



EAC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

15TH MAY, 2023



Latest from the Office of the Secretary General

- National Consultations for drafting of the Constitution for the EAC Political Confederation resumes in Kenya
- Kampala hosts the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS FOR DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE EAC POLITICAL CONFEDERATION RESUMES IN KENYA



National consultations for the drafting of the Constitution of the East African Community (EAC) Political Confederation resumed in Mombasa, Kenya with the launch of 20-day long public hearing sessions across the country.

The 20-day consultations will see the team of constitutional experts for Drafting the EAC Political Federation Constitution hold consultations with civil society, local leaders, opinion leaders and the business community, among other stakeholders, to seek their views on what kind of a Political Confederation they would desire for the EAC.

Apart from Mombasa, the team of experts will hold consultations in Kisumu, Kakamega, Eldoret, Nakuru, Nyeri, Embu, Garissa and Nairobi counties.

Speaking at the launch, the Cabinet Secretary for East African Community, Arid and Semi-Arid Lands and Regional Development, Ms. Rebecca Miano, said that national stakeholders' consultations on the Political Confederation was a crucial engagement in the context of the Community's efforts towards promoting popular participation, which in turn, will inform the policy decision to be made.

"I can confirm to you that the team of experts will listen to and engage Kenyans on what type of Confederal Constitution EAC should have from all the 47 counties across the country. We therefore appeal to the media to sensitize our citizens and create public awareness about this exercise starting today, 8th May to 27th May, 2023," added the Minister.

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS FOR DRAFTING OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR THE EAC POLITICAL CONFEDERATION RESUMES IN KENYA



The Cabinet Secretary made an appeal to members of the public to get in touch with offices of the Governors in all the 47 Counties for guidance on how to participate or at the offices of the Regional and County Commissioners.

The key areas of interest for the Experts will centre around; cooperation under the political confederation; the governing structure of the political confederation; modes of decision-making by the confederal authority; governance principles of the confederation; and other constitutional issues of concern to stakeholders.

On his part, the EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mutuku Mathuki disclosed that the Republic of Kenya is the third Partner State where national consultations are being conducted, adding that national consultations had already been conducted in the Republic of Burundi in January 2020 and the Republic of Uganda in April 2021.

“I call upon all invited stakeholders to make time, have their views heard and contributions made in order to shape the eventual Constitution for the EAC Political Federation,” he added.

Justice Benjamin Odoki, the Chairman of the Committee of Constitutional Experts revealed that the Experts will use the 20-day long public hearings to listen and discuss with the people of Kenya on the EAC Political Confederation that they want, building on the existing EAC Treaty and the achievements already recorded.

Other issues will be the challenges encountered, the new developments marked by the admission of new Partner States, namely the Democratic Republic of Congo and the ongoing process to admit the Federal Republic of Somalia, as well as the changing geopolitical environment at the regional level, the African Continent level and globally.

KAMPALA HOSTS THE 10TH EAST AFRICAN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION



The Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E. Jessica Alupo, on Tuesday, 9th May, 2023 officially opened the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2023, themed East Africa as a hub for Investment in Exploration and Exploitation of Petroleum Resources for Sustainable Energy and Socioeconomic Development.

VP Alupo, who represented the President of Uganda, H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, disclosed that the EAC region was cognizant of the threats posed by climate change and that the region supports measures aimed at protecting the environment.

According to the Vice President, the global push for energy transition is coming at a time when the East African region has established significant petroleum projects that can greatly contribute to the economies of the region.

“The strategy addresses the development of refineries and other infrastructure required to enhance storage and distribution of petroleum products in the region,” she added.

The VP said that the biannual conference and exhibition was one way of promoting the petroleum potential and investment opportunities in the oil and gas sector in the region.

“Currently there are only 37 international oil and gas companies licensed to carry out petroleum prospecting in the region. I, therefore, urge local and international companies to take advantage of the opportunities in the sector,” she said.

KAMPALA HOSTS THE 10TH EAST AFRICAN PETROLEUM CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION



Uganda's Minister of Energy and Petroleum Development, Uganda, Hon. Dr. Ruth Ssentamu, said that energy access and security were key aspirations for the region, adding that there is need to explore all the available energy resources.

"Energy is an important factor for the development of any economy, without energy we can not attain the intended goals of integration," said Dr. Ssentamu.

EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr) Peter Mathuki, observed that a few years ago, the East African region did not attract significant investments in the oil and gas sector but today, the region had benefited from advances in technology and management of exploration and production, which has led to the discovery of commercially viable oil and gas deposits.

"The discoveries in the region are very impressive; Uganda has 6.5 billion barrels and Kenya has 750 million barrels of oil reserves discovered and more than 50 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in Tanzania, exports of crude oil from South Sudan and the signs of oil and gas prospects in Burundi and Rwanda where they are undertaking exploration", said Dr. Mathuki.

The former Chairperson of the Uganda Chamber of Mines and Petroleum, Hon. Dr. Elly Karuhanga, celebrated East Africa as an exciting part of the world and home to the world's largest deposits of natural resources.

"The potential for the region gives us so much to do, we must therefore unleash our full potential and device practical solutions as we embark on the sustainable development of the oil and gas sector," said Dr. Karuhanga.

TOP REGIONAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

East Africa: Region To Unlock Regional Economic Benefits, Constitutional Experts Say

Fostering social and political integration within the East African Community (EAC) is set to boost the economic growth with border counties earmarked for major development following the implementation of the proposed confederation model. [MORE](#)

Kenya and Somalia agree to phased border reopening

Kenya and Somalia have agreed to reopen their common border after more than a decade, Kenya's interior minister said on Monday as ties warm between the two neighbours following years of tensions. [MORE](#)

Tanzania says LNG project development to cost \$42b

Tanzania says the cost of developing its liquefied natural gas (LNG) project is \$42 billion after the recent technical analysis, as the country eyes next month to sign the host government agreement and embark on the front-end engineering design of what will become the largest energy project in eastern and southern Africa. [MORE](#)

Uganda hosts 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition

Partners from the East Africa converged in Uganda for the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2023. The 2023 edition of the conference, explored the region as a hub for Investment in Exploration and Exploitation of Petroleum Resources for Sustainable Energy and Socioeconomic Development. [MORE](#)

Rwanda's President Kagame and ITC boss discuss trade, investment

President Paul Kagame, on Tuesday, May 9, received Pamela Coke-Hamilton, Executive Director of the International Trade Centre (ITC), and her delegation for a discussion on trade, investment, and Africa's position in the changing face of global trade. [MORE](#)

In Burundi, Guterres outlines challenges facing the region

"Everyone must put an end to hate speech, work to restore trust, and refrain from any action that could undermine the progress made for peace in DRC," UN Secretary-General António Guterres in Bujumbura. [MORE](#)

South Sudan to host Energy event Positioning the country at the centre of Regional Energy Development

Taking place under the theme, 'The Engine of East African Growth', and on the cusp of numerous advancements in the sector, this year's South Sudan Oil & Power (SSOP) 2023 conference and exhibition – held in official partnership with the country's Ministry of Petroleum – comes at a pivotal moment for a country that has emerged as the cornerstone for energy development. [MORE](#)

DRC's offers operating license to Tanzania's CRDB Bank

CRDB Bank Plc said yesterday that it has finally secured a licence to operate in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), expanding its foothold in the East African Community region. DR Congo is the newest member of the EAC. CRDB already operates in Burundi. [MORE](#)

GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Chinese, African lenders to cover \$1.8b Eacop funding shortfall

Sponsors of the East African Crude Oil Pipeline (Eacop) are looking for only \$1.8 billion, which is expected to come from several Chinese lenders and two African banks, top officials of Uganda's Ministry of Energy said on Friday. [MORE](#)

Erdogan leads as Turkey heads for election run-off

Turkey's battle for the presidency looks almost certain to go to a run-off, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan set for a four-point lead in the first round.

After 20 years in power, he stood on the balcony of his party HQ saying he was convinced he would win five more. [MORE](#)

Ukraine's Zelenskyy meets Pope Francis at the Vatican

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy had private talks with Pope Francis at the Vatican on Saturday, later saying he sought support for his peace plan from the pontiff, who in the past has offered to try to help end the war launched by Russia's invasion of Ukraine a year ago. [MORE](#)

U.S. House passes Republican bill tightening border security

The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday approved Republican legislation intended to stop immigrants and illegal drugs crossing the nation's southwestern border with Mexico, leaving it to the Senate to attempt a broader, bipartisan immigration bill. [MORE](#)

South Sudan waives visa fees for foreigners fleeing Sudan war

South Sudan on Monday said it will waive visa fees for foreign nationals fleeing conflict across its border with neighboring Sudan. South Sudan's Directorate of Civil Registry, Nationality, Passport, and Immigration Director general Atem Marol Biar has directed immigration officers at all border-crossing points with Sudan not to charge visa fees to foreigners. [MORE](#)

Uganda revives hope for Kenya to extend SGR project to Malaba

Uganda has announced the start of construction of the standard gauge railway (SGR) in August, in a decision that revives hope for the extension of Kenya's Ksh327 billion (\$2.39 billion) project whose viability was dependent on the Ugandan section. [MORE](#)

Uganda signs oil exploration deal with Australian firm DGR Global

Uganda has signed a petroleum sharing agreement with Australian firm DGR Energy for the Turaco exploration area in the country's Albertine rift, raising to four the number of companies with licences to prospect the basin for more oil. [MORE](#)

European Union upgrades outlook for economy as energy prices retreat

Europe's economic prospects have brightened in recent months, according to the European Commission. The EU's executive arm on Monday upgraded its growth outlook for 2023 and 2024. It now expects the EU economy to expand 1% this year, up from an estimate of 0.8% in February. Growth next year is pegged at 1.7%, an upward revision of 0.1 percentage points. [MORE](#)

PICTORIAL



The Ministerial Session of the 15th Meeting of the EAC Sectoral Council on Finance & Economic Affairs took place at the EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania.



Attendees at the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2023, held in Kampala, Uganda.



The Women in Energy & Extractives Network Initiative pose for a photo after the initiative was formally established during the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2023 in Kampala, Uganda.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 16th Session of the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania- 15th -19th May, 2023.



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

**EAC Close, Afrika Mashariki Road
P.O. Box 1096, Arusha
United Republic of Tanzania
Tel: +255 (0)27 216 2100
Email: eac@eachq.org
www.eac.int**

©Copyright 2023 EAC. All rights reserved



@jumuiya | @pmathuki