



# The Secretary General WEEKLY NEWS

Deepening Integration, Widening Cooperation.

12TH JUNE 2022



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EAC SECRETARY GENERAL'S OFFICE

- African countries urged to prioritise infrastructure development to promote intra-continental trade.
- Regional Armed Forces Field Training Exercise affirms EAC'S commitment to strengthening Peace & Security.
- 42nd Ordinary Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers kicks off in Arusha.

# AFRICAN COUNTRIES URGED TO PRIORITISE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TO PROMOTE INTRA-AFRICATRADE



African countries have been called upon to prioritise infrastructure development even as they advocate free intra-continental trade through African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) framework.

Tanzania's Minister for Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, Hon. (Amb.) Liberata Mulamula said that interconnectivity across Africa was crucial if the continent was to exploit its vast potential for industrialisation, trade and investment.

Amb. Mulamula noted with appreciation AfCFTA negotiations had now ended Phase Two, which covers investments, intellectual property rights, women and youth in trade competition policy and digital trade.

The minister said that initiatives to create wealth under the AfCFTA should also be focused on fair distribution and sharing of the wealth to reduce the widening gap between the rich and the poor.

The overall objective of the four-day meeting that started on 4th June, 2022 is to enable the RECs to build consensus around common positions critical to the continent's success at creating an African Economic Community.

Secretary-General of the AfCFTA Secretariat, Hon. Wamkele Mene said that the implementation of the Agreement is by necessity, a complex and highly collaborative undertaking, drawing on the expertise and experience of key stakeholders including RECs.

Hon. Wamkele said that the private sector should take the lead in the implementation of the AfCFTA, noting that while AfCFTA and the RECs were supposed to facilitate across Africa, trade must be driven by the private sector.

He underscored the importance of effective collaboration between the RECs and AfCFTA Secretariat in ensuring that AfCFTA outcomes are consistent with regional advancements in trade integration made.

# AFRICAN COUNTRIES URGED TO PRIORITISE INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT TO PROMOTE INTRA-CONTINENTAL TRADE.



Speaking at the event, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki said that with a market of around 1.3 billion consumers and a GDP of \$3.4 trillion, AfCFTA has opportunities to unlock trade in the continent and redesign the architectural framework of its economic systems

The Secretary General singled out factors why intra-Africa trade is low including differences in trade regimes (8 AU recognised RECs), inadequacies of trade-related infrastructure (poor intermodal connectivity), trade finance and trade information.

The Secretary General said that with the implementation of AfCFTA, trade facilitation measures will cut red tape, reduce tariffs, simplify customs procedures, boost intra-African trade, and build a foundation for long-term sustainable development in Africa

Other constraints according to Dr. Mathuki were customs, administrative and technical barriers, limited productive capacity, lack of factors of market integration, and inadequate focus on internal market issues.

Dr. Mathuki noted that Africa is one of the world's fastest-growing economies; however, trade in goods and services accounts for an estimated 3% of global exports and imports on average.

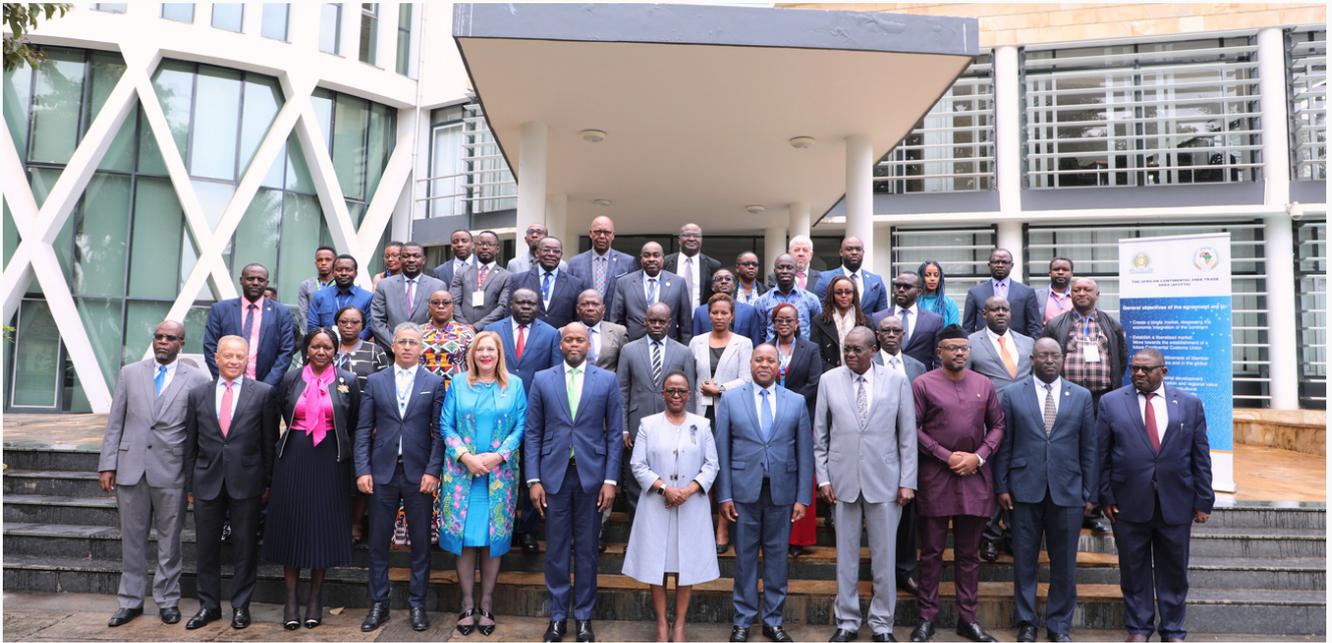
He noted that the efforts to address binding constraints are currently underway through the AfCFTA and AU's Boosting Intra-African Trade (BIAT) action plan.

"The share of Intra African trade remains low: on average, 13% for intra-imports and 20% for intra exports, while Extra African trade accounts for more than 80% of the total trade," he added.

"If well-resourced and fast-tracked, these two initiatives will drive economic growth, industrialisation and development across Africa," added Hon Mathuki.

# 2ND COORDINATION MEETING OF THE RECS

## - IN PICTURES



# REGIONAL ARMED FORCES FIELD TRAINING EXERCISE AFFIRMS EAC'S COMMITMENT TO STRENGTHENING PEACE & SECURITY



The EAC Partner States have re-affirmed their commitment to equip their Armed Forces, police and security stakeholders with training on peace support operations following the successful completion of the 12th EAC Armed Forces Field Training Exercise, dubbed “Ushirikiano Imara 2022”.

The 2-week training, held in Jinja, Uganda, aimed at enhancing Partner States’ Defence Forces’ capabilities in jointly combatting complex security challenges faced in the region.

Speaking, at the closing ceremony of the exercise, EAC Secretary General Hon.(Dr.) Peter Mathuki noted that the region continues to be faced with real and potential complex emergencies, which can easily translate into threats to wellbeing of the people of East Africa.

“These threats range from proliferation of small arms and light weapons, internal strife, terrorism and insecurity. The region thus needs to develop its capacity to handle such emergencies and threats,” Dr.Mathuki said.

The exercise was held in accordance with the EAC Defence Sector calendar of activities and under the provisions of the East African Community Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs whose four pillars include, military training, joint operations, technical cooperation; visits and exchange of information.

This year, all Partner States sent their contingents except the region’s new member DRC, with General Celestin Mbala Munsense, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces.

The objectives of the Field Training Exercise was to enhance interoperability between the EAC Partner States’ Defence Forces and other key stakeholders, to evaluate their readiness to respond to complex security challenges.

The Exercise was also meant to practice participants on Command, Control, Communication and information in combined joint operations.

# 42ND ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EAC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TAKES PLACE.



The 42nd Ordinary Meeting of the East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers kicked off taking place via hybrid means at the EAC headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The senior officials session called the meeting to order on Wednesday 8th June, 2022, with the ministerial session set to take place at a later date.

Among the items on the agenda were the considerations of various reports including those on: the Implementation of Previous Decisions of the Council; Office of the Secretary General; Planning and Infrastructure, and; Productive and Social Sectors.

Other matters to be considered are: Political Matters; Customs and Trade; Finance and Administration Matters; and Reports of other EAC Organs, namely the East African Legislative Assembly, East African Court of Justice.

The Meeting is also set to consider the report of the Audit Commission on Audited Financial Statements of the Community for the Financial Year ended 30th June, 2021.

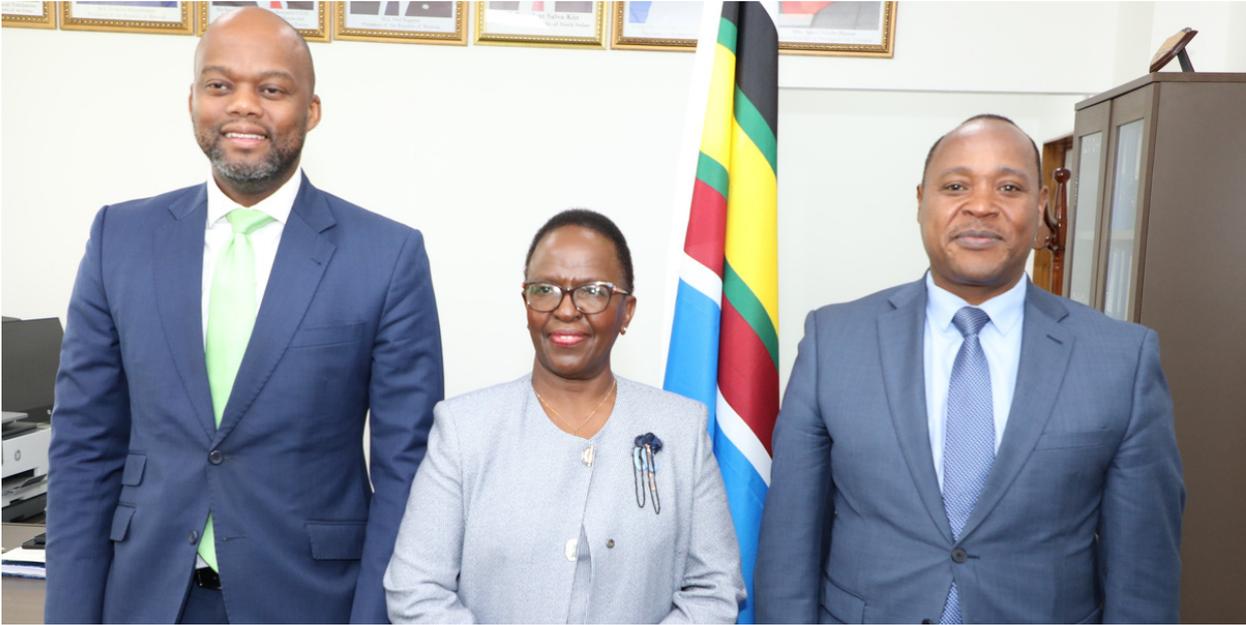
The appointment of New Members to the EAC Audit and Risk Committee, is also another agenda on the list

The Council of Ministers is the policy-making Organ of the Community. The Council consists of the Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs and/or Regional Cooperation of each Partner State and such other Ministers of the Partner State as each Partner State shall determine.

The Council promotes, monitors and keeps under constant review the implementation of the programmes of the Community and ensures the proper functioning of the regional bloc. Updates on the report will be done on the subsequent edition.

# COURTESY CALLS

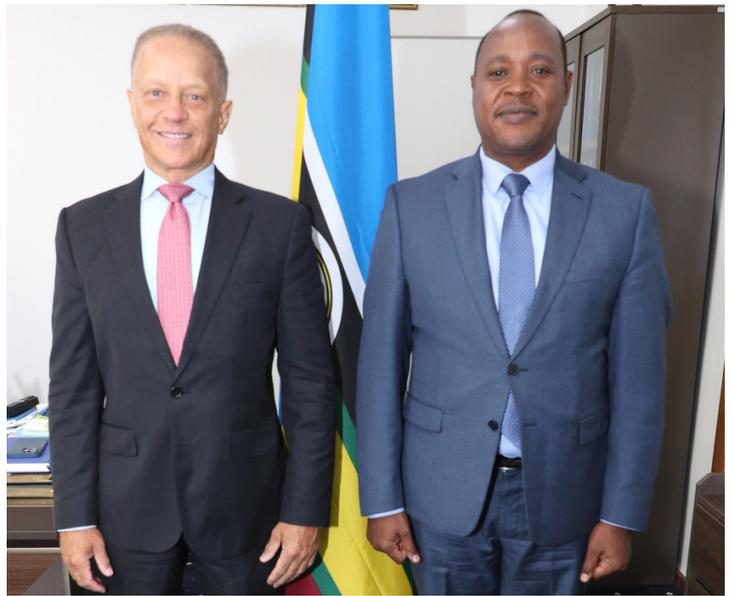
*On the sidelines of the 2nd Coordination Meeting of the CEOs of Regional Economic Communities, several leaders paid a courtesy call on EAC Secretary General, Dr. Peter Mathuki.*



**Left: AfCFTA Secretary General H.E. Wamkele Mene, Tanzania Minister for Foreign Affairs Amb. Liberata Mulamula and EAC Secretary General Dr. Peter Mathuki.**



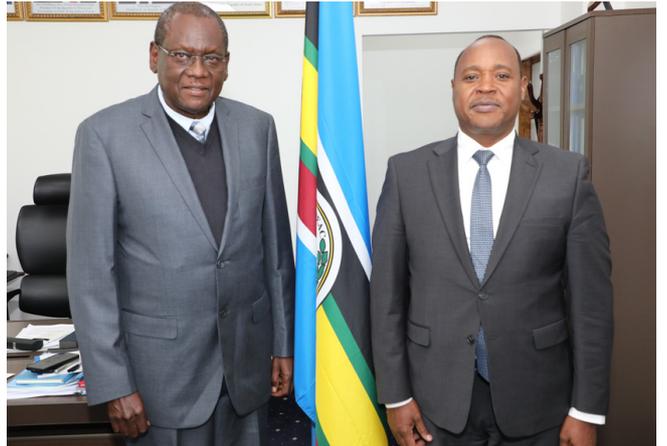
**Left: Africa Business Council President, Dr. Amany Asfour**



**Right: East African Business Council Chairman, Mr. Nicholas Nesbitt**



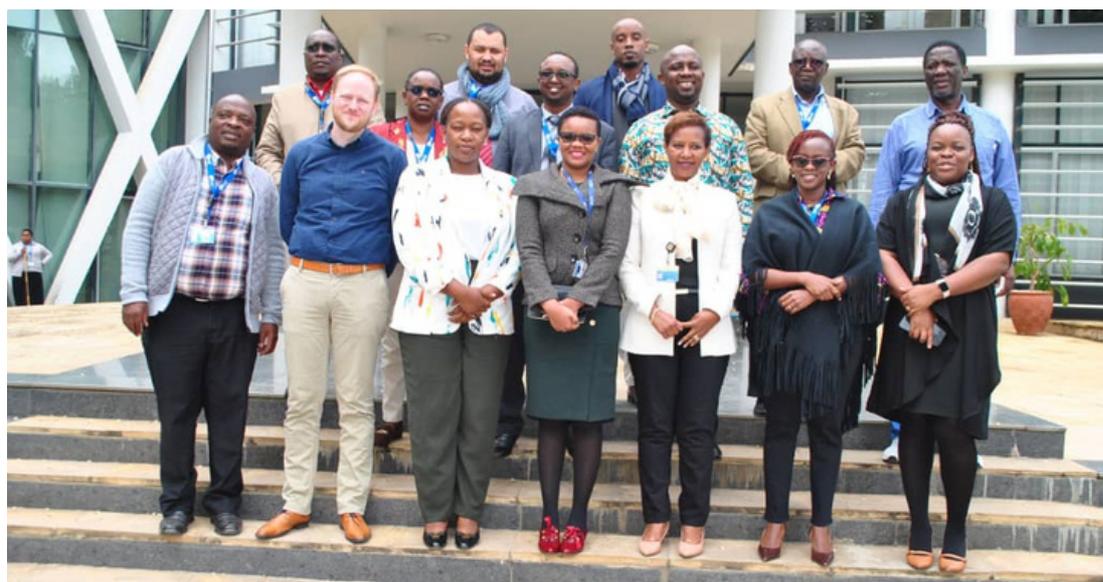
**Southern African Customs Union (SACU) Executive Secretary, Paulina Mbala Elago and (Right) COMESA Assistant Secretary-General, Amb. Dr. Kipyego Cheluget**



# PICTORIALS



**EAC Secretary General Dr. Peter Mathuki accompanied by EALA Speaker Rt. Hon. Martin Ngoga and EALA members Uganda Chapter paid a courtesy visit on the Madhvani Group, in Uganda.**



**EAC officials pose for a photo after a consultative meeting with TradeMark East Africa Council Member Tim Spaans at EAC HQ.**



**EAC Secretary General, EALA Speaker and Kenya's Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Defence, Eugene Wamalwa during the 12th EAC Armed Forces Field Training Exercise. (Right) Senior officials- 42nd Ordinary Meeting of the East African Community (EAC) Council of Ministers .**

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- Why E.Africa had a swift recovery from Covid impact
- EALA to put ministers, secretariat to task on House recommendations
- Private sector wants EA to harmonise rules of origin
- AfCFTA: Border hurdles dampen free trade deal expectations
- Kenya slaps new levies on Ugandan eggs
- Kenya's Pwani Oil closes plant, blames lack of dollars
- Uganda's tourism recovery gains momentum after Covid pandemic
- Tanzania reinstates ban on wildlife exports
- Rwanda's Private Sector optimistic ahead of Commonwealth Business Forum
- Burundi marks 2 years since Nkurunziza's death
- South Sudan's President H.E Salva Kiir lauds S.Sudan - Sudan border reopening

## UPCOMING EVENTS



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