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The Kayoola Bus that was launched in Kampala recently. East Africa wants to stop importation of used cars. PHOTO BY STEPHEN

EAC leaders to discuss vehicle assembly plan

Reducing import bill. The move to discuss a regional motor vehicle assembling strategy seeks to reduce the EAC import bill that continues to swell through importation of used vehicles.

BY DOROTHY NAKAWEESI
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AGENDA

E-passport:
The Heads of State are also expected to launch the new International East African e-passport.
Harmonised roaming fees:
The meeting will also consider council reports on the implementation of the framework for harmonized EAC roaming charges.

KAMPALA. East African heads of State will this meet in Arusha to draw a master plan that will see the regional bloc start a vehicle assembling strategy.

The plan seeks to scale down on the bloc's import bill, especially spent on the importation of second-hand vehicles.

If successful, the strategy will also create employment for residents in the community as well as generate revenue through motor vehicle and spare parts exports.

Mr Othieno Owora, the EAC head of communication and corporate affairs told *Daily Monitor* in an interview that the 17th Ordinary EAC summit in Arusha, Tanzania on Wednesday "will consider council report on modalities for the promotion of motor vehicle assembly in the region".

East Africa is currently flooded with second-hand vehicles from mostly Japan, Germany and United Kingdom.

A used saloon motor vehicle costs about between Shs15 and Shs25m. brand new saloon cars cost between Shs40m and Shs100m.

In Uganda, efforts to make new cars have

already been undertaken under Kiira Motors Corporation, which has already produced three prototype including Kiira Ev, EV Smack and a Kayoola, a solar powered bus.

The corporation, according to Mr Paul Isaac Musasizi, the chief executive officer, plans to start mass production of vehicles in 2018.

Mr Musasizi, said they plan to start production of Sedans, pick-ups, cross-overs, buses and trucks with a Sedan costing \$25,000, cross-over \$28,000 and \$32,000 for a pick-up.

The company will in its first year produce 305 vehicles but with a target to produce 60,000 vehicles by 2039.

Similarly, Kenya Vehicle Manufacturers has a motoring unit called Mobius, which is currently available on the market for \$10,620 (Shs30.2m).

However, its supply within the region has been limited, with experts saying there are barriers that need to be worked on for its proper penetration of the market.

Already KVM assembles CMC and DT Dobie's trucks and heavy commercial vehicles such as the Nissan double-cab pick-ups, Land Rover, Mazda, Iveco, and Mercedes Benz, Toyota Kenya, Associated Vehicle Assemblers and General Motors East Africa are among local assemblers.

The summit will also discuss the promotion of the bloc's textile and leather industries with a view of stopping the importation of used clothes, shoes and other leather products.

Barclays Bank to Uganda

BY OTHM
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editorial@

KAMPALA. Barclays tomorrow expected to plan to partially or wholly according the *Financial Times* sources close to it.

The *Financial Times* end reported that Mr took over as Barclay executive officer in Dr nounce the decision review of the bank's

The review, which Africa's fading fortune sinking oil prices, falling prices and the help of the South Africa key point to buttress announcement.

He is also, via briefing, expected lists on the bank's year ended December

In an email Mr the Barclays Africa communications; confirm the report *Monitor* "we don't ket speculation" context "we are and independent and control the

The poor performance Africa Rand, which sis of the bank's depreciated over by more than 20 a volatile mini credit rating of economy, one and most afflu

The move is near century rica spread in Uganda, Kenya, Ghana, Mauritius, South and Zimbabwe

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It is not yet the operation to comment

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