

**HOUSE BUSINESS**  
Find out who is  
representing you in EALA

**DEBATE**  
University students talk  
political integration

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An update on the EAC-EU  
EPA negotiations

**CULTURE**  
Is EAC ready to cash in  
on culture?



# THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE. ONE DESTINY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EAC

ISSUE 17

SEPTEMBER 2012



## COMMON MARKET

Two years down the road

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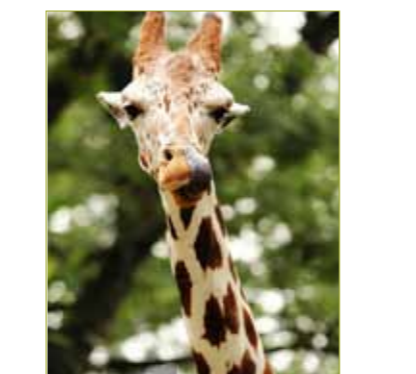
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FROM THE SG

## ZEST FOR SINGLE MARKET FIRM AS EVER



AMB. DR. RICHARD SEZIBERA  
EAC SECRETARY GENERAL

Just over two years ago, on 1 July 2010, the Protocol for the Establishment of the EAC Common Market came into force. Many of us appreciated then as we do now that this stage of our integration is, to use the words of my predecessor Amb. Juma Mwapachu, a marathon rather than a sprint. Ordinary East Africans may, of course, have wished it were the latter.

Today, their expectations and desires in this regard wouldn't have changed much, if at all. They still view the EAC Common Market as a door to vast possibilities to better their lives. They still want a Common Market that works. And they want it now.

Against this background, it is commendable that the EAC has not allowed itself the luxury of engaging in self-congratulation for the successes—and there have been quite a few—so far registered, but rather focused on the obstacles that still remain.

Our Common Market Protocol guarantees four key freedoms namely; the free movement of persons, of labour, capital and services. It also provides for the rights of establishment and of residence. Realisation of the foregoing underpins the gradual evolution of our Community into a single market by 2015.

It is indisputable that these are lofty ambitions, and by committing to the same, the EAC blazed a trail on our continent, one from which we hope for our people to reap handsome rewards in time. Progress indeed has already been registered in some areas.

Long before the Common Market came into being, East Africans were already enjoying some of the freedoms enshrined in the Protocol, such as on free movement of persons. A lot of work is ongoing to integrate our financial markets to facilitate the free movement of capital, while some Partner States have waived work permit fees and a number of Mutual Recognition Agreements have been signed by various professional bodies in aid of the Protocol provisions on free circulation of labour.

These feats are commendable because they serve as a powerful illustration of the enormous promise a deepened integra-

tion represents. Conversely, they also highlight the assortment of complexities we must be ready to address and challenges we must be prepared to confront, collectively and expeditiously, to make the Common Market work.

East Africans, for example, ought to be empowered to cross Partner States' borders using national IDs. It is such practical aids to their enjoyment of the fruits of integration that will firmly implant the EAC in their minds and bring it closer to their hearts.

Further, the region waits anxiously for the requisite amendment of legislation in the Partner States to open up an array of opportunities for all EAC citizens in areas hitherto treated as a preserve for nationals. This will entail complex processes: on average 27 pieces of legislation need to be amended in each Partner State before the Common Market can be fully operationalised.

Yet, while much work evidently remains to be done, we should find comfort in the commitment shown to keep moving ahead. Following a Council of Ministers directive, Partner States have established National Implementation Committees to spearhead the implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

At the regional level, the Council has designed a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to constantly review the status of implementation of provisions of the Protocol and make necessary policy interventions. There can be no better affirmation of our zest to create a genuine single market. 🇰🇪



## NEW DSG APPOINTED, DSGs REDEPLOYED

The 10<sup>th</sup> Extraordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State meeting on 28 April 2012 in Arusha appointed **Hon. Jesca Eriyo** Deputy Secretary General, effective 30 April 2012.

Hon. Eriyo, who the Secretary General assigned the Productive Social Sectors docket, brings to the position a solid record of leadership experience that spans more than a decade, including stints in the fields of education, business management, community development and politics.

Her time as a politician includes 10 years as a Woman Member of Parliament for Adjumani District in northern Uganda (2001-2011) and as Minister of State for Environment (2006-2011).

In a related development, the EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera on 2 May announced a reshuffle that affected three of his deputies. Newly appointed Deputy Secretary General Hon. Jesca Eriyo took over the Productive and Social Sectors office previously handled by Mr. Jean Claude Nsengiyumva.

Mr. Nsengiyumva was redeployed as the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration, while his predecessor in that position, Dr. Julius Tangu Rotich, was transferred to the Political Federation docket previously occupied by Hon. Kiraso, whose second and final three-year term came to an end on 28 April.

Dr. Enos Bukuku retained the Planning and Infrastructure docket, while Mr. Peter Kiguta also remains Director General for Customs and Trade. 🇰🇪



## FORUM SET UP TO ENGAGE CEOs IN REGION

In February this year, EAC Secretary General, announced the establishment of the Secretary General's Regional CEO Forum. And in April, in Nairobi, that Forum came to life when Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera met chief executive officers of regional businesses based in Kenya.

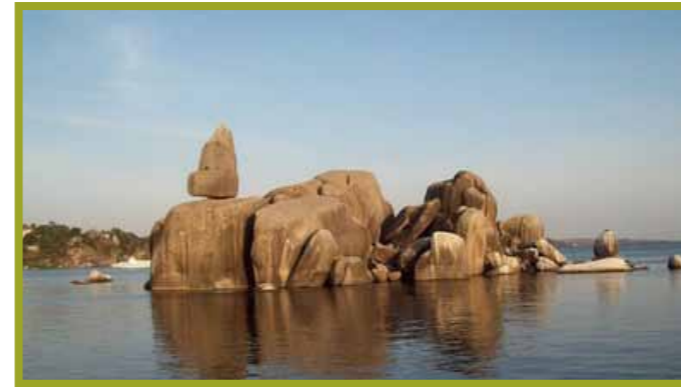
The Secretary General's Regional CEO Forum (SG CEO Forum) was set up as further recognition of the critical role of the business community in promoting the objectives of the EAC integration process. It offers a unique platform for CEOs of regional businesses to engage with the EAC Secretary General.

The main objective of the Forum is to provide a platform for regular dialogue with the business community on how to improve the EAC integration process for business and trade and how to improve the business environment to increase competitiveness and productivity.

At the Forum, conducted through breakfast meetings in the Partner State capitals, CEOs and the Secretary General discuss key challenges facing the private sector in the EAC integration process and proposals on how to address them.

Comprising five national fora and one regional forum annually, the SG CEO Forum is hosted in partnership with East African Business Council and Trade Mark East Africa.

Already three editions have taken place; in Nairobi (Kenya), Kigali (Rwanda) and Dar es Salaam (Tanzania). Two more national editions are planned for Bujumbura (Burundi) and Kampala (Uganda), before a regional version, expected to take place in Dar es Salaam later this year. 🇰🇪



## LVBC STRATEGIC PLAN GETS MINISTERIAL NOD

The 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers for Lake Victoria Basin held in Kigali, Rwanda, from 30 April to 5 May 2012 adopted the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Strategic Plan 2011-2016. The Strategic Plan shall contribute to the realisation of the aspirations set out in the 4<sup>th</sup> East African Community Development Strategy 2011-2016.

The LVBC Strategic Plan has six development objectives, including:

- (1) strengthening the coordination and management capacity of the LVBC Secretariat;
- (2) enhancing cooperation between LVBC and EAC Organs, Institutions and partners;
- (3) harmonising approaches for sustainable management and development natural resources of the Lake Victoria Basin;
- (4) harmonisation of HIV&AIDS policy frameworks and practice for mobile populations across the East African region;
- (5) improvement of safety of navigation and security on Lake Victoria;
- (6) promoting conservation and management of natural resources and biodiversity in and outside protected areas.

The ministers directed the LVBC Secretariat to prepare a resource mobilisation strategy to guide the implementation of the Strategic Plan. 🇰🇪



## FOR EA BUSINESSES, ENERGY AND NTBs STILL THE BANE

The East African Business Council-sponsored Business Climate Index (BCI) Survey for 2011 makes for somewhat grim reading. Launched in May this year, the Survey reflects that access to affordable and reliable energy is the single most serious obstacle to business operations across the region while an old headache in the form of various Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) persists.

Efficiency in cargo handling by the port authorities—for example—was reported by 53% of the 515 respondents to have stayed the same or deteriorated since the last survey carried out in 2009. Only 38% of respondents thought the efficiency had improved. Similarly, a considerable percentage (41%) of businesses indicated that bribery at Customs points and ports either stayed the same or worsened in the period under review.

The overall severity of NTBs indicates that customs procedures and administrative requirements are considered by businesses as the most severe among the NTB cluster, followed by police, weighbridges, immigration, technical standards, business registration, licensing and Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary Standards, out of five issues under which severity levels were assessed.

Even then, there is some reason for hope: despite these challenges, the BCI Survey shows that there is an overall optimism that there will be improvements in trading across borders based as the fully-fledged Customs Union and provisions of the Common Market are actualised.

The EABC uses the BCI Survey as a tool to collect and disseminate information on business conditions in the EAC Partner States. It is particularly important in the efforts to eliminate NTBs. 🇰🇪



## EACJ LAUNCHES SUB-REGISTRIES IN PARTNER STATES

In a bid to bring justice closer to East Africans, the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) has embarked on launches of sub-registries in the Partner States.

For the first time in its history, the Court will have functioning sub-registries in the capitals of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

Three launches have already taken place, in Kigali, Rwanda, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and Kampala, Uganda. Nairobi, Kenya and Bujumbura, Burundi are expected to follow in that order.

Costs in terms of time and distance have often been cited as one of the main challenges facing intending litigants who need to file their complaints with the East African Court of Justice. Before the establishment of sub-registries, every intending litigant was required to physically travel to Arusha, Tanzania, where the Court is headquartered, to file or follow up on a case lodged.

In a landmark decision however, the Council of Ministers in November 2010 approved the Court's request to establish sub-registries in all Partner States and these started operating from April 2012. 🇰🇪



## CASSOA MARKS 5 YEARS, GETS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This year, the East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (EAC-CASSOA) made five years since it came into being. The Agency officially started work on 1 June 2007 following signing of the Protocol for its establishment by the Partner States' Ministers responsible for civil aviation on 18 April 2007.

The Agency is charged with promoting the safe, secure and efficient use and development of civil aviation within and outside the Partner States.

It is also tasked with providing Partner States with an appropriate forum and structure to discuss, plan and implement common measures required for achieving the safe and orderly development of international civil avia-

tion through the implementation of international standards and recommended practices relating to the safety and security of civil aviation.

**Mr. Barry Kashambo** New Executive Director

CASSOA used the occasion of its fifth anniversary celebrations to bid farewell to its founding Executive Director, Mr. Mtesigwa Maugo, who left the Agency at the end of his five-year term. Mr. Barry Kashambo replaced Mr. Maugo as Executive Director following an appointment that took effect 1 June 2012. 🇰🇪



## IUCEA FOR EAST AFRICAN HIGHER EDUCATION FORUM

The Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) and the East African Business Council (EABC) will in October hold the first-ever **East African Higher Education Forum**, which is to be hosted in Arusha, Tanzania.

The 24-26 October 2012 Forum will bring together higher education managers, researchers, the business community, and policy makers from the EAC Partner States to deliberate on the role of universities in fostering regional integration and the development of knowledge-based economies in the East African Community, through forging linkages with the business community.

The Forum is expected to provide a convergence platform for higher education and the business community so as to discuss and strategise on how

to develop effective higher education systems in East Africa that would be linked to industry, for the promotion of sustainable socio-economic development and East Africa's regional integration.

Students and academic staff in universities in the region can avail themselves of the platform provided by the Forum to promote their brilliant ideas in business development and strategic innovations.

Those with the best concepts—identified through a call for conceptual write-ups—will be linked to the private sector for assistance from business experts to actualise their ideas. 🇰🇪



## EALS PAYS PRESIDENT KAGAME COURTESY VISIT

On 17 June 2012, a delegation of the East Africa Law Society (EALS) Executive Council headed by the EALS President, Dr. Wilbert Kapinga paid a courtesy call on His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of Rwanda.

The EALS delegation and President Kagame among other subjects discussed the proposal to extend the jurisdic-

tion of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ); the 26 April Resolution by the East African Legislative Assembly to explore avenues of granting the EACJ criminal jurisdiction; and seeking the transfer of the cases against four Kenyans relating to the 2007 post-election violence from the International Criminal Court to the EACJ. 🇰🇪



## MEDIA ON THE MOVE

### THE COMMUNITY TEAM

Journalists in the EAC are eager to move; to apply themselves in a Partner State other than that of their birth, but will the current legal and regulatory frameworks let them? Ditto the region's media houses. These issues formed the crux of the debate at the 5<sup>th</sup> East Africa Media Summit, held in Kigali, Rwanda, for the first time, and officially opened by a guest no less distinguished than President Paul Kagame.

The EAC and the East African Business Council (EABC)-organised Summit that took place 9-10 August 2012 was held on the theme: [Media on the Move: Harnessing the EAC Common Market for Media Enterprise and Freedom](#) this time round, and brought together at least 200 participants, including Ministers and other government dignitaries, legislators, media owners, chief executive officers of media houses, publishers, editors and journalists from across the region.

After a stimulating two days of debate, everyone was agreed that the EAC Partner States should hasten the formulation and/or harmonisation of information,

communication (including internet and data protection) policies in order to encourage cross-border investments and enable seamless operation across the EAC region.

And more, governments should harmonise all other supportive regulations, such as tax regimes and customs related laws; address infrastructure bottlenecks and create necessary institutions with a view to enhancing cross-border investment in the media sector while also addressing barriers like work permit/fees challenges.

President Kagame was in full agreement. He noted in his keynote address that it was essential that Partner State governments accelerate implementation of the Common Market and other protocols, and that's a call that definitely had resonance at a conference discussing opportunities for free movement of media labour and examining the regulatory framework for free movement of media services. But the Rwandan President had another compelling submission.

### HOME-GROWN MEDIA

Noting that the media have a critical role in shaping national, regional and global politics, economics and diplomacy, President Kagame called for "home-grown" media that tells East Africa's story with East Africa's best interests. He observed such media would be an invaluable partner "in communicating our agenda, advancing our interests and being among the key narrators of our story."

He added that by holding both governments and citizens to account, a responsible media would promote core values, good governance and democracy on which a successful integration can best be built.

Developing a critical, competitive and profitable home-grown media will foster debate of relevant issues and "influence the way the rest of the world sees and understands us", the President concluded. 🇷🇺

#### HIGHLIGHT FROM THE SUMMIT

The Media Summit unanimously agreed to the formation of the East African Media Council as the apex body that will coordinate the harmonisation of media laws and regulations in the EAC.

### ABOUT THE MEDIA SUMMIT

The East African Media Summit is an initiative by the East African Community Secretariat and the East African Business Council (EABC) to engage, in an annual forum, media moguls/owners, chief executive officers of media houses, publishers, editors, prominent media personalities, and the practitioners in the region on integration issues.

First held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2007, subsequent summits have been held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania (2008), Kampala, Uganda (2009) and Nairobi (2011).





# \$138 MILLION EAC BUDGET FOR FY2012/2013

## THE COMMUNITY TEAM

The EAC will focus on consolidating the Customs Union, Common Market and cross-border infrastructure development programmes in the 2012/2013 Financial Year, the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Minister for East African Community, Kenya Hon. Musa Sirma announced when presenting Budget estimates totaling \$138,316,455 to the East African Legislative Assembly meeting in Arusha on 24 May 2012.

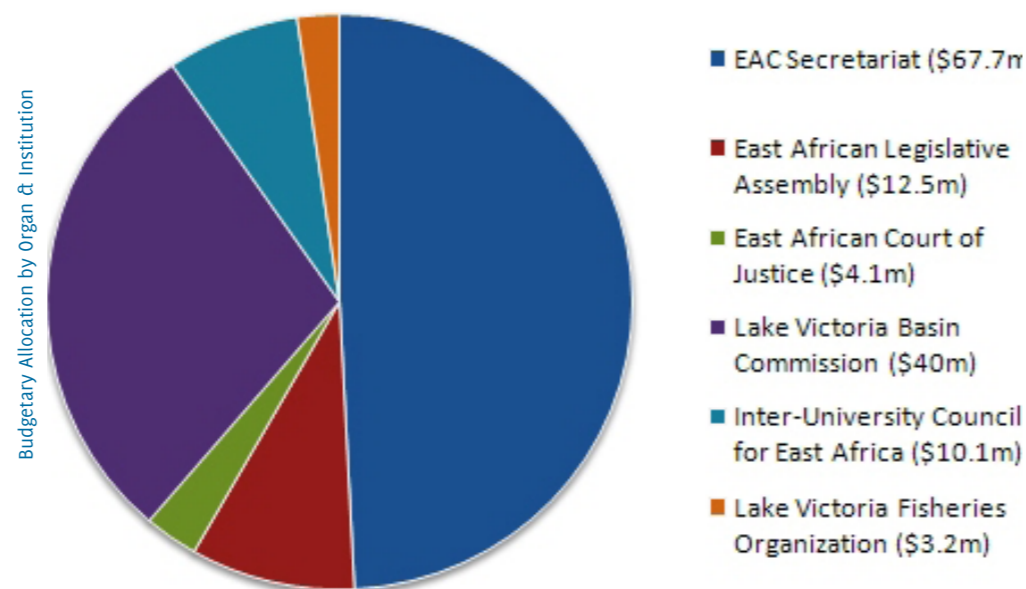
The 2012/2013 Budget, up from \$136.9m in the previous Financial Year, also prioritises completion of negotiations on the East African Monetary Union Protocol; implementation of the critical activities of EAC Food Security and Climate Change Master Plan; implementation of activities of Lake Victoria Basin Commission namely water and sanitation for the 15 towns around the Lake and its catchment area.

The Council Chairperson highlighted a number of achievements registered in the FY 2011/2012, notably the expansion of the region's GDP by 5.9% in spite of a harsh economic environment marked by rising inflation

and high fuel prices; plus sustained growth of intra-EAC trade, which he said stands at over \$4 billion today, having risen from \$2 billion in 2005.

"The intra-EAC trade to total EAC trade has grown from 7.5% in 2005 to 11.5% in 2011. This means that the intensity of trade among Partner States is growing at a modest pace. The region has also started witnessing Partner States which were net intra-EAC importers start to become intra-EAC exporters," Hon. Sirma stated.

"For example, the United Republic of Tanzania registered a surplus budget in its intra-EAC trade in 2010.



"This trend is principally due to coherent regional policy measures that have enabled EAC to fully implement a free trade regime coupled with continuous improvement in trade facilitation," he added.

Presenting the Budget estimates, the Council Chairperson noted that among the identified priority areas, interventions in the Customs Union will focus on carrying out those activities that will enable the region to turn into a Single Customs Territory.

Hon. Sirma observed that the Single Customs Territory "will crystallise the gains of integration characterised by minimal internal border controls and a more efficient institutional mechanism in clearing goods".

On implementation of the Common Market Protocol, the emphasis will be on operationalisation of the free movement of labor provisions, as well as the integration of the regional financial markets to allow for free movement of capital.

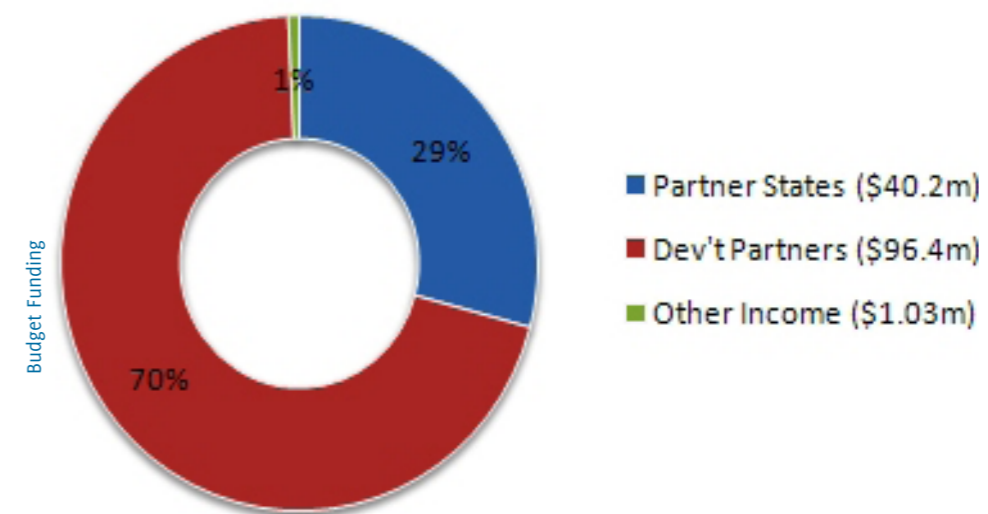
Cooperation in cross-border infrastructure development will see the commencement of construction of the

*The EAC Single Customs Territory will crystallise the gains of integration characterised by minimal internal border controls and a more efficient institutional mechanism in clearing goods*  
- Hon. Musa Sirma.

Arusha-Holili/Taveta-Voi road; conclusion of detailed designs for the Malindi-Lunga Lunga-Holili-Bagamoyo road and development of One Stop Border Posts at Namanga, Rusumo, Holili-Taveta, Lunga Lunga-Horohoro, Kabanga-Kombero and Kagitumba.

The other activities that are planned in this area include:

- \* completion of the detailed studies for the Dar-Isaka-Kigali/ Keza-Msongati railway;
- \* rail links between Kenya-Uganda and Uganda-Tanzania;
- \* strategies for harmonised EAC energy generation as well as construction of the three inter connectors already identified and;
- \* resource mobilisation for Bujumbura port and the Mombasa and Dar es Salaam port rehabilitation projects.



Regarding ongoing efforts to establish a single financial market, the Council Chairperson noted that substantial progress had been made but added that Partner States need "to remodel their economic policies in a regional perspective with a view of creating robust frameworks for economic convergence, production of reliable comparable statistics, creation of a vibrant compliance and enforcement mechanism and independent institutions to support a robust East African Monetary Union".

## EAC COMMON MARKET: TWO YEARS LATER

On 1 July this year the EAC marked two years since the Common Market Protocol came into force. The establishment of the Common Market has been designed to be progressive in accordance with the relevant laws of the Community and those of the Partner States.

In this issue, THE COMMUNITY assesses progress on actualising the four key freedoms enshrined in the Common Market Protocol and highlights some of the successes registered so far.



The right to free movement of persons entails the abolition of any discrimination based on nationality. It includes: the right to enter the territory of another EAC state without a visa; the right to move freely within the territory of a Partner State; the right to stay in the territory of a Partner State etc.

- Free entry and exit granted to EAC citizens in the Partner States
- Citizens in possession of the EAC passport granted multiple entry visa valid for six months



The Common Market Protocol allows workers from any Partner State to accept employment within any other EAC country. They cannot be discriminated against on the basis of their nationality. Employment in the public service, however, is excluded unless permitted by the Partner State.

- Work permit fees waived for EAC citizens in Rwanda and Kenya
- Bilateral MoUs on mutual recognition of academic/professional qualifications concluded by lawyers, medical boards, architects, engineers, and accountants in the Partner States
- Amendment of laws to remove restrictions to free movement of labour ongoing in the five Partner States

- Rwanda has enacted a new law that covers the aspects of the Common Market with regard to Free Movement of Persons and Labour.
- Kenya has repealed laws that were inhibiting Free Movement of Persons.



Partner States have committed to progressively open up the Professional; Communication; Distribution; Educational; Financial; Tourism/Travel and Transport services sectors between 2010 and 2015, thus service providers will be guaranteed equivalent treatment to that accorded to local providers.

- Administrative restrictions on the provision of services removed by Burundi
- Necessary amendments ongoing in the other Partner States



Under the Common Market Protocol, Partner States agreed to remove all barriers and restrictions on the movement, sale, investment and payments of capital.

- Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda have opened up capital accounts
- Burundi and Tanzania to open up by 2015

### WHAT IT IS:

The Common Market is the second pillar of the EAC integration after the Customs Union. It is a level of economic integration that encompasses the free movement of persons, services, labour, capital and the right of establishment and residence in the five EAC Partner States of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.

The Protocol for the Establishment of the EAC Common Market was signed 20 November 2009 and came into force on 1 July 2010.

More information on the Common Market is available at [www.comonmarket.eac.int](http://www.comonmarket.eac.int)

# EPAs: A STATUS UPDATE

PETER KIGUTA

Nearly five years ago, the EAC Partner States initiated the Framework Economic Partnership Agreement (FEPA), which was to provide a bridge to the full conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) that the European Union would be negotiating with EAC.

The EAC Partner States are among the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries that entertain a special relationship with the European Union; a relationship that started in 1957 when the EU signed an agreement with the ACP countries in Yaounde, Cameroon committing to help the latter in promoting their economic and social development.

The ACP-EU relationship has evolved over time with the Lome Conventions and currently the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (2000–2020).

The ACP-EU trading relationship is based on a preferential access of products from the ACP group members to the European market. During the period between 2002 and the end of 2007, the EU agreed to provide non-reciprocal, duty free market access to ACP countries, under the terms and conditions of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement.

The trade cooperation chapter of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) under which the EU extended non-reciprocal trade preferences to ACP countries expired on 31 December 2007.

Following the expiration of that agreement, the Parties agreed to conclude new World Trade Organisation-compatible trading arrangements, progressively removing barriers to trade between them and enhancing cooperation in all areas relevant to trade. These trade arrangements are what are referred to as the EPAs.

Upon initialing the Framework EPA on 27 November 2007, the EAC Partner States and the EU reviewed various Articles of the FEPA.

Most of these Articles have been the subject of extensive debate between the two Parties.

To date, negotiations are concluded or ongoing in the following clusters:

- Economic and Development;
- Agriculture;
- Rules of Origin; and
- Institutional Arrangements, Dispute Settlement and Final Provisions.

## STATUS OF EPA NEGOTIATIONS

### ECONOMIC & DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION (EDC)

 STATUS: **Negotiations finalised**

The Economic and Development Cooperation (EDC) provisions are part of the EPAs in recognition of the fact that changes to the trade regime will entail significant costs for the EAC.


- The provisions are based on Economic and Development Cooperation Chapter and EAC EPA Development Matrix in addition to the national and regional development strategies of the EAC and its Partner States.
- The matrix and corresponding baseline benchmarks, indicators and targets shall be annexed to the EPA and be reviewed every five years.
- Cooperation shall be in the form of financial and non financial support to the EAC region.

### AGRICULTURE

 STATUS: **Two outstanding issues remain**

- Export subsidies
- Domestic support – EAC would like the EU to substantially reduce trade-distorting domestic support provided to farmers, especially on products of export interest to EAC region.

### RULES OF ORIGIN (RoO)

 STATUS: **Negotiations ongoing**

The ongoing negotiations of the EAC-EC EPA Rules of Origin are guided by the following objectives:

- Improving and increasing the market access for EAC exports into the EU market
- Promoting the establishment and growth of the industrial and agricultural base of EAC Partner States
- Facilitating the diversification of the EAC export base
- Deepening EAC regional integration through cumulation across EAC as well with COMESA and SADC countries
- Widen EAC Partner States base for sourcing raw material for production of goods targeting the EU market by allowing for extended cumulation that covers all ACP countries, countries that the EU has concluded an FTA (Free Trade Area) with and cumulation with goods that enter the EU market at a Most Favoured Nation (MFN) duty rate of 0%

### INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

 STATUS: **Negotiations ongoing**

The Institutional Arrangement, Dispute Settlement and Final Provisions chapter intends to:


- Establish institutions which will ensure the achievement of the objectives of the EPA Agreement; and
- Help avoid disputes and to settle any dispute between the Parties concerning the interpretation and application of the Agreement in good faith and to arrive at, where possible, a mutually agreed solution


### TRADE IN SERVICES & TRADE-RELATED ISSUES

 STATUS: **Negotiations deferred**

These provisions, which both Parties agreed to negotiate at a later stage cover among others, Competition Policy; Investment and Private Sector Development; Intellectual Property Rights; and Transparency in Public Procurement.

### NEW ISSUES PRESENTED BY EU

 STATUS: **Issues not agreed upon for negotiation:**

- o Good Governance in Tax Area
  - To address tax fraud, evasion and avoidance;
  - Principles: Transparency, effective exchange of information, and fair tax competition
- o Obligations arising from Customs Union Agreements concluded with the EU. 

## KNOWLEDGE BOX

### EAC's Market Access Offer

- o The EAC is liberalising 82.6% of imports from the EU through a gradual reduction over a 25-year transition period.
- o EAC's configuration has the longest transition period; other African countries have transition periods of at most 15 years.
- o Reductions of duties will be based on the Common External Tariff (CET) and over a phase down schedule consisting of 3 phases

### Implications of EAC's Market Access Offer on Agricultural Development

The agricultural products in which the EAC Partner States are competitive in producing (or have the potential to be) are hardly affected by the EPA as these have largely been excluded from liberalisation. This position was motivated by need to address food security and rural livelihood.

The EAC will be liberalising seven agricultural items (six products attracting 10% and one product at 25%) which are currently significantly sourced from the EU, hence the potential loss of revenue. These are: 1) Maize starch; 2) Flours and meals of soya beans; 3) Sea weeds and other algae; 4) Animal food preparations; 5) Casein; 6) Other modified starches; 7) Colza Oil.



**BUDGET DAY:** Council Chairperson Hon. Musa Sirma (C) displays the briefcase containing the EAC Budget Statement for FY 2012/13.



**GOOD LUCK:** Former EAC Deputy Secretary General Hon. Beatrice Kiraso (R) congratulates Hon. Jesca Eriyo after the latter had been sworn in as her successor during the 10th Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State in Arusha, 28 April 2012.



**EXCELLENT ON THE OUTSIDE, ELEGANT ON THE INSIDE:** A view of the interior of the new EAC headquarters building in Arusha.



**LEARNED FRIENDS:** EAC Counsel to the Community Hon. Wilbert Kaahwa chats with colleagues after a session at the EACJ.



**ISN'T THAT FUNNY:** Burundi's Minister for EAC Hon. Leontine Nzeyimana shares a light moment with EALA MPs.



**SO HELP ME GOD:** The newly elected Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly Rt. Hon. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa takes her oath administered by the Clerk to the Assembly Mr. Kenneth Madete in June this year.



# MEET YOUR EALA MEMBER

## BOBI ODIKO

The Third East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) was sworn in 5 June 2012 at the EALA Chambers in Arusha, Tanzania, the same day Right Honorable Margaret Nantongo Zziwa was elected as the regional assembly's third Speaker, making history as the first woman to hold the position. Here are the 45 elected Members of the Third EALA:

### REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

Hon. Emerence Bucumi  
 Hon. Hafsa Mossi  
 Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo  
 Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye  
 Hon. Dr. Martin Nduwimana  
 Hon. Emmanuel Nengo  
 Hon. Jeremie Ngendakumana  
 Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro  
 Hon. Yves Nsabimana

### REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Hon. Nancy Abisai  
 Hon. Abubakar Zein Abubakar  
 Hon. Sarah Bonaya  
 Hon. Peter Mathuki  
 Hon. Mumbi Ngaru  
 Hon. Saole Ole Nkanae  
 Hon. Abubakar Ogle  
 Hon. Joseph Kiangoi  
 Hon. Judith Pareno

### REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

Hon. Christophe Bazivamo  
 Hon. Patricia Hjabakiga  
 Hon. Abdulkarim Harelimana  
 Hon. Jacqueline Muhongayire  
 Hon. Dr. James Ndahiro  
 Hon. Straton Ndikuryayo  
 Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza  
 Hon. Dr Odette Nyiramilimo  
 Hon. Pierre Celesitin Rwigema

### UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji  
 Hon. Adam Kimbisa  
 Hon. Angela Kizigha  
 Hon. Bernard Murunya  
 Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi  
 Hon Dr. Perpertia Nderakindo  
 Hon. Makongoro Nyerere  
 Hon. Issa Taslima  
 Hon. Mariam Ussi Yahya

### REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

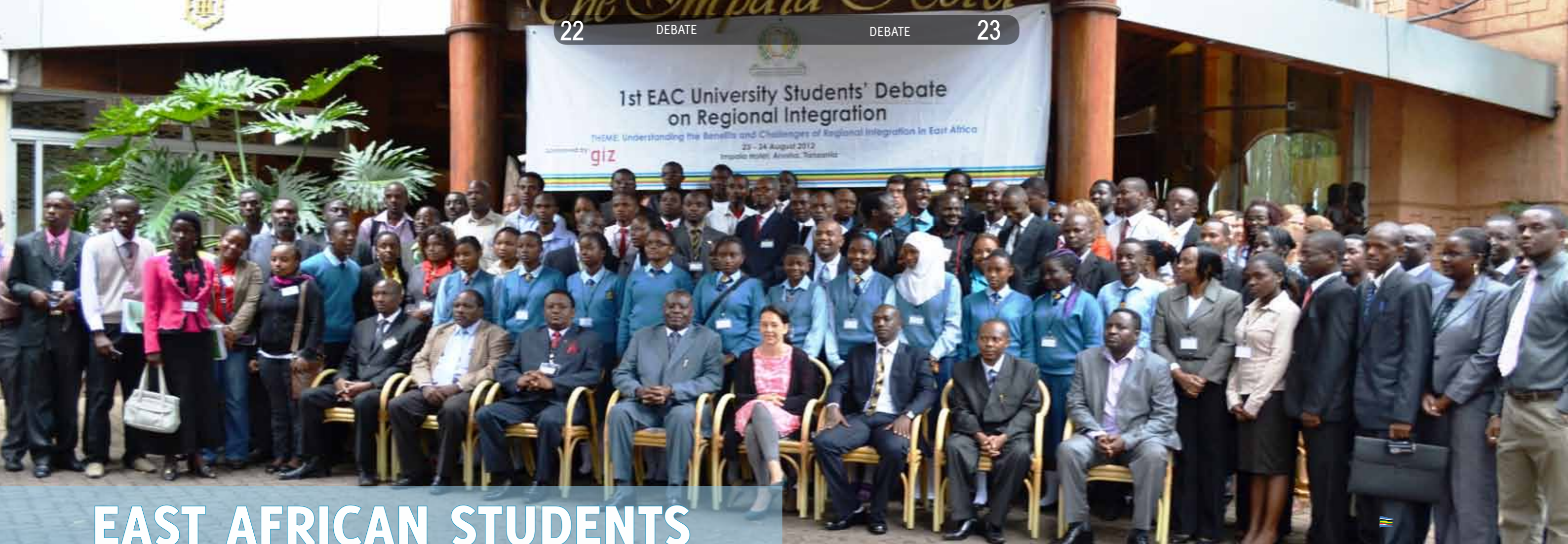
Hon. Dora Byamukama  
 Hon. Dan Kidega  
 Hon. Fred Mbidde Mukasa  
 Hon. Bernard Mulengani  
 Hon. Susan Nakawuki  
 Hon. Chris Opoka-Okumu  
 Hon. Mike Sebalu  
 Hon. Nusura Tiperu  
 Hon. Margaret Zziwa

### EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

Hon. Léontine Nzeyimana  
 - (Minister, Burundi)  
 Hon. Musa Sirma  
 - (Minister, Kenya)  
 Hon. Monique Mukaruliza  
 - (Minister, Rwanda)  
 Hon. Samuel Sitta  
 - (Minister, Tanzania)  
 Hon. Eriya Kategaya  
 - (Minister, Uganda)  
 Hon. Peter Munya  
 - (Assistant Minister, Kenya)  
 Hon. Abdalla Sadalla  
 - (Deputy Minister, Tanzania)  
 Hon. Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera  
 - (Secretary General, EAC)  
 Hon. Wilbert Kaahwa  
 - (Counsel to the Community)

### HOUSE COMPOSITION

Each Partner State is entitled to nine Members totalling 45. There are seven ex-officio Members who are the five Ministers in charge of the Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs from the respective Partner States, the Secretary General and the Counsel to the Community. Put together, the EALA membership stands at 52. Out of the 45 elected EALA Members, 20 were Members of the Second Legislative Assembly. In total, the Third Assembly thus has 32 new faces.



# EAST AFRICAN STUDENTS ON POLITICAL INTEGRATION

ETHEL SIRENGO & BARBARA KABOHA

Arusha, Tanzania was the host city for the 1<sup>st</sup> EAC University Students Debate on Regional Integration held 23-24 August this year and organised by the EAC Nyerere Center for Peace Research in collaboration with GIZ.

The two-day Debate themed, “Understanding the Benefits and Challenges of Political Integration 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 benefits of political integration in East Africa outweigh the challenges.

In a riveting day-long exercise, East African students went about passionately making cases for and against political integration, highlighting benefits such as promoting good governance, enhancing peace and security, boosting the implementation of existing EAC protocols and building social cohesion.

With a particularly powerful analogy, Mr. James Muhindo, a student from Uganda described the road to political integration, and ultimately, federation, as one akin to giving life—not without pain—but ultimately leading to a beautiful thing.

Students that stood to oppose the motion argued that while political integration was a good thing, there should be a measured and systematic process. 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 multiple memberships to various blocs by the Partner States.

At the closing gala dinner, the best five debaters at the inaugural event were recognised and awarded certificates which were presented by EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social

Sectors Hon. Jesca Eriyo. Kenyan student Mr. Ephraim Percy Kenyanito was named the best debater by the Panel of Judges. The other four stand-out debaters were: Nangekhe Elizabeth, Oyombe Julians Amboko, Magoma Anthony and Ngilangwa Eric Gordon.

At the same gala five of the participants were nominated EAC Youth Ambassadors pending approval by the EAC policy organs. Those selected are: Ms. Ntungane Olenka (Burundi), Ms. Milly Mbedi Minayo (Kenya), Mr. Muramira Gashegu (Rwanda), Mr. Raymond Maro (United Republic of Tanzania) and Mr. James Tayebwa Bamwenda (Uganda).

## 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. It is mooted to be 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.

## FOR THE MOTION:

Political integration can contribute to:

- Nurturing good governance
- Enhancing peace and security
- Harmonised foreign and defence policy
- Promotion of human rights
- Increasing EAC’s bargaining power
- Building social cohesion

## AGAINST THE MOTION:

Challenges to political integration are:

- Sovereignty and State independence
- Weak regulatory systems/institutions
- Lack of sensitisation and awareness
- Multiple memberships to various blocs
- Lack of trust among states, citizens
- Slow implementation of commitments

“Tingatinga” is a painting style that developed in the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century in the Oyster Bay area in Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) and later spread to most of East Africa. Tingatinga paintings are one of the most widely represented forms of tourist-oriented art in Tanzania, Kenya and neighboring countries. The genre is named after its founder, Tanzanian painter Edward Said Tingatinga. The drawings can be described as both naïve and caricatural, and humor and sarcasm are often explicit. Source: Wikipedia



“Tinga Tinga Tales” is a 52-episode children’s series based on African folk tales and aimed at 4-6 year olds. It was commissioned by the BBC for its CBeebies channel, and by Disney Channel for its Disney Junior block. Named after the Tingatinga art from Tanzania, it was made by a studio in Kenya. The music is by Kenyan singer-songwriter Eric Wainaina.

# CULTURE IS BIG BUSINESS, BUT WILL EAC CASH IN?

BAKAYE LUBEGA

According to UNCTAD, world trade in creative goods and services are among the most dynamic sectors of the multilateral trading system. From 2000 to 2005, the sector experienced an impressive growth rate of 8.7% reaching USD 424.4 billion, notes the UNCTAD Global databank on world trade of creative goods and services.

Yet, despite their abundance of creative talents and rich cultural assets, in the region, EAC citizens are not yet benefiting from the huge potential of their creative industries to promote economic growth, job creation, social inclusion, and export earnings.

Paradoxically, EAC Partner States are big net importers of cultural products. The total share of East African countries remains insignificant, even if some countries – Uganda for example, have already taken steps to start shaping a creative economy strategy. But this situation has the potential to be improved and all opportunities to do so should be seized.

The cooperation is one such opportunity. Under Article 119 of the treaty for the Establishment of the EAC Partner States undertake to promote close cooperation in the field of Culture as one of the means to exploit the existing potential of culture as a driver of regional integration and economic development.

The EAC recently embarked on a mapping study of the creative/culture industries in the region. The main objective of this project is to collect socio-economic data on the different segments of cultural and creative industries such as music, film and video, crafts, visual arts, performing arts, sound recording, television and radio, computer software, museum and heritage sites, advertisement, publishing, design and fashion, among others.

Culture and creative industries understandably contribute significantly to the regional economy in terms of revenue, employment creation, poverty reduction, and exports earnings, social and sustainable development. However, this contribution is not well captured and documented.

The mapping will therefore seek to provide information on the various segments of cultural industries in terms

of; geographical distribution and concentration, regional statistics and global market opportunities, exports (turn-over), contribution to employment, contribution to GDP, royalties and copyrights and strategies for developing creative and cultural industries in the EAC

Investing in the region should be open to facilitate joint ventures, partnerships, and cooperation. Eventually through this cultural cooperation, many culture development projects can be launched to enhance economic, social, and cultural potential of the creative industries in the region; this will bring a new holistic approach to dealing with the interface of economic, social, cultural aspects for development. This could be designed through collaboration among United Nations agencies, namely UNESCO, UNCTAD, and ILO which could be funded by EAC through support programme for culture industries.

In the region, the performance and competitiveness of the creative industries have suffered from weak institutional and political support, low levels of entrepreneurial capability, low added value, overdependence on foreign firms, and massive copyright infringement.

Employment and earnings however, could be enhanced if the industry were more effectively organised, if supply capacities and cultural entrepreneurship were strengthened, and if new market opportunities, at national and international levels, were exploited more fully. Such a project will respond to the needs of the participating countries by offering policy advice and capacity building activities.

By nurturing the creative industries, the project can for example aim at enhancing music, visual and performing arts, publishing, cultural festivals and other creative sectors through target activities over the years. In this way, it might transform local talent into a catalyst for dynamic creative industries that can foster economic growth, employment, and trade expansion while promoting the linkages between culture, trade and development. 🇰🇪

*The author is the Principal Culture and Sports Officer at the EAC Secretariat*

# EAC's PLAN TO SCALE UP ACCESS TO MODERN ENERGY

BELINDA WERA

Unless affordable and reliable access to and supply of modern energy is provided for socio-economic development, the East African Community Partner States will struggle to reduce poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Although access to energy services alone will not achieve socio-economic growth, sustainable development or the MDGs, it remains an essential condition if these goals are to be reached. Against that background, the EAC's Regional Strategy for Scaling up Access to Modern Energy Services holds special significance.

The Strategy seeks to enable at least half of the region's population to access modern energy services by 2015. Its focus is achievement of the MDGs and poverty reduction, and such specific focus allows it to have demonstrable results that touch the daily lives of the majority of East Africans.


The objective of the regional strategy is in accordance with the commitments already taken under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and, more recently, at the Forum of Energy Ministers of Africa (FEMA) during the Millennium Summit in September 2005.

The strategy aims to promote harmonised policy and institutional frameworks, integrating access to energy services as one of the national priorities and developing national and local policy frameworks, energy investment programmes, based on sustainable business models that focus on poverty reduction in rural and peri-urban areas and the achievement of the MDGs.

The Strategy is built on four simple and achievable targets; access to modern cooking practices for 50% of traditional biomass users; access to reliable modern energy services for all urban and peri-urban poor; access to electricity for all schools, clinics, hospitals and community centers; and access to mechanical power within the community for all productive services.

The EAC Secretariat is expected to play a catalytic role in coordinating, facilitating, monitoring, and communicating the progress of the scale-up. These activities are encompassed in a programme management cycle consisting of five steps namely: identifying which of the existing business models have greatest impact; creating an enabling environment for scaling up of these business models by developing national strategies and actively mainstreaming energy access in high-level policy and mobilising investment in programs to support energy access.

Furthermore, it involves actively managing attainment of the targets through effective feedback and timely course corrections; and fostering innovation in new technologies and business models.

The Strategy seeks to enable at least **50%** of the East African population to access modern energy services by **2015**. 

For more information visit:  
<http://www.energy.eac.int>

# UNDERSTANDING TIFAs

BELINDA WERA

The EAC has seen a great deal of interest from various countries seeking to enter into Trade and Investment Framework Agreements (TIFA) with it over the last four years or so. The United States of America for one signed a TIFA with the EAC on 16 July 2008.

The other countries interested in signing TIFAs with EAC include: India, Canada and Turkey.

## WHAT IT IS

A Trade and Investment Framework Agreement is a bilateral international trade agreement that establishes a framework for expanding trade and investment. A TIFA essentially provides an official forum for discussing regional trade and investment issues. TIFAs are often seen as an important step towards establishing Free Trade Agreements.

EAC regards Trade and Investment Framework Agreements as an instrument that it could leverage to strengthen trade and investment relations with different partners, diversify bilateral trade, and improve the climate for business.

## EAC-USA TRADE AND INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT

The EAC-US Trade and Investment Framework Agreement established a Joint TIFA Council that held its first meeting on 15 February 2010 in Kampala, Uganda and agreed upon broad areas of cooperation such as: improvement of market access and removal of trade and investment barriers; coordination and consultation on the AGOA implementation; improvement of technical regulations and standards; and strengthening agricultural trade and agribusiness linkages.

Also included are promotion and protection of intellectual property rights; coordination and consultation on issues and positions in multilateral trade negotiations, including the World Trade Organisation; development and strengthening the financial sector and improving access to trade finance; encouraging improvements in trade-related infrastructure, including transportation and energy; and encouraging commercial and academic exchange programs.

For more information visit:  
[www.trade.eac.int](http://www.trade.eac.int)

Plastics are a globally important product, with varied application in building, household use, industrial packaging, medical use and equipment, educational materials and equipment. World over they are used for a broad number of reasons but mainly because of their durability.

Quite a number of small scale and medium industries in East Africa have invested significant resources into manufacturing of plastic materials. According to the Kenya Association of Manufacturers there are about 300 industries producing plastic materials in East Africa, 50% of which are polythene based. One can imagine the number of people employed by the industry.

Unfortunately, the durability of plastic materials is not a positive attribute as far as the environment is concerned. The fact that plastic is durable means it degrades slowly. Additionally, burning plastic materials can sometimes result in toxic fumes which end up polluting the air that we commonly share.

While it is important for policy makers to mitigate the environmental consequences of such development undertakings, it is equally important to balance the likely tradeoffs of development.

In view of polythene materials produced in East Africa, the EAC Plastic Control Bill 2011 was recently passed by EALA, which seeks to provide for the absolute control and regulation of use, sale, manufacture, and importation of polythene materials and products in the East Africa Community. The overall intent is to prohibit manufacturing, sale, importation and use of polythene materials in EAC. Although there are few exceptions on the proposed legislation, it seeks to impose an absolute and total ban on polythene materials.

In the view of the East African Business Council (EABC) and the private sector in general, the proposed legislation appears to have overlooked the real concern, the social concern which is the management of waste in East Africa.

The industry involved in manufacturing of polythene materials has so far committed significant resources; employs a sizeable population and provides convenience carry materials; but the legislation does not provide an alternative to foreseen consequences of the absolute ban of usage of polythene materials; even though this is not appropriate solution to the problem of waste management.

While it is important for policy makers to mitigate the environmental consequences of such development undertakings, it is equally important to balance the likely tradeoffs of development.

While consultations with a wider spectrum of stakeholders is necessary under such situations; the Bill by EALA did not sufficiently consult which perhaps would have led to proper development of a regional plastics management policy first, then subsequently the law.

Due to the fact that the proposed legislation/Bill is not informed by the policy, it fails to identify the real problem and the extent of this problem to the environment. As private sector we believe that the problem has to do with poor waste management and as such the legislation/Bill ought have focused on promotion of environmentally-friendly waste management practices.

It is indeed true that development sucks in reasonable resources; of which is both costly to secure and maintain. While about 150 industries in East Africa are involved in manufacturing of polythene, the proposed legislation/Bill does not provide for the investment so far incurred and are likely to go to waste as a result of the ban. The same also applies to loss of jobs and livelihoods. It is an undisputable fact that investments in the plastic industry are legal and investors have running licenses across the region.

Polythene materials can be re-used, recycled, and those consensually agreed for the ban should be planned with a transitional path to replacement and use alternatives. For instance the schedule of goods that must be packed in polythene is inadequately limited to 9 categories.

While the schedule has in equal terms ignored usage of polythene materials by agricultural exports. This again indicates the lack of policy guidance on the law. The policy should have spelt out well guidelines regarding acceptable criteria or rejects of applicants.

EABC has on several occasions communicated the position that legislations taken at regional level, should move to an extent possible by proposing coordination and enforcement mechanism.

The Bill does not establish coordinating structure hence raises questions on the difficulty of enforcement e.g. it prescribes procedure for licensing but does not provide for sanctions to the licensing authority for non-compliance.

There are varieties of imported products pre-packed in polythene materials, hence it is very unrealistic to expect the

## PLASTICS CONTROL BILL: PRIVATE SECTOR PERSPECTIVE

AGATHA NDERITU



whole world to adjust their packing specifications to suit EAC requirements without additional costs. The competitiveness consequences of EAC market by this legislation/Bill is an issue that will require further policy measures. The proposed legislation/Bill did not consider this, yet it is equally an issue worthy the attention.

Plastic materials are recognisable and profitable bi-product of oil. The potential of EAC to produce oil is now a matter of time. While the entire world demand for plastic is unchanged by the proposed ban, the business potential that exists is now undermined.

In brief polythene is one of the easiest materials to recycle. Thus a diverse range of products can be made from recycled polythene. There have been some classic cases of roads built with recycled polythene, bridges made entirely of recycled polythene.

In fact all plastic manufacturers in the EAC can easily comply with fully operational recycling standards as well as waste management collection centres.

It is important to note that the need for waste management policy is still fundamental to guide the legislation/Bill. Further the focus should be on investment towards a friendly environment rather than an absolute ban on the manufacture, use and importation of polythene materials.

EABC believes that investment can go hand in hand with a clean environment through having well informed policies that strike balance between business and sustainable environment as it's done in the other parts of the world.

EABC is looking forward to requesting the policy makers not to assent to the Bill until the above concerns are addressed. 🇰🇪

*The writer is the Executive Director of the East African Business Council.*

## MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF QUALIFICATIONS MUST START WITH QUALITY



STEPHEN C. KAHERU

Policy makers of the East African Community were in Kampala in August deliberating upon, among others, the policy direction for education in the region. They resolved to expedite progress towards mutual recognition of academic qualifications within EAC.

The move, first mooted in 2003, identifies with the spirit of Europe's Bologna Process and has its overriding motivation in enhancing movement of professionals within the bloc. For a region of five states working towards a common market, it matters to pay attention to the economic considerations underlying reciprocal recognition of degrees.

What cannot be denied though is that in today's global knowledge economy, quality remains the hallmark of roaming qualifications. With Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda having embraced Education for All, the last decade has recorded commendable progress in getting young girls and boys into primary school through to secondary. This numerical rise has translated into more degree-seeking East Africans.

In 2011, Uganda had 65,417 students qualified for university and other tertiary institutions compared to 61,820 in 2010. The Higher Education Loans Board in Tanzania received over 55,000 applications for university loans in 2011 compared to about 40,000 continuing students. In Kenya, university enrolment is reported to have risen from 91,541 to 130,000 between 2006 and 2010. Burundi, which had no private university in 2000 was counting four by 2002.

This spurt of university enrolments, however, has not been matched with commensurate resources. Consequently, some universities have had to nurture growing numbers of East Africa's professionals within a constrained environment.

In times when exploding enrolments at universities are eliciting misgivings about the quality of graduates, it pays to brace oneself for healthy competition within the ambit of regional cooperation. As opinion coalesces around healthy comparison of academic credentials across East Africa, careful consideration of how the refocus impacts quality is most beneficial.

The education landscape in the EAC is fairly varied and unemployment continues to hurt national economies differently. This situation is compounded by difficulty in realigning academic qualifications across partner countries. For a Makerere-trained engineer to navigate the increasingly competitive terrain of East Africa's labour market, not only must their grades be comparable, but also the extent to which they can apply themselves.

With several universities sprouting at national level, the focus on quality constitutes a vital building block for paving a leveled road towards a mutually beneficial East Africanwide co-operation in education. Quality assurance is the architecture needed to ensure that skill assessment is comparable. That is the foundation for mutually recognising learning outcomes.

Kampala International University (KIU) has over the years taken on a new acronym of Kenyans in Uganda because of its appeal to students from Kenya. For sure, Kenyan students and parents alike are never short of words to acknowledge that their main attraction to Uganda as a study destination is the cheaper cost of attaining a degree.

In pursuit of comparable qualifications in East Africa, however, each country should seize the moment as opportunity to render higher education not only affordable, but also applicable to prevailing needs.

The industrialisation imperative in the EAC is worthless unless the push for degree comparison is premised on attracting skill for promoting innovation and advancing the knowledge economy.

In the age of an evidently global market where careers are more transnational than ever before, the case for competitive foreign degrees cannot be overstated. With the goal of degree recognition re-echoed as economic, what remains is for national aspirations to rally behind clearly defined targets of quality training.

Besides, for East Africans to remain competitive, their comparative strengths across the global playing field also have to stand out. In a global knowledge economy, education must nurture locally relevant as well as globally sought after competencies. 🇰🇪

*This article first appeared in the Daily Monitor newspaper.*

## EAST AFRICA IS PROUD

*Rudisha! It's A World Record!*



Those with only a passing interest in athletics wouldn't have been too keen to stretch their focus beyond a certain Usain Bolt during this year's London Olympics. But one young Kenyan athlete wasn't ready to go unnoticed.

David Rudisha, 23, wrote himself into Olympic history when he stormed to the 800M gold in the fastest time ever; a world record 1:40.91, and in the process, sending East Africa into delirium!

*Burundi, Top Reformer for 2012*



Burundi is one of the top 10 reforming countries in the world according to the *Doing Business Report 2012*. The EAC Partner State came in at number 7 on the list of best reformers in the report produced by the World Bank.

The *Doing Business Report* ranked economies on the number of their net reforms and on how much they improved on the doing business ranking.

# OUR MONETARY UNION WILL BE TAILORED TO SUIT EAST AFRICA



The High Level Task Force negotiating a Monetary Union Protocol for the East African Community has made commendable progress so far. Negotiating a monetary union is a complex process at the best of times.

Doing so in the context of the current misfortunes of the European Monetary Union and the Euro, increases the complexity on one hand and clarifies the issues for easier decision on the other.

While it is imperative that the lessons of Europe and other monetary unions in Africa and elsewhere are taken into account, in the final analysis, the EAC will have to agree on a Union that works for East Africans - one that is informed by the unique history, needs, challenges, and opportunities that East Africa offers.

There are those who advocate a slowing down of the East African integration agenda. They say that East Africa should simply consolidate its Customs Union, and Common Market, and invest in common infrastructure. These are not new voices. They were evident at the time of the establishment of the Community. Some were internal, others external.

Yes, the Customs Union and Common Market must be implemented. Yes, there is need for heavy investment in priority infrastructure including energy, as well as industrialisation. All unnecessary tariff and non tariff barriers to trade must be eliminated. The momentum for intra-regional trade must be maintained given its enormous potential and the difficulties East Africa's traditional trading partners are facing.

At less than 12% relative to total trade, intra-EAC trade is still too low, the fact that in some years it has grown by over 27% from year to year, and that it is an improvement from the 7% figure five or so years ago notwithstanding.

At the end of the day what we ought to appreciate is that the pursuit of these desirable ends is not mutually exclusive of the objective of monetary union. On the contrary, they are complementary to it and together they constitute the continuum of the EAC integration process.

Therefore those who say the Community must consolidate its achievements are right. They simply miss the point when they see a Common Market as the end point of East African integration. Markets are important but not sufficient solutions to the issues of the bigger picture of the African renewal and revival which is addressed in the

context of deeper integration.

Monetary stability, with or without a single currency, has always been essential for successful integration. Yet, monetary stability has never been purely about monetary policy harmonisation. It requires political as well as economic (including) fiscal harmonisation.

The first attempts at East African integration faltered when the political will for deeper integration evaporated, affecting the survival of the East African Currency Board.

The Latin Monetary Union of France, Italy, Belgium, Switzerland and later Greece that lasted from 1865 to 1927 petered out when the political will required to sustain it faltered. The Scandinavian Monetary Union of Denmark, Sweden and Norway (1873 to 1920) unraveled because of lack of common monetary, fiscal, and political instruments.

Yet, the United States Monetary Union that came into being only after the US civil war or the CFA of the Economic and Monetary Community of Central Africa (CEMAC) have stood the test of time, in the case of CEMAC, even without a functional Common Market.

Monetary union is not the solution to all the problems that our countries face. It is however a critical item in the arsenal available to East Africa in her quest for an integration agenda that leads to social and economic empowerment of her people.

The lessons from monetary unions, with or without a single currency, are clear. They require fiscal discipline among member states, anchored in fiscal and economic policy harmonisation. They require supranational institutions that build trust in fiscal and monetary policy, as well as the requisite rigorous and viable statistics.

Although currency management has not been the centre pieces of high politics, monetary unions require effective political leadership. They force us to ask the political questions that Europe is still grappling with, but that East Africa has already answered. Namely, what kind of Community is the monetary union expected to serve? A

Federation, a Confederation, or yet another Intergovernmental Organisation?

Some of the lessons of the Euro, a currency which, for political reasons severed its link both to gold and the Nation State are relevant to East Africa. Others are not. Some of the orthodoxies and rigidities within the Eurozone may be questionable and East Africa should question them.

These include, inter alia, the assumptions that countries cannot simultaneously maintain fixed exchange rates, capital mobility and autonomous monetary policies which eventually led to a European Central Bank heavily influenced in set up and operations by the German Bundesbank, with no additional effective supranational capacity to enforce the European Stability and Growth Pact, an important component of, not a substitute to, political union.

That monetary union can exist with no fiscal transfer from a common center maybe possible. That it can do so, as Europe has tried to do, without flexibilities within the labour markets, both within and between States as well as those required to deal with asymmetric shocks, is not reasonable.

East Africa, through her capacity to absorb the lessons of her history as well as those of others is at the forefront of an emerging New Africa. The East African Community refused to accept that the failures of its past should define its future.

It has chosen to build a Community, not serving as an aggregation of all its fears, but as a repository of all its hopes. East Africans cannot and should not allow the difficulties of others to be an albatross around their neck, mortgaging their yearnings and resolve for meaningful integration. 🇰🇪

**Dr. Richard Sezibera**  
Ambassador  
Secretary General  
East African Community

# GEORGE OMONDI, EAC's BEST, AGAIN!

EDWARD SSEKALO

The *Business Daily's* George Omondi and the premier regional competition for journalists have something of a love affair going. Like a magnet with metals, he just keeps attracting the biggest prizes at the EAC Media Awards to himself.

Like he had done at the inaugural event in Nairobi last year, the Kenyan journalist once again clinched the prime accolade on the Awards night--the EAC Secretary General's Award--as the 2nd EAC Media Awards rolled on, this time in Kigali, Rwanda.

Mr. Omondi's achievement is remarkable when you consider that this year's competition was even more intense, with more entries recorded (120), as East African journalists competed for prizes in eight categories, doubled from four last year.

This year's Award categories were the EAC Secretary General's Award; EABC Chairman's Award; Green Award (Environment Reporting); Health Reporting Award; Agriculture & Food Security Reporting Award; Higher Education Reporting Award; Political Reporting Award and; the Broadcast Award.

After another successful competition, the Awards are no doubt only going to grow bigger and the competition more fierce. But Mr. Omondi is, apparently, not fazed in the least. Collecting his Secretary General's Award, he announced he would be going for a "third term". East Africa, you've been warned!

*George Omondi of the Business Daily, Kenya, won the EAC Secretary General's Award.*



## THE WINNERS...



Green Award (Environment Reporting):  
**Wanjohi Kabukuru**  
Africa Business/Diplomat, Kenya



Health Reporting:  
**Zephania Ubwani**  
The Citizen, Tanzania



Agriculture & Food Security Reporting:  
**Robert Koigi**  
African Laughter News Agency, Kenya



Higher Education Reporting:  
**Charles Kwizera**  
Kigali Today, Rwanda



Political Reporting:  
**George Omondi**  
Business Daily, Kenya



Broadcast Award:  
**Aby Agina Wasonga**  
NTV, Kenya



EABC Chairman's Award  
(Business & Financial Reporting):  
**Dorothy Nakaweesi**  
Daily Monitor, Uganda

### ABOUT THE EAC MEDIA AWARDS

The annual EAC Media Awards is the premier regional competition for journalists, editors and commentators covering the EAC integration.

Organised jointly by EAC and EABC, the 2012 edition of the competition was the second of its kind. The Awards aim at reinforcing the critical role of the media in driving the integration agenda and seek to recognise, reward

and encourage journalistic talent across media platforms in the various aspects of regional cooperation.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> EAC Media Awards were sponsored by Trade Mark East Africa, Inter University Council for East Africa, BRALIRWA, Nakumatt, EcoBank, Serena Hotel and Association of Freight Forwarders (ADR). 



## 'WE SHARE ONE DESTINY'

In August this year, the Nyerere Center for Peace Research held the first-ever EAC University Debate on regional integration. On the sidelines of that event, THE COMMUNITY'S

Belinda Wera engaged one of the participants, Ms Olenka Ntungane, a student at Marymount Manhattan College, in a chat about EAC integration:

**Q:** Why was it important for you to take part in the Debate?

**A:** Besides the fact that this debate seemed from the get-go like something that would be new and interesting in our Community, the most important reason that led me to participate was that most of the time the elders of our societies emphasize that the youth nowadays are disinterested in what goes on in our countries.

**Q:** Is that not the case?

**A:** I strongly disagree... [Coming here] I wondered: did my fellow Burundian university students apply for this? Given that I live abroad, I was not able to answer that question but I thought to myself that if youth participation from Burundi—and other Partner States of course—is essential for this integration, it should start with me.

**Q:** How has this Debate shaped your views on EAC integration?

**A:** I still believe we are in a process for change; however this debate has given me some hope. Indeed, if the students that were with me in this debate are the future leaders of their countries, I am convinced that the ride to integration shall be with no doubt challenging, but certainly enjoyable because we have all showed eagerness to collaborate and help the EAC reach its full potential.

**Photo:** Miss Olenka Ntungane, one of the debaters

**Q:** Tell us about your engagement with the university students from the other Partner States?

**A:** If I have said it before, I will repeat it: this was one of the best experiences I have had in my life. My fellow East African university students have impressed me and I'm sure we have impressed whoever was in the audience as well. We carry something special with us and that is the conviction that we are one and we share one destiny.

**Q:** Please elaborate...

**A:** See, unlike older generations which probably grew up hearing about this EAC and thinking that they can escape it, we on the other hand have embraced it and fully understood that it is in our benefit to work with it and not against it. We have a will for collaboration that I have not seen in the previous generations and it is because of this reason that I believe we will succeed.

**Q:** What are your views on the politics in the EAC Partner States?

**A:** The word "politics" is very subjective and broad. However I believe that for each country, whatever their politics were, they are now changing because of this integration. It is like getting on a ride that has no planned stops. You either make the ride enjoyable and comfortable for everyone else or you become that [troublesome] passenger that everyone wishes to avoid.

**Q:** One last one: what have you gained personally from this Debate?

**A:** Besides the stack of knowledge I am taking back home, I have mostly gained perspective. What I mean is that most of the time, as students we learn and learn until our heads explode and we forget to actually direct our studies to what our society needs.

With this debate I've been briefed about where the EAC is heading and potentially what Burundi could do to facilitate this process. Now I will go on and think about ways I could help better my country but most importantly make it a worthy member of the EAC. 🇧🇼

## TALK TO THE EAC



### ...On EALA Resolution to move ICC cases to EACJ

**Denis Nabende** I think it is a great idea. We now have capacity in these institutions and the media framework to effectively cover them  
3 hours ago via mobile · Like

**Dzungu Abdalla Seif** I dont think the EAC court has what it takes to prosecute the kenyan suspects compared to our kenyan courts. let the suspects be charged by ICC because the truth always set someone free.  
3 hours ago · Like

**Philemon Wesonga** EACJ was never part of AGENDA4 and in any case, why now and not in 2008? Why not the Ugandan cases too? If EAC wants to lose credibility, then it should go ahead and support this planned subversion of justice.  
2 hours ago · Like

### ...On the untimely demise of PS Mr. David Nalo

**Godwin Bonge-Muhwezi** Very sad. A big loss to EAC.  
September 14 at 11:21am · Like

**Spinicah Makori** A patriot, may his soul r.i.p  
September 16 at 8:36pm via mobile · Like



## Your Ideas

Hello, I am Eunice Kilonzo a student at the University of Nairobi. I am part of the Nairobi University Political Science Association, in the East African Affairs docket. I am thus curious how University of Nairobi students as well as the larger EAC Community can be involved in your activities. Thanks.

I am a Political Science and International Relations student from Makerere University of Kampala and my concern is, from a foreign policy perspective, I am skeptical about integration because, from a state level of analysis, the region has variations in the nature of political systems, political cultures among other factors ..the list is long, how are we to achieve unity..dont these factors contradict the motto "One People One Destiny".

### QUIPS FROM THE DEBATERS

1. Integration is a process and not an event.
2. The youth have said: "Nothing about us without us!"
3. (Quoting Margaret Thatcher) What you think will come to [pass].
4. Shall we not sleep because we are afraid of dreaming?
5. Just because it is cold in Arusha does not mean you do not take a bath.
6. We are at the Maternity Ward [in East Africa]; there will be a period of labour pains, at which we will be tempted to say "never again!" But, after the baby is born, we will be saying "how cute!!!"
7. We are at penalty time [in East Africa]: what must we do to ensure the penalty becomes a goal?
8. The problem is not freedom of speech, but freedom AFTER speech.



# Political Nannies

Can a child walk before it crawls?  
How long does it take,  
With love, blind as it is,  
Before the mother accepts it is lame?

1967s the baby was born  
Three nannies took charge,  
Day and night they toiled,  
Till the baby sat, then teethed  
1970s E.A.A, E.A.B.L,  
E.A everything  
But behold political winds of the late  
70's  
Change of nannies  
The child died  
Did nannies scramble for its food  
and milk?

Like fingers so are the nannies,  
Will their politics be the wrist,  
Both to unite and exploit,  
The strengths of each,  
to feed,  
to scratch or  
to squash

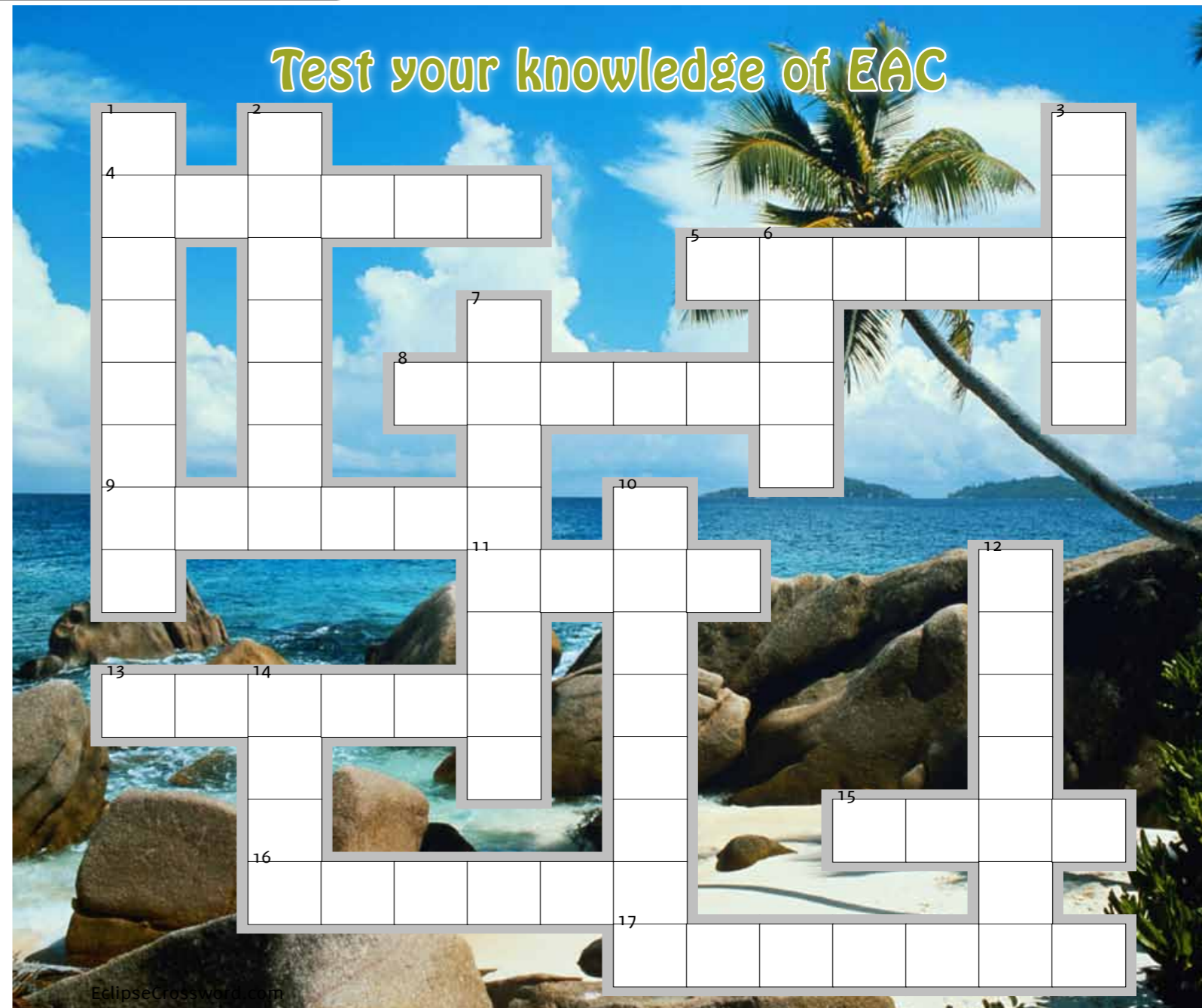


Poem by Arusha Morden School students, recited at the 1<sup>st</sup> EAC University Students Debate, August 2012.

Nanny after nanny;  
the new millennium.  
Poverty, ignorance, corruption still  
prevails  
With nostalgia today's nannies  
Remember their days as assistants;  
E.A.C is reincarnated  
This time with-four nannies;  
today they are six  
Tomorrow they will be---who knows.

Wheelchairs are for feeble limbs,  
Is it time political integration  
rode on the wheels of the economy?

## Test your knowledge of EAC



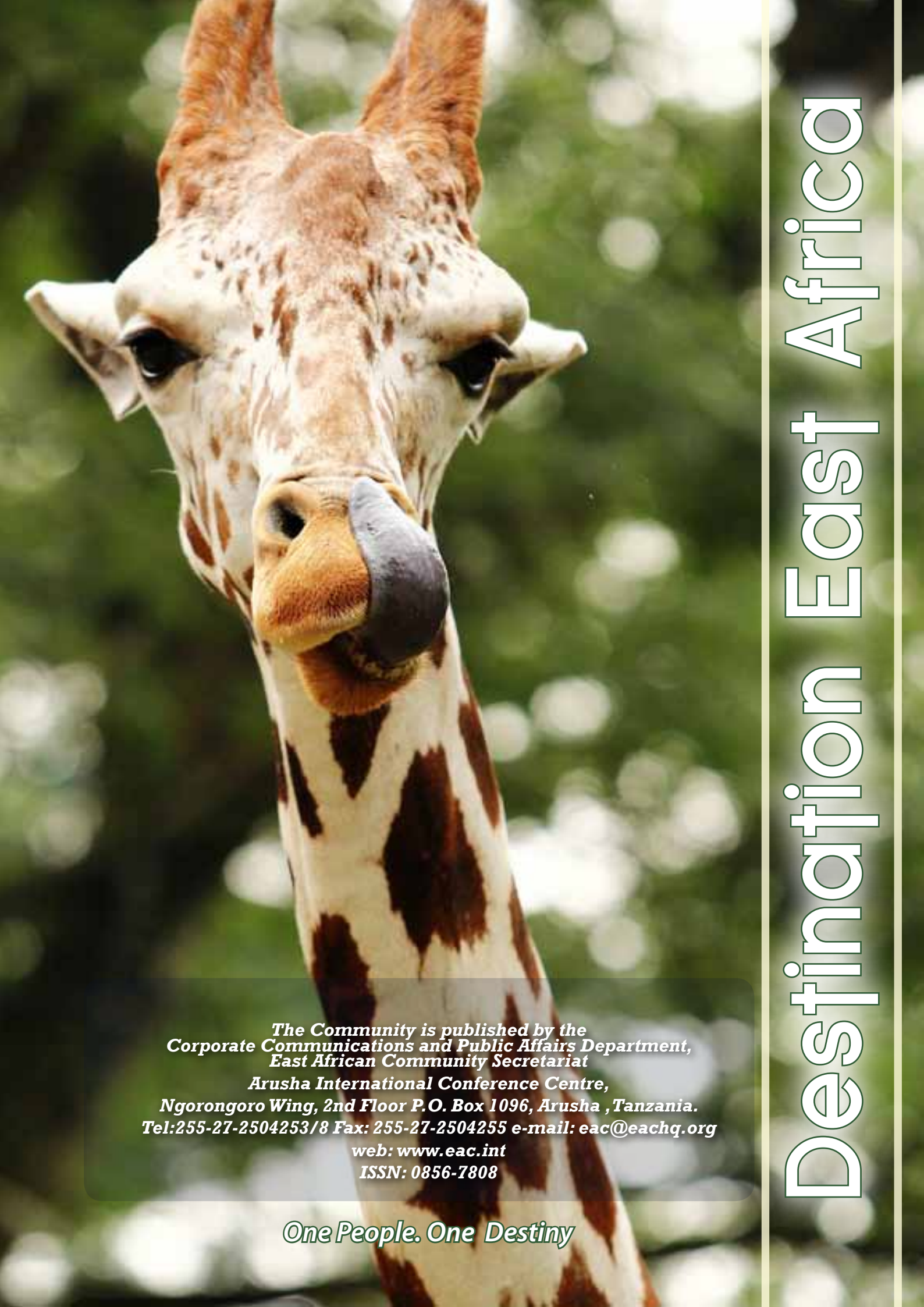
JULIUS UGANDA KIBAKI IGAD COUNCIL KAMPALA NSEKELA CASSOA FIVE JAMAFEST LVWATSAN  
EACJ LVBC RWANDA MUTHAURA ZZIWA COMESA RICHARD EALA LVFO KENYA VOLTER FOUR

**ACROSS**

- 4. Partner State to host regional forensic referral center (6)
- 5. Current Chair of the East African Community Heads of State Summit? (6)
- 8. Institution charged with ensuring the development of safe and secure civil aviation system in the EAC region (6)
- 9. Country that hosted the 5th East Africa Media Summit (6)
- 11. Maximum period of tenure for Secretary General (yrs) (4)
- 13. First name of the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Political Federation (6)
- 15. Organ of the EAC tasked with ensuring that Community law is interpreted and implemented (4)
- 16. Joined with EAC and SADC to form the Tripartite Framework (6)
- 17. Judge President of the East African Court of Justice (7)

**DOWN**

- 1. Surname of the first Secretary General of the revived East African Community (8)
- 2. Headquarters of the Inter-University Council of East Africa (7)
- 3. Surname of the current Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly? (5)
- 6. Regional organisation working closely with EAC to address matters concerning drought and climate change (4)
- 7. Chosen name for the EAC Arts & Culture Festival (8)
- 10. LVBC programme funded by ADF to improve water sanitation (8)
- 12. The policy-making Organ of Community (7)
- 14. Institution of the East African Community hosted in Kenya (4)



# Destination East Africa

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*One People. One Destiny*