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## EAC SECRETARY GENERAL UNDERSCORES THE ROLE OF INNOVATION AND INDUSTRIALIZATION IN EAST AFRICA



East African Community Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko has underscored the role of Science, Technology and Innovations (STI) in transforming East Africa countries from largely agro-based economies into competitive industrialized ones.

Amb. Mfumukeko said that the six EAC Partner States have great capacity to create wealth for their citizens by harnessing STI to attain industrial development.

Amb. Mfumukeko said it was worrying that the region was at the moment consuming goods that were manufactured elsewhere, adding that by doing this it was exporting jobs and revenues that would ordinarily have benefited EAC citizens.

The Secretary General further noted that innovators in the region have little or no assistance from governments and other stakeholders in STI to transform their ideas into products and services.

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## ... five EAC Partner States received US\$25 million each to implement water supply and sanitation projects



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He said that to address these and other challenges to industrialization in East Africa, the EAC had put in place the East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO), an institution of the EAC that would push for the promotion of STI throughout the region.

Amb. Mfumukeko said that it was by promoting a culture of innovations that the region would be able to make its industrial and service sectors more productive and competitive.

The SG was speaking when he toured the EASTECO Headquarters in Kigali, Rwanda.

The SG disclosed that more than 50 per cent of the EAC population consisted of well-educated youth in need of jobs, adding that the Community would therefore work with all stakeholders to promote innovations and singled out the private sector that he described as the main creator of employment in the world today.

In her remarks, the Executive Secretary of EASTECO, Ms. Gertrude Ngabirano, said it was unfortunate that East Africa was still exporting raw materials to industrialized nations and in turn importing goods manufactured from the same raw material at prices 10 times higher than the value of its exports.

Ms. Ngabirano said the onus was on the region to reverse this trend by using technology to produce more and add value to its raw materials.

The ES said that countries that had the capacity to innovate were the only ones with greater potential to grow their economies. She said EAC countries could harness synergies in STI with each specializing in different sectors.

Also present at the function was the Deputy Executive Secretary of EASTECO, Dr. Saidi Kibeya.

Amb. Mfumukeko later toured the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation (LVWATSAN) projects in Nyanza district, 90km south of Kigali.

Five EAC Partner States namely Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania received US\$25 million each through to implement water supply and sanitation projects.

Among the projects the SG toured were the LVWATSAN water intake and supply projects that provide clean drinking water to the 48,000 residents of Nyanza town and its environs.

The local residents said the project had transformed the lives and spurred economic activity in the town.

Accompanying the SG on the tour were Governor of Rwanda's Southern Province Governor, Ms. Marie Rose Mureshyankwano, the Mayor of Nyanza District, Hon. Ntazinda Erasme, and Ms. Gisele Umuhumuza, the Deputy CEO (Water and Sanitation Services) at the Nyanza Water and Sanitation Company. 

## UN Secretary General commends EAC on Inter-Burundi Dialogue

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has commended the East African Community for leading the Inter-Burundi Dialogue process and thereby assist Burundians to restore stability in their country.

Mr. Guterres further described the EAC as having strong potential for integration in Africa backed by homogeneity and vast economic opportunities.

Mr. Guterres, who met the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Political Federation, Mr. Charles Njoroge, on 26th June, 2018 at the UN Headquarters in New York, reiterated the African Union/United Nations complementary on all spheres of cooperation and reaffirmed the need for African leadership in Peace and Stability in the continent.



The Secretary General disclosed that he will be participating in the upcoming AU Summit in Mauritania where an action plan for the AU/UN partnership will be concluded.

On his part, Mr. Charles Njoroge, who is in New York to participate in the 3rd Review Conference on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and also to attend the UN High Level Conference on Counter Terrorism, reaffirmed the EAC's commitment to full implementation of the UN Programme on SALW consistent with the goals set in SDG 16.4.

Mr. Njoroge noted that the Community appreciates the importance of a peaceful, stable and secure environment and respect for human rights to achieve sustainable development and informed the UN Secretary General that the Community has unwavering support for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission particularly in respect to the Burundi and the South Sudan peace processes.

Mr. Njoroge hailed the Partnership on Burundi developed through the Joint Technical team that brings together the UN/AU/EAC to collectively and synergistically support the Burundi process and the EU support. He declared that "EAC remain committed to walking with Burundians towards peaceful credible elections in 2020".

The EAC official also informed the UN Secretary General that EAC had a standing MoU with the UNHCR to support comprehensive and proximate management of Refugees in the region in confor-

mity with the provisions of the regional and global instruments on the same.

Meanwhile, addressing the 3rd review conference on the implementation of the UN programme of action on SALW and its tracing instrument, the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Political Federation, Mr. Charles Njoroge, stated that the East African Community had launched the 5th Development Strategy, which has specific targets on SALW control that relate to the AU silencing the Guns Initiative 2020.

He informed the Conference that the Community views the implementation of the Joint United Nations-African Union Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security signed on 19th April 2017 as providing an enabling vehicle for SALW control initiatives with an eye on addressing both the demand and supply driving factors.

He disclosed that at regional level, the EAC had established a Regional Ballistics Referral facility in Kampala, Uganda through EU Support to procurement and commissioning of a state of the art Integrated Ballistics Identification System, intended to address the dual challenges of enhancing investigative capacity in arms related offences but also ease the tracing instrument.

"This is one of the flagship interventions under the East and Southern Africa Maritime Security Project intended to among others Interdict Sea bound illicit trafficking of SALW, and EAC remains immensely appreciative to the EU for this support," said the Deputy Secretary General.



## Burundian Minister for EAC Affairs Emphasises the Need to Make EAC Integration Process Inclusive

The Minister to the Office of the President responsible for East African Community Affairs in Burundi, Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo, has emphasized the need to involve all stakeholders including the ordinary people in the EAC integration process.

Hon. Ndahayo said that it was by making the integration process inclusive that stakeholders and citizens who are also the taxpayers would own the process and support it.

The Minister noted that the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC was clear that the integration process should be people-driven with the private sector as the engine of economic growth.

Hon. Ndahayo said that inclusivity involved engaging stakeholders as much as possible in the formulation and implementation of policies on integration.

The Minister restated the commitment of the Government of Burundi to involve the private sector, civil society organisations and other interest groups in the integration process by establishing a National Dialogue Committee in accordance with the directive of the EAC Council of Ministers.

The Minister particularly singled out the role of the media whom she said were at the frontline in educating EAC citizens on the integration.

Hon. Ndahayo said that with the East African integration progressing at a steady pace, the role of the media would become critical in promoting socio-economic transformation in the region in addition to eliciting the full participation of the citizenry in the process.

The Minister made the remarks in a speech read on her behalf by her assistant, Ms. Clarette Inamahoro, at the opening session of the inaugural EAC Secretary General's Media Forum held in Bujumbura. The forum drew participation from journalists in Burundi and other EAC Partner States as well representatives of civil society, the private sector and government of Burundi.

Hon. Ndahayo said that journalists should be able to act as catalysts in bridging the information and awareness gap between the EAC and the citizens while leveraging in addition to educating them on the status and achievements of the integration.

Addressing the forum, EAC Secretary General Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko said that one of the critical challenges facing the Community was lack of awareness on the integration process.

Amb. Mfumukeko said that the EAC had made significant achievements including increased trade volumes, infrastructure development, water supply and sanitation, and harmonization of education systems and curricula yet most East Africans could not link



these achievements to the Community.

In his remarks, the Registrar of the East African Court of Justice, His Worship Yufnalis Okubo, said the Court had played a crucial role in dispensing justice to aggrieved East Africans with regard to matters touching on the violation of the provisions of the EAC Treaty.

Mr. Okubo noted that most of the cases that had been handled by the Court revolved around the violation of Article 6(d) of the Treaty which demands of Partner States to adhere to the universally acceptable principles of good governance, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice.

The Registrar cited the case of the Republic of South Sudan whose election of MPs to the East African Legislative Assembly was nullified by the Court after a citizen successfully sued the government for breach of the election rules as specified by the Treaty. The South Sudan National Legislative Assembly subsequently conducted an election of the country's nine EALA MPs in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty.

On his part, the Deputy Executive Secretary of the East African Science and Technology Commission, Dr. Saidi Kibeya, said that the region would not achieve the goals it had set for itself in increasing trade and socio-economic growth if it didn't promote Science, Technology and Innovations.

Dr. Kibeya said that it was incumbent upon governments, academic and research institutions to work with the private sector to transform innovations into products and services that could be competitive on the international market.



## EACJ President Calls Upon Stakeholders to Strengthen their Cooperation and Relationship with the Court



The President of the East African Court of Justice, Hon Justice Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, while at the opening of a three days sensitization workshop for the Judges, State Attorneys and Members of the Bar Association of the Republic of Uganda on the role of the Court in the advancement of the East African Community Integration agenda, called upon the participants to strengthen their cooperation and relationship with the Court. His Lordship told the participants that, the future and effectiveness of the Court will largely depend on its relationship with other stakeholders.

“Your role as Judges, State Attorneys and Advocates is very crucial in the development of the EAC laws, jurisprudence and uniform interpretation and application of the EAC law.” Said the President of the Court. He further added that, it is only jointly that the partners in the rule of law chain can develop the potential of East African integration and reap the benefits it offers.

Justice Ugirashebuja in his remarks further said that, East African integration is of utmost importance to all the Partner States in the region, economically, politically and socially and that

through integration and the development of an internal market, economic growth is inevitably stimulated. However, he added that the path to a high level of political, socio-economic, cultural and financial integration is sometimes fraught with uncertainties, and is at times long and bumpy. Most of these challenges are legal.

The President also said that, as regional integration experience has shown, law plays an absolutely vital role in integration. It is law that provides the legal backbone of Regional integration. It is law that provides the concrete rights and benefits of regional integration to businesses and individuals. It is law that allows for the free and efficient movement within the internal market. And it is also within the legal framework that the political actors meet and interact.

Justice Ugirashebuja stressed that because of the importance of law, regional integration requires good cooperation between all the partners in the rule of law chain: judges, lawyers, civil

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**... the absence of dispute should not be the focus of the evolution of the EAC, but the focus should be on how we resolve the disputes**



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servants, academics, businesses and individuals. "We all must contribute to make the EAC a living legal reality." He stated

His Lordship emphasized on the role of the court, which is crucial in resolving disputes which would otherwise threaten the survival of a Community. That the existence of dispute is real and to an extent an important ingredient of any development as a Community. He also said that the absence of dispute should not be the focus of the evolution of the EAC, but the focus should be on how we resolve the disputes. J

Justice Ugirashebuja further added that without an effective dispute resolution mechanism, the survival of the Community is at stake and that without its case law, and many principles that the Court has developed and will continue to develop, the Community will certainly not be where it is today and will not arrive at where it aims to be.

The Executive Director of the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) Hon Justice Henry Peter Adonyo, who was also in attendance, commended the EACJ President, "We at the Judicial Training Institute thank the EACJ for choosing to bring to the Institute this important exercise which could have very well been held elsewhere. We appreciate and thank you for your confidence in the Institute and we hope that we are not a disappointment to you."

Justice Adonyo also noted that the sensitization workshop will equip you the participants with relevant knowledge about the EACJ and the EAC at large so that at the end of the day you have adequate knowledge and become familiar with the institutional arrangements of the East African Community and more

especially the East African Court of Justice and thus reflect on how each and every one of us can contribute to its effectiveness.

The workshop was also attended by the Hon Lady Justice Jane Kiggundu representing the Principal Judge of the High Court of Uganda, the representative of the Attorney General of the Republic of Uganda, Mr J.B.R Suuza, President of the Uganda Law Society, Mr Simon Peter M. Kibone among others.

During the workshop, there were a number of paper presentations made on the role of the judiciaries in East Africa in the integration process and the relationship of EACJ with National Courts, a paper which was presented by the President of the Court (EACJ), Hon Justice Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, a paper on the legal and Judicial framework of EAC and EACJ that was presented by the Hon Justice Dr Charles Oyo Nyawello, the Jurisprudence of the Appellate Division done by Justice Geoffrey Mupere Kiryabwire of the EACJ Appellate Division as well as Justice of the Court of Appeal of Uganda. Justice Kiryabwire also delivered a paper on the role of ICT in efficiency administration of Justice at the EACJ. Lastly there was a paper on the jurisprudence of the EACJ First Instance Division and judicial responsibilities by the Deputy Registrar Her Worship Ms Geraldine Umugwaneza and the Research Officer of the Court Ms Wanjiru Kathleen Rubia.

The Court has held the same sensitizations in some of the Partner States like the Republic of South Sudan, Burundi, now Uganda and next week will proceed to Rwanda and then later in Dar Es Salaam and  Nairobi Kenya.

# EAC Region to Benefit from Significant Increase in French Development Assistance

The East African Community Partner States are set to benefit from increased development assistance from the French Development Agency (AFD).

Also projected to benefit from French development aid is the EAC Secretariat with the focus being on climate change, clean energy and private sector development and investment promotion.

AFD Chief Executive Officer Remy Rioux disclosed that French development assistance had surpassed the 10 billion euros mark in 2017 and will double in 2020 because of President Emmanuel Macron's commitment to the country's development cooperation with the rest of the world.

Mr. Rioux said that AFD's focus was on sharing French expertise and financing, adding that 50 per cent of the agency's funding would go to Africa.

He reiterated that French development finance was biased towards mitigating the effects of climate change, adding that France had accumulated many years of experience in financing for the phenomenon.

He singled out the Paris Agreement saying it was a voluntary policy that revolves around priorities identified by benefiting countries and regional economic communities. The Paris Agreement deals with greenhouse gas emissions mitigation, adaptation and finance starting in the year 2020.

Mr. Rioux said that France was searching for more partnerships and projects noting that the bulk of the funding for climate change would go to non-sovereign actors namely the private sector, civil society and local authorities.

He said that the country supports regional integration the world over because of the country's experience in Europe.

The AFD Chief Executive was speaking at the residence of the French Ambassador in Dar es Salaam during a meeting between the agency and an EAC Secretariat delegation led by the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote.

On his part, the Ambassador of France to Tanzania and the EAC, H.E. Frederic Clavier, expressed concern at the glaring gaps between the skills needs of the private sector and the calibre of graduates churned out by East African universities.

"There are basically no capacity links between the training offered by universities and the needs of companies. There is an urgent need to support vocational training in the region," said Amb. Clavier.

Amb. Clavier said that solar power should be a development priority everywhere in the world due to its convenience and affordability.

In his remarks, Eng. Mlote said that the EAC had made significant strides in the integration process, adding that the Custom Union and Common Market were already in place with steady progress being made towards the attainment of a single currency by the year 2024.

Eng. Mlote further cited achievements in the transport sector including the harmonisation of axle-load limits, driving standards, road sizes and signs, and cargo clearance and tracking systems.

Noting that one of the reasons for the collapse of the first EAC was lack of stakeholder engagement, Eng. Mlote said that the private sector was now a key player in the EAC integration.

On climate change, Eng. Mlote said that the region faces cross border climate change challenges whose mitigation cannot be undertaken individually by the Partner States.

He said that water levels in Lake Victoria, a major source of water and fishing in the region, had been severely affected by destruction of forest ecosystems from which some of its major tributaries originate.

Eng. Mlote told the French delegation that the EAC already had in place a Climate Change Strategy and Implementation Master Plan all of which were aimed at supporting national initiatives in the Partner States.

The DSG disclosed that the Community had already applied for accreditation to the Green Climate Fund, a fund established within the framework of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

On clean energy, Eng. Mlote indicated that clean energy sources were a major priority for the Community since 80 per cent of households still depend on charcoal and firewood for cooking.

The DSG informed the French delegation that the EAC Summit had approved French as one of the official languages of the Community and urged France to support the promotion of the language within the region.

In addition to climate change, clean energy, and private sector development, the EAC delegation also proposed to the French for support industrial development and SMEs, tourism and wildlife management, research and policy analysis and ICT. ●

## EAC Executive Decries High Number of East Africans Seeking Health Services in India



The Executive Secretary of the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), Professor Gibson Kibiki, has decried the high number of East Africans going to India to seek medical services which can be accessed in hospitals in the region.

Prof. Kibiki attributed the huge exodus of patients to India to the lack of information on health services that were available at referral hospitals in the region.

Prof. Kibiki noted that some of the most sought after services by East Africans in the Asian country included diseases of the heart, the kidney and cancer that could be handled locally by EAC designated Regional Centres of Excellence (RCoEs).

The ES cited some of the RCoEs as those for Kidney Diseases (Kenya); Heart Diseases (Tanzania); Cancer (Uganda), and; eHealth, Biomedical Engineering and Health Rehabilitation Sciences (Rwanda). Consequently, Prof. Kibiki would said that the Commission would soon avail on its updated website information on the RCoEs and the health services that they offer.

Prof. Kibiki was speaking at the EAHRC

Headquarters in Bujumbura, Burundi when he received a delegation led by EAC Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko. On HIV/AIDS, Prof. Kibiki disclosed that the Commission would focus its research on life-prolonging drugs and how to make them work better.

He cautioned members of the public and especially the youth that despite the huge advances made in combating HIV/AIDS, the disease is still with us and preventive measures were necessary.

The ES attributed the increasingly high level of resistance antibiotics to the practice of purchasing drugs over the counter and under dosages sometimes through self-prescription by members of the public. He revealed that East Africans may soon be able to access treatment across national borders in addition to enjoying portable health insurance across the region, adding that the Commission would soon undertake research to gauge the feasibility of a regional health insurance scheme before piloting the scheme.

He described as counterproductive the tendency by health researchers and medics

in the Partner States to work in silos since the region was one and that diseases did not know national borders.

In his remarks, EAC Secretary General Amb. Mfumukeko noted that the Commission brings together the best brains in health research from the entire region to tackle challenges faced by East Africans in accessing quality healthcare.

Amb. Mfumukeko said that the EAC Council of Ministers had put in place the Commission out of the realisation that the region could not forever be dependent on medical research conducted in developed countries. The Secretary General further said that the Commission would give young researchers opportunities to hone their skills in the ever-changing medical field.

He hailed the Commission for mobilizing more than US\$4 million for its operations from development partners over the last one year.

The SG has been on a tour of EAC Institutions and projects in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi.



## Arusha Hosts EAC High Level Forum on Inaugural Biennial Review Report of Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Recognition of the Best Youth



The Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries, Republic of Uganda and the current Chair of the EAC Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security, Hon. Vincent Bamulungaki Ssempijja, has called upon EAC Partner States to strengthen the linkages between Biennial Review (BR) process and the National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs).

In his remarks during the opening session of a High Level Forum on Inaugural Biennial Review Report of the Malabo Declaration and Recognition of the Best Youth Agripreneurs held on 16th June 2018 at the Mount Meru Hotel in Arusha, Tanzania, the Minister emphasized that NAIPs are the main vehicles for implementation of Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Agricultural Growth and Transformation for Shared prosperity and Improved Livelihoods adopted by African Union Heads of State in 2014.

Hon. Ssempijja appealed to Partner States to support implementation of NAIPs at a pace that is fast enough to bring about the desired change. The Minister further urged Partner States to fully embrace and institutionalize Joint Sector Review as a key mechanism for ensuring inclusive, efficient and effective delivery of the Malabo mutual accountability commitment. The Minister paid tribute to the Republic of Rwanda for emerging as the best performing country in implementing the seven (7) commitments under Malabo Declaration in the Inaugural Biennial Report presented to the AU General Assembly in January 2018.

The Minister acknowledged that promoting youth employment in agriculture is a top priority under Malabo Declaration Commitment 4 which focuses on halving poverty by the year 2025. The key targets under this include creating job opportunities for at least 30% of the youth in agricultural value chains and supporting and facilitating preferential entry and participation for women and youth in gainful and attractive agri-business opportunities.

Addressing the Forum, EAC Deputy Secretary General in-charge of Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, urged Partner States to take the Biennial Review process as an important

mutual accountability yard stick for tracking progress, informing and influencing evidence-based agricultural planning and investment decisions.

Dr Chimimba David Phiri, Sub-regional Coordinator for Eastern Africa (FAO-SFE) and FAO Representative to the African Union and UNECA, mentioned that the agricultural sector provides untapped potential to boost the creativity, energy, innovation and entrepreneurship of the youth, create decent employment opportunities and wealth, and curb youth distress migration. He reiterated that boosting youth employment in agricultural value chains is a low hanging fruit for harvesting sustainable development, food security, and rural poverty reduction.

The main focus of the Forum was to discuss EAC Partner States CAADP Biennial Report 2018 key findings and recommendations; to define priority actions towards operationalizing recommendations in the Biennial Report in order to improve EAC Partner States performance in reporting; and to recognize and award prizes to the Best Youth Agripreneurs in the EAC. A report on EAC-FAO project on promoting Youth Employment in the Agricultural Sector was presented. The climax of the Forum was award of financial grants and certificates to the 6 Best Youth agripreneurs in the EAC with outstanding models in agribusiness that have contributed to food and nutrition security, wealth creation and employment.

The Forum was jointly organized by the EAC Secretariat, African Union Commission and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the margins of the 11th Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security. In attendance at the Forum were Permanent/Principal Secretaries responsible for agriculture from the Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda and Republic of Kenya, Directors from agriculture sector Ministries and institutions, the African Union Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), CAADP Focal points, Continental and Regional Stakeholders and Development Partners engaged in the CAADP process.



## Rwanda Minister of Justice Congratulates EACJ on Realizing the Objective of Sensitizing State Attorneys



determined by the EACJ and get a remedial decision of the Court.

The Minister also emphasized on the cooperation between the EACJ and the Office of the Attorney General, that it is not new and encouraged the Court to continue with the workshops, trainings to the State Attorneys, Judges and Members of the Bar Associations in the Partner States on the role, practice and procedure of the Court that are different from the national courts. That it will help them gain more experience with the practices of the regional court.

The Minister of Justice and Attorney General (AG) of the Republic of Rwanda who was the Chief Guest, represented by Mr Theophile Mbonea, Head of Legal services in the Office of the AG, congratulated the Court on realizing the objective of sensitizing the State Attorneys who are among the key litigants that appear before the EACJ to argue the cases filed against the government of Rwanda.

In his opening remarks he added that, it is therefore essential for the Court to have thought about this sensitization workshop and call upon all the participants to utilize this unique opportunity to share the knowledge and experience of the EACJ with their Lordships facilitating the workshop.

Hon Minister also commended the EACJ for the new developments of the Court such as e-filing system which will enhance access to court and its efficiency in delivering justice. "I am aware of the online case management system which has reduced costs for the litigants while filing and serving process to the court. The Attorney General's Office embraces the use of advanced technology by the EACJ and will remain supportive to ensure the system is fully working where there is need" Said the Minister of Justice.

The Chief Guest further noted that establishment and the presence of the EACJ Sub-registries in all Partner States has brought services of the Court closer to the people of East Africa. That it is no longer just hearing about "The Arusha Court" as it was before, but Rwandans have started actually seeing the "East African Community Court" among them. He added that those who feel aggrieved by laws or decisions that seem to violate the East African Community Treaty and hence undermine the goals and objectives of integration, and who wish to have the matters

The Minister also pointed out the willingness of the government of Rwanda and anticipate its participation in the EACJ's programs will significantly add to ideas that contribute to the harmonization of our laws and procedures towards a uniform dispensation of justice in the region and greater integration. He added that this is in line with the requirement in Article 126 of the Treaty which states that "In order to promote the achievement of the objectives of the Community set out in Article 5, the Partner States shall take steps to harmonize their legal training and certification and shall encourage the standardization of the judgments of courts within the Community".

The Chief Guest concluded by encouraging the leadership of the Court to continue conducting and rotating such important sensitization workshops to all Partner states which will contribute to the visibility of the Court and participation of the Offices of the Attorneys General in the Partner States.

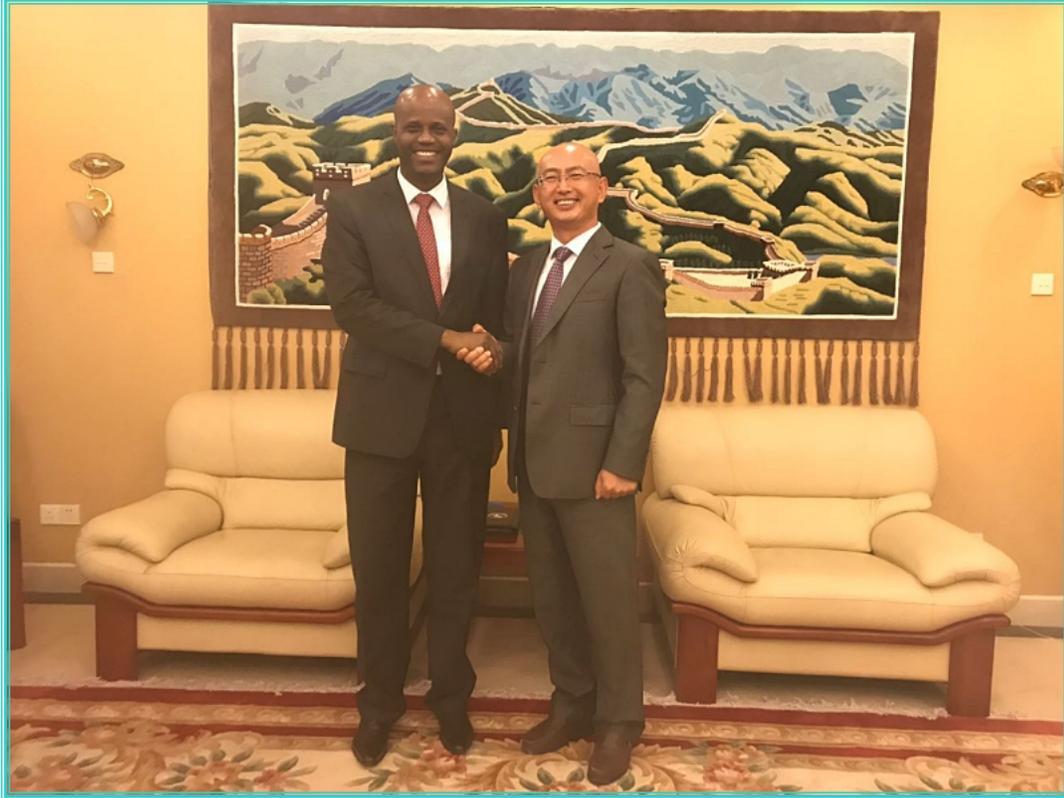
President of the East African Court of Justice, Hon Justice Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, on his part commended the support by the Ministry of Justice and the Office of the Attorney General of Rwanda as one of the key litigant of the Court and pledged to continue working together in ensuring justice delivery to the people of East Africa and Rwandans in particular.

He encouraged the State Attorneys to use the knowledge gained from this workshop and expect to see the positive outcome when they come to Court.

The three-day workshop is being facilitated by the EACJ President, Justice Aaron Ringera, Deputy Registrar and Research officer and other staff of the Court.



## EAC Secretary General Concludes Working Visit to Diplomatic Missions in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania



The EAC Secretary General Amb Liberat Mfumukeko over the weekend concluded his working visit to the different Diplomatic Missions in Dar es salaam, Tanzania.

The first visit was at the Chinese Embassy where he met Counsellor Lin Zhiyong, Economic and Business representative of China. The two officials had a lengthy discussion on the status of integration, projects supported by China in the region and new areas of cooperation among other things.

Counsellor Zhiyong called for EAC to take advantage of existing opportunities to export EAC-made products to the Chinese market and extended an invitation to EAC to attend the "China International Import Expo" which will take place in November 2018 in Shanghai. The two officials agreed that a seminar will soon be held to define the areas of cooperation between EAC and China.

At the US Embassy, the Secretary General met Dr. Inmi K. Patterson, Charge d'Affaires. Ms Patterson decried the low awareness about EAC and the progress

of integration. She emphasized on the need for information sharing especially on the investment climate as well as EAC countries to make it easy for inter-regional Trade.

Ms Patterson pledged her support to the ongoing discussions between EAC and the US Corporate Council on Africa to enhance trade and partnerships between US and EAC private sector actors.

Amb Mfumukeko concluded his missions by visiting the Ambassador of Japan to Tanzania, H.E Masaharu Yoshida. The Secretary General briefed Amb. Yoshida on the progress of key infrastructure projects supported by the government of Japan.

Oh his part, Amb. Yoshida invited Secretary General to Tokyo International Conference of African Development (TICAD VII) 2019 meeting in Yokohama. He advised that it will be strategic for EAC to participate.

H.E Yoshida informed Secretary General of the African Business Education Initiative for Youth which aimed at providing

youths in Africa with opportunities to study at Japanese universities as well as to intern at Japanese enterprises in order to foster sustainable and sound industrial development in Africa.

In all the visits, the Secretary General reiterated on the need for partnership in implementation of the 5th EAC Development Strategy and briefed the missions on the status of integration.

Amb Mfumukeko appealed to the missions to consider supporting regional programs in addition to their bilateral support to countries.

During the three meetings it was agreed that the EAC need to improve on the business climate, eliminate non-tariff barriers and design a way of sharing investment information in a timely manner as well as regular meetings for exchange information.

The Secretary General was accompanied by the Director of Infrastructure, Dr. Eng. Kamugisha Kazaura and the Chef de Cabinet, Dr. James Njagu. 

## EAC Secretary General Calls for Partner States to Support Innovative Developments

The East African Community (EAC) Secretary General, Amb Liberat Mfumukeko has called on the Partner States to support innovative developments from the private and public sectors that bring the vision of a fully integrated and developed EAC closer to reality.

"I realized the urgency for East Africa to grasp the business opportunities offered by new technologies to create a competitive advantage for industries in our region."

The Secretary General was speaking during the opening session of Google Project Loon Workshop at the Ole Sereni Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya

He disclosed to the participants that the EAC had established the East African Science and Technology Commission; the East African Health Research Commission and the Inter-University Council of East Africa because it believes that education, mainly sciences and technology, as well as research are the foundation of any competitive economy.

Amb. Mfumukeko added that the EAC's 5th Development Strategy covering the period 2017 to 2022, underscores the centrality of technology and industrialisation in the overall development of the Community as the cornerstone for regional development .

"It is an exciting time for EAC that the launch of the balloon anchored internet infrastructure by Loon targeting the under-served areas of the world makes its debut on the continent in the EAC Region", added the Secretary General.

"I assure Loon that the choice of EAC will undoubtedly anchor the Project on a positive growth and expansion trajectory on the African Continent"

The EAC Secretary General reiterated how critical the access to ICT in the EAC integration process underpinnings to unlock the growth and market potential for the region and contribute to equitable and sustainable development envisaged in the EAC's Vision.

He appealed to the Partner States to embrace Google Project Loon and extend to it the support required to launch and operate in all the Partner States. "I thank Loon for choosing EAC as the launch pad for this clearly transformational Project", added Amb Mfumukeko.

Meanwhile, the EAC Secretary General on behalf of the Secretariat and Ms Anna Prouse, Google Project Loon Coordinator



signed a Letter of Intent to deepen cooperation and collaborate in good faith on provision of access to internet for all East African citizens.

Earlier in a day the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, Hon. Joe Mucheru congratulated Google Project Loon for the ambitious project that is geared towards providing internet access to rural and remote areas in the region.

In his speech, which was read by the Principal Secretary, Ministry of Information, Communication and Technology, Mr. Sammy Hemere, Hon. Mucheru believed that the region has the responsibility to use broadband as a power force for change.

"I am convinced that all of us here, have the united purpose to facilitate increased accessibility, affordability, availability, reliability and usage of broadband services throughout our region", added the Cabinet Secretary.

The two-day workshop is aimed at providing stakeholders in the East African Community with an overview of Project Loon and its benefits for the states in the region; share technical information on balloon operations including the safety of flights and landing; the operations compliance with international and national safety and security requirements and standards; and to seek engagement and support from the EAC States and stakeholders in providing necessary overflight and landing rights to Loon balloons for their operations in the region.



# Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security Directs on Rift Valley Fever Outbreak

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security (SCAFS) that concluded on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania, has directed the Secretariat to urgently convene a meeting of the Technical Working Group on Transboundary Animal and Zoonotic Diseases (TADs) to address the issue of Rift Valley Fever outbreak, which has been reported in the region.

The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sectoral Council, which was attended by, among others, Hon. Vincent Bamulangaki Ssempijja, Uganda's Minister of Agriculture, Animal Industry and Fisheries and Hon. Eng. Dr. Charles John Tizeba, United Republic of Tanzania's Minister of Agriculture, also directed the Secretariat to include emerging and re-emerging diseases as a permanent agenda item in the subsequent meetings of the Sectoral Council on Agriculture and Food Security.

At least 26 people in two north-eastern counties in Kenya are suspected of having contracted Rift Valley Fever (RVF). By 16 June 2018 seven of these cases were confirmed and six of the people had died according to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The outbreak was reported to WHO and OIE, the International Organization for Animal Health. In Rwanda, the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources confirmed cases of RVF among cattle after samples were tested at the Rwanda Agriculture Board Laboratory. South Sudan reported an outbreak of RVF in March and is reported to be containing the situation.

The East African Community (EAC) Secretariat is closely monitoring the outbreaks and is urging the Partner States that are not yet affected by RVF to step up surveillance to detect any spread of the disease to their territories at an early stage and to inform the public about the risk and about preventive measures.

The affected areas in Kenya include the counties of Wajir and Tana River on the border to Somalia and in Rwanda the districts of Kayonza, Kirehe and Ngoma. Kirehe borders Burundi, Tanzania and Uganda causing a risk for the cross-border spread of RVF.

RVF is a virus disease that is transmitted by infected mosquitos. This year's heavy rainfall has resulted in widespread flooding in low-lying grasslands. Flooding and standing water enabled a higher number of mosquito eggs than usual to hatch and thus increased the potential for RVF to spread among people and animals. The RVF virus is endemic in the EAC region and has caused repeated outbreaks in the past. It affects primarily ruminant livestock, such as cattle, sheep, goats and camels, and also wildlife, such as buffalos. In these animals it causes abortions and deaths and significant economic loss.

The RVF virus can also affect humans. Most infections are mild, but some people fall severely ill and even die with symptoms such as fever, weakness and bleeding from gums and mouth. The majority of human infections result from direct or indirect contact with the blood, body fluids, or tissues of infected animals. This can happen during slaughtering or butchering, while assisting with animal births, treating the animals and from contact with disposed carcasses or foetuses. Human-to-human transmission of RVF has not been documented.

The EAC Partner States of Kenya and Rwanda have increased their surveillance and put measures in place to stop the disease from spreading further. These measures include cost-free vaccination, restrictions in the movement of animals, bans on slaughtering animals for public consumption and trade bans as well as awareness raising campaigns among the public and especially among herders and small holders. They are advised to immediately report any domestic ruminant that show signs and symptoms of RVF.

Against this backdrop and to supplement the efforts of the Partner States in combating RVF in the Community, the EAC Secretariat urges the owners of livestock, people working with wildlife and citizens in the region to be alert and comply with the following precautionary measures:

1. Livestock farmers should contact the Veterinary Services Authorities in the respective Partner States for information on vaccinating their animals against RVF and restrict animal movement to limit the spread of RVF;
2. People in contact with ruminants should practice hand hygiene, wear gloves and other appropriate individual protective equipment when handling sick animals or their tissues or when slaughtering animals;
3. People should avoid consuming fresh blood, raw milk or animal tissue and products without thoroughly roasting them; and
4. They should protect themselves against mosquito bites through the use of impregnated mosquito nets, personal insect repellents - if available, light coloured clothing (long-sleeved shirts and trousers) - and by avoiding outdoor activities at peak biting times of mosquitos. 

## EAC Region Taking Action to Prevent Future Outbreaks of Infectious Diseases



The EAC region is taking action to prevent future outbreaks of infectious diseases by strengthening its response capacity, supporting Partner States in their pandemic preparedness measures and preparing to test its readiness in practice. These efforts are in line with a new World Health Organization (WHO) guidance document that lists 5 out of the 6 East African Community (EAC) Partner States as priority countries regarding the risk of a spread of the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) from the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

In its "Regional Strategic EVD Readiness Preparedness Plan", WHO ranked Burundi, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania as priority 2 and Uganda as priority 3 countries. The ratings are determined based on the countries' proximity to DRC and the capacity of their health systems to cope with an Ebola outbreak. EAC Partner States share borders with the DRC, maintain direct flights and close trade relations and there is high border traffic. These factors have caused the EAC to be on high alert, and Partner States are implementing extensive readiness measures. To date, no cases of Ebola have been detected in the EAC region.

EAC preventive activities cover key technical areas listed in WHO's new EVD Readiness Plan, such as multi-sectoral coordination, risk communications, social mobilisation and community engagement. The EAC has a regional contingency plan in place that reflects the multi-disciplinary One Health disease management approach and is currently developing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to translate the plan into action. The plan considers important lessons learned from East African experts

who fought Ebola in West Africa. One of these lessons is that risk and crisis communication together with community engagement was a "game changer" in the response. Consequently, the EAC Secretariat together with the Partner States is currently developing a regional risk and crisis communication strategy and related SOPs.

Standard operating procedures will also be developed as a first step towards establishing a regional pool of rapidly deployable experts that build on the experience gathered in West Africa. The pool is expected to complement national rapid response teams during future outbreaks. A core team of multi-disciplinary experts will receive training in risk and crisis communication, and another core team will be trained as regional trainers in rapid risk assessment.

To test the successful implementation of the mentioned strategies, the functionality of the SOPs and the region's improved capacities, the EAC together with the Partner States is preparing to conduct cross-border simulation exercises. They will also offer a unique opportunity to reveal the gaps that still need to be closed in joint efforts.

On behalf of the German Government, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH through the "Support to Pandemic Preparedness in the EAC Region" project amongst other development partners supports the EAC Secretariat in its endeavour to strengthen its advisory and coordinating role for the Partner States in pandemic preparedness.



## EALA Member Urges SADC Legislators to Join Industrialization Push



Industrialization is a key component achievable within economic communities through enhanced push for integration and commitment to the ideals of an economic bloc.

In order to achieve the same, legislators among other stakeholders need to effectively undertake their role, EALA Member, Hon Kasamba Mathias has said. Hon Kasamba made the remarks at a symposium on the sidelines of the on-going 43<sup>rd</sup> Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) in Luanda, Angola.

Hon Kasamba who is Chairperson of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources said the EAC region continued to underscore importance of industrialization in the quest to realise full benefits of integration. The legislator was reacting to a paper presented by the Senior Officer, in charge of Industrialization and Competitiveness at the SADC Secretariat, Dr Johansein Rutaiwa entitled deepening SADC Economic Integration through Industrialisation: the Role of Parliament.

Dr. Rutaiwa informed the Symposium that SADC region was making progress in improving the business environment and its competitiveness in general, although the performance was mixed as a result of the macro-economic background.

In order to enhance industrialization, Dr Rutaiwa informed participants of SADC's Industrialisation strategy (2015-2063) which anticipates three key guiding principles; Industrialization as champion of economic and technological transformation, competitiveness (at the firm/industry, country and regional level) and the uptake of regional integration in the context for industrial development and economic prosperity. Dr Rutaiwa said the SADC region was keen to prioritise agro-processing, minerals beneficiation and the pharmaceuticals.

The presenter urged Parliaments and legislators to encourage Member States to mainstream the regional industrialization strategy in their national policies and to be fully involved especially with regards to domestication of the industrial policies within their national set-ups.

The vision of SADC is to build a region in which there will be a high degree of harmonisation and rationalisation, to enable the pooling of resources to achieve collective self-reliance in order to improve the living standards of the people of the region.





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