



THE COMMUNITY

ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EAC

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TRADE

How Single
Customs Territory
has cut
Bureaucracy in
EAC Trade

GENDER

*Gender Equity
thus Far*

INDUSTRY

Pharmaceutical
Companies Seek
Support to Reduce
Imports

COMMENTARY

It's Just a Short Step to
Somalia Joining the EAC

Why E.A Integration
Remains a Priority for
Leaders

Paul Kagame

Assumes EAC Chairmanship

CONTENTS

5 FROM THE SECRETARY GENERAL'S DESK

Trade a Key Priority as EAC Turns 20

AROUND THE COMMUNITY

- 6 AFDB & ADF Approve US\$2Billion for EAC Infrastructure Projects
- 7 Uganda to Host *Ushirikiano Imara 2019*
- 8 Lady Justice Sauda Mjasiri joins EACJ Appellate Bench

10 ENERGY

Why EAC Governments should Support Solar Energy Investments

18 INDUSTRY

Pharmaceutical Companies Seek Support to Reduce Imports

26 AGRICULTURE

How Africa is Fighting Fall Armyworm



COMMENTARY
It's Just a Short Step to Somalia
Joining the EAC

38



20 GENDER
Gender Equity
Thus Far

14 IN FOCUS

Solidarity and Unity Crucial in
Integration Journey – Kagame

YOUTH

- 28 EAC Youth Debate on Border Management
- 30 Creating A Safe Space for Youth to Drive Social Change
- 32 Youths! Arise!
- 34 EAC Youth Ambassadors 2019 Take Office

COMMENTARY

- 36 Why East African Integration Remains a Priority for Leaders
- 40 Poverty: Reality or Concept?

TRADE

- 42 How Single Customs Territory has Cut Bureaucracy in EAC Trade
- 44 East Africa Emerges as the Leading Destination for FDI on the Continent

EDUCATION

Invest in Girls' Education

TECHNOLOGY

Mobile Technology in Sub-Saharan Africa

CITIZENS SPEAK

Gender Mainstreaming Key to Sustainable Development in the Region

EXTRAS

Brain Bashers
7 HABITS: How to Learn to Think Like a Scientist

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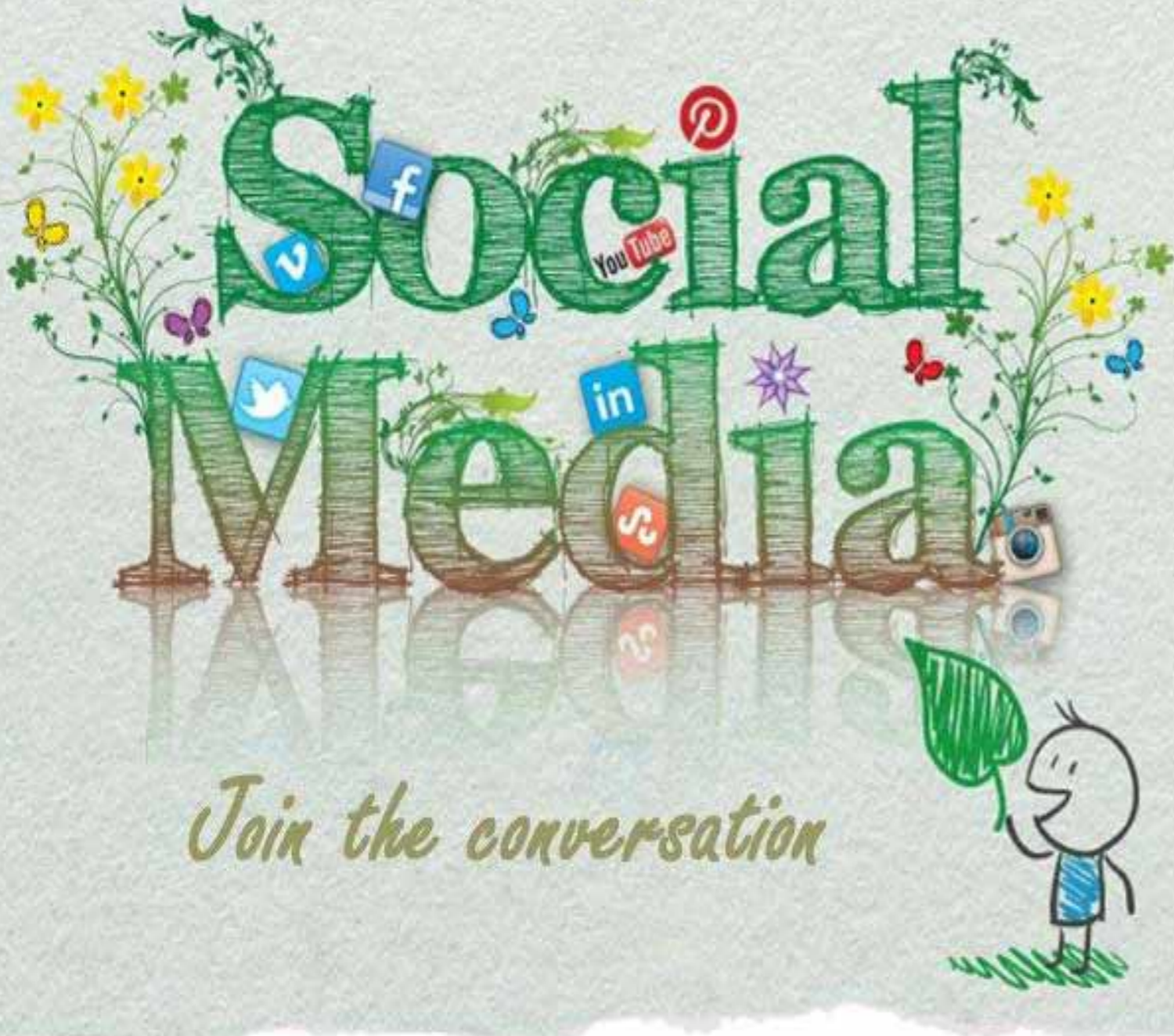
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Trade a Key Priority as EAC Turns 20



EAC Secretary General, Amb Libérat Mfumukeko

The year 2019 is a significant one on the East African Community's journey towards an integrated East Africa. It is the year, when a bloc that has been billed as the most natural will be celebrating the 20th Anniversary since its establishment.

Over the past two decades, the Community has expanded from founding three Partner States to six with a population estimated at 170 million. This expansion has in turn created a huge market for the consumption of goods produced within East Africa.

The growth in intra-regional in the EAC has been underpinned by the signing and implementation of the Customs Union and Common Market protocols. An underlying reason for coming together is not only to increase intra-regional trade but to promote the region's trade with other regional economic communities in Africa and the rest of the world. EAC's slice of international trade is still very low with the balance of payments being in favour of the US, European Union, China and Japan who are some of our major trading partners.

With regard to the Customs Union Protocol, the main priority has been to attain the full rollout of the intra-regional trade and imports regime under the Single Customs Territory (SCT). Towards this end, the most important development has been the operationalization of the 13 One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs), the two most recent OSBPs launched being Busia in February 2018 and Namanga in December the same year.

The operationalization of the OSBPs has complimented the SCT through further reduction of both turnaround times of trucks and border controls resulting in lowering the cost of doing business in the EAC. This arrangement has translated into a reduction of time taken at the border by 60%.

In addition to the above, the use of Electronic Cargo Tracking System has facilitated monitoring of goods on transit by revenue authorities and the business community. Issuance of Certificate of Origin was simplified with small-scale border traders of commonly agreed goods with the value not exceeding US\$2,000 waived.

Emerging from all the above efforts, the following trade outlook was achieved in 2017:

- EAC trade grew by 8.6% to US\$46.9 billion in 2017 compared to US\$43.2 billion in 2016;
- Intra-regional imports grew by 14.1% to US\$2.5 billion;
- Intra-regional exports grew by 8.1% to US\$2.9 billion in 2017, and; foreign Direct Investment fell by 3.9% from US\$6.7 billion in 2016

During the same year, intra-EAC imports and exports accounted for only 7.7% and 18.7% of total imports and exports respectively signaling that intra-regional trade constituted a small proportion of total EAC trade in 2017. This indicates that Partner States are not trading amongst themselves. This situation has to be

improved if regional integration is to benefit local manufacturers and traders.

Under the Common Market Protocol, EAC Partner States continue to facilitate the free movement of goods, persons, labour, services and capital, in addition to according the rights of establishment and residence to investors and EAC citizens from other Partner States.

The EAC Secretariat in collaboration with Partner States continue to make efforts to eliminate Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) in the region. It is worth noting that all Partner States have assented to the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Act 2017. A total of 45 NTBs were resolved as at November 2018. However, 17 NTBs still remain unresolved.

In the area of standards, the Community has harmonised, approved and gazetted 106 East African Standards for the most commonly traded goods like textiles and apparel, leather and leather products, cereals and pulses, oil seeds, fats and oils, packaging, nutrition and foods for special dietary needs, among other products. We hope that in 2019, Partner States will finalize the regulations for successful implementation of the NTBs Act 2017.

Trade has been and will remain the key driving factor behind economic growth and prosperity as envisaged by the EAC's founding fathers. All our efforts in various sectors including infrastructure development, industrialisation, agriculture, education, health, etc. are largely geared towards promoting intra-regional trade and trade with the rest of the world.

Amb Libérat Mfumukeko
Secretary General
East African Community



AfDB and ADF Approve US\$2 Billion for EAC Projects

BY THE COMMUNITY TEAM


The African Development Bank (AfDB) and African Development Fund (ADF) in October 2018 approved the Regional Integration Strategy with Projects worth US\$ 2 Billion for EAC Region. The African Development Bank is among the top EAC Development Partners. The Bank's support in the Region is oriented toward "Accelerating East Africa's Transformation through Regional Integration".

Since July 2017, the EAC Secretariat has been working with the Bank on a proposal to support the EAC priority projects under the Bank's Regional Integration Strategy Paper (RISP) for Eastern Africa (EA-RISP 2018-22). The efforts to engage with the Bank are in line with the outcome of the Joint EAC Heads of State Retreat concluded on 28th February 2018 in Kampala, Uganda, at which the Secretariat was called upon to collaborate with development partners to "Mobilize resources required for implementation of new and ongoing priority infrastructure projects".

A total of 20 projects worth \$2 billion to be implemented by the EAC and EAC Partner States are included under the EA-RISP approved by the Bank's Board of Directors on 10th October 2018 for the next five years.

RISP is the Bank's strategic and programming instrument to guide its support to regional operations in 13 countries, comprising the six EAC Partner States and their congruous neighbours in the greater Eastern Africa region such as Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia and Sudan. EA-RISP is anchored on two mutually reinforcing pillars, namely 'regional infrastructure for competitiveness and structural transformation', and 'strengthening the policy and institutional frameworks for market integration, growing investments and value chains development'.

In line with this strategic thrust, the EAC priority projects included in the RISP cover regional transport connectivity, regional energy infrastructure, regional ICT connectivity, and management of transboundary water resources.

Under the second pillar, the Bank will support projects aimed at accelerating implementation of the EAC single market, trade development including tackling of non-tariff barriers (NTBs), and putting in place policy frameworks for industrialization and promotion of EAC as a single investment destination. On financial market integration, the Bank aims to scale up implementation of the EAC payment and settlement systems integration. A number of knowledge products have also been prioritized, including publication of the flagship Eastern Africa Industrial Competitiveness Report in collaboration with UNIDO. 



Uganda to Host Ushirikiano Imara 2019

BY THE COMMUNITY TEAM

The Republic of Uganda is set to host the 12th edition of the EAC Armed Forces Field Training Exercise codenamed *USHIRIKIANO IMARA 2019* to be held towards the end of the year.


Exercise *USHIRIKIANO IMARA* is conducted on the platform of the East African Community Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs. It is in line with a series of Joint Training Exercises conducted on a rotational basis in EAC Partner States aimed at enhancing the capabilities of the EAC Partner States' Defence Forces, Police, Civilian Component and other key stakeholders in conducting joint operations.

The Exercise is conducted as an integrated Peace Support Operation comprising participants from the EAC Armed Forces, Civilian and Police Components in implementing the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, the East African Community Protocol on Cooperation in Defence Affairs, and decisions of the Sectoral Council on Cooperation in Defence.

The main objective of the Exercise is to train the participants of the Combined Joint Task Force in the planning and conduct of Joint Operations.

Exercise *USHIRIKIANO IMARA* is set on Peace Support Operations, Counter Terrorism, Counter Piracy and Disaster Management themes to enhance mutual understanding, interoperability and build capability of EAC Partner States Armed Forces, Police, Civilian Component and Key Stakeholders in tackling Complex and Multidimensional Security Challenges in the region.

The EAC Partner States' Defence Forces have also been undertaking joint operations in various missions such as MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo, AMISON in Somalia, UNAMID in Darfur and other missions within and beyond the region.

The Exercise aims to further enhance the region's capabilities needed to effectively and efficiently address complex and multidimensional security challenges. 



Lady Justice Sauda Mjasiri joins EACJ Appellate Bench

BY ANNAH NABAASA

The 20th EAC Heads of State Summit appointed Hon. Lady Justice Sauda Mjasiri, from the United Republic of Tanzania, Judge of the East African Court of Justice in the Appellate Division. Her Ladyship replaces Justice Edward Rutakangwa who retired on 12th February 2019, having served the EACJ since June 2014.

Justice Mjasiri is also the current Chairperson of the Tanzania Public Procurement Appeals Authority (PPAA).

Her Ladyship previously served as Corporation Counsel, Tanzania Legal Corporation (1977-1997) up to the level of Principal Corporation Counsel. She also served in various capacities at the Eastern and Southern African Trade and Development Bank (PTA Bank) between 1998 and 2004, including Executive Assistant to the President of the Bank, Senior Legal Officer and Head of Compliance.

Lady Justice Mjasiri was a Judge of the High Court of Tanzania, from 2004 to 2008, where she served in the main Registry as well as the Commercial Division. She later moved on to become a Judge of the Court of Appeal of Tanzania (2008 - 2018).

Justice Mjasiri was born in June 1953, and holds an LL.B Hons degree (University of Dar es Salaam) and MBA and Msc International Business (Southern New Hampshire University, USA).

Lady Justice Mjasiri is the second female Judge to join the East African Court of Justice. She joins Lady Justice Monica Kalyegira Mugenyi, from the Republic of Uganda. Lady Justice Mugenyi was appointed Judge of the EACJ, First Instance Division in December 2013 and a Principal Judge in July 2015. 🇹🇿

#ClimateChange

WHETHER YOU LIVE IN A...



CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS YOUR HEALTH

Drought, floods and heat waves will increase.



Vector-borne diseases, like malaria and dengue virus will increase with more humidity and heat.

Basic necessities will be disrupted...



FOOD

Hunger and famine will increase as food production is destabilised by drought.



AIR

Pollution and pollen seasons will increase leading to more allergies and asthma.



WATER

Warmer waters and flooding will increase exposures to diseases in drinking and recreational waters.

Between 2030 and 2050 climate change is expected to cause **250 000 ADDITIONAL DEATHS PER YEAR** due to malaria, malnutrition, diarrhoea and heat stress.



World Health Organization

Why EAC Governments should Support Solar Energy Investments

BY CHACHA MWITA

Commercial provider of PayGo solar systems- Azuri Technologies has called for tax incentives to support solar equipment use in rural areas of the East African region, a move that will increase connectivity to electricity.

At least 121.3 million people in the East Africa Community are living without access to electricity. Solar energy provides an opportunity for the region's remote areas to be connected to electricity.



This comes as a larger population of East Africa remains off-grid with majority being poor households.

According to Azuri, increased use of solar equipment will support expansion of off-grid energy and service provision in the East Africa Community, where at least 121.3 million people are living without access to electricity.

This translates to about 78 per cent of the total population of about 158 million in the region.

The International Energy Agency's "World Energy Outlook" defines access to electricity in a number of methods which include a household's ability to consume enough electricity to power small devices such as lights, floor fans, or an electric outlet for mobile phone charging.

Changes in finance laws by the EAC member states has however made it difficult to import and deliver more solar powered equipment to households at affordable prices, Azuri General Manager-East Africa, Snehar Shah, said in an interview.

Shah notes that to support penetration of solar powered equipment and PayGo solar systems and all related equipment should be given tax incentives.

"Initially when we started they were giving full incentives in terms of when you bring solar equipment and accessories, it was fully exempt from duties and VAT. In 2017 they brought some changes which caused confusion," he says.

Where now the solar panel and battery unit are exempted from taxes, everything else even if it is part of the system attracts duty.

"Our system is quite holistic, the battery and the solar panel is quite useless. Customers don't really care about that what they care about is having energy, having access to energy to power their devices," Shah said.

He said the way EAC member states have handled removal of duty exemption on solar equipment has also created confusion.

"Not all the countries have harmonized and we lose a lot of time clearing shipments because one customs officer will refer things differently. We have been lobbying to get much more clarity on this. In an ideal situation, we ask that governments put all those duty exemptions back," he said.

There are 23 companies in the region's Pay-Go-Solar sector of which Azuri is among the top four.

Kenya is ranked first in solar power investments followed by Tanzania and Uganda.

To improve electricity connectivity in Kenya, the government is working with the World Bank to provide a US\$100 million facility to support some of the underserved counties. There are 14 underserved counties which are set to benefit from this initiative.

"We are hoping that similar things will be replicated in the other East African countries," said Shah.

Tanzania has been named among countries where doing business has become a challenge with latest industry developments seeing top Pay-Go-Solar companies exiting the market.

"I will say a place like Tanzania, many of us struggle in terms of doing business there because even though the rules are set, the goal posts tend to be moved to the extent where we are seeing large investors exiting the market. We would hope that the government there supports us more to really advance the industry," Shah said.

Tanzania is among countries reported to have the largest population of people without access to electricity at 36 million or 71 per cent of the population but on a relative basis, Burundi has over 10 million or 93 per cent of the population without access to electricity.

Kenya has the highest electricity access rate in East Africa, according to a recent World Bank report which tracks global achievements in sustainable energy.

Two years ago, the electricity access rate in Kenya was reported at 56 per cent, Tanzania at 32.8 per cent, Rwanda at 29.37 per cent, Uganda at 26.7 per cent and Burundi at 7.5 per cent.

As of April 2018, electricity access rate in Kenya stood at 73.4 per cent owing to increased investments which include government's rural electrification projects.

Challenges

According to experts, developing energy generation, transmission, and distribution services to non-urban consumers requires investments in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

Borrowing from the global capital markets to pay for energy infrastructure has proved to be a challenge due to perceived high risk in lending to EAC countries.

Another key challenge is that people in the EAC generally live relatively far away from each other in rural areas. These far distances make extending a grid to reach those consumers even more expensive.

The number of consumers who have the ability to pay for electricity service connection fees and ongoing consumption of electricity is also quite small.

Option and targets

Solar hence provides an opportunity for the region's remote areas to be connected to electricity.

Tanzania has developed a Power System Master Plan calling for a 90 per cent access rate by 2035. Kenya has targeted connectivity to one million customers a year and a target of universal access to electricity by 2020.

Uganda has targeted 51 per cent coverage by 2030 and universal access by 2040.

Rwanda has set a plan for 70 per cent access by 2018 and 100 per cent access by 2020.

Burundi seeks to increase from its current electrification rates to 25 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent energy access by 2030.

With companies such as Azuri, the region could increase connectivity by tapping into the natural solar energy where East Africa is blessed with long sunshine periods.

Azuri Technologies is a commercial provider of PayGo solar systems to rural off-grid communities.

With the widest reach of any provider in sub Saharan Africa, the company is addressing the problem of energy access which affects the 1.3 billion people around the world who lack access to the grid.

Azuri has used mobile technology to turn a development challenge into a business challenge through its Azuri solar home systems, which allow users to pay for solar power on a pay-as-you-go basis, just like they do for their phones and kerosene. This provides clean safe renewable power to families at about half the cost of the kerosene it replaces.

Azuri's headquarters is in Cambridge, United Kingdom, with staff based in Kenya, Uganda, Ghana, Ethiopia and Tanzania and presence in 11 countries across sub Saharan Africa.

The Exchange - www.exchange.co.tz/, first published this article





Partner States Urged to Establish Regional Value Chains

BY SIMON PETER OWAKA

The business community has urged East African Community (EAC) Partner States to explore the possibility of establishing regional value chains to spur industrialisation in the region.

East African Business Council (EABC) Chairman Nicholas Nesbitt said Partner States should avoid duplication and instead specialize in the kind of industries they set up.

Giving an example of the automotive industry, Nesbitt said the countries could each focus on producing particular components to make one vehicle.

"If Kenya, for example, is going to manufacture or assemble German vehicles in Thika, why can't we have tyres from Tanzania, exhaust pipes from Uganda, and dashboards from Burundi so that this becomes an East African car, not just a Kenyan car? If Scania does that in Dar es Salaam, let it be the same thing," posed Nesbitt.

Nesbitt, who was addressing the 20th Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State at the Arusha International Conference Centre in Arusha, said regional value chains would also go a long way in eliminating Non-Tariff Barriers.

He said EABC was focusing its attention on the drive to produce as opposed to mere commerce.

"We want to be producers of value, we don't want to be just traders. There is a role for traders but let's manufacture," he said.

He said it was necessary for governments and private sector leaders to think regional as opposed to thinking national, adding that EABC wanted to bring a regional perspective to trade and industrialisation in East Africa.

He called on the Community to expedite the revival of the textile and leather industries in the region as opposed to continued importation of used clothes.

"We think it is shameful that 150 million people who wear shoes have to buy shoes particularly used ones from other parts of the world. We think it's equally shameful that some of the very able manufacturers of garments can sell them to Marks and Spencer at US\$7 a garment and, three or four years later, we wear those same used garments and pay a similar price," said Nesbitt.

"And in the meantime, in Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, we allow our cotton industry to degrade and ginneries to rust, and our production to disappear. And then we say let's be manufacturers, let's be producers, and simply turn into traders."

Nesbitt further said that the region was wasting its natural pool of resources namely the intellectual capacity of the youth and industrial drive of its entrepreneurs by limiting them to national borders.

He called on Partner States to allow citizens to move freely across national borders saying this would enable local investors to realize the economies of scale necessary to grow their businesses. He said that it was through free trade that foreign investors would see East Africa for what it is – a huge market.

Nesbitt further urged the Summit to allow EABC to participate in EAC forums formulating trade policy, instead of just remaining as observers.

"We implore Partner States that we get a seat at the table. We have been observers for a long time. We want to come out of the proverbial stance, come down to the field and help in the formulation of trade policy and not just to come to events like this to listen to a read-out," he said.

"We are here to create jobs, make wealth and uplift our people from poverty,"

Speaking at the same event, President Museveni who was the outgoing Chairman of the Summit, observed that East Africa was waking up from slumber on matters of development.

President Museveni questioned the private sector-led economic growth paradigm that has long been promoted by the World Bank.

The Ugandan leader said that no country would attract foreign direct investments in the volumes necessary to promote growth unless it addressed the problem of the high costs of doing business in its economy.

"There are four pushers of the costs of doing business. The first one is absence or high costs of electricity – East African countries are handling this one to have enough electricity that is also cheap. The second pusher is the high cost of transport – East African countries are handling this by building modern railways," said President Museveni.

"The third pusher is the cost of labour. Fortunately, costs of labour in East Africa are low so that has never been a problem for East Africa. The fourth and final pusher is the costs of finance. This needs to be addressed especially the interest rates.

Also present at the function were Tanzanian President Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli and his Kenyan counterpart Uhuru Kenyatta. Burundian First Vice President Gaston Sindimwo represented President Pierre Nkurunziza while South Sudan's Minister for Trade, Industry and EAC Affairs, Hon. Paul Moyom Akec, stood in for President Salva Kiir Mayardit.

Solidarity and Unity

Crucial in Integration Journey – Kagame

By The Community Team

East African Community (EAC) leaders need to pull together in a spirit of solidarity and unity for the benefit and wellbeing of the citizens of the region, EAC Chairman Paul Kagame has said.

President Kagame reiterated that the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC was clear that the Community was supposed to be people-centred, adding that this should inform reflections and actions by Partner States.

"We will measure success by how easily our people, their goods and capital move within the region and how prosperous in the end they become as a result," said President Kagame.

President Kagame was speaking immediately after taking over the position of Chair of the Community from Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni during the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Summit of EAC Heads of State on 1st February, 2019 at the Arusha International Conference Centre in Arusha, Tanzania.

President Kagame said regional leaders cannot afford to fall behind particularly when the Community was starting to make good progress.

"It is up to us to ensure that this Community works for us as it should. Nothing should hold us back from the important business that we have committed to for our common good including trade, infrastructure, industrialisation and security," he said.

He said that with the bloc approaching its 20th anniversary since its revival in 1999, there was not only much to celebrate but also a moment to reflect on the meaning and values of the integration process and what it portends to the region.

"It is an opportunity to address whatever challenges exist directly and frankly so that we move confidently together into the future," he said, adding that the region was moving ahead with deeper integration like other Regional Economic Communities, all of which were essential building blocks for continental integration.

20th Ordinary Summit of EAC Heads of State

The outgoing Chairman of the EAC Heads of State Summit President Yoweri Museveni, symbolically hands over to the incoming Chair, President Paul Kagame during the 20th Ordinary Meeting of the Summit, in Arusha, Tanzania.



Hon Lady Justice Sauda Mjasiri, takes Oath as Judge to the Appellate Division of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ). Administering the Oath is the Registrar of the EACJ, His Worship Yufnalis Okubo (left), assisted by Dr Anthony Kafumbe, the Counsel to the Community.



EAC Heads of State and other regional leaders after the 20th Ordinary Summit Meeting held at the Arusha International Conference Center, Arusha, Tanzania on 1st February, 2019.

One of the winners of the annual EAC Students Essay Writing Competition greets President Uhuru Kenyatta, after receiving his award from the Chair of the Summit.



Hon Dr Harrison Mwakymbe, Tanzania's Minister for Information and Culture (right), with the German Ambassador to Tanzania and the EAC, HE Dr Detlef Waechter.



African Development Bank Executive Director responsible for East Africa, Dr Caleb Weggara (left), chats with the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, Hon Justice Dr Emmanuel Ugirashebuja, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Rt Hon Martin Ngoga, and Arusha Regional Commissioner, Mr Mrisho Gambo, during the 20th Summit Meeting.



Pharmaceutical Companies Seek Support to Reduce Imports

By JEAN d'AMOUR MBONYINSHUTI



Local manufacturers in the pharmaceutical sector in the East African Community (EAC) have called on member states to amend procurement regulations and offer incentives to ensure that most medicines used in the region are sourced locally.

EAC countries rely mostly on pharmaceutical imports especially for branded and innovator products importing over 70 percent of medicines used in the region.

The overall target of the governments is to reduce the percentage of the imported medicine to less than 50 percent according to the 2nd EAC Regional pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Action 2017-27.

However, pharmaceuticals companies in the region have raised a red flag saying governments are doing little to support the implementation of the policy.

"Imported products from China and India have the same advantage as those we manufacture while our companies employ locals and promotes local manufacturers. It is not fair because the government is not helping local manufacturing," said Rolando Satzke, Chief Executive Officer of Cosmos Limited, a local company based in Kenya

He was addressing journalists from EAC countries who were touring the region to assess the implementation of agreed projects that ease integration.

"Our public procurement act does not differentiate between imported and local drugs and that is why we are strongly advocating that the public procurement act should favour local manufacturers first, that way, the government would really be helping the pharmaceutical industry," he added.

He further noted that the pharmaceutical companies in the region operate below capacity giving an example of Cosmos that operates at 70% while the average production capacity is 50 percent because they are unsure to get a market.

"There is still capacity to be utilized as soon as we see that the market is giving opportunities to reinvest and expand our capacities, we will do it and we are pretty sure, we are waiting for first signals and commitment of our government and doing so we will continue to invest not only in quality assurance but also in expansion of capacities," he noted.

It is expected that once regional pharmaceutical companies tap into the sector, the percentage of diseases covered by the product portfolio could be 90 percent in 2027 from 66 percent currently. EAC countries have 66 pharmaceutical firms with Kenya leading with 40 firms.

Tanzania and Uganda have 12 each while Burundi and Rwanda have one each. EAC is working with Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and East African Community Business Council (EABC) in regional steering and national coordination of the implementation of the EAC Regional Pharmaceutical Manufacturing Plan of Action (RPMPOA).

Bernd Schmidt, Deputy Programme Manager, at GIZ stressed the need for the government to support local manufacturing companies than importing from far, given that such companies are able to produce the same products while they can also create jobs to thousands.

EAC commits to support

According to Hon Christophe Bazivamo, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors, the region will take the responsibility of mobilising and optimally deploying the necessary resources and personnel for the successful implementation of the plan.

"This coordination will seek to synergize and harness existing national, regional and international initiatives towards strengthening local production of pharmaceuticals," he said.

Jean d'Amour is a journalist based in Kigali, Rwanda. This article was first published by The New Times.

GENDER EQUITY thus far

By PROF MARY SSONKO NABACWA



From the peri-urban areas of Kasubi, Lubaga, Kampala, I find myself here today. I recall many things, while growing up as a girl particularly seeing my mum waking up as early as 4am every day to go to Owino market to work, to ensure that we went to school. My dad had retired from work at an

early age due to health problems.

Through her labour and the good will of others, I made it to the university, however many young girls from the same community had a different path. Some got married off at an early age, became pregnant or had their lives intercepted by a number of misfortunes. They did not go far with their education. It is not to focus on me or try to understand my story, rather to note that many women are still leaving the life of my mother or that of my village mates. Yes, we at times take "I am a woman and I have made it" for granted.

Something fundamental propelled many of us to where we are now. We were lucky to be the immediate beneficiaries of that momentum. One of these things is the fundamental change that was ushered in by the NRM government, by a leader that I deeply adored as a young woman. Something more happened; the 1985 Nairobi forward looking strategies, and 1995 the Beijing platform for Action.

I vividly recall, the formation of the Ministry of Women in Development and the Department of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University. These were government policy actions that elevated the status of many women. Women leaders are role models to girls and women.

This story can resonate to many of us that in response to international commitments and their contexts, the EAC governments created institutional mechanisms for promoting women's rights and have made public commitments to women's empowerment and gender equality. These commitments are enshrined in the Constitutions, Ministries alongside special policy provisions to promote women and girls participation in education and gender equity in political decision making generally.

It is important to note that the major happenings in the 1980s and early 1990s were women specific institutions. By 1993, there were 10 ministries and about 21 bureaucracies. The challenge though was the expectation that they would do everything for all women in the context of bureaucratic challenges and limited technical and administrative capacities.

Secondly many women specific organisations were formed to promote women's empowerment at the grassroots level and national level in form of coalitions, networks or movements. Such institutions publicly articulated women's needs, promoted the celebration of women's day, lobbied government to create national commissions, and the review of the national laws. They too had their own challenges including being traditional service oriented, affiliated with political parties and sometimes rejected by their fellow women that preferred to join or affiliate with men than women organisations and generally limited appreciation of the general purpose of the organisations.

However, with the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, Gender equality and women's economic empowerment are now viewed by the United Nations as human rights issues and preconditions for and indicators of sustainable people-centered development. Understanding girls, women, boys and men concerns and the needed actions are part of mainstream development. The key issues are:

1. Enjoyment of equal rights, opportunities and treatment by men and women and by boys and girls in all spheres of life.
2. People's rights, responsibilities, social status and access to resources do not depend on whether they are born male or female.
3. Men and women are not the same or must become the same, or that all labor market measures must arrive at the same results.
4. Men and women are free to develop their personal abilities and make life choices without the limitations set by stereotypes or prejudices about gender roles or the characteristics of men and women.



5. Recognition that women and men have different needs and priorities, and the fact that women and men should 'experience equal conditions for realizing their full human rights, and have the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from national, political, economic, social and cultural development'

The journey has been and is still long as shown by the fact that the EAC Gender Equality and Development bill was developed in March 2017 to harmonise and ensure a uniform approach to promoting the rights of women and men and gender equality across the member countries. The bill focuses on the legal and state obligations to protect human rights, media, education, health, power and decision making, economic empowerment, agriculture, food security, land rights, trade, peace and security, environmental management, marginalized groups, financial provisions, institutional arrangements and regulations.

The major achievements are:

1. Gender parity in primary education enrollment rates were achieved.
2. Rwanda holds the highest share of women in the national parliament in the entire world.
3. Women have had an increased share of blue-collar positions in the manufacturing sector.

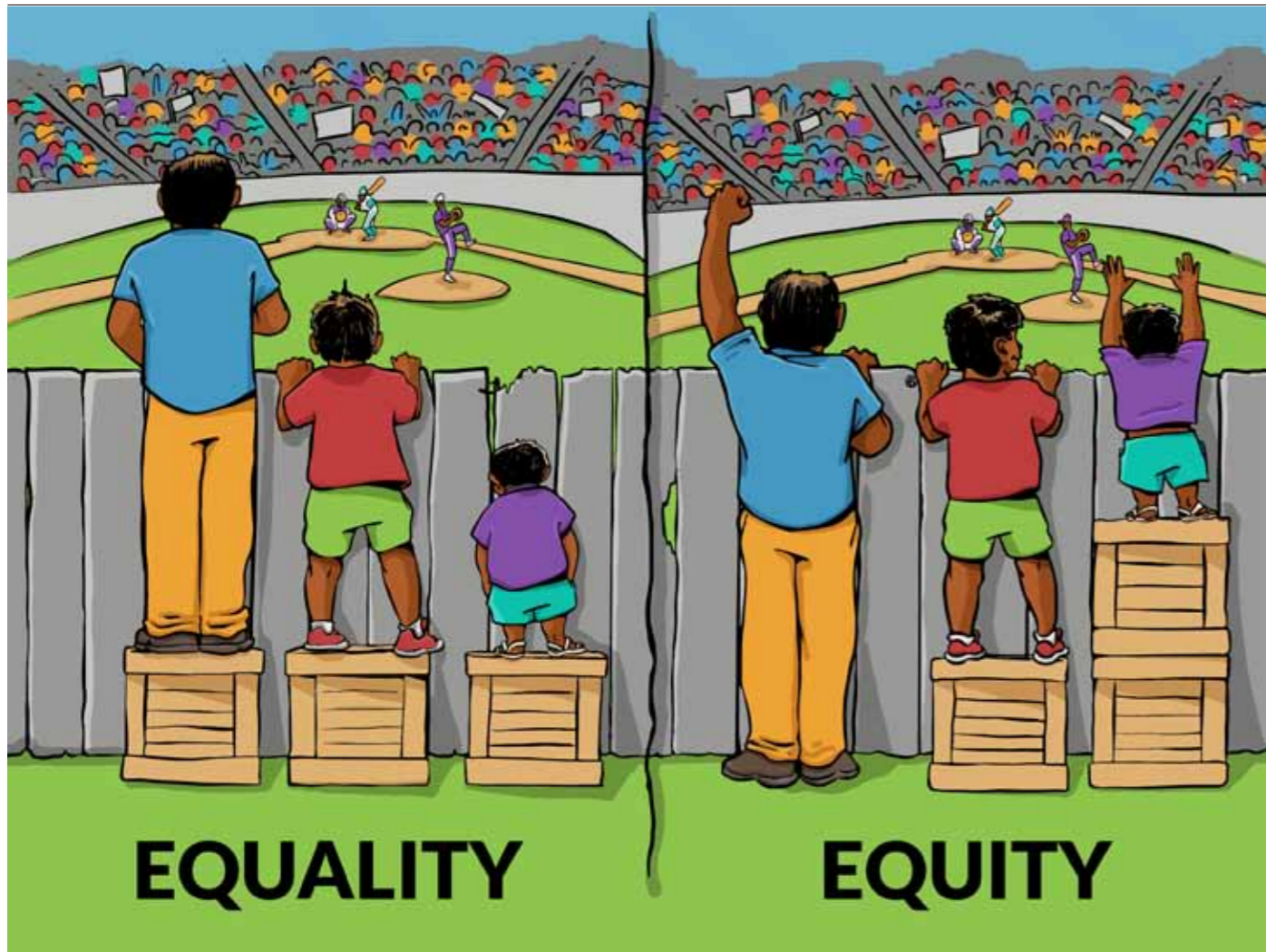
However, we need to be careful to think that we have made it because we are talking about men and women; The key point here is that we need to strengthen and not weaken the policy commitments to targeted women or men specific policies, programs and positive legislation. It is important to note that indeed the EAC as stated in its Gender Strategy is working with a two-pronged approach, i.e. of mainstreaming and of targeting marginalized groups/voices to achieve women's equality and empowerment, and to reduce their vulnerabilities.

The Gender equality commitments at the regional and national level need enforcement by ensuring that the institutions in charge of gender equality have the necessary influence in policy-making positions.

Gender perspectives should be built into all EAC policies and programs as outlined in the Gender Policy and other legal and institutional frameworks.

Education through awareness and campaigns is needed to transform the persistent negative stereotypes and customary laws that work against gender equality.

We need to pay special attention to the relationships among the various actors to ensure that they foster decision-making for gender equality. Uniformity will definitely reduce the transactional costs, but it should not be at the expense of the voice and interests of the most affected that is the women in agricultural work, informal trade, the unpaid workers, consumers and tax payers. It is important to create political, economic and political contexts and processes that ensure that the mainstream



gives equal treatment for both men and women. There are important questions that we need to reflect upon as we begin the journey of oneness in action on gender equality.

1. How can we work together as an EAC and build on our past experiences – best practices and failures to further gender equality in the region.
2. How can we pull our resources and skills together and become more strategic in our actions for the common good of promoting gender equality in the region. It is important to note that it is difficult to achieve gender equality in a context of scarce resources. The EAC community needs to invest in capacity building including targeted training, access to new technologies, and information. It is important that the EAC invests in research and identification of best practices within and outside the region. Formation of regional gender working groups on the various sectors may be a step in the right direction. Consolidating partnerships with civil society, the academia and international actors including GIZ, CIDA, UNIFEM, among others is important
3. How can we best track the impacts of the gender equality policies and actions in the EAC? Uniform and improved collection of disaggregated data across various EAC Sectors may be useful. Countries such as Uganda may provide examples for example the uniform approach in the

management the GBV shelters including data management and networking through the referral pathway. The region needs to actively engage with its gender barometer and an award may be given to the winning country. A checklist – (EAC Gender guidelines) should be implemented to evaluate progress by the EAC members over time.

4. How can we best bring men on board and to ensure that gender equality work is not viewed as being about women and girls? Just as we have women specific projects, we also need men specific projects, and this has been clear in work in relations to maternal and new born health and work on the prevention of violence against children. Men need the appreciation and understanding that gender affects them too. The gender has negative effects on the persons they care about in their role as fathers, brothers, uncles and husbands.

As UNCTAD observes, "Gender power relations underlie the various institutions, transactions and relations that make up the sphere of an economy and gender bias operates and affects women in the multiple roles they play in the economy as workers, producers, traders, consumers and taxpayers.

Most women have still have low skills evidenced by low enrollment levels at tertiary institutions that is less than 6% in all the East Africa Countries. At employment level due to low education and cultural barriers, women are crowded in low skill,

low wage services in highly informal and insecure positions such as garments, flowers and handcrafts industries

Most women are employed in the agricultural sector, for example 77% of women in Uganda are employed in the agricultural sector. Women's achievements in agriculture are impeded by the constraints in access to resources (14% of women access credit from a financial institution), and market opportunities, land ownership (about 35% of women own land either individually or jointly), limited participation in decision making, educational attainment and the double burden of combining paid work with unpaid work (the domestic care burden).

Women are mainly in the non-visible unpaid work that is critical to the functioning of the market economy. It includes the nurturing of the household members through among other tasks cooking, cleaning, and caring for the children. The later, together with patriarchal practices enhance men's control of agricultural resources including land and sales of agricultural produce that are key drivers to the gap in returns to the endowments.

The informal sector that employs a fair number of women is imbued with poor remuneration and skills capping. "It is documented that women owned micro and small enterprises in the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda are more likely to have no employees than male owned businesses.

Violence is another area that we cannot ignore. Most often, we focus on the violence in conflict situations and ignore the violence that goes on unnoticed in our homes that prevents many women from enjoying their human dignity.

Special commitments may need to be made by the EAC in the following areas:

1. Tackling the gender specific obstacles that hinder the ability of women to efficiently engage in commercially oriented agriculture by increasing the availability of extension services and market information.
2. Making visible women's unpaid work in the agricultural sector through formulation of gender sensitive trade and employment policies for example recognizing women's contribution to sector by accounting for their work.
3. Transforming policies that constrain women's access to land, access to training and participation in decision-making in agriculture through positive discrimination.
4. Supporting smaller firms that are dealing in agricultural products including certification, access to credit and tailored training programs.
5. Elimination of non-tariff barriers for agricultural products.
6. Simplifying Trade Regimes that are the main trade instruments of encouraging informal traders to switch from informal trade to formal trade in the context of trade policy.

Gender inequalities in East Africa are real experiences as discussed especially in relation to control of benefits from agricultural production that results into competition over the limited resources at household level. The struggle continues; however, it is possible for the EAC to become a region of excellence in ensuring gender equality. The EAC has set the momentum for consented action by the launching of the Gender Policy and building of capacities for gender mainstreaming. 🇸🇰

Mary is an Associate Professor, Gender and Development, Department of Development Studies, Dean Faculty of Social Sciences, Uganda Christian University





EALA Speaker, Rt Hon Martin Ngoga (left), with EABC Chairman Nicholas Nesbitt (centre) and EABC Ag. Executive Director, Hon Peter Mathuki, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, after the EAC Board paid a courtesy call on the Speaker.



Exiting EAC Senior Personal Secretary Marietta Faransa (R), shares a light moment with fellow staffers Barbara Kaboha and Eva-Jane Wanyoike.



EAC Staffers (L-R), Henry Kole, Adam Mamuya, Ali Dotto and Emmanuel Diah after the EAC Secretary General's New Year Address to Staff.



EAC Secretary General, Amb Libérat Mfjumukeko (front row, 4th from right), with EAC members of staff outside the EAC Headquarters building, after the Secretary General delivered his 2019 New Year's Address to staff.

PICTORIAL



EAC Secretary General, Amb Libérat Mfjumukeko (left), with the President of the African Development Bank (AfDB), Dr Akinwumi Adesina, at the Bank's Headquarters in Abidjan, Ivory Coast. The two discussed development cooperation between the AfDB and EAC.



EAC Deputy Secretaries General, Hon Christophe Bazivamo (centre) and Mr Charles Njoroge bid farewell to Ms Marietta Faransa, Senior Personal Secretary, who retired from the Community in January 2019.

How Africa is Fighting Fall Armyworm

By MARYLUCY ORONJE



Since fall armyworm was confirmed in Nigeria in early 2016, it has conquered at least 22 million square kilometres, expanding into 44 African countries by July 2018. In Africa alone, fall armyworm has the potential to cause maize yield losses of 8.3 to 20.6 million metric tons per year, in 12 maize producing African countries.

The value of these losses is between US\$ 2.5 and 6 billion yearly, adversely affecting about 300 million people who depend on maize for food security and livelihoods. Earlier in 2018, the pest was also confirmed in India, where it is likely to spread throughout Asia.

Since the start of 2018, there have also been at least 14 interceptions of commodities such as babycorn, cut flowers, coriander, and capsicum in the European Union infested with fall armyworm, suggesting that it may begin to affect trade. With its continued move across the globe, studies have been carried out to try and map out where fall armyworm could arrive next.

In Africa, there has been a huge, concerted effort in the fight against fall armyworm in many ways from a number of organisations.

Initially governments distributed free pesticides. However, this was largely viewed as an emergency measure and likely not sustainable. The combined cost of pesticides across Africa could run into the millions of dollars.

The work on fall armyworm in Africa has been extensive and far reaching, across a number of areas.

On the ground – supporting extension work

Working with extension agents is key to ensuring farmers are getting the best advice for their crops. This knowledge can be disseminated in a number of ways such as the Centre for Agriculture and Bioscience International (CABI) Plantwise clinics where extension officers working as 'plant doctors' use tools like Pest Decision Management Decision Guides to give best practice advice. Not only do the tools need to be kept up to date, extensionists themselves must be well-trained on new methods and outbreaks.

Furthermore, it's vital that all members of the farming community are included. CABI, in collaboration with Pest Control Products Board and Agrochemicals Association of Kenya, for instance, have participated in training agro-dealers in the safe use of pesticides and Integrated Pest Management so that they stock the right pesticides and also help farmers make the right choices.

In the lab – continued research

Continued scientific research is important for finding newer and better solutions to fight fall armyworm. A number of biocontrol methods are being studied and tested, including the exotic egg parasitoid, *Telenomus remus*, which is widely used in the Americas to control fall armyworm, is being tested in South Africa as a naturally occurring way to combat fall armyworm. In addition, CABI's experts in the biological control of agricultural pests and diseases have conducted the first major study of potential biological controls for fall armyworm control in Africa.



Organisations including International Maize and Wheat Improvement Center (CIMMYT), International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE), African Agricultural Technology Foundation (AATF), and CABI are also looking into a range of areas such as host plant resistance, mating disruption and insect-resistant (Bt) maize.

On the go – investing in tech

Making use of technology in development is a growing and important field. By providing digital tools, data and information can be supplied and collected much faster. An example of a data collection tool is the FAMEWS App from FAO.

The app is used by all members of the farming community – from plant protection officers to the smallholder farmers – to collect data on pheromone trap catches during scouting. These traps help lure the fall armyworm and bring it under observation. The data is then used to better understand the lifecycle of the fall armyworm and the extent of the infestation and mapping out fall armyworm risk.

Another digital tool is CABI's Pest Risk Information Service (PRISE), which uses satellite technology for fall armyworm management. Farmers receive timely warnings about the risk of fall armyworm outbreaks and are advised on appropriate measures to protect their crops.

In the field – working with farmers

Empowering farmers by giving them the skills and knowledge they need to combat pests and diseases is fundamental. Ensuring they know how to monitor their crops to detect fall armyworm eggs and larvae can inform immediate management decisions.

Without action, there would undoubtedly be a huge impact. Fall armyworm has the ability to lay up to 1,000 eggs and migrate long distances on prevailing winds. It breeds continuously throughout the year wherever there are host plants available. This means that fall armyworm infestations can still occur off-season as long as climatic conditions are favourable. In light of this, it appears that this crop pest will become a resident in the crop fields of Africa, all year round.

Data from these communities is useful for identifying fall armyworm hot spots and free zones as well as discovering which management techniques are working. Indigenous knowledge can also be gathered from these communities, which can be verified and scaled up.

CABI's Fall Armyworm Portal pulls together resources from a number of sources, making it a one-stop shop for the latest material on managing fall armyworm.

How did fall armyworm spread so rapidly across Africa?

There are three reasons:

1. Lack of an early warning and detection system (including pest risk analysis and quarantine surveillance);
2. Lack of emergency response systems; and
3. Weak capacity and systems to control plant disease in some countries

There is a lack of coherent strategy across a number of African countries for dealing with invasive species such as fall armyworm that would enable the shift away from reactive responses. For instance, farmers could get rapid access to cheap and lower-risk solutions if governments had a conducive policy for subsidies. The cost benefits of prevention will be so much more than the costs of control.

Fall armyworm, like most other invasive species problems, is multi-dimensional. No institution or country can properly manage it alone. International cooperation is needed in cross-cutting research, partnerships and outreach, and fundraising for sustained campaigns and action. Moving forward, there needs to be strong enabling policy and commitment from all stakeholders to be able to deal with fall armyworm, and other invasive species that may threaten Africa.

MaryLucy Oronje is a Knowledge Bank Coordinator, at CABI East Africa.

YOUTH



The University Students' Debate aims to promote dialogue among the youth and interest them in advocating for EAC regional integration initiatives.

The 6th edition of the EAC University Students' Debate was held from 4th-5th December 2018 at the Nkurumah Hall, University of Dar es salaam, Tanzania. The Theme of the debate was *"Border Management to address migrant smuggling and corruption at borders for stability and socio-economic development in the East African Community: Role and Implications for the youth"*.

The debate took the motion that: *"This House believes that Border Management is a prerequisite for stability and socio-economic development of the East African Community and is a concern for the youth"*.

A total of 30 debaters drawn from the Republics of Burundi, Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania and Rwanda participated in the Debate. The Debate was attended by; over 100 students from the host country, officials from the Ethics and Anti-corruption organs; Immigration, the Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs, academia and the media.

The debate took the EAC Debate model; a representation of the EAC Organs and how they relate with each other in the discharge of their respective responsibilities in a bid to support EAC achieve its vision and mission. The model comprises of the Affirmative team made up of a Secretary General, a Deputy Secretary General, a Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, an Amicus Curiae and a Counsel to the Community.

On the other hand, the Alternative Strategy team comprised of the Attorneys General from each of the Partner States. While the Affirmative team suggests strategies and policies in achieving the community vision, the Alternative Team offers different solutions on achieving the same.

During the sessions students exhibited excellent analytical, research skills on the EAC integration process, diplomatic skills as well as public speaking abilities among others. It was notable that one area where the youth can play a critical role is advocating for effective border management, to address migrant smuggling and corruption at the borders for stability and socio-economic development in the East African Community.

At the end of the Debate during a colorful dinner Gala debaters were presented with certificates of participation and the top debater from each Partner State was appointed as EAC Youth Ambassador and the 1st runner up is appointed Deputy Youth Ambassador.

The EAC Youth Ambassadors are tasked with championing the EAC Integration at national level. The Debate also offer an opportunity for the youth to dialogue, foster creativity, network, share information and nurture a bond of *"East Africaness"* with a distinct East African identity that is very much desired.

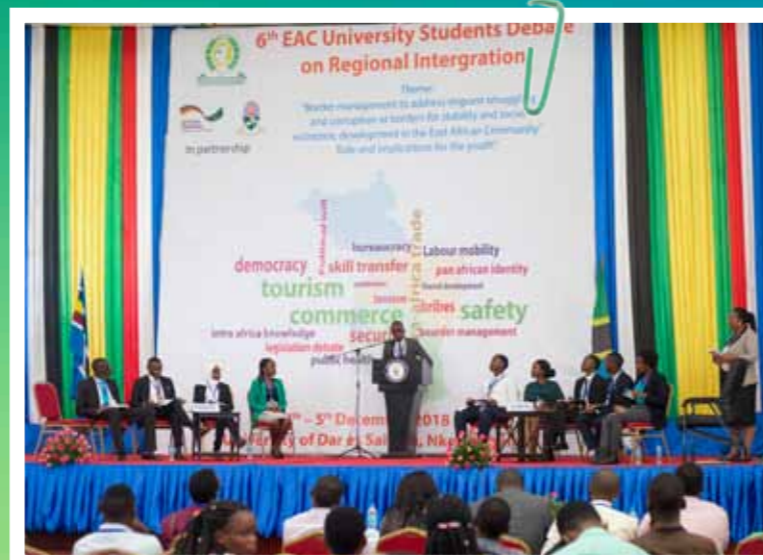
EAC Youth Debate on Border Management

By BARBARA KABOHA



Lack of understanding of the benefits, challenges and opportunities of the East African Community integration has been one of the challenges affecting the EAC integration process. In a bid to increase awareness and inclusiveness of stakeholders, the EAC University Students Debate on Regional Integration was launched in 2012.

The involvement of the youth in EAC affairs is enshrined in the Article 120 (c) of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community. Engaging the youth as key stakeholders is vital, as they constitute more than 50% of the total population of the region. The youth also carry the potential to advance the EAC vision and agenda.





Creating a Safe Space for Youth to Drive Social Change

By SAUMU ISSA RAJABU

Famous American singer, Beyonce Knowles' song "I was here" is my daily motivational song. It has made me responsible and every time I feel I am lacking motivation, I tune it.

I am a passionate and committed gender activist and many friends have asked what am I fighting for. "Don't you think this is a total waste of time?" "It's natural that men are above women in all spheres of life."

These questions have pushed me to do more for girls and women. I don't fight against men; I empower girls and women to unleash their potential.

My name is Saumu Issa Rajabu, aged 26. I am a social change leader with the desire to apply skills and experiences to the challenges of achieving sustainable development through gender equality.

I have in me the passion to empower girls and women in my community. I have sought various leadership-training opportunities, with strong hope of being empowered, all while holding on to the dream of establishing a programme that will empower others. After a lot of hard work, the *Simama Imara* Initiative was born in 2018.

The *Simama Imara* initiative focuses on creating a safe space for young girls on gender equality, mental health, psychosocial support, sexual reproductive health and girls' rights. The programme is designed to support goals number 3 and 5 - good health and well-being and gender equality of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The initiative addresses some of the gender inequalities that exist within the society that lead to depression and frustration in young girls, as well as build their capacities to become more self-aware, independent and productive. *Simama Imara* creates a safe space for teenage girls to freely express themselves without fear of discrimination or stigma; to discuss some of the overwhelming issues they face in their day-to-day lives, including physical, social, emotional, personal, menstruation, hygiene matters as well as career development.

Since the programme started in August 2018, it has reached out to 264 girls. As *Simama Imara* empowers the girl-child, the programme deems it important to also empower the boy-child, and in this regard *Simama Imara* has also reached out 57 boys since August 2018.

Often left out in empowerment initiatives, the boys *Simama Imara* has reached out to prove that boys, as much as girls, are very eager in participating and driving social change.

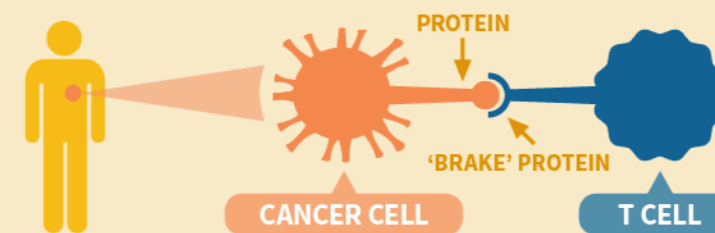
Youth should recognize themselves as advocates for gender equality. They should spread their wings as community eagles to create equality without the fear of being questioned. Young people can change the world and create equality without considering their gender. Advocating for Gender equality is not only a role for women, but rather it is a role of both women and men.



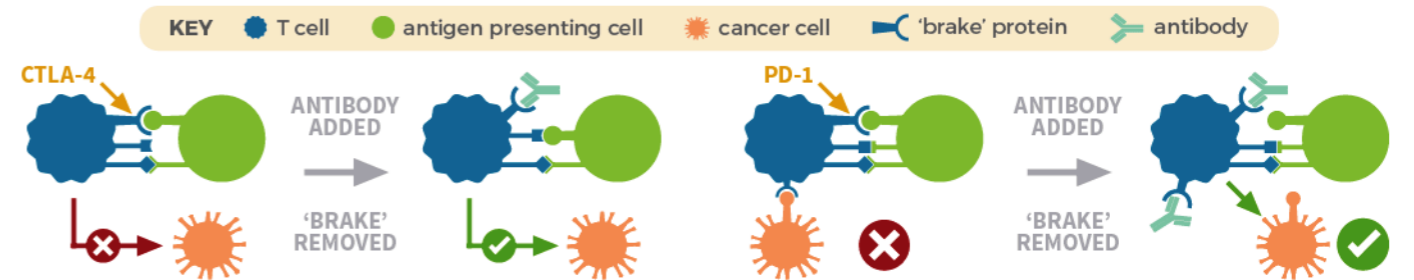
Saumy Issa Rajabu is the Core-Founder of *Simama Imara*. Email: saumuisser92@gmail.com

2018 NOBEL PRIZE IN PHYSIOLOGY/MEDICINE

The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2018 was awarded to **James P. Allison** and **Tasuku Honjo** for their discovery of cancer therapy by stimulating the immune system to attack tumour cells.



Cancer is a group of diseases, caused by uncontrolled cell growth, which can evade our immune systems. Proteins on T cells, a type of white blood cell, act as 'brakes' for the immune response. Unleashing these brakes allows the immune system to attack cancer cells.



Allison studied the T cell brake protein CTLA-4. He developed an antibody that could bind to CTLA-4 and block its function, allowing the immune system to attack cancer cells. The antibodies successfully cured mice with cancer, and later human trials were also successful.

Honjo discovered another brake protein, PD-1. It operates by a different mechanism, but also arrests the immune response. Treatment with antibodies releases the brake. This has been effective against different cancers, including metastatic cancer, previously considered untreatable.



WHY DOES THIS RESEARCH MATTER?

This research established an entirely new approach to treating cancer. Positive results have been observed in cancer patients and there are a large number of clinical trials underway against many cancer types.

Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine Press release: <https://www.nobelprize.org/uploads/2018/10/press-medicine2018.pdf>



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Youths! Arise!

COMPOSERS: Angel Elias Kwesi, Kijafaraja Ibrahim & Moza Muhammed

SCHOOL: FEZA Girls Secondary & High School

OCCASION: 6th EAC University Students Debate; December 2018

THEME: "Border Management to address migrant smuggling and corruption at borders for stability and socio-economic development in the East African Community: Role and Implications for the youth"

The entrance of people in our region illegally,
Isn't that what we call migrant smuggling?
Propelled by the use of money,
To enable its durability.

From the horn of Africa,
Scattering!
Through East Africa,
Illegally,
To Europe, Middle East and Southern Africa.

We are enemies of corruption,
All the borders and all over,
So why don't we trust our minds,
Over and over,
We can detect a migrant far away,
By using a small tool to play.

It has come to a point where this has gone too far,
The illiterates get rich; the graduates perish too fast,
The illiterates use corruption and quickly get advances,
The graduates stick to loyalty and die with no rewards.

Drought, poverty and instabilities,
Bombs, wars and personal insecurities,
Being a fugitive and illegally exporting,
These are the reasons for evading their cities.

There are a number of ways smugglers could use,
Corrupt networks, organizers and routes,
We know their ways, again them we can use,
Enough tools! Lets use our minds from school.

Every class has its way of smuggling,
The poorer flee through the sea,
Others use land cause it's quick,
And the ones who use air are the rich.



Environment, small gates,
Peer groups, families and friends,
Working places, low salaries and wages,
Could lead officials to an illegal exchange.

We need a breakthrough!
More over what they go through,
Physical violence and sexual assaults,
Extortions are not just rewards.
Try to fix their problems and see the magic work,
Although it many have complications just give it a try,
Maybe they aren't here for malicious acts,
It could be their problems that make them flee to us.

Positioning of the officials also matters,
If people are comfortable,
Their trust may turn to smugglers,
Give them better than what they get from outsiders,
And we'll have better officials,
To trust at the borders.

From organizations with loyal officials,
Check civil servants all the more and more,
Check point stations at land, air ports and sea shores,
Terminate monopoly in administration,
Prevent smugglers from reaching their destinations.

Lets publish data on corruption incidents,
Let the public have concrete evidence,
Media! Do your jobs well,
Longer borders need most help,
Some, lower refugee protections,
Is this worth our validation?

Youths of this generation, help neighboring nations,
When they face calamities, when they're drunk with misery,
Let's not be the enemy, good neighbors we shall be,
Advise your friends to fight corruption,
The path is pretty clear, it's your own selection,
Youths! Let's have cooperation.

We need the helpdesk,
Youths of the generation,
Arise!
Anywhere you are,
Hear this summon,
In Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda,
Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan,
Arise!



SELECTION PROCESS

The EAC Students' Debate acts as the platform for the selection of the Ambassadors whereby the best debaters are appointed of EAC Youth Ambassadors for a duration of 1 year.

The Judges of the EAC Student's Debate evaluate the following in the selection of the Ambassadors during the entire course of the debate:

- 1. Content:** Ability to interpreting the motion; quality of Research, Knowledge of EAC Organs and Institutions and how they relate; reference to policy and legal instruments;
- 2. Posture:** Voice; use of Language; Self presentation; audibility, eye contact, as well as use of notes and humour and persuasiveness;
- 3. Team work:** How well the individual debater's group works together and how coordinated it is.
- 4. Rebuttal/cross examination:** The judges evaluate the ability of the debater's to identify weakness in the opposing team's argument and defend their argument against attack or challenge.
- 5. Speaker role:** involves "how well a speaker fulfills" his/her responsibilities in the allocated debating position.
- 6. Time management.**

EAC YOUTH AMBASSADORS

THEIR ROLE

Upon appointment, the EAC Youth Ambassadors are trained in leadership and advocacy skills to empower them in their new role for one year.

The EAC Youth Ambassadors perform the following duties during their team:

1. Collaborate with the EAC Secretariat and Ministries of East African Affairs (MEACAs) to organise national sensitization forums, dialogues and debates to raise awareness among the youths/students/ university community on the EAC integration process;
2. Act as a liaison representative of the youth and the EAC Secretariat on integration initiatives in their respective Partner States;
3. Enhance the participation of university students in the EAC integration process through creation and promotion of Model East African Community (MEAC) clubs in universities;
4. Be a role model in advocating for a people- and especially youth-centred EAC integration process within the students community.



EAC YOUTH AMBASSADORS 2019



Christa-Bella Mugisha
EAC Youth Ambassador
Burundi



Jean Claude Mugisha
Deputy
EAC Youth Ambassador
Burundi



Elias Odhiambo Ouma
EAC Youth Ambassador
Kenya



Haynayat Jeneby Mohamed
Deputy
EAC Youth Ambassador
Kenya



Clemence Mbabazi
EAC Youth Ambassador
Rwanda



Tony Mihigo
Deputy
EAC Youth Ambassador
Rwanda



Mafunda Kombo Faki
EAC Youth Ambassador
Tanzania



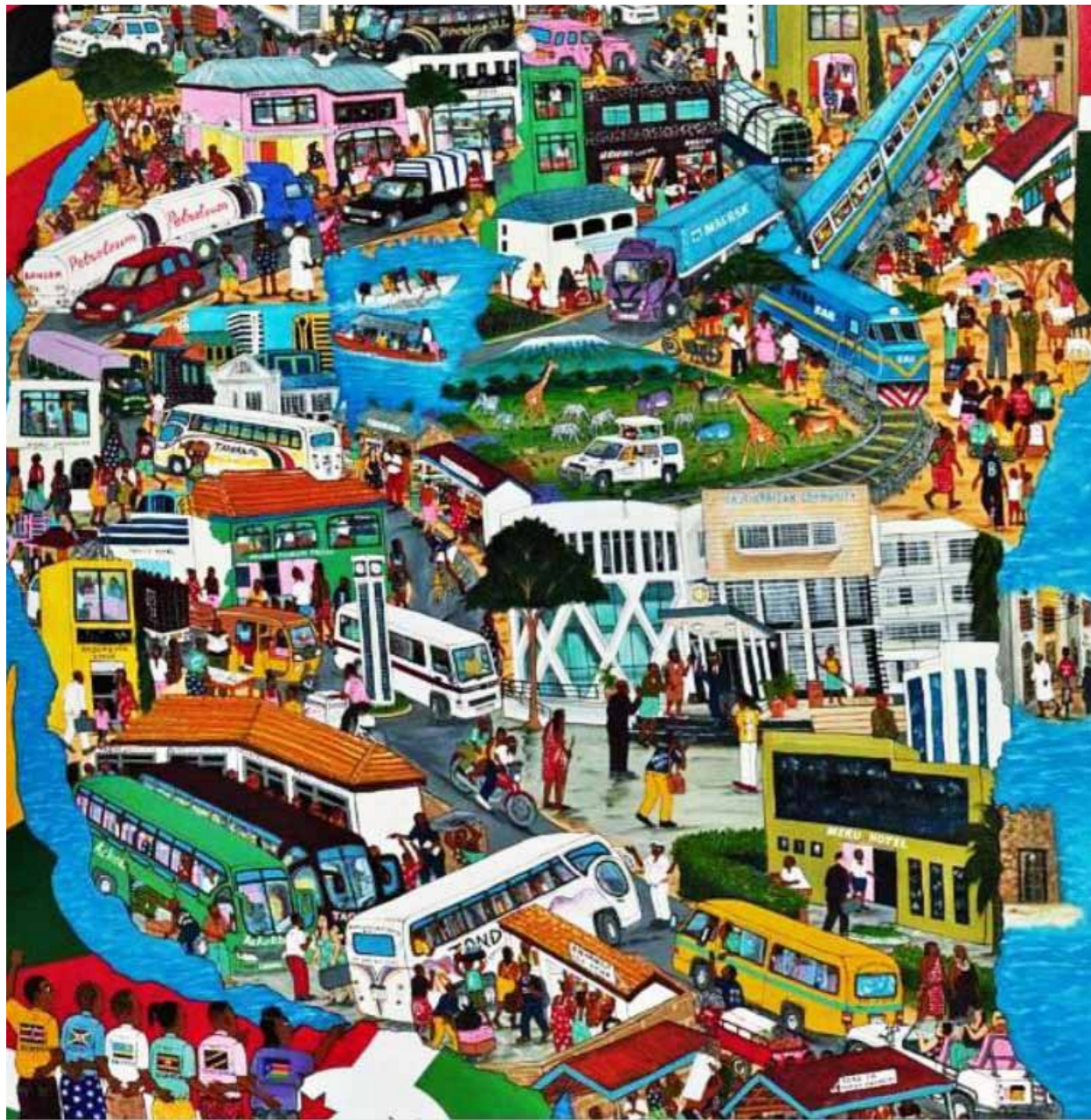
Juma E. Erassy
Deputy
EAC Youth Ambassador
Tanzania



Sebastian Ivan Ssegawa
EAC Youth Ambassador
Uganda



Mercy Awino
Deputy
EAC Youth Ambassador
Kenya



Why East African Integration remains a priority for Leaders

BY ROBERT MWESIGWA

More than 130 years ago, the political heads of Europe's nations met for a conference in Berlin to divide Africa amongst themselves.

It ended with the fragmentation of Africa into micro political units incapable of supporting the independent growth of the same fragmented African states.

More than a century later, many African states have crafted their identities around the geographical demarcations decided at the Berlin Conference in 1884.

These demarcations make up today's international boundaries on the continent, they have influenced or more accurately they have restricted geopolitical and economic relations in Africa.

African states have continued to divide themselves along these boundaries while the same European states that created those demarcations have progressively erased their international boundaries back home in Europe creating the European Union.

Africa remains weak, fragmented and still unable to address its many problems effectively and yet today, even the most ardent critics of Africa cannot deny the historical imperative for a strong, unified continent.

Fast forward to 2018, increasingly political players and development practitioners on Africa are making the case that African states should integrate economically and politically, but it seems easier said than done.

How does integration happen?

It is not true that African states will integrate merely out of sentimental value or national policy because it is not policies that integrate people, instead it is people that have to own it.

Integration is a result of the collective self interests of all the groups involved; in today's world, nothing integrates societies like their own economic self interests.

History has also shown it was German's business interests that fueled the unification of East and West Germany.

The business class in the West wanted to access the Eastern market to sell their goods, so they pushed for the unification out of their own self.

For many smaller economies in Africa, especially landlocked ones, regional integration is not a policy option, it is a necessity.

Being part of a trade bloc with neighboring countries can help small countries to get access to ports.

It can help them achieve economies of scale, facilitate investment, break into multi-country production networks, and increase private sector competitiveness.

In 1977, the East African Community collapsed. This collapse triggered a disharmony between Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

For all Amin's ills and misconceptions of integration, this community was always going to struggle.

Partly because it did not represent the collective self interest of the region's states, but also, its biggest challenge was a failure by some of the region's political actors to properly conceptualise this idea of integration at regional level.

It was not until 1993 that the idea of integration was reintroduced into the mainstream political arena in East Africa. Presidents Yoweri Museveni of Uganda, Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya and Benjamin Mkapa of Tanzania were at the forefront of this and since then the region has been making integration attempts both at a policy level and the non state attempts to sell goods and labour across the region's national boundaries.

The future of integration

The recent signing by 44 of Africa's 52 countries of a treaty to establish a Continental free trade area (CFTA) in Kigali is further evidence that indeed Africa is on the right move.

Also, studies now suggest that "demand for democracy increases with economic integration due to the presence of a learning and cultural transmission channel, so less democratic countries learn from the institutions of their (more) democratic partners."

Further proving that countries that integrate and trade are more likely to be democratic.

Africa's leaders will need to transcend domestic cultural, tribal and political biases, sentiments and affiliations, if the full benefits of regional and continental integration are to be realised.

Africa is at a time of greatest opportunities on all fronts. To suggest that the time is not yet ripe for a political union of Africa or even East Africa is to ignore realities in Africa today. This is Africa's destiny band for its leaders to reflect on. 🇰🇪



The writer is a Ugandan businessman and Chairman of the Africa Strategic Leadership Centre, a Kampala-based Think-Tank.

It's just a short step to Somalia joining the EAC

BY GITURA MWAURA



Somalia's long held ambitions to integrate into the East African Community remain on course to be realized.

It is just a short step to their realization if one looks at some of the recent developments. In July last year, for example, the country got admitted into the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA).

The membership is a thumbs-up sign that the country has gotten its feet back, earning it a place in the comity of the nations that make COMESA. Its joining increased the membership of the common market to 21.

The country now looks to join the East African Community. The patience should soon pay off after having applied to be part of the bloc in 2013.

With EAC member states already in COMESA, it's just a matter of course that Somalia should be admitted into the East African Community.

The case for it is obvious, but bears restating. With Somalia's bordering the EAC, everything is about geographical proximity.

And proximity in its turn implies immediacy of a relationship that must be consummated, particularly as manifest in the fluidity of socio-cultural and economic ties between cross-border communities and their respective countries.

Further, observe that in this contiguity is anchored the regional support playing a role in keeping the country propped up and holding together, despite the factionalism and the Al Shabaab menace.

The AU peacekeeping mission in Somalia (AMISOM) is an obvious example of this support.

But there is another kind binding the country to the region that may not be so obvious.

As the veteran journalist Charles Onyango-obbo described it not too long ago, the "invisible hand of East Africans" has been a big driver of regional integration.

In his analysis, he showed how the same hand plays between Somalia and countries in the region, particularly through the "Somali distribution networks." You'll find the irrepensible Somali business acumen anywhere you turn in East Africa.

But it is a hand Al Shabaab should not be allowed to compromise. In view of the terror group's attacks, some observers have been suggesting that security concerns may be the biggest stumbling block to Somalia's admission to the East African community.

While one cannot discount the concerns, any threat the group may pose cannot be allowed sway to determine Somalia's place in the region.

There's much to be gained in Somalia's membership, both for the country and region. First, in joining the EAC, the country will bring the total population in the region close to 190 million.

That's a huge market to which one may add the Somali government's recent overtures to build economic bridges with Ethiopia and Eritrea, especially after the rapprochement between the latter two.

As observers have pointed out will not only bequeath the Horn of Africa to the EAC but bestow the region with the longest coastline of the Indian Ocean on the continent.

The important gain, however, is that Somalia's membership can only bolster the country's rise back to its feet after the decades-old turmoil that has plagued the country since the 1991 overthrow of President Siad Barre's military regime.

The government of Somalia, therefore, has a point in its belief that admission into the regional bloc will play a key role in boosting the economy of the country while improving the trade relations with its neighbours.

Still, it has to wait a bit longer. While it may appear evident that strides have been made as suggested by the country's inclusion in COMESA, the EAC's has chosen to apply the "trust but verify" approach.

It was expected that assessment of Somalia's level of preparedness to merit membership should have been complete before the 20th EAC Heads of State Summit earlier this week in Arusha, Tanzania.

Noting the incompleteness in its communiqué, the regional leaders directed the Council of Ministers to follow up on the verification and report at the next summit.

Conditions for membership that Somalia and other prospective members must fulfill are set out under the EAC Treaty. They include adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice.

In addition to geographical proximity, the other condition is the establishment and maintenance of a market driven economy.

Gitura Mwaura is a Writer, Rights Activist, and Columnist. The New Times first published this article.



POVERTY: A concept or reality?

BY JORGE OLVERA

Poverty has been a global challenge since time in memorial. Global dynamics require countries to integrate as quickly as possible in their economic activities.

In the postmodernity, people are moving around the globe like never before in human history. As John Urry said in 2016, "In this era, not only people travel but also travel with their images and cultures".

World Lineage, a friendly initiative of travelers from the Basque Country, Denmark, Germany, Italy, Tanzania, Colombia, Peru, and Mexico believes "poverty" is a concept created by few Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The concept of poverty is geared towards the establishment of various volunteer programs, in which individuals make hefty payments to volunteer in various "development initiatives" in East Africa.

On the contrary, the World Lineage initiative programme's aim is to motivate local communities to create self-organization projects, based on the right conservation methods. As the saying goes, "It takes on a participatory approach that focuses on strengthening local institutions instead of creating new ones". This is based on the premise that new institutions are established with different values and customs, thus breaking the traditional cultural framework on conservation and sustainability.

World Lineage focuses on social development methods with a structural model. We believe social development must be in the hands of, and driven by the people themselves and not the classical NGOs with undefined assistance programs. Encouraging self-organization projects not only builds solidarity, but also builds a solid foundation in the long term. On

the contrary, development projects driven by external parties, often leave no room for ownership by the local communities. The youth from Eastern Africa, Asia and Latin America must learn that no one has the right to call them "poor". Poverty is a mindset and not a reality.

World Lineage is a friendly initiative by a group of travelers that seeks to motivate local communities to create self-organization projects based on the right conservation methods. The programme objective is to answer the question, "how can we improve the lives of the children and conserve the environment?"

World Lineage is not an NGO, the members spend their time in villages, advising the ways to find value from the local communities' culture and traditions. The programme brings to the region a new social development method with a structural model of growth and prosperity based on science and arts creation.

<https://worldlineage.myportfolio.com>



How Single Customs Territory has cut bureaucracy in EAC trade

By JEAN d'AMOUR MBONYINSHUTI



Customs bodies and the business community across the East African Community (EAC) have praised the positive gains from the single customs territory, saying it has eased business and reduced malpractices that had characterized regional trade.

The initiative was introduced in 2013 to improve efficiency in doing business in the region. It seeks to ease doing business across the bloc by electronically processing goods and releasing them from the country of destination prior to loading and releasing from the port.

Now members of the business community and revenue collection authorities alike say the system has reduced the bureaucracy associated with documentation by 80 per cent.

In addition, regional customs officials say, the single customs territory eliminated customs duties and other restrictive regulations such as internal border customs controls, hence reducing tariff and non-tariff barriers to trade in EAC.

According to Ben Usaje, the Commissioner of Customs and excise at Tanzania Revenue Authority, single customs territory has reduced the turnaround time from 18 days to 4 days from Mombasa in Kenya to Kampala in Uganda and from 21 days to 5 or 4 days from Mombasa-Kigali.

He added that the time it takes to ferry goods from Dar-es-Salam in Tanzania to Bujumbura in Burundi reduced from 18.5 days to 4-5 days.

Officials also said that real time sharing of customs information upon arrival of goods at the port have lessened internal border controls.

"The use of single customs territory has helped us to curb the problem of dumping of goods which was a common phenomenon and rampant which resulted into tax evasion. We had cases where the goods which pass through Tanzania never reached the final destinations but were dumped inside Tanzania without paying taxes," he said.

Usaje added: "The member countries have also benefited because they are getting taxes paid upfront and are getting revenues at the right time unlike in the past where they had to wait until someone was asked to pay taxes".

Yassin Billo, the Export Manager at Azam Bakhresa Group, said the clearing process is now fast.

"Export has become easier, whether we are exporting local or foreign products, it is easier in the sense that now you send an invoice of the cargo, declare and then you receive a document showing that you have paid customs and the exit document, and there are no more stopovers to check the cargo. This has reduced time. Our trucks can now do more trips than before," said Billo.

All ports operate regularly, which allows the importer and transporter to use the shortest time possible to clear and move goods from the point of entry to destination partner state, he added.

Meanwhile, Richard Tusabe, the Commissioner General for Rwanda Revenue Authority (RRA), recently said that, as a result of reduced number of transportation days between Mombasa and Kigali, there were improvements in trade.

"The cost is coming down but also it has given us good visibility; we now share a common platform under the single customs territory of electronic cargo tracking. I can seat here and see that a certain consignment of goods is still on the Kenyan soil and when it reaches Uganda I can see it, so it has given us confidence that there are no goods that are being diverted from one jurisdiction to another jurisdiction inappropriately," he said.

He added: "So single customs territory has been a game changer. Traders here can declare goods when they are at the port, even before the ship docks you can tell that it is about to get there and start your clearance process as opposed to the old way when the driver used to come with documents to Kigali then you start the process". 🇰🇪





East Africa emerges as the leading destination for FDI on the continent

By ALLAN OLINGO



East Africa registered a growth in foreign direct investment growth in 2017, performing stronger than other regions across the continent, attracting 30 per cent of the continent's total FDI with 197 projects.

According to EY Global's 2018 Africa Attractiveness report, the region recorded an 82 per cent increase in the number of FDI projects in 2017 compared with 2016.

"This shifting investment landscape is a function of numerous factors, including multi-speed growth, investment friendly economic policies and, to some extent, regional integration initiatives, particularly in the east of the continent where the East African Community made up of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda has been successful in increasing economic growth since its formation," reads the report.

Kenya, the region's leading economy, reported a 68 per cent increase in inward investment projects in 2017, despite political uncertainty in the second half of the year following a prolonged election cycle.

British investors were particularly active, with 10 project commitments, followed by Dutch companies.

"Kenya's fast-growing technology sector, nicknamed 'Silicon Savannah,' continued to draw foreign investor interest. Technology, Media and Telecommunications (TMT) FDI projects in Kenya increased by 44 per cent compared with 2016, largely because of a conducive environment, including a pool of well-resourced IT developers and a high smartphone penetration rate.

"In addition, the Kenyan government has been active in making the country a viable and competitive technology hub, formulating policies to drive this initiative," reads the report.

FDI Projects

Ethiopia, which was Africa's second-fastest growing economy saw its consumer products and retail (primarily textiles), real estate, hospitality and construction sectors collectively responsible for the surge in FDI to the country in 2017.

"Looking ahead, the recent opening up of the telecoms, shipping, power generation and aviation sectors to foreign investment will prove to be a further boost to investor interest," the report said.

Tanzania also posted a sharp rise in FDI projects, attracting nine projects, mostly in infrastructure, as well as private investment in the development of a regional hydrocarbons sector.

Major oil discoveries also put Uganda on the investment map, with the country attracting 14 FDI projects in 2017, up from nine in the previous year.

Rwanda, which ranks as one of Africa's most business-friendly destinations, received 1.5 FDI projects for every \$1 billion of GDP.

Measured by the same criterion, South Africa received only 0.32 projects, attracting only 20 per cent of what Rwanda does, given its relative size.

"This is because Rwanda has pursued a long-term economic reform agenda over the years and hence, continues to outperform other countries in attracting foreign direct investment," EY said.

INVEST IN GIRLS' EDUCATION

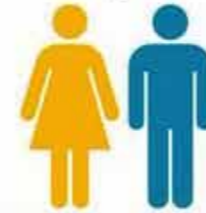


31 MILLION GIRLS OF PRIMARY SCHOOL AGE ARE NOT ENROLLED IN SCHOOL.

THE PICTURE IS DIFFERENT FOR GIRLS AND BOYS

{ Enrollment rates in sub-Saharan Africa }

Entering School



100 girls per 100 boys

Primary School



92 girls per 100 boys

Secondary Education



84 girls per 100 boys

Tertiary Education



61 girls per 100 boys

WHY DO GIRLS DROP OUT?



CHILD MARRIAGE

SCHOOL FEES

SEXUAL VIOLENCE

LACK OF SANITARY FACILITIES

BUT... IF WE COULD KEEP GIRLS IN SCHOOL BEYOND GRADE 7, THEY WOULD BE:



More likely to marry 4 years later



Less likely to die in pregnancy/childbirth



More likely to have an average of 2.2 fewer children



More likely to have healthier children



More likely to send their children to school

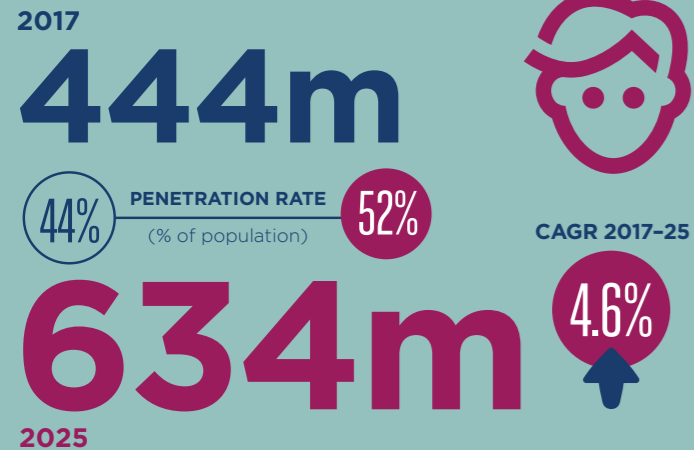
WOMEN DELIVER



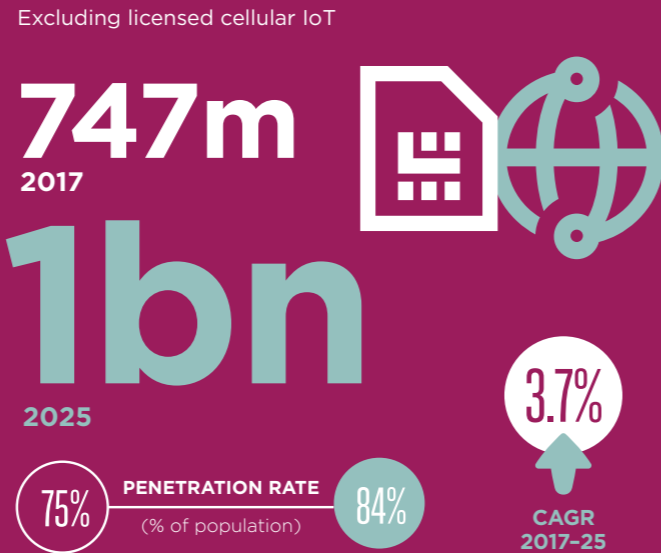
WHO WINS? EVERYBODY.

Mobile Technology in Sub-Saharan Africa

Unique mobile subscribers



SIM connections



Accelerating moves to mobile broadband networks and smartphone adoption

Mobile broadband connections



Data growth driving revenues and operator investments

Operator total revenues



Operator capex of up to **\$31 billion** for the period 2017-20

Mobile contributing to economic and social development across the region

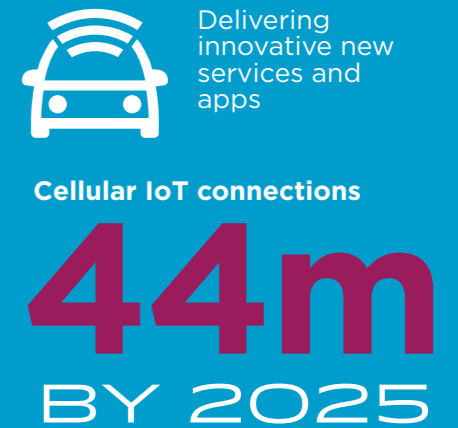
DIGITAL INCLUSION



FINANCIAL INCLUSION



INNOVATION

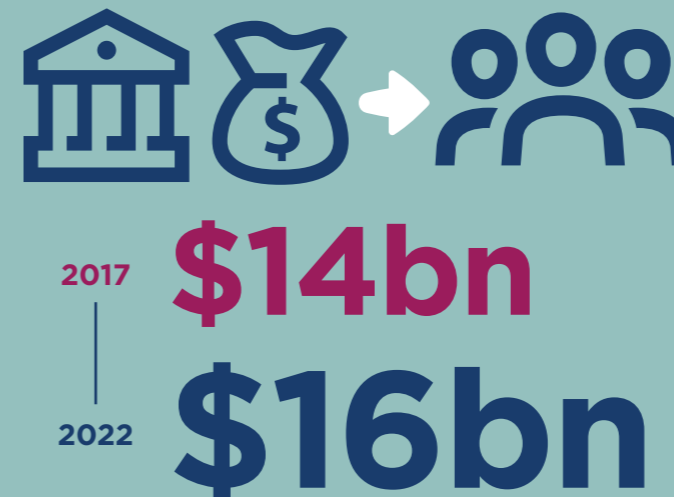


Mobile industry contribution to GDP



Public funding

Mobile ecosystem contribution to public funding (before regulatory and spectrum fees)



Employment



Jobs supported by the mobile ecosystem



Gender Mainstreaming Key to Sustainable Development in the Region

BY HELLEN T. SHWANDA



Gender mainstreaming is the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including policies or programs and legislation, in all areas and at all levels.

It is a strategy for making women's as well as men's concerns and experiences an integral dimension in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programs in all political, economic and societal spheres, so that both women and men benefit equally.

If this happens, inequality is not perpetuated; and the ultimate goal of gender equality shall be achieved. The long term benefits to the EAC shall be economic development.

The launching of the Gender Policy in September 2018 was a positive development worthy noting. Hon. Abdikadir Omar Aden, EALA Member of Parliament who chairs the General Purpose Committee in his remarks at the launch said; *"Women and girls stand out most in the gender discussion because they are under-represented and thus need to be mainstreamed into decision-making positions"*.

The EAC Gender Policy aims at providing guidance on institutionalizing gender strategies in the EAC integration process in addition to ensuring that the rights of women and men, boys and girls are promoted, protected and realized on equal basis.

Article 121 of the EAC Treaty states:

"The Partner States recognise that women make a significant contribution towards the process of socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth and that it is impossible to implement effective programmes for the economic and social development of the Partner States without full participation of women."


Gender equality is therefore imperative if development is to be realized in EAC. According to my recent academic research that was published in the International Journal of Science and

Research (IJSR) in 2017 <https://www.ijer.net/archive/v6i5/v6i501.php> ; it was revealed that men at EAC hold the majority of professional positions, despite the fact that women constitute a major portion of the working force in the various sectors of the economy in the EAC region.

With the passing of the Gender Equality Bill in 2017 by EALA, there is light at the end of the tunnel; however a lot needs to be done in creating awareness aimed at changing attitudes towards the involvement of women in all spheres of life.

There is need for East Africans to legally demand gender equity and equality from the respective governments. There are only two female Judges at the East African Court of Justice (EACJ); the rest of the 11 judges are all male. Male judges are numerically dominant, increasing the likelihood of the 'male club' dominating the Court's narrative even where rationality or equity would dedicate otherwise. Likewise, it is quite surprising that in all the EAC Institutions, only one is headed by a woman; The East African Science, Technology Commission (ESTECO).

In order to have the 50-50 representation target by 2030, concerted efforts have to be made to change methodology in action and focus on equity in gender mainstreaming. Governments at national and regional levels have a duty to provide an enabling environment for active participation of the residents of East Africa to achieve gender equity through gender mainstreaming.

Gender Mainstreaming is vital in EAC to accelerate integration and the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women as mandated in Article 121 of the EAC Treaty. Harnessing the power of women and men, boys and girls is central to maximizing equity and critically important in achieving sustainable development. 

Hellen is the Executive Assistant to the Judges of the East African Court of Justice. She firmly advocates for human rights, equality and a just society.



Brain Bashers

1 My current age, is the age of my brother (who is 14), plus one third my age.

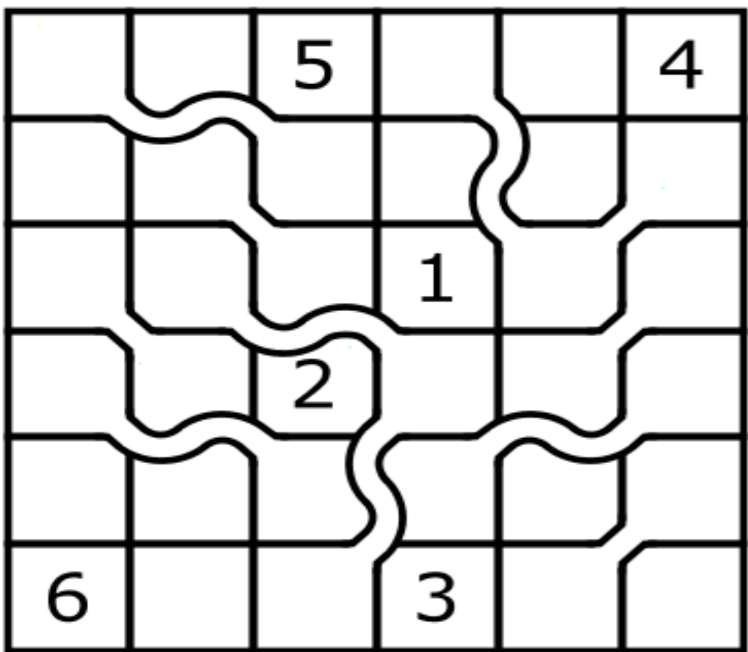
How old will I be when my brother is twice his current age?

2 What shape completes the bottom line?

- triangle pentagon square
- square hexagon hexagon square
- pentagon hexagon hexagon hexagon square triangle
- hexagon octagon octagon octagon octagon ==?==



4 Complete the grid such that every row and column contains the digits 1 to 6. all squares that are connected contain the same digit.



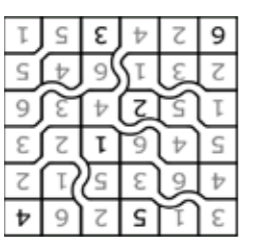
5 Using all of the letters of the alphabet, once only, complete these words:



- E--A
- UI-AR
- ICK
- A-
- BO-
- OWE-
- ON-EY
- EL
- RA-
- KAGE
- LL
- MO--
- EAP
- EEP
- UN

[Hint: There are three animals.]

Zebra, guitar, quick, way, box, vowel, monkey, eel, raj, package, still, moon, heap, deep, fun. Zebra, guitar, quick, say, box, vowel, monkey, eel, raj, package, hill, moon, leap, weep, fun. Zebra, guitar, quick, sad, box, vowel, monkey, eel, raj, package, will, moon, heap, jeep, fun. Zebra, guitar, quick, jam, box, vowel, donkey, eel, ray, package, will, moon, heap, seep, fun. Zebra, guitar, quick, jaw, box, vowel, monkey, eel, ray, package, fill, moon, heap, deep, sun. Zebra, guitar, quick, lay, box, vowel, monkey, eel, ran, package, will, mojo, heap, seep, fun.



Answer: Square
square is the first shape's sides and the remaining shapes add up to this number
E.g:
triangle pentagon square
 $3 \times 3 = 5 + 4$
 $4 \times 4 = 6 + 6 + 4$
Therefore:
hexagon octagon octagon octagon
he is 28 (double his age), I will be 35
I am currently 21 and my brother is currently 14, when he is 28 (double his age), I will be 35
I am currently 21 years time.
If x is my current age, then:
 $x = 14 + \frac{1}{3}x$
 $3x = 42 + x$
 $2x = 42$
 $x = 21$
so
and
 $3x = 42 + x$
 $2x = 42$
so
This is the habit you must develop. You need to constantly learn and ask questions, if you want to find the right solutions to the problems.
Children, asking their parents a myriad of questions, want to comprehend the world, learn and develop.
Working together, you get the opportunity to practice certain solutions to problems, to generate new ideas and suggestions, as well as get so much needed feedback.
Don't be afraid to challenge the reality, to get rid of traditional prejudices and to experiment with solutions to the problem. Always check whether your assumptions match the truth.
To test the hypothesis, you need an integrated approach. So, before you start working, minimize the bias and get rid of the judgement, and the true result will not keep you waiting.
You failed? Well, let it be a lesson to you! Analyze your problem and find out the information on which it occurred. For a real scientist, a negative result is only food for analysis, thinking and gaining new knowledge that will eventually allow him to better understand the situation.
To solve the problem, you must change the mindset that you've used, causing the problem. Do not search for easy solutions, but learn not to perceive the problem as complicated.
Always look for a creative approach
Do not let the prejudices to seizure power over you
Go ahead with guesswork
Do not work alone
Be an adult "howcast"
Learn from mistakes and do not be afraid of failure

5

4

2

1

7 HABITS

HOW TO LEARN TO THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST

No one will argue with the fact that people who are involved in science for a long time, have a different mindset. However, even if the scope of your activities is far from a science, the habit of scientifically thinking will bring you a great benefit because you will learn how to quickly and promptly solve various problems at work, family, household, and many others. Let's learn right now how to develop the habits of scientists and implement them in your thinking, to change lives.

1 Learn from mistakes and do not be afraid of failure

You failed? Well, let it be a lesson to you! Analyze your problem and find out the information on which it occurred. For a real scientist, a negative result is only food for analysis, thinking and gaining new knowledge that will eventually allow him to better understand the situation.

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3 Do not let the prejudices to seizure power over you

To test the hypothesis, you need an integrated approach. So, before you start working, minimize the bias and get rid of the judgement, and the true result will not keep you waiting.

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Children, asking their parents a myriad of questions, want to comprehend the world, learn and develop. This is the habit you must develop. You need to constantly learn and ask questions, if you want to find the right solutions to the problems.

6 Do not work alone

Working together, you get the opportunity to practice certain solutions to problems, to generate new ideas and suggestions, as well as get so much needed feedback.

7 Always discuss what you have got

For each scientist discussion of the results is an essential part of their activities. Discussion allows them not to only achieve great results, but also to increase their efficiency and enhance knowledge and skills.





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ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY