth, children and women issues.



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Investing with a strong desire to empower youth

THE COMMUNITY TEAM

The youth are defined differently by the Constitutions of each EAC Partner State; in Kenya, youth are persons in the 18 to 35 age bracket, whilst in Burundi and Tanzania, youth are defined as persons between the ages of 15 and 35. Uganda's Constitution defines youth as any male or female between 18 and 30 years, while the Rwanda National Policy defines youth being females and males between the ages of 14 and 35 years. Adopted by the EAC Council of Ministers in August 2013, the EAC Youth Policy identifies youth as persons between 15 and 35 years of age.

In 2011, the youth population was estimated to represent forty five percent (45%), roughly 48 million of the total population of the EAC. This age group is expected to grow to 82 million people in the next 20 years.

The EAC Youth Policy aims at mainstreaming youth issues through policies, laws and programmes at the Community level; sensitize national and regional policy makers on the need to identify and mainstream youth issues in the development of the Community; empower the youth to develop their potential, creativity and skills as productive and dynamic Community members; ensuring meaningful youth participa-

tion in political processes and peace building for political, social and economic stability of the East African Community.

In addition, the policy seeks to ensure meaningful youth participation in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of national and regional development plans, policies and strategies as well as mobilization of resources for youth programmes and projects at all levels. The promotion of values and ethos are also outlined in this policy. Each of these objectives proposes strategic actions for intervention by each of the EAC Partner State and all stakeholders.

i VISION: "An integrated East African Community where its youth are empowered to fully participate and benefit in all facets of the region's development".

i MISSION: "To create an enabling environment for effective youth participation and empowerment in developing and sustaining the East African Community".

Major issues affecting the youth in the region are among others health related, including widespread malaria, malnutrition, HIV and AIDS, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs), drug

and substance abuse as well as limited access to health services. Education and training, access and use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), employment, participation in democracy and decision making processes as well as community and civic affairs are all factors limiting effective participation of the youth in moving forward the integration agenda. Youth empowerment and creation of networking partnerships are also attributed as barriers.

The EAC Youth Policy thus provides a unique opportunity for improving the quality of life for all East African Youth. It is important to note that the policy goes ahead and identifies certain categories of youth in need for special attention, principally due to their vulnerability and living circumstances. Groups calling for special programmes include:

-  Unemployed youth
-  Female youth migrants
-  Youth in the informal sector
-  Domestic servants /helpers
-  Youth in security agencies
-  Youth with disabilities
-  Pastoral and nomadic youth
-  Youth in schools /training institutions
-  Youth in situations of armed conflict and disaster areas
-  Youth infected /affected with HIV/ AIDS
-  School dropout and out of school youth
-  Youth in refugee camps and those internally displaced
-  Youth addicted to drugs and substances
-  Youth in-mates and those just released from prisons
-  Employed youth below the age of 18.
-  Orphans
-  Urban youth migrants
-  Rural youth
-  Street youths
-  literate youth
-  Terminally ill youth

The policy recognises that youth shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in the policy and is consistent with the universal declaration of human rights, observing:

-  Freedom of movement
-  Freedom of Expression
-  Freedom of Association
-  Right to Life and security of person
-  Right to Non-Discrimination
-  Protection of Private Life
-  Right to form a Family

-  Right to Own Property
-  Right to Development
-  Right to Gainful Employment
-  Right to Access Justice
-  Right to adequate standard of Living
-  Right to Leisure and Recreation Activities
-  Right to Participation in Political and in Decision-making processes
-  Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion
-  Right to Education and Skills Development
-  Right to Health Care

Together with the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms as provided in the policy; youth are responsible towards their immediate family and society, the State, the East African Community and the International Community. Promoting the fundamental principles of the East Africa Community by taking full responsibility for their personal development, Youth also have to participate fully in citizenship duties including voting, decision making, governance and community work where relevant, engage in peer-to-peer education to promote youth development in areas such as literacy, use of ICTs, HIV/AIDS prevention, drug and substance abuse prevention, environmental conservation, conflict prevention, resolution and peace building.

Youth are expected to defend democratic values and advocate for democracy, the rule of law, gender equity and all human rights and fundamental freedoms by encouraging a culture of voluntarism, human rights protection as well as participation in the activities of civil society organisations among others.

The implementation of the Policy is the responsibility of the EAC Secretariat together with the Partner States. In this context, various implementation instruments will be developed to operationalize the policy, including an elaborate Youth Action Plan. In addition, the Partner States shall develop country specific policies, strategies, lines of action, legislation and establish institutional arrangements for addressing youth concerns in line with the EAC Youth Policy.

The EAC Secretariat shall work closely with relevant EAC Organs and Institutions and Partner States' institutions and agencies in the execution of regional programs, projects and activities emanating from the Policy. This will be achieved through strengthening and mobilisation of capacities of existing relevant institutions and facilities in the region to meet pressing youth challenges. 🇰🇪



Four freedoms, youth and economic empowerment

ELIAH KILAWE

EAC integration is people centered; it is credible noting that youth have the potential to foster creativity, innovation, leadership, information sharing and nurture a strong bond presenting the distinct identity of “East Africanness”.

The meaning of youth varies; determined by several circumstances depending on traditions and customs, social behavior and geographical location. The United Nations defines youth as those persons between the ages of 15 and 24 years. Tanzania’s National Youth Development Policy considers youth as persons aged between 15 and 35, while in Uganda; youth are all young people - Male or female - aged between 12 and 30. Some scholars define youth as a period between childhood and adulthood. Let us not bother much on the varying definitions; the EAC Youth Policy identifies youth as persons aged between 15 and 35 years.

The EAC Common Market Protocol entered into force in July 2010, following ratification by Partner States. The Protocol provides citizens “Four Freedoms; namely the free movement of goods, labour, services, and capital. These freedoms aim at boosting trade and investments, making the region more productive and competitive in the global market. The Common Market Protocol is a significant stride towards the achievement of the next phases of the EAC integration agenda - the Monetary Union and a Political Federation respectively.

I will affirm the four freedoms as provided for in the Common Market Protocol present opportunities to enrich the region’s youth. Those with an entrepreneurial mindset are embracing the freedom to move goods within the region, capitalizing on profits. Labour mobility is an untapped opportunity that can reduce unemployment and under utilization of resources within the region, opening doors for those willing to explore opportunities. Free movement of capital, ability to freely trade and invest create market demands; demands for products and services available in one Partner State but not the other, at ever increasing qualities and standards.

While arguments at the 2nd EAC University Students’ Debate were centered on linguistics, education systems and economic difference as barriers to regional integration; these are as well opportunities for youth in the region. Excuses and success cannot live in the same room. The EAC offers the youth immense opportunities. It is now their duty to embrace integration, take on the prospects and with their creative and innovative minds, create a distinct identity that will turn the region into an economic powerhouse. 🇰🇪

The author is a BA. Political Science & Public Administration Student at the University of Dar es Salaam



The future of East Africa: One youth’s perspective

JOSEPH MUYA MANI

The youth are increasingly becoming pivotal towards the progress of society. They represent the most energetic, most productive and most creative demographic.

However, worrying are the ever cumulative unemployment and underemployment statistics. In this regard, I share my concerns and perceptions about integration and the role we, young people, as partners today and leaders tomorrow can play to improve our communities.

I appreciate the East African Community as a regional body for running an ever more spirited campaign about her activities and involving young people through her university debates and ambassadorial program, indeed, lending the youth a voice is a positive endeavor. Ensuring that policies are not just given lip service and let to gather dust on shelves thereby existing only on paper is unprecedented, and then involving young people at the grassroots level is fundamental to the progress of the region.

I believe that the change we want to see and the consciousness we want to feel begins within each one of us. I appreciate that of late I have begun to see myself a little more than a Kenyan, an East African! When we are able to overcome the barriers of identity and language, in the wake of global migration for young people, then we are able to forge forward.

However, I feel that the success of regional integration hinges a lot on supporting quality education. In most Partner States, despite the governments providing free primary education, a lot lacks in that our governments cannot be able to do everything. I would like to reach out to my fellow EAC comrades, that we should embrace a sense of volunteerism, and of service above self so as to complement the EAC’s and our governments’ efforts.

I found it quite interesting that after I started implementing an idea I had conceived of supporting the education of underprivileged children through various projects (www.tuwakuze.org) that include volunteering to teach, taking up mentees to mentor and instilling social entrepreneurship skills among disadvantaged youth and children really goes a long way to collectively improve their lot and the society.

I surmise my thoughts thus that if we are to reach our goals for a successful future, then “*knowing is not enough, we must apply, and willing is not enough, we must act*” - Goethe 🇰🇪

Joseph Mani is the Founder and Executive Board Chairperson of Tuwakuze Africa



Alliances to promote health

JOYCE KEVIN ABALO

In the East African Community, the issue of health promotion is not only being addressed by the public health sectors, but there is collaboration with environment and climate change, agriculture, livestock and food security, food manufacturing and processing sectors as well as other sectors. The collaboration demonstrates the need for stronger strategic partnerships and recognition of the important and crucial roles that the private sector and other interest groups play in health promotion in the region.

The idea of promoting partnerships between the EAC, Private Sector and other interest groups is to combine the specific strengths offered by each of the players involved, and use these to the mutual advantage of all. This is the

only way to ensure that an effective contribution is made towards achieving sustainable health promotion and development in the East Africa.

Private Sector Organizations (PSOs) have been contributing to public health promotion for centuries with considerable progress and achievements registered. In recent years, PSOs have grown in scale as well as influence and have profound impact on health promotion through provision of various medical services. Therefore, partnerships and dialogue between the EAC Secretariat and private sector emerges as an important feature of recent developments for scaling up health promotion in the region.

Much as there is commendable progress along with strategies on health promotion in place, at the EAC and Partner State levels; significant challenges lay in the path towards effective health promotion in the region, these among others include:

- ❗ Inadequate financial and human resources for health promotion as most of the focus in the region has been on treatment and curative services;
- ❗ The challenge of poor nutritional habits and increased sedentary lifestyles and poverty is also limiting the intake of nutritious food.
- ❗ There is little focus on the hidden hunger caused by micro-nutrient and mineral deficiencies which lead to hidden hunger and other non communicable diseases such as goiter.
- ❗ Increase in population within the region has led to lack of adequate food supply and nutrition in both urban and rural areas. This has hampered efforts to reduce and/or treat nutrition related diseases and disorders;

Other health promotion challenges in our region are attributed to rapid urbanization, industrialization, overcrowding in housing facilities, water contamination, poor sanitation, air pollution all being causes of respiratory diseases while the increase in noise pollution may in some cases result in deafness.

The East African Community has recognized health promotion as a vital element in regional integration and has undertaken the following to uphold the initiative:

- ❗ The EAC organized the first East African Community Diabetes Summit which was held in Uganda in July 2011. During this summit, the EAC Partner States, issued a joint resolution to strengthen regional and national efforts to combat and prioritize non communicable, lifestyle diseases such as chronic respiratory diseases, neurological diseases, cardiovascular diseases, metabolic diseases (such as diabetes mellitus) and cancers of various types.
- ❗ During the 4th EAC Annual Health and Scientific Conference that was held in Rwanda in March 2013, non communicable diseases was one of the main sub-themes. A special symposium on tobacco control and its public health and socio economic dimensions was also successfully held.



- ❗ Furthermore, a joint meeting of EAC Partner States Health Ministers and Parliamentarians officially launched a three year implementation plan of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO-FCTC) which will be supported through the funding from the Bill and Melinda Foundation up to 2014.

In terms of best practices within the East African Community, the Ministries of Education, Gender, Culture and Sports particularly in Rwanda and Burundi provide imbursement and time off work for government officials to engage in sporting activities. Fridays from 3-5 pm, all government officials are released to take on various sporting and fitness activities in Hotels and Clubs. They are made to sign-in as evidence of participation and accountability. We hope that these two best health practices on health promotion can be adopted by the other three EAC countries and other African countries at large.

The EAC Secretariat and Partner States should continue to strengthen their efforts in Health Promotion through partnerships with the Private Sector and other interest groups for a healthy population in the EAC region. 🇰🇪

Joyce Abalo is the Coordinator of the East African Health Platform based at the East African Business Council.



Obama's deal to double East African Community Trade

DAVID MUWANGA

President Barack Obama of the United States recently launched a project dubbed 'Trade Africa' aimed at doubling intra-regional trade in the five partner states of the East African Community (EAC).

The project will hopefully see EAC exports to the US go up by 40%, reduce by 15% the average time needed to import or export a container from the ports of Mombasa or Dar es Salaam to land-locked Burundi and Rwanda in the EAC's interior. This new partnership between the US and the EAC will also decrease by 30% the average time a truck takes to transit selected borders.

The project announced during his recent visit to Tanzania also seeks to increase internal and regional trade within Africa, and expand trade and economic ties between Africa, the US and other global markets.

A key component of President Obama's strategy is the Doing Business in Africa (DBIA) Campaign, which was launched by the US Department of Commerce in Johannesburg, South Africa last November.

Its main objective is to bolster federal trade promotion and financing capabilities in order to help US businesses obtain trade and investment opportunities. With these op-

portunities, the United States' commercial relationship with Africa is expected to grow. Since its unveiling, the Commerce department has been working alongside other federal agencies to encourage US companies, (with a focus on small- and medium- sized businesses and African Diaspora-owned business), to trade and invest in the region.

A statement issued on the White House website discloses that Trade Africa, whose cost and timeframe were not mentioned, will initially focus on the member states of the East African Community (EAC) that include Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda.

It said that EAC will get this support because it is an economic success story, and represents a market with significant opportunity for US exports and investment. "The five states of the EAC, with a population of more than 130 million people, have increasingly stable and

pro-business regulations," said the statement. The EAC partner states are home to promising local enterprises that are forming creative partnerships with multinational companies.

They are also benefiting from the emergence of an educated, globalized middle class. The statement added that regional intra-EAC trade has doubled in the past five years, and the region's GDP has risen to more than \$80 billion - quadrupling in only 10 years.

The US also hopes to expand its collaboration with other regional economic communities in Africa, including in cooperation with other partner nations. "Increasing trade between the United States and Africa will be the focus of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) forum in Addis Ababa on August 9 - 13," said the statement.

The forum also celebrated the progress achieved through AGOA since it was signed into law in 2000, and will help pave the way to AGOA's renewal by 2015.

The statement said that trade Africa will help mobilize resources to support increased U.S.-EAC trade and investment, building upon the US-EAC Trade and Investment Partnership (TIP) announced in June 2012.

investment, building upon the US-EAC Trade and Investment Partnership (TIP) announced in June 2012.

The activities underway include the exploration of a US-EAC Investment Treaty to contribute to a more attractive investment environment, launch of negotiations on a Trade Facilitation Agreement and expansion of the TIP to include regulatory issues that affect the competitiveness of EAC regional and global trade (including with the United States), particularly the development of product standards, and regulatory systems related to food safety and plant and animal health;

Others are the establishment of a new US-EAC Commercial Dialogue to bring the private sector together with policy makers and increase opportunities for trade and investment. 🇺🇸

David is a Journalist with a keen interest on the EAC



Gender equality key in regional integration process

FATUMA HIRSI MOHAMED & MAIMUNA MWIDAU

Imagine a mini-bus filled with women in khangas, lessos and kitenges, Ugandan gomesi, Rwandan mushanana, Burundi imvutano wearing colourful headgear. They are trying to drive a bus but it is wobbly because the tyres are of different sizes, it has no steering wheel and no roadmap. Before your imagination runs wild, let us explain what this imagined vehicle is.

The East African Community (EAC) Treaty was signed in November 1999 and ratified by members in July 2000. Burundi and Rwanda acceded to the Treaty and became full members in July 2007.

Article 121 of the Treaty recognises women's significant contribution towards socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth. By signing and ratifying the various declarations on human and people's rights, partner states showed commitment to gender equality as a fundamental human right.

In appreciation of women's important role in the political integration process, the EAC Secretariat hosted the third EAC Dialogue on Political Integration meeting earlier this month in Kigali, Rwanda and invited like-minded women and men from Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda. Participants included EAC current and former staff, women politicians from participating

countries, academicians, constitutional office bearers and political activists.

The dialogue's theme focused on women leaders as key drivers of the political integration agenda and discussed how women can be the 'drivers' of the political integration process.

It was interesting to hear speakers trying to describe the vehicle women were being asked to 'drive'. Questions included:-

How many women know they can be drivers of the EAC political integration? Which vehicle is this they are being asked to drive and where are they driving to? How do they drive a vehicle which does not belong to them?

As drivers of political integration, women leaders cannot drive a vehicle which has no bolts to hold it together. Noteworthy is that the Treaty establishing the EAC is silent on the Gender Equality principle.

Each member State is at different levels of gender parity with Rwanda leading at 56 per cent not only in the region, but also the world. In Kenya, after women overwhelmingly voted for the Constitution 2010, the gender rule is to be implemented over time if at all based on lack of political goodwill seen from recent public appointments to state offices.

For women to drive this wobbly vehicle to achieve political integration seems like a pipe-dream. To paraphrase the Late Dr John Garang and repeated by Mama Rebecca Garang in Juba recently, "What is not said divides us."

In South Sudan, women delivered the new nation after they were promised better representation at policy-making level. Sadly, they are still begging to be recognised at leadership levels; a promise not kept by those they helped rise to power.

Following this regional experience, women leaders are being set up for another bumpy ride. To achieve political integration, the Treaty must first address the gender parity principle that will bolt all the parts of the vehicle and give the women drivers a strong vehicle.

Many participants felt Rwanda is well run as half the country's top leadership are women. If other East Africans follow suit, they will progress quickly because clearly, women make things happen.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame while addressing the 5th Tokyo International Conference on African Development in Yokohama, Japan this month said, "In Rwanda today, the debate is not about women's role or whether they should be empowered or not.

That is a given. For us, ensuring gender equality is not just a moral issue, it is a rights issue and it is a shared responsibility that concerns every member of our society. We have always regarded the equal participation of women in all aspects of national life, including the liberation struggle, as an indispensable contribution to the socio-economic transformation of our country."

If all countries think and act like Rwanda, women will be able to lead regional integration for East Africa and achieve all the agreements and protocols for political integration. 🇷🇼

*Fatuma Mohamed is a communications and PR specialist.
This article was co-authored by Ms Maimuna Mwidau,
a political analyst.*



Exciting times for the East African Community

FRANCIS OMESA

The East African Community (EAC) holds great potential. Its five member countries boast a population of roughly 130 million inhabitants. Kiswahili and English are the most commonly spoken languages in the region despite the existence of different tribes and races. A shared language makes it easier to navigate within the region. Moreover, the streamlining of immigration laws within the EAC encourages free movement of goods and people within the region. This goes a long way to improve trade among the different member states of the EAC. Many analysts agree that these are exciting times for the region

Analysts are quick to point out that African economies are growing fast. The improving economic situation is positively impacting the lives of many Africans. Thanks to the positive future growth projections, investment inflows from other countries are rising steadily. Notably, China has invested heavily in the EAC region. Other countries are also eager to increase their investment partnership with the EAC. In his recent visit to Africa, President Obama promoted the idea of the need of increased investments by American businesses. In his 1st July 2013 speech at the Business Leaders Forum in Tanzania, President Obama announced a new initiative dubbed the Trade Africa Initiative that would lead to negotiations of a regional investment treaty between EAC and the United States.

He also touched on his Power Africa Initiative that aims at doubling access to electricity in Sub Saharan Africa. The Power Africa initiative is welcome since it coincides with other equally ambitious projects like the Tripartite Free Trade Agreement. The Tripartite agreement seeks to integrate the EAC, COMESA, and SADC into one regional trading block. The ultimate target is to have a Continental Free Trade Agreement by 2015. These initiatives present opportunities for job creation in the EAC, cheaper access to quality goods and services from different African countries, and improved living standards.

Citizens of EAC are set to enjoy the benefits of a more integrated Africa. Within the EAC, there are talks on deepening the relationship between the member states. While discussions on the EAC Monetary Union had stalled because of Eurozone concerns, they are now back on track. A few member states like Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda are also discovering new mineral resources within their borders. With increased investments and trade opportunities, the citizens of the EAC region stand to reap many benefits. There should be more job and personal development opportunities available for the EAC citizens. This is welcome after years of working towards a successfully integrated EAC.

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Can EAC become the World's contact for Africa?

MATTHEW HEYWOOD-CUNLIFFE

For decades, the European Union has battled to answer Kissinger's question - who do we call when we want to talk to Europe? Despite Europe's strides toward continental integration, its member states continue to maintain individual missions abroad. As a result, the Union has yet to develop a strong international identity or receive the international recognition it deserves as the world's largest economy and supplier of humanitarian aid. In turn, the world continues to individually call its largest members - Germany, the UK, and France - when it wishes to contact Europe rather than the EU government in Brussels.

Today's Africa is approaching a similar situation. As the continent's massive market emerges, the world is in search of someone to call when it wishes to speak to Africa. Because the African Union wields relatively little

power, the world marks the continent's largest economies as Africa's contacts. Traditionally these have been South Africa and Egypt, however the rise of Nigeria, Angola, and Ghana show willingness to lengthen the world's African rolodex.

Whereas the states of the EAC are relatively small economically and in population compared to these African giants, they will never be recognized individually as international contacts for Africa. In terms of Gross Domestic Products (GDP), the EAC's largest economy - Kenya ranks 11th in Africa, with a GDP of approximately \$41 billion - a mere 10.6% of South Africa's \$384 billion. The EAC members rank slightly better in terms of population with its most populace - Tanzania (45 million) - ranking 6th in Africa, but this is minuscule compared to Nigeria's 177 million.

As a single entity the East African Community is far more competitive. With a combined GDP nearing \$100 billion, the EAC is Africa's 7th largest economy, Sub-Saharan Africa's 4th largest economy, and Africa's second largest market with a combined population of approximately 135 million. Therefore, were the Community to be recognized internationally as a single state, there would be no question of its place as an African power and a global contact for the continent.

But one thing stands in the way of this recognition - like the EU, the EAC states maintain individual missions abroad, thus eliminating any chance of developing international recognition. Therefore, the states must abandon their missions abroad and individual seats in international organizations. With single representation the EAC can truly showcase East Africa's sizeable strength, attract international attention, and garner the international importance it deserves.

Matthew Heywood-Cunliffe is an Author, One Europe Magazine

Unlocking the region's potential through industry

BELINDA WERA

The EAC has made a commitment to transform the regional economy through industrialization. The region's overriding objective is to create a modern, competitive and dynamic industrial sector, fully integrated into the global economy.

Articles 79 and 80 of the EAC Treaty, common principles of the EAC Common Market Protocol, and the 2011-2016 EAC Development Plan clearly and unambiguously articulate the region's commitment to economic structural transformation through industrialization. This primary commitment to industrialization is also reflected in other subsidiary policies, regulations and action plans.

The EAC Industrialization Strategy document elaborates key interventions necessary for effective implementation of the East African Community Industrialization Policy (2012-2032). The Strategy is premised on the collective commitment of the EAC Partner States to fast track equitable and sustainable development of the region for the benefit of the people of East Africa. It is capable of contributing to at least 50% of manufacturing gross domestic products, up from a 20 percent base rate. Implementation of the East African Industrialization Strategy (2012-2032) holds the key to unlocking the region's development potential through structural transformation and diversification of the regional economy.

The EAC Industrialization Strategy identifies six strategic sectors in which the region has potential comparative advantage including:

- i. Iron-ore and other mineral processing;
- ii. Fertilizers and agrochemicals;
- iii. Pharmaceuticals;

- iv. Petro-chemicals and gas processing;
- v. Agro-processing; and
- vi. Energy and Bio-fuels.

A five-year Action Plan has been developed to progressively steer the region in achieving the Vision Statement – “a globally competitive, environment-friendly and sustainable industrial sector, capable of significantly improving the living standards of the people of East Africa by 2032” with a mission “to create a market driven, regionally and internationally competitive and balanced industrial sector based on the comparative and competitive advantages of the EAC region”.

Basing on consultation with stakeholders in the five Partner States and a review of other regional blocs' industrialization strategies, and the global trends in industrial development; the EAC Industrialization Strategy aims to achieve a diverse manufacturing base while raising the local value added content of resource based exports to at least 40%. The region also looks to strengthen research and development, technology and innovation, institutional frame work and capabilities for industrial policy design. The strategy targets to transform the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) into viable and sustainable business entities capable of contributing t at least 50% manufacturing GDP up from 20% base rate.

The strategic interventions take into account feedback from consultations with stakeholders in the Partner States ensuring the EAC achieves the vision, mission and overall objectives of the EAC Industrialization Policy and Strategy within the 20-year implementation time frame. 🇰🇪

Belinda Wera is a Programme Assistant at the EAC Secretariat

ANNA NABAASA

The East African Court of Justice is an organ of the Community under Article 9 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community. The Court is a judicial body tasked with ensuring the adherence to law in the interpretation and application of and compliance with the Treaty. EACJ has jurisdiction over the interpretation and application of the Treaty.

Who can file a case at EACJ?

The Partner States

Where a Partner State considers another Partner State, Organ or Institution of the Community has failed to fulfill an obligation under the Treaty or has infringed a provision of the Treaty, may refer the matter to the Court for adjudication.

A Partner State may refer for determination by the Court, the legality of any Act, regulation, directive, decision or action on the ground that it is ultravires, unlawful or an infringement of the provisions of the Treaty or any rule of law relating to the Treaty's application or amounts to a misuse or abuse of power.

The Secretary General

Where the Secretary General considers that a Partner State has failed to fulfill an obligation under the Treaty or has infringed a provision of the Treaty,

The Legal and Natural Persons

Any person who is a resident in a Partner State may refer for determination by the Court, the legality of any Act, regulation, directive, decision or action of a Partner State or Institution of the Community on the grounds that such Act, regulation, directive, decision or action is unlawful or is an infringement of the provisions of the Treaty.

Can the Court address disputes between the Community and its Employees?

EACJ has jurisdiction to hear and determine disputes between the Community and its employees that arise out of the terms and conditions of employment of the employees of the Community or the application and interpretation of the staff rules and regulations and terms and conditions of service of

the Community.

Who can appear and represent a party at EACJ?

The East African Court of Justice Rules of Procedure provide who can appear before the court:

- ▶ A party to any proceedings in the Court may appear in person or by an agent and may be represented by an advocate.
- ▶ The Counsel to the Community may appear and represent the Community or any of its Institutions

Accessing EACJ

A corporation or company may either appear by its director, manager or secretary, who is appointed by resolution under the seal of the corporation or the company, or may be represented by an advocate.

A person under legal disability may appear by guardian ad litem or next friend as the case may be and may be represented by an advocate.

The advocate for a party shall file with the Registrar a certificate that he or she is entitled to appear before a superior court of a Partner State.

A representative of a party other than an advocate shall for purposes of this file with the Registrar proof of his or her appointment as such representative.

What are the filing fees?

EACJ abolished Court filing fees which was previously required for the litigants to file a case. The amount of 500 USD was considered too steep for litigants and became a stumbling block to seeking justice at the EACJ. The removal of Court filing fees came to effect 11th April 2013.

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Destination East Africa



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