The Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation, United Republic of Tanzania, Hon Prof Palamagamba John Aidan Mwaluko Kabudi on 13 May 2019, took Oath of Allegiance as an Ex-Officio Member of the Assembly.

Hon Prof Kabudi was sworn in by the Clerk to the Assembly at a brief ceremony witnessed by the Speaker and Members of EALA in line with the Rule 5 of the Rules and Procedures of the Assembly. The Rule 5(4) of the Rules of Procedure says in part that: “No Member can sit or participate in the proceedings of the House until the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to the Treaty is taken”.

Rule 5(5) specifically states that “when a Member first attends to take his or her seat other than at the first Sitting of a new House, he or she shall be brought to the table by two Members and presented by them to the Speaker who shall then administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance”.

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Hon Prof Kabudi was ushered in to the House by EALA Members, Hon Mohammed Habib Mnyaa, Hon Fancy Nkuhi, Hon Leontine Nzeiyimana and Hon Kasamba Mathias. EALA Speaker, Rt Hon Ngoga Karoli Martin congratulated Hon Prof Kabudi upon his swearing in - as he assumes his ex-officio role in the regional August House.

Hon Dr Kabudi was appointed to the Ministry by H.E. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli in March 2019, replacing Hon Dr Augustine Mahiga who moved to the docket of the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Ministry. Professor Kabudi is deputized at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation by Hon Dr Damas Ndumbaro.

Prior to the appointment as Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Co-operation, Hon. Prof. Kabudi was the Minister for Constitutional and Legal Affairs from March 2017 to March 3, 2019. Prior to joining cabinet, Hon Prof. Kabudi was a Professor of Law at the University of Dar es Salaam with a wide-ranging academic expertise and long experience in public service and consultancy.

At the University of Dar es Salaam, he served as Dean of the Faculty of Law after having served as Associate Dean and Head of Department of International Law. At different intervals during his academic career, Prof. Kabudi was seconded to the Government as National Coordinator in the Vice President's Office for review of institutional framework for environmental management in Tanzania and the drafting of the Environmental Management Act and its regulations. Prof. Kabudi has been a consultant to the Government of Tanzania on review and drafting of laws in areas of natural resources and water resources financed by the World Bank and other donor agencies in Tanzania and East Africa. Prof. Kabudi is a renowned Public Law expert having also served as a member of the Constitutional Review Commission that was tasked to draft a new Constitution.

Hon Prof Kabudi holds a Bachelor of Laws Degree – First Class honors (LL.B. Hons) and Master of Laws (LL.M) from University of Dar es Salaam and a Doctorate Degree in Laws (Dr. Jur) from the Freie Universtaet Berlin (FU Berlin), Germany.

In his maiden statement on the floor, Prof Kabudi assured the House of his commitment to ensure integration is realized. “Coming together as the EAC is not a matter of choice, but it is necessitated by geographical proximity, culture and the region's geopolitics. Mr Speaker, I commit to do my best to spearhead the EAC Integration”, Hon Prof Kabudi said. Prof Hon Kabudi appreciated the work done by his predecessor, Dr Augustine Mahiga.

...Hon Prof Kabudi pledges support for the integration process
Her Excellency Ms. Pamela O'Donnell, the High Commissioner of the Canadian High Commission in the United Republic of Tanzania, today paid a courtesy call on the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Secretary General briefed the Canadian Envoy on the latest milestones recorded in all the four regional integration pillars and the two officials later discussed a wide range of issues geared towards deepening cooperation between Canada and the East African Community.

They also conferred on Canada’s support to regional integration initiatives, the Burundi peace process; and the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA).

Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko noted the urgent need to upscale the EAC-Canada relations as well as Canada’s support to the regional integration agenda.

On her part, Her Excellency Pamela O'Donnell reiterated the importance of the EAC in furthering regional integration efforts and re-affirmed her country’s commitment to support the noble cause.

Present at the ceremony were the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Stephen Mlote and other EAC Officials.
Mombasa hosts 9th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2019

Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Petroleum and Mining, Hon. John Munyes on Wednesday 8th May 2019 graced the official opening of the 9th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2019, themed East African Region - the destination of choice for Oil and Gas Investment Opportunities to enhance Socioeconomic Transformation.

The Cabinet Secretary disclosed that Kenya was on course with the discovery of oil and the country is expected to ship its first 200,000 barrels of crude oil in June 2019 after hitting the 200,000-barrel mark set by the government for it to be able to ship out the product. The Cabinet Secretary also disclosed that Tullow Oil had so far transported 87,000 barrels of crude oil to the refineries storage tanks in Mombasa.

According to Hon. Munyes, Kenya has a total of 94 wells of oil that have been drilled, 63 exploration blocks that have been gazetted, 276 blocks licensed and 36 blocks open to investors, adding that “the government was constructing a 820km 20-inch diameter, South Lokichar – Lamu Crude Oil pipeline that will connect Turkana to Lamu Port, which will be operational by 2022”.

The Cabinet Secretary revealed other major petroleum infrastructure that have been put in place/or their construction is ongoing. These include the 450km, 20-inch diameter multi-product Line 5 from Mombasa to Nairobi, which has been completed; construction of four tanks of 133,000 cubic metres in Nairobi to ensure adequate storage of products coming through Line 5; the 122 km, 10-inch diameter multi-product line from Sinendet to Kisumu; and completion of the Kisumu Oil Jetty.

Hon. Munyes called upon investors to come to the EAC not only to invest in the Oil and Gas sectors but also to support the Partner States. “There are challenges in this area and we really need your support” noted the Cabinet Secretary.

On his part, the Tullow Oil Executive Vice President for East Africa, Mark MacFarlane disclosed that Tullow Oil had invested $2 billion in Kenya, and it was upbeat that they will hit the 200,000 barrels required for shipment. Tullow discovered crude oil in Uganda in 2006 and later in Kenya in 2012 but no exports have been made.

Addressing delegates, on behalf of the Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Liberat mfuwukeko, the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, noted that a few years ago, the East African region did not attract significant investments in the oil and gas sector but today, the region
had benefited from advances in technology and management of exploration and production, which has led to the discovery of commercially viable oil and gas deposits.

“Recent discoveries were very impressive; Uganda has 6.5 billion barrels of oil and 500 Billion cubic feet (Bcf) of gas; Kenya 754 million barrels of oil, Tanzania 57.25 Trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of gas, Rwanda 63 billion cubic metres of methane gas and huge commercial reserves in South Sudan, and reports at hand indicate that exploration process in Burundi is also on going and that it has reached an advanced stage”, disclosed the EAC official.

The Deputy Secretary informed the delegates that the ongoing event aims at fulfilling one of the objectives of the Community enshrined in chapter 19, article 114 of the EAC Treaty and article 40 of the EAC Common Market Protocol of promoting sustainable utilization of the natural resources of the Partner States and putting in place measures that would effectively protect the natural environment of the Partner States.

Hon. Bazivamo said that exploitation of Petroleum resources on the Continent, had certainly not achieved the intended socio economic transformation, hence, “we have the obligation to draw lessons and ensure we are better off in the EAC region”.

Since the inception of the EAPCE in, impressive achievements have been reported in every subsequent conference and I am happy to report that the EAC Partner States have established clear, harmonized, stable, regulatory, legal and fiscal frameworks that are supporting the achievements and developments in the sector.

At the Conference, Uganda’s Minister of Energy and Mineral Development, Hon. Eng. Irene Muloni launched Uganda’s second open competitive licensing round in respect to Petroleum exploration, development and production in Uganda.

At the launch, Hon. Eng. Muloni disclosed that the licensing round covers five (5) Exploration Blocks in the Albertine Graben, which is the most prospective area of exploration, development, and production in Uganda. The Blocks are: 
- LR2_2019_Block01 (Avivi), area coverage of 1026km²;
- LR2_2019_Block02 (Omuka), area coverage of 750km²;
- LR2_2019_Block03 (Kasuruban), area coverage of 1285km²;
- LR2_2019_Block04 (Turaco), area coverage of 637km²; and
- LR2_2019_Block05 (Ngaji), area coverage of 1230km².

The Minister hailed President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his visionary leadership and strong guidance he has given to the sector since 10th February 1986. She also commended the EAC Partner States for the support they have provided in facilitating the development of the oil and gas sector in Uganda and the region at large.

The licensing round was driven by a number of factors including, among others, the establishment of additional resources and reserves to the current confirmed 6 billion barrels of oil out of which about 1.4 billion barrels are recoverable, and 500 billion cubic feet of non-associated gas; and existence of comprehensive and robust legal, regulatory and institutional frameworks which guarantee certainty to investors. The second launch follows the first licensing round through competitive bidding undertaken in 2017.

Uganda made its first commercial oil discovery in 2006. To date, over 121 wells have been drilled with a success rate of over 88%. Preparations are under way to commence production following the issuance of production licenses to Total E&P Uganda B.V, Tullow Uganda Operations Pty Ltd, and CNOOC Uganda Ltd. The commercialization of the oil in Uganda will involve export of part of crude oil by the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline through Tanga Port in Tanzania.

The 9th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2019 is being attended by Ministers in charge of the sectors in the Partner States; Honorable Members of East African Legislative Assembly; Honorable Members of National Parliaments; Members of the Diplomatic Corps, Development Partners and investors; Petroleum Sector Business Community; and Members of the EAC Regional Petroleum Conference and Exhibition Steering Committee.
The East African Community-German Business and Investment Expert Dialogue co-organized by the East African Business Council (EABC) and the German-African Business Association was held on 14 May 2019, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The overall objective of the one-day Dialogue was to create business synergies in various sectors while showcasing the EAC as an ideal business destination for trade and investment.

Addressing the forum on behalf of the EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, said the draft EAC Investment Policy which is currently under consideration by the Council of Ministers, envisages a transformed upper middle-income EAC that is a competitive common investment area with a more liberal, predictable and transparent investment environment.

Hon. Bazivamo told the participants that the investment policy lays ground for Partner States to cooperate in investment promotion, facilitation, liberalization and protection of cross border investment.

"Partner States are to streamline and simplify administrative procedures related to investments, promote and maintain dialogue with the private sector and exchange business information," he added.

He disclosed that at the regional level, through the Consultative Dialogue Framework, EAC has developed an open channel where the private sector, civil society and other interest groups interface with the Secretary General.

He reaffirmed the Secretariat’s role in advocating for a better and conducive climate investment in the region.

"I take this opportunity to thank our partners Afrika Verein and EABC for continued good working relationship and request for further collaboration in supporting the private sector to achieve the business goals and promote the region as an ideal place to invest and do business," said Hon. Bazivamo.

On his part, the Executive Director of the East African Business Council, Hon. Peter Mathuki said it is with no doubt that if all Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) hindering trade within the EAC Common Market are removed, the domestic demand and market of over 150 million people from the six EAC partner states will attract investments from Germany and all over the world as it will be more economically viable for all Investors to invest in the EAC.

In his remarks read by EABC Manager Policy and Standards, Mr. Lamech Wesonga, Mathuki said EABC will continue to ensure that the agenda of the Private Sector is well articulated and received by the policymakers in order to promote a business environment conducive to business formation, growth, expansion.

The Chief Executive Officer of the German-African Business Association, Mr. Christoph Kannengiesser, said the dialogue provides an opportunity for networking and supports information exchange as well as better mutual understanding.

He urged the EAC to prioritize collaborative approaches that will see supply chains strengthened across borders and Governments laying the groundwork for the ease of movement of goods and people in the region.

The Dialogue brought together Policy-makers, experts, private sector representatives from East Africa and Germany.
The East African Community, in partnership with the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the Indian Ocean Commission have over the last three years been implementing the ESA-IO Maritime Security Strategy with a Euro 37.5 Million seed funding from the European Union.

Among the interventions envisaged is the enhancement of the Capacity of the Criminal Investigations Authorities of the participating states to effectively and efficiently investigate crimes at sea in a manner that provides a successful legal finish. The EAC was entrusted with this result area and commenced training of investigators on General investigations, Forensic Investigations and Criminal Analysis. Six intermediate trainings, targeting 50 officers per cluster were held between January and June 2018.

The advanced trainings for the same officers in each of the clusters commenced with the training of 50 officers on Criminal Analysis that commenced on 23rd April 2019 in Mauritius. The trainings took place within a two week period ending May 5th 2019. The trainings were held at the Mauritius Prisons Training School in Port Louis. INTERPOL, within the context of the MoU between EAC and it (INTERPOL) concluded in 2012, is providing the technical expertise.

The trainings were formally launched by the Attorney General and Minister for Justice, Human Rights and Constitutional Reforms of the Republic of Mauritius Hon Maneesh Gobin. In his speech the Minister underscored the need for collective action by regional states in combating transnational organized crime.

He noted that with the increase in the movement of people, money and goods, the level of sophistication of crime that rides on economic and social integration has increased. He called for the intensification of both horizontal and vertical information sharing among and within agencies and across states.

He re-emphasized the need to strengthen commonality of purpose and where possible expansion of the training program to encompass more states particularly the French Speaking island states whose legal systems are different yet whose security is inextricably tied to other regional states (both littoral and inland).

The opening session was also graced by the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation in Mauritius Mr. Michael Gobalek, the Deputy Commissioner of Police Mr. Muktar Din Taujoo, and the Commissioner of Prisons, Mr. Premananda Apadoo.

Participants for the trainings are drawn from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Seychelles, Mauritius, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda.
Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) inflows to East Africa fell by 14% in 2018, this is according to the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

UNCTAD says that the fall in FDI inflows to East Africa was significant, adding that it makes the region’s in competing for investment projects more challenging.

This despite FDI flows to Africa bucking the global trend and registering an increase of 6% in 2018, though most of these inflows went to North and Southern Africa.

Mr. Paul Wessendorp, Chief of UNCTAD’s Investment Promotion Section, further disclosed that global FDI inflows fell by 19% in 2018 to an estimated US$1.2 trillion, from US$1.47 trillion in 2017.

“This is the third consecutive drop bringing FDI flows back to the low point after the global financial crisis,” said Wessendorp.

Noting that FDI is the largest source of external finance for developing nations, Mr. Wessendorp said that FDI has the potential to create higher-skilled employment, facilitate the diffusion of technology, and improve access to international markets.

Mr. Wessendorp was speaking during the opening session of the three-day Regional Seminar on Facilitating Investment in Sustainable Development Goals Projects in Arusha, Tanzania.

Mr. Wessendorp said that the resource implications for implementing SDGs, which were on top of the agenda for the UN, the wider international development community and UN Member States, was substantial.

“According to UNCTAD estimates, developing countries alone face an annual investment gap of 2.5 trillion US dollars required to achieve the Goals,” said the UNCTAD official, adding that private sector investment, including FDI, should be mobilized for SDG-related projects in areas such as the creation of decent work, power generation, infrastructure, and water and sanitation in addition to food security, climate change mitigation, and adaptation, health and education.

EAC Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, in remarks read on his behalf by Mr. Charles Omusana, the Private Sector Development and Investment Promotion Officer at the EAC Secretariat, said that the EAC had structured its programmes in a way that addresses all the 17 SDGs.

“The EAC Treaty requires the region to become a single conducive investment destination and should be marketed as such. Therefore, it calls upon us to harmonize our investment laws, policies and regulations, thus making them predictable and facilitative for cross border investor and investments,” said Amb. Mfumukeko.

The Secretary General disclosed that the region still has patent challenges that negatively affect its investment climate, namely: Non-tariff barriers (NTBs); availability of affordable finance, power and other utilities; appropriate quality infrastructure; a domestic private sector still a lot of handholding, and; unpredictable investment regimes.

He urged Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) to take the lead and advocate for a better and conducive climate for investment to thrive in the region.

In his remarks, Mr. Geoffrey Mwambe, the Executive Director of the Tanzania Investment Centre (TIC) hailed UNCTAD for supporting the development and implementation of the e-Regulations project as a means to enhance pro investment services in Tanzania.