The Secretary General WEEKLY NEWS

Deepening Integration, Widening Cooperation.

4TH JULY 2022

KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL's OFFICE

- **New EAC Common External Tariff with 4th Band of 35% comes into effect-1st July 2022**
- **Zanzibar President calls on African Judges to protect Human Rights**
- **EAC Congratulatory Message to the Republic of Rwanda and Burundi on their 60th Independence Day**

EAC COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF WITH A 4TH BAND OF 35% COMES INTO EFFECT

Effective 1st July 2022, EAC Partner States started applying the new EAC Common External Tariff (CET) with the 4th band of 35%.

The EAC CET four band structure currently stands at 0%, 10%, 25% and 35%. The move follows a decision by East African Community (EAC) Ministers / Cabinet Secretary in charge of Trade and Finance on 5th May 2022.

The Ministers further agreed that there should be flexibility in the implementation of the revised CET, particularly on products currently affected by the current global economic realities.

CET is one of the key instruments under the Customs Union pillar which justifies regional integration through uniform treatment of goods imported from third parties.

Among the tariff lines in this 4th band include: dairy and meat products, cereals, cotton and textiles, iron and steel, edible oils, and beverages and spirits.

In addition; furniture, leather products, fresh-cut flowers, fruits, sugar, coffee, tea and spices and textiles and garments, among others.

The maximum tariff band at 35% was agreed on as the most appropriate rate, with generated added employment opportunities from the switch of local production, expected to cure any short time losses experienced.

The move is set to promote industrialization and safeguard consumer welfare on products where the region is net importing and address the requests for stays of application.

The new rate is also set to spur intra-regional trade by encouraging local manufacturing, value addition and industrialization.

DOWNLOAD THE EAC CET 2022 VERSION HERE

ZANZIBAR PRESIDENT CALLS ON AFRICAN JUDGES TO PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS

The President of the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar H.E (Dr.) Hussein Ali Mwinyi, has called on African Judges to enhance the promotion and protection of human and peoples' rights through effective collaboration between the continental and regional Courts.

President Mwinyi was speaking during the official opening of the first Tripartite Judicial Dialogue held in Zanzibar, which was organized by the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, the East African Court of Justice and ECOWAS Community Court . This was in collaboration with various Partners led by the Roul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and the Humanitarian Law.

On his part, Hon. Justice Nestor Kayobera, President of the East African Court of Justice noted that the Court has built jurisprudence on the protection of rights of individuals in the East African Community, as enshrined in Articles 6 (d) & 7 (2) of the EAC Treaty .

The judicial dialogue commenced on 27th to 29th June with discussions on various judicial issues such as; protection of human rights, adjudication, women rights and indigenous people and prospects of cooperation in the implementation of the decsions.

Her Excellency Lady Justice Imani D. Aboud, President of the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights noted that the Judicial Dialogue has become a critical tool to achieve justice in an increasingly globalized world. She added that, recent developments in Africa's social - political and legal landscape demand that African Leaders reaffirm their commitments to Justice.

The dialogue further brought together the Chief Justice of Zanzibar (designated), Minister of Justice, Attorney General, Regional Commissioner, Judges of the High Court of Zanzibar and legal and academic professionals, among others.

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Ref: SGN/8/18
Date: 1st July, 2022

His Excellency Évariste Ndayishimiye,
President of the Republic of Burundi,
State House,
BUNJUMBURA, BURUNDI.

Your Excellency,

RE: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE 60TH INDEPENDENCE DAY, IN THE REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI.

The East African Community (EAC) congratulates Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of Burundi, as you celebrate this momentous occasion of the 60th Independence Day.

The EAC shares in this joyous occasion, as the Republic of Burundi celebrates six decades of self-rule, and re-affirms commitment to support the nation in socio-economic development. Your Excellency, the Community salutes you for your firm commitment in ensuring peace and security as well as economic investment.

On my own behalf and that of the East African Community Organs and Institutions, I take this opportunity to convey our best wishes to Your Excellency, the Government and people of the Republic of Burundi as you celebrate the 60th Independence Day.

May the Almighty God continue to bless the Republic of Burundi and the entire East African Community.

Long Live Burundi! Long Live the East African Community!

Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mutuku Mathuki
SECRETARY GENERAL

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL

Ref: SGN/8/18
Date: 1st July, 2022

His Excellency Paul Kagame,
President of the Republic of Rwanda,
State House,
KIGALI, RWANDA.

Your Excellency,

RE: CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE ON THE OCCASION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY, IN THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA.

The East African Community (EAC) congratulates Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Republic of Rwanda, as you celebrate this momentous occasion of the 60th Independence Day.

Your Excellency, the EAC salutes you for your transformative agenda of scaling up the nation's socio-economic development, propelled by your dedicated focus in advancing the business and investment environment, reconciliation, peace and stability.

On my own behalf and that of the East African Community Organs and Institutions, I take this opportunity to convey our best wishes to Your Excellency, the Government and people of Rwanda as you celebrate the 60th Independence Day and reiterate our commitment to upholding integrity and accountability in the integration process.

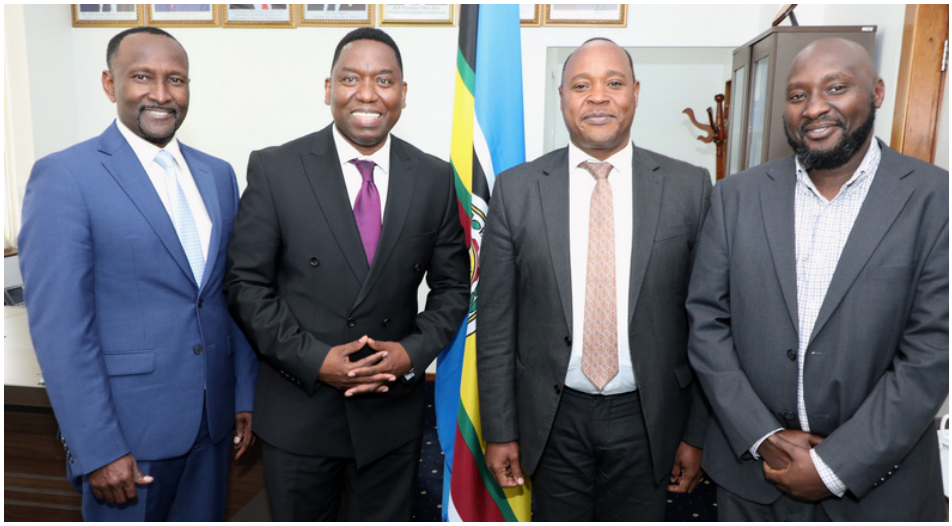
May the Almighty God continue to bless the Republic of Rwanda and the entire East African Community.

Long Live Rwanda! Long Live the East African Community!

Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mutuku Mathuki

PICTORIAL

EAC Secretary General greets Burundi´s President H.E Évariste Ndayishimiye during Burundi´s Independence Day celebrations in Bujumbura, Burundi.



From left; Mr. Ben Kasue, founding chair of the East Africa Chamber of Commerce (EACC) in Dallas, USA, former Kenyan Ambassador and High Commissioner to Tanzania H.E Dan Kazungu and business man Mr. Andrew Kanyutu pay a courtesy call on EAC Secretary General Dr. Peter Mathuki.

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Meat, alcohol, sugar prices increase on new EAC tax
- EAC sexual and reproductive health bill in final consultations
- Canada helps leaders with practical solutions for East Africa, the Horn
- Kenya's Muhoho Kenyatta entry to regional business council evokes hopes and fears
- Uganda's Diesel, maize flour, tomatoes register worst price increases
- Museveni urges stronger Cuba-Uganda trade ties
- Tanzania's Taifa Gas to set up plant in Kenya
- AfCFTA tells African nations to use trade to cushion yourselves
- New Commonwealth project to scale up marine protection in Rwanda
- South Sudan welcomes action agenda for displaced persons
- Burundi President receives message from Paul Kagame
- US endorses regional action to end conflict in DRC

UPCOMING EVENTS

- World Kiswahili Language Day Celebrations - organized by the EA Kiswahili Commission in Zanzibar- 6th -7th July 2022

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