



# EAC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

7th August, 2023



## Latest from the Office of the Secretary General

- Swedish Ambassadors to Kenya and Tanzania pay a courtesy call on EAC Secretary General
- East African Business Council Executive Director visits EAC Headquarters
- 20 Lecturers from Technical and Vocational Institutes selected for EASTRIP China TVET Scholarship for Postgraduate Studies in China

# SWEDISH AMBASSADORS TO KENYA AND TANZANIA PAY A COURTESY CALL ON EAC SECRETARY GENERAL



The Swedish Ambassador to the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E Charlotta Macias together with the Swedish Ambassador to the Republic of Kenya, H.E Caroline Vicini paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr) Peter Mathuki, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania

During their visit, the Ambassadors and the Secretary General discussed deepening collaboration with a focus on Health, Trade, and Capacity Building programmes.

# EAST AFRICAN BUSINESS COUNCIL EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR VISITS EAC HEADQUARTERS



Executive Director of the East African Business Council, Mr. John Bosco Kalisa paid a courtesy call on the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Customs, Trade and Monetary Affairs, Ms. Annette Ssemuwemba at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

During the meeting, the EAC Deputy Secretary General and the EABC Executive Director discussed how the EAC and EABC can forge a stronger partnership through the promotion of continuous dialogue with the private sector in an effort to create an improved business environment.

# 20 LECTURERS FROM TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTES SELECTED FOR EASTRIP CHINA TVET SCHOLARSHIP FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES IN CHINA

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The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) in partnership with the People's Republic of China and the World Bank, have awarded twenty (20) scholarships to lecturers and tutors from Technical and Vocational Education and Training Institutes (TVET) for post graduate studies at top Universities in China.

The scholarships were awarded to lecturers and tutors from Ethiopia, Kenya and Tanzania as part of capacity building the academic and technical capacity of faculty members from Regional TVET Centres of Excellence. The scholarship is part of the East African Skills for Transformation and Regional Integration Project (EASPRIP), funded by the World Bank, to improve the quality and relevance of TVET programmes in the region.

Out of the 20 scholarships awarded, 8 are from Ethiopia, 6 are from Kenya, and 6 are from Tanzania, 30 % of the total scholarships was awarded to female lecturers/tutors.

The Executive Secretary, IUCEA, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona expressed gratitude to the People's Republic of China and the World Bank for the financial support that has made the scholarship possible. "I would like to thank the People's Republic of China, through the Ministry of Education, and the World Bank for their financial support towards the EASTRIP China TVET Scholarship programme".

"The scholarship supports our commitment to transforming the TVET systems in East Africa by building capacity of TVET faculty to enhance their skills and knowledge and improve the quality and relevance of TVET programmes. This will have a profound impact on reducing youth unemployment through practical hands-on skills development," Prof. Banyankimbona said.

# TOP REGIONAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## Museveni, Kenyatta Discuss DR Congo Security Crisis

Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni on Saturday, August 5, received Kenya's former President Uhuru Kenyatta, who is the facilitator of the East African Community (EAC)-led peace efforts for DR Congo. Besides the security situation in the EAC region, the two leaders deliberated on the ongoing peace processes geared towards the realization of lasting peace and stability in the eastern part of DR Congo, Kenyatta's office said. [MORE](#)

## Uganda, Kenya seek funds in joint bid to take SGR to DRC

Uganda and Kenya are seeking at least US\$6 billion from multiple lenders to jumpstart construction of the joint standard gauge railway (SGR) project, which stalled after the pull-out of the initial financier, China. Last week, the two partners announced their intention to start construction of the line by December this year to improve flow of cargo and make the Northern Corridor competitive against Tanzania's Central Corridor. [MORE](#)

## EA economies' growth stronger than peers amid global crises

East African economies are forecast to grow at a higher rate than continental peers, but global shocks and political uncertainties could threaten the momentum. A new report by the African Development Bank (AfDB) shows that the region has improved from last year's performance of 4.4 percent to 5.1 percent this year, with the prospect of reaching 5.8 percent in 2024. [MORE](#)

## DR Congo: EAC troops help woman deliver

Kenyan troops under the East African Community Regional Force (EACRF) on Saturday, August 5, while on patrol in Kibumba, in Nyiragongo Territory, North Kivu Province attended to a woman in labour pains. With medical facilities closed in the area, the Kenyan soldiers' medical team conducted a successful delivery and stabilised the mother and baby before transferring them to Kinyaruchinya Health Centre in Goma for further management, the EACRF said. [MORE](#)

## EA businesses pay the price for ignoring fraud controls

Companies in East Africa could save more if they invested in systems that detect fraud along their supply chains, rather than relying on voluntary whistleblowers. Latest research findings published by PriceWaterhouseCoopers Eastern Africa show 54 percent of local respondents reported a higher incident rate of supply chain fraud over the past two years compared with 44 percent across the globe. [MORE](#)

## German group establishes East Africa's biggest water pumps assembling plant in Kenya

Water Cabinet Secretary Alice Wahome presided over the grand opening of the Wilo East Africa Assembling plant in Nairobi. The Wilo Group is a multinational technology group and one of the world's leading premium suppliers of pumps and pump systems for building services, water management and the industrial sector. [MORE](#)

# GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

## **AU questions credit ratings of African states, mulls own tool**

Tension is brewing between Africa and the Big Three credit rating agencies -- Fitch, Standard & Poor's, and Moody's – with the African Union (AU) accusing the agencies of unfair and ill-informed assessment of African economies. African states have had their risk profiles downgraded over the first six months of 2023, making acquiring debt more expensive. Between January and June 2023, 13 negative rating actions, seven of which seven were downgrades and the remaining six negative changes in outlook, were assigned to 11 countries in Africa by the Big Three. economies. [MORE](#)

## **Vulnerable African states continue to cut deals with sanctioned Russia**

African countries emerged from the second Russia-Africa Summit in St Petersburg with a mixed bag of goodies. For the vulnerable ones such as Somalia, Burkina Faso, Eritrea, Mali and the Central African Republic, 50,000 tonnes of free grain will be hitting their shores soon. Overall, Russia says it is forgiving more than \$20 billion worth of debt owed by African countries, including Ethiopia (\$5.7 billion), Libya (\$4.5 billion), Angola (\$3.5 billion), and Somalia (\$684 million). [MORE](#)

## **UAE raises stakes in competition for the lucrative African market**

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has joined the bandwagon of global superpowers scrambling to gain commercial influence in Africa, targeting a share of the continent's 1.2 billion people market for its goods. The latest report by property consultant firm Knight Frank shows UAE is the biggest source of FDI for Africa among the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and remains focused on the continent's high-growth sectors such as infrastructure, energy, transport, logistics, and technology.. [MORE](#)

## **Public-private approach is critical to address Africa's food security**

The success of agricultural systems depends on a combination of factors, including technology, public support, and private sector involvement. Technological advancements have significantly improved food production and productivity over the years. Access to improved seeds and soil nutrition, along with other resources like water and mechanisation, are essential for enhancing agricultural output. [MORE](#)

## **France backs regional bid to oust coup leaders in Niger ahead of deadline**

France said it backs efforts by members of an African regional bloc to thwart the coup in Niger, as the clock ticks closer to a deadline for the new military junta to stand down or face possible military intervention. "The future of Niger and the stability of the entire region are at stake," the French Foreign Ministry said in a statement. [MORE](#)



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