09 APRIL, 2024

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

DEEPENING INTEGRATION, WIDENING COOPERATION

TRENDING THIS WEEK :

- World Leaders Stand in Solidarity with Rwanda on 30th Anniversary of Genocide Against the Tutsi
- EAC mulls Commemoration of the Genocide Against the Tutsi as an EAC Day
- East African Community Celebrates the Life of Veteran Journalist Zephania Ubwani

WORLD LEADERS STAND IN SOLIDARITY WITH RWANDA ON 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI

As Rwanda marks the solemn 30th anniversary of the Genocide Against the Tutsi, global leaders have joined hands with the Rwandan people in a moving commemoration ceremony.

Reflecting on the horrors of the past and honoring the resilience of survivors, the event serves as a poignant reminder of the importance of unity, reconciliation, and never forgetting the atrocities committed.

Amidst speeches echoing themes of remembrance and hope, leaders from various nations have expressed solidarity with Rwanda, pledging continued support for the healing and rebuilding process. The commemoration stands as a testament to the power of collective remembrance in preventing such tragedies from ever happening again.

EAC MULLS COMMEMORATION OF THE GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSI AS AN EAC DAY

The East African Community Secretariat is exploring a possibility of having a Commemoration of Genocide Against Tutsi on 7th April of every year as an EAC day for it to be observed by EAC Partner States, Organs, and Institutions as any other EAC days and given commemoration budget in the EAC Annual Budgets.

Speaking during the the commemoration at the EAC Secretariat on behalf of the EAC Secretary General, EAC Deputy Secretary General, Hon Andrea Ariik Aguer Malueth said that a proper request will be very soon tabled to the Council for consideration as EAC set to take a front role as the region to make sure that what happened in Rwanda in 1994 never happens again anywhere in region.

He disclosed that in an effort to show solidarity with the Government and people of Rwanda to commemorate Genocide Against Tutsi, the EAC Heads of State.

Summit erected a Genocide Monument in the EAC Gardens at the EAC Headquarters in memory of the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi. Furthermore, the EAC Secretariat has marked 7th to 13th April each year as silent week in the EAC Calendar of Activities.

"We are going to lay strategies to ensure that the genocide vice is uprooted from our region, through discussions and reflections on the dangers of genocide ideology and its denial"

He commended the Republic of Rwanda for tremendous strides that have exceeded expectations making the impossible became possible and the unexpected became a reality where unity and reconciliation is being realized in a very convincing and highly significant levels.

Deputy Secretary General underscored importance of the fundamental truth that all human being created equal with certain undeniable rights that include the right to life and no one has the right to take it away as it was done 30 years ago from the innocent men and women of Rwanda.

On her part, the Arusha District Commissioner, Hon Emmanuela Kaganda noted that genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in Rwanda was a tragedy not only to Rwanda as a country but to humanity as a whole.

"With the 1994 genocide against the Tutsis in Rwanda, the entire humanity was put to test and the sanity of human nature was put into serious doubts,"

She said 30 years may seem like a long time but surely those who went through the genocide both as victims and/or survivors continue to suffer unbearable pain of remembering their loved ones who perished and vividly remembering those terrible moments they went through as if they happened a fortnight ago.

"I therefore call upon the international community in general and the EAC countries in particular to work together at different levels to fight against all forms of genocide ideology or any slightest signal of its kind"

Mr. Louis Uwimana, EAC Laison Officer from the Republic of Rwanda underscored the Rwandan commitment to continue sensitizing the international community to put in place laws that criminalize genocide and genocide ideology and its collaborating with national and foreign partners in the fight against denial and revisionism of the Genocide against the Tutsi.

The Chairman of Rwandan Diaspora (Arusha and Moshi), Eng. Murenzi Daniel informed the commemorators that after 1994, the Rwandan community abroad embarked on a journey of nation rebuilding and promotion of peace and reconciliation with the support from the government of Rwanda.

The Commemoration brought together a broad spectrum of stakeholders including representatives from various religious groups, the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights (AfCHPR), the African Union Advisory Board Against Corruption (AUABC) UN-MICT, and students from various universities and secondary schools in Arusha, and EAC staff.

EAC SECRETARY GENERAL PAYS A COURTESY CALL ON RWANDA MINISTER OF STATE FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Hon (Dr) Peter Mutuku Mathuki paid a courtesy call on the Rwanda Minister of State for Regional Cooperation, Hon. James Kabarebe.

The two leaders discussed the implementation of the pillars of regional integration.

EAC AND UN DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND PEACEBULDING HOLD CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON ADVANCING PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE REGION

EAC Deputy Secretary General, Hon. Andrea Ariik Malueth held a consultative meeting with a delegation from the United Nations Department of Political Affairs and Peacebuilding and Liaison Team to the UN Office in Nairobi. The meeting focused on advancing peace, political stability, and sustainable development across East Africa.

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF VETERAN JOURNALIST ZEPHANIA UBWANI

The East African Community (EAC) celebrates the life of Mr. Zephaniah Ubwani, a Tanzanian journalist with experience spanning over three decades, who passed away on Saturday, 6th April, 2024 in Arusha, Tanzania.

Mr. Ubwani spent a good part of his commendable career covering the EAC integration process. Mr. Ubwani was a distinguished journalist unpacking and telling the EAC story to millions of people in East Africa and beyond through news and feature articles in The Citizen and Mwananchi newspapers, and many other sister publications under the Nation Media Group in East Africa.

As one of the most experienced journalists who covered the EAC, Mr. Ubwani wrote in simple and articulate language that sat well with diverse audiences who became familiar with his byline.

No one told the EAC story better than Mr. Ubwani who also mentored and coached many upcoming writers to report on the EAC and other issues of regional and global importance.

Mr. Ubwani had undergone training on EAC integration through various media training workshops convened by the East African Community. He therefore understood the integration process very well, its beginnings, achievements and challenges.

Ubwani was a hardworking and humble leader who left a mark on all those who interacted with him. He would regularly visit the EAC Headquarters to meet with the leadership and staff to be apprised on developments across the Community.

Mr. Ubwani was very well known in the corridors of the EAC Organs and Institutions as a journalist who could help them unpack the story around the integration process in East Africa. His stellar career in news reporting, diplomatic manner and extensive contribution to the EAC regional integration efforts shall forever be in our hearts.

On behalf of the East African Community and on my own behalf, I wish to convey our heartfelt condolences to Mr. Ubwani's immediate family, relatives and colleagues at the MwananchiNewspapers Tanzania Ltd. Our prayers go to the Almighty God to grant you the strength and fortitude to cope during this difficult time.

Please accept our deepest condolences.

May God rest the soul of the late Mr. Ubwani in eternal peace!

TOP REGIONAL NEWS

- **The one thing East African leaders must do**

The conviction of every African is that they deserve peace and progress fostered by their governments and responsive leaders. While this aspiration has often been marred by turmoil and political unrest across this 'emerging' continent, hope needs to remain alive, no matter how distant it seems. Casting our minds back, there was a time many African nations stood shoulder to shoulder with powerhouses like South Korea. They piteously overtook us. Even if so, our dreams are still valid! **MORE**

- **Juba to reclaim airspace control from Khartoum after completion of air traffic system**

South Sudan President Salva Kiir announced that his country is close to reclaiming control of its sovereign airspace from neighbouring Sudan, following the completion of the Air Traffic Management System (ATMS) by China Harbor Engineering Company (Chec). The Ministry of Transport and the South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority are in the process of taking over control of South Sudan's territorial airspace from Sudan, the President declared while presiding over the reopening ceremony of the national parliament in the capital Juba. **MORE**

- **Kwibuka30 - Learning From the Past, Acting to Prevent Future Genocides**

In memory of all those whose futures were taken away and those at risk across the world today. One should never lose sight that for people who experienced genocide, the warning signs were there. Genocide is a process. It requires preparation and capacities to carry it out. The 1994 genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, in which Hutu and others who opposed it were also killed, was made possible because of decades of stigmatisation, marginalisation, and discrimination, aggravated by hate speech against the Tutsi. **MORE**

- **Rwanda Achievements At 30 Crystal Clear, Says Kagame**

President Paul Kagame has urged Rwandans to be proud and happy for the achievements registered in the last 30 years since the 1994 Genocide againstt the Tutsi, citing the need to draw strength from the inspiration and move steadily ahead. **MORE**

- **East Africa's Retail Boom**

Retail is emerging among the most vibrant sectors of the East African economy. Kenya's capital city, Nairobi, has not only become an important retail market in its own right but a stepping stone into the rest of the country and wider East Africa. Nairobi is a rising regional shopping destination, the headquarters to many regional retail and food and beverage (F&B) businesses, and a launchpad for retail concepts into other East African areas. **MORE**

- **Kenya-Somalia Border to Remain Closed**

Kenya's Interior Principal Secretary, Raymond Omollo, has announced that the Kenyan border with Somalia is to remain closed, citing further security challenges that have plagued the border for many years. The border was initially closed in 2011, and has remained as such as Somalia struggles with insurgencies, primarily from the Al-Shabaab militant group. Kenya closed the border after Al-Shabaab militants had launched several attacks across and around the border. **MORE**

GLOBAL NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- **Kenya, France Finalize Deal to Fund Nairobi Commuter Railway**

Kenya and France have finalized an agreement to facilitate funding for the upgrading of the Nairobi Commuter Railway, a rail network serving Nairobi and its suburbs, officials. Musalia Mudavadi, prime cabinet secretary who is also the cabinet secretary for foreign and diaspora affairs, told journalists in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, that the east African nation will receive a 138.7-million-U.S. dollar loan to modernize its metropolitan railway line **MORE**

- **30 years after Rwanda genocide, cautious optimism history won't repeat: Dallaire**

Three decades after the devastating Rwandan genocide, the retired Canadian general who led the United Nations peacekeeping mission that failed to stop the killings says he's cautiously optimistic the world is moving toward a place where such brutality can never happen again. **MORE**

- **Spain's parliament to draft amnesty bill for undocumented migrants**

Spain's lower house of parliament voted on Tuesday to start working on a bill that would legalise hundreds of thousands of undocumented migrants, based on a proposal by civil society groups that had collected more than 600,000 signatures backing it. Political parties now have up to two months to amend the proposal and decide how to legalise the hundreds of thousands of irregular migrants living in Spain and make a final vote. **MORE**

- **Jacob Zuma wins court battle to stand in South Africa's election**

Last month the electoral commission barred him over a contempt of court conviction.
It argued the constitution prevented people from holding public office if convicted of a crime and sentenced to more than 12 months in prison. Mr Zuma, 81, has been campaigning for the new uMkhonto we Sizwe (MK) party. **MORE**

- **Djibouti Joins AUC Chairperson Race to Take On Kenya and Somalia**

Djibouti has joined the race for the African Union Commission (AUC) Chairperson, becoming the third East African nation, alongside Kenya and Somalia, to front a candidate for the influential seat. Djibouti named Foreign Affairs Minister, Mahmoud Ali Youssouf, its candidate for the post. The Djibouti presidency officially announced the decision on Tuesday, underscoring Youssouf's extensive experience in diplomacy, which they believe makes him well-suited for the role. **MORE**

- **Is Germany complicit in Israel's war on Gaza?**

Nicaragua alleges Germany violated UN Genocide Convention by supplying Israel while aware there was a risk of genocide. Nicaragua has asked the International Court of Justice to order Germany to stop supplying Israel with weapons. The case joins two others involving Israel already before the court. **MORE**

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