



# THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EAC

Issue 33 | September 2021

## IN FOCUS

President Tshishokedi officiates over the launch of EAC Verification Mission to DRC

## COVID-19

Towards a Coordinated Response by EAC Partner States to Covid-19

## TOURISM

EAC Sectoral Council on Tourism adopts Regional COVID-19 Recovery Plan to revive the sector

## INTEGRATION AGENDA

“Take the Community back to the people” - EAC Heads of State task New Secretary General



Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki  
Taking the Community to the people

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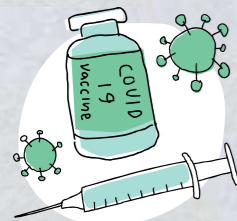
# PROTECT YOUR FAMILY & OTHERS



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*If we use all the tools we have, we stand the best chance of getting our families, communities, schools, and workplaces back to normal sooner.*

## Towards a Coordinated Response by EAC Partner States to Covid-19



EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki

The COVID-19 pandemic has proven to be one of the most intractable problems to face mankind not just in recent times, but also in history. The virus has proven itself as a formidable enemy in the more than one and half years that it has ravaged planet earth.

The toll on economies in East Africa and worldwide has been high rating in trillions of dollars and still counting. The statistics in terms of morbidity and mortality are still worrying. The pandemic continues to defy repeated efforts to control it such as lockdowns and economic shutdowns.

It is now a fact that the virus will be with us for the long haul so the best we can do is to find ways of containing its spread and damage to our health and economies. Already, our governments and health authorities have prescribed measures and steps that if populations adhere to, will enable us to stem the spread of the virus.

At the onset of the pandemic in the region, the East African Community (EAC) established the EAC Ad Hoc Regional Coordination Committee for COVID that has been steering the regional response activities including coordination of policy organ meetings and mobilization of resources.

The challenge for EAC at the beginning was the lack of synergy and cooperation among Partner States on how to come up with a coordinated response to the pandemic. There was a glaring lack of agreement among Partner States on what measures to take to stem the spread of the virus in the region.

The reality sank in with damage to economies and in particular tourism, which is a critical foreign exchange earner for the region. The formation of the EAC Ad Hoc Regional Coordination Committee then was a good idea. Consensus has also developed overtime among Partner States on the measures to be taken at a national and regional level to contain the spread of the deadly virus.

Partner States have recognised the need to work together and build synergy to contain the pandemic. However, more needs to be done to make this a reality. EAC Partner States' governments need to adopt a coordinated approach in combating the pandemic.

The EAC Secretariat has been pushing for the harmonization of Covid-19 testing charges, guidelines and quarantine administrative procedures across the region. There is also an urgent need to strengthen public-private investment for joint investment in manufacturing COVID-19 vaccines.

We also need to strengthen the EAC Ad Hoc Regional Coordination Committee, which since 2020 has successfully supported the EAC Partner States through interventions including supporting testing capacity, provision of laboratory supplies, test kits and

personal protective equipment, policy guidance and training of key personnel, among other steps.

The Secretariat is also pushing for the adoption by Partner States of the EAC Pass, which integrates all EAC Partner States' negative test results for COVID-19 and those already vaccinated to ensure safe and seamless travel and cross-border trade in the region.

With regard to tourism, the EAC Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management that met on 15th July, 2021, approved the EAC Regional COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Plan, which is set to help the tourism sector in the region recover from the impact of Covid-19

An encouraging development in countering the pandemic in the region is the adoption by all Partner States of vaccination drives. Vaccination will be a game changer against COVID in East Africa as has been the case in other parts of the world. However, more needs to be done because EAC's level of vaccination currently stands at 2 per cent of the population vaccinated as opposed to 70 per cent in the developed countries.

The low uptake of the jab and hesitancy to take vaccines has been attributed to vaccine shortages, disinformation and rumours circulating in social media and by word of mouth. The ongoing transmission of COVID-19 is largely due to those who have not been vaccinated and the likelihood of unvaccinated persons dying from the virus remains high. By getting vaccinated, you protect not just yourself but also your family and those you interact and work with. My appeal to East Africans is therefore to turn out in large numbers to get the vaccine.

A more worrying trend in the region is the belief especially in the rural parts of East Africa that COVID-19 is a rich man's disease that exists at airports, urban areas or affluent neighbourhoods. Such an attitude causes significant rural populations to ignore public health measures further leading to the spread of the virus.

What is now certain is that the virus will be with us for a long time to come. We need therefore as East Africans need to change our behaviour and attitudes to contain its spread and turn out for vaccinations drives mounted by our governments.

The attitude among all of us from Partner States governments to the ordinary people should be that no one is safe in the region until all of us are safe. 🇰🇪



## Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki takes over COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force Chairmanship

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki has taken over from SADC Executive Secretary, Dr. Stergomena Tax, the Chairmanship of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Task Force (TTF) for the next one year.

Making his remarks during the hand-over ceremony held virtually, Dr. Mathuki commended Dr. Tax for her exemplary leadership over the past year. He specifically noted the commitment and dedication exhibited by Dr. Tax especially when the implementation of agreed activities was impeded by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Mathuki pledged to ensure continued collaboration amongst the RECs for their mutual benefit, particularly in enabling the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) enter into force by championing Member/Partner States who have not ratified the TFTA Agreement to do so in the near future.

"The signing and ratification of the TFTA Agreement is critical as it will pave way for the successful implementation of our programme," noted Dr. Mathuki.

The Secretary General underscored the importance of the TFTA in improving the economic and social welfare of the citizens of the COMESA-EAC-SADC region through the promotion of regional economic growth by creating an enabling environment for regional trade.

So far, 22 COMESA-EAC-SADC Member/Partner States have signed the TFTA Agreement while 10 Member/Partner States have ratified the Agreement. Article 39(3) of the TFTA Agreement provides for the agreement to enter into force upon ratification by 14 Member/Partner States.

In the EAC, the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda have ratified the TFTA Agreement. The United Republic of Tanzania is at advanced stages of the ratification process, while the Republic of South Sudan is yet to sign the Agreement.



## EACJ ready to host East African Magistrates' and Judges' Association in Arusha

The President of the Court Hon Justice Nestor Kayobera accompanied by Principal Judge Justice Yohane Masara and the Registrar of the Court welcomed the President of East African Magistrates' and Judges' Association (EAMJA), Lady Justice Sophia Wambura with her delegation and handed over an office offered by the Court.

This was done as a way of supporting and strengthening the collaboration of the Court and national judiciaries through EAMJA. "Me offering an office to EAMJA is not a favor but an obligation" said Justice Kayobera

The President of the Court assured full support in facilitating the office and continue working together contributing towards the achievement of the EACJ mandate of the Court. His Lordship commended the National judiciaries for hosting the Sub-registries of the Court and therefore EACJ to host EAMJA office is a great opportunity for the Court and a good practice of cooperation among all Stakeholders.

Registrar of the Court, Yufnalis Okubo informed the meeting that the Judges of the Court have been attending and participating in all EAMJA annual conferences where a number of EACJ issues are discussed and this office at the Court will encourage continued support for one another in a number of activities.

On her part the President of EAMJA Lady Justice Sophia Wambura thanked the Judge President and the entire Court for the support and good hospitality demonstrated to accommodate them which will no doubt impact on the smooth operations of EAMJA. The office has been housed at the High Court Tanzania Arusha which was not strategically located to all East Africans.

Lady Justice Wambura also requested the Court to follow up on their request to East African Community as an observer which will enable EAMJA members to properly understand and familiarize with the issues of EAC Integration process. Madam President was accompanied by Justice Gwae Atam Judge in-charge Arusha and other Members of EAMJA.



## Government of Zanzibar to provide land for East African Kiswahili Commission's permanent headquarters

The Government of Zanzibar will provide land to enable the East African Kiswahili Commission to build a permanent headquarters on the island.

Zanzibar's Minister of State in the Office of the President in charge of Labour, Economy and Investment, Hon. Mudrik Ramadhan Soroga, further assured the Commission of maximum support from the government of Zanzibar.

Hon. Soroga said that the region should henceforth treat the Kiswahili language with more seriousness by lobbying for its adoption as an official language of both the AU and UN, adding that this would be a source of pride and prestige for the region.

The Minister urged the EAC to fast-track the recruitment of staff to get the Commission up and running in executing its mandate, which is to promote Kiswahili as the lingua franca of the region.

The Minister was speaking at the Commission's temporary headquarters on the island where he was received by the EAC Secretary General, Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki.

Receiving the Minister, Hon. Dr. Mathuki thanked the government of Zanzibar for the noble gesture while observing that proposed EAKC permanent headquarters would enable other EAC Organs and Institutions to operate more easily on the island nation.

The Secretary General said that development partners would be more interested in assisting the Commission if it had land for establishing a permanent headquarters.

Dr. Mathuki informed the Minister that the EAC Heads of State at their 21st Ordinary Meeting held on 27th February, 2021 had adopted Kiswahili and French to be official languages of the Community in addition to English, adding that EAKC was already working out modalities to implement the directive of the Summit in as far as Kiswahili was concerned.

On his part, EAKC Acting Executive Secretary Dr. James Jowi informed the Minister that a recruitment process for additional staff for the Commission was already underway, noting that this would address the serious shortage of staff currently facing the Commission. 🇰🇪



## EAC commences plans to establish pool of rapidly deployable experts

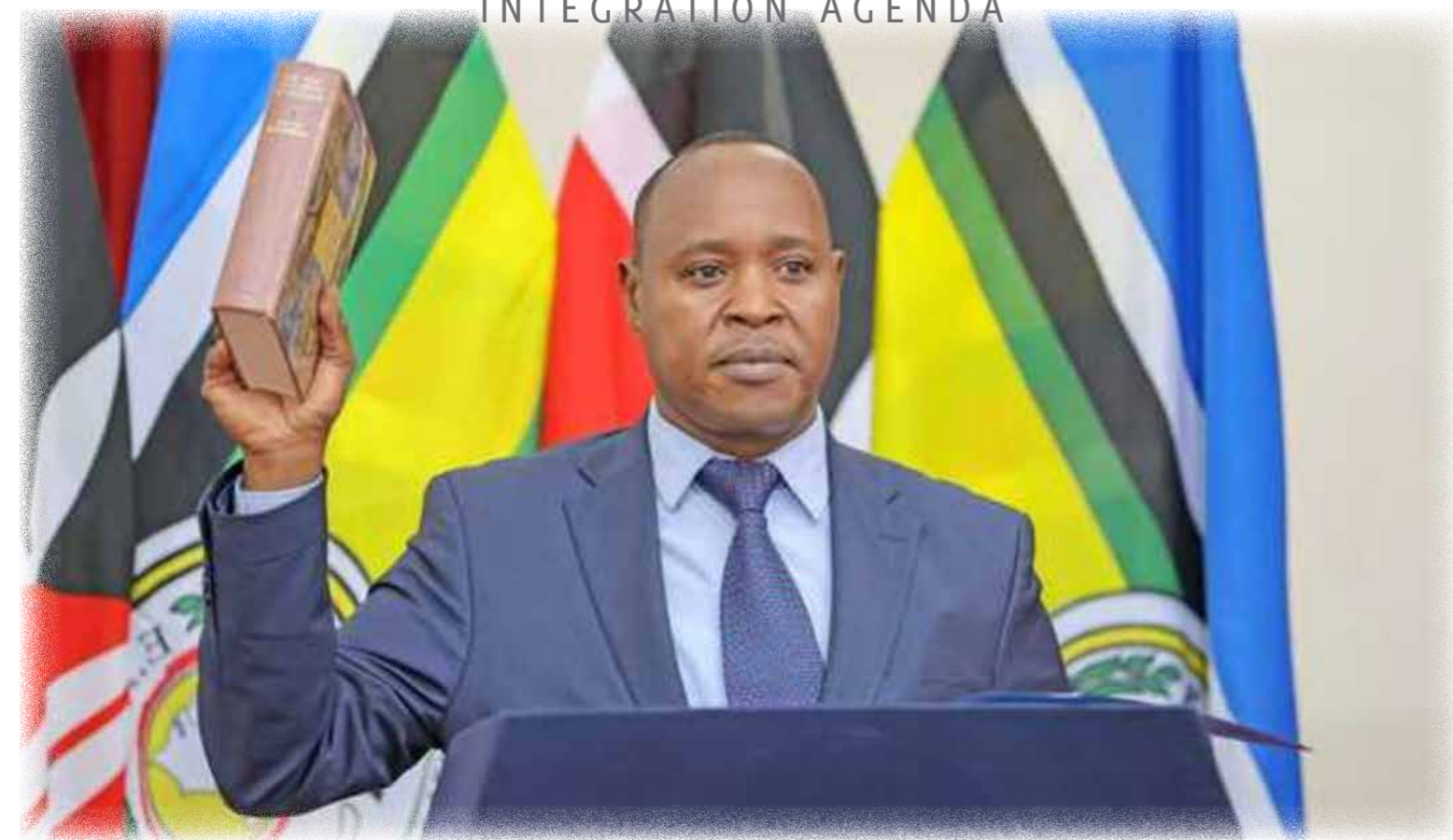
The EAC Secretariat has commenced to establish a regional pool of rapidly deployable experts to further enhance the efficiency of fighting infectious disease outbreaks and other Public Health emergencies. Considering the frequency of the occurrence of disease outbreaks in the EAC region and the prevailing COVID 19 pandemic, there is clearly a need for strengthening the regional capacity to respond to outbreaks as provided for by the World Health Organisation's International Health Regulations.

The WHO regulations provide for the establishment of a public emergency response plan including the creation of multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral teams to respond to events that may constitute a public health emergency of international concern. This is also consistent with the "EAC Regional Contingency Plan for Epidemics due to Communicable Diseases, Conditions and Other Events of Public Health Concern 2018-2023" that provides for the establishment of a regional pool of rapidly deployable experts to respond to infectious disease outbreaks.

Against this backdrop, the EAC Secretariat in collaboration with the Partner States, is establishing a regional pool of experts that can be deployed rapidly to respond to emergencies within the region and beyond.

"Once operational, the regional pool shall strengthen the regional response to public health emergencies and provide complementary expertise and support to Partner States," says Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors at the EAC Secretariat". He further reiterates that the pool of experts will ease the process of identifying, contacting and deploying the "right" experts when necessary. A meeting by video conference for all Partner States with representation from the Africa Union Center for Disease Control (AU-CDC) and the US Center for disease control and prevention (US-CDC) kick-started the process of establishing the pool.

The One Health and pandemic preparedness and response Advisor of the EAC/GIZ Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region project, Timothy Wesonga, said "the regional pool will comprise experts from various disciplines and sectors in line with the One Health approach". The establishment of the regional pool is being facilitated by the German Government through the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH. 🇩🇪



## “Take the Community back to the People” EAC Heads of State task New Secretary General

The EAC Heads of State have reiterated the importance of involving all stakeholders including the ordinary people in the EAC integration process with the emphasis on the private sector as the engine of economic growth in the region.

The Heads of State echoed these sentiments on separate occasions during the EAC Secretary General’s courtesy calls to the members of the Summit in their respective capital. Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki visited the Heads of State to express his sincere gratitude for his appoint as the Secretary General of the East African Community (EAC) on February 27, 2021 during the 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

The EAC Heads of State committed to the Secretary General their continued support and commitment to the EAC integration agenda and urged the Secretary General to ensure that the integration process takes its rightful place.

During their discussions, the President of the Republic of Rwanda, His Excellency Paul Kagame, directed the Secretary General to ensure that the private sector played its rightful role in the integration process. He further tasked Dr. Mathuki to urgently put the operations of the EAC Organs and Institutions in order, while addressing all pending matters towards implementation of the various Summit directives on regional integration projects and programmes.

On 14th May, 2021 the Secretary General had the opportunity to meet the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Museveni at State House, in Entebbe, Uganda. President Museveni challenged the Secretary General to re-arrange the focus of the Community to strategic sectors that will create jobs and wealth for the people of East Africa, noting Agri-business; Industries; ICT and Service as critical sectors, which can change the lives of East Africans.

“What we want is development for our people, and the Secretariat must show us the way in achieving the objectives of the Community”, added President Museveni

During the Secretary General’s interaction with the President of South Sudan, His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit in Juba, the President called on Dr. Mathuki to fast-track the integration of South Sudan into the Community. The President further urged the Secretary General to put in place mechanisms to increase South Sudan’s level of participation in intra-regional trade as well as putting in place initiatives that will enable the people of South Sudan to fully capitalize on the benefits of the Community.

While in the Republic of Burundi, the President of Burundi, His Excellency Evariste Ndayishimiye, commended the close collaboration between the Organs and Institutions of the Community, adding that the same spirit should be emulated by the Partner States.

“We must have regional unity, for with unity we shall have a strong foundation and together will be able to achieve anything. As members of the Community, we should communicate with each other, as well as with EAC Organs and Institutions to ensure we realise our vision,” said the President Ndayishimiye

On her part, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Her Excellency Samia Suluhu Hassan urged the Secretary General to review the EAC contribution mechanism for the Partner States, to ensure all members were able to meet their statutory obligations as well as enjoy the benefits of their membership to the regional bloc.

“As a Community, the Partner States are all at different levels of development, and our ability to meet our statutory obligations to the EAC vary, we therefore need to look into how this can be addressed to ensure all members are able to meet their obligations,” said the President.”

Speaking on integration process, the President of Tanzania reiterated the importance of the citizens involvement in the integration process especially the youth. “It is time we take the Community to the people,” she added.

During Dr. Mathuki’s visit to Zanzibar, the President of Zanzibar, Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi urged the EAC to take the Community to the people noting that ordinary East Africans must start enjoying the benefits of the integration.

Dr. Mathuki is also expecting to see the Chair of the Summit and the President of Kenya, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta later this year to brief him on the status of integration agenda.

On his part, the EAC Secretary General pledged to the EAC Heads of State his commitment and dedication in ensuring tangible results for the betterment of the livelihoods of the people of East Africa.

The Secretary General briefed the Presidents on the current state of play on various integration matters including progress on consolidation of the Customs Union, implementation of the Common Market and Monetary Union protocols, and progress towards attainment of the EAC Political Confederation.

Dr. Mathuki also highlighted to the members of the Summit his priorities for the next five years including:

- i. pushing for the implementation of liberalization of trade in services;
- ii. enhancing intra-EAC trade
- iii. open skies; harmonization of domestic taxes and standards,
- iv. Regional approach on Covid-19 pandemic
- v. the adoption of the EAC One Network Area (ONA) by all Partner States to reduce the high cost of telecommunications in the region and
- vi. the finalization of the comprehensive review of the EAC Common External Tariff (CET) and its uniform application in the bloc.

Dr. Mathuki informed the Presidents on different occasions of his plans to enhance intra-EAC trade, which currently stands below 15%, if the region is to realize the vision of a prosperous and competitive East Africa.

The Secretary General disclosed to the members of the Summit his strategy to engage the private sector to cooperate with the Partner States in addressing the various barriers to trade. “It is my hope that in the next five years, we shall be recording intra-EAC trade above 50%,”

The Secretary General also briefed the Heads of State on the Covid-19 situation in the region and the need for the region to adopt a common approach to mitigate the pandemic and facilitate economic recovery and safe trade.

Hon. Dr. Mathuki, succeeded Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko as the Secretary General of the EAC for a five-year term ended on 25th April, 2021.

Dr. Mathuki takes the baton as the region implements the Africa Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement, where he has been actively involved in its establishment and was part of the efforts to establish the African Business Council (AfBC), “an independent private sector institution of the African Union”.



**HON. (DR.) PETER MATHUKI**  
EAC SECRETARY GENERAL

Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki is the current Secretary General of the East African Community. He was appointed with effect from 25<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

Before his appointment to the EAC, Dr. Mathuki was the Executive Director of the East African Business Council (EABC), the regional apex body of Private Sector associations and corporates in East Africa. He served in that capacity between 2018 and 2021.

In his capacity as the Executive Director of the EABC, Dr. Mathuki was actively involved in the establishment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and was part of the efforts to establish the African Business Council (AfBC), “an independent private sector institution of the African Union”.

Between June 2012 and June 2017, Dr. Mathuki was a member of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), representing Kenya. While there, he was the chairman of EALA’s Committee on Legal Affairs and Good Governance. He was also a member of the Assembly’s Committee on Trade and Investment.

Dr. Mathuki has also served as Director in charge of International Labour Standards (ILO) at the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU-Africa) which later became (ITUC-Africa). He also worked with various European Union (EU) programs on institutional strengthening for Africa based in several African countries.

Dr. Mathuki sits on the boards of Kenya Investment Authority, based in Nairobi and the Inter-University Council for East Africa, based in Kampala. He is also a member of the Kenya Institute of Management.

Dr. Peter M. Mathuki holds an MBA and PhD in Strategic Management & Regional Integration from the University of Nairobi, Kenya.

President Museveni reiterates his commitment to the EAC integration agenda and urges the Secretary General to ensure that the integration process takes its rightful place.

President Museveni commends the intention of the Secretary General to work closer with other EAC Organs and Institutions in order to achieve the objectives of the Community.

H.E Museveni pledges his support and that of the Summit to the Secretary General as he begins his tour of duty for the next five years.



President Mwinyi urges the EAC Secretariat to continue working closely with Partner States to address Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) that are impeding intra-regional trade.

President Mwinyi urges the EAC to take the Community to the people saying that ordinary East Africans must start enjoying the benefits of the integration.



President Hassan stresses on the need to devise strategies to develop the private sector in the region, emphasizing the need for the region to capitalize on each Partner State's competitive advantages to spur industrialization.

The President stresses the need for a comprehensive review of the Treaty and other legal instruments to reflect the current times.

The President reassures the EAC Secretary General of her commitment to the EAC integration agenda.



President Kagame reaffirms his commitment to the EAC integration agenda, and urges the Secretary General to ensure that the private sector plays its rightful role in the integration process.

H.E. Kagame urges EAC Organs and Institutions to work in harmony in order to achieve the objectives of the community as enshrined in the Treaty.

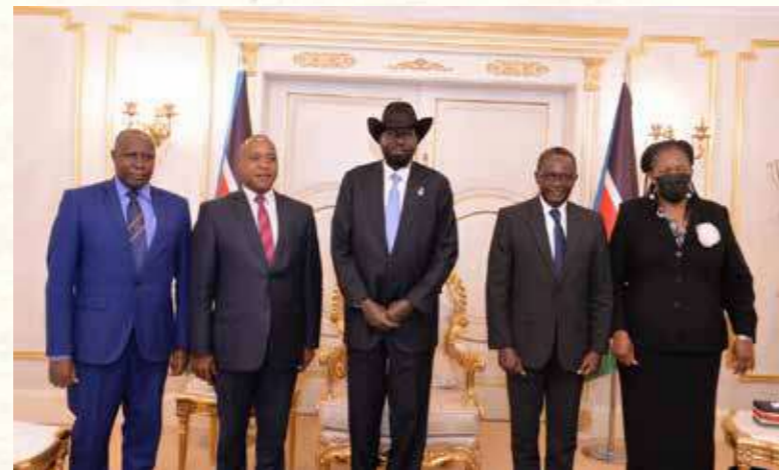
The President advises the Secretary General to urgently put the operations of the Secretariat in order and address all pending matters towards implementation of the various Summit decisions on regional integration projects and programmes.



President Ndayishimiye commends the Secretary General for the progress made towards the inclusion of French and Kiswahili as official languages of the Community.

The President calls for enhanced regional connectivity through infrastructure development, such as roads, railways, and communications to boost the movement of people across the region.

H.E Ndayishimiye reassures the Secretary General of his commitment to the EAC integration.



President Kiir reaffirms his commitment to the EAC integration and urges the Secretary General to devise strategies that will further enhance the integration of South Sudan into the Community.

The President commends the close collaboration between EAC Organs and Institutions as a clear commitment towards achieving the objectives of the Community.



# SECOND PHASE

## of the EAC Network of Public Health Reference Laboratories for Communicable Diseases Project launched in Arusha



The second phase of the EAC Regional Network of Public Health Reference Laboratories for Communicable Diseases Project was launched on Friday at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The three-year second phase of the project funded by the Federal Government of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW), is set to further strengthen the capacities of the EAC Partner States to respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases, including bacterial diseases and cross-border epidemics.

Speaking during the launch, the Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers and Kenya's EAC Affairs and Regional Development Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Adan Mohamed said the EAC Regional Network of Public Health Reference Laboratories was a key pillar in strengthening the region's capacity to diagnose infectious diseases and to respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases, including bacterial diseases and cross-border epidemics.

CS Mohamed told the participants at the launch that the main interventions under Phase II of the project will include: Procurement of six (6) container-based mobile laboratory units and equipment for bacterial culture and mobile field sequencing/bioinformatics for rapid pathogen identification and AMR testing; consumables, test kits and high clearance all-terrain vehicles for transporting the container-based laboratory and training of the EAC Partner States public health laboratory personnel to the required level of competency to operate the container-based mobile laboratories for Anti-Microbial Resistance (AMR) surveillance among others.

"Let me assure you that the EAC Partner States will continue to implement the existing EAC protocols to ensure that the region is cushioned from the devastating impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other Communicable Diseases," said Mr. Mohamed.



In his remarks, the EAC Secretary General, Dr Peter Mathuki, said the contribution of the Regional Network of Public Health Reference Laboratories for Communicable Diseases could not be underestimated, adding that the EAC had already taken steps to ensure that there are proper documents and wide dissemination of the contribution of mobile laboratories to the pandemic response in East Africa.

"I take this opportunity to appreciate the support from our committed friends, the German Government and the German people for this timely support and for the continued and strong collaboration with our region," said Dr. Mathuki.

The Secretary General commended the EAC Partner States for a strong and fairly well coordinated response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the experts, who have committed themselves to fighting the pandemic. "I urge the experts in the region to continue focusing on initiatives that will make our region safe," said the SG.

Dr. Mathuki urged Partner States to continue investing in strengthening structures to support implementation of the project to benefit the region and ensure that the mobile laboratory project acquired under Phases I and II of this project get mainstreamed under the national laboratory services for sustainability.

On her part, the Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Tanzania and EAC, Ms. Regine Hess, urged the Partner States to use mobile laboratories to conduct high quality research that will contribute to the pool of knowledge available on various health issues, including AMR, epidemic outbreaks, malaria resistance, among others, which should influence policy in the long run. 🇩🇪

✿ The three-year second phase of the project funded by the Federal Government of Germany through the German Development Bank (KfW), is set to further strengthen the capacities of the EAC Partner States to respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases, including bacterial diseases and cross-border epidemics.



# PRESIDENT TSHISHEKEDI

## Oficiates over the launch of EAC Verification Mission to DRC



The President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, His Excellency Felix Tshishekedi, officiated over the launch of the East African Community Verification Mission to the vast Central African country.

EAC Secretary General Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki launched the mission in the presence of President Tshishekedi in the eastern DRC town of Goma. Hon. Dr. Mathuki presented the EAC flag to the DRC Head of State to mark the unveiling of the mission.

Speaking when he received the EAC delegation, President Tshishekedi hailed the progress made by the Community in its integration agenda, adding that DRC was committed to joining the EAC at the earliest opportunity.

### THE EAC VERIFICATION MISSION

The EAC Verification Team, comprised three experts from each Partner State, was in DRC from 25th June to 4th July, 2021 to assess the suitability of the DRC for admission into the Community.

The Summit of EAC Heads of State at its 21st Ordinary Meeting held on 27th February, 2021 considered the application by DRC to join the Community and directed the EAC Council of Ministers to expeditiously undertake a verification mission in accordance with the EAC procedure for admission of new members into the EAC and report to the 22nd Summit.

The Sectoral Council, which was chaired by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional Development further directed the Secretariat to submit the report of the Verification Mission to the Council of Ministers by November 2021.

The high level mission is a historic one for the Community, which has been on a growth trajectory since its establishment in 1999.

DRC's eastern region has interacted with East Africa through trade and commerce in addition to utilising the Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports for its export and import business. DRC shares a border with five EAC Partner States namely Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan.

The verification team will, among other things, review the current status of the DRC in international law and establish the country's level of conformity with the criteria for admission of foreign countries as provided in the Treaty.

### MEMBERSHIP TO THE COMMUNITY

Article 3 (3) of the EAC Treaty, provides the Criteria for the admission of foreign countries into the Community including: acceptance of the Community as set out in the Treaty; adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice; potential contribution to the strengthening of integration within the East African region, and; geographical proximity to and inter-dependence between it (the foreign country) and the EAC Partner States.

Other criteria include the establishment and maintenance of a market-driven economy; and; Social and economic policies being compatible with those of the Community.

### Democratic Republic of the Congo



FLAG



COAT OF ARMS



<b>CAPITAL:</b>	Kinshasa
<b>OFFICIAL LANGUAGES:</b>	French
<b>RECOGNISED NATIONAL LANGUAGES:</b>	Kikongo; Lingala; Swahili; Tshiluba
<b>AREA:</b>	
<i>Total</i>	2,345,409 km <sup>2</sup>
<i>Water (%)</i>	3.32
<b>POPULATION:</b>	
<i>2020 Estimates</i>	92,911,000
<i>Density</i>	37/km <sup>2</sup>
<b>GDP: (Nominal)</b>	2020 estimates
<i>Total</i>	USD 50 billion
<i>Per Capital</i>	USD 508
<b>CURRENCY:</b>	Congolese franc (CDF)
<b>CALLING CODE:</b>	+243
<b>TIME ZONE:</b>	Kinshasa GMT+1 Lubumbashi GMT +2
<b>INTERNET TLD:</b>	.cd

According to the EAC Secretary General, Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, "DRC would be an important country if it joins the East African Community and her entry would strengthen historical relations with East Africa."

He further added that the admission of DRC would boost the Community economically and geopolitically.

"The people of DRC would benefit because of the free movement of people from DRC other countries without a visa if they are fully in the EAC," said the Secretary General, adding that DRC would also nominate nine members the East African Legislative Assembly and Judges to the East African Court of Justice, the judicial organ of the Community.

### NEXT STEPS

The EAC Verification Team will present their finding form the verification mission in DRC to the EAC Council of Ministers at its next meeting slated for November 2021.

Thereafter, the EAC Council of Ministers will present the report to the Summit of EAC Heads of State to make a decision on the way forward.

# How COVID-19 is accelerating the use of digital tech in agriculture in East Africa

BY MAX MENDEZ-PARRA

The COVID-19 crisis has generated sudden and significant changes in the way that people work, produce, consume, trade and live. There has been the widespread turn to working from home (especially for typical white-collar activities), and the deepening reliance on e-commerce for groceries and other daily goods, which has affected notoriously traditional retail.

However, with the exception of the temporary impact of the pandemic on travel and other leisure activities, activities like the use of e-commerce and working from home are not new to the world and to the people in East Africa.

The technologies that have facilitated these changes have been available and were in use before the crisis. Working from home had been increasing in creative industries and other services. E-commerce companies such as Amazon, eBay and Jumia were giant corporations even before the pandemic. The use of electronic means of payment has been spearhead in many regions, notably in East Africa.

What has changed has been the speed at which these changes have lately occurred. Different analysis has shown that COVID-19 has accelerated e-commerce growth by 4 to 6 years.

## Impact in agriculture: Digital platforms in Uganda

Technology, even before the pandemic, was transforming the agriculture sector in East Africa. Biotechnology, robotics and smart warehousing have increasingly been employed to produce and commercialise products there. For example, remote sensing using drones is used in Tanzania to monitor the state of crops such as cassava, beans and maize.

Of the technologies increasingly adopted by East African farmers, digital agriculture platforms (apps) are becoming a critical means to engage in e-commerce. Of the firms providing agtech solutions in the region, 75% were providing apps. Apps offer farmers a wide range of services, including obtaining market information, finding buyers, purchasing materials used in production and obtaining credit, among many others.

In Uganda, more than a million farmers were using apps before the crisis, and they particularly valued the ability to access buyers, buy necessary materials and obtain advisory services and real-time information on prices and weather. Apps have helped to enhance productivity by increasing the access of critical inputs and services, and promote diversification, especially into new markets. However, a gendered digital divide still exists with the use of these platforms, in terms of access to the internet and productivity-enhancing benefits.

It should come as no surprise that the use of these type of technologies in agriculture has accelerated during the pandemic. This acceleration was in part fuelled by government requirements related to the pandemic and crisis management (e.g. mobile payments to farmers). But fundamentally, apps are an existing cost-effective solution to remain in business, procure materials and commercialise products in the context of stay-at-home orders. Without such platforms, it would have been impossible to continue to do business or comply with government health directives.

Cost, complexity and capabilities explain why apps have become a norm rather than an exception during the pandemic. Digital platforms are a low cost and low complexity solution. The capabilities required for their operation are relatively low, and the urgency generated by the crisis has removed any fears or preconceptions that farmers may have in using them. However, the ability of farmers to use such apps varies considerably as many of the production, exchange, and trading and sharing platforms require high technical abilities, given their larger scope compared with ag-platform business models.

The impact of these technologies goes further than just the agriculture sector, as digital platforms are also transforming the way the retailing of food is done in East Africa. Normally bustling street markets in Kampala have been seriously disrupted by stay-at-home orders. The adoption and increasing use of e-commerce platforms has facilitated people's access to essential groceries and vendors (with a majority women), and business has continued during the crisis.

## Perspectives

Digital platforms and other technologies will be a distinctive feature of agriculture value chains moving forward. The COVID-19 crisis has accelerated the digital transformation of agriculture and economies across the world. The sudden acceleration of these changes may be generating serious disruption, but the direction of these changes was known well before. Despite this, digital platforms are critical in increasing productivity and boosting the participation of women.

Moreover, the crisis has made urgent the adoption of certain policies and actions to facilitate and manage the digital transformation process. In the case of Uganda, for example, the support provided by the government for the development and operation of digital platforms, and to farmers to use them has been minimal. Although the crisis may have constituted a saviour for many of these initiatives, the policy gaps remain.

In addition, 98% of all digital platforms in East Africa exist only within national boundaries. This points to the need to understand

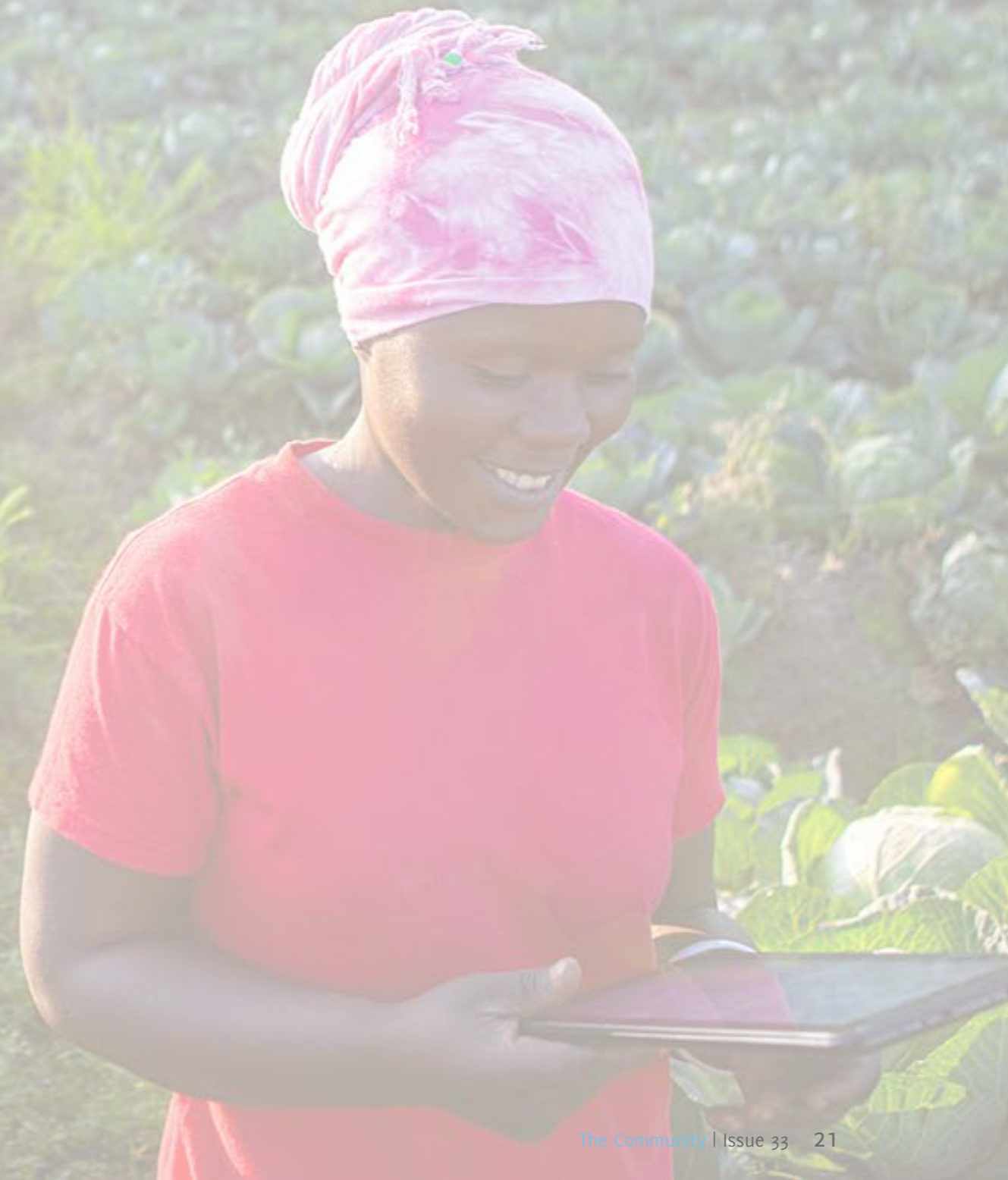
the various regional policy gaps that prevent the proliferation of apps regionally. Creating more comprehensive 'ag-e-commerce' regulations, with complementary actions on regional ICT skilling, could boost the necessary regional e-commerce uptake.

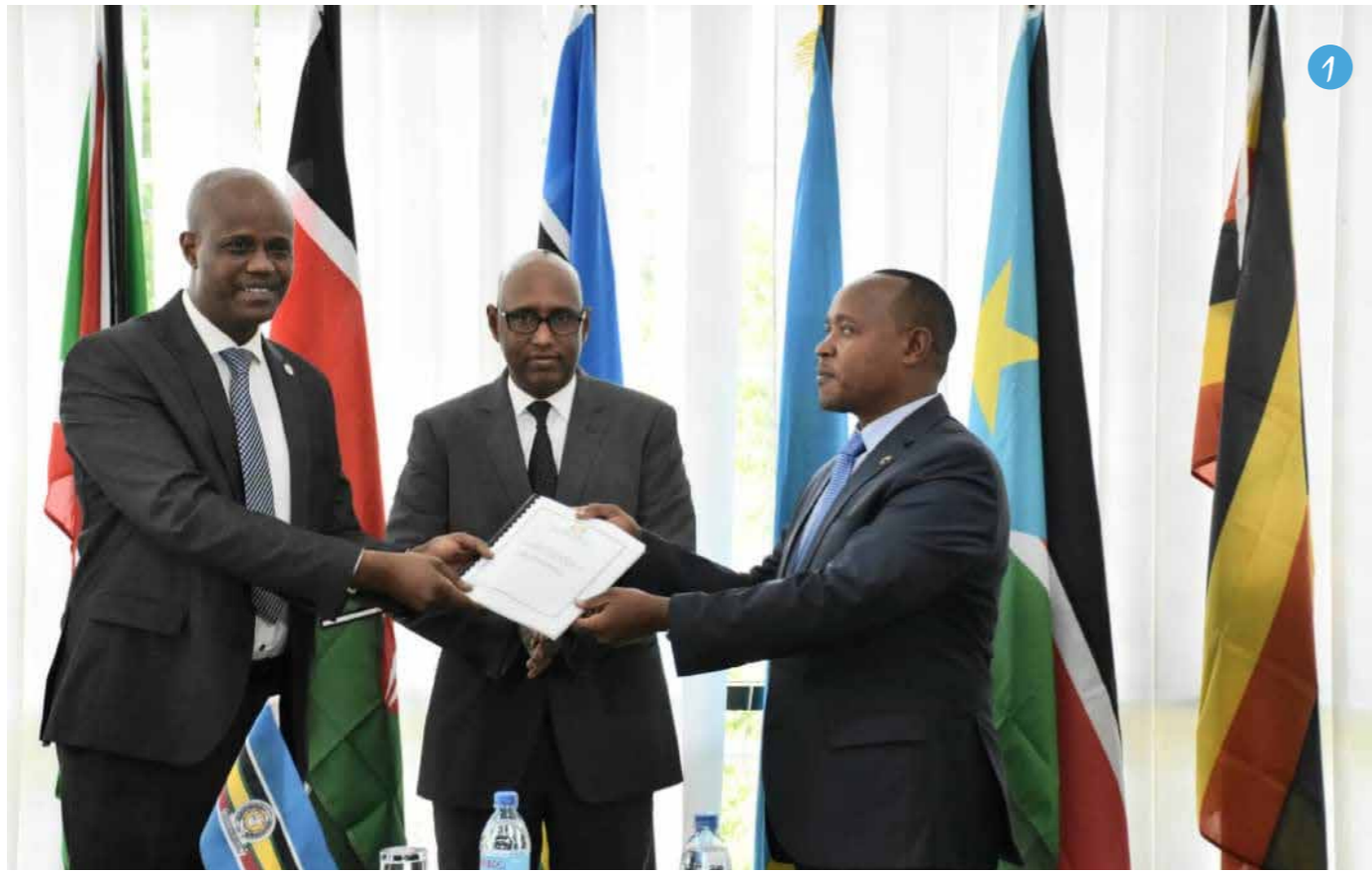
Traditional constraints such as trade barriers have been hampering the development of e-commerce and limiting the benefits derived from digital platforms, including during the COVID crisis. Longer customs processing times cause delays, or there is the impossibility of bringing products from other regional partners. But there are also new challenges such as low digital trust and lack of consumer protections.

Finally, but not less important, digital platforms before the crisis contributed to the economic empowerment of women in East Africa and in Uganda in particular. Such platforms allow more time and resources to be spent on women's education and healthcare, women can report abuse more easily and they can increase their economic autonomy. Accelerating the adoption of digital platforms may contribute to

accelerating female economic empowerment. In the context of the pain generated by the crisis, this is an extremely welcome outcome, but still insufficient. Addressing the digital gender divide requires more targeted investment into apps that involve women in the decision-making process, or that are women-centric from the start. 🇰🇪

*This piece is part of a dedicated series to spur dialogue, conversations, and debate alongside the WTO's Aid for Trade Stocktaking event. The piece responds to the event's Theme 3: Digital connectivity and e-commerce. Dr Max Mendez-Parra is Senior Research Fellow, ODI.*





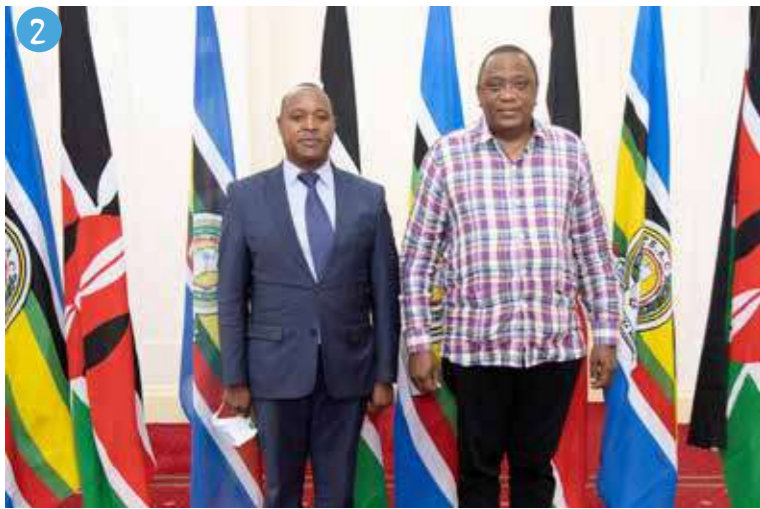
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# Pictorial



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1. Former EAC Secretary General, Amb Liberat Mfumukeko presents his handover of the Secretary General's office to his successor, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki during the Secretary General's handover ceremony at the EAC Headquarters.
2. EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki (L) with President of the Republic of Kenya and Chairperson of the EAC Summit, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta immediately after the Summit of EAC Heads of State appointed Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki the new Secretary General of the EAC.
3. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), Rt. Hon. Martin Ngoga (c) congratulates Justice Yohane Masara of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) on his appointment as Principal Judge on the Court. Looking on is EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote.
4. EAC Secretary General, Hon. Peter Mathuki presents the EAC Flag to the participants of the 4th edition of the Great African Cycling Safari during the launch of the 55-day, 6,000km long cycling safari.
5. H.E. Ambassador Liberata Mulamula, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation, United Republic of Tanzania poses for a photo with EAC Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki following discussions at the office of the Secretary General in Arusha, Tanzania.
6. The Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers and Cabinet Secretary for East African Community & Re-regional Development, Republic of Kenya, Hon. Adan Mohamed (L) shares a light moment with EAC Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki during a dinner reception in Arusha hosted by the Secretary General.
7. EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki presents a copy of the EAC Treaty and a Mosquito Net (signifying the consignment of 3,000 nets) to Arusha Regional Commissioner, John Mongella, for distribution to schools and Arusha residents as part of malaria containment measures.
8. Chief Justice (CJ) and President of the Supreme Court of the Republic of Kenya, Lady Justice Martha Koome poses for a group photo with the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), Justice Nestor Kayobera, and other Judges & Staff of the EACJ.
9. Deputy Chief of Staff in charge of Legal, Political and Diplomatic Affairs to the President of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Prof. Nicole Ntumba Bwatshia and EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon Christophe Bazivamo address the Media during the EAC Verification Exercise in Kinshasa, DRC.
10. EAC Principal Gender and Community Development Officer, Generose Minani (in pink mask) presents the EAC Flag to the Turkish Maarif School in Arusha, signifying the launch of the 'Raising the Flag' Project to promote the engagement of youth and children in the EAC integration process.

# Made in EAC

## Promoting Local Production Will Lead to Regional Industrialization

BY PHYLLIS WAKIAGA



The establishment of an effective Common External Tariff in the East African region will lead to the exponential growth of the manufacturing sector.

A Common External Tariff (CET) refers to an import tariff or rate adopted and applied by countries within a common market. This tariff is ideally imposed on products imported from non-member countries, with the intention of promoting industrialization in the common region, enhancing the economic development of member states, and liberalizing regional trade.

The East African Community (EAC) is in the process of reviewing its CET that if adopted, will steer the manufacturing sector into an upward spiral, which is needed as we grapple with the effects of COVID-19 Pandemic.

It is important to highlight the progress made through trade agreements with the EAC Partner States. First is the establishment of the EAC Single Customs Territory to facilitate faster clearance and movement of cargo from the port of entry to destination. Second is the implementation of One-Stop Border Posts (OSBPs) aimed at facilitating cross-border movements through reduction of the time taken in clearance procedures. The third is the removal of several Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) that had previously frustrated trade between the Partner States.

But even with this progress, the laxity to agree upon and implement the EAC CET by the Partner States is straining the competitiveness of the sector and the economic growth of the region.

In essence, the current tariff undermines industrialization efforts by favouring imports or subsidizing importation costs, in turn, resulting in reduced competitiveness of local manufacturers. This leads to few job opportunities and decreased development and ultimately, increased cost of living.

The Current EAC CET Tariff stipulates that the EAC Partner States may import products at different levels with the following duty rates: raw materials - 0%, intermediate - 10%, and finished products - 25%.

In short, imports from other countries, outside of the EAC, are enjoying lower rates (25%) for products that are or may be produced within the EAC. This is not only derogatory to the objectives of the EAC, which include building the prosperity, competitiveness, and stability of the region but it also undermines industrial growth and its benefits.

For the region to reap the benefits of industrialization, it is necessary that we impose a higher duty rate on the importation of finished products from countries outside the EAC region. This will result in strengthened backward and forward linkages between the EAC Partner States, advanced value chains, and increased competitiveness and sustainability of the region.

A 35% tariff rate on the importation of finished products could not come at a better time. The competitiveness of the sector is currently being deterred by transport and logistics issues, excessive governmental levies, increased cost of power, and the effects of the pandemic. In fact, adopting this tariff band may be the policy response we need to protect the country from import surges and unfair trade practices at this time.

Though Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, and South Sudan support the reviewed EAC CET rate on finished products, a non-conclusive EAC entity will result in delayed implementation and therefore continued imports and impaired economic progress.

The Kenya Association of Manufacturers is in strong support of this newly reviewed EAC CET, which includes a 4th band that will impose a 35% rate on imported finished products from non-member states, instead of 25% as is in the current CET. This protection shall drive up our competitive edge against imported goods, thus resulting in increased investments in value chains and diversifying our export portfolio.

In order for us to steer towards the industrialization of the region, we must be intentional in adopting and implementing frameworks that will enhance manufacturing and promote exports.

The adoption of the reviewed EAC CET is a great step in achieving this. Therefore, EAC Partner States need to cohesively endorse the new tariffs and ensure effective implementation to secure the progressive growth and competitiveness of the manufacturing sector. This will result in better productivity, creation of job opportunities, increased revenue and regional prosperity. 🇰🇪

*The writer is the CEO of Kenya Association of Manufacturers and the Global Compact Network Kenya Board Chair. She can be reached at [ceo@kam.co.ke](mailto:ceo@kam.co.ke).*



# EAC and EABC launch Technical Working Group to promote Private Sector Development

■ **Technical Working Group to spearhead initiatives that will benefit the private sector in East Africa.**

The East African Community and the East African Business Council (EABC), the umbrella body bringing together private sector associations in East Africa, launched the EAC-EABC Technical Working Group at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The EAC-EABC Technical Working Group (TWG), that draws its membership from EAC and EABC, is meant to spearhead initiatives that will benefit the private sector in East Africa. The EAC Director General for Customs and Trade, will chair the TWG.

Speaking at the launch of the TWG, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki said that the EAC-EABC TWG has a specific mandate to promote activities that will raise the visibility of the EAC in addition to providing a platform for addressing concerns raised by the business community in the region.

Dr. Mathuki urged the TWG to reach out to every businessperson, whether large or small, by putting in place a hotline for receiving issues

raised by stakeholders, adding that the EAC's focus would henceforth be placing the private sector at the heart of the integration process as outlined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

Dr. Mathuki said that only a cohesive and organised private sector in East Africa would be in position to take advantage of the business opportunities that would come with the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

"The TWG should come up with a harmonised framework for a collective response by Partner States to COVID-19 in the region. A collective response in the region will guarantee economic recovery in a post-COVID era," said the Secretary General.

On his part, EABC Executive Director John Bosco Kalisa said the TWG would identify issues that hinder the free movement of goods in the region and have them resolved on a monthly basis.

Mr. Kalisa said that in addition to identifying the issues impeding intra-EAC trade, the TWG should come up with solutions instead of always waiting for the Council and Summit to resolve such matters.

Among the TWG's roles and responsibilities are: to receive and synthesize issues received from private sector at various levels and advise on appropriate solutions; create a joint work plan on Private Sector development and follow up implementation; follow up on agreed interventions for EAC with various stakeholders; generate content for the SG Roundtable and CEO roundtable; generate, coordinate, supervise and report on EAC regional projects related to Private Sector support.

TWG's other roles are to: prepare reports and any other relevant documentation for Steering Committee of the TWG comprised of the SG of the EAC and the Chair of the Board of the EABC and the two co-chairs of the TWG; mobilize resources for activities of the TWG, and; any other activity relevant to the above objectives. 🇰🇪



Article 128 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC provides that the Partner States shall endeavour to adopt programmes that shall strengthen and promote the role of the private sector as an effective force for the development of their respective economies.



# Early warnings protect lives on Africa's Lake Victoria

BY WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION

The High Impact Weather Lake System (HIGHWAY) project established a pilot regional Early Warning System to inform fisherfolk and other local stakeholders about high impact weather events on Lake Victoria. There is now growing momentum to scale up the investment as part of support for the implementation plan of the East African Community (EAC) Regional Early Warning System Vision 2025.

Initial studies concluded that more than 200,000 people have directly benefited, and 1.4 million indirectly, from the HIGHWAY project, which was funded by the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) through the Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa (WISER) programme.

The project has also reduced annual weather-related deaths on the lake by 30% - thus saving more than 300 lives per year, according to the studies. Economic benefits of the project are estimated at US\$ 44 million per year, a benefit to cost ratio of 16:1.

"The HIGHWAY project demonstrates that improved access to, and use of, co-designed early warnings has protected lives and livelihoods and improved the economic and social well-being of the communities living in the Lake Victoria Basin," said WMO Secretary-General, Petteri Taalas. "WMO hopes that this is a model that can be replicated in other parts of Africa and, indeed, the world."

The Lake Victoria Basin supports approximately 25% of the surrounding population. It hosts Africa's largest inland fishery, producing about one million tons of fish annually, employing over 200,000 fisherfolk and generating over US\$ 500 million annually in exports. Over 30 million people live near the coastline, with 1,400 landing sites or beaches from which 50,000 boats operate.

On average, 3,000 to 5,000 deaths occurred on the lake each year due to navigation accidents caused by strong winds and waves. Prior to the HIGHWAY project, no regional, operational early warning systems existed to protect the health and safety of those dependent on the lake.

The need for early warnings were highlighted by heavy rainfall which caused Lake Victoria waters to rise to record levels. Ensuing floods displaced more than 200,000 people living in the Basin in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda.

Loss of life was minimized by improved regional cooperation between the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) of Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. This resulted in a regionally harmonized set of marine forecasts covering the whole of Lake Victoria, issued twice daily in English and local languages.

"The WISER HIGHWAY project is a great example of how to increase resilience to climate change through the improvement of weather and climate services. HIGHWAY has worked with partners across East Africa and leaves a legacy of improved services along with a commitment to ongoing development. HIGHWAY demonstrates the difference partner funding can make to lives and livelihoods when implemented through a coordinated and collaborative approach. Fewer lives lost and less damage to property," commented Julius Court, Deputy High Commissioner and Development Director, FCDO, Nairobi, Kenya.

Since its inception in 2017, the project has enhanced capacities of the participating NMHSs through strengthening institutional frameworks, improving access to data sources and strengthening integration between forecasters and beneficiaries.

Main achievements include:

The project also worked through the EAC to develop a regional strategy for coordinating the issue of severe weather warnings throughout EAC's six Member States - Regional Early Warning System Vision 2025 for East Africa. The Vision was approved in June 2019 by Ministers at the EAC 16th Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Transport, Communications and Meteorology.



On his part, EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Infrastructure and Planning, Engineer Steven Mlote, said that Regional EWS Vision 2025 for East Africa would enhance regional cooperation with pooled resources, harmonise practices, and facilitate knowledge exchange to deliver impact-based early warnings across East Africa in a consistent way.

"To that end, the Severe Weather Forecasting programme (SWFP) would underpin the operationalisation of the Vision 2025 in delivering the regional consensus forecasts and potentially aggregating at the regional level the warnings produced at the national level through a proposed East Africa Community multi-hazard Alert System (EACAS)," said Eng. Steven Mlote.

### The way forward

HIGHWAY project partners are calling for greater investment by international development partners, to build upon the FCDO investment and support the implementation of the Regional Early Warning System Vision 2025.

The countries have committed to increasing regional cooperation for the delivery of more accurate, timely and reliable impact-based early warning services, notably by the availing of data through the WMO Information System (WIS) and application of EAC policy for sharing of meteorological data. They have also agreed to work within their respective governments to ensure sustained resourcing for such efforts.

# TRUEFISH

## Promoting Fish Farming on Lake Victoria

BY JOSE PARAJU

In the early 1990s the Food and Agriculture Organisation's (FAO) Committee for Inland Fisheries of Africa (CIFA) decided that the Sub-committee for the management of Lake Victoria's Fisheries should establish an intergovernmental organization, which became the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) in 1994.

The so-called LVFO received support from FAO, the World Bank and the European Union to start up its important functions. All this happened during the ever-increasing fishing effort exerted on Nile perch resources, plus at the same time the increasing amount of water hyacinth on the lake.

### What would have happened to the lake if the LVFO had not existed yet?

This young organization that consists of the fisheries departments and the fisheries research institutes of the three surrounding countries (Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania), had enormous tasks at hand.

It coordinated the overhaul of many fish processing plants in the three countries in order to assure the exportation of high quality Nile perch products to mainly the European Union.

On the water hyacinth front the LVFO insisted that the invasive aquatic weed be eliminated with mechanical and biological means only. Chemical control of the water hyacinth never appeared on the organization's agenda.

Obviously, the entire food web in the lake underwent all kinds of changes due to the voracious Nile perch. Many small and colourful fish species disappeared from the lake forever.

The Nile tilapia that was also introduced a few decades earlier wiped out some other original tilapia species. In that dynamic interaction between nature and fisheries, LVFO had to make decisions on how to assure food security for the riparian populations while at the same time looking after the economic interests of the neighbouring countries through the continuous export of the largest money-maker, the Nile perch.

The LVFO however, could not stop the influx of numerous additional fishers, fishmongers, fish traders and other fisheries professionals and the overexploitation of the perch became a fact.

The Nile tilapia was also hit hard by the fishing intensity, but nature came up with a solution. Suddenly there was much space for a small fish species, also known as dagaa in Tanzania, mukèna in Uganda and omèna in Kenya. This fish variety appeared very important for food and nutrition security of the people around and at large distances from the lake. The dried form of this fish found its way to Burundi, DR Congo, South Sudan and beyond. As the quantities fished were enormous, this species found its way into poultry feed producers and eventually also into fish feed.

There was the continuous demand for fish from the lake. If the fisheries could not supply the fish then fish had to be reared outside the lake. Many entrepreneurs started fish farms for Nile tilapia and the African catfish. The climatic conditions in the region are very favourable for fish culture in fishponds, but the region still needed more fish.

### Why not grow the fish inside the lake, in floating cages?

Once this idea was born and the results appeared encouraging, the numbers of cages started mushrooming. Small square cages initially with volumes of a few cubic meters, were soon followed by larger circular ones, which could contain tens of thousands of fish each.

The development of cage farming was seemingly getting out of hand when LVFO prepared guidelines for cage culture development and management.

Concerns were too many. Questions were raised about the possible pollution of the lake if left-over fish feed entered the lake. What about fish excrements? Where should the farms be located so that conflicts with capture fisheries could be avoided, particularly in the light of spawning and nursery grounds of other fish species? How about biodiversity and biosecurity?

Furthermore, there was the threat of water hyacinth mats that could move across floating cages, causing fish to escape. Many questions needed answers. On request, FAO assisted in developing a project proposal, in close collaboration with the EU, LVFO and many other stakeholders on the

lake. The exercise led to the preparation and funding of the "True fish-farming story in the Lake Victoria Basin", TRUEFISH in short.

The TRUEFISH project has three major components whose implementation is rather complex as it involves several partners:

**Component 1** is on **BUSINESS** (i.e. improved access to commercial networks). The contracting authority for Component 1 is the EAC but working closely with LVFO.

**Component 2** is on **SKILLS** i.e. availability and quality of local skilled workers in aquaculture-related businesses:

**Expected Result:** Strengthened commercial networks for competitive aquaculture-related businesses. This component will be implemented by Landell Mills International, which is a Consultancy Firm.

**First Expected Result:** Upgraded practical training delivery by formal training institutions


**Second Expected Result:** Strengthened linkages between training institutions, and with aquaculture business operators.

**Component 2** will be implemented by the FAO.

**Component 3** is on **SUSTAINABILITY** (i.e. sustainable and bio-secure regional aquaculture production systems):

**First Expected Result:** Strengthened aquatic animal health conditions

**Second Expected Result:** Lake Victoria zoning, to support an orderly and sustainable cage culture development. For these two expected results under Component 3, the implementer is also FAO

**Third Expected Result:** Improved protection of biodiversity. This will be implemented by WorldFish Centre (Formerly ICLARM). 

*This article was written by Jose Parajua, a Fisheries Technical Adviser at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)*

# CENIT@EA awards scholarships to 30 East African students

"This Master's programme will enable me to develop computer-based solutions to societal challenges"

"I had already applied for the CENIT@EA scholarship last year. This time it worked. Here I can reach my dreams by learning from innovative experts from the whole EAC." Eager to learn and full of energy to be an innovator for the future of East Africa – this is how Tusekile Mwasambili from Tanzania entered her first day as a Master's student at the Centre of Excellence for ICT in East Africa (CENIT@EA).

As the new academic year kicked off on 15 January, 2021, CENIT@EA welcomed new students of its third cohort of the market-driven and practice-oriented Master's programme in "Embedded and Mobile Systems" (MSc EMoS) at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in Arusha, Tanzania. All 30 new students were awarded scholarships funded by the German Government through the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The scholarships are administered through the East African-German academic consortium and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Additional slots will be offered to students who applied and plan to join this 3rd cohort on private sponsorship.

Each EAC Partner State is represented by five new students. Additionally to this great sign of successful integration, 13 of the 30 upcoming digital innovators are women, signifying the importance of gender equality for the Community. All students will benefit from a full sponsorship and gain skills from a unique curriculum in the EAC, developed in close cooperation with the private sector. It includes unique elements such as a mandatory internship for industry-academia innovation transfer, digital innovations and ideation training, entrepreneurial and soft skills training, guest lecturers from the private sector, as well as an applied research and Master's thesis project with the private sector.

Onek Alfred, a new student from South Sudan stressed, "I want to take this opportunity for the EAC region. There is huge need for data availability systems. CENIT@EA will

help me widen my knowledge and enable me to develop computer-based solutions to societal challenges." This idea of working for the future of the region could be found in many of the young innovators. Tito Okellolutwa from Uganda pointed out that he wants to drive forward a project on mobile expert systems for Malaria diagnosis and drug prescription. "I am very grateful to benefit from this offer made possible by EAC integration."

"I am privileged to be part of this cohort as it's often hard for females to be educated and advance a career in an unfavorable environment. It was a difficult decision to leave my children with my sister in Uganda, but I know this opportunity will give me another chance to get my career back on track. Everything stopped for me when war broke out in my country and I moved to Uganda as a refugee", said Siama Mary, from South Sudan, who wants to solve communications challenge for women and girls seeking channels for counselling and empowerment.

To date the Centre of Excellence has offered 88 scholarships and enrolled up to 95 students in the Master's programme in Embedded and Mobile systems that encourages innovative thinking and design of digital solutions for existing industry and community challenges faced in the region.

CENIT@EA is a regional innovation hub offering skills for the digital transformation in East Africa, initiated by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the East African Community (EAC). It was launched in 2019 to support East African universities in collaboration with the private sector to provide relevant skills that meet the needs of the private sector, public sector and civil society for the region's digital transformation. It is implemented by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), as well as an East Africa-German academic consortium and is hosted at the Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST) in Arusha, Tanzania. For more information, visit [www.cenit-ea.org](http://www.cenit-ea.org).



# AN UNHOLY ALLIANCE

## Illicit trade in East Africa is funding terrorists and warlords



East Africa, a key security partner in the war on terror and a principal engine of economic development on the African continent, is being critically undermined by illicit trade, according to the new report by the Counter Extremism Project (CEP) titled *An Unholy Alliance: Links Between Extremism and Illicit Trade in East Africa*.

Terror groups such as al-Shabaab and ISIS-linked affiliates in Somalia and Mozambique, as well as Central African militias, urban gangs, and international crime groups, are increasingly targeting East Africa as a destination market for illicit trade, as well as a transport hub for the mass import and export of illegal goods.

Terrorist groups continue to cash in on the illegal ivory trade to pay their soldiers and fund their campaigns of terror, while Somali warlords profit from the thousands of bags of cheap, illicit sugar that are smuggled into Kenya every day. Meanwhile, the multi-million-dollar illegal tobacco industry funds corruption, insurgency, and the illegal arms trade across the region.

Sir Ivor Roberts, Senior Advisor, CEP, and author of the report, outlined the difficulties faced by the region, "As illicit trade networks continue to expand and mature in their sophistication, the cost to East African society has been enormous. At every link in the illicit chain, economic, social, and political harm is done to East African society, while terror and crime groups grow stronger."

There is a great need for coordinated action against illicit trade across the whole East African region. It is not enough for

individual countries to take isolated measures targeting only specific categories of illicit trade. The region is only as strong as its weakest link.

Many terrorist and extremist groups operating in and around East Africa, including al-Shabaab, ISIS, and the Lord's Resistance Army, are supported and sustained by the illicit trade, as they continue to benefit from ill-gotten gains. Asian crime syndicates, Latin American narco-traffickers, and other international crime groups have also earmarked the region as a key location for smuggling narcotics, wildlife, precious stones, and counterfeit goods.

As East Africa struggles to recover from the ravages of the COVID-19 pandemic, Sir Ivor believes the region must prioritise measures that target illicit trafficking. "The most effective way from the East African region, and the wider international community, to fight extremism, crime, and corruption is to turn off the taps of illicit trade. This can ensure critical revenues are not lost to the shadow economy but are instead invested in key services. Combating illicit trade should be the number one priority for East African governments and their international allies. This issue goes beyond the borders of East Africa, and it is imperative that the international community pay heed," Sir Ivor said. 🇰🇪

Ventures Africa - <https://venturesafrica.com/author/venturesafrica/>



Perhaps for the umpteenth time, another call has been made upon the relevant authorities and institutions to fact-track and otherwise accelerate the regional integration processes for the East African Community member countries. This time round, the call was made by none other than the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), the regional joint legislative body for Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda Burundi and South Sudan.

Specifically, EALA has called for the urgent finalization of the policies and related regulatory frameworks on functional regional integration. These include – but are by no means limited to – measures on draft e-Immigration; EAC Labour Migration, and EAC Refugees Management initiatives.

Indeed, the absence of such measures is a matter of great concern for nation-states that are hell-bent on achieving full regional integration almost at all costs – complete with the federation status of a group of states with a central government, albeit retaining independence in internal affairs.

If nothing else, this ensures that – among other benefits – there is free cross-border movement of persons, labour, goods, technology transfers, etc.

In its report tabled before a virtual session of the Legislature, the EALA Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution said delayed or lack of adoption and enforcement of these initiatives is bound to further delay the EAC Partner States from implementing key commitments under the Common Market Protocol of the East African Community.

East Africa is currently home to some two million refugees. This makes the region one of the largest concentrations of refugees in the world. Coherent refugee management

Hence the call for coherent refugee management based upon collaborative measures for properly handling the refugees situation. Virtually the same goes for common EAC Migration and e-Immigration policies and regulatory frameworks which are evenly applicable to all the EAC member states.

A common e-Immigration platform would enable users to request immigration-related products and services – entry visas, resident permits, passports, etc. – electronically, and without having to appear physically at Immigration offices.

The EAC Migration measures mainly entail a common regional approach to the management of labour migration within the EAC member nations. When operational, the measures would forge a common, functional

consensus on the principles of labour migration as they relate to all the member nations of the regional integration bloc.

If and when these draft measures become fully operational within the East African Community member nations as individual

countries – and also together as a regional socio-econo-political bloc – they would enable the (current) EAC population of some 177 million souls to go about the business of regional integration faster and much more easily.

Hence our sincere call upon the relevant authorities and institutions to equally sincerely heed the call by EALA to end the persisting hurdles to regional integration.

They should, instead, accelerate the integration processes, and get it over and done with – thereby benefiting millions of people in this part of the world. 🇰🇪

## End Lingering Hurdles to Regional Integration

# EAC: It's diplomatic strategy that can normalise relations

BY AMB. SAMUEL BALIGIDDE

The stresses of the East African economic community have on the whole been more of a warning against fast-tracking political federation. Although Burundi, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda have been united or affiliated to a common services organisation and the common market for sometime, the formation of a "Federation of East Africa" has throughout the history of the region been made more or less likely by the disguised mini-trade wars fuelled by economic nationalism.

Yet a background of economic cooperation would conceivably have made political federation easier. While working abroad, diplomats hailing from East Africa tended to be more conscious of being East Africans than of being Kenyans, Tanzanians, Ugandans or Rwandans because of the commonalities existing between them. We formed a bloc and shared information and supported each other whenever it became necessary.

Our intimacy had a somewhat pan-Africanist dimension that narrowed down to our region of East Africa. In Khartoum where I was stationed from 1979 to 1986, there was a Rwandan diplomat called Alex, who studied in Uganda and later worked at BADEA [Arab Bank for Development in Africa]. He was multilingual. His command of French and English was perfect in equal measure; spoke impeccable Luganda as well as Swahili and proudly called himself a "Rugandese", meaning he was both Rwandan and Ugandan.

Alex openly professed allegiance to both countries, and socialised quite well with Kenyan, Ugandan and Tanzanian diplomats. This solidarity and spirit of nationalistic belonging to East Africa though, doesn't seem to have survived the unintended consequences of economic competition back home. Pan-Africanism doesn't seem to have fully conquered Kenyan, Tanzanian, Rwandese and Ugandan economic patriotism. Today, the experience of the economic cooperation in East Africa reveal the risk that the safeguards, which can be taken to prevent economic patriotism mutating into negative variants like tribalism are limited.

The East African Common Market and Common Services Organisation provided a cooperative framework for competitive trade relationships which seem to be breaking down. The habit of nationalistic competition in trade seems to have grown as Uganda, thanks to mainly Chinese and Indian investors, moves close to parity with Kenya in industrialisation that will make Uganda less dependent on the latter as it used to be generations ago.

Some analysts have argued that this has caused circumspection about the possibility of being overtaken. But Kenya's trade patriotism, which seemingly aims at maintaining its decades-old monopoly of terms

of trade that favour it, but disadvantages other states in the region, is harming the cause of East African Federation.

The reality of conflicting interests has been deepened by the recent ban on Ugandan and Tanzanian agricultural produce and processed products like Sugar and Lato-powdered milk.

Although the ban on maize has been lifted, it has left circumspection and an enduringly psychological complexity in Kenya-Uganda trade relations. Political system incongruity in the East African region notwithstanding, an additional trend will complicate the future of political integration in East Africa.

For a sustainable semblance of a solution only a reflective back channel diplomatic strategy can have a chance for normalising relations.

East Africa attained Independence as an economic community. Its common market consisted in a free flow of goods between the territories. Its common services included a common currency both of which became a hindrance to Tanzania's planned economy prompting a secret conference on coordination of economic planning in East Africa at Entebbe in March 1964. A similar strategy might be necessary. You do not need failed ruling party cadres for the assignment because of late, they get carried away and say so much that ain't true and annoy the other parties to the conflict.

Amb. Samuel Baligidde is a former career diplomat and is currently the Head of the Department of Diplomacy and International Studies at Uganda Martyrs University. He was a Director of East African School of Diplomacy, Governance and International Studies and a pioneer Director of Lubaga campus. He is also a member of the 8-member-country Inter-Governmental Authority for Development's 21-member Mediation Roster. 🇰🇪



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# Regional COVID-19 Tourism Sector Recovery Plan

*EAC Sectoral Council on Tourism adopts Regional COVID-19 Recovery Plan to revive the sector*

The East African Community Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management has approved the EAC Regional COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Plan that seeks to revive the sector that has been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministers who met virtually under the chairmanship of Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Hon. Najib Balala, noted that some EAC Partner States had already instituted measures such as the formulation of stimulus packages aimed at re-igniting the sector and supporting tourism investments in the region including the Small and Micro Enterprises

The Ministers agreed that there was need for a collective and coordinated approach towards tourism recovery that entails interventions that are aimed at reinforcing the measures being developed and implemented at national levels.

The Ministers further considered and approved the draft regional guidelines for resumption of services in the tourism sector and hospitality establishments.

While approving the guidelines, the Ministers agreed that there was need for EAC harmonized guidelines for resumption of the tourism and hospitality services in the region.

The Ministers observed that the regional guidelines would help in ensuring coherence in resumption of tourism services and help in rebuilding trust and confidence with international tourists visiting the region.

The Ministers also considered and approved the draft Regional Tourism Marketing Strategy, which seeks to position the EAC region as the best and most affordable regional tourism destination in Africa.

Among the strategic directions and the corresponding strategic actions in the EAC Tourism Marketing Strategy are to: develop regionally and internationally competitive multi-destination tourism products; position and market EAC as a leading regional tourism destination in Africa; brand East Africa as a leading tourism destination; enhance the marketing policy and institutional framework, and, enhance EAC Tourism Marketing and Promotion Financing.

The Ministers also agreed to establish the annual EAC Regional Tourism Expo (EARTE) with the aim of improving the visibility of the region and marketing it as a single tourist destination.

The Sectoral Council decided that the United Republic of Tanzania hosts the 1st EARTE in October, 2021.

In his opening remarks, Kenya's Tourism Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Najib Balala, underscored the importance of the Partner States working together especially in addressing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector and in joint tourism recovery efforts.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taught all of some really important lessons. For instance, domestic and regional tourism markets are really key and they can help in making the tourism sector resilient in case of future disasters and pandemics. The pandemic has revealed that we can use technology to connect with each other and have meetings such as this. It is therefore really important that we invest heavily in infrastructure and connectivity," said Hon. Balala. On his part, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki said that the tourism sector was one of the most important areas of cooperation for EAC owing to its contribution to the economies of the Partner States in

terms of GDP (about 10%), export earnings (17%) and jobs (about 7%).

"Its multiplier effect and linkages with other sectors that are instrumental in our integration such as agriculture, transport and manufacturing are quite immense. However, the travel and tourism sector, globally, was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic more than any other economic sector," said Dr. Mathuki.

"Based on statistics reported by the Partner States, as a region, we lost close to 70% of international tourist arrivals in 2020 coupled with massive losses in tourism earnings and tourism related jobs. The signs this year are still bleak given the recurrent waves of the pandemic that result into imposition of unpredictable measures and restrictions by Governments around the world from time to time," said the Secretary General.

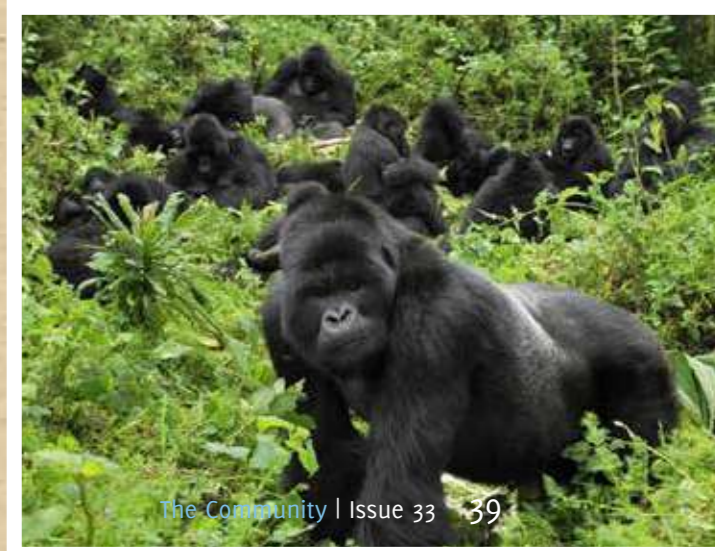
Dr. Mathuki said that whereas Partner States had initiated tourism recovery efforts, it would really be helpful for region to come together to implement joint actions aimed at the recovery of the sector as well as laying a strong foundation for its future development. Also speaking during the opening session of the meeting, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, said that strengthening of the intra-regional tourism

was now imperative given the fact that this segment was resilient and likely to recover faster than the overseas markets.

"Bolstering of both domestic and regional tourism can help keep the tourism industry afloat therefore sustaining the much-needed jobs and income along the entire tourism value chain," said Hon. Bazivamo.

Among the Ministers who attended the meeting were Hon. Rizik Zakaria, Minister for Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (South Sudan), Hon. Tom R. Butime, MP, Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (Uganda) and Hon. Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism (Tanzania).

Others were Amb. Jérémie Banigwanizigo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism (Burundi) and Mr. Zephania Niyonkuru, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board (Rwanda).



# Opportunities for the East African Community during Covid-19 - A Gender Perspective

BY HELLEN T. SHWANDA, MSC

The EAC has been ranked as the fastest growing Regional Economic Community in Africa and just like any other part of the world, EAC is struggling under the heavy load of Covid-19. Pandemics do not care about political ideologies, opinions and beliefs, so the whole world is dealing with this catastrophe that we shall live to tell.

It should be noted that there have been other pandemics in the past, such as the Bubonic plague, which killed 25 million people in just a few months during the 6th Century; and Measles that killed 200 million people in the 19th and 20th Centuries. Covid-19 might not be the end of pandemics; and this is why the EAC should be prepared for pandemics in the future.

The Covid-19 pandemic that hit the region in mid-March 2020 has affected the economies of the regional bloc but more so, the livelihoods of East Africans. Women and girls in the region have been hit even harder.

Gender based violence and teenage pregnancies have increased at an alarming rate. The girls that have fallen pregnant might never go back to school. The long term effects of the pandemic could be inter-generational cycles of poverty; because social economic development in EAC cannot be achieved without educated people.

Gender equality is listed alongside Good Governance; the Rule of Law; Accountability; Transparency; Social Justice; Equal Opportunities; and Recognition, Promotion and Protection of Human and People's rights; as one of the fundamental principles that govern the achievements of the overall objectives of the Community.

Instability in homes, due to lack of food and other essential services, leads to a fractured society, crime and loss of productivity. Economic empowerment is key for families to attain basic needs. Short term and long term family-friendly interventions should be put in place to boost the livelihoods of EAC citizens to bring wide ranging benefits to society.

There are tough questions we have to ask ourselves as EAC: What do we have to do differently? In my opinion, working together is crucial. The time is now to face our challenges together as a team for the common good of our Community. This is the opportunity to address pertinent issues of economic development for the EAC in order to realize the EAC Vision 2050; which portrays a future East Africa with rising personal prosperity in cohesive societies, competitive economies, and strong inter-regional interaction.

## Way Forward

With all the six Partner States coming together, an East African Entrepreneurial Institute should be developed to tap on the expertise that has been exhibited during this pandemic. The institute would facilitate enhancing entrepreneurial skills that can propel EAC to the next level post Covid-19.

There is need for self-determination to liberate ourselves from donor funding. We have what it takes, the raw materials - minerals, raw coffee, gas, oil and the various natural endowments of tourist sites that dot our region. It is time we rise up and be the architects of the future we want as citizens of EAC.

We have witnessed several opportunities emanating from the pandemic. Covid-19 has given EAC impetus in digitization of meetings; the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and East African Court of Justice (EACJ) continue to conduct virtual Plenary and Court sessions. This has cut on the cost of air travel to attend meetings and conferences in various venues across the region.

e-Commerce has thrived, suppliers and consumers are accessing products with ease through on line shopping, home delivery services and news jobs have been created for the youth doing the deliveries.

Women have always faced challenges in trading. It is time to embrace technology and bridge gender digital divide for women in trade. There is need to build on the resilience that has been exhibited during this pandemic. The economic growth of the region is linked to human capital and therefore, there is need to empower the citizens, especially women.

Long term stability in our Community entails empowering women; and trade is the key driving factor behind economic growth and prosperity as envisaged by the founding fathers of EAC.

Under Article 121 of the Treaty for EAC, Partner States undertake "to enhance the Role of Women in Socio Economic Development" and Article 122 provides for "enhancement of the Role of Women in Business" where Partner States recognise the importance of women as a vital economic link between agriculture, industry and trade. These articles are in consonance with the mission of the EAC "...to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investment."

Close cooperation, joint planning and resource sharing are therefore key in advancing together as a Community. Gender equality should be addressed through crosscutting themes, across all programmes and projects, with both men and women. Lastly, a united approach in solving problems is crucial for EAC integration agenda. 🇰🇪



**Hellen** is the Executive Assistant to the Judges of the East African Court of Justice. She firmly advocates for human rights, equality and a just society.



## GENDER

"This is our decade! Everyone wants to support women, there's a gender lens on development and women-owned and run businesses are in the spotlight too. It's such an exciting period in history. The world is connected like never before, social media bringing our brands to people on the other side of the world instantly. We need to celebrate technology, our brands and ourselves!"

As the founder of Eva's Coffee, a fast-growing coffee company in Kenya, Eva Muthuri is definitely grabbing every opportunity she can. Eva's Coffee – named for herself and also the biblical Eve from the Garden of Eden – markets itself as "Pure from the Women of Kenya" and this ethos is in both the coffee itself and her dealings with the women growers and their communities.

"Coffee paid for my education. I grew up on a coffee farm, and after years working around the world in international development for organisations like the World Bank and the UN I was drawn back home by my love for community and a need to give back to my society here in Kenya. We started out in 2013 when the Sustainable Development Goals were formulated and we wanted to respond to the Aid to Trade thinking of the time. We thought what does Kenya have that the world wants? And of course coffee is the answer!

"My background is public health, and I am bringing some of that to our coffee business too, talking about gender issues and non-communicable diseases with our coffee farmers, creating something more holistic beyond just buying and selling coffee. My grandfather used to walk me through the coffee, showing me how to harvest the berries, teaching me about the farm." It's this Eva remembers when she is working with grandmothers on coffee plantations, buying their produce and giving them their small income. "For me this community of women is at the heart of everything I work towards. A fair price, the possibility of rising up higher." Eva also credits her father for setting her on this coffee business path, and admits that a lot of her striving for success was to make her father proud. "He held my hand and raised me as an empowered girl child, taught me coffee and made me want to always do better."

Through the MARKUP programme she has been making the most of all the trainings on offer with International Trade Centre (which supported Eva's Coffee via MARKUP) to grow the business, from branding and packaging to marketing and access to finance. "There is a lot of support around now, networking groups to join, women helping women, passing on contacts and linkages across the region, as well as internationally." The MARKUP EAC Invest virtual event in 2021 also brought a lot of food for thought, and future possibilities. "I've come away with so much to think about, lots of connections with financiers like USAID and capital investors I hadn't heard of until now. I didn't know there were so many possible companies who could invest and help us, and I would never have found them on my own so I'm very grateful for these boosts."

As young people are inheriting their family farms, and the world has changed around the COVID-19 pandemic, with many having to find new income sources, Eva is finding more and more people arriving on her doorstep asking for advice about coffee farming and the whole coffee

value chain. "I know a pilot who has temporarily stopped flying to get his family coffee farm off the ground, and a female engineer got my number to ask advice about how to start farming, having left the family farm and followed another career until now. But the interest and evidence in farming is growing. So many young people are now starting to see a way to make a living from coffee farming and discovering that it isn't a dirty living where you only seek out an existence but with investment and strategy and good systems and structures in place, profits can be made."

This also extends to the African diaspora feeling the pull of home and connecting to see if they can become involved, as well as contacts she's made through her life excited by her coffee company. "Recently I've had calls from Switzerland and the USA, people wanting to sell our coffee in their countries, get involved and tell our stories where they are. My old university roommate, who I hadn't heard from for almost 30 years, heard me on a radio interview in Germany and got back in touch and we're talking about coffee and tea and exporting to her. The world is

# Eva's Coffee a women-owned business success story



so connected now and there are so many possibilities and people linking people. There are many steps to take before this can become a reality but I'm really encouraged by the enthusiasm and interest I am getting from abroad. We need to work out how to get things working at the other end. Warehousing, shipping, price competitiveness, so many things to sort out so we can fit into the international markets."

One of the jokes Eva loves to tell is that if Eve had eaten a coffee berry instead of an apple, we would still all be living in the Garden of Eden! It's this optimism and enthusiasm that is pushing Eva and her coffee company forwards, and bringing Kenya's women along with her. 🇰🇪

# JOB STRESS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



THE CURRENT COVID-19 PANDEMIC IS CAUSING STRESS FOR MANY WORKERS. THERE ARE SOME COMMON FACTORS RELATED TO WORK THAT CAN COMPOUND THE STRESS YOU ARE FEELING:



CONCERN OF EXPOSURE AT WORK



UNEXPECTED PERSONAL AND FAMILY NEEDS



MANAGING A DIFFERENT OR EXTRA WORKLOAD



REDUCED ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT AND TOOLS



UNCERTAINTY ABOUT YOUR EMPLOYMENT OR COMPANY'S FUTURE



STRUGGLES WITH NEW COMMUNICATION TOOLS AND TECHNOLOGIES

## THE CDC RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING STEPS FOR REDUCING WORK STRESS:



COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR CO-WORKERS AND SUPERVISORS TO IDENTIFY SOLUTIONS



ASK ABOUT MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES



KEEP A CONSISTENT DAILY ROUTINE AND SLEEP SCHEDULE



TAKE BREAKS TO STRETCH, EXERCISE, OR TALK WITH LOVED ONES



KNOW HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ILLNESS



REMEMBER THAT EVERYONE IS IN A UNIQUE SITUATION



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Kilimanjaro's Endangered Glaciers  
Photo by Hu Chen

ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY