

# e-EAC Newsletter



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**  
e-Newsletter  
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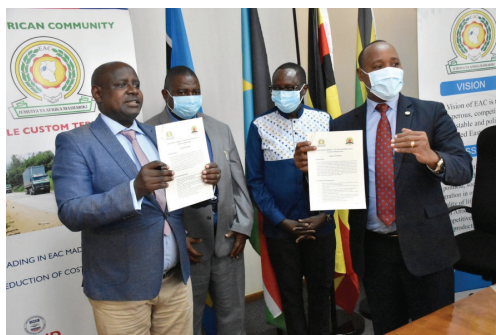


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# EAC lauds the Republic of Kenya for waiving visa requirements for citizens of the Republic of South Sudan

The East African Community (EAC) has hailed the decision by the Republic of Kenya to waive the requirement of obtaining a visa to enter Kenya for the citizens of the Republic of South Sudan holding a valid passport issued by the Government of South Sudan.

The EAC Secretary General, Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, said that the move was in line with the decision announced by the Chair of the EAC Heads of State, H.E President Uhuru Kenyatta, during the 21st Ordinary Summit of the EAC Heads of State held on 27th February, 2021.

“This demonstrates the goodwill among the EAC Heads of State in promoting regional integration and revamping relations, which is set to boost intra-EAC trade,” said Dr. Mathuki.

Other Partner States that have also waived visa requirements for South Sudanese citizens are the Republic of Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

Dr. Mathuki lauded the Republic of South Sudan, which has in the spirit of reciprocity also waived visa requirements for Kenyans, Rwandans and Tanzanians wishing to visit the country.

“This is a positive step towards realizing the gains of the Protocol on Establishment of the EAC Common Market and a win for the Community. It is set to expand trade and investment opportunities and scale up economic and social progression across the bloc,” he said.

Article 10 of the EAC Common Market Protocol states that citizens of EAC Partner States are at liberty to accept employment within the territories of Partner States other than their own.

“The EAC Secretariat urges Partner States that have not yet waived visa requirements for South Sudanese citizens to expedite the negotiations with the Republic of South Sudan in line with the provisions of the Common Market Protocol on free movement of persons and workers,” said Dr. Mathuki.

Article 7 of the EAC Common Market Protocol stipulates that ‘EAC Partner States shall ensure non-discrimination of the citizens of the other Partner States based on their nationalities by ensuring entry of citizens of the other Partner States into the territory of the Partner State without a visa and free movement of persons who are citizens of the other Partner States within the territory of the Partner State.’

It further outlines that, ‘EAC citizens are allowed to stay in the territory of a Partner State and exit without restrictions.’

The waiver of visa requirements by Partner States for South Sudanese citizens and vice versa will further promote the free movement of persons, labour and services, which will in turn step up cross-border trade in line with the EAC 2020/2021 budget theme of promoting private sector growth and trade development within the region.



# EAC Secretariat holds consultative meeting with the Republic of Uganda



The EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr) Peter Mathuki together with Deputy Secretaries General, Director General of Customs and Trade, and other Senior Officials of the EAC Secretariat held a consultative meeting with Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Uganda's 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs on the current status of the EAC integration process.

The consultative meetings between the EAC Secretariat and the Partner States Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs and Trade are part of the innovative approaches by the EAC Secretariat to brief Partner States on a quarterly basis on the status of integration projects and programmes.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Mathuki told the Minister

that the objective of the consultative meeting was to report on the achievements and challenges of activities undertaken in various sectors and share available opportunities as well as come up with strategies to strengthen regional integration.

"Hon Minister, we at the Secretariat thought it is important for Partner States to know the status of their Directives and implementation of various projects and programmes on a quarterly basis before our normal policy meetings," said the Secretary General.

Highlighting some of the achievements during this period of COVID-19, Dr. Mathuki told the Minister that the Secretariat had successfully coordinated regional

COVID-19 response through effective partnerships with international and local organizations.

“Some of the interventions made by the Secretariat include the establishment of the Regional Electronic Cargo and Driver Tracking System (RECDTS), which facilitates free movement of people, goods and services in the region, as well as distribution of essential supplies in the region,” said Dr. Mathuki.

He further disclosed to the Minister that the Secretariat managed to conduct a regional rapid assessment of the capacity to respond to COVID -19 and disease outbreaks at 27 cross border points in the region.

On the status of Partner States’ financial contributions to the general budget of EAC, the Secretary General commended the Partner States for complying with the provisions of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations by supporting the Community’s budget.

He, however, urged Partner States to disburse their statutory contributions in a timely manner to enable the EAC to implement its various activities as per the approved budget and calendar of activities.

“While the mandate of the Community has been expanding, the total budget as well as the amount that every Partner State contributes to EAC has been reducing,” said Dr. Mathuki.

On her part, Rt. Hon. Kadaga commended the initiative of the Secretariat on the quarterly consultative meetings with individual Partner States and said the meetings would help the Partner States to follow closely the implementation of various programmes and projects, and minimize the workload of discussion during Council meetings.

“I praise you Secretariat for this innovative way of keeping the Partner States informed on the implementation of various EAC Projects and Programmes,” said Rt. Hon. Kadaga.

On the regional COVID-19 response, Hon. Kadaga commended the Secretariat on several initiatives on coordination of the regional pandemic response through effective partnerships with international and local organizations but challenged the Secretariat to do more in making sure that Partner States are working jointly to contain the pandemic.



“A regional approach is the only way that can save our people in containing the pandemic because of the opportunity it provides for sharing resources, information, training and testing,” said the Minister.

On statutory contributions by the Partner States to support the approved EAC budget, Hon Kadaga urged the Secretary General to use the shuttle diplomacy to make sure that every Partner States makes its contribution on time.

During the meeting the EAC Director General Customs and Trade, Mr Kenneth Bagamuhunda made a presentation highlighting the achievements and challenges by various directorates and departments in addition to available opportunities.





# East Africa Health & Scientific Conference

November 2021, Nairobi, Kenya

**EAST AFRICAN HEALTH  
RESEARCH COMMISSION**

**invites you to:**

## **The East Africa Health & Scientific Conference**

Follow us at [www.eahealth.org](http://www.eahealth.org)  
and [www.eac.int](http://www.eac.int) for the  
conference main theme,  
sub-themes, symposia, health  
exhibition, trade fair, and more...



## **Preparations in high gear for the 8th East Africa Health and Scientific Conference**

The 8th East Africa Health and Scientific Conference and International Health Exhibition and Trade Fair (EAHSC) is set to be held under a hybrid format in Nairobi, Kenya from 17th to 19th November, 2021 under the theme: East African Community Sustainable Development Goal on Health: Reflection and Path ahead to 2030.

The Conference will offer a wide range of technical presentations reflecting developments in the Health sector in the region and around the world. Discussions will focus on areas such as Reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, and adolescent health; Infectious Diseases; Universal Health Coverage; as well as Non-communicable diseases such as mental health and environmental risks.

The 2021 edition of the EAHSC will also incorporate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the region, specifically, the lessons learned and the epidemiology of the pandemic. Further, the Conference will provide

room for discussions around Covid-19 vaccines - with a particular focus on: the procurement aspect, and the perception of the vaccines by citizens in the region; Covid-19 coverage and monitoring; management of Covid-19 cases; as well as the Covid-19 variants identified in the region.

The 8th EAHSC will also feature an international health exhibition and trade fair. Research institutions, health care facilities, medical/health academic institutions, medical and pharma industries, NGO's, CSO's, Ministries, EAC Secretariat, International organizations, UN agencies (WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, etc.) will showcase their services and products at the fair.

Participants to showcase products from research, academia, healthcare services and the health sector in general at the exhibition and trade fair.

# Vice Chancellors and Policy Makers meet to shape the future of higher education in EAC



Growing disruptions and new developments in higher education have prompted leaders and policy makers in the sector back to the drawing board to discuss the future of higher education in the East African Community (EAC).

Technological advancements such as artificial intelligence and augmented virtual reality coupled with alternative models of higher education, championed by technology firms, has emphasised the need to re-think the traditional model.

It is against this background that the Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), a specialised institution of the EAC responsible for development of higher education in the region, organised a conference to start discussions and generate policy recommendations to shape the future of higher education the region.

Speaking at the Conference, Hon. Ken Obura, the Chief Administrative Secretary, who represented Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Regional



Development, Hon. Adan Mohamed, asked IUCEA to take a lead in reforming higher education and guide policy direction to produce graduates with requisite skills for socio-economic transformation of the region.

"I challenge higher education institutions not to just be victims of change but to also impact change by producing graduates that are flexible and proactive in their response to changing times. This is the only way they will create impact in our economies," Hon Mohamed said.

The Acting Director of Social Sectors at the EAC Secretariat, Mr. Stephen Niyonzima, who represented EAC Secretary General Hon. Dr. Peter Mathuki, underscored the relevance of collaborative research among universities in the EAC region to address socio-economic challenges in the region.

"I encourage IUCEA to bring our scientists together and establish regional research hubs or networks for the purpose of undertaking collaborative research targeting problems that beset the region," Dr Mathuki said.

"There is need to constantly review and adapt education curricula to remain in tandem with the current development agenda of the region, needs and trends in the society and labour market," added the Secretary General.

On his part, the IUCEA Executive Secretary, Prof. Gaspard Banyankimbona, reaffirmed IUCEA's commitment to be a champion of reforms needed to refocus the higher education curriculum to meet the needs of the labour market by producing graduates with the capacity to solve the region's socio-economic challenges.

"The emergence of new technologies has drastically changed the education landscape and put emphasis on skills in the production sector, which requires graduates with competencies that match the industry demands," Prof. Banyankimbona said.

Globally, universities are facing competition from technology-driven platforms such as EdX, Coursera, and other similar platforms points as alternative forms of education.

## EAC launches Raising the Flag Project



The EAC Secretariat has launched the 'Raising the Flag' Project to promote the engagement of youth and children in the EAC integration process.

'Raising the Flag' is an EAC sensitization initiative that will be implemented in collaboration with Save the Children International and organisations under the East African Civil Society Organisations Forum and the East African Youth Network.

The Raising the Flag project has been developed in response to, Article 120 (c) of the Treaty for establishment of the East African Community which provides for the adoption of a common approach for involvement of children and youth in the integration process through education, training and mainstreaming children and youth issues into the EAC policies, projects and programs for strategic interventions.

The Raising the Flag project builds on the efforts of the EAC Secretariat to engage children and youth in matters that affect them as espoused in the EAC Youth and Children Policies. The initiative seeks to popularise the EAC Anthem, provide flags and flagpoles in all schools in EAC Partner States. For sustainability, the project will establish 'EAC Integration Clubs' and conduct sensitisation sessions with patrons of the clubs, teachers, heads of the schools and the students themselves.

Launching the campaign at the Turkish Maarif School and the SOS Children's Village in Arusha, Tanzania on 13th July 2021, the EAC Principal Gender and Community Development Officer, Mrs Generose Minani commended the Turkish Maarif Schools for the Partnership with the SOS Children's Village in Arusha and the blended approach of educating orphans and vulnerable children together with all children from the community.

She stated that the EAC has developed and is implementing youth and children's policies and to facilitate the participation of children and youth, has developed Child Friendly Versions of the policies and facilitators' guides.

The pilot phase of the project is ongoing in SOS Children's Village Schools and will scale up to an annual target of 600 primary and secondary schools in all EAC Partner States. All participating schools will raise the EAC flag and with active EAC Clubs participating in debates, writing competitions, cultural galas, exchange visits and other EAC Integration activities.



# EAC and EABC launch Technical Working Group to promote Private Sector Development



The East African Community and the East African Business Council (EABC), the umbrella body bringing together private sector associations in East Africa, today launched the EAC-EABC Technical Working Group at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The EAC-EABC Technical Working Group (TWG) that draws its membership from EAC and EABC is meant to spearhead initiatives that will benefit the private sector in East Africa. The EAC Director General for Customs and Trade, Mr. Kenneth Bagamuhunda, will chair the TWG.



Speaking at the launch of the TWG, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki said that EAC-EABC TWG has a specific mandate to promote activities that will raise the visibility of the EAC in addition to providing a platform for addressing concerns raised by the business community in the region.

Dr. Mathuki urged the TWG to reach out to every businessperson, whether large or small, by putting in place a hotline for receiving issues raised by stakeholders, adding that the EAC's focus would henceforth be placing the private sector at the heart of the integration process as outlined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.



The SG emphasised that teamwork and ownership would be crucial to the success of the TWG, which should be results-oriented.

“We are on the threshold of a new dawn that will take the Community to the people. Whatever we do, it must result into something tangible,” said Dr. Mathuki, adding that the first three stages of the EAC integration, namely the Customs Union, Common Market and Monetary Union were meant to promote economic integration in the region.

Dr. Mathuki said that only a cohesive and organised private sector in East Africa would be in position to take advantage of the business opportunities that would come with the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).

“The TWG should come up with a harmonised framework for a collective response by Partner States to COVID-19 in the region. A collective response in the region will guarantee economic recovery in a post-COVID era,” said the Secretary General.

In his remarks, East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) Speaker Hon. Ngoga Martin said the private sector was taking its rightful place in regional integration through the signing of the TWG.

“We have an obligation under the Treaty as EAC leaders to strengthen the role of the private sector in the integration process. I am afraid that so far, we haven’t fulfilled this obligation as required of us,” said Hon. Ngoga, adding that EALA’s mandate was to provide the legal framework to actualize the aspirations of the people of East Africa.

Hon. Ngoga said that EALA works through its six standing committees but called on the EABC to work with all the committees because private sector is a cost cutting phenomenon.

“The private sector through EABC should work closely with the Assembly to ensure that the necessary legal framework is put in place to facilitate the development of the private sector in East Africa,” said Hon. Ngoga, adding that the partnership between EAC and EABC would take the integration process to the next level.



On his part, EABC Executive Director John Bosco Kalisa said the TWG would identify issues that hinder the free movement of goods in the region and have them resolved on a monthly basis.

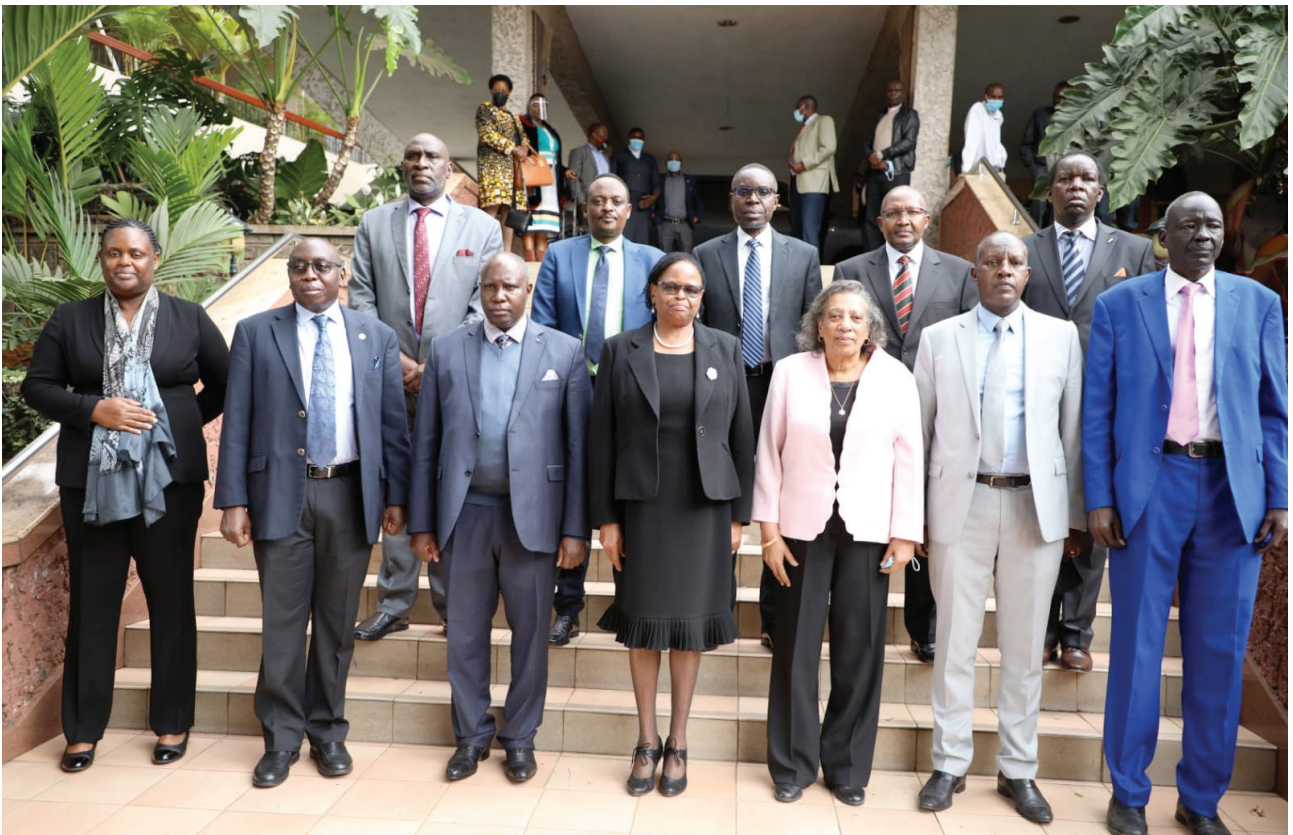
Mr. Kalisa said that in addition to identifying the issues impeding intra-EAC trade, the TWG should come up with solutions instead of always waiting for the Council and Summit to resolve such matters.

The EABC CEO hailed EALA for putting in place the necessary legal framework to address Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs) through the NTBs Act, 2017.

Among the TWG’s roles and responsibilities are: to receive and synthesize issues received from private sector at various levels and advise on appropriate solutions; create a joint work plan on Private Sector development and follow up implementation; follow up on agreed interventions for EAC with various stakeholders; generate content for the SG Roundtable and CEO roundtable; generate, coordinate, supervise and report on EAC regional projects related to Private Sector support.

TWG’s other roles are to: prepare reports and any other relevant documentation for Steering Committee of the TWG comprised of the SG of the EAC and the Chair of the Board of the EABC and the two co-chairs of the TWG; mobilize resources for activities of the TWG, and; any other activity relevant to the above objectives.

# The Chief Justice of Kenya affirms EAC as a pivotal institutional pillar and carrier of cross-border codes of Justice



The Chief Justice and President of the Supreme Court of Kenya, Lady Justice Martha Koome stated that the chords of the East African Union have indeed led to the formation of enduring and instrumental institutions of justice and Governance.

“The East Africa Court of Justice is a pivotal institutional pillar of this collaboration and a carrier of our cross-border codes of justice”

Her Ladyship asserted that “As a Court, you take the regional lead as a vehicle for realising good governance and the rule of law in the EAC region. The jurisprudence you have built over the years on adherence to universally acceptable principles

of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice cannot go unnoticed.” said Lady Justice Koome

Making her closing remarks during the EACJ meeting on validation of Strategic Plan, she noted that the cooperation between Kenya national Judiciaries must be up-scaled and not limited to hosting of the sub registry at the Milimani commercial courts. “I wish to see more tangible cooperation in judicial matters like joint trainings and colloquia. The principles of rule of law and good governance are very important to consumers of our services and the full achievement of economic integration in our region.” said the Chief Justice



Lady Justice Koome further added, "I have noted that the Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community (EAC) makes provision for cooperation with national judiciaries under Article 33 and 34. Article 33 provides "Except where jurisdiction is conferred on the Court by this Treaty, disputes to which the Community is a party shall not on that ground alone, be excluded from the jurisdiction of the national courts of the Partner States". Since national courts can also determine cases touching on the Treaty, that calls for training of national Judges on matters of the Treaty. "As the Kenyan judiciary engages in the quest to develop the social justice jurisprudence decreed by our transformative Constitution, we can gain illuminating insights from the progressive jurisprudence developed by the EACJ and the cross-fertilized jurisprudence that we develop can also enrich the EACJ's jurisprudence and the decisions by our sister courts in other Partner States.

On his part the Judge President East African Court of Justice Hon Justice Nestor Kayobera noted that during the Training of Judges on Good governance and Rule of Law in East African Community, a number of issues were identified and these include; the two (2) months time limitation requirement to file a case before the EACJ. "It has been realized that a number of reasonable cases have been dismissed on grounds of time barred and this requires amendment of the Treaty of EAC to extend time to give litigants enough time to lodge their cases appropriately." stated His Lordship

He also pointed out the emerging concerns on Article 30 of the Treaty which allows a Legal or natural person to litigate before EACJ, which provides that "..... any person who is a resident in a Partner State may refer a matter for determination by the Court on the legality of any act, regulation, directive, decision by a Partner State or an Institution of the Community on ground that such act, regulation, directive, decision is an unlawful or an infringement of the Treaty". The Court has noted that this article limits East Africans who are citizens but residing outside East Africa and therefore there is need to amend the Treaty to accommodate all citizens of East Africa regardless of their residence, since a number of litigants filing cases in EACJ are legal and natural persons.

Justice Kayobera urged the national Courts as part of the enforcement actors on the good governance and rule of law in the Partner States to continue supporting the EAC Integration process by exercising the jurisdiction of the national courts under Article 33 of the Treaty as well as referring matters on interpretation and application of the Treaty to EACJ for preliminary rulings under Article 34 of the EAC Treaty. "Everyone is entitled to justice and therefore it's our duty to protect the rights of the people of East Africa and access to the Court is fundamental." Said Judge President

He called upon the Government of Kenya for support in continuing raising the jurisprudence of the Court in the region, protecting its independence and resolving several challenges that affect its operations including the ad-hoc nature of the services of the Judges, financial constraints among others, all that hinder timely justice delivery.

His Lordship Justice Kayobera, commended the recent request received by the Court from the Government of South Sudan to settle a case through mediation as one of the dispute resolution mechanism the Court provides. This is a sign that Member States have appreciated other alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to reduce on the costs involved in public litigation process. "It is incumbent on all of us in the profession of international law, whether we are judges, government advisors, scholars or practitioners, to strengthen and promote the various means for settling disputes peacefully. As Judges of the East African Court of Justice, we will always be mindful of this responsibility." marked Judge President

He concluded by informing the Chief Justice that her being the Chair of the Chief Justices' forum, the Court has no doubt will find her full support in harmonizing a number of judicial issues across the region to enable the fundamental principles of the Community are achieved. Justice Kayobera commended Lady Justice Koome for accepting to host the next meeting of the Chief Justices' Forum which is scheduled to take place December 2021 here in Nairobi, Kenya.

In attendance were the EACJ Vice President Justice Geoffrey Kiryabwire and other Judges of the Court and staff.

# Irish Ambassador to Tanzania accredited to EAC



The Irish Ambassador to Tanzania, H.E. Mary O'Neil has been credited to the East African Community.

Amb. O'Neil presented her credentials from the Irish Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

Receiving the Irish envoy, Dr. Mathuki said that the EAC was a fast growing regional economic community with increasing opportunities for investment. Dr. Mathuki informed the Ambassador that the EAC was a strategic place to invest and live in, adding that it was also endowed with abundant natural resources.

Dr. Mathuki further told the envoy that the EAC was currently focused on eliminating non-tariff barriers to trade (NTBs) and increasing intra-regional trade by putting in place a Trade Remedies Committee as a mechanism to resolve trade disputes in the region.

On the COVID-19 pandemic, the Secretary General said that there was need for a coordinated approach to harmonisation of testing procedures and charges, mutual recognition of COVID test certificates across the board in all Partner States.

Dr. Mathuki observed that COVID had revolutionized the way things were done in the business world



by revitalizing e-commerce whereby purchases and payments are now done virtually.

The Secretary General said that the EAC Customs Union was yet to be fully operationalised, adding that Partner States had agreed on the first three bands for the Common External Tariff with negotiations for the 4th band still underway.

“Under the Common Market Protocol, Partner States are still trying to harmonise travel documents to be used across the region and the adoption by all countries of the EAC Single Tourist Visa,” added Dr. Mathuki.

On the East African Monetary Union, Dr. Mathuki informed Ambassador O’Neil that 1st July, 2021 was the commencement date for the East African Monetary Institute, which would be hosted by any of the Partner States that expresses interest. He added that work was also underway to establish institutions that would make the Monetary Union functional even as efforts continue to harmonise monetary and fiscal policies in the region.

On the proposed EAC Political Confederation, Dr. Mathuki said that the Community was currently engaging members of the public through awareness creation and leaders’ forums to pick their views on what kind of a political confederation they would want.

On her part, Ambassador O’Neil told the Secretary General that Ireland’s policy on vaccination against COVID was that no one in the world was safe until everyone is safe. The envoy hailed Tanzania for joining the COVAX Facility, the global pooled procurement mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines for all participating countries.



Amb. O’Neil said that Ireland was very much in support of integration initiatives all over the world due to her experience as a member of the European Union.

“Ireland is now a key contributor to the EU rather than just being a beneficiary due to our strongly improved economy that has come about due to the integration in Europe,” she said.

She disclosed that the Irish embassies in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda working closely to promote trade between Ireland and the EAC Partner States, adding that Ireland was working on institutional partnerships in agricultural research and livestock production with relevant government ministries and institutions in the region. She said that the purpose of these partnerships was to promote agribusiness between Ireland and East Africa.

“We also have a fellowship programme with 35 East Africans studying in Ireland at Masters level annually with a focus on business and entrepreneurship development,” said Amb. O’Neil, adding that her country had a special interest on women in business.

“Ireland emerged from rural farming communities. We therefore have a strong appreciation for agriculture, agribusiness and trade,” said Amb. O’Neil.

# UK High Commissioner to Tanzania and EAC meets EAC Secretary General



The UK High Commissioner to Tanzania and the EAC, H.E. David Concar, paid a courtesy call on EAC Secretary, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki, at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

H.E. Concar assured the Secretary General that it was his country's policy that Sub-Saharan Africa should not be sidelined when it comes to accessing COVID-19 vaccines.

He urged the EAC and Partner States to build back better after the pandemic by using the crisis to accelerate reforms and progress to ensure that the health sector and other systems were much better than they were before the onset of COVID.

"A post-COVID world will certainly be different from what we have now. We can't go back to business as usual," said the envoy.

The High Commissioner said that the onus was on countries with COVID-19 vaccines manufacturing capacity to increase production purposely to avail the commodity at low or zero cost to poor countries in Africa and the third world.

H.E. Concar informed the Secretary General that the UK was one of the biggest contributors to COVID-19 vaccine initiatives as part of measures to mitigate the devastating impact of the pandemic.





The High Commissioner, however, said that population testing and surveillance in all countries would be key to the success of global vaccination initiatives against COVID.

The UK envoy acknowledged that there were currently travelling difficulties between the UK and EAC Partner States, adding that population testing, public health measures and data on COVID were key to unlocking the impasse.

On his part, EAC Secretary General Dr. Mathuki said that information and awareness creation would be important in the uptake of vaccines in the region and elsewhere, noting that there was currently a lot of misinformation surrounding vaccination initiatives.

Dr. Mathuki informed the envoy that there was pressure from the private sector and EAC citizens on Partner States to harmonise testing and the costs of testing for COVID in addition to acceptance of COVID-19 tests across national borders.

The SG told the High Commissioner that there was a new enthusiasm for intra-regional trade and integration in the region with the EAC Heads of State focused on creation of jobs for the youth, poverty alleviation, industrialization and economic growth, adding that the private sector would be key to fulfilling these objectives.

Dr. Mathuki said that the region was open for business and investment and greater foreign direct investment inflows were therefore expected.

On potential trade rivalry within the EAC, Dr. Mathuki said that Partner States should focus more on complementing rather than competing with one another in as far as intra-regional trade was concerned.

He said the focus was on the law of comparative advantages where each Partner State would specialize in selected areas where they had huge potential to facilitate intra-regional trade.

Dr. Mathuki said increasing intra-regional trade was crucial as intra-EAC trade currently stands at less than 15% as compared to the EU where it was almost 70% and the Association of South East Asian Nations where it ranges at over 60%.

Also present at the event were the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Eng. Steven Mlote, Mr. Tim Bushell, Infrastructure Adviser at DFID and Ms. Anna-Maria Mbwette, Country Director/Head of Trade Policy and Investment at the British High Commission in Dar es Salaam.

# EAC Sectoral Council on Tourism adopts Regional COVID-19 Recovery Plan to revive the sector



The East African Community Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management has approved the EAC Regional COVID-19 Tourism Recovery Plan that seeks to revive the sector that has been badly hit by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministers who met virtually under the chairmanship of Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Hon. Najib Balala, noted that some EAC Partner States had already instituted measures such as the formulation of stimulus packages aimed at re-igniting the sector and supporting tourism investments in the region including the Small and Micro Enterprises

The Ministers agreed that there was need for a collective and coordinated approach towards tourism recovery that entails interventions that are aimed at reinforcing the measures being developed and implemented at national levels.

The Ministers further considered and approved the draft regional guidelines for resumption of services in the tourism sector and hospitality establishments.

While approving the guidelines, the Ministers agreed that there was need for EAC harmonized guidelines for resumption of the tourism and hospitality services in the region.

The Ministers observed that the regional guidelines would help in ensuring coherence in resumption of tourism services and help in rebuilding trust and confidence with international tourists visiting the region.





The Ministers also considered and approved the draft Regional Tourism Marketing Strategy, which seeks to position the EAC region as the best and most affordable regional tourism destination in Africa.

Among the strategic directions and the corresponding strategic actions in the EAC Tourism Marketing Strategy are to: develop regionally and internationally competitive multi-destination tourism products; position and market EAC as a leading regional tourism destination in Africa; brand East Africa as a leading tourism destination; enhance the marketing policy and institutional framework, and, enhance EAC Tourism Marketing and Promotion Financing.

The Ministers also agreed to establish the annual EAC Regional Tourism Expo (EARTE) with the aim of improving the visibility of the region and marketing it as a single tourist destination.

The Sectoral Council decided that the United Republic of Tanzania hosts the 1st EARTE in October, 2021.

In his opening remarks, Kenya's Tourism Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Najib Balala, underscored the importance of the Partner States working together especially in addressing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the tourism sector and in joint tourism recovery efforts.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taught all of some really important lessons. For instance, domestic and regional tourism markets are really key and they can help in making the tourism sector resilient in case of future disasters and pandemics. The pandemic has revealed that we can use technology to connect with each other and have meetings such as this. It is therefore really important that we invest heavily in infrastructure and connectivity," said Hon. Balala.

On his part, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki said that the tourism sector was one of the most important areas of cooperation for EAC owing to its contribution to the economies of the Partner States in terms of GDP (about 10%), export earnings (17%) and jobs (about 7%).

"Its multiplier effect and linkages with other sectors that are instrumental in our integration such as agriculture, transport and manufacturing are quite immense. However, the travel and tourism sector, globally, was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic more than any other economic sector," said Dr. Mathuki.

"Based on statistics reported by the Partner States, as a region, we lost close to 70% of international tourist arrivals in 2020 coupled with massive losses in tourism earnings and tourism related jobs. The signs this year are still bleak given the recurrent waves of the pandemic that result into imposition of unpredictable measures and restrictions by Governments around the world from time to time," said the Secretary General.

Dr. Mathuki said that whereas Partner States had initiated tourism recovery efforts, it would really be helpful for region to come together to implement joint actions aimed at the recovery of the sector as well as laying a strong foundation for its future development.

Also speaking during the opening session of the meeting, the EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of the Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, said that strengthening of the intra-regional tourism was now imperative given the fact that this segment was resilient and likely to recover faster than the overseas markets.

"Bolstering of both domestic and regional tourism can help keep the tourism industry afloat therefore sustaining the much-needed jobs and income along the entire tourism value chain," said Hon. Bazivamo.

Among the Ministers who attended the meeting were Hon. Rizik Zakaria, Minister for Wildlife Conservation and Tourism (South Sudan), Hon. Tom R. Butime, MP, Minister for Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities (Uganda) and Hon. Dr. Damas Ndumbaro, Minister for Natural Resources and Tourism (Tanzania).

Others were Amb. Jérémie Banigwanizigo, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism (Burundi) and Mr. Zephane Niyonkuru, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board (Rwanda).

# Instill value systems in youth to fight corruption in Africa



East African Community Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki, has urged African countries to instill strong value systems in the youth at an early stage as part of efforts to combat corruption on the continent.

Dr. Mathuki said that instilling values and building the capacity of the youth to fight corruption at an early age would bring about a generation that abhorred corruption.

Dr. Mathuki further called upon the youth who constitute the biggest percentage of Africa's population to be the continent's goodwill ambassadors in the fight against corruption.

Dr. Mathuki was giving the keynote address during the commemoration of the 5th African Anti-Corruption Day in Arusha, Tanzania. The event themed "Regional Economic Communities: Critical Actors in the Implementation of the African Union Convention on Combatting Corruption" was hosted by the African Union-Advisory Board on Corruption (AU-ABC).

Dr. Mathuki said that there was an urgent need to strengthen integrity in Africa, adding that this would help fight corruption and increase foreign direct investments need to create jobs, reduce poverty and spur economic growth.





"The conversation on African Continental Free Trade Area by the African Political and Business Leaders is aimed at leveraging the power of businesses to drive Africa's integration agenda. For this conversation to bring meaningful effort, to the African citizenry, we must infuse integrity and fight against corruption in the entire process," said Dr. Mathuki.

"The overarching objective behind the AfCFTA is the elimination or reduction of tariff and non-tariff barriers amongst the 54 Countries that agreed to be members of the bloc by providing a single market for goods and services, facilitated by movement of persons in order to deepen the economic integration and prosperity. This will largely be facilitated by anti-corruption measures in the continent and removal of red-tapes and any other efforts that frustrate ease of doing business – that is how we shall attract investors," added the Secretary General.

Dr. Mathuki said that for Africa to succeed in realizing the benefits of the AfCFTA, then corruption in continent's systems needed to be wiped out, and urged the AUC-ABC, the African Union Commission, Regional Economic Communities and African countries to work together to eliminate the vice.

"Corruption is a cancer that will take our continent many centuries backwards. Corruption is indeed one of the non-tariff barriers that has limited intra-EAC trade which still stands at below 15%," said the Secretary General.

Dr. Mathuki said that the fight against corruption could not be won by any one individual, institution or government single handedly but as a collective responsibility towards a fair and safe world for humanity.

"Therefore, EAC is committed to join hands with AU-ABC to jointly mobilize stakeholders and partners in implementing interventions that shall promote adoption of anti-corruption measures and combat corruption in the region and the continent," he said.

Speaking at the event, the AU-ABC Executive Secretary, Mrs. Charity Nchimunya, said that fighting corruption was a complicated and hazardous with corruption networks fighting back, often viciously but said the fight must continue as it was the only way to build a better Africa that was integrated and devoid of corruption.

Mrs. Nchimunya said that the fight against corruption in Africa was a concerted effort that must involve building partnerships among all stakeholders including regional economic communities, civil society, private sector, development partners and AU Member States.

Mrs. Nchimunya urged EAC to continue scaling up the fight against corruption in the region in collaboration with Partner States' governments and other actors.

The Executive Secretary called on EAC to fast-track the finalization and adoption of the Draft EAC Protocol on Preventing and Combating, adding that it will complement the existing national frameworks for fighting corruption in the region.

She called upon African countries that have not ratified the AU Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption to do and particularly singled out the Republic of South Sudan to ratify the convention.

EXPORTATION	IMPORTATION
<b>PRODUITS NON TRANSFORMÉS</b> Café vert Thé Avocat Produits horticoles	<b>PRODUITS RÉGLEMENTÉS</b> Produits pétroliers
<b>PRODUITS TRANSFORMÉS</b> Farine de froment Bières de malt	<b>MATIÈRES PREMIÈRES</b> Ciments non pulvérisés dit "clinker" Froment dur
<b>PRODUITS GÉNÉRAUX</b> Véhicules automobiles Téléphones pour réseaux cellulaires et leurs parties Produits laminés plats	
<a href="#">Voir Procédures</a>	<a href="#">Voir Procédures</a>

# Burundi launches her own Trade Information Portal

The Republic of Burundi has launched her own Trade Information Portal which is meant to map out all her imports, exports and transit procedures, fees and time. The next step after mapping will be to simplify and remove unnecessary and redundant bottlenecks.

Trade Information Portals (TIPS) have already been launched and operationalised by Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.





On 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Burundi joined other Partner States to avail her own TIP on the internet as committed by the Burundi delegation during the 38th Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment held in Arusha on 28<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

The publication of Trade Information is a good sign that Burundi is committed to facilitate trade by making trade information more transparent.

The launching ceremony was co-presided over by Hon. Domitien Ndiwokubwayo, Burundi's Minister for Finance and Economic Planning and Hon. Capitoline Niyonizigiye, Minister for Trade, Transport, Industry and Tourism.

Hon. Ndiwokubwayo urged the private Sector to use this opportunity offered by the Government of Burundi to plan effectively their business for the development of Burundi.

On her part, Hon. Niyonizigiye assured the public that her ministry would continue to support all initiatives to promote business facilitation as it is an important source of revenue for both government and the business community.

"For the government, the benefits come in the form of increased tax revenues, better use of resources and improved compliance by business operators," said Hon. Niyonizigiye.

The Commissioner General of Office Burundais des Recettes, Mr. Pacifique Munyeshongore also called upon private sector, especially SMEs to exploit this opportunity given to them in order to grow their businesses.

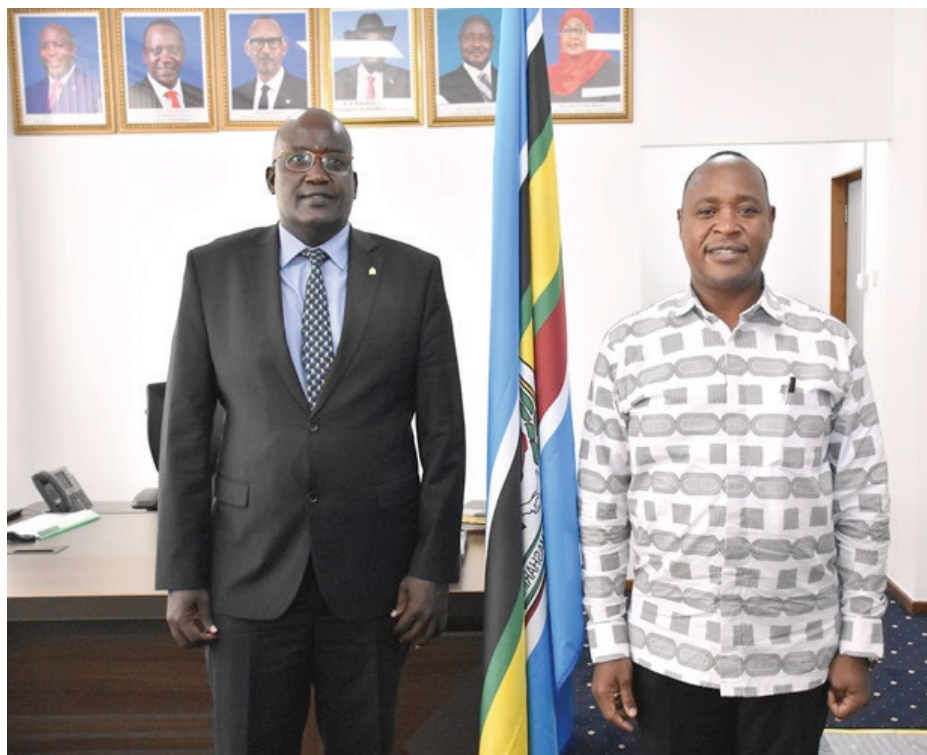
Mr. Mateusz Prorok, Project Manager at the EU delegation in Burundi, said that the portal would support businesses in promoting their value chains and assured Burundi of continued support by EU for the sustainability of Trade Facilitation in the country.

Mr. Munyampundu Evariste, the Regional Coordinator of the Trade Information Portal Project and Trade Facilitation Officer, represented the EAC Secretary General. In his remarks, thanked Burundi for her efforts to facilitate trade, which he said has had a positive impact on intra-regional trade and international trade.

The Burundi TIP was funded by European Union Commission via Mark-up project with a technical support of International Trade Center (ITC), EAC Secretariat and UNCTAD.

*Burundi Trade information Portal can be accessed <http://info.commerce.bi> and the EAC Trade information Portals are accessible through <https://tradehelpdesk.eac.int/>. We encourage the Private Sector and other Trade researchers to visit and suggest simplification to the National Trade Facilitation Committees.*

# Head of Interpol Nairobi Regional Bureau pays courtesy call in EAC Secretary General



The Head of the International Criminal Police Organization's (Interpol) Nairobi Regional Bureau, Mr Gideon Kimilu, on Friday paid a courtesy call on the EAC Secretary General, Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The two officials discussed several issues touching on regional peace and security including the EAC Joint Response to Regional and Cross-Border Security Threats.

The Secretary General commended the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for working closely with the EAC Secretariat in combating regional and cross-border security threats and urged Partner States to continue taking the lead in developing joint initiatives to reinforce both the personnel and institutional capacities of the Police Forces/Services in the bloc.

Dr. Mathuki said that harmonization remains key in the EAC integration especially towards the attainment of the ultimate goal of the EAC Political Federation, adding that all the four integration stages embrace harmonization and approximation of laws and policies in diverse sectors.

"As such, the security agencies like the police cannot be left behind since they play a significant role touching on the free movement of people, goods, and services across the region, " said Dr. Mathuki.

Speaking on the EAC Joint Response to Regional and Cross-Border Security Threats Project funded by European Union, the Secretary General informed the Head of Interpol that the project was the perfect response to

the various and growing security threats across the EAC region.

"It will work both in enhancing the technical capacities and building trust between the law enforcement agencies in the EAC Partner States," added Dr. Mathuki.

On his part, Mr. Kimilu hailed the long standing partnership between the EAC and Interpol in the peace and security sector which he said was a key enabler to the integration process in East Africa.

The Interpol boss said that full implementation of the agreed programmes would enable the law enforcement agencies to, at a regional level, implement information sharing mechanisms that will facilitate rapid and timely response to cross-border threats.





# EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

Simon Peter Owaka; Aileen Mallya; Annah Nabaasa; Florian Mutabazi;  
J.R.Luwali (Photographer )

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