EAC WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

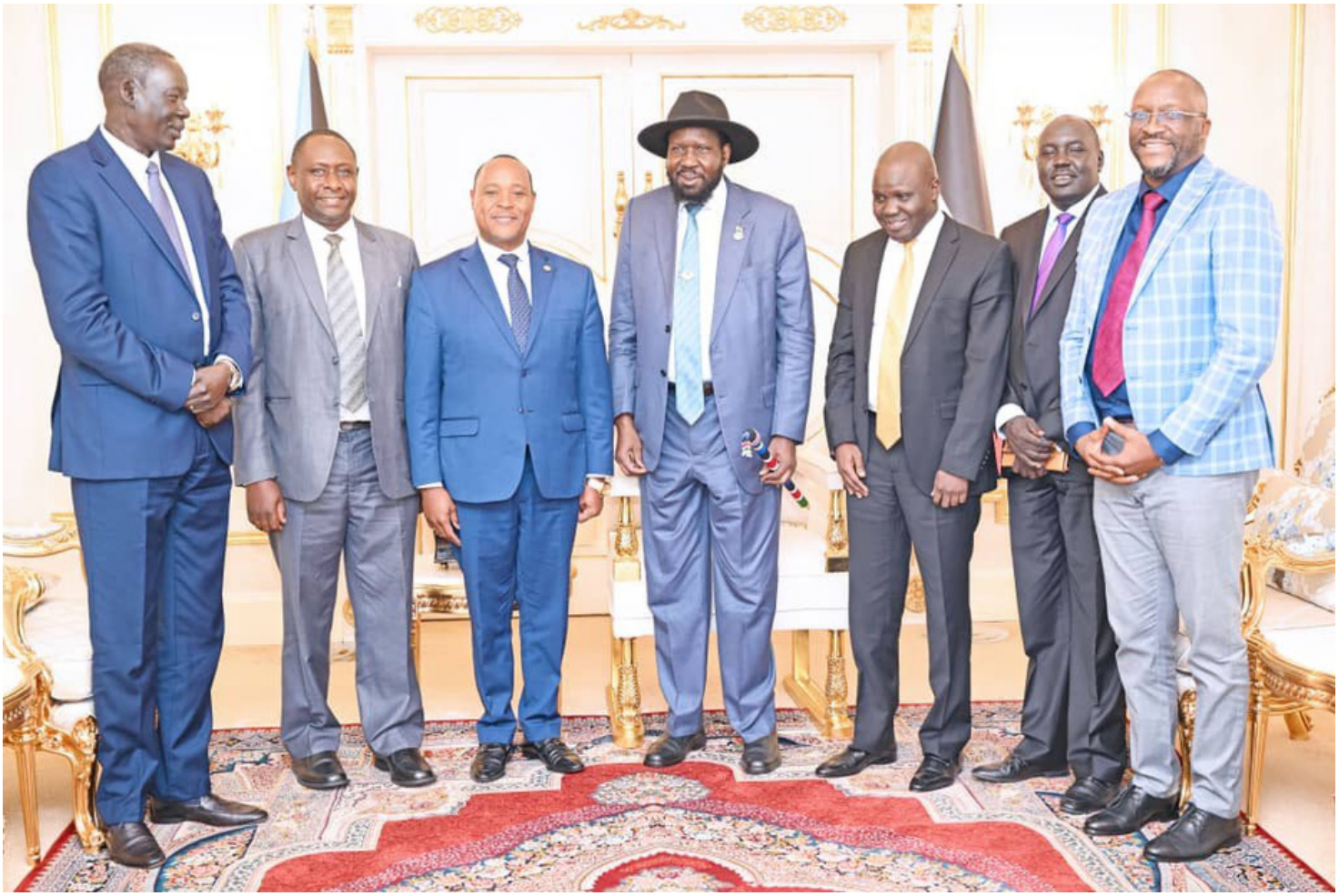
DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

18th September, 2023

Latest from the Office of the Secretary General

- EAC Secretary General pays a courtesy call on the President of South Sudan
- President Kiir and President Museveni discuss security and trade

EAC SECRETARY GENERAL PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON THE PRESIDENT OF SOUTH SUDAN

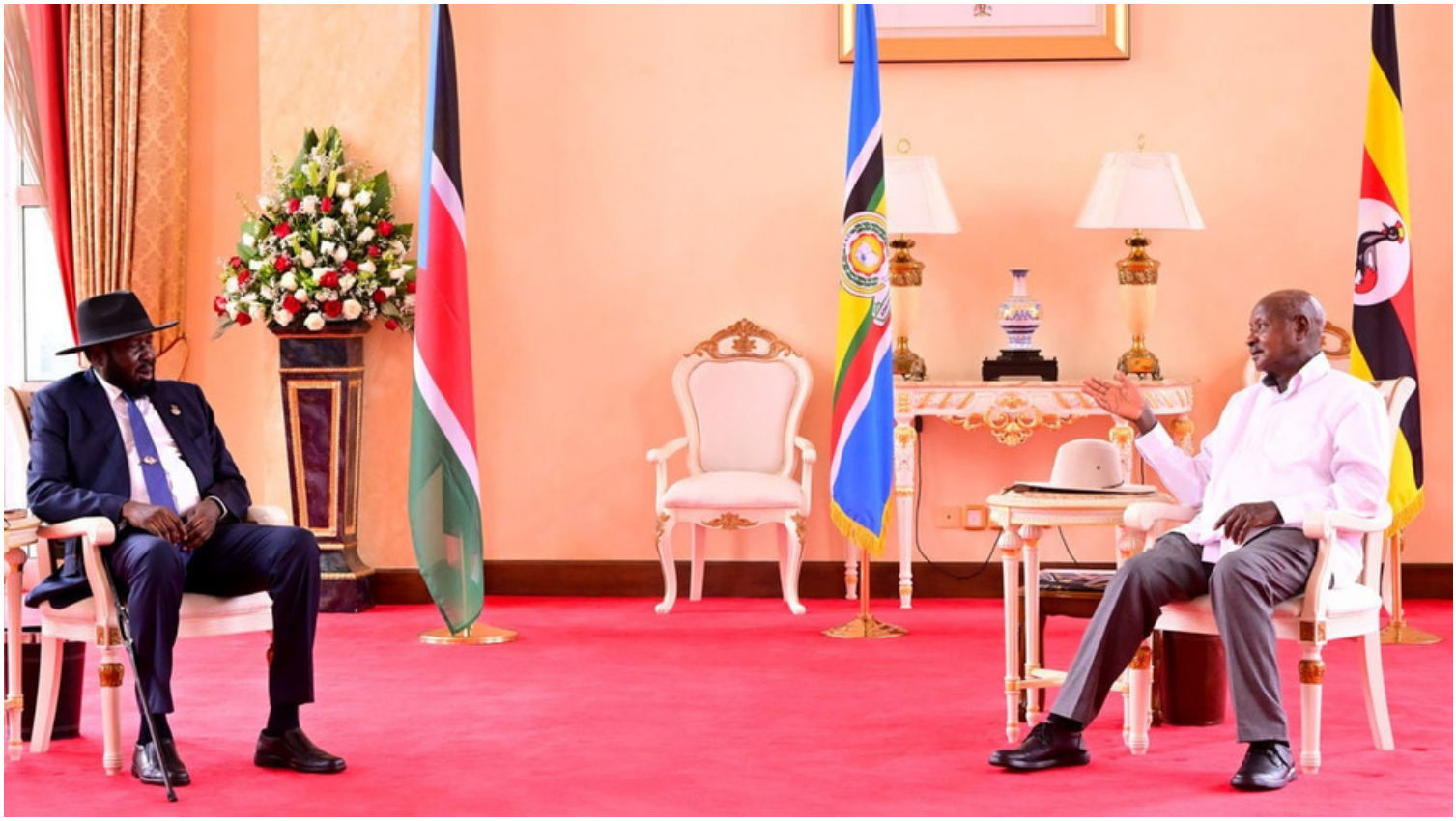


EAC Secretary General, Hon (Dr) Peter Mathuki paid a courtesy call on the President of the Republic of South Sudan, H.E Salva Kiir Mayardit, in Juba, South Sudan.

The Secretary General briefed the Head of State on the various ongoing initiatives to ensure the full integration of South Sudan into the Community as well as the state of EAC affairs.

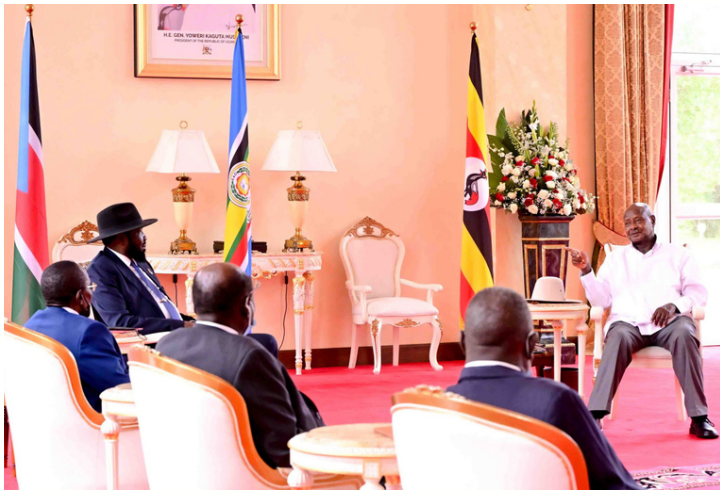
The briefing was also attended by South Sudan Minister for East African Community Affairs, Hon Deng Alor Kuol; EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Infrastructure, Productive, Social and Political sectors, Mr. Andrea Aguer Ariik Malueth, EAC Counsel to the Community, Hon. Dr. Anthony Kafumbe and other officers for the government of South Sudan and the EAC Secretariat.

PRESIDENT KIIR AND PRESIDENT MUSEVENI DISCUSS SECURITY AND TRADE



Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni and his South Sudan counterpart Salva Kiir last week met and held discussions on mutual interests and border security between the two countries.

During the closed-door meeting, the two leaders' discussions were centered on regional issues, trade and border security. The Presidents also discussed matters of common interests between the two nations.



TOP REGIONAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

EAC Hails Kenya and Tanzania for Lifting Visa Requirements for DRC Citizens

The East African Community (EAC) has applauded the decision by Kenya and Tanzania to lift visa requirements for citizens of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). DRC has subsequently lifted visa restrictions for Kenyan nationals in reciprocation of the move by Kenya to waive visa requirements for DRC nationals. MORE

Kenya is Your Gateway To Silicon Savannah - President Ruto

President William Ruto attended the US -Africa Business Roundtable, San Francisco hosted by Prosper Africa. The Head of State had the opportunity to pitch Kenya as the ideal market for Americans who are looking to invest in the African continent. The President termed Kenya as the Silicon Savannah and the gateway to the East African Community. MORE

EAC trade hampered by NTBs, lack of credit and dollar scarcity — EABC report

Difficulties in securing foreign currencies and lack of affordable credit in the wake of rising interest rates are major challenges facing traders in the East African Community, according to a new report on the Ease of Doing Business in the EAC 2023, that also highlights traders still facing challenges at borders and markets despite harmonized tariffs within the EAC bloc. MORE

DRC makes slow steps in integrating with EAC states

The Democratic Republic of Congo this week opened its doors to Kenyans as it signalled further interest to integrate under the East African Community. A circular publicised on Wednesday by the Directorate of Migration in the DRC said Kenyans will no longer be required to get visas before travelling to the DRC, effective September 01, the same day Kenya lifted visa requirements on Congolese. The DRC has also opened doors to Tanzanians while Dar in August lifted visa requirements for Congolese nationals. MORE

Congolese students in Tanzania, Kenya welcome visa waiver

Students from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) pursuing courses in Kenya and Tanzania have welcomed the visa exemption to Congolese nationals travelling to the two countries. Early last week, the two East African countries announced they have granted visa exemptions to all Congolese citizens, bringing much needed relief to thousands of students pursuing their academic dreams in those countries. MORE

Kenya set to host regional tourism expo in November

It is Kenya's turn to host the 3rd edition of the East Africa Regional Tourism Expo (EARTE) slated for November as the country roots for regional tourism. While unveiling the event at KICC set for November 20th -22nd 2023, Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage Cabinet Secretary Peninah Malonza at the same time announced that the event will be held alongside the annual Magical Kenya Travel Expo (MKTE). MORE

GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Global trade $85bn poorer from restrictive measures

At least $85 billion worth of global trade is currently affected by trade restrictive measures aimed at addressing the spillovers of food insecurity brought about by the effects of the Russia-Ukraine War. This is according to the 2023 edition of the World Trade Report themed Re-globalisation For a Secure, Inclusive and Sustainable Future launched September 12 during the WTO Public Forum in Geneva. MORE

World leaders offer solidarity after devastating Morocco quake

The African Union joined the Group of 20 leading economies at its summit on Saturday, giving the continent broader representation in the often-divided bloc as host Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeks to portray his country as a voice for the Global South. "With everyone's approval, I request the African Union head to take his seat as a permanent G20 member," Modi said in his opening address, banging a ceremonial gavel. MORE

Cobalt and Copper Mining in DR Congo 'Wrecking Lives' - Amnesty

The expansion of industrial-scale cobalt and copper mines in the Democratic Republic of the Congo has led to the forced eviction of entire communities and grievous human rights abuses, including sexual assault, arson and beatings, Amnesty International reports. Growing demand for so-called clean energy technologies has created a corresponding demand for certain metals, including copper and cobalt which are essential for making most lithium-ion batteries used to power a wide range of devices like electric cars and mobile phones. The DR Congo has the world's largest reserves of cobalt, and the seventh-largest reserves of copper. MORE

UN Women Calls for Equal Pay Between Women and Men

UN Women is advocating for equal pay for men and women to bridge the gender pay gap in the East and Southern Africa region by 2030. In its latest report dubbed 'Why Women Earn Less?', the body says that women only earn about 81 cents for every $1 earned by men on an hourly basis in workplaces, representing a gender pay gap of 19 percent. The gender gap, according to the report, is attributed to factors such as age, education, occupation, and job type. MORE

Climate Inaction Puts Lives On the Line

Insufficient progress towards climate goals is slowing down the global fight against poverty, hunger and deadly diseases, according to a report released on Thursday by the UN World Meteorological Organization (WMO). UN Secretary-General António Guterres echoed that message, warning that record temperatures and extreme weather were "causing havoc" around the world. The global response has fallen "far short", Mr. Guterres insisted, just as latest UN data indicates that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are only 15 percent on track at the midway point of the 2030 Agenda. MORE

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