



EAC SECRETARY GENERAL ADDRESSES ASSEMBLY

...Speech deemed as farewell by Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera, highlights major achievements

EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr Richard Sezibera delivered a moving Speech as the Assembly completed week one of its deliberations.

The EAC Secretary General's speech gave a score-card of deliverables during his tenure at the helm before an attentive House. The Secretary General cited five key areas in the broad vision and remarked that under his five year tour of duty, the bloc had witnessed significant achievements.

On the Customs Union, Amb Dr Sezibera remarked that sustained campaigns to ensure realisation of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) had duly paid off.

"Today, should one visit the Port of Dar es Salaam right here, you will witness revenue officials from the rest of the Partner States clearing goods", he said.

The time within which it takes to clear goods has reduced tremendously. At the central corridor it now takes 3 days, down from the 18 days while in the northern corridor, there is significant reduction from 21 days to 5 days," Amb Dr Sezibera said.

He remarked that there was sustained pressure to rid the region of Non-Tariff barriers and such, were paying off while the port clearance times were also reduced from three weeks to under ten days.

On the Common Market, Amb Dr Sezibera remarked that three Partner States, the Republics of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, had employed the Inter-State passes to enhance free movement and said Republic of Burundi and the United Republic of Tanzania would soon join in to the initiative. The EAC boss termed the recent introduction of the International EAC e-Passport as a critical milestone in the integration dispensation.

The Secretary General further termed the conclusion and ratification of the Monetary Union as a major milestone. *"Despite the skepticism as a result of the challenges witnessed in Europe, the Monetary Union Protocol was completed and speedily ratified",* Amb Dr Sezibera said. He further remarked that the Central Banks had established a real-time settlement mode paving way for the EAC payment system to be a reality.

On other areas, the Secretary General informed the House of the tremendous progress realized. He said the ten year infrastructure programme would set the region apart from other parts of the continent in terms of competitiveness.

"For the first time, the region is laying the Standard Railway Gauge and making unprecedented advances in investment of energy. The region shall soon be able to transfer power from one Partner State to another as a result of the inter-connectors", he said.

The Secretary General stated that citizens of the region were now fully involved in the integration process.

The Secretary General further remarked that he was elated to be leaving the Community at a time when its Vision is in place. The EAC 2050 Vision anticipates the contrive of the bloc into an upper middle income region within a secure and politically united East Africa based on the principles of inclusiveness and accountability.

"It is in this era that per capita income is expected to rise up to USD 10,000 per person up from the current per capita income of USD 1000", Amb Sezibera said.

At the same time, the region intends to create about 2.3 million jobs by 2032 in the industrial and manufacturing sectors.

The Secretary General of the EAC further informed the House of the completion of the Institutional Review of the EAC and said the Directorates of Finance and Planning had been ISO certified.

The Secretary General said there were challenges that need to be addressed including harmonization and approximation of laws in the Partner States to conform to the Common Market Protocol.

The remarks of the Secretary General were delivered to the House pursuant to Rule 40 of the EALA Rules of Procedure of the Assembly and the matter was not debated. It is anticipated that a Motion for a Resolution on the subject matter may be introduced for debate when the House resumes next week.

17TH ORDINARY SUMMIT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEADS OF STATE

Joint communiqué

The East African Community Heads of State, their Excellencies President Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda, President Paul Kagame of the Republic of Rwanda, President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, and H.E. Dr. Joseph Butore, 2nd Vice President of the Republic of Burundi, held the 17th Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State at the Ngurdoto Mountain Lodge in Arusha, Tanzania on 2nd March, 2016. H.E. Dr. Ali Mohamed Shein, President of Zanzibar, and H.E. James Wani Igga, Vice President of the Republic of South Sudan were in attendance. The Heads of State and Government met in a warm and cordial atmosphere.

The summit received the annual report of the Council of Ministers covering the period November 2014 – November 2015 and noted the steady progress made in the implementation of the programmes of the community.

The summit considered progress in the implementation of key outstanding decisions and other policy issues of strategic importance to the East African Community and noted that there are: - council

decisions/directives that have remained outstanding for many years; delays in ratification of protocols; and noted that there are bills enacted by the East African Legislative Assembly that have remained un-assented to.

The summit directed the secretariat to avail the partner states with a list of all protocols that have not yet been ratified to enable the partner states expeditiously ratify them and deposit the instruments of ratification with the secretary general by 30th July, 2016.

The summit decided to assent to bills which have been submitted to partner states at least three (3) months prior to the summit and to which Heads of State have given no objection during their ordinary summit.

The summit directed the partner states to implement all the outstanding decisions and report the status to the next summit of the heads of state.

The summit delegated its powers of approval of reviews of the East African Community common external tariff and the East African Community Rules of Origin to the Council of Ministers in accordance with sections 3,5 and 6 of the summit (delegation of powers and functions) act 2007 for a further three years with effect from 2nd March 2016.

The summit noted the proposed implementation framework for the EAC institutional review and directed the Council to proceed with the implementation of the proposed framework and give a progress report at the next summit of the heads of state.

The summit directed the council to review the East African Development Bank (EADB) charter to streamline it into the EAC main structure. The summit further directed the secretariat to develop guidelines for the creation, governance and reporting structures for all the institutions of the community.

The summit directed the council to finalize the work on the modalities required to establish a sustainable financing mechanism for the East African Community based on various options, including a hybrid of a levy and equal contribution with a commitment to increase the budget, that encompasses the principles of equity, solidarity and equality, and submit a report to the next summit for consideration.

The summit received a report of the council on the negotiations for the admission of the Republic of South Sudan into the East African Community and decided to admit the Republic of South Sudan as a member of the EAC. The summit designated the Chairperson of the Summit to sign the Treaty of Accession with the Republic of South Sudan.

The summit noted that the verification exercise for the admission of the republic of Somalia into the EAC was not undertaken, as preparations with the Government of the Republic of Somalia have not yet been finalized. The summit directed the council to undertake the verification exercise and report to the 18th summit.

The summit received a report of the Council of Ministers on progress on the EAC Political Federation. The summit commended the progress thus far and decided to finalise the matter at the next summit.

The summit took note of the progress and road map towards finalization of the comprehensive study on automotive industry in the EAC region; and directed the council to expedite the process and report to the 18th summit.

The summit took note of the progress made in promoting the cotton, textile, apparel and leather industries in the region and directed the partner states to ensure that all imported second hand shoes and clothes comply with sanitary requirements, in the partner states. The summit further directed the partner states to consider banning the export of raw hides and skins outside the EAC region.

The summit, being desirous of promoting vertically integrated industries in the textile and leather sector, directed the partner states to procure their textile and footwear requirements from within the region where quality and supply capacities are available competitively, with a view to phasing out importation of used textile and foot wear within three years. The summit directed the partner states to sensitize all stakeholders and directed the council to provide the summit with an annual review with a view to fast tracking the process.

The summit endorsed and launched the EAC Vision 2050. The EAC Heads of State committed themselves to implement the EAC vision and ensure that by 2050, the EAC will have been transformed into an upper-middle income region within a secure and politically united East Africa based on the principles of inclusiveness and accountability.

Their Excellencies the EAC Heads of State launched the new international East African E-Passport and directed that commencement of issuance of the ea e-passport takes effect from 1st January, 2017; and implement the phase out programme for the current East African and national passports from 1st January, 2017 to 31st December, 2018. The heads of state further directed partner states to undertake awareness creation programmes and other continuous outreach programmes on the new international EA e- passport.

The summit, pursuant to article 42 (2) of the treaty for the establishment of the EAC, witnessed the swearing into office of Mr. Yufnalis Ndege Okubo from the Republic of Kenya as the new registrar of the East African Court of Justice.

Their Excellencies the EAC Heads of State launched the Code of Conduct to fight corruption in the private sector. The summit commended the commitment and aspirations of the private sector to play a leading role in the integration process.

Their Excellencies the EAC Heads of State awarded certificates to the winners of the EAC Secondary Schools Essay Competition 2015.

The summit appointed Mr. Liberat Mfumukeko from the Republic of Burundi as the new Secretary General. The appointment will take effect from 26th April, 2016. The summit thanked the outgoing Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, for his dedicated service to the community and wished him success in his future endeavors.

The summit renewed the contract of Mr. Charles Jackson Kinyanjui Njoroge as the Deputy Secretary General of the East African Community for a further three (3) years with effect from 29th June 2016.

The summit clarified that H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni is the EAC appointed mediator for the Inter-Burundi dialogue. The summit also appointed a team under H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa former President of the United Republic of Tanzania to facilitate the mediation.

The summit decided that H.E. Dr. John Pombe Magufuli continues as the chairperson of the summit for a period of one year.

The summit expressed its solidarity with the people and the Government of the Republic of Kenya following the attack by Al-shabaab terrorists on the Kenya Defence Forces' Amisom base at el adde in Somalia which resulted in the death of KDF soldiers. The summit condemned the attack and reaffirmed the community's resolve to counter terrorism and insecurity in the region.

Their Excellencies, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda; President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya; President Paul Kagame of the republic of Rwanda, and; Joseph Butore, 2nd Vice President of the Republic of Burundi thanked their host, His Excellency President Dr. John Pombe Magufuli of the United Republic of Tanzania for the warm and cordial hospitality extended to them and their respective delegations during their stay in Tanzania.

By EAC Media Team

4TH EAC ANNUAL SECRETARY GENERAL'S FORUM HELD

The 4th EAC Annual Secretary General's Forum was held at Hyatt Regency Hotel Dar es Salaam Tanzania from 3rd -4th March 2016 under the theme ***"Good Governance and Constitutionalism in the East African Community"***.

The objective of the forum was to provide an opportunity for the private sector, civil society and other interest groups to share experiences and good practices geared towards promoting good Governance and constitutionalism to inform the development of policies and programs in the region.

Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera Secretary EAC while opening the 2 day conference, said that while considerable progress was made towards Good Governance and constitutionalism, more needed to be done to realize the provisions of Article 6 (d) of the EAC Treaty on Good Governance which include among others adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities and gender equality.

He informed members that the forum was organized to widen and deepen the EAC Integration process especially in the area of Good Governance and constitutionalism.

He called on all stakeholders to ensure that all the processes towards good governance and constitutionalism are people driven since poorly managed electoral processes usually culminate into internal conflicts with adverse effects of social cohesion and business environment. He noted the need to empower citizens to become prosperous. He also challenged the private sector and the civil society to develop a practical code of conduct that outlaws the phenomenon of giving money to the electorate.

The event was attended by various stakeholders including the Business Community, Local Government officials, civil society, the EAC and the media among others. The event was organized with support from Trade Mark East Africa, GIZ and the East African Community (EAC).

As an outcome of the forum, the following recommendations were made among others: Declare an EAC ZERO Tolerance on corruption within a period of 5 years; ensure continuous engagement with the EAC through social media interaction, breakfast, media summit etc; engage local Government through their associations in EAC activities through the relevant sectoral councils; during conflict situations, engage in the mediation process involving all dialogue parties including the youth; ensure interaction of Gender in all Governance processes; ensure that all partner ratify the AU Charter on Decentralization and review programmes for the youth Ambassadors to ensure that they gainfully benefit from the EAC.

PSFU with support from Trade Mark East Africa and the East African Community secretariat was represented by Ms. Sarah Nakibuuka. B. Manager Public Relations, Mr. Francis Kisirinya Director Finance and Mr. Ronnie Mulongo Membership Officer. PSFU extends its appreciation to Trade Mark East Africa and the EAC Secretariat for the support.



H.E Dr. Richard Sezibera Secretary General EAC (3rd left) with other delegates at the 4th EAC Annual Secretary Generals Forum in Dar es Salaam



Mr. Francis Kisirinya Director Finance PSFU and other delegates attending the 4th EAC Secretary Generals Forum held from 3rd -4th March 2016 at Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dar es Salaam.

EABC LAUNCHES CODE OF CONDUCT FOR BUSINESS IN THE EAC

On Wednesday 2nd March 2016, Arusha, H.E Dr. John Pombe Joseph Magufuli Chair of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State and President of the United Republic of Tanzania and His counterparts, H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of the Republic of Uganda, H.E Paul Kagame President of the Republic of Rwanda, H.E Uhuru Kenyatta President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Dr. Joseph Butore, 2nd Vice President of the Republic of Burundi and H.E during the 17th Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of State launched the Code of Conduct for Businesses in EAC Region.

The launch was preceded by the unveiling at the East African Business Leaders' Summit by Mr. Dennis Karera, EABC Chairman and various CEOs that included; Mr. Vimal Shah, CEO Bidco Africa, Mr. Faustin Mbundu, Chairman MFK Group, Mr Francis Onapito, Director Nile Breweries, Mr. Econie Nijimbere, Chairman Burundi Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Arvind Dhariwal, Managing Director AVCO Investments among others.

The Code of Conduct together with its Rules and Procedures formulation serves to guide the actions of EABC members consistent with their individual company's Code of Ethics and other existing national and international level codes. It is aimed at enhancing ethical business practices in the areas of Human Rights, Labour Standards, and Environment, Consumer protection laws and standards and Anti-corruption.

The EAC Code of Conduct for business will be managed by a Code secretariat hosted by EABC, whose duties will include: promoting business ethics and motivating others to become Code members;

managing member registry; facilitating training and workshops and web portal management for providing information on business ethics. Subsequently, a Code committee consisting of representatives of selected member companies and other stakeholders shall be appointed by the Secretariat to review, investigate and resolve reports of transgression of code by members submitted by the Secretariat.

By EABC

EAC SECRETARY GENERAL LAUNCHES MOBILE APPLICATION ON EAC TO UPSCALE SENSITIZATION ABOUT THE EAC INTEGRATION PROCESS

The Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera, has unveiled an EAC Mobile Application whose main aim is to disseminate news, information and reports on a timely basis about the current state of affairs and development in the EAC.

Unveiling the mobile application version 3.2 at the 4th EAC Secretary General's Forum in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, Amb. Sezibera hailed the EAC Youth Ambassadors' Platform, the architect of the application, for the brilliant innovation.

The Secretary General singled out Otim Brian Joseph, Jacob Eyeru, Leku Dennis and Esemu Herbert from the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform-Uganda Chapter for developing the first-ever EAC mobile application product and making accessible globally.

The Secretary General disclosed that the application, also known as *EAC in the Palm*, was free, open and easily accessed mobile platform dedicated to easing sharing and disseminating EAC related information as well as tracking reports on development programs in the region. "This will increase information outreach and sensitization on the EAC integration process in real time," said Amb. Sezibera.

At the launch ceremony, Mr. Otim, the Head of the EAC Mobile Application Project at the EAC Youth Platform, outlined some of the benefits of the product, which include; prompt information outreach to all citizens of the Community and the rest of the world through individual smartphones thus advancing the "one to one" sensitization efforts of the Community; rebranding EAC on the social global network where information on EAC activities as updated on the website is made available to the public on a real time basis through the application; enhanced people-centred integration motive through the interactive chat module embedded in the application, and; increasing the involvement of citizens to informative capacity building discussions regardless of nationality, age, ethnicity, tribe and religion.

The Head of the Corporate Communications and Public Affairs at the EAC Headquarters, Mr. Owora Richard Othieno, is excited that the Secretariat has endorsed the application because "the world today has high-tech information dissemination channels to fast-track market and stakeholder interactions. To this end, technological innovations are being adopted at an unprecedented scale and speed, particularly by over-the-top players and this should be no exception for the EAC Secretariat."

Present at the ceremony were; Dr. Ramadhan Mwinyi, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, East African, Regional and International Cooperation, Tanzania; Hon. Jesca Eriyo, the Deputy Secretary General (Productive and Social Sectors) at the EAC Secretariat; the German

Ambassador to Tanzania and EAC, Amb. Egon Kochanke, and; Mr. Charles Njoroge, Deputy Secretary General (Political Federation).

By EAC Media Team

Private Sector Foundation Uganda (PSFU), Plot 43, Nakasero Hill Road, Tel:[+256] 0312 263850, 0312 261850, 0312 286849, Fax[+ 256] 312 266440, P.O Box 7683 Kampala, Uganda, Email: psfu@psfuganda.org.ug, Website: www.psfuganda.org.ug