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GERMANY COMMITS EUROS 35 MILLION TO EAC FOR IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMME



The Federal Republic of Germany has committed Euro 35 million to East African Community to be invested in vaccination programmes in the Partner States.

Speaking at the EAC headquarters, Senior Policy Officer from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ms Claudia Imwolde-Krämer said Germany is contributing Euro 35 million to immunization programmes in the EAC. "I appreciate and acknowledge the EAC's efforts to immunize every child in the region".

In his remarks, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote said the visit by Ms Imwolde-Krämer reaffirms the strong ties of friendship and cooperation between the EAC and the Federal Republic of Germany. "Indeed, the Federal Republic of Germany and the EAC have historically had strong and cordial relations dating back to the founding of the EAC, 20 years ago", added Eng. Mlote.

Eng. Mlote noted that the two partners been cooperating in different areas with notable achievements being realized in the Health and Pharmaceutical Sectors; Trade and Customs; Agriculture as well as Tourism.

The Deputy Secretary General thanked Germany for her generous support to the EAC, noting that the collaboration between the two parties continues to grow and become stronger.

Germany has been supporting immunization programmes in the region in close collaboration with the EAC and Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunizations (GAVI) since 2013. The region has made great progress in introducing new, life-saving vaccines.



Kingdom of Norway Accredits Envoy to EAC



The Kingdom of Norway on 25 June 2019, accredited its Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United Republic of Tanzania, Ms Elisabeth Jacobsen, to also serve as Ambassador to the East African Community.

H.E. Jacobsen, who was accredited at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania, said that there was a growing interest and knowledge about the EAC, which she noted was setting the stage for closer cooperation. She said that Norway views the Community as an important partner especially in efforts aimed at ensuring peace and security in the region.

Amb Jacobsen commended the EAC Secretariat for the good work that has led to the attainment of several achievements, and assured the Secretary General of her country's commitment to continue supporting the integration process.

She expressed her country's interest towards supporting integration agenda particularly in areas such as peace and security, human rights and intra-regional trade among the EAC Partner States.

"We consider EAC as an important player in economic and political development in the region and I assure you of our continued support to the integration agenda," said the envoy.

On his part, EAC Secretary General Amb Liberat Mfumukeko hailed the existing cordial relations between the EAC and Norway. The Secretary General welcomed the continued support from Norway saying it had enabled the Community to achieve its ambitious agenda.

Amb Mfumukeko also shared the steady progress made by the Community in promoting integration through the four pillars as set out in the EAC Treaty, namely the: Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation, adding that the achievements attained so far were due to political goodwill among the EAC Heads of State

Present at the accreditation ceremony were the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Executive Secretary, Mr. Said Ally Matano.



Eastern Africa- Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Regions discuss facilitating regional energy market



The Energy and Communication Experts from the Eastern Africa-Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) Regions concluded on 21 June 2019, in Quatre Bornes, Mauritius, a five-day meeting that discussed facilitation of regional energy market and enhancing communication and visibility of the Project on Enhancement of a Sustainable Regional Energy Market (ESREM) in the three Regions.

The Energy and Communication Experts, who were holding their fourth meeting of the Programme Technical Steering Committee (PTSC) of the Project on Enhancement of a Sustainable Regional Energy Market in the Eastern Africa- Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) Regions, among others, considered and adopted the Second Progress Annual Report (2018–2019) of the Project; considered the Status of Implementation of the Consultancy to Develop a Synthesized Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy and Action Plan (REEESAP-EA-SA-IO); received the report on the Implementation of the Communication and Visibility Plan of the Project; as well as the report on the status of implementation of the Consultancy on the RERA Transformation Strategy.

The Energy and Communication Experts, who were drawn from five Regional Economic Communities, namely; the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), Indian Ocean Commission (IOC), and the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), also reviewed and adopted the Year 3 Work Plan and Budget of the Project, as well as reviewed coordination among RECs on the project.

Other participants in the Quatre Bornes meeting included the Regional Association of Energy Regulators, Regional Power Pools, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Centres, and the European Union Delegation (EUD).

The project on enhancement of sustainable regional energy market in the EA-SA-IO Region seeks to address market governance and regulatory related challenges affecting the

implementation of energy development projects in the five Regional Economic Communities.

The project is supported by a seven million euros fund provided under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) for a period of four years since the signing of the grant delegation agreement with COMESA in May 2017. The COMESA Regional Association of Energy Regulators for Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA) coordinates the implementation of the programme.

As a precursor to the fourth meeting of the Programme Technical Steering Committee, a two-day consultative workshop was held on 7th to 18th June 2019 to discuss the consultancy report on the Development of a Synthesized Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Strategy under the Project on Enhancement of a Sustainable Regional Energy Market in the EA-SA-IO Region.

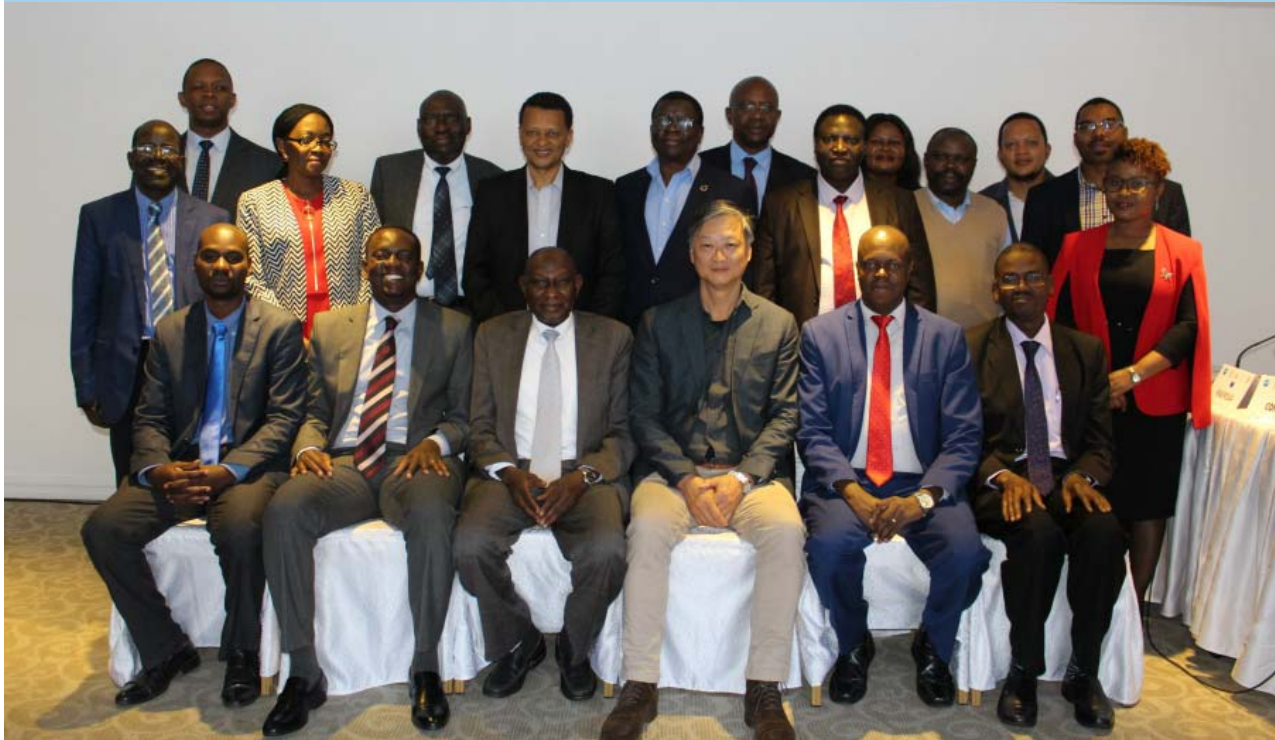
As part of the project's communication and visibility strategy, an awareness-training workshop for regional journalists and communication experts from the participating regional organizations was conducted on Wednesday 19th June 2019.

Addressing the participants at the opening ceremony, Dr. Mohamedain Seif Elnasr, the Chief Executive Officer of the COMESA based Regional Association of Energy Regulatory Authorities in the Eastern and Southern Africa (RAERESA) noted that the energy situation of Eastern Africa, Southern Africa and Indian Ocean regions was a firm indication of how much work the region still need to do so as to ensure that energy becomes a key enabler and game changer to doing business and increasing the productivity of the industries.

"The challenges in our energy networks, as well as ever-increasing deficiencies in energy supply are a common feature of most of our countries. These challenges contribute to the reduction of revenue of our industries through increase in

(Continued on page 4)

... project expected to drive market and industrial growth within the region



(Continued from page 3)

production costs"; noted Dr. Elnasr, adding that "Any industry being negatively affected by these challenges in the energy sector cannot thrive and create the much-needed employment for our people, or attract the much-required investments into our region".

Dr. Elnasr, who was speaking on behalf of the Secretary General of COMESA, disclosed that the energy poverty in the region should be seen as an investment opportunity for power generation on a regional basis and an opportunity to build regional power interconnectors in order to facilitate trade in power from surplus to deficit regions. In addition, high priority should be accorded to the development of regional energy infrastructure, which would assist to achieve economies of scale.

On energy, the RAERESA Chief Executive Officer said the regions' cooperation and collaboration with the European Union, has culminated in the implementation of several projects in the last few years and ESREM project was a good example of cooperation and collaboration between the Regional Economic Communities and the European Union. In this context, he applauded the sterling contribution by the European Union through the different European Development Funds and other mechanisms in advancing the implementation of many continental, regional and national projects related to infrastructure.

On his part, the Representative of the EU delegation, the Program Manager - Infrastructure, European Union in Zambia, Mr. Graham Ching'ambu noted that the project was not only about rules and regulations but also about the creation of an

energy market. In this regard, he pointed out that the project could be a driver for market and industrial growth within the region and could also contribute to lowering production costs hence enhancing competitiveness.

The Team Leader of the renewable Energy/Energy Efficiency at the IOC, Mr. Mark Kwai Pun said IOC was proud to be associated with ESREM as energy is a means for development. He disclosed that IOC had an energy programme that addresses specific needs of the Member States, which focuses on making the energy sector more resilient to climate change.

The Chief Market Analyst of the Southern Africa Power Pool (SAPP), Mr. Beta Musara disclosed that the target for connecting SAPP to the Eastern Africa Power Pool (EAPP) is 2022 and urged the Member States and the RECs to accelerate implementation of power interconnection projects to achieve that target.

The project on Enhancement of a Sustainable Regional Energy Market (ESREM) in the Eastern Africa- Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (EA-SA-IO) Region has three results areas namely; a regionally harmonized energy regulatory and policy framework that integrates gender perspectives; enhancement of regulatory capacity of the National Regulatory Authorities and Power Pools to proactively influence developments in the energy sector; and lastly, enhancement of renewable energy and energy efficiency to attract investments in clean energy and build capacity in clean energy in the region as well as the domestication on a demand driven basis. 🌍

EAC Holds Training of Trainers workshop for Immigration and Labour Officers



The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat on 21 June 2019, concluded a three-day Training of Trainers (TOTs) workshop for Immigration and Labour Officers which was conducted at the Tanzania Regional Immigration Training Academy (TRITA) in Moshi, Tanzania.

The workshop was targeted at enhancing knowledge and skills of the officers with a view to boosting their capacity to implement the EAC Common Market Protocol and other border management related matters.

The specific objectives of the training were to give the Immigration and Labour Officers opportunities to interact and share experiences on the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol provisions of Free Movement of Persons and Labour; acquire knowledge and awareness on the operationalisation of EAC One Stop Borders Posts Act, 2016, and; enhance their knowledge of EAC Peace and Security Initiatives and measures to combat transnational crimes.

The ToT workshop further sought to enhance the officers appreciation of the role of border management agencies in facilitating the growth of the Private Sector and Investment Promotion in addition to acquiring knowledge on detecting fraud in travel documents, and security of documents and investigations.

The participants included Immigration and Customs Officers drawn from three border posts namely: Namanga; Holili, Sirare and Labour Officers from the Ministries responsible for Labour in mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar as well representatives from the EAC Partner States' Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs.

In view of budgetary constraints, the training will be arranged in a phased manner and conducted in all Partner States instead of transporting and facilitating participants to TRITA, Moshi, and this new approach, would target more participants, who will later train others in their respective Partner States.

Speaking at the workshop, the EAC Principal Labour and Employment Officer, Mr. Stephen Niyonzima, said that the training of Immigration and Labour Officers was critical in as far as building capacity of the officers is concerned.

Niyonzima added that in the public service officers were transferable while others, retire and therefore, the provision of regular training was necessary to promote efficiency and effectiveness in the management of the free movement of persons and labour in the Community.

He further informed the participants that the Regional Monitoring Group on the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol, had on several occasions recommended the need to build capacity of border management officials on the implementation of the Common Market Protocol among other EAC protocols.

The scope of the presentations at the training focused on the role of immigration, labour, examination of travel documents, fraud detection, private sector and investment promotion and labour migration and development.



ICT4Business Brings Together Rwandese Industry and CENIT@EA to Shape the Digital Transformation



The Centre of Excellence for Information and Communication Technology in East Africa (CENIT@EA) organized the event ICT4Business on 18 July in Kigali, Rwanda. Around 40 participants from the private and public sector discussed their needs and requirements for digitalisation and how CENIT@EA can provide relevant skills, capacities and know-how to the private and public sector to enable them to reap benefits from the digital transformation.

In his opening remarks, Mr Karera, Chairman of the East African Business Council (EABC), emphasized the need for the industry to digitalise and use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) in their business processes. The Principal Information Technology Officer of the East African Community (EAC), Mr Murenzi, pointed out that digital transformation is a priority of the EAC's 5th Development Strategy.

The Senior Systems Officer of the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), Mr Ruhinda, added that CENIT@EA is a very important regional initiative providing skills and know-how for the success of the digital transformation. Ms Focken, Cluster Coordinator for EAC, pointed out in her opening remarks that a continuous exchange between industry and academia is crucial for developing needed skills and support the use of technology and innovation in East Africa.

Expert presentations from the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Startup Binary Earth and from CENIT@EA provided the participants with insights on the relevance of ICT as well as concrete applications such as AI systems improving public transportation.

Digitalisation is increasingly gaining momentum. Main trends in ICT are autonomous vehicles (10% of vehicles are predicted to have autonomous capabilities by 2021), AI (40% of new application development will see AI co-developers), Virtual Reality, Blockchain, Edge and Cloud Computing and the Internet of Things (IoT). Their benefits for companies include increasing productivity, improvement of asset utilization, decreasing costs of inventory holding, maintenance and quality management, reduction in time to market and new business models. The Embedded and Mobile Systems (EMoS) market is expected to generate a revenue of USD 225.34 billion by 2021.

Participants pointed out that they require more information on the actual benefits of digitalisation for their organisation or company. Applications such as of AI would sound very interesting but are not commonly used in companies. 🇷🇼

EAC Secretariat urges Partner States to increase risk and crisis communication measures to keep out Ebola Viral Disease

The confirmation of a fatal Ebola case in the Ituri province of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) further increases the risk for the East African Community (EAC) region of the outbreak crossing the borders.

The Ituri province is only 70 km from the South Sudanese border and even closer to the Ugandan border. The first three cases of Ebola in the EAC region were diagnosed in Uganda in June 2019 and triggered strong response measures by the Ugandan government.

Trade is vibrant between DRC and the EAC region and can exacerbate the spread of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) due to the high mobility of people and goods.



In the light of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern declared by the World Health Organization,) Dr Michael Katende, acting Head of Health at the EAC Secretariat urges the Partner States to strongly engage the communities in the border regions and traders and trade associations in risk and crisis communication measures. "This is particularly important, as most of the border line is porous and difficult to control" says Katende, "informal and formal traders need to know the risk and be able to take informed decisions to minimise it and to actively take precautions."

EAC Partner States have put in place precautionary measures to stop the spread of EVD into the EAC region. This includes vaccinating frontline health workers, screening all travellers at points of entry including airports and training the first responders in case of an outbreak. However, these measures might not be sufficient. Dr Michael Katende, acting Head of Health at the EAC Secretariat was especially concerned about EVD spreading into South Sudan with its still rather weak health system.

The EAC Secretariat calls upon the Partner States to increase risk and crisis communication by involving community, religious and other leaders and the media in public awareness raising. At the same time, the Secretariat calls upon traders and trade associations and those travelling across the border with DRC to take extra precaution, as the EVD threat is real:

- All people crossing the border should cooperate with immigration, health and security officials who are conducting screening at the points of entry and should strictly follow their advice.
- Frontline health workers and members of the affected communities should accept to be vaccinated against EVD for their own protection and to help prevent the further spread of EVD.
- People in the affected regions should avoid unnecessary 'body to body' contact as this is the main way of disease transmission.
- The public should be vigilant and immediately inform the nearest health workers when spot a person with signs of EVD which are: fever, severe headache, body weakness, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, and unexplained haemorrhage (bleeding or bruising) from various body outlets like the nose, ears and mouth. This is particularly important along the "green border" where no screening measures are in place.



EAC Secretariat engages Media Houses on implementation of the 50 Million African Women Speak Project



The East African Community Secretariat under 50 Million African Women Speak Project (50MAWSP) has been engaging different Media houses in the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi in an effort to gain the media's support as key Project stakeholders.

The 18th to 21st June 2019 discussions focused on how best to ensure effective media coverage during the 50MAWS platform launch and as well as awareness raising campaign after the launch. The 50MAWS platform, which has been under construction for the last eight months, is expected to be launched by December 2019. The technical development of the platform has been finalized and the Partner States have embarked on populating the platform with information.

Speaking during the discussions, EAC Principal Gender and Community Development Officer, Generose Minani noted that the EAC was keen on informing women in business in the region on this valuable resource. "We decided to come to consult with you on the implementation of this Project because of the important role that media can play", she added.

On their part, media houses noted that they have already running programs tackling topics on women's economic empowerment as well as other related issues. Representatives of Media Houses in Burundi pledged and affirmed their commitment with the EAC to further advance the women empowerment agenda.

They went ahead to suggest the use a media synergy to sensitize and raise awareness around issues that are affecting women in business. "Media synergy in Burundi has proven to be the best way to reach out to many people at the same time in the country," the representative reaffirmed.

All media outlets including radio, TV, print and online, agreed to tackle one topic at the same hour across the whole country. That way, all consumers of information in the country are


exposed to same information at the same time. The Burundi Media Association (ABR) coordinates the event in an effort to ensure sameness of messages sent out.

The representatives of the Rwandan media outlets expounded on the fact that women economic empowerment was a social responsibility that interested them all. They noted that the 50 Million African Women Project was in line with what was already being undertaken in the country. Like their counterpart Burundi, the Rwanda Media have programs that address matters on women empowerment.

In the Rwandan context, media representatives have proposed to use more radio for efficient outreach. Surveys conducted so far show that most Rwandans get information through radio as compared to other channels.

Authorities from Ministries of Gender that are coordinating the Project's implementation in each Partner State, noted with appreciation the Media commitment to promoting the platform. "We leave the meeting with the confidence of seeing a quick popularity of the platform when it is launched" they noted.

Media houses representatives however expressed the need of the 50 Million Project to fund some costs and media houses to bring in their expertise in that partnership. The meetings were attended by CEOs, Directors, Chief Editors, Program Managers and Journalists from various Media houses in the two Partner States.

The EAC Secretariat plans to carry out this activity of media engagement in all Partner States. 

Competition and Communication Experts validate the Draft EAC Competition Authority Outreach and Advocacy Strategy

A three-day Competition and Communication Experts Meeting to validate the draft East African Competition Authority (EACA) Outreach and Advocacy Strategy (2019/20 – 2024/25) concluded on 27 June 2019, in Nairobi, Kenya.

The 26th to 28th June meeting was attended by Competition and Communication Experts from all the Partner States and staff from the EAC Secretariat. The Republic of Rwanda is the current chair of the EAC hence according to the EAC Rules of Procedures, Mr. Louis Uwimana, from Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, chaired the meeting while, Mr. Feisal Ibrahim, from the Competition Authority of Kenya was the Rapporteur.

Addressing the Experts during the official opening of the validation meeting, the Chairperson thanked the Republic of Kenya for hosting the meeting and reminded participants that the Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for Trade, Industry, Finance and Investments (SCTIFI) meeting held in May 2019 in Arusha, Tanzania took note of the progress being made on the status of the development of the EAC Competition Authority outreach and advocacy strategy (2019/20-2024/25).

He also said the 5th Meeting of the ad hoc EAC Competition Authority held in June, 2019 considered the progress on the development of the draft Outreach and Advocacy Strategy and provided guidance on a number of issues including the need to clearly specify the activities which are to be implemented at national level States and those at the regional level.

On her part, Ms. Lillian Mukoronia, the Deputy Registrar of EACA in charge of Mergers and Acquisition, pointed out that competition regulation will not properly grow and prosper if all Partner States are not involved in ensuring competition environment is nurtured. "It is critical that the relevant constituencies include an advocacy component in their programmes. This calls for Partner States and EACA to work to-



gether to reach out to the relevant stakeholders", noted the Deputy Registrar.

She urged the participants to be involved and work as champions for competition and consumer protection enforcement to prevent distortions of markets in the region and evaluate the best channels of reaching out to the stakeholders.

She asserted that there were concerns on the growing number of regional competition frameworks that were currently being created in various parts of the world. "This has been one of the most remarkable developments in international competition policy over the last years. I follow this trend with great interest not only because I represent a regional authority myself but it is rather because I see a regional competition framework as an important facilitator in regional integration and development under the Common market", affirmed the Deputy Registrar.

The meeting validated and finalized the draft EAC Competition Authority Outreach and Advocacy Strategy (2019/20 – 2024/25) and the document will now be submitted to the EACA Commissioners for consideration and approval before presentation to the Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for Trade, Industry, Finance and Investments (SCTIFI) for approval/or further guidance.



15 Cyclists on EAC Bicycle Tour flagged off in Arusha



A group of 15 cyclists who are participating in the 3rd East African Community Bicycle Tour (Tour d'EAC) were today flagged off at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Flagging off the group of volunteer cyclists, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote, hailed the cyclists for their efforts in complementing initiatives by the Secretariat to create awareness on the integration process.

Eng. Mlote noted that it was encouraging that the annual initiative which started with cyclists from Uganda only in 2016, had now expanded to include cyclists from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Tanzania.

He urged the cyclists to mobilize more youth in the region to appreciate the importance of regional integration as a way of empowering East Africans and making East Africa united and stronger.

The Deputy Secretary General said that the movement of the cyclists across the region had been made possible by the free of movement of persons as enshrined in the EAC Common Market Protocol.

Eng. Mlote assured East Africans that the Community was growing stronger with each passing day, adding that it had recorded many achievements which were gradually beginning to trickle down to ordinary East Africans.

In her remarks, Ms Joyce Kevin Abalo from the GIZ Office at the EAC Headquarters, assured the cyclists that the German Technical Cooperation would continue working closely with the EAC Secretariat to ensure that the event was a success.

Ms Abalo urged the cyclists to endeavour to complete the journey noting that success can only be attained through discipline and perseverance.

Speaking at the event, the Coordinator of the Tour d'EAC, Mr John Balongo, requested the EAC Secretariat to include the tour in its Calendar of Activities in the future.

"We also want to request that in future events, all ministries support individual cyclists from their respective countries," said Balongo, adding that the group's aim was to educate EAC citizens on the importance of a united East Africa.

"We seek to stir up interest of groups and individuals in the understanding of the land, and people of East Africa. Subsequently, this results into growing personal and group relationships across the region multiplying out into travel, trade and many other beneficial linkages," he said.

Also present at the event was the EAC Director General, Customs and Trade, Mr Kenneth Bagamuhunda.

The 3rd Tour d'EAC was flagged off on 1st August, 2019 at the Independence Monument in Kampala by Uganda's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Hon. Dr Ali Kirunda Kivejinja, and the Tanzanian High Commissioner to Uganda, H.E. Aziz Ponary Mlima. The cyclists arrived in Nairobi on the evening of Wednesday, 7th August, 2019 where they were hosted by the Ministry of EAC and Regional Development in Kenya one day later.



12th Edition of the EAC Military Games underway in Nairobi, Kenya

The 12th Edition of the East African Community Military Games and Cultural Event is currently underway at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani in Nairobi, Kenya.

The event which runs from 11th to 26th August, 2019 has drawn 500 sportsmen and sportswomen from the Defence Forces in all the six EAC Partner States, namely: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

The participants will take part in the following sports disciplines: Football (Men); Netball (Women); Volleyball (Women); Basketball (Men), and; Cross-country (Men and Women).

The participating Defence Forces are: Burundi National Defence Force; Kenya Defence Forces; Rwanda Defence Force; South Sudan People's Defence Forces; Tanzania Peoples' Defence Forces, and; Uganda Peoples' Defence Forces.

The Games were officially opened on Tuesday, 13th August, 2019 by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Defence, Amb. Raychelle A. Omamo.

The EAC Military Games and Culture Event is organised within the EAC Framework for Co-operation in Defence and in accordance with Article 125 of the Treaty and Article 2 of the Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs which include ***Military Training, Joint Operations, Visits and Exchange of Information***.

The Games were initiated and are supposed to take place among EAC Partner States on a rotational basis. The 1st Edition of the event took place in 2005 and was hosted by the Uganda People's Defence Forces in Kampala, Uganda. In that inaugural edition, the Armed Forces from Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda participated in six disciplines including Football, Handball (Men), netball, Cross-country, Basketball and Boxing.



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