EAST AFRICA LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Press Release

EAKC Concludes Kiswahili Training for EALA Members

Arusha, Tanzania- November, 26th, 2026 The East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC) has concluded a Kiswahili Training Program for the Members of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). The training was held at the at the EAC Secretariat, Arusha from 23rd to 25th November 2026. While opening the session, **Hon.Dr. Abdullah Makame,** Chair of the General-Purpose Committee of EALA, thanked the EAKC for organizing the training for EALA members while noting that as representatives of the EAC citizens, it was important for EALA members to learn and be able to engage with other citizens and also undertake their roles in Kiswahili. He emphasised that Mastery of Kiswahili enhances the ability of the Members to fulfil the Assembly's core mandate of legislation, oversight and representation. Through Kiswahili, Members can engage more directly with citizens, participate more actively in regional discourse, and contribute more effectively to debates that shape the future of our Community. He noted that the training was part of the collaborative Programme between the Assembly and the Commission aimed at enhancing Members' competence in the language through a structured learning Programme.

Dr. Caroline Asiimwe, the Executive Secretary EAKC, noted the key role that EALA members play in enhancing EACs regional integration and the essence of Kiswahili in the execution of their mandate. She noted that in addition to being the lingua franca of the EAC, Kiswahili had been adopted as one of the official languages of the EAC and has a growing mandate globally. She noted the training was an important step in making Kiswahili more visible and usable in the everyday work of regional governance. We believe that when Members of Parliament appreciate, understand, speak and use Kiswahili with confidence, they are better placed to connect with citizens, communicate regional priorities, and strengthen East African identity.

The EAKC has thus embarked on a programme to develop capacities of the EAC organs and institutions in the use of Kiswahili. The EALA members will be engaged in various learning activities. After the physical training session held in Arusha, there will be further flexible online trainings for the members. Improved Kiswahili capacity will help reduce language barriers within the Assembly, promote inclusivity, and reinforce the role of EALA as a regional institution that reflects and communicates with the people of East Africa. It also supports the broader objective of mainstreaming Kiswahili within regional institutions and strengthening the cultural and linguistic identity that underpins regional integration

Mr. Obatre, the Clerk to the Assembly recognised the critical role of EALA members to learn Kiswahili to enable the better execute their mandate and also to connect better with the ordinary citizens of the EAC Partner States. The programme is being delivered in collaboration with **MS Training Centre for Development Cooperation (MS TCDC)**, a Pan-African training and capacity-development institution in **Arusha, Tanzania** and an important partner in capacity building and practical learning. Some sessions are also delivered by facilitators from University of Pittsburgh, USA.

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About the EAKC

The East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC) is a specialized body of the East African Community dedicated to coordinating and advancing Kiswahili across East Africa and beyond. Its core goal is to grow Kiswahili into a regional and international *lingua franca* that supports political, economic, social, cultural, educational, scientific, and technical exchange.

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