



BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EALA

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ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY



ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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- Ms. Gloria Nakebu – Esiku – Member

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Mr Kenneth Namboga Madete - Clerk, EALA

EDITORIAL LEADER

Mr. Bobi Odiko

EDITORIAL TEAM MEMBERS

- Ms. Aileen Mallya
- Mr. Florian Mutabazi

CONTRIBUTORS

- Hon Celestine Kabahizi
- Hon Pierre Celestin Rwigema
- Ms. Elizabeth Gitonga
- Mr. Bobi Odiko
- Mr. Eric Ngilangwa

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Mr. Timothy Ojore

PHOTOGRAPHY

- Mr. Abdul Mukhtar
- Mr. Justino Liwali

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The East African Legislative Assembly,
East African Community Headquarters,
 P.O. Box 1096, Arusha , Tanzania.
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DESK OF THE HON. SPEAKER

Rt Hon Dan Fred Kidega

Welcome to the 11th Edition of the *Bunge la Afrika Mashariki*, the flagship magazine which keeps you abreast with the activities of the Assembly. This edition is special since the month of November, bears significance in the history of the EALA as it commemorates the period when the Assembly was established. As the Assembly celebrates the thirteenth year of existence, allow me to wish EALA and all East Africans a happy anniversary as we take cognizance of our achievements (and challenges) and map our future.

This is also my first Foreword as Speaker having been elected on December 19th, 2014 to complete Uganda's term of rotation. I thank all my predecessors for their commitment to serving East Africans. I am grateful to the Members for electing me to serve them thus bestowing their full confidence in me.

The last 18 months have been very challenging for the Assembly. As you may be aware, the issue of the removal of the Speaker largely dominated the scene, stalled debate and hence approval of critical legislation. It further overshadowed the otherwise busy program of the Assembly.

I propose a three-pronged approach to re-energize the Assembly and to leverage its profile. Such include re-constructing the image of EALA which has of recently suffered a battering and the finalization of all pending Bills. My administration will move with haste to tackle the backlog and to introduce new business for the Assembly. The Council of Ministers

have assured me of the support when it comes to the legislative process.

In addition, I hope that in the shortest time possible, I shall leave no stone unturned in prioritising reconciliation thus healing any gaping wounds occasioned by the rifts of the impasse we are coming out of. There is need to inculcate unity and harmony amongst the Members and the staff. This is one of the key priorities of my first 100 days in office. As I indicated in my acceptance speech, I shall give the majority their way but respect and protect the rights of the minorities at all times.

EALA remains dedicated to realising its mandate which pertains to legislation, representation and oversight as underlined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

I am upbeat about the on-going process being recorded at the EAC and the zeal with which the integration path is taking. Stronger and effective Organs and Institutions of the Community will help deliver the region to the 'Promised Land'.

At the same time, the region must continuously look inwards towards addressing challenges that face integration. At the fulcrum is the lack of awareness of the benefits of integration by EAC citizens, the Non-Tariff Barriers and the need to speedily implement the Council decisions.

I hope you will find the current edition of the magazine both informative and educative. I wish you all a festive season and a prosperous 2015. 🇸🇰

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Mr. Kenneth Namboga Madete



Greetings to all our readers and a very warm welcome once again to the 11th edition of your esteemed magazine - the *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki*.

As we celebrate thirteen years of existence this November, we can look back with some satisfaction. Today, we can celebrate some successes. We can confidently say that the integration process remains on course and has realized more successes than shortfalls for the region. I take the earliest opportunity to hail the Partner States for their commitment to the process of integration.

The Assembly is committed to liaise and closely collaborate with Organs and Institutions of the Community, the private sector, civil society and all others in fulfilment of the Community's operational principle of being people-centred. To this end, the overarching theme of the Assembly's 2nd Strategic Plan is 'People-Centred Approach to Widening and Deepening of the EAC integration by a Strong and Effective EALA'. Essentially, as an Assembly, it is vital for us to be more innovative and creative in what we do.

We must take a more proactive stance by utilizing the advantages towards influencing and sprouting the tenets of integration while holding Partner States more accountable on the implementation of the commitments.

That way, we are able to realize success and also make a difference. During the life of the 3rd Assembly, we intend to enhance closer collaboration with the

National Assemblies to ensure deliberations that take place at EALA percolate into the Partner States. It is anticipated that the full operationalization of Article 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC by all concerned shall enable the full realization of this noble objective.

At the same time, it is incumbent on EALA and all stakeholders to scale-up awareness. We shall do our level best to leverage sensitisation and awareness creation programmes to ensure that the ordinary people, the business community, civil society, government officials, implementing agencies and other stakeholders in the integration process appreciate the benefits of integration.

I want to reiterate on this aspect of collaboration with other stakeholders such as the youth, civil society and the private sector. They are the beneficiaries of the integration process. We are committed to working closely with them to ensure we deliver on our promise. This is why we as an Assembly are key to pass legislation relevant to strengthening the integration process.

We remain hopeful that through our hard work, we shall contribute to assist the region realize the prospects of growth and solid development.

I welcome you to this specific edition of the Bunge Magazine and hope that you shall find it pleasurable. Finally, the festivities period is soon approaching and the clock is winding down fast. I thus wish to take the earliest opportunity to wish you all a festive season and a prosperous 2015. 🇸🇰



Rt Hon Kidega elected Speaker to complete Uganda's term

...move follows removal of Rt. Hon Zziwa

EALA elected Rt Hon Dan Fred Kidega as Speaker on December 19th, 2014. Rt. Hon Kidega becomes the fourth Speaker of EALA, replacing Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa who was removed from Office on December 17th, 2014. Rt. Hon Kidega was elected unopposed after his main contender, Hon Chris Opoka- Okumu stepped down. The two were the only ones validly nominated.

Immediately, the Clerk to the Assembly declared Rt. Hon Dan Kidega duly elected and proceeded to administer the oath of the Office of the Speaker.

In his acceptance speech, the new Speaker pledged to uphold the dignity of the House at all times and to apply the Rules without fear or favour. *"You will note as a House, we have a big and challenging task ahead of us to legislate and represent a Community whose activities and Membership is expanding fast,"* Rt. Hon Kidega said.

"I have no doubt we shall deliver. I will pick up from where my predecessors left and continue to promote the good ideals of our mandate of widening and deepening the integration process. In doing so, I will give the majority their way but respect and protect the rights of the minorities at all times" Rt. Hon Kidega added.

Rt Hon Kidega, 41, is serving for a second stint as a Member of Parliament of the 3rd EALA having been a Member in the 2nd EALA (2007-2012). He has been a Member of Parliament in Uganda for a period of five (5) years (2001-2006) representing the youth.

Rt. Hon Kidega has been active in NRM politics and was a member of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni's national campaign taskforce in 2001, and the Party's National Executive Committee (NEC) member.

Rt. Hon Kidega has also worked as a Private Secretary to the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda. Prior to joining legislative work, he was a youth leader at different levels; including being Chairman of the National Youth Council (NYC), National Representative to the Commonwealth Youth Forum (African Region).

Rt. Hon Kidega obtained his first degree in Business Administration from Uganda Christian University. He holds a Master of Science Degree in International Trade Policy and Trade law. He is also a Diploma holder in Bio-Chemistry.

The removal of the Speaker has been obtaining from March 2014. The Motion for removal of the Speaker received an overwhelming support by 36 to 2 votes (signifying over two-thirds majority in excess of 30 votes) on the floor of the Assembly. Only one abstention was recorded. The Clerk of EALA declared the vacancy and announced that in accordance with Article 7 of the Rules of Procedure, the names of candidates for the election of Speaker would be obtained within 48 hours.

The sitting was chaired by the Presiding Officer, Hon Chris Opoka Okumu who was elected to preside over the motion for removal of the Speaker on November 26th, 2014, at the Sitting in Nairobi. 🇺🇬

Why Members voted to remove Rt Hon Zziwa



In a historic move, EALA voted to remove the 3rd Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa in a sitting held on December 19th, 2014 in Arusha. Rt. Hon Zziwa had served for exactly two and a half years. The balance of the term shall now be completed by Rt. Hon Dan Kidega.

Earlier on the Assembly listened through and adopted the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges on investigation of the complaints raised in the motion for the removal of the Speaker from Office. The Committee received and assessed evidence submitted to it within 21 days. The Committee also lined up a number of witnesses among them being the Rt. Hon. Speaker of EALA, Members and staff of EALA, and any other witnesses who it deems are necessary for the discharge of their investigative mandate.

The report presented to the House by the Chair of the Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee, Hon Frederic Ngenzebuhoro, cites the inability of the Speaker

to perform the functions of the office arising from misconduct in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty and the Rules of procedure.

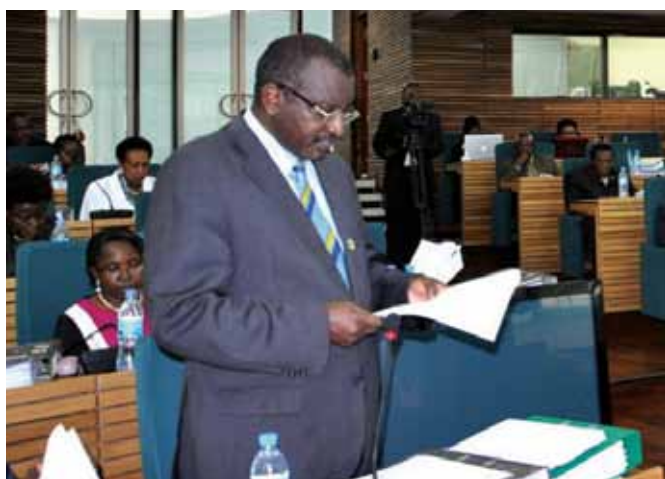
The report notes that Rt. Hon Zziwa unilaterally made a decision to stop rotation sittings in contravention of the provisions of the Administration of the EALA Act, 2012. The Speaker is also accused of wasting resources of the Community through poor time management, unnecessary delays postponement of meetings and *laissez-faire* attitude to Assembly provisions.

“In August 2013 all members of the Assembly went to Mombasa, Kenya as programmed in the EALA Annual Legislative Calendar for 2013/2014 Financial Year. According to the evidence available the members of the Commission and Chairpersons of all the Standing Committees arrived one day before the workshop for a consultative meeting. The Speaker who was supposed to chair the meeting did not come as scheduled, nor did she delegate responsibility of chairing the meeting”,

Hon Dr. Abdullah Saadala maintained that the Council had all along respected the rule of separation of powers and the democratic exercise of decision making of the House



Hon Peter Mathuki casts his vote



Chair of the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges, Hon Frederic Ngenzebuhoro presents the report to the House

a section of the report reads in part. According to the findings, the Speaker continued to be absent from duty station contrary to the terms and conditions and hence giving inadequate supervision to the work of the Assembly.

Other areas include undermining the authority of the Commission by changing the activities for 2013/2014 to suit personal interests and practicing favouritism by denying other Members equal opportunity.

The report also cites misconduct, the use abusive and derogatory language against Members and staff. During debate, Hon Saoli Ole Nkanee remarked that the outgoing Speaker had constantly used unsavory language.

Hon Hafsa Mossi appealed to the Assembly to change the trend and take the right decision. "I have failed to see Leadership in the Speaker, I hope we make the right decision today", she said. Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo said it was time for EALA to restore its lost glory. "I hope we will elect a Member who will restore the dignity of this House", Hon Dr. Nyiramilimo remarked.

Hon Abubakar Zein told the House to ensure it takes the right path to restore its dignity.

"We need to make a decision to do our work with honor, dignity & integrity while putting petty differences aside for the sake of integration", he remarked.

On his part, Hon Taslima Twaha was emphatic that the region was bigger than any individual. "Let whatever direction we take, lead us to success, and by the will of the Almighty God all through to that of the satisfaction of East Africans", he stated.

Hon. Dora Byamukama remarked that the truth was key. "In the next 2.5yrs (balance of the period left to serve the 3rd EALA), I stand committed to what whatever it takes for this House to regain its dignity, honor and glory", she remarked.

Hon Nusura Tiperu also supported the Motion. "We love the outgoing Speaker, but we love East Africa more", she said, adding that it had reached the time we make a decision for the people of the region. Speaking on behalf of the Council of Ministers, the Chairperson,

Hon Dr. Abdullah Saadala maintained that the Council had all along respected the rule of separation of powers and the democratic exercise of decision making of the House. “We shall continue to do so for the strengthening of the integration process”, he said.

Other Members who rose up to speak were Hon Leonce Ndarubagiye and Hon Mukasa Mbidde who termed the process as fair.

The Motion, initially introduced in the Assembly by Hon Peter Mathuki in Arusha during the Fifth Meeting of the Second Session of the 3rd Assembly was cut-short when it was adjourned on April 1, 2014 sine die following two applications made at the East African Court of

Justice (EACJ) halting the debate. On 3rd June this year, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa ruled on the Motion for her removal to have fallen short of the requirements of signatures of at least four elected Members from each Partner State and thus collapsed. This followed the withdrawal of signatures of three Members from the United Republic of Tanzania.

Rt. Hon Zziwa pegged her ruling on Rule 82(2) of Rules of Procedure that grants the Speaker of the Assembly, the final powers on the interpretation and the application of the same. However, prior to that, the Counsel to the Community, Hon Wilbert Kaahwa had maintained that the Motion was “alive”. 🇸🇰

Synopsis of events leading to removal of Speaker Zziwa from Office

March 3, 2014: Hon Peter Mathuki moves motion on floor of the House for the removal of Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa.

April 1, 2014: Debate on the motion stopped following two applications made at the EACJ halting the debate.

May 29, 2014: EACJ declines to grant interim injunctions sought in the Application filed by Rt. Hon. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, and Mbidde Foundation Limited (Applicants) against the Secretary General of the East African Community and the Attorney General of the Republic of Uganda (Respondents) directing EALA to refrain from referring the Motion for resolution to remove the speaker of EALA to the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges.

June 3, 2014: Rt. Hon Zziwa rules under Article 82 (2) of the Rules of Procedure that the Motion for her removal has collapsed following the withdrawal of signatures by three Members from the United Republic of Tanzania.

November 26, 2014: The Assembly elects Hon Chris Opoka-Okumu to preside over the Motion for removal of Speaker. With it, the Motion for the removal of the Speaker from office, which was stopped on April 1, 2014, is resuscitated and referred to the Legal Rules and Privileges Committee for investigations in accordance with Rule 9 (4) of the Rules of Procedure.



The Committee was given 21 days within which to finalise the investigations and to report back to the House.

The Assembly further resolves to suspend/bar Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa from exercising the functions of Office of the Speaker pending the finalization of the investigations into the Motion for her removal. The Motion was moved by Hon Abdullah Mwinyi.

December 16, 2014: EACJ dismisses Exparte application by Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa barring legislators from debating her removal

December 17, 2014: EALA votes to remove Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa from Office.

December 19, 2014: EALA Members elect Rt. Hon Dan Kidega. 🇸🇰

Legislators call for unified approach to combat terrorism



The Eighth Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki Series) ended in Kigali, Rwanda with a call for a multi-dimensional and regional approach to security while bearing in mind that consequences of terrorism cannot be fully contained within national boundaries.

The Seminar held on October 31, 2014 to November 1, 2014 and themed: “Insecurity and Terrorism as Threats to EAC Integration: How Can EAC Develop a Common Position” was organized by EALA in conjunction with the Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA). The legislators called for development of a conceptual framework on terrorism in the regional context that addresses relationship to other crimes such as money laundering, human and drug trafficking, poaching and the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

Further on, the need to develop a deliberate programme for inclusion of persons and sectors of society often left out of the peace and security initiatives such as women, youth, children was emphasised.

To spur this aspect, delegates also want the establishment of twinning programmes between people and institutions of Partner States to facilitate social cohesion. This aspect, should accordingly start with border communities, creative industries, schools among others, to increase citizen participation in regional peace and security efforts. The Resolution further avers that a framework be established for working with other bodies, be they regional, continental and international on matters of peace and security. This



A section of the delegates stand to the EAC Anthem at the start of the Nanyuki VIII series held in Kigali recently



The Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga and the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), Hon. Justice Dr. Emmanuel Ugirashebuja pay attention to the proceedings at the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar

is based on the premise that different Partner States have different commitments to one or more bodies and blocs. Delegates at the seminar called for the deepening of commitment to the development of a shared East African identity by promoting the use of Kiswahili as a lingua franca, observing the same driving side and



Hon Tony Ayoo (left) shares a light moment with the EAC Secretary General, Amb Richard Sezibera (Center) and the President of the Rwanda Senate, Rt. Hon Bernard Makuza on the sidelines of the Nanyuki VIII seminar

adopting a common time zone Earlier on, the Heads of delegation made key statements speaking to the theme of the conference. Hon Tony Ayoo of the Parliament of Uganda noted that Parliament of Uganda had passed legislation to integrate combatants back into the society. At the same time, community policing has been strengthened and capacities to share information enhanced in the country.

Hon Florence Kajuku of the Kenya National Assembly, remarked that integration was key. The Kenya National Assembly according to Hon Kajuku ratified the Protocol of the Monetary Union last week on Thursday (October 30th, 2014). She maintained that sensitization was instrumental to enable ownership by the citizens.

The legislator noted that Kenya had been hard-hit by terrorism and added that the Defence forces were on the high alert. “We must engage in seeking lasting solutions to the challenges of peace and security,” Hon Kajuku said. Hon (Prof) Juma Kapuya of the United Republic of Tanzania said peace and security was a pre-requisite to economic integration and called on Partner States to do all it takes to firmly rid the EAC of terrorism. “We need to share security intelligence, and strengthen border community initiatives on the same”, Hon Kapuya said.

To spur this aspect, delegates also want the establishment of twinning programmes between people and institutions of Partner States to facilitate social cohesion.

Hon Ramadhan Karenga of Burundi National Assembly cited cybercrime, kidnapping, terrorism, maritime piracy and internal conflicts as some of the areas that must be contained. “The dream of free movement will not become a reality if we do not address the problems. We must achieve peace and security to drive forth our economic growth”, Hon Karenga said.

He remarked that Burundi had set up a four point security framework, aimed at assuring internal public security, promoting good governance on security matters, capitalizing and valuing various resources of post-conflict gains and setting up special mechanisms to prevent and fight terrorism.

The security situation in Burundi, Hon Karenga added, had improved away from the previous years’ cyclic strife. Senator Jacqueline Muhongayire of Rwanda noted that genocidal ideology and extremisms such as youth radicalization were responsible for terrorism and trans-border crime. She said Rwanda had ratified all regional Protocols that were signed by the Partner States.

The Protocols are on Foreign Policy Co-ordination, Protocol on Co-operation in Defence, Protocol on Peace and Security, Protocol on Anti-Narcotics and Drug trafficking. “We call upon Partner States to ratify the same”, Senator Muhongayire said. A political analyst and university don, Prof Adams Oloo told the Partner States to provide a clear hegemony in the securitizing process to contain terrorism, and strengthen regional security.

Prof Oloo maintained that disunity in the approaches taken by each state in addressing security issues beyond borders was detrimental to security. He called for shared understanding on what constitutes common threats to their survival as a region. Prof Oloo said that mistrust and suspicion between Partner States should be curtailed as this would contribute to the lack of progress in implementing a regional security strategy.

An estimated 250 participants drawn from Partner States National Assemblies, EALA, academicians, high ranking Government officials as well as other regional stakeholders were in attendance. To receive the recommendations, please send an email to the EALA Secretariat. 🇪🇺

Legislators visit European Parliament on a benchmarking tour

...good number of lessons to learn from each other



A section of the legislators who were in Brussels for the Benchmarking visit pose for a photo

A delegation of EALA legislators visited Brussels, Belgium on October 7th – 11th, 2014 for a five day benchmarking visit.

The delegation which was headed by the EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, consisted of Members of the Commission, Chairpersons of the Committees of EALA and key Parliamentary staff.

The visit was organized by EALA in conjunction with the Westminster Foundation for Democracy and the Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa (AWEPA).

The objective of the benchmarking visit was to enable EALA legislators meet and exchange ideas with the Parliamentarians and key officials of the European Parliament (EP) and the European Commission. The first session with, Mr. Alistair Doherty, Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) Consultant delved on Committee processes. Other areas of interest covered

during the five day tour included budgeting and financing of the European Parliament, relationships between the Parliament and National Parliaments, relationships between the EU Commission and the Parliament and how Parliamentary democracy works.

A key meeting with high ranking representatives of the European Parliament led by Mr. Haris Kountourous was also held. The Presenter informed the EALA delegation that EU Parliament had continued in its quest to enact legislation. He cited regulations, directives, decisions and recommendations as the types of legislation passed by the EU Parliament. In the meeting with an EU Member of Parliament Catherine Beader, EALA expressed its concern over the punitive tariffs that Kenya was attracting following the expiry of the period set to finalise the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs). Hon Abubakar Zein Abubakar stated that the country, was losing close to

Kshs 630 Million monthly. The meeting asserted that the Republic of Kenya should not be punished for enhancing value addition to its products.

The meetings underscored the need for both the EU and the EAC to establish mechanisms that ensure legislation are fully operationalized.

The processes of enacting laws at the EAC and the EU are almost similar in nature but with some degree of variances. At the EU, the Commission issues a green paper (Pre-legislation proposal) which is then discussed by the Committees. Both Parliaments have Committee systems which then scrutinise the Bills further and get input. At the EU however, the Commission, Parliament and the Council all need consensus before the final adoption. At the EAC, all Bills that are passed by the Assembly need the assent of the Heads of State.

It was further observed that monitoring groups need to be established to advocate for the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols.

Earlier on, the legislators visited the Parliamentarium (visitors centre of the European Parliament) so as to learn more about the institutions of the EU and to apprise themselves of the journey of European integration and the impact it has on the lives of the people.

EALA legislators were able to share experiences on best practices in legislative procedures, Parliamentary administration and operation of Committees. Further on, the trip shall ideally create an opportunity for future

interactions and exchanges on current Parliamentary affairs.

The European Parliament and EALA share some unique attributes in terms of similarities and differences. Only the EU Parliament and EALA have legislative powers that supercede national laws. However, the European Parliament has been in existence much longer. The European Parliament was established in 1952 with 78 Members and initially had no legislative powers until 1979. Today, the Parliament which works closely with the Council of Ministers and the Commission (Secretariat) to exercise legislative functions has perhaps the largest trans-national democratic electorate in the world. EALA on its part was inaugurated in 2001. 🇪🇺

It was further observed that monitoring groups need to be established to advocate for the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols.



From left: Hon Shyrose Bhanji, Hon Patricia Hajabakiga and Hon Hafsa Mossi share a light moment during the visit to the Parliamentarium in Brussels



The former Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa presents a publication to Mr. Harris Kountourous, an EU official in charge of Parliamentary Relations



The Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania to Belgium, Amb Diodorus Kamala (Left) shakes hands with Hon Dr. Martin Nduwimana as Hon Mike Sebalu looks on

NEWS TITBITS

EAC showcases in London WTO

The East African Community was represented at the World Trade Market in London, United Kingdom in November this year. The region took advantage of the WTO to showcase itself as a Single Tourist Destination. The Chair of the of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon. Phyllis Kandie, who is also Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism, led the delegation while Hon. Jesca Eriyo, the EAC Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors) headed the team from the EAC Secretariat. At the joint marketing event held at the Kenyan Stand on November 5, 2014, the Chairperson of the Council affirmed to her audience and the world at large that the EAC was secure

and safe. She further said that the region had undertaken all efforts to ensure the region remains Ebola free.

The Cabinet Secretary remarked that East African Governments had prepared a robust Ebola Emergency Preparedness and Response plans that meets World Health Organization standard and complies with the International Health Regulations-Emergency Committee and AU Decisions on Travel and Trade Restrictions.

Present at the event were, Hon Lazaro Nyalandu, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism, United Republic of Tanzania; Hon. Agnes Akrior Egunyu, Minister of State, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities – Republic of Uganda; His

Excellency High Commissioner Peter A. Kallaghe, United Republic of Tanzania; and His Excellency Ambassador William Nkurunziza, of the Republic of Rwanda. Others were the High Commissioner Deo Sindayihebura, of Burundi as well as the Managing Directors of Tourism Board agencies. At the same event, the Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors), Hon. Eriyo disclosed that substantial progress had been made in the hospitality industry following the implementation of the EAC criteria for the classification of accommodation establishments.

Hon Eriyo also informed the WTO that the region was soon expected to introduce the Single Tourist Visa to spur tourism in the region. 🇪🇦

EAC gets boost of 20 Million Euros for Immunisation Programme in Collaboration with GAVI



East African Community Headquarters, Arusha, 20 October 2014.

The immunization programme in the region recently received a shot in the arm after the German Development Bank and the EAC penned a 20 Million Euro deal.

KfW, Director, Wolfgang Solzbacher signed the financing agreement that

will see the programme implemented in collaboration with the GAVI Alliance.

Speaking during the signing ceremony Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the EAC and Member of the GAVI Board, expressed his appreciation to the Federal Republic of Germany for its support in saving lives. "This is a very important and critical programme, and I am sure with such commitment, it will grow", Amb Sezibera stated. The EAC Secretary General reiterated that the partnership and collaboration between the EAC and the Federal Republic of Germany was cordial and goes back a long way. He disclosed

that the collaboration between the Federal Republic of Germany and EAC had evolved over the years and that it focused on a number of developmental areas including Maternal health and vaccines. So diverse are the areas that we work together, Amb Sezibera remarked and cited the support towards the construction of the new headquarters of EAC as another successful project.

In his remarks Mr. Wolfgang Solzbacher said that the new commitments underline that Germany continues to be a strong partner for the EAC, contributing to an integration process that puts the people in the centre. 🇪🇦

South Sudan delegation holds talks with EAC

A High-Level Delegation from Republic of South Sudan met held discussions with the Secretary General of the East African Community Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera in Nairobi on November 19, 2014.

The Delegation composed of Hon. Aggrey Tisa Sabuni, Minister of Finance and Economic Planning; Hon. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Foreign Affairs and international Cooperation; Hon. Deng Deng Hoc Yai, Minister of Environment; Hon. Paulino Wanawilla Unango, Minister of Justice; Hon. Mou Mou Athian Koul, Secretary General of the Secretariat for Accession of South Sudan to the EAC.

The EAC Secretary General was accompanied by Deputy Secretary General, Charles Njoroge; the Deputy Clerk of the East African Legislative Assembly, Obatre Lumumba; Acting Registrar of the East African Court of Justice, Geraldine Umugwaneza; Counsel to the Community, Hon. Wilbert T. Kaahwa; and senior officials from the EAC Secretariat.

The two sides discussed a wide range of issues including proposing dates to start the negotiations, number of meetings. 🇸🇩

Inculcate policies to fuel energy – EABC Chair says

East African Business Council Chairman, Felix Masha is challenging energy sector stakeholders to push for ideal policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks that will fuel East Africa's renewable energy sector.

Speaking at the East Africa Renewable Energy Forum and Exhibition 2014 yesterday in early November, the EABC Chair remarked that lack of appropriate policies continued to hinder provision of adequate energy to meet the region's needs. Masha remarked that provision of energy in the region could be up-scaled. On his part the Chairman of the Tanzania Private Sector Foundation (TPSF) Dr Reginald Mengi, pointed out that African countries were facing major development challenges due to the lack of appropriate policies on renewable energy.

He urged countries in Africa which are well endowed with the resource, to harness the potential. 🇸🇩

AfDB approves US\$ 100 Million for Biomedical sciences education in East Africa

Also injecting in funds for development is the African Development Bank which in October 2012 approved loans amounting to US \$98.22 million to finance the first phase of East Africa's Centres of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences programme in the region.

The project aims to contribute to development of relevant and highly skilled workforce in biomedical sciences to meet EAC's immediate labour market needs and to support the implementation of the region's 'free' labour market protocols.

The project is expected at enhancing EAC's competitiveness through a highly skilled workforce in biomedical sciences. It shall enable EAC increase its capacity and competitiveness through expanding higher education and specialized service delivery that are demanded by the rapid economic development in East Africa

Phase one of the project will support the creation of a network of Centers of Excellence (CoEs) in biomedical sciences and engineering – nephrology and urology in Kenya, oncology in Uganda, cardiovascular in Tanzania and biomedical engineering and e-health in Rwanda.

To deliver quality and relevant skills development, research and service delivery, the CoEs will develop higher education programmes and collaborate with 'world-class' institutions in curriculum development, faculty exchange, mentoring, access to resource materials, and carry out joint thematic biomedical research and publish it.

Among other benefits, the project, which has potential to create jobs for professionals and support services through medical tourism within the EAC as well as from other African regions, is aligned to the target countries' strategies and development objectives for relevant skills development for the labour market. 🇸🇩



REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bobi Odiko

EALA wants mechanism to monitor regional laws formulated

EALA has proposed the formation of a well-rounded directorate at the EAC Secretariat to continuously monitor and evaluate implementation of regional laws. In addition to this measure, EALA wants the free-will to move Bills related to functions of the Community but which may have an imposition upon funding.

At the same time, it is necessary for the Community to address challenges facing the implementation of the Community Laws –a main factor been conflict in laws of Partner States and that of the Community laws.

The recommendations arise from the debate on September 3, 2014 at the Dar Plenary following the tabling and adoption of the Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the Capacity Building Workshop for the Legislative process of Bills.

The report presented to the House by the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose, Hon Dr. Martin Nduwimana, followed the capacity building workshop held in Nairobi on August 6-9, 2014. The workshop was a joint effort between EALA and the European Parliamentarians Association with Africa (AWEPA).

The objective of the meeting was to enhance the capacity of Members to better execute their legislative function through the initiation and enactment of the requisite regional laws. At the said workshop, Members were enabled to review the modus operandi and processes through which



Hon Dr Martin Nduwimana presents the Report of the Capacity Building Workshop on Legislative Process of Bills



EAC Deputy Secretary General, Dr. Enos Bukuku speaks to the Director General of Customs and Trade, Peter Kiguta as the High Commissioner of the United Republic of Tanzania to Kenya, Dr. Batilda Buriani listens. EALA wants a mechanism for monitoring regional laws put in place



EALA Members pose for a picture at the Plenary held in August in Dar es Salaam

bills progress from inception to the end. According to the facilitator at the workshop Hon Dan Ogalo, an expert in legislative processes (and EALA Member Emeritus) there is some recorded success with regards to the implementation of the laws. They include the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004, the EAC Standardisation, Quality Assurance and Testing Act, 2007 and the EAC Competition Act 2006.

Challenges in the legislative process of Bills include the fact that the current Treaty is executive heavy. The Treaty was initially focused on setting up the Secretariat and only at a later stage did EALA and the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) come to be included. For this reason, fewer articles of the Treaty were dedicated to the two Organs.

Currently, under Article 59 of the Treaty, EALA Members can introduce any Bill in the Assembly provided that it relates to the functions of the Community. However, such a Bill shall not among other things impose any charge upon the fund of the Community.

Other recommendations include widening the dissemination by transmitting the Bills not only to the Parliaments but to the Ministries of Justice, Courts of Judicature, High Institutions of learning and public libraries. During debate, Hon Nancy Abisai called for the support and further sensitization of the Private Members' Bills. The Secretary General of the EAC Amb

The Treaty was initially focused on setting up the Secretariat and only at a later stage did EALA and the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) come to be included.

Richard Sezibera called on Members to bring to fore, any proposals concerning the amendment of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. Hon Abubakar Zein noted that there was need to beef up the EALA Secretariat in terms of human resources to ensure quality of research and support in legislative processes. "We need to be able to access all the necessary materials online as well", Hon Zein said.

The acting Chair of the Council of EAC Ministers Hon Dr. Abdullah Sadaala said the Treaty would need to be amended to enable Members have the free-will to bring Bills that may have an imposition of funds to the House among other areas.

Hon Maryam Yahya Ussi noted that it was important for follow-up to ensure the Partner States enforce the implementation of the laws.

"We need to work closely with the Ministers of EAC to help with modalities of enforcement", Hon Ussi noted

Hon Dr. James Ndahiro told the Council of Ministers to assist with the monitoring of the implementation of laws noting that the Community Laws supercede those of the Partner States within the purview of the Community. Hon Jeremie Ngendakumana termed the report timely and added that it enable the legislators to be better informed.

Others who rose in support were Hon Frederic Ngenzebuhoro, Hon ShyRose Bhanji and Hon Valerie Nyirahabineza. 🇸🇩





1. H.E. President Paul Kagame shakes hands with Hon Dora Byamukama during a past EALA Plenary held in Kigali, Rwanda. EALA holds rotational sittings in the Partner States
2. Hon Saoli Ole Nkanae speaks during the tour of TASUBA (Bagamoyo College of Arts) in August 2014
3. A section of EALA Members, Burundi Chapter in discussions. From left: Hon Emmanuel Nengo, Hon Frederic Ngenzebuhoro (centre) and Hon Jeremie Ngendakumana, the Chapter Chair
4. A cultural troupe dances away at an EAC function. A people-centred approach is key to integration.
5. WHAT DO YOU THINK? The EAC secretary General, Amb Dr Richard Sezibera has a word with the Deputy Secretary General, Charles Njoroge (right) and the Head of Corporate Communications Richard Owora (centre).
6. A section of EALA staff pose for a photo during their study visit to the European Union Parliament in Brussels recently
7. Cabinet Secretary for Commerce, Tourism and East African Affairs, Hon Phyllis Kandie chats with a section of EALA Members from Kenya. They are from left: Hon Judith Pareno, Hon Nancy Abisai and Hon Joseph Kiangoi
8. Delegates enjoy a jig at a past EALA Meeting. EALA conferences and meetings bring together various stakeholders to strengthen integration
9. A section of EALA Staff during the Planning Meeting held in Ngurdoto, early this year
10. United Republic of Tanzania's Minister for Information, Youth and Sports, Hon Dr Fenella Mukangara, Deputy Minister of EAC, Hon Dr. Abdulla Sadaala, EALA Member, Hon Saoli Ole Nkanae, Regional Commissioner of Bagamoyo Ali Kipozi and EALA Member Hon Angela Kizigha in discussions during the visit of the Bagamoyo College of Arts recently
11. A section of Members during the tour of the Port in Dar es Salaam recently
12. MEETING OF MINDS: Deputy Minister of EAC, Tanzania Hon Dr Abdulla Saadalla, Hon Shem Bageine, Minister for EAC, Uganda, the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Richard Sezibera and the Counsel to the Community, Hon Wilbert Kaahwa consult. All are *Ex-Officio* Members of EALA



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3rd EAC Infrastructure Summit approves 10-year investment strategy



A section of the Thika Super-highway

The 3rd EAC Retreat on Infrastructure Development and Financing has approved a 10-year investment strategy for infrastructure projects. The meeting took place in Nairobi on November 29th, 2014. Kenya's Deputy President, H.E. William Ruto chaired the meeting on behalf of President Uhuru Kenyatta.

The Summit held under the theme, "Supporting the implementation of the Common Market through the development of efficient infrastructure networks and intermodal transport systems in the EAC" endorsed the blueprint and directed the Council of Ministers to mobilise resources for implementation. H.E. Dr Mohamed Gharib Bilal, Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania and H.E. Prosper Bazombaza, First Vice President of the Republic of Burundi led their respective delegations. Rwanda's delegation was led by Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Anastase Murekezi, while Uganda's Finance, Planning and Economic Development Minister, Hon Maria Kiwanuka represented President Yoweri Museveni.

H.E. Ruto called for full political attention from Partner States saying that developing a robust transport, communication and energy sectors will be a prime mover for the social economic development of the EAC.

"We need the infrastructure to be able to connect our regional block because fragmented markets do not help anybody. We can only be good together," he said. The infrastructure projects, which include railway, energy, ports and harbours, and information and

communications technology, among others, are expected to cost at least \$100 billion, according to a communiqué from the EAC Secretariat. In his keynote address, African Development Bank Vice President for Infrastructure Development, Solomon Asomoah remarked that enhanced infrastructure was key for development. "Infrastructure will play a key role in improving competitiveness, facilitating trade and enhancing EAC's integration into the global economy," Mr. Asomoah stated.

EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera said the development of an efficient infrastructure network and inter-modal transport system within the EAC region will help in the implementation of a common market. Dr. Mukhis Kituyi, Secretary General of the UNCTAD also made a key presentation.

The endorsement of the 10 year strategy comes at a time when the region is in negotiations with Development Partners, including the World Bank, the African Development Bank, European Investment Bank as well as individual countries, particularly China and India, in efforts to raise the required resources. The World Bank pledged \$1.2 Billion toward infrastructure development and improved competitiveness of EAC region, while Trademark East Africa pledged \$350 million to support regional infrastructure for ports, one stop border points and road connectivity.

The Council of Ministers was also urged to hold annual briefing roundtable for infrastructure investors and financiers focusing on mobilising the requisite resources for the implementation of the priority infrastructure projects and programmes and also highlight investment opportunities. In addition, the Summit reiterated for the consideration of the establishment of regional centres of excellence for infrastructure and transport skills development in order to enhance regional capacities in roads, railways, ports, oil and gas, power generation and transmission and contract negotiations and management. 🇪🇺

The full communiqué is available on the EAC website: www.eac.int.

House Passes Key Resolution on PWDs



Hon Dr. James Ndahiro on the floor of the House. EALA passed a significant Resolution in support of PWDs

At the September Plenary in Dar es Salaam, EALA has passed a key Resolution urging the United Nations system to include disability issues in the post 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Resolution moved by Hon Dr. James Ndahiro urged UN agencies, Governments and civil society to ensure that the key issues of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) as identified by advocates/experts/researchers in the EAC be adopted as one of the key development goals in the post- 2015 Millennium Development Goals.

According to the mover of the Resolution, PWDs have challenges. There is a correlation between poverty and disabilities. Post 2015 targets are important to include PWDs. Currently the MDGs are not explicit on matters to do with disabilities”, the legislator noted.

The Assembly thus urges the UN to establish a permanent agency within the UN Framework to deal with issues of persons with disabilities. It further calls upon the Secretary General of the EAC and the Council of Ministers to urgently bring this matter to the attention of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

The United Nations agencies and stakeholders agreed on and adopted the Millennium Development Goals through establishment of a unifying set of eight key developmental objectives for the global community.

The objective of these key development issues was to foster collaborative action to reduce poverty, improve health and address educational and environmental concerns around the World’s most pressing problems, but specifically to address the needs of the World’s poorest citizens and the world’s most marginalized populations.

Despite this initiative, there is a striking gap in the current MDGs to the effect that an estimated 1 billion people worldwide who live with one or more physical,

sensory (blindness/deafness), intellectual or mental health impairment are not mentioned in any of the 8 Goals, the attendant 21 targets, the 60 indicators nor in the Millennium Declaration.

During debate, Members stated there was need to ensure access to resources to enable PWDs to live a meaningful life and to contribute to development of the economies.

Hon Abubakar Zein urged for a specific MDG on PWDs. “We are neither begging, nor pleading, we are demanding this be done since it is a human rights issue”, Hon Zein said. “We must mainstream the rights upfront in the same way we have done with the rights of women and all others,” the legislator added.

Hon Zein further remarked that it was necessary as a first for the EALA to revise its Rules of Procedure to ensure the Assembly is disability compliant.

Hon Shyrose Bhanji decried the harassment of albinos and said they were been denied the basic rights including education.

“We must support the fight against such harassment and I want to laud the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for taking up the matter at the forefront” she added.

It was noted that a network of EAC Parliamentarians with disabilities had been established at the EAC PWD Conference in Nairobi and that the linkages may be used to advocate for their case further.

Hon Frederic Ngenzebuhoro supported the move to ensure PWDs get fair treatment in line with article 120 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

Hon Nancy Abisai called for equal opportunities for all. *“We must provide opportunities including education, to ensure citizens of the region are empowered”*, Hon Abisai said. 🇰🇪

Thumbs up to Uganda's Foreign Minister following his ascension to the Presidency of the UNGA

The election of Hon Sam Kutesa as President of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) recently received acclamation from EALA.

EALA moved a Resolution for a Motion in honour of the Foreign Minister of Uganda.

The motion was moved by Hon Mike Kennedy Sebalu during the 1st Meeting of the 3rd Session of the 3rd Assembly held in Dar es Salaam. The motion which was seconded by Hon Abubakar Zein received overwhelming support when debate resumed. Members called on Hon Kutesa, Uganda's Foreign Minister to use his experience and to tackle

issues including hostilities and conflicts afflicting the world with a view to finding lasting peace.

Hon Kutesa, was elected as the 69th President of the UNGA on 11th June 2014 at a time when the Assembly was on recess. The Resolution avers there is need to foster co-operation between the United Nations and the regional and sub-regional organisations as key to development and the achievement of the UN's cardinal ideal for the maintenance of peace.

Prior to the election, the EAC Heads of State supported the application of Hon Sam Kutesa. His bid also received a positive nod from the Sectoral Council on Foreign Policy Co-ordination.

Hon Kutesa is a distinguished public servant and wide-ranging experience as a Lawyer, Member of the Constituent Assembly and a Parliamentarian. He has in the past served as Minister of Justice and the Attorney General and as the Minister of Finance. According to Hon Sebalu, Hon Kutesa shall preside over the UNGA at a time when the post 2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) Agenda is being debated.

Hon Sam Kutesa is the 11th African to head the UNGA. He takes over from John William Ashe from Antigua and Barbuda. The only other East African to have held the position is Ahmed Salim Ahmed who was elected in 1979. Salim, a former Prime Minister of the

His enriching experience in Parliamentary and legal fields has armed him with the necessary skills to ascend to the high seat at the UN.



Hon Mike Sebalu at a past function. The legislator recently moved the Resolution hailing the appointment of Hon Sam Kutesa as the President of UNGA



The President of the UNGA and Uganda's Minister for Foreign Affairs Hon Sam Kutesa is welcomed by the UN Secretary General, Ambassador Ban Ki Moon

United Republic of Tanzania was also the Secretary General of the Organisation of Africa Unity between 1989-2001.

When debate was opened, Hon Dora Byamukama termed Hon Kutesa a Pan-Africanist who has realized a number of accomplishments in his public life. "He has a rich legacy and his contribution to various Protocols including that of the Peace and Security is laudable", Hon Byamukama said.

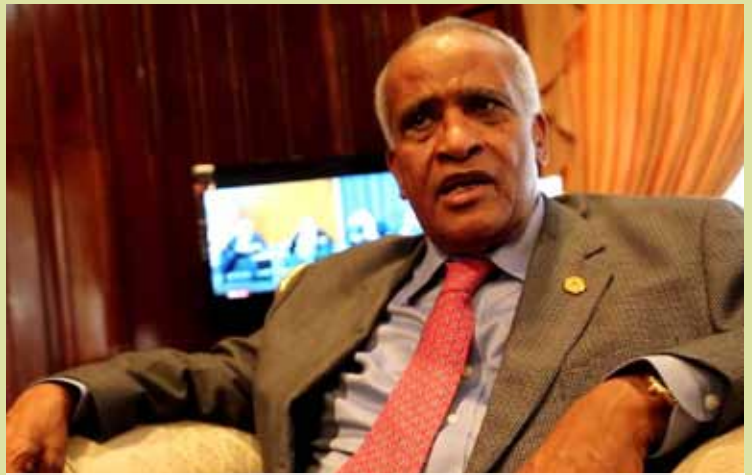
"We can ensure a number of areas/issues key to our region's development and stability now come up on the UN agenda", she added.

Hon Christophe Bazivamo termed the Minister, a leader with great diplomatic acumen.

The EAC Secretary General, Amb Richard Sezibera noted that Hon Sam Kutesa was passionate about regional integration. We have a number of prominent East Africans heading important organisations and they include Amb. Michael Kamau and Dr. Mukhisa Kituyi, the Secretary General of the UNCTAD, Hon Sezibera said. "He is a statesman", the EAC Secretary General added.

Hon Dan Kidega called on the region to market many more of its citizens to rise up to positions of international stature while Hon Nusura Tiperu remarked that the region and United Republic of Tanzania in particular had continued to nominate women into key positions in the global bodies. "I want to hail the EAC Heads of Summit for having faith in appointing Hon Kutesa", she said.

Hon Frederic Ngenzuehoru remarked that Hon Kutesa has been a peace-builder who had



Hon Salim Ahmed Salim, former OAU Secretary General was once President of the UNGA

contributed to conflict resolution in the region. Hon Joseph Kiangoi termed Hon Kutesa a man capable of steering the continent to greater heights.

"He is capable of making viable contribution to address insecurity in the region," he added.

The Counsel to the Community, Hon Wilbert Kaahwa said the Minister was effective and well informed in public service. "His enriching experience in Parliamentary and legal fields has armed him with the necessary skills to ascend to the high seat at the UN", he remarked.

The Deputy Minister for EAC, United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Abdulla Sadaala extended his heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the Council of Ministers. "I personally believe that he shall present and reflect our very own African talent to the world", the Minister added. 🇺🇳

Let us embrace Kiswahili

...Legislators in successful tour of TASUBA



Hon Dr. Abdulla Saadalla, Deputy Minister for EAC, United Republic of Tanzania

Stakeholders in the region should embrace Kiswahili – in a bid to promote regional unity, Deputy Minister for EAC, United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Abdulla Saadala has said. The Minister was emphatic that the EAC is able and capable of promoting and refining Kiswahili as the lingua franca.

“We need to take the unique moment to champion Kiswahili. We can with the help of experts also have our very own brand of East African Kiswahili, Minister Saadala remarked.

The Deputy Minister made the remarks at the Taasisi ya Sanaa na Utamaduni - TaSUBa (Bagamoyo College of Arts) in Bagamoyo where he joined EALA Members in visitation led by the Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa. The visitation took place on September 1, 2014.

The Minister for Information, Youth, Culture and Sports, Hon Dr. Fenella E. Mukangara remarked that art played a pivotal role in provision of employment opportunities especially to the youth.

“Performing arts include for example traditional dances, drama, music and circus, while crafts comprise for example painting, curving, weaving and pottery. All these artworks provide employment to many youths in East Africa and contribute immensely to the economic

We need to take the unique moment to champion Kiswahili. We can with the help of experts also have our very own brand of East African Kiswahili.

welfare of our people in the region”, Hon Dr. Mukangara said.

The Minister congratulated the TaSUBa Advisory Board following the institution’s designation as an EAC Centre of Excellence.

“EALA’s historic visit to the institute today is seen by us as a rare opportunity for TaSUBa to advertise itself as a strong and reliable resource centre for teaching artistic skills to the whole EAC region”, Hon Dr. Mukangara said.

The Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Dr. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa urged the Partner States to enhance promotion of cultural activities in the field of arts in line with Article 119 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

The Speaker noted that EALA would continue to undertake collaboration with stakeholders in the region in line with its Strategic Plan’s thematic approach towards a people-centred approach.

The Acting Director of TaSUBa Michael Joseph Kadinde remarked that the institute was now fully registered with the National Council for Technical Education (NACTE) and that it had recently developed a competence based modular curriculum.

TaSUBa currently offers training in dance, drama, music and fine arts according to Mr. Kadinde. The institutions obligations’ after acquiring the EAC’s Centre of Excellence status include reviewing the existing curricula to churn out art professionals to cope with the employment market, encourage and expand public awareness on the exploration of markets and co-operate with the EAC Secretariat to conduct and enhance Art festivals in the region. 🇸🇰

Uganda prove supremacy in soccer as Inter-Parliamentary games end

...Kenya put up good show in athletics, Tanzania in tug-of-war

Parliament of Uganda are the champions of the Inter-Parliamentary football tournament once again as the week-long Inter-Parliamentary games ended at the Sheikh Abeid Amri stadium in Arusha, Tanzania.

Parliament of Uganda beat Parliament of Tanzania 2-1 in an entertaining final played on December 12th, 2014 to take the trophy away for the fourth time in consecutive. Star striker, Hon Muhammad Nsereko and Hassan Tindyebwa netted the goals while Hon Joshua Nassari pulled one back for the legislators from Tanzania.

Parliament of Kenya was crowned third after earning a 2-0 walk-over over EALA following the latter's inability to field a team. According to EALA officials, several key players of the team were nursing injuries.

During the awards, EALA's Taslima Twaha was awarded the Most Valuable Player (MVP) while Hon Muhammad Nsereko earned the golden boot (top scorer) after scoring 4 goals. Parliament of Burundi won the Fair Play/Most disciplined team of the tournament.

Parliament of Tanzania won the women and men's tug of war as well as the women's athletics championship. Parliament of Kenya meanwhile bagged the Athletics' men category. The athletics event was colourful and exciting. Parliamentarians took part in the 100 meters dash, 400 meters sprint, 800 meters run and the 1500 meters race, dubbed as the "Parliamentary marathon". Former Boston Marathon Champion and Cherengany (Kenya) legislator, Hon Wesley Korir was a star winning all the races he participated in with ease.

The EALA Organising Committee suspended the netball games owing to time constraints *vis a vis* the number of protests received from both the Parliament of Uganda and the Parliament of Tanzania over fielding of staff players, perceived to be active professional players. Parliament of Uganda protested against the fielding of Ms. Imelda Hango on December 8, 2014. According to the appeal signed by Team Manager, Hon Kiiza Winnie,



My Ball: Hon Joshua Nassari (left) of the United Republic of Tanzania in a tussle for the ball with Hon Emmanuel Nengo of EALA. United Republic of Tanzania lost narrowly to Parliament of Uganda in the finals played at the Sheikh Abeid Amri Stadium

the player in question who is a staff member of the Parliament of Tanzania played in the 1st division netball league as a goal attacker of Police Dodoma.

On December 11, 2014, Parliament of Tanzania on its part through a letter signed by team captain, Hon Halima J Mdee, protested against Elizabeth Namuhenge saying she was a national player and had played for a club, NBC in Uganda. The rules governing the Inter-Parliamentary Netball games bar from participation, any staff member who plays the game at an active/professional level. Such privilege at the moment is the preserve of Parliamentarians only.

The tournament brought together National Assemblies of the Partner States as well as EALA. Parliament of Rwanda sent apologies over their inability to participate due to other national commitments.

This was the first time that the organisers, EALA expanded the sports disciplines to include athletics and tug-of-war, in a move that enhances inclusivity.

The games are important in enhancing the bonding of legislators. The games are key in meeting the pertinent interaction between EALA and the National Assemblies as envisaged in Article 49 (2a) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC and in sensitisation. 🇸🇰



By Hon Celestine Kabahizi

Rwanda gets new Minister for EAC



The East Africa Legislative Assembly family is indeed proud to welcome a new Member in the name of Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza, the Minister for East African Community Affairs from Rwanda.

This follows a cabinet reshuffle in the Republic of Rwanda in July 2014, which saw Amb Rugwabiza take over from Hon Jacqueline Muhongayire (also a former EALA Member) who was elected a Senator. While congratulating Hon Rugwabiza over her new appointment, I note that it takes place at a unique time for both my country Rwanda and for the EAC.

Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza comes in due time as the EALA is currently implementing its strategic plan aiming at people centered and making conducive environment for private sector in driving business, investments and job creation.

The East African Community in general and the East African Legislative Assembly in particular are keen to see integration realized and the tenets of growth realized and core principles of good governance and respect of rule of law adhered to.

Regional integration is the engine to spur unity and to bring back the people together while strengthening the social fabric and cohesion. You will recall that

Africa was in the past one and the ancestral relationships of its people were ideally broken by colonialists after the the Berlin Conference. The move resulted in disintegration of communities resulting in splits among the borderland communities.

The move has been part of the reason why we see the animosity created in some cases among borderland groups. I have deliberately put in this paragraph here since I consider Amb Rugwabiza to be an integration enthusiast and she will be able to use her experience while serving the EAC and EALA.

Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza has previously served in various senior managerial positions in the private sector, both in Rwanda and internationally, including in a Swiss multinational corporation. She has a rich work experience in politics and diplomacy. To name but a few, Amb Rugwabiza has been Rwanda's representative to the UN in Geneva, and head of

Regional integration is the engine to spur unity and to bring back the people together while strengthening the social fabric and cohesion.



The former Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa signs to admit the new Member to EALA

delegation to the World Trade Organization as well as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Switzerland. Prior to this current position, she was the Chief Executive Officer of Rwanda Development Board One Stop Center. During her tenure, the RDB significantly enhanced service delivery including improving business compliances and creating conducive environment to spur investors coming to Rwanda. This year, the World Bank lists Rwandan among the top global Doing Business Reformers and as one of the easiest places to start a business.

In May 2013, *Jeune Afrique* Magazine named Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza as among the 25 most influential women in business on the African continent. Due to her rich experience in international and national high ranking positions the EAC expects many positive changes from Ambassador Valentine Rugwabiza.

I am sure she shall not be doing business as usual. We expect to see the new Member of the Council of Ministers working tirelessly on the many programs and projects that underpin regional integration as well as in addressing existing challenges including Non Tariff Barriers. 🌍



The Minister of EAC, Rwanda, Amb Valentine Rugwabiza is led to the House by Hon Abubakar Zein and Hon Patricia Hajabakiga



The Minister takes her oath assisted by Stephen Mugume, Senior Clerk Assistant, EALA



Hon Chris Opoka-Okumu congratulates the new Member



By Hon Pierre Celestin Rwigema

Rwanda celebrates 20 years of liberation - Kwibohora

The July 4, 2014 occasion marking 20 years of liberation (Kwibohora) was colourful. In attendance were H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Salva Kiir, President of the Republic of South Sudan and H.E Prosper Bazombanza, First Vice-President of the Republic of Burundi. Others were Mama Maria Nyerere, former First Lady of the United Republic of Tanzania, heads of political organizations, members of diplomatic corps, EALA Members, and thousands of Rwandans.

During the event, H.E Paul Kagame welcomed all guests thanking them for joining Rwandans on the occasion and reiterated that the achievements were made possible by the dedication and sacrifices of many of RPF's leaders and cadres. He lauded the contribution of Major General Gisa Rwigema, the founding chairman saying that under RPF's leadership, Rwandans had a united nation. He called upon RPF, Rwandese youth and all citizens to seize the opportunity and take the country to the next level.

Today Rwandans look to the future with hope, optimism and commitment to Agaciro (dignity), and self reliance. I congratulate President Paul Kagame and all Rwandans who liberated the country, built the nation, transformed leadership and brought back dignity of life. Under President Paul Kagame's leadership, we have realised an improved economy, better security, health, education and technology among others. RPF continues to inculcate an all-inclusive family full of optimism and determination through modalities including home grown solutions. The Agaciro Development Fund: is a solidarity fund initiated by Rwandans to improve the



H.E President Paul Kagame addressing thousands of Rwandans and friends of Rwanda at Amahoro Stadium

level of financial autonomy of Rwanda as a nation. Rwandans themselves, finance the fund.

The scheme encourages Rwandans to work together to drive their own development.

Girinka: Magic cows that boost health while strengthening social cohesion. The Girinka (One Cow per Poor Family) Program initiated by President Paul Kagame in 2006, targeted 257,000 poor households each of which were slated to be given one cow, as a way of improving their welfare.

Gacaca : The court is part of a system of community justice inspired by tradition and established in 2001 in Rwanda, in the wake of the 1994 Rwandan Genocide against Tutsi. Gacaca courts are a method of transitional justice, designed to promote healing from the crisis.

Itorero ry' Igihugu : Historically the Itorero ry'Igihugu was a Rwandans' school; and a channel

through which the nation could convey messages to the people regarding their national culture through, language, patriotism, social relations, sports, dancing and songs. Ubudehe: Refers to the long-standing Rwandan practice and culture of collective action and mutual support to solve problems within a community. Ubudehe was re-introduced into Rwandan life in 2001 to enhance development and participatory approaches. In 2008, the program won the



From left to right: H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, H.E Salva Kiir, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, H.E Paul Kagame attending the ceremony of July 4, 2014

United Nations Public Service Award for excellence in service delivery.

Umurenge SACCO: Savings and Credit Co-operative (SACCO) is a type of co-operative whose objective is to pool savings for the members and in turn provide them with credit facilities.

Other objectives of SACCOs are to encourage a thrift culture amongst the members and proper investments practices.

Health Insurance scheme (Mutuelle de Santé): The Ministry of Health of Rwanda has embarked on a program to ensure all Rwandans have access to affordable healthcare through health insurance schemes including the community based health insurance scheme. The scheme leverages the Ministry of Local Government, the “Ubudehe database” to tier insurance payments that allows structured payments based on citizens’ ability to pay.

Umuganda : Community works at national level done on the last Saturday of each month where citizens work to transform their communities. Millions of Rwandans undertake Umuganda (meaning ‘coming together in common purpose’). Umuganda has been crucial for the reconciliation and re-building Rwanda. Umuganda typically begins at 8a.m, at which time the community meets to work on a project.

This might be building a road, rehabilitating wetlands, fixing erosion or building houses for vulnerable people or constructing houses for the needy. This is followed by a

community meeting to discuss national and local issues. Across the 30 districts of Rwanda, citizens conducted a special umuganda on specific sites dedicated to the 20th anniversary of Liberation Day.

Rwanda now occupies the 3rd place in most competitive economies in Africa according to the World Economic Forum and has 8% real GDP growth over the last decade, translating into one million people being lifted out of poverty in a span of 5 years.

According to World Bank Reports, Rwanda is a fast growing, rapidly modernizing economy. It takes merely 6 hours to register a new business.

Rwanda has been ranked 2nd easiest place to do business in Africa, and 32nd easiest place to do business in the world. To facilitate communication as a pillar of business; 4000kms of fiber optic has been laid across the country.

The real indicators of this spectacular welfare are that 81% of the population had health insurance in 2013, 69% of births occurred in a health facility, 90% accesses to HIV/AIDS treatment, and 85% reduction in malaria deaths between 2005 and 2011.

Rwanda’s education system supports the country’s development and is expanding by benefiting all Rwandans who currently have access to 9 years of free basic education.

Over 95% of girls and boys are enrolled in primary school, and gender parity is at the core of Rwanda’s education strategy. Indeed under President Paul Kagame, the sky is the limit for Rwanda. 🇷🇼

RPF continues to inculcate an all-inclusive family full of optimism and determination through all best ways including home grown solutions.



By Elizabeth Gitonga

Bujumbura holds public hearings on the Cooperative Societies Bill

The first in the series of the Public hearings on the EAC Cooperative Societies Bill, 2014, was held in Bujumbura, Burundi, on 12 Sept 2014 to listen to stakeholders and to integrate their views into the proposed law.

The hearing was opened by the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of EAC, Burundi, Mr. Jean Rigi and moderated by the Chairperson of EALA's Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, Hon Isabelle Ndahayo.

Opening Speeches by the Chairman of the East African Farmers Federation (EAFF) Mr. Philip Kiriro, Mathias Miburo, Chairman, *Confederation De Association De Producteurs Agricoles* (CAPAD) and the mover of the Bill. Hon. Mike Sebalu reiterated the essence of having a regional Bill on Cooperatives.

Some of the comments made during the session were that the law needs to have clear objectives; there is need to revisit the entire law and separate what would appear under regulations from clauses under the law. In addition, the law should have clear sections that bring out the regional focus and objective of the Bill.

The participants further stated that it was important to add value to the national laws; there is need to harmonize the language used with the cooperative language; a more detailed and bigger portion of the law would go towards operations of the Agency and the need to re-adjust, some clauses of the law. The Bill is intended to harmonize national Cooperative laws in the EAC Partner States, and to provide a framework for cooperatives to

exploit the EAC regional integration agenda. The Bill is based on the understanding that each Partner State shall undertake to encourage the efficient use of scarce resources and to promote the development of private sector organizations which are engaged in all types of economic activity, such as, the Chambers of Commerce and Industry, confederations and associations of industry, agriculture, and manufacturing, among others.

At national level, cooperatives bear the primary responsibility to develop themselves but it is worth mentioning that regional and international support and cooperation may sometimes be required to supplement domestic efforts.

The Bill was a result of intense consultations between the EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources and the national co-operative organizations, which are recognized by national law, as umbrella organizations for all co-operatives, in all sectors. These national cooperative organizations are members of the Eastern Africa Farmers' Federation (EAFF). The EAFF played a key role in co-ordinating the public hearings.

The Bill passed the First Reading in January 2014 in Kampala, Uganda. It is the practice that once a Bill is taken through the First Reading, it is subjected to public hearings so as to ensure sense of ownership by the citizens of East Africa as well as to create awareness on the Bill. Following the Bujumbura meeting, all other Partner States' capitals were to hold similar hearings. The public hearings were held in all the EAC Partner States Capitals from 12th to 23rd September 2014. 🇷🇺

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By Eric Ngilangwa

Regional Legislature's role in promoting Peace and Security

A seldom stated but established truism about regional integration is that integration itself is a meditated effort in conflict prevention. Accordingly, over the past 2 decades across the African continent regional organisations have come to play an increasingly prominent role in the maintenance of peace and security.

Whereas conflicts in themselves are inevitable in any society, and are in fact indispensable to change, the veritable anxiety conflict produces stems from its level of intensity increasing. As such the goal becomes the management of conflicts in such a way that they do not escalate to disorderly and deleterious levels where they pose a threat to peace and security in the region.

The role of EALA in peace and security builds on the functional essence of a parliamentary body in conflict resolution in a given society. Parliament grants the representatives an opportunity to express the grievances and gratitude, the hopes and horrors of the people being represented.

As a body, EALA is comprised of representatives from all the five states who give expression to matters of concern to citizens of each of the Member States.

More than that, collectively making a declaration or resolution on an issue serves not only to bring attention to the issue, but also, possibly more importantly, it serves as the first step towards its potential resolution; the recognition that there is a problem or issue that needs to be addressed.

Up to the present time EALA has taken some steps in highlighting potential threats to regional peace and security. Past volitional examples include *inter alia* the Conflict Management, and Human Rights Bills. Among other 'broad security' concerns that the EALA has



Inside the Westgate Mall in Nairobi, Kenya, after the deadly assault by Al-Shabaab gunmen. EALA has a key role to play in promoting peace

already touched on are the environment, and even the principles of the community.

Undeniably the nature of the threats to peace and security in the region are continually evolving, and the threats emanate from different spheres even outside of the region. Nonetheless, it must not be overlooked that the primary role for the maintenance of regional peace and security remains firmly with the governments of the 5 member states. In the long run, with widened cooperation and deepened integration in the offing, and as the Member States aspire to the vision they set in the Treaty, it can reasonably be envisaged that EALA's role will likewise advance in terms of highlighting and management potential threats. 🇺🇦

Eric Ngilangwa, is an MA candidate in Political Strategy and Communication at the Brussels School of International Studies, University of Kent, and is also an Intern at the Nyerere Centre for Peace Research. eric.ngilangwa@gmail.com

BRIEFS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES



KENYA

Parliament set to amend Constitution to enable EAMU take effect

A Parliamentary Committee has proposed constitutional amendments to enable the proposed East African Community Monetary Union (EAMU) work.

In its October report, the committee on Regional Integration states that there would be need to amend the Constitution of Kenya to conform to the provisions of the EAMU protocol by the year 2021.

Under the Protocol, the EAC Partner States are expected to surrender monetary and exchange rates policies to the East African

Central Bank leading to a single currency regime within the region, whereas national central banks would remain with the mandate of managing fiscal policy, fiscal discipline and harmonise them with the other Partner States' national central banks.

"The relevant ministries and implementing agencies should aggressively sensitise the public on the provisions of the protocol in line with the tenets of people-centred integration process," the committee states in its report. "The Executive should fully involve the House from

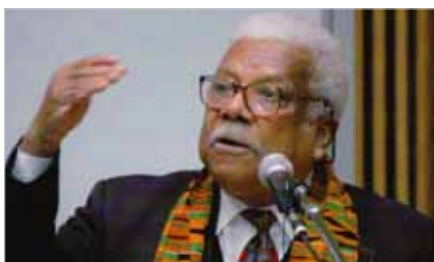
conception to the ratification process of all regional integration instruments to mitigate against instances where reservations may be introduced during the ratification process by Parliament," observed the committee Chair, Hon Florence Kajuju.

It also urges the Ministry of East African Affairs, the Attorney General and all other implementing agencies to expeditiously identify the legal reforms to be undertaken to facilitate proper and timely implementation of the Protocol. 🇰🇪



UGANDA

Parliament of Uganda pays tribute to Prof Mazrui



Members of Parliament recently paid tribute to the late Prof. Ali Mazrui the great African Scholar, who passed away on 13th October 2014 in New York in the United States of America.

The Minister of State for Education, Hon. John C. Musingo in moving the Motion said the late professor was a leading Pan-Africanist whose research focused on African politics and political Islam. "Professor Mazrui laid a firm foundation for the

Department of Political Science where he introduced courses in international relations and law," he said. The Late Prof. Ali Mazrui was born on 24th February 1933 in Mombasa, Kenya. He attained his Bachelor's degree with distinction from Manchester University, his Masters from Columbia University in New York and his Doctorate from Oxford University in England. He served at Makerere University from 1963 as the first Head of Department of Political Science and Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences until 1973 when he went into exile. Hon. James Akena (UPC, Lira Municipality) said Prof. Mazrui's positions always caused controversy but he remained true to his vision. He added that the late professor's philosophy was more

on humanism and left a legacy that Africans should follow. Hon. John Ken-Lukyamuzi (Rubaga South) described the late Professor as an effective communicator and debater who was endowed with intellectual prowess and called on Uganda to remember him honourably. "I propose that Makerere University and Government should put up a monument in his honour for the generations to come to remember him," he urged. In the Motion, Parliament conveyed its "deepest condolences to the bereaved family, the Governments of Uganda and Kenya, Makerere University and the world as a whole upon the demise of this illustrious son of Africa and also for his distinguished services to the country." 🇺🇬

**BURUNDI**

BNA amends law on commerce

The Burundi National Assembly Bill unanimously passed an amendment to Commercial code Law No 1/07 of 26 April 2010 at its sitting on November 13th, 2004 and in effect aligning it to meet the standards of the EAC. In her remarks the Minister for Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Madam Marie-Rose Nizigiyimana clarified that the new law had taken into consideration

the discussions at the region on the subject matter. She further stated that the law provides for the creation of a single window for integrating services and creation of businesses through the Burundi Agency for Promotion of Investment (API). In order to be at the same level as other EAC countries, it is important for us to align our standards with the others Minister, Nizigiyimana maintained.

The Parliamentary Commission urged the Ministry to ensure API opened additional branches in the country to ensure efficiency of services. At the moment, registration of companies is not as fast as it should be, representatives of the Commission noted. According to the Minister, however, the Ministry would ensure traders do not face challenges once they commence the processes. 🇧🇮

**RWANDA**

DRR Bill in the offing

Rwanda could soon have a law regulating disasters and ameliorating emergencies. The Minister of Disaster Management and Refugee Affairs Seraphine Mukantabana, has presented a bill deemed to regulate disasters in times of emergencies to an attentive Senate.

Hon Mukantabana told Senators that Disaster management Bill if passed would see the establishment of disaster management committees

and a system of coordination of related emergency activities.

The Minister noted that in event of disasters there would be rules and guiding principles in disaster management, to facilitate international assistance and institute a process of reintegration after recovery.

The Senators questioned the Minister seeking clarification on a number of matters revolving around preparedness to face disasters. Hon

Mukantabana maintained that the Ministry was proactive in exploring ways of avoiding disasters rather than intervening in times of hazards and disasters. In this regard, Minister Mukantabana stated that prevention mechanisms had been set up and that experts had presented informative papers dealing with management of disasters.

The Bill has been committed to a Committee to interrogate it further. 🇷🇼

**TANZANIA**

Bunge gives NBS nod on statistical data

Parliament of Tanzania has resolved to give autonomy to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) full mandate to handle all statistical data in the country. The Finance Minister, Saada Mkuya Salum tabled the resolution in mid November in the National Assembly. With the resolution, all statistics will be centralised, enabling

the institution to establish a national statistics system strengthening essential statistics in the country.

“The reason for adopting this system is to reduce controversies prompted by the lack of uniformity of data produced by various research institutions,” the Finance Minister said when tabling the Statistics Bill, 2013. The minister said, the statistics Act,

No 351 of 2002 established NBS as a government agency responsible for collecting statistical data through census and other researches. The Chairperson of the Parliamentary committee on economics, industry and trade, Hon Luhaga Mpina termed good statistical acquisition systems as key for government to effectively implement its development plans. 🇹🇿

Mitigate Climate Change and Conserve Forestry - EALA Says

The regional Assembly is calling for mitigation of climate change and additional resources for forestry conservation and management initiatives. With this in mind, the EALA has urged stakeholders to commence work the development of the East African Community Forest Law, Enforcement and Governance Strategy (EAFLEG) Strategy in a bid to effectively respond to socio-economic and environmental challenges and opportunities in the region.

The Assembly is also urging Partner States that have not ratified the Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management to do so.

EALA debated and approved the report of the Regional Parliamentarians Workshop on Forests and Climate Change in August 2014. The report presented to the House by the Chair of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee, Hon Isabelle Ndahayo observes the importance of having a regional forests policy that among other things maximizes contribution of the sector in enhancing livelihood and conservation. The report follows the Parliamentarians workshop on Forests and Climate change which was held on June 9-12, 2014 in Nairobi. It cites a number of existing programmes and case studies including that of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). Hereunder, the report annotates that the

effects of climate change do not have political boundaries and remain a common problem in the region.

The report further cites Climate Smart Agriculture as vital in increasing productivity and resilience. CSA is a land management practice that sustainably increases productivity while reducing greenhouse emission. A key Bill on Forestry is soon anticipated to be brought to the House. The Bill which is initiated by EALA Member, Hon Christophe Bazivamo has the object of promoting sustainable management of forest resources.

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Forests play an important role in climate change mitigation, as captured in Articles 112 and 114 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. A Communiqué released at the end of the Meeting in June 2014 urged the United Republic of Tanzania to ratify the EAC Protocol on Environment and Natural Resources Management.

It similarly urged the Republics of Burundi and Rwanda to join and embrace Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+), and the Agriculture Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU). On Disaster Risk Reduction, the Assembly wants the Council of Ministers to operationalize the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy and to finalise the attendant Bill.

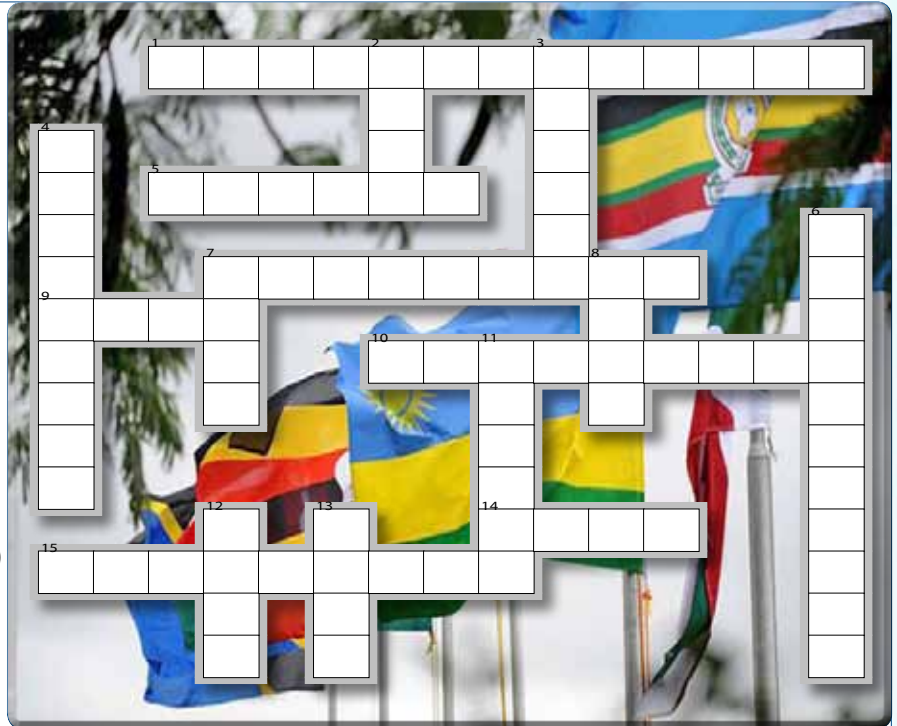
At debate, the motion was overwhelmingly supported by Hon Judith Pareno, Hon Christophe Bazivamo and Hon Susan Nakawuki. Others who supported the Motion are Hon Mumbi Ngaru and Hon Nancy Abisai. 🇰🇪

EALA CROSSWORD PUZZLE



ACROSS

1. First Information Resource Center on the EAC integration was launched in this city in 2011 (3-2-6)
5. Country noted as leading in carrying out economic reforms in 'Doing Business in the East African Community 2011 Report' (6)
7. Gross Vehicle Mass (GVM) agreed upon by EAC Partner States (5-3)
9. Surname of former EAC Secretary General (1974-1977) (4)
10. Lingua franca of the East African Community (9)
14. Formed in 1995, it is the premier regional Bar Association in East Africa (4)
15. First name of current East African Legislative Assembly Speaker (9)



DOWN

2. EAC Institution to receive support to enable it increase funding to Small and Medium-size Enterprises (SMEs) (4)
3. At roughly 50,000Km squared its sits as East Africa's largest Game Reserve (6)
4. Host town of the 2011 EAC Military Games & Culture event (9)
6. About 80% of the EAC's rural-based population depends on this activity for its livelihood (11)

7. Current membership of East African Community (4)
8. Middle East country appointed H.E. Amb. Mohsen Mova hedi Ghomi as its representative to the East African Community (4)
11. Country signed a four-year agreement with EAC worth an equivalent of US\$ 4 Million to support

- the EAC Partnership Fund (6)
12. Japanese organisation financing construction of a new Mombasa container terminal (4)
13. Institution at the forefront of facilitating private sector participation in EAC integration (4)

TEIM IABINRAHD IVEF UAURJUBMB AWAEDN IKIWILSHA ELSA IFIYTSFX SENDWE
 EAAALSSDAMR INRA EBAC AEBD LUOESS CAIJ GRILTUREACU

EAC.....Tweets

Compiled by Bobi Odiko



@amb_a_mohammed Great strides have been made in deepening integration of EAC economies. EAC now has a Customs Union and Common Market 3/5 @ForeignOfficeKE



A unified approach to enhancing #EAC security vital - #Nanyuki8 concludes - seminar recommendations... @jumuiya



EAC @rsezibera & @CathyNovelli US Under Sec of State 4 Econ Growth, Energy & Env discuss support to EAC @AmEmbTZ



@jumuiya Plan of Action of Protection and Promotion of Human Rights adopted by Sectoral Council @selemani



East African Legislative Assembly

*wishes you
a Festive Season
and a Prosperous 2015*



ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY