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## PRESIDENT KAGAME CALLS FOR OWNERSHIP OF THE EAC INTEGRATION AGENDA BY PARTNER STATES



The Chairperson of the Summit of East African Community Heads of State, H.E. Paul Kagame, has urged EAC Partner States to urgently address all matters impeding the swift implementation of the various regional integration projects and programmes.

"There is urgent need to take ownership of this integration agenda, and this includes Partner States remitting our statutory contributions on time," said President Kagame. "As the African continent is coming together, the EAC has all that is needed and all that it takes to lead this process at the continental level," he added.

President Kagame was speaking when he officially opened a Strategic Retreat of the EAC Council of Ministers and Heads of EAC Organs and Institutions at the Kigali Convention Center in Kigali, Rwanda. The 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 Retreat was themed: "**Renewing our commitment to the objectives of the Community, accelerating our integration agenda.**"

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## ... EAC Council of Ministers and Heads of EAC Organs and Institutions meet to chart ways to accelerate regional integration.



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President Kagame noted that the Retreat offered an opportunity to focus on the EAC vision, and to make concrete plans on how this vision can be achieved.

President Kagame further said that the EAC regional integration agenda should be focused on the people and the business community.

"We have to listen to the people and to the businesses; and it is only by working together that we will be able to spur economic growth in our region," he said.

In his remarks, EAC Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, said that the Retreat presented a key platform to not only celebrate the achievements registered by the Community in the past 20 years, but also an opportunity to collectively address the challenges in implementing the EAC integration agenda.

Amb. Mfumukeko said that since the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC was signed 20 years ago, the EAC had registered great achievements. These include the implementation of various projects and programmes under the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation Pillars.

"Besides the multiple achievements registered, there are several challenges that hinder the effective implementation of the EAC integration agenda," said Amb Mfumukeko, adding that non-compliance to signed Protocols by Partner States remains a crucial hurdle for the Community.

"In July 2019, we will be marking nine (9) years since the Common Market Protocol came into force. Unfortunately, some Partner States are yet to approximate or harmonize their national laws, policies and systems. As a result, the full implementation of the Common Market protocol remains challenging. Subsequently, the free movement of persons and factors of production anticipated to spur regional economic growth remain restrained," said the Secretary General.

Amb. Mfumukeko said that Secretariat often times receives many complaints from the citizens on the various challenges they face at customs and immigration desks. These include: the denial of entry into a Partner State without being furnished with the reasons for the denial; the confiscation of travel documents by immigration officials upon arrival into a Partner State followed by the requirement to report to a police station daily, similarly without due process. Students enrolled in Universities different from their Partner State of origin were also still being charged tuition fees as an International Student.

"These not only restrict the free movement of persons as enshrined in the Common Market Protocol, but also water down the achievements of the Community," added the Secretary General.

Amb Mfumukeko further reiterated that while the late disbursement of statutory contributions by Partner States to the EAC affect the implementation of EAC activities, 50% of the EAC main budget was currently donor funded and appealed to the Partner States to establish an alternative financing mechanism for the Community.

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The Secretary General also urged the Council of Ministers to review the decision making process of the Community to ensure efficiency and timeliness.

“There are issues that have been on the table for more than eight (8) years, such as the institutional Review and the Alternative Financing Mechanism for the Community”, he said.


“Several Sectoral Councils have been established to better facilitate the implementation of the various EAC Sectoral projects and programmes. In addition, several committees have also been established. While the initial intent was to create an avenue for quick decision-making and speedy implementation activities, this is not necessarily the case today. With time, the EAC is witnessing several Sectoral Councils whose mandate overlaps with other Sectoral Councils, and the same applies for Committees,” said Amb. Mfumukeko.

The Secretary General therefore urged the Council of Ministers to revisit the roles, composition and functions of various Sectoral Councils and Committees.

In his welcoming remarks, Rwandan Minister of Foreign Affairs and EAC Cooperation, Hon. Dr. Richard Sezibera, said that the Retreat comes at a time when there was need to assess fundamental issues affecting EAC integration.

“While we have achieved much, there is always room to assess our progress and plan on ways to better deliver our agenda,” said Dr. Sezibera, who is also the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers.

The Strategic Retreat was convened to provide an avenue to discuss ways in which value can be delivered on important aspects of the EAC integration, including the state of implementation of the EAC integration pillars, management and coordination of EAC Organs and Institutions in advancing the integration agenda and finally the role and expectations of the private sector and civil society in the EAC integration.

Among those attending the retreat are members of the EAC Council of Ministers, Principal Secretaries/Permanent Secretaries/ Under Secretaries, Heads of EAC Organs and Institutions, and representatives of the Private Sector and Civil Society. 

## Tanzanian Vice President calls for Digital Health investment in the EAC

The Vice-President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E, Samia Hassan Suluhu, has called on East African Community Partner States to invest in Digital Health Technology if the region is to fully implement the Sustainable Development Goals and address all aspects of poverty.

“Investing in Health Sector and relevant digital technologies is key for our development that we need to pursue more aggressively as a region,” said Hon. Suluhu.

The Vice-President was speaking during the official opening ceremony of the 7<sup>th</sup> East African Health and Scientific Conference (EAHSC), which took place at the Julius Nyerere International Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

She said Science and technology is an important and vital tool in addressing fundamental gaps in the health sector.

“I wish to commend the organizers for the timely and relevant selection of the theme. Technology for health systems transformation and attainment of the UN-Sustainable Development Goals. This theme comes at an opportune moment as the world is in its fourth industrial revolution where science and technology is taking the lead in all aspects,” added the Vice President.

The Vice president informed the conference that the approval of the Digital Regional East African Community Health (Digital REACH) 10 year strategic plan by the Sectoral Council of Ministers of Health held in Kigali on 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 was an important step towards achieving transformation in the sector.

“I expect that Digital REACH will support the development and implementation of regional health programmes, within existing EAC Regional policies and legal frameworks as provided by the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and as desired by each of the EAC Partner States,” she said.

H.E. Hassan told the participants at the conference that digital health initiatives have been proven as one of the enablers of Sustainable Development Goals in developed countries and a lot of pilot projects all over the world are confirming the same to



be the case in low- and middle-income country settings.

“I therefore encourage Partner States to support the new development in EAC Partner States and call upon the region to work together through Digital Health Technology and reiterate the commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania to take advantage of Digital Health technology to improve implementation of health sector interventions, with the aim of accelerating attainment of the Universal Health Coverage and SDGs.”

On his part, the Chairperson of the Sectoral Council on Health and Ministers of State of Public Health and Primary Health Care, Dr. Patrick Ndimubanzi, said the digital age was transforming the entire health sector and how healthcare was delivered.

“In fact Digital Health solutions can increase access to health services, deliver training for health professionals, provide better diagnostics and health information,” said Dr. Ndimubanzi, who is also Rwanda’s Minister of State in charge of Public Health and Primary Healthcare.

Dr. Ndimubanzi told the conference that ICT and digital health solutions offered the prospect of bringing into reach universal health coverage and the prospect of making health and well-being for all a reality by 2030.

“I am glad to note that the 19<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit of Heads of EAC Partner States held in Kampala in February 2018, committed to invest in Digital Health Technology, as one of the health

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## ... Digital REACH initiative Strategic Plan 2019-2018, East African Web Portal for Health Information and Young East African Research Scientists (YEARS) Forum Launched

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sector investment priorities for the region for the next 10 years; for better research for health, health services delivery and health outcome," said Dr. Ndibumanzi.

The Chair the Sectoral Council call upon the region to put in place strategic policies and practical interventions that can help the EAC Region to boost the uptake of digital health technology.

Representing the EAC Secretary General, Amb Liberat Mfumukeko, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote, said Conference contributes towards strengthening regional cooperation in health in line with Article 118 of the Treaty that established the EAC as well as relevant provisions of the EAC Common Market Protocol which provides a platform or knowledge sharing among health professional in the EAC region.

He urged the EAC Partner States to align their Digital Health strategies and activities with Digital REACH Initiative and to support initiative that complements the national initiatives.

Eng. Mlote said that the conference is expected to come up with the relevant and realistic recommendations for the improvement of health care and delivery through application of technologies for the improvement of the health and the well being of citizens of the Community will be made.

During the official opening, the Vice-President also launched the Digital REACH initiative Strategic Plan 2019-2018, East African Web Portal for Health Information and Young East African Research Scientists (YEARS) forum.

The East African Health and Scientific Conference is biennial and organized on rotational basis within the EAC Partner States.



### RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 7TH EAST AFRICAN HEALTH AND SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE 29 MARCH 2019

Based on the Keynotes Speech, Parallel Sessions and Symposia Presentations, the conference recommends that EAC should:

1. Expedite development and application of innovative approaches (such as the cross boarder health unit model) to cross boarder health, disease outbreak, preparedness and response in boarder areas while adding values to the national health system.
2. Promote establishment of national bio banks and data repositories among the Partner States and develop a regional policy for guiding the use and security of the repositories.
3. Urge the Partner States to participate in development, evaluation and formalization of emerging technologies intended for promoting digital health.
4. Harmonise the regional IP policy to guide development and uptake of digital health technologies.
5. Strengthening platform for digital inclusion where communities have full access to information on surveillance and disease management.
6. Urge the Partner States to fast track the adoption and implementation of Evidence Based Surveillance and enhance mechanisms of sharing information and best practice.
7. Enhance coordination and collaboration between East African countries and international Institutions involved in diseases control including African CDC.
8. Urge the Partner States to promote the involvement of front-line healthcare workers in the design of digital health tools to ensure readiness, for easy adoption, decreasing cost, and increased sustainability.
9. Develop and adopt innovative Regional PPP policies and models specific to digital health Technologies.

## EAC Speakers Launch Regional Parliamentary Institute



Regional Speakers have launched the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) in Nairobi, with the training outfit expected to harness capacities and narrow the skills gap of Parliamentarians and staff in the quest to further strengthen the integration process.

Speaking at the official launch on Friday last week, EALA Speaker, Rt Hon Ngoga K Martin, underscored the importance of the institute's presence in the region, to catapult the integration process and provide a valuable link between people within the EAC and beyond. He remarked that EAPI would provide an adequate base of knowledge on legislative matters to Members of Parliament and staff who at times come from different background when they join Parliaments.

Rt Hon Ngoga lauded the regional speakers for their contribution to the process. "The launch of the EAPI is definitely an indication of the total commitment accrued to the integration dispensation by Parliaments and by yourselves. It is only befitting to recognize each and every one of you for the support you have personally and/or collectively accorded and extended to the EAPI", Rt Hon Ngoga said.

The launch of EAPI follows the enactment of the East African Parliamentary Institute Bill, 2011, which anchors and provides for the legal framework of its establishment. The EAPI Act inter alia establishes a mechanism for capacity and skills development to promote professionalism through establishment of the institute thus giving effect to article 5 (1) of the Treaty. The Speaker lauded the EAC Heads of State for assent to the Bill, whose operationalization, now sets basis for motion of the objectives of the Institute.

According to the Act, the regional Speakers form the Board of Trustees of the new Institution which shall be chaired by the EALA Speaker while the Clerk of the regional assembly shall oversee the activities of its Governing Council. At the recent 38th Meeting of the Council of Ministers, the matter of an institutional structure was discussed and according to Rt Hon Ngoga, the Board of Trustees shall promptly propel forward the administrative framework to make EAPI fully operational.

Present at the occasion were Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Rt Hon Justin Muturi, Rt Hon Kenneth Lusaka, Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, the Vice President of the

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## Court Hears Case Challenging the Election of Current EALA Speaker



The First Instance Division on 11th March, 2019 heard the case filed by the government of Burundi (Applicant) challenging the process of electing the current Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) which was held on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2017.

The Applicant argues that the elections that were held in the absence of the Honourable Members of the Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania are in violation of the fundamental Principles of the Community under Articles 6 (d), 7 and 57 (1) and Rule 12 (1) of EALA Rules of Procedure.

The matter came before Honourable Judges Lady Justice Monica Mugenyi (Principal Judge), Justice Dr Faustin Nteziyayo (Deputy Principal Judge), Justice Fakihi A. Jundu, Justice Dr. Charles Nyawello and Justice Charles Nyachae.

Mr. Nestor Kayobera, the Counsel representing Burundi, submitted to court that the election of the Speaker of EALA is governed by the EAC Treaty and the Assembly's Rules of procedure and that Article 9 (4) of the Treaty obligates Organs and Institutions of the Community to perform the functions and act within the limits of the powers conferred upon them by the Treaty.

Mr. Kayobera also contended that the issue of quorum is a Treaty obligation under Article 57 and rule 12 (1) of EALA Rules of Procedure which provides that; *The quorum of the House or of the Committee of the Whole House shall be half of the elected Members and such quorum shall be composed of at least one third of the elected Members from each Partner State*". He argued that, violation of the rule on quorum entails violation of the Treaty.

Counsel further submitted that on 19<sup>th</sup> December, 2017, the Speaker of EALA was elected without the Members from Burundi and Tanzania hence a violation of the principles of good governance and Rule of Law. Mr. Kayobera also argued that Article 23 of the Treaty provides powers to the Court as the judicial organ to ensure adherence to law in the interpretation and application of and compliance of the Treaty.

Summing up his submissions, Mr. Kayobera said that the Speaker of EALA was not elected in accordance with the Treaty and the Rules of the Assembly and therefore asked the Court to order re election in accordance to the Treaty and rules of the Assembly. Mr Kayobera appeared with Mr Vyzigiro Diodeme, State Attorney in the Attorney General's Office Burundi.

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## ... EAPI was initially mooted in 2001 as a joint venture

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Senate of Rwanda, Hon Gakuba Jean d' Arc and the Chair of the EAC Committee in Parliament of Uganda, Hon Ouma George Abbott, who represented the Speaker. The Speaker Emeritus of EALA, Rt Hon Abdirahin H. Abdi, was also in attendance.

In his remarks, Speaker of Senate of Kenya, Rt Hon Kenneth Lusaka, rallied for capacity development of legislators saying in remained critical in ensuring effective service delivery to the Parliamentary leadership, legislators and the electorate. The Speaker called for collective effort on the part of parliaments and all other stakeholders towards offering sustained commitment and unity of purpose.

On his part, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Rt Hon Justin Muturi, affirmed that EAPI would be a catalyst in guiding legislators to embrace evidence-based legislation which would play a key part in ensuring quality of legislation is improved. The Vice President of the Senate of Rwanda, Hon Gakuba Jean d' Arc hailed the inception of the Institute as visionary and said the Parliament of Rwanda was committed to ensuring it is fully in operations. Hon George Ouma Abbot of Parliament of Uganda reiterated the need for strong institutions in the integration dispensation.

EAPI was initially mooted in 2001 as a joint venture between the State University of New York (SUNY), the National Assemblies of the Partner States and EALA as well as the United States International University (USIU). At that point, the FORD Foundation offered the initial seed fund.

A key conference, bringing together senior parliamentary staff from the region took place 3 years later (in 2004) and the occasion served as an avenue to share experiences with regards to implementing change and embracing modernization in the respective legislatures. Under the new arrangement, Parliaments of the region are to largely fund the institution, a move hailed as key in its long-term sustainability. ●

## ... Court to deliver judgment on notice.

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Dr Anthony Kafumbe, representing the Secretary General (Respondent), on his part, submitted that the election of the Speaker was done under Part III of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. He further submitted that under Part III of EALA Rules of procedure, Rule 6 (9) (c) on the election of the Speaker, it is not mandatory for every member to vote, hence the Members of Burundi and Tanzania had liberty not to vote. Rule 6 (9) (c) states that; ***"After all Members who wish to vote have voted, the Clerk shall in full view of the Members present, empty the ballot box and immediately count the ballot paper contained in it"***.

He also argued that the issue of quorum does not apply, that it only applies when the house is duly constituted. He therefore submitted that there was no illegal election process, that the Speaker was elected under relevant provisions of the Rules of procedure of the Assembly and that the election process did not violate the Treaty.

Dr. Kafumbe further submitted that as Article 9 of the Treaty obligates the Organs and Institutions of the Community, the Assembly acted within its mandate and in accordance with its rules of procedure.

Dr. Kafumbe also contended that Members of the Assembly have accepted the Speaker and a lot of business is going on and therefore, it would not be helpful to nullify the election and order fresh election.

Dr. Kafumbe also took issue with the Affidavits sworn by the Applicant's Counsel on the basis of information relayed to him by EALA's Members from the Republic of Burundi and submitted that the Court should reject the said affidavits as evidence since Counsel was not a witness and could not even have been a witness and a Counsel at the same time; the impugned affidavits ought to have been sworn by the Burundi's Members of EALA, he argued.

In light of his submissions, Dr. Kafumbe prayed that the Reference be dismissed with costs to the Respondent. Dr Kafumbe was accompanied by Ms. Brenda Ntihinurwa, a Legal expert in the Office of the Counsel to the Community.

The Intervener, Hon. Fred Mukasa Mbidd,e represented by Mr Donald Deya, Mr. Justin Semuyaba and Mr Nelson Ndeki in court, associated their submissions with the Respondent and asked the Court not to grant the orders sought by the Applicants.

The Court will deliver the judgment on notice. ●

## AfDB pledges support for EAC Agriculture and Industrialization

The Director General for Eastern Africa Region at the African Development Bank (AfDB), Mr. Gabriel Negatu has pledged more support to agriculture and industrialization in the East African Community (EAC) bloc.

The Director General made the statement on 20th March, 2019 when he paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretary General Amb Liberat Mfumukeko at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. He noted that investment in agriculture and industrialization is the crucial for the development of the region.

Addressing the media soon after meeting the Secretary General, Mr Negatu said it is a fact that the East African Community (EAC) economies are dominated by agriculture which is the core economic sector employing 75-90% of their respective populations. He said in order to exploit regional and international markets, the opportunity for industrial growth exists in locally producing inputs for use in the agricultural sector.

Agricultural performance is critically important to pro-poor growth since it employs over 75% of Partner States population, where the majority of them live in rural settings. The sector provides a basis for improvement of livelihoods in both rural and urban populations, added Negatu

Speaking on integration process, Mr Negatu said EAC is still the fastest growing region partly due to solving bottleneck of communication by investing heavily in infrastructure.

"I would like to request all Partner States to focus on the challenge of doing business in order to realize value integration process in the region"

On his part, the EAC Secretary General Amb Liberat Mfumukeko thanked the AfDB through the Director General for the continued support to EAC integration and reiterated the EAC commitment to strengthen this partnership and move it to greater height.

Amb Mfumukeko disclosed to the media that for the last 5 years, the Bank has financed a number of infrastructure projects including feasibility studies and detailed designs for multinational road projects for which implementation is ongoing. These include the Nyakanazi –Kasulu /Rumonge Bujumbura and the Lusuhunga –



Rusumo / Kayonza, Masaka-Mutukula-Kyaka-Bugen

He added that the Bank also supporting soft infrastructure/policy projects towards achieving the EAC integration agenda. These include the East Africa Trade and Transport Facilitation Project (which closed in August 2018); the EAC-Payments and Settlement System, and the 50 Million African Women Speak Networking Platform Projects, which are ongoing.

Reporting on the \$2.5 billion which were considered by the AfDB Bank through the approved Regional Integration Strategy for East Africa (RISP 2018-2022), the Secretary General said funds will go towards enhancing regional transport connectivity, regional energy infrastructure, regional ICT connectivity, and management of trans-boundary water resources.

In addition, the funds will also support projects aimed at accelerating implementation of the EAC single market, trade development including tackling of non-tariff barriers (NTBs), and putting in place policy frameworks for industrialization and promotion of EAC as a single investment destination.

The Secretary General also thanked the AfDB for accepting to support agriculture and industry in the region as well as some Heads of State approved infrastructure and Health projects.

The meeting was also attended by the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure Eng. Steven Mlote and other EAC senior officials.



## Ireland Hails Partner States' Commitment to EAC Integration



The Republic of Ireland has hailed the commitment of the six East African Community (EAC) Partner States to the EAC integration process.

Ireland's Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, H.E. Paul Sherlock, further disclosed that his country would continue to promote trade and development cooperation between his country and the EAC.

Amb. Sherlock said that Ireland's experience within the European Union was that every regional integration process has its challenges which can be surmounted through negotiations by the member countries.

Amb. Sherlock said that Ireland would continue to provide support to EAC integration initiatives through TradeMark East Africa, a not-for-profit company established in 2010 to support the growth of regional and international trade in East Africa.

The Irish envoy was speaking when he paid a courtesy call at the EAC Headquarters where he held discussions with senior officers from the EAC Directorates of Customs and Trade. At hand to receive the Ambassador was Alhaj Rashid Kibowa, the Director of Trade at the EAC Secretariat.

In his remarks, Alhaj Kibowa informed the Amb. Sherlock that the Community was increasingly encouraging bilateral mechanisms among Partner States to resolve Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to trade.

Alhaj Kibowa said that all EAC Partner States assented to the EAC Elimination of NTBs Act 2017, adding that NTBs were continuously being addressed by stakeholders at all levels of the Community.

Alhaj Kibowa further said that the Community had embarked on ambitious infrastructure development in the roads, railways, ports and energy sectors to spur economic growth and trade in East Africa.

Accompanying the Ambassador at the discussions were Mr. Robert Hull, Second Secretary at the Embassy of Ireland in Dar es Salaam and Mr. Kenneth Gitonga, Commercial Attaché at the Irish Embassy in Nairobi.

With Alhaj Kibowa from the EAC Secretariat were Mr. Stephen Analo, Principal Customs Officer (Capacity Building), Ms. Flavia Busingye, Principal Compliance and Enforcement Officer, and Ms. Monica Mihigo, Principal Internal Trade Officer.



## EAC Commemorates 25 Years of the Genocide against the Tutsi



The Commemoration event took place at the EAC headquarters on 7th April, 2019 and was attended by 400 people largely students from nearby secondary schools and universities, Staff from EAC and United Nations International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals (UN IRMCT) members of Rwanda Community in Arusha-Moshi and friends of Rwanda;

The Commemoration event was preceded by a Walk to remember and laying of wreaths on the Commemoration monument at the EAC gardens.

The Longido District Commissioner, Mr. Frank Mwesumbe who represented the government of United Republic of Tanzania stressed that it is the duty of everyone in the world in our various capacities, to spare no efforts in fighting against genocide ideology in all ways of its manifestation. He emphasized the importance of actively involving the youth in all affairs as they constitute a big population and equipping them with necessary skills needed to develop their countries but also educating them about the dangers of harboring such ill motives and backward destructive ideologies like genocide ideology, revisionism and divisionism.

The main discussant Hon. Fred Mukasa Mbidde, member of East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) from Uganda presented about the role of politicians in curbing genocide ideology and ensuring peaceful co-existence in which he highlighted the misdeeds of the genocide government and commended the current government of Rwanda led by H.E Paul Kagame for the many economic miracles, recovery and harmonious living amongst Rwandans. He said that as EAC commemorate the genocide against the Tutsi the region should be happy for what Rwanda has achieved so far especially for turning around the country where its mention in any international sphere is equated to growth, peace, development and visionary leadership. He emphasized that solving genocide is also equal to solving state of affairs by putting everything to do with politics of exclusion and ethno classes out of our political equation. Thus, Rwanda should take credit for what they have achieved in their response to genocide. He further strongly called on EAC Partner States to support Rwanda's bid to restoring Peace and stability by prosecuting or extraditing a huge number of genocide perpetrators reported to be hiding in the EAC region. He emphasized that in the EAC oneness, EAC Partner States should be happy of what their neighbor nations in the region are doing rather than mastermind-

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# EAC Commemorates 25 Years of the Genocide against the Tutsi

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ing wars and creating unnecessary insecurity blunders in an effort to destabilize the other nations and thus fomenting genocidal conducive environment. He concluded by strongly recommending that EAC Partner States should swallow their pride and agree to establish a protective wall against anything that might lead to genocide happening again anywhere in the EAC region.


On his part, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo who represented the EAC Secretary General reminded the audience that it was at this time of the year in 1994 that the world witnessed the beginning of one of the most horrible atrocities in the Human history. He said that in only 100 days over a million of innocent men and women lost their lives as the world watched in total inactivity. Yet, we all know that we are all created equal and have the right to life and that no one has a right to take another person's life. He however added that though Rwanda has made tremendous strides to rebuild the societal fabric and create pragmatic pace for healing where the impossible became possible and the unexpected became reality, Rwanda has yet fully recovered from this barbaric act. He reminded the audience that the commemoration by EAC Secretariat call for the region to keep on supporting Rwanda on its path to total healing and also at the same time care about genocide and fight against its ideology because what happened in Rwanda in 1994 and its consequences can happen anyway in the EAC Community if people do not stand and vehemently own the fight against it together as one people working for one destiny. He recalled the chronology followed by EAC to directly own the commemoration processes at regional level. EAC recognized the genocide as a crime against humanity and erected a monument in the EAC gardens and set April 7th every year in the calendar as a special day for commemoration of the genocide against the Tutsi. Currently, EAC is considering possibilities for setting the day as an EAC day for commemoration and setting aside a budget in the EAC annual budgets.

Ms. Tembile who represented UN IRMCT recalled the importance of commemoration to reaffirm the commitment to stop and prevent genocide. She said that the International community salute and recognize the courage of those who stopped the genocide and provided immediate support to genocide survivors. She further noted that the International Community's direct contribution came in form of setting up an Intentional Criminal Tribunal Court for



Rwanda to bring the genocide perpetrators to book and thus promote rule of law. In addition, the International Community also in unison declared the Genocide against the Tutsi as a crime against humanity and set the 7th April every year as an International Remembrance Day. She however reminded people that out of 300 genocide perpetrators identified in the EAC region and 805 in Africa, only 100 were apprehended and brought to book and faced justice. She ended her remarks by emphasizing on the pending files of three major genocide perpetrators that the Mechanism is looking forward to deal with any time when the fugitives are arrested.

Eng. Daniel Murenzi, the Diaspora Chairman called on members of the Rwandese community in Diaspora to embrace Ndumunyaruwanda program as a unifying factor for all Rwandans across the globe, and harness the fight against genocide ideology.

Eng. John Kizito, who represented the Rwanda High Commissioner in Tanzania, recounted how Rwanda government has restored the broken Society fabric in the last 25 years through unity and reconciliation and the invisible hand of the international community in the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi and called them all to stand against genocide ideology by responding to indictments, enacting and enforcing laws that fight impunity, Genocide revisionism and denial. He emphasized that this can be possible if done through Young people who constitute a very big force to reckon with in every life aspects. 

## Scientists to Harness Nitrogen for Productivity in Lake Victoria Basin

Scientists from International Nitrogen Management Systems (INMS), Institute for Tropical Agriculture (IITA) University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, and Makerere University in partnership with Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) collectively reflected on strategies of harnessing Nitrogen for productivity in Lake Victoria Basin region.

The meeting which started on 5<sup>th</sup> and ended 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at Imperial Express Hotel, Kisumu, Republic of Kenya was guided by two objectives—to come up with a set of recommendations for good nitrogen management strategies for East Africa Demonstration Sites and enable participants appraise and familiarize themselves with barriers of achieving sustainable nitrogen management in Lake Victoria Basin and potential options to overcome identified barriers.



In the two days Conference, scientists and LVBC team sought to respond to among other paradoxes: responding to 'too much-too little nitrogen paradox,' bridging science-policy gaps and reconciling sophistication inherent in science research products and simplification of messages to the benefit of over 45 million citizens of Lake Victoria Basin. Scientists in the meeting resolved to work with specialist communications to not only package messages but to align messages to the most relevant audiences—knowledge consumers. Similar commitments were made on bridging policy-science knowledge gaps in EAC Partner States.

Opening the LVBC Executive Secretary Dr. Ally-Said Matano emphasized balancing too much-too little paradox in the Lake Victoria Basin, hence the need for scientists to investigate practices, policies and existing knowledge on nitrogen at all levels—regional, national and local in East Africa of East Africa.

"Sustainable use of Nitrogen is relevant to Lake Victoria Basin region because 70% (35 millions) of citizens in the wider Lake Victoria derive their livelihoods from agriculture systems. However, there is need to optimize Nitrogen for productivity while reducing environmental threats," LVBC Executive, Dr. Matano said. The LVBC also shared with scientists the nitrogen loading rate in Lake Victoria and how the water hyacinth derives its survival from higher nitrogen presence in Lake Victoria waters.


Presentations in the conference also outlined three major gaps: policy, funding and science gaps. Scientists considered scientific gaps to mean limited efforts to determine the magnitude and quantity of nitrogen but reliance on estimates. According to Dr. Cargele Maso from International Nitrogen Management System, "with such scientific gap, science cannot adequately inform poli-

cies in East Africa." Scientists also cited limited implementation and enforcement of policy and legal instruments as a major gap still limiting strategic and operational management of nitrogen in the EAC Partner States.

Scientists observed that leaving large quantities of fertilizers such animal manure exposed to the sunshine makes valuable nitrogen escape into atmosphere hence contributing to heat waves associated with climate change in some parts of the world.

As the specialized institution of East African Community, LVBC, according to Dr. Matano, regional Industrial and Effluent Treat Standards adopted by the Council of Ministers and implemented by EAC Partner States is an indication of goodwill of policy-makers, but he acknowledged there is still gaps between enactment and implementation of laws and policies at national levels.

According to Dr. Cargele Maso, the partnership between LVBC and INMS provides synergetic opportunities specifically in harnessing science to influence changes in policies, practices and cultures favorable to climate change because of destructive nitrogen in EAC Partner States.

LVBC Executive Secretary noted that the existing partnership between INMS and the LVBC will contribute in positioning Nitrogen Management Strategies in reducing high regret investments and practices such as overfishing, massive cutting of trees, poor farming practices and unregulated industrial discharges in and around Lake Victoria. Scientists prioritized positioning strategic communication at the heart of science as a pathway to achieving the development objectives of EAC partner States. 

## EAC Holds Technical Working Group Meeting on Pilot Testing of Harmonized Pesticides Guidelines for Efficacy Trials

The EAC Deputy Secretary General in-charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo has called upon pest control product companies to take advantage of EAC harmonized system for testing and registration of pesticides.

The 38th Extra-Ordinary Council of Ministers held on 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2019 approved the EAC pesticides management guidelines on efficacy trials, residue trials and registration requirements. The Council further directed Partner States to domesticate them by 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020.

The EAC harmonized system comes with a number of benefits that will translate to reduced time and costs associated with testing and registration of pest control products across EAC Partner States. It is expected that farmers in the region will have increased access to quality, safe and affordable pesticides.

Hon. Bazivamo informed the companies that involvement of the Private Sector is pivotal for successful implementation of the guidelines. He further said that EAC appreciates and recognizes the contribution that the private sector makes in the EAC integration agenda.

Hon. Bazivamo made the remarks during the Technical Working Group meeting on pilot testing of EAC harmonized pesticides registration guidelines held at the Mt. Meru Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania from 18<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019.

The meeting was convened by the EAC Secretariat with support from USAID Kenya & East Africa, the United States Department of Agriculture and Africa Lead II. The main objective of the meeting was to finalize roadmap and discuss modalities of pilot testing of EAC harmonized guidelines for testing and registration of pesticides.

The meeting was attended by members of the EAC Technical Working Group on Pesticides harmonization, Agriculture Desk officers from Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, pest control product companies (Bayer, Syngenta, AgBiTech, REAL IPM, Corteva, Triachem, Provivi and Arysta Life Science), CropLife Africa Middle East, the African Agricultural Technology Foundation, Africa Lead, the Alliance for a Green Revolution and the EAC Secretariat.



Addressing the meeting, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, mentioned that area of agrochemicals and pest control products is a key priority in the EAC agricultural sector. Article 108 of the EAC Treaty focuses on the need for EAC Partner States to adopt common mechanism to ensure safety, efficacy and potency of agricultural inputs including chemicals, drugs and vaccines.

Hon. Bazivamo informed the meeting that 11<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security held in June 2018 adopted the EAC pesticides management guidelines and urged Partner States to pilot implementation of the pesticide efficacy guidelines for the first three years in order to pave way for operationalization of full mutual recognition.

The Sectoral Council also urged Partner States to prioritize joint testing of pesticides and to share information on products that can control the Fall Army Worm which has posed a major threat to food security in the region.

Since 2016 the Fall Army Worm has been spreading across much of sub-Saharan Africa. Currently, over 45 countries out of 55 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa have been affected. It is estimated that Fall Army Worm has the potential to cause maize yield losses in the range of US\$ 2 to 6 billion in Africa's maize producing countries.

During the meeting, representatives of Bayer, Syngenta, AgBiTech, REAL IPM, Corteva, Provivi and Arysta Life Science made presentations about products developed by their respective companies to control the Fall Army Worm. The presentations also outlined the efficacy and safety of the products and EAC Partner States where the companies intend to conduct pilot trials of their products.



# Preparations for the 4th Edition of the EAC Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST 2019)

## Kick off



Preparations for the 4th Edition of the East African Community Arts and Culture Festival, popularly known as Jumuiya ya Africa Mashariki Utamaduni Festival (JAMAFEST), are already in high gear with the 1st meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) being held from 4th to 8th March, 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The 1st meeting of the Regional Steering Committee was chaired by Mr. Nyakana Oswald, the EAC and Eastern Africa Officer in Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, while Mr. Gwamaka Lazarous Mwandwani, the Community Development Officer in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Tanzania was the Rapporteur.

Addressing delegates during the RSC, Tanzania's Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information, Culture, Arts and Sports, Ms. Susan P. Mlawi, said Tanzania would greatly honour to host the 4th Edition of JAMAFEST and was committed to deliver a successful festival.

Ms. Mlawi disclosed that Tanzania had started preparations on the ground with a National Organizing Committee (NOC), adding that Sub-Committees were already in place. She thanked Uganda for successfully hosting the 3rd Edition of JAMAFEST.

The PS underscored the significance of JAMAFEST as a platform for fostering regional socio-cultural integration in East Africa. She reiterated the role of JAMAFEST in promoting unity in diversity, sharing cross-cultural experiences and dialogues, cultural exchanges and for celebrating the rich and diverse cultures and heritage of the people of East Africa.

She reaffirmed Tanzania's to deliver a successful JAMAFEST and urged the RSC to work closely with the National Organizing Committee for a successful festival. She urged the organizers to also use the event to promote Kiswahili as the lingua franca of the Community, adding that the festival was key to promoting economic growth, tourism and regional integration.

At the RSC meeting, the Principal Culture and Sports Officer at the EAC Secretariat, Mr. Bakaye Lubega, on behalf of the Secretary General, outlined the objectives of JAMAFEST and shared some of the highlights from the previous Festivals.

He outlined the matters that the regional committee meeting was to deliberate on that included: the festival Concept Paper; developing the theme; lessons from previous editions of JAMAFEST; site visits and selection of venues; administration and logistical plans; theme song, and; detailed road map for JAMAFEST 2019.

The Regional Steering Committee agreed that the theme of JAMAFEST 2019 to be: "Cultural Diversity: A Key Driver to Regional Integration, Economic Growth and Promotion of Tourism". The Festival is planned for 21 to 28 September, 2019 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The Committee further agreed on sub-themes which shall also form topics for discussions during the Jamafest Symposium 2019 by Partner States. Uganda was assigned to prepare the key note on the Festival Theme: Cultural Diversity as a Driver of Regional Economic Growth; Tanzania was tasked with making a presentation on Cultural Tourism and Regional Economic Development; while Burundi will tackle Cultural Diversity and the Empowerment of Women, Youth and children.

Kenya was assigned the task of making a presentation on Persons with Disabilities and Cultural Diversity for Regional Integration, South Sudan will present on Policy and Regulatory Frameworks for the Promotion of Culture and Creative Industries, while Rwanda will prepare a presentation on Kiswahili language as a catalyst for Regional Integration.

A Festival Theme Song will be developed by the host Partner State Tanzania and shall be performed at the official opening of the Festival.



## 50 Million African Women Project conducts User Training on Digital Platform



The 50 Million Speak Project (50MWS) conducted a user training on the Digital Platform from the 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019, in Lusaka-Zambia, aimed at providing women with access to information on financial and non-financial services while creating a community of women who will act as peers, advisors and mentors to each other.

The training was organized by the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), which is the Coordinating Regional Community in the implementation of the 50MWS Project.

The objective of the training was to equip the users with the required skills in managing the Platform ahead of the official launch planned in a few months.

Opening the Workshop, the COMESA Assistant Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration, Dr Dev Haman described the platform as a “game changer” in the agenda of women economic empowerment across the African continent.

“Women like any other person on the planet are experiencing profound changes that modern technologies bring to the way they live, work, interact and do business” Dr Dev Haman said.

This reality compels us to share knowledge among ourselves if we want to be efficient in our interventions, the Assistant Secretary General continued.

COMESA has recruited Izertis, a Spanish software vendor to help develop the platform and provide capacity building to users.

Knowledge gained by the participants will be transferred to end-users who are women in business to allow them access the information on financial and non-financial services that will provide the platform.

COMESA indicated that they have started engaging different partners around the implementation of this Project who have promised to bring in their contribution to allow women entrepreneurs to access much needed information to efficiently do their businesses.

The 50 Million Women Speak Project is a project that excites everyone, Dr Dev concluded.

The 50MWS Project aims to transform the role of women entrepreneurs in Africa. It is in alignment with the gender policies and frameworks of respective implementing Regional Economic Communities (RECs) namely East African Community (EAC), Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) and the Economic Community of the Western African States (ECOWAS).

All these implementing RECs have put in place tools which aim to contribute towards the achievement of the gender equality and empowerment of women.



## Competition Experts Draft EAC Competition Authority Outreach and Advocacy Strategy

A four-days Competition Experts Consultative Meeting to draft the East African Competition Authority (EACA) Outreach and Advocacy Strategy (2019/20 – 2024/25) concluded today in Bujumbura, Burundi.

The 26<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 meeting was attended by Competition and Communication Experts from all the Partner States and staff from the EAC Secretariat.

Rwanda is the current chair of the EAC hence according to the EAC Rules of Procedures, Mr. Louis Uwimana, from Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, chaired the meeting while, Mr. Salvator Gaspar Chuwa, from the Fair Competition Commission of in Tanzania was the Rapporteur.

Addressing the Experts during the official opening of the meeting, the Chairperson thanked the Burundi for hosting the meeting and reminded participants that the EACA was a new institution of the Community mandated to promote and protect fair competition, safeguard consumer welfare in the EAC.

Chuwa reiterated the need to develop the EACA Outreach and Advocacy Strategy, which is expected to facilitate and strengthen stakeholder awareness on competition matters. He further said that the Strategy would ease enforcement of the EAC Competition Act, 2006 by the Partner States.

On her part, Ms. Lillian Mukoronia, the Deputy Registrar of EACA in charge of Mergers and Acquisition, commended Partner States for their continued support and cooperation in the operationalization of EACA.

She noted that many stakeholders have limited knowledge on the role of competition policy in the Community markets yet competition enforcement was critical if the region is to achieve the visions of having optimal open markets.

Ms. Mukoronia further said that the EACA Outreach and Advocacy Strategy is a tool expected to be used in raising awareness and advocacy on competition policy benefits in the region.

The Deputy Registrar affirmed that the EACA Outreach and Advocacy Strategy had been informed by critical documents in the regional integration agenda namely; the EAC Competition Act, 2006; the EACA Strategic Plan (2019/20 – 2023/24); the 5<sup>th</sup> EAC Development Strategy (2016/17 – 2020/21); and the EAC Communication Policy and Strategy. She noted that the Strategy will complement the existing EAC Communication Policy and Strategy.

The draft EAC Competition Authority Outreach and Advocacy Strategy (2019/20 – 2024/25) developed during the meeting will undergo further enrichment by the Partner States and the Secretariat before submission to the EACA Commissioners for consideration and approval.



### CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE EAST AFRICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The East African Journal of Science, Technology and Innovation (EAJSTI) will launch its first call for papers for publication on 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 2019 in Kampala Uganda.

EAJSTI is designed as a multidisciplinary, open access and peer review journal, publishing original research of relevance to the East African Community (EAC) region, covering basic and applied research in science, technology and innovation.

The **goal of the Journal** is *to enhance, advance and disseminate scientific, technological and innovative knowledge that supports regional socio-economic development.*

For more information visit: <http://eajsti.org>

### CALL FOR IUCEA-WORLD BANK MASTERS FELLOWSHIPS 2019

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) in partnership with the World Bank invites applicants to apply for the IUCEA-World Bank Masters Fellowships for 2019. To encourage the participation of young African female students at postgraduate level and to promote regional female student mobility, the fully funded fellowships are **only open to females**.

To be eligible, one must obtain an admission from an Africa Center of Excellence (ACE) **outside of one's own country** of current nationality to study full-time in any of the priority disciplines of the ACE II Project:

- (i) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) or Industry
- (ii) Agriculture
- (iii) Health
- (iv) Education and
- (v) Applied Statistics.

All applications must be received not later than 5.00 PM East African Time on **June 30 2019**.

For more information visit: <https://www.eac.int/education/scholarship-opportunities>

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