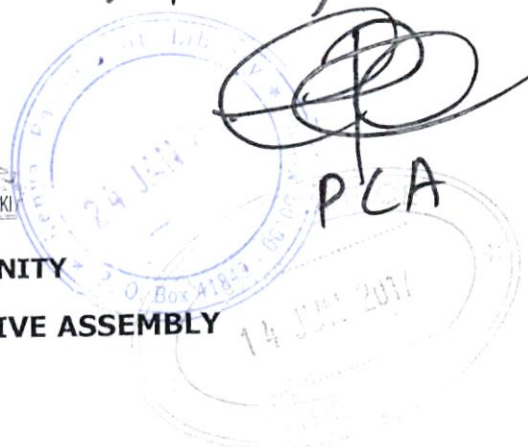


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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

REPORT OF EALA ON THE SENSITISATION ACTIVITIES IN EAC PARTNER STATES,
APRIL 21ST – 2ND MAY 2017

THEME: EAC INTEGRATION AGENDA: ACCESSING THE GAINS

Paper laid by
the LOM on
14/6/2017 (pm)
GAB

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
EAC HEADQUARTERS' BUILDING
EALA WING, 3RD FLOOR
ARUSHA, TANZANIA
UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

MAY 2017

1.0 BACKGROUND

The East African Community was established on 30th November 1999 following the signing of the Treaty for its establishment. Since then, several achievements, challenges and opportunities have been registered in the economic, political and socio-cultural sectors.

EALA as an Organ of the Community mandated by Article 49 for the Treaty, was inaugurated in November 2001. To date, the Assembly has established itself into a strong and effective regional legislature and registered a number of achievements. It has continued to fulfill its core legislative, oversight and representation functions in a various ways as follows:

1.1 EALA's Achievements

- (i) On legislative role, the Assembly has passed over 50 pieces of legislation which are very fundamental in the EAC integration process;
- (ii) In its representative role, the Assembly serves as link between the institutions of the East African Community and the people of East Africa. It has done this through receiving and processing petitions, Public Hearings, workshops, seminars, and public rallies;
- (iii) The oversight role, the Assembly has interrogated public policies and public funds earmarked to pursue these policies to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, fairness and equity in their administration or implementation. This is done through on-spot assessment activities, demand for regular progress reports on the implementation of the various programmes and projects from respective departments of the EAC Secretariat and Council of Ministers;
- (iv) On Budgetary oversight role, the Assembly has provided direction on the EAC spending and allocation of resources as provided by Article 132 (5) of the Treaty. The Assembly debates, allocates and approves the resources in line with the priorities of the Community;
- (v) Article 134 (3) of the Treaty empowers the Assembly to debate the report of the Audit Commission on the Accounts of the Community. EALA has played this role and the various actions and recommendations that have been made continue to cause positive impact in the management of the EAC's finances;
- (vi) In terms of outreach, the Assembly has undertaken tours and outreach programmes in the Partner States, visited people in areas, business community, scholars, civil societies, professional associations among others to consider their views;
- (vii) Further, the Assembly has been able to reach out to international bodies by making alliances in order to participate and contribute to international issues. As a result, EALA is a Member and has observer status with the following parliamentary organizations: the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), Commonwealth parliamentary Association (CPA), ACP-EU and African Parliamentary Union (APU), Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and Economic Community for West African States – Parliamentary Forum (ECOWAS-PF);
- (viii) The Assembly has also been successful in the area of liaison with National Assemblies of Partner States through various forums such as Speakers Bureau, Inter Parliamentary games, Nanyuki Series and National Assembly Committees on EAC Affairs among others.

1.2 Achievements in the integration process 1999-2016

Since the establishment of the EAC following the signing of the Treaty on November 30th, 1999 several achievements and attendant challenges have been registered in the economic, political and socio-cultural sectors. These achievements include:

1.2.1 Economic Benefits

- (i) Establishment of the East African Community Customs Union, has led to increase of intra-regional trade through the establishment of; the single Customs territory, One stop border Posts, the removal of non-tariff barriers-(NTBs);
- (ii) Establishment of the East African Community Common Market which guarantees the following freedoms and rights: Free movement of Labour, Free movement of Persons, Free movement of Capital, Free movement of Goods and Services, Right of Residence, Right of Establishment;
- (ix) The signing of the Monetary Union Protocol in November 30th, 2013, which will lead the region to a single currency in 2024;
- (iii) Laying of the foundation for establishment of the Political Federation by Partner States initiating the process of drafting the constitution for East African Political Federation. National consultations on the model structure, roadmap and action plan are ongoing;
- (iv) Joint infrastructure development projects (e.g. Arusha-Namanga-Athi River Road and the standard gauge railway both for the northern and central corridors).

1.2.2 Social/Cultural Achievements

- (i) Adoption of the EAC Anthem "Wimbo wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki" in 2010 and its popularization in the Community;
- (ii) Operationalization of the East African passport and abolition of the visa requirements for the citizen of the East African Community Implementation of seven-day grace period for personal motor vehicles crossing national borders of the EAC Partner States;
- (iii) Establishment of special immigration counters for East Africans at ports of entry;
- (iv) Issuance of temporary travel documents to facilitate travel within the region by EAC citizens;
- (v) Harmonization of immigration forms at ports of entry;
- (vi) Harmonization of educational curricula, examinations, standards, certification and accreditation of educational and training institutions to facilitate recognition of academic qualifications;
- (vii) Conduct of the annual EAC Military Sports and Culture Week;
- (viii) Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival (JAMAFEST) it's a biennial Arts and Culture Festival held on a rotational basis among the Partner States.

1.2.3 Political/Security/Defense Achievements

- (i) Signing of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community in 1999;
- (ii) Joint military exercises by EAC Partner States Defense Forces;
- (iii) Establishment of fora for chiefs of Police, Directors of CID and Directors of Operations and Intelligence to coordinate peace and security matters;
- (iv) Joint patrols, sharing of criminal intelligence and surveillance to combat cross-border crime;

- (v) Establishment of Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs in all Partner States to coordinate and sensitize the public on the integration process.

1.2.4 Institutional Achievements

Article 9 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, the following Organs and institutions were established:

- (i) Establishment of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ);
- (ii) Establishment of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA);
- (iii) Establishment of the East African Science and Technology Commission;
- (iv) Establishment of the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC);
- (v) Establishment of the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC);
- (vi) Establishment of the EAC Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA);
- (vii) Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO);
- (viii) Establishment of Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC);
- (ix) Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA);
- (x) East African Development Bank (EADB).

1.3 Challenges in the EAC Integration Process

- (i) The overlapping REC's memberships by partner states continue to pose harmonization and coordination challenges;
- (ii) Lack of political commitment among partner states;
- (iii) Weak institutions that lack the capacity to enforce sanctions against partner states that fail to implement protocols. The selection process of the members of these institutions is not democratic as they are handpicked by partner states with the absence of the citizens' views;
- (iv) Non-Trade barriers (NTBs);
- (v) Poor infrastructure and Energy shortages;
- (vi) Limited private sector engagement is an impediment to economic growth in the region;
- (vii) The biggest challenge is the issue of peace and security. Civil strife and political instability in Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia continue to impact negatively on the security and economic performance of the region;
- (viii) Corruption remains a major challenge in the region as most EAC partner states appear to have lost the war against official graft.

2.0 SENSITIZATION ACTIVITY

One of the ways in which the Assembly has performed its functions, is the undertaking to perform an activity sensitization in all EAC Partner States.

The current sensitization was a continuation of the previous one that was undertaken in the months of April, June, and November 2016, which emanated from the policy guidance by the Summit and the decision of the Assembly's Commission to reach out to the people of East Africa as part of their representatives, which was also in accordance with its EALA Strategic Plan (2013-2018) that is based on a people-centered approach. The sensitization was carried

out from April 21st – 2nd May 2017 under the Theme: EAC Integration agenda: Accessing the gains.

2.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE SENSITIZATION

- (i) To sensitize the people of East Africa on the integration process;
- (ii) To create awareness among the people of East Africa on the gains and challenges of integration;
- (iii) To Enhance mutual relationships and sustainable networking between EALA and the people of East Africa;
- (iv) To promote liaison with EAC National Assemblies and Key Stakeholders;
- (v) To inform the people of East Africa on the role of EALA in the integration process;
- (vi) To get the feedback and recommendations on the integration.

2.2 METHODOLOGY OF THE SENSITISATION

The Chapters employed the following approaches while undertaking the sensitization activities;

- (i) Chapters held planning meetings to deliberate on the modalities of the how and where to conduct the sensitization;
- (ii) Chapters held press conferences to inform the public on the objectives of the sensitization;
- (iii) Chapters held discussion with different media houses on the EAC Integration;
- (iv) Chapters distributed brochures on the EAC Integration process, and handed over various materials like EAC Flag and Anthem to the Stakeholders;
- (v) Chapters conducted interactive sessions with the Parliamentarians, Local Government Authorities, Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Youth and Women Councils, Persons with Disabilities among other stakeholders;
- (vi) Conducted sensitisation programs in the Higher Learning Institutions;
- (vii) Chapters conducted field visits;
- (viii) Chapters made courtesy call different dignitaries and held roundtable meetings.

2.2.1 Stakeholders of the Sensitization

During the sensitization program, The EALA Country Chapters engaged the following stakeholders: Media, Local Government Authorities, Institutions of learning, Private Sector, Women and Youth Councils, Civil Society, Members of Parliament, Embassies, Border Communities, Government Institutions, High Level dignitaries in Government, Ministries including Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs in all Partner States coordinated this activity to identify and access the target stakeholders.

2.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SENSITIZATION

- (i) Sensitization of EAC people on the overall integration process;
- (ii) Promotion of liaison with EAC National Assemblies and Key Stakeholders;
- (iii) Creation of awareness among the people of East Africa on the gains and challenges of integration;
- (iv) Enhancement of mutual relationships and sustainable networking between EALA and the people of East Africa;
- (v) Informed people of EAC on the role of EALA in the integration process.

2.4 FINDINGS OF THE SENSITIZATION

2.4.1 BURUNDI

In Burundi, the following Members participated in the sensitization activities:

Hon. Emerence Bucumi, Chairperson of Burundi Chapter, Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo, Member, Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye, Member, Hon. Nengo Emmanuel, Member, Hon. Muhirwa Jean Marie, Member, and Ms. Beatrice Ndayizeye - Secretary to the Delegation.

(a) Interactive session with the Media

This interaction was preceded by a press statement which was read by the chair of the Burundi chapter, Hon. Bucumi Emerence. She informed the media on the program of sensitization taking place with the main objective to make them know opportunities available in EAC Partner States and gains Burundi gets from being a Member of EAC.

Members focused on the role of media in the integration process; they also informed the media on the works of EALA during the period of January 2016 to date, as per their promise to regularly update them on works of the Assembly. They also exchanged on advantages of Burundi for being a Member of the EAC.

Members appreciated that the media organize talks and programs on regional integration, after previous rounds of sensitization undertaken by EALA Members. They were reminded to always make known all available opportunities for those who may wish to invest in Burundi. The following were issues raised by the media:

It was observed that Burundians encounter the English language barrier in EAC compared to other Partner States, however it was noted that there is great improvement in the language;

It was further noted that the entering of South Sudan into EAC, increases the market as well as growth of opportunities.

It was highlighted that Burundi like other Partner States has gained from the integration in various ways including EAC projects such as LVWATSAN and LVEMP II which have improved lives of citizens in giving them potable water and sanitation; they also talked about development of infrastructure such as railways, roads, energy and other opportunities offered by the Common Market such as free visa, easing doing business, free movement of services;

Members advised Burundians that they should change their mindset and start selling in the EAC Partner States what is available in Burundi. Burundians were also advised not to waste their production to avoid hunger. They also invited the citizens through media, to be aware of climate change dangers which are main causes of hunger in Burundi.

(b) Interactive session with Parliamentarians

EALA Members seized the sensitization's opportunity to exchange with Members of the Committee on Political and EAC Affairs of the Burundi National Assembly, on the current activities of EALA after which Committee Members raised the following:

- (i) The role of EALA Members in finding solution to conflicts between Partner States;
- (ii) Concern that some enacted laws are not implemented;
- (iii) EALA Members should follow-up the implementation of resolutions passed by the House;
- (iv) Burundian MPs should follow up on the complaint by Burundian business communities who are over taxed when they bring their goods through the United Republic of Tanzania;
- (v) Relationships between EALA and National Parliaments should be very clear and strengthened;
- (vi) There should be exchange programs between Partner States to learn from each other;
- (vii) EAC should review the funding mechanism so as to depend much more on internal funding;
- (viii) There is need to go slowly but surely in negotiating the Political Federation as this should come from the will of the citizens;

(c) Field visit at Bujumbura Port and interactive session with Bujumbura Port Authorities

The Port authorities informed EALA Members that the authority is a Public Institution in charge of overseeing and managing all ports available in Burundi. This institution has signed an agreement with Global Port Services, which is a Private institution in charge of every day functioning of Bujumbura Port through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mechanism.

Members were informed that the agreement between these two institutions started in 2012 and since then, volumes of goods have kept growing. They receive goods from the United Republic of Tanzania through the Central Corridor (Dar es Salaam- Railway to Kigoma- Lake Tanganyika). Members learnt that this corridor stopped functioning for almost ten years and has restarted since April 2016. A lot of improvement in terms of volume of goods is observed as a result reduced costs of doing business. This port collaborates with other ports like Dar es Salaam, Kalemie (DRC) and Mpurungu (Zambia).

The main challenge is floods, taking a lot of mud and sand into the lake, and this constitutes a handicap to the port where boats reach with difficulties at their final station.

Fortunately, JICA had offered to facilitate the above by 2015 but due to the insecurity, these projects could not be finalized. To date, African Development Bank is finalizing studies by JICA to make all these projects functional.

Members recommended authorities to collaborate closely with other Ports of EAC Partner States for exchange of experience and knowledge; they also advised training for their staff

members and adequate preparation to be able to accommodate development of trade through the central corridor.

It was further found out that the marine staff undergo training in China on Management of Ports and boat captainship. Members were informed on a number of projects available for transport development on Lake Tanganyika mainly Ferry transport.

(d) Courtesy call on the Governor of Gitega

Members paid a courtesy call on the Governor, while expressing himself on regional integration, the governor raised the following views:

- (i) Burundi being part of EAC has brought improvement in some visible areas namely in banks, insurances and infrastructure;
- (ii) Advantages of integration are also visible through non-payment of visa fees and free movement is a reality;
- (iii) Burundians are not very active to look for jobs because of the fear of the English language which is the language of the Community;
- (iv) He said that work permit should be harmonized within EAC Partner States to allow people enjoy working where they find jobs;
- (v) The governor appreciated EAC Projects such as the Sanitation project which is functional at schools at Mushasha and Magarama located in Gitega; he also appreciated that LVEMP II project is visible, and this is a sign of integration. He expressed the wish for the Ministry of environment and Water Authority to request the World Bank supporting the project to extend it to many schools.
- (vi) He informed Members on a project of communities to harvest water and use it for irrigation and requested support from EAC to operationalize this project;

(e) Interactive session with university students and their Professors at University of Gitega

The interaction brought together students, Lecturers and staff members. The participation was very important as there were more than 600 hundred students and teachers. The following observations were made:

- i. Participants were concerned about the harmonization of school fees across the EAC Partner States;
- ii. Participants were also concerned on how EALA can help to improve relationships among EAC Partner States;
- iii. Students complained about the high rate of unemployment and they requested Members what is being done to reverse the situation;
- iv. Students decried of language barriers as a cause of low numbers of Burundian staff in EAC;
- v. Students were further concerned on the strategies in place at EAC level to enable the youth become competitive at international level;

(f) Field visit to Gitega Revenue Authority

Members found that Gitega office started to function in February 2017 to help business communities in clearing goods. There is a weighing scale to weigh declared and cleared goods.

They found that the facility has offices, a hotel and a restaurant where trucks drivers can declare, sleep and eat. The houses belong to the Ministry of Finance and money paid for stopping over is paid to Ministry of Transport.

The main challenge observed is that business people bring wrong certificates of origin given by Partner States where they originated.

(g) Courtesy call on the Minister at the presidency in charge of EAC Affairs

The objective was to congratulate Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo for her appointment as a Minister and to inform her on findings of the fourth round of sensitization. Members thanked her for finding time for them despite her busy schedule.

They informed her mainly on challenges encountered by Port authorities, namely what needs to be done to come out of them. They also informed her on what needs to be done to make the port ready to accommodate the re-opening of the Central Corridor.

The Members recommended strengthening the collaboration between the EAC Ministry and the Ministry in charge of Transport to make this possible. They informed her on a complaint by cross-border Burundian population ill-treated when they travel to Tanzania and they urged the two Ministers from both sides to organize site visit at the border to see what is happening.

It was also observed that the issue of delayed remittances of Burundi's contribution to the EAC needs to be followed up. Members further requested the Minister to ensure information on available advertised vacant posts at EAC is widely publicized to the population in Burundi.

On challenges faced by Bujumbura Port, the Minister promised to collaborate with the Ministry of Transport and Trade Mark East Africa to look into possibilities to make it accommodate the re- opening of the Central Corridor.

The Members expressed thanks to the Minister and were of the view that her being a former EALA Member is an advantage for newly elected EALA Members and they advised those to regularly consult her on issues of integration.

Specific Observations

From the interactive sessions with stakeholders, the Members of EALA Burundi Chapter observed the following:

- (i) People demonstrated concern that EALA stopped its sittings in Burundi.

- (ii) Burundians interacted with are not happy that relationships between some Partner States are not good.
- (iii) Burundians need to open up, change their mindset and start to travel in EAC Partner States to assess opportunities and start engaging in entrepreneurship.
- (iv) The population was concerned about the timelines for the issuance of the EAC Biometric Passport.
- (v) Burundians wish that Kiswahili and French be official languages of the Community.
- (vi) Cross- border population from Burundi side complained bitterly that they are still ill-treated when they cross to Tanzania, be it for visit or for business. Members convey this complaint to the concerned authorities and recommend that the Common Market Protocol be fully and effectively implemented.

Specific Recommendations

- (i) The Ministry of Youth, Employment and Culture should put in place strategies to address the challenge of unemployment faced by the youth.
- (ii) The Ministry of Education should teach the English Language in all Faculties to allow Burundian students to be competitive whenever there are open vacant posts.
- (iii) Encourage the Burundi citizens to strengthen the usage of the English which is the official language of the Community.
- (iv) Urge the Council of Ministers to fast-track the decision of Summit to consider French as one of the official languages of the Community.
- (v) Recommend that business Communities take advantage of re- opening of the Central Corridor which is less expensive.
- (vi) Urge Partner States to deliver genuine certificate of origin for products manufactured/ produced within EAC Partner States.
- (vii) Recommend the EAC Secretariat to look into its Projects to find out if there is a way to support Partner States projects on irrigation and water harvesting.

2.4.2 KENYA

The EALA Sensitization activity was undertaken by a delegation which comprised of the following Members; Hon. Nancy Abisai - Leader of Delegation, Hon. AbuBakr Ogle, Hon. Abubakar Zein Abubakar, Hon. Judith Pareno, Hon. Sara T. Bonaya, Hon. Mumbi Ng'aru, Hon. Saoli Ole Nkanae, Hon. Peter M. Mathuki, Hon. Joseph O. Kiangoi and Ms. Anastacia Mbeba – Secretary to the Delegation. This delegation engaged various stakeholders where observations and recommendations emerged.

(a) PLANNING MEETING

Members held a planning meeting on 24th March, 2017 to design the sensitization program, discuss and suggest the institutions to visit during the exercise. Below are the institutions visited, the findings and recommendations;

(b) COURTESY CALL ON THE DIRECTOR, IMMIGRATION AND REGISTRATION OF PERSONS

This being one of the integral department concerned with fast tracking integration matters, the following issues were discussed.

- (i) Issues affecting the Namanga Border and especially security matters as raised by residents. Members were concerned that the border is becoming worse by day with regard to immigration and trade issues;
- (ii) A concern regarding how travellers' luggage is checked at the Namanga Border was raised and a proposal made for scanning machines to be sought instead of officers opening travellers' luggage and handling traveller's personal effects in an uncivilised manner;
- (iii) Issues of porous borders along the pastoralist areas;
- (iv) Immigration laws of the EAC and how they affect the borders were brought to the fore;
- (v) Processing of travel documents for non-Kenyans at borders. For instance, the issue of tags reading "Kenyans Only" at immigration entry points was raised as this may interfere with the EAC spirit of integration;
- (vi) The issue of the digital e-passport was raised;
- (vii) Complaints that Kenyans register at the borders and airports with regard to the integration agenda were highlighted. These include payments for work permits in Tanzania, Tanzanian trucks being allowed in Kenya at night, and frustrations Kenyans face while trying to establish themselves in Tanzania.

Specific Observations:

- (i) Members observed that there has been great improvement in facilitation of travel documents to travellers for the past few years;
- (ii) That, other departments may have been a hindrance to travel but not the Department of Immigration, Registration of Persons. The Department of Immigration and Registration of Persons is doing all it can to enhance integration within the EAC region;
- (iii) Kenya has performed very well in terms of giving out work permits to fellow East Africans. However, this is not being reciprocated by some EAC countries.
- (iv) On the issue of "Kenyans Only" signage at immigration entry points should be removed and replaced with a tag reading "East Africans."
- (v) We need home-grown solutions and bilateral ways of addressing the issue of security at the border.
- (vi) Border points are critical because this is where people come in and go out. We should, therefore, have border points where things are done in a seamless manner.
- (vii) Civility should be applied while dealing with people. The Kenya Revenue Authority officials at the Namanga Border should acquire scanners to check/inspect luggage for any unwanted goods.
- (viii) Information regarding the new developments at the Department of Immigration should be relayed constantly to Members of EALA so that they speak from an informed point of view.

- (ix) Every EAC citizen should be educated about the importance of having the yellow fever certificate.
- (x) It was mentioned that the use of identity cards to cross borders between Uganda and Kenya. He further explained about work permits and waivers enjoyed by EAC citizens in accessing immigration services in Kenya and the implementation of the EAC Tourism visa.
- (xi) On E-Passports, Kenya has procured machines, booklets, configured systems and structures, trained staff, and is just waiting to start issuance of the new ICAO compliant EAC travel documents in September 2017. The E-Passport will be fully digitized and a good replacement of the current passports because it will have enhanced security features.
- (xii) Inspection of Luggage at the Namanga Border. The Kenyan Immigration officials do not deal with inspection of luggage. This is the role of the Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA). However, civility should be applied while carrying out this exercise. The Director, Immigration and Registration of Persons should visit the border and see the way things are being done at the border. This would greatly help him to come up with laws to deal with the prevailing situations.
- (xiii) It was observed that One Stop Border Post (OSBP) concept has eased travel and cargo movement. It has also boosted trade facilitation across borders by harmonizing border control regulations and procedures and, thus, enabling expeditious and more effective border control mechanisms.
- (xiv) Border Management. The department ensures that all the borders posts are properly manned. There is border management. Agencies are there communicating and everybody owns the border. There are, however, challenges of porous borders. At times the border areas end up being conflict areas. For example, border posts shared between Kenya and Somalia. Kenya is, however, a safe country because of its border management.
- (xv) Staff members of the Immigration Department are striving to do their work in a professional way to ensure effective services are offered at all border posts. Immigration Officials together with the Kenya Revenue Authority officials should engage and discuss issues affecting the border for effective and efficient border management.
- (xvi) Members urged the Department to focus more on the border management role of establishing border posts or manning the many motorable roads or highways that enter Kenya from neighbouring countries.
- (xvii) The Director of Immigration should extend to all EAC citizens the express and personalised services accorded to Kenyans in all Kenyan airports. The signage "Kenyans Only" should be removed in all airports.

(c) COURTESY CALL ON THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COOPERATIVES

The Principal Secretary (PS) exchanged pleasantries with the honourable Members and welcomed them to the offices of the Ministry of Trade, Department of International Trade. The EALA Members also introduced Members and thanked the PS for accepting their request to meet with him. The following observations were made at the meeting:

- (i) On the Economic Partnership Agreement, it was observed that although the deadline for signing EPAs was missed by some Partner States, Kenya signed and has been able to retain its preferences. The EU accepted to extend the open market conditions for Kenyan exporters after Kenya signed the EPA in late August 2016.
- (ii) Banning of importation of used clothes as per the Heads of States' resolution. It was observed that banning the importation of used clothes will have implication on government's revenue. This will happen *inter alia* through revenues associated with international trade. These include import taxes, fees and charges accruing from used clothes. A clear cost benefit analysis before banning importation of used clothes should be undertaken.
- (iii) There is a disconnect between the Ministry of Trade, Department of International Trade and the EAC. This disconnect needs to be addressed.
- (iv) The Ministry has not been having a national trade policy. However, in December, 2016, the Government approved a National Trade Policy.
- (v) The EAC is an important market to Kenya. However, Kenya needs to expand its horizons and move to other markets.
- (vi) We need legal mechanisms to safeguard our EAC markets against dumping. The Trade Remedies Bill, 2017 is already before the Kenya National Assembly to address this issue.

(d) FAIRTRADE AFRICA

Fairtrade Africa is a non-governmental organisation that represents its members in the global Fairtrade system to ensure that Fairtrade standards and policy reflect their needs. Through primary structures such as product groups, country partnerships and regional networks, the organisation ensures the voice of the African farmers is well represented.

It was observed that Fairtrade Africa also helps its members increase their productivity and their capacity to trade by providing technical, organisational and financial support.

Fairtrade Africa actively stimulates intra-African trade opportunities for its members through networking and partnerships with regional and sub-regional bodies within Africa.

Fairtrade Africa promotes trade justice in Africa to champion socio-economic development on the continent.

Members of EALA noted that it is important to involve marginalised communities in Fairtrade issues and suggested that this should be done through the promotion of the sale of a product

like leather that is in constant supply. EALA passed the East African Community Cooperative Societies Act to open engagement at a regional level.

It was further noted that Fairtrade Africa is not visible in the region and that there needs to be better collaboration with the regional government structures. The Members committed to share information on how the organisation can engage the EAC in terms of coming up with a policy document that will impact on farmers and workers in the current negotiations for a free trade area between SADC, COMESA and the EAC.

2.4.3 RWANDA.

The sensitization activity in Rwanda was carried out by the delegation which comprised of the following members; Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga - Leader of Delegation, Hon. Oda Gasinzigwa, Hon. Dr. James Ndahiro, Hon. Xavier Francois Kalinda, Hon. Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo, Hon. Pierre Celestin Rwigema, Hon. Martin Ngoga, Hon. Straton Ndikuryayo, Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza, Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro, Hon. Yves Nsabimana and Mr. Enock Musiime Secretary to the delegation.

In a bid to successfully undertake the sensitization in Rwanda, the delegation performed various activities and engaged various stakeholders where observations and recommendations emerged:

(a) Planning Meeting.

The EALA delegation held a planning meeting on 24th April 2017. At this meeting, members designed a program for the sensitization and agreed on which places to visit and the stakeholders to engage. Members divided themselves into groups so as to meet different stakeholders simultaneously due to time constraint.

(b) Ministry of Justice and Attorney General

The EALA delegation on sensitization visited and met Hon. Justice Johnston Busingye, the Minister of Justice and Attorney General together with staff Members.

EALA delegation informed the Minister that EALA is carrying out outreach activities in all Partner States, and that this is the fourth round of such activities since 2016. Members informed the Minister that previously they have been meeting other stakeholders including Private Sector, Local Governments, Youth, Women and PWD Councils, Government Parastatals, Universities, Border Communities, Media among others. However, this time round focused more on government institutions notably Ministries, as they are the implementing institutions of the integration agenda.

On this note, Members observed that EAC operations are always disrupted due to a number of reasons including but not limited to; Financial Constraints, Limited powers, slow harmonisation and approximation of laws to fast track the finalisation of the institutional review which has lagged for a long time, to fast track the process harmonisation and approximation of laws among the Partner States, to improve and strengthen interaction

between the Council of Ministers and EALA, Alternative financing mechanism for the Community, delays in the Assent of bills by the Summit among others.

Members also observed that the Treaty for the establishment of East African Community needs to be amended to provide for smooth operations in the following areas;

- (i) Term of Office of EALA Members and Staff, they observed with concern that the Treaty does not provide for continuity and institutional memory and this poses a serious challenge on the operations of the Community;
- (ii) Financial and Administrative Autonomy of the EALA and EACJ;
- (iii) Provide for the office of the Deputy Speaker due to increasing size of the Assembly;
- (iv) Members also observed that the revised grades and levels of the Clerk, CTC and the Registrar as per the Council directive should be provided for in the Treaty;

Members further observed that the Sectoral Council on legal and judicial takes a very long time to convene meetings to scrutinise the bills which delays legislative process in the Community;

It was further observed that the Council of Ministers should closely follow on the operations the EAC Secretariat and take necessary actions for the smooth running and coordination of the Community activities.

The Minister observed that EAC is a theoretical government that is above Partner States and its interests should be given priority. He further observed that outreach and sensitization should be a continuous as new events unfold from time to time that stakeholders across should be informed about.

With regard to Treaty amendments, the Minister noted that the issue has always been a talk of the day because Partner States do not respond to the quest for treaty amendments as required as they still hold on their sovereignty. He further observed that more powers should be ceded to the center for integration to meaningfully move faster.

The Minister acknowledged the fact that the Sectoral Council on Legal and Judicial take long to convene meetings majorly due to schedule differences. However he informed Members that they reached a decision that the absence of one Attorney General will no longer stop the meeting to proceed.

The Minister in his final submission pledged that in consultation with his counterpart, the Minister of EAC, Trade and Industry to the concerns put across by EALA for consideration and further action.

It was noted that a think-tank on EAC matters needs to be established at a regional level comprising of former employees of the Community, EALA Members and Judges of the EACJ to always advise on EAC matters.

(d) Immigration and Emigration

Members of EALA met the Director General, Emigration and Immigration accompanied by members of staff. Members of EALA informed the Meeting that they are carrying outreach and

sensitization programs across the region, and get the feedback from the people of East Africa on the progress in the implementation of the integration agenda.

EALA Members highlighted on the achievements so far realised in the integration, and also challenges faced. On the other hand, the Directorate being one of the implementing institutions gave a presentation on the status of implementation of the East African Common Market as follows;

It was observed that since the signing of the Common Market Protocol was signed in 2009 and the commencement of its implementation in July 2010, Rwanda came up with Law n° 04/2011 of 21/03/2011 on Immigration and Emigration in Rwanda to provide for the implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

With regard to free movement of workers, Partner States made various commitments, and the republic of Rwanda on the Professionals and Technicians and associate professionals. Rwanda is implementing its commitments and made further opening by establishing an Occupation on Demand List (ODL).

Rights of a worker in Rwanda include:

- i. enjoy the rights and benefits of social security as accorded to the workers of the host Partner State
- ii. Be accompanied by a spouse, child and dependent.
- iii. The spouse and child who accompany a worker shall have the right to take up employment or engage in an economic activity.

On the Right of establishment, the following are provided for:

- i. take up and pursue economic activities as a self-employed person
- ii. set up and manage economic undertakings in the territory of another Partner State;
- iii. a self-employed person to join a social security scheme in accordance with the national laws of the host Partner State;
- iv. right to be accompanied by a spouse, child and dependent
- v. Spouse and child to take up employment or engage in an economic activity.

Right of residence. The beneficiaries of the right of residence include; a worker, a self-employed person, and a Spouse, child and dependent of a worker or self-employed person. The basis for residence is facilitated by a work permit and dependent's pass (for spouse, child and dependent).

Despite the implementation of EACM, there are a number of challenges including;

- i. Harmonization of national laws, policies and systems to allow smooth implementation of community legal instruments;
- ii. Harmonization and mutual recognition of Academic and Professional qualifications;
- iii. Conclusion of the Annex on harmonization and mutual recognition of Academic and Professional qualifications;
- iv. Issuance of a pass valid for six months;
- v. Non-operational of Ruhwa OSBP that affects free movement of people.

(d) Ministry of Education

The Members of EALA met the Minister, Hon. Papius Musafiri and Staff at the Ministry of Education and the following issues were discussed;

- i. Ministry of Education is the responsible institution spearheading the implementation of the integration policies in the education, they observed that has revised the strategies in the sector to become competitive and take advantage of the EAC integration;
- ii. It was observed that education is the only effective and sustainable tool to attain full integration;
- iii. It was further observed that Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) which is an institution of the Community responsible for harmonisation of education systems does not convene regular meetings which delays the harmonisation process;
- iv. It was further mentioned that with regard to academic qualifications framework in East Africa, it was agreed that focus should be put on the competencies, skills and quality of education rather than emphasising on the number of years spent in school at different levels.
- v. Partner States tasked IUCEA to undertake a study on the harmonisation of school fees in schools. The study is not yet complete however the preliminary findings indicate that it is not possible to charge the same fees due to different purchasing power parity by different currencies in the EAC Partner States;
- vi. It was observed with concern that both public and private universities still charge differently students from EAC Partner States as foreigners;
- vii. With regard to centres of excellence, it was observed that a number of centres of excellence were accredited in the University of Rwanda including Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management, East Africa Biomedical Engineering Institute (EABEI), African Center of Excellence in Energy for Sustainable Development (ACEESD), African Center of Excellence in Internet of Things (ACEIoT), Africa Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning Mathematics and Science (ACEITLMS), African Center of Excellence for Data Sciences (ACE-DS)

(e) Ministry of Infrastructure

Members of EALA Met the Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Musoni James and the staff of the Ministry. Members informed the Minister about the achievements of the EAC integration and its challenges. However on the other hand the Ministry presented the status of projects that were being undertaken and are regional in nature as follows;

- i. Mombasa-Kampala-Kigali Railway. This project was valued at USD 1.5bn on the Rwanda section and 13.5bn for the entire project. The Mombasa to Nairobi section was launched in November 2013 and the feasibility studies are on-going for sections from Nairobi to Kigali. The financing source has already been approached, another pending while the status Preliminary Engineering design is at 65%.

- ii. Dar Es Salaam Isaka-Kigali Railway. The value of THE projects was estimated at USD 1.07bn on the Rwanda section and 5.2bn for the entire project. The feasibility study suggests growth of freight from 2.9 – 13.5 million tonnes (2014-2044), while the Internal Rate of Return (IRR) is estimated at roughly 31%. The transaction advisor is already recruited, while the request for expression of interest was completed and companies shortlisted. It was further mentioned that the transaction advisory services contract was signed however not effective until partner states contribute fully and help in Public Private Partnership contract framework.
- iii. Rusumo Falls Hydro Electric Project. This is ongoing and it is valued at USD 340 million. The plant will generate 80MW Hydro Power and the Member States that are in Partnership include Rwanda, Burundi, and Tanzania. The construction of the plant commenced in March, 2017 and the completion is expected in February 2020.
- iv. Methane Gas to Power. The feasibility Study was done. This power plant will generate up to 100MW and the Member States in partnership include Rwanda and DRC.
- v. Eldoret – Kampala – Kigali Oil Pipeline: the feasibility studies were completed and it will be a Project for energy security and regional integration. The way forward for this project envisages a Private Public Partnership model other related project such as Oil jetty along Lake Victoria. The value of the Kampala- Kigali section was estimated at USD 1.1 Billion.
- vi. Geothermal Power Generation. This is in Prospects and its Value is yet to be determined. It is estimated to generate 350 MW of geothermal. The Member states in partnership for this project are Rwanda and DRC. The Geothermal Master Plan being developed in Rwanda and the way forward is to undertake further studies.
- vii. Kenya-Uganda-Rwanda 400kV Power Transmission Line: This will accelerate power exchange trade in the region for 500MW (1009km) and its feasibility study was completed in April 2016 while the joint monitoring mechanism is already in place. The way forward is to mobilize financing for its construction.
- viii. It was observed that regional railway infrastructure delay due to funding constraints.
- ix. It was further observed that energy is under social and productive sectors in the EAC secretariat structure yet it should be under infrastructure.
- x. With regard to Airspace liberalisation in EAC, it was noted that the liberalisation still has challenges because some Partner States are still protective which slows down the pace on liberalisation.

(f) Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning

At the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, the EALA Members met the Minister, Hon. Gatete Claver and his staff, and the following issues were discussed;

- i. It was highlighted that the EAC Customs Management Act is the most operational Act among other laws of the Community. This was substantiated by the fact that its provisions

- such as Common External Tariff, Rules of Origin, and single customs territory among others are all operational.
- ii. On the issue of financing mechanisms of the EAC, it was observed that the community majorly depends on donor funding which is not sustainable and does not take into account of EAC Priorities. However it was noted that the proposals on alternative financing mechanism are still under discussion at the council level and will be submitted to Summit for further guidance.
 - iii. It was observed Audit reports from the audited accounts of the Community do not take into account the value for money, therefore more serious accountability measures on the Community funds should be employed.

(g) Rwanda Chamber of Deputies and Senate

The meeting was attended by both Speakers of the Rwanda Senate and Chamber of Deputies, Rt. Hon. Bernard Makuza and Rt. Hon. Donatille Mukabalisa respectively among other Members of Parliament. EALA Members briefed them on the achievements and milestones realised in the EAC integration particularly the full implementation of the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union which was given 10 years to first establish various institutions for its effective implementation, and preparations for Political Federation.

EAC institutional framework emerged as a challenge because it was observed that there is no direct between some organs of the Community such as EALA and the Summit. That means that if the Council does not perform to its expectations, there is no way how the Summit can get to know.

It was further observed that EALA has limited powers and mandate in terms of oversight because it stops at making recommendations.

It was noted that EAC the Inter Parliamentary relations between EALA and the National Parliaments are in place, and this is manifested by the establishment of the EAC Speakers Bureau which meets annually to discuss regional parliamentary matters. The Speakers recommended that the Speakers Bureau be transformed into an organ of the Community, however the proposal is still under consideration of the Council of Ministers for further transmission to the Summit. It was further noted that EALA regularly submits all its reports and proceedings of the Assembly to National Assemblies for their information and consideration.

Members of EALA informed the Meeting that apparently the Community faces institutional, political and ideological challenges, however it was acknowledged that institutional challenges can be resolved technically at the Council and Secretariat level while political and ideological problems can wait for political directions by the Summit.

It is was mentioned that the institutional review would solve most of the institutional challenges, however it has been long overdue.

The Meeting also discussed the issue of outgoing Members of the 3rd Assembly and their achievements. It was observed that handover report for the 3rd Assembly is being prepared containing all the achievements and challenges and proposed recommendation which will be shared with the National Parliaments for information.

It was recommended from the meeting that there should be continuous engagements between EALA and National Parliaments for update on the integration matters.

(h) Ministry of EAC, Trade and Industry

EALA Members met the Minister of EAC, Trade and industry Hon. Kanimba Francios with other staff members. Members informed the Minister that EALA is carrying out sensitization and outreach activities in all Partner States, and his is 4th round of undertaking these activities. In Rwanda, previously sensitization activities have been carried out in various stakeholders including; Local Government Authorities, Border Communities, private sector, civil society, students, youth, women and PWDs among other stakeholders. However this time round, they are focused majorly on the Central Government that is Ministries and other government institutions because these are implementing institutions.

The meeting discussed on the challenges facing the community apparently such as the financial crisis as a result of delayed reimbursement of Partner States Contributions, the EAC Institutional review, and alternative funding mechanisms for the Community among others.

The Minister observed that EAC integration is stagnating and therefore he encourage EALA emphatically exercise its mandate as Political organ, Members should remain neutral and bold on the integration matters.

(i) Media

Members discussed with media on the following issues;

- i. Achievements of EALA in the integration process as they reflected in importance of the laws passed, notably the EAC NTB Bill, OSBP Bill, Vehicle Load Control Bill, Customs Management (Amendment) Bill among many others.
- ii. Members further highlighted the challenges that are faced by the Community including limited funding, institutional challenges, slow pace in the implementation of Community Policies by some Partner States, and delays in harmonisation of laws.
- iii. Members informed the media that the Community is undertaking regional infrastructure projects such as Standard Gauge Railway on the Northern and Central Corridors, the Oil Pipelines and roads. It was noted however that these projects are not fast as Partner States depend on the donor funding since the projects are so costly.

2.4.4 UNITED REPUBLIC TANZANIA

In the United Republic of Tanzania, the activity was conducted in Dodoma, Morogoro and Zanzibar from 20th April to 2nd May, 2017 by the Tanzania Chapter with the following Members: Hon. Charles Makongoro Nyerere (Chapter Chairperson); Hon. Twaha Taslima; Hon. Nderakindo Kessy; Hon. Abdulah Mwinyi; Hon. Adam Kimbisa; Hon. Shyrose Bhanji; Hon. Maryam Ussi Yahya; Hon. Bernard Murunya (Member); and Hon. Angela Kizigha.

The Chapter was supported by the following staff Members from EALA Secretariat and Ministry of Foreign Affairs and East African Community Cooperation, Mr. Charles N. Kadonya, Principal Clerk Assistant, and Mr. Oswald Peter Kyamani, Assistant Director Planning respectively.

The Tanzanian EALA Chapter visited, presented, interacted and held discussions with the Members of the Tanzania Chambers of Commerce, Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA); and students and staff of the Institute of Planning in Dodoma region

(a) Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Trade and Industries and Agriculture (TCCIA), Dodoma

During the interaction with stakeholders, the following critical issues and concerns were raised and or emerged:

- (i) Lack of enough knowledge on the laws and regulations guiding the operations of the EAC integration pillars and agenda. They think it's a free zone and their main concern is non-removal of barriers (tariff and non-tariff) at customs borders contrary to what they thought the Customs Union and Common Market sought to eliminate.
- (ii) Lack of sufficient knowledge on the Certificate of Origin, one of the most important documents to facilitate cross- border trade within East Africa.
- (iii) Lack of information on the Program for Elimination of Internal Tariffs EIT including the categorization of taxable and non-taxable goods. The applicable rates for dutiable goods are not generally known by traders who felt that they are at the mercy of customs and municipal councils' officials.
- (iv) Customs related challenges, such as the un-availability of the list of common goods and Certificate of Origin in Tanzania side was reported by the stakeholders.
- (v) Poor knowledge on the movement of capital from one country to another was reported and a request was made for awareness creation.
- (vi) Concern was expressed that without harmonization of some taxes among Partner States, the EAC Customs Union cannot operate smoothly. It was pointed out that EAC Partner States still have different domestic tax rates and structures especially excise duty and Value Added Tax VAT. These differences have resulted into market distortions leading to such problems like smuggling and other industry malpractices that have witnessed a rise in some "artificial" exports. The most affected commodities are edible oil, maize flour, cigarettes and liquor.
- (vii) Concern was expressed on the barriers encountered when transiting goods to Kenya and Rwanda from Tanzania including being subjected to multiple fees.
- (viii) A general fear was expressed that businesses are likely to collapse due to the inability of the Government and its High Commission in Nairobi to facilitate and empower them to compete particularly with their stronger and more aggressive

Kenyan counterparts. Examples were cited of how traders have been losing profit on their businesses on maize, grapes and timber to their Kenyan counterparts.

- (ix) Concern was also expressed on the status of implementation of the Monetary Union Protocol.
- (x) Lack of a harmonized form of identification especially in view of free movement of persons and other transactions was raised. This hinders transactions and may cause security and other challenges. An example given was that Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda use national Identification Cards (ID's), Tanzania is not part of the equation.

(b) The Institute of Planning Dodoma

During the interaction with students, and both academic and non-academic stakeholders, the following critical issues and concerns were raised and or emerged:

- (i) Most stakeholders were conversant and familiar with the EAC integration agenda. This was evidenced by the fact that one student was among Tanzania citizens who contested for EALA candidatures during the last concluded elections.
- (ii) There was a fear about loss of employment opportunities due to differences in the competitiveness of the labour force. Some participants expressed the concern that free movement of labour will result into an influx of qualified people from other Partner States into Tanzania thus out competing Tanzanians in the labour market.
- (iii) Concern was expressed that with deeper integration, increased labour mobility will disadvantage less qualified and unskilled persons in the labour market.
- (iv) Concern was also expressed on the coalition of the willing (Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda), as much as it wants to spearhead and fast track EAC integration also poses a challenge of isolating some Partner States (Tanzania and Burundi) from integrating into the mainstream cooperation. The more these Partner States are isolated the more they are resented and the more they are resented, the more they get isolated.
- (i) Though land is neither a Treaty matter nor, among the seventeen areas of cooperation, concerns were raised about differences in the land tenure systems of Partner States and loss of land due to free movement and right of establishment within the EAC Partner States. The fear of loss of land was raised based on the varied population densities of the EAC Partner States.

2.4.5 UGANDA

The team of EALA Members that carried sensitization in the Republic of Uganda comprised the following: Hon. Chris Opoka-Okumu Team Leader, Hon. Dora Byamukama, Hon. Mike Sebalu,, Hon. Bernard Mulengani, Hon. Margaret Zziwa, Hon. Dr. Martin Nduwimana, Hon. Fred Mukasa Mbidde, Hon. Nusura Tiperu, and Mr. Alfred Tugume the Secretary to the delegation. The following observations and recommendations were made;

(a) Mirama Hills – Kigitumba One Stop Boarder Post

The team conducted a spot-on visit to Mirama Hills – Kigitumba One Stop Boarder Post on the Uganda-Rwanda Boarder. An interactive meeting was held with the Customs, Immigration and Police Officers on the Ugandan side of the boarder, and the following issues were noted:

- i. The structure was completed and handed over on 2nd July 2015, and the OSBP operationalization was on 2nd Dec.2015 for Customs and 9th Dec 2015 for Immigration. This discrepancy was occasioned by manpower challenges.
- ii. Currently, the following Agencies are present; Customs, Immigration, Police, ISO, ESO, CMI, Fisheries, Clearing Agents, Insurance and money changers(in association).
- iii. It was noted that the government officials hold cross boarder meetings on quarterly basis while hold stakeholder engagement every month.
- iv. It was reported that business is still low on Uganda side but the Rwanda side is doing well.
- v. It was further noted that they were are expecting other agencies on board especially Uganda National Bureau of Standards, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Health when the boarder becomes busy.
- vi. Presently the border post opens at 7:00am and closes at 8:00pm East African Standard time.
- vii. It was noted that the operationalization of the OSBP has resulted into a number of benefits which include, among others; quicker clearances (no more delays) and enhanced cooperation among agencies, as both sides consult each other before taking decisions.
- viii. It was however noted that there is no staff accommodation since there is no provision for staff housing. Currently, staff sleep in lodges which exposes them to the risk of being harmed given the sensitivity of their work. In other cases, police couples share the few available uni-ports;
- ix. The facility lacks walk through scanners;
- x. The officials have not undergone refresher trainings on OSBP operations;
- xi. It was reported that people still use illegal routes to cross the borders;
- xii. It was observed that the interstate passes issued at the border are abused whereby people stay longer than 6 months across borders;
- xiii. Lack of transport means to monitor the other borders, since Mirama Hills is a cluster that supervises also Kizinga, Kikagati and Bugango borders. The OSBP does not have a single station vehicle to respond to emergencies or even carry out boarder monitoring operations.

(b) Courtesy call on the Rt. Hon. Speaker

The Members paid a courtesy call on the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda. During the meeting, the following were noted:

- i. Members extended their appreciation to the Speaker for the unwavering support to Members of EALA- Uganda Chapter in particular, the Assembly in general. It was noted that the Speaker, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga has always found time for EALA Members irrespective of her busy schedule.
- ii. The Speaker reiterated her, and Parliament's commitment to consolidating and further strengthening working relations with EALA in a bid to promote the EAC Integration Agenda.
- iii. The Speaker undertook to address the challenges being faced by government officials at the Mirama Hills Boarder Post with the relevant heads of Government Institutions in Uganda.
- iv. Members requested the Speaker to put on the priority agenda of Parliament of Uganda, among others, the following issues; harmonization of University fees, University Students exchange program, harmonization of taxes, single currency, tourist fees and accelerating the pace of EAC integration.
- v. The Speaker further undertook to direct the Clerk to Parliament of Uganda to extract all the decisions and recommendations in the EALA reports for the attention of relevant Committees of Parliament.
- vi. She expressed the need to set aside day/date for the country to assess the status and progress of the EAC Integration.

(c) Oraba – Kaya Boarder Post

Members also visited the Oraba – Kaya Boarder Post on the Uganda – South Sudan Boarder, and held a meeting with the Immigration and Security Officials on the Ugandan side.

- i. It was noted that the following Uganda Government agencies are present at the Ugandan side of the boarder; Uganda Revenue Authority, Immigration, Police, Internal and External Security Organizations, and Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence.
- ii. While the security situation on the Ugandan side is okay/normal, the situation on the Boarder side of Republic of South Sudan (RSS) remains volatile and fluid. Kaya boarder town is in ruins and deserted.
- iii. At the time of the visit, there was no trade going on between Uganda and Republic of South Sudan, save for the trucks connecting to the Democratic Republic of Congo through this boarder post.

- iv. It was reported that before the insurgency in RSS, the Oraba border post was busy due to its strategic location at the Uganda – DRC – RSS.
- v. It was noted that the Ugandan Ministry Responsible for East African Community Affairs not in touch or sharing information on the EAC Integration with Government Agencies at Oroba boarder post.
- vi. Members were informed that the OSBP is going to be built at the Eregu-Nimule boarder which is the biggest and busiest boarder post between Uganda and RSS.
- vii. It was noted that there is urgent need for information sharing between MEACA and other Government Agencies on the Ugandan side of the boarder.

While carrying out sensitization in Uganda, the following challenges were encountered during the sensitization activity:

- i. It was found out the communities at the borders between Uganda and South Sudan are not aware about EAC Integration;
- ii. Most of the planned meetings with local government officials and other stakeholders were called off due to inadequate budget constraints to provide for transport refund for these stakeholders and to buy airtime for radio talk-shows;
- iii. There was late confirmation of the sensitization program which caused a delay in corresponding with relevant offices to do adequate mobilization of stakeholders.

Following the above observations, it was recommended that;

- i. Ministry of EAC Affairs Uganda to urgently carry out sensitization activities at the Uganda- Republic of South Sudan borders on matters of EAC integration;
- ii. In future, the Assembly should consider to increase the budget for the sensitization to accommodate airtime for radio talk shows providing enough transport refund to participants;
- iii. Future EALA sensitization programs should be confirmed in good time to Partner States for proper coordination.

3.0 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS



The Assembly recommended that:

1. Sensitisation and awareness on the EAC integration process be a continuous activity;
2. Conclude the Annex on harmonization and mutual recognition of Academic and Professional qualifications;
3. There should be harmonisation of immigration laws in all Partner States in terms of work permits and free movement of persons;
4. There is need to provide similar Certificates of Origin at all EAC Customs border posts to avoid forgeries for ease of trade;
5. Urge the Summit of Heads of State to upgrade Kiswahili to be one of the official languages of the Community;
6. Continuous engagement between EALA and the National Parliaments;

7. The Community should provide for sustainable financing mechanism in order to fund projects and programs rather than donor dependency especially for infrastructure developments as the priority for East Africa;
8. Address the fear of loss of employment through deliberate measures such as facilitating nationals who are skilful in Kiswahili, English and French to take up teaching positions respectively in Partner States that need them; and Develop specific programs for unskilled labour and Small and Medium Entrepreneurs ;
9. Furthermore, there is need to develop an EAC Strategy for Skills and Competitiveness Development to enhance productivity through vocation training, science and technology as well as expedite the harmonization of curricula and certification across the region; and
10. The EAC should impose tariff and non-tariff barriers (NTBs) on second hand clothes in order to discourage their importation.

**REPORT OF EALA ON THE SENSITISATION ACTIVITIES IN THE PARTNER STATES
APRIL 21TH TO 2ND MAY 2017**

THEME: EAC INTEGRATION AGENDA: ACCESSING THE GAINS

1. Hon. Patricia M. Hajabakiga 
2. Hon. Judith Pareno
3. Hon. Dr. Nderakindo P. Kessy 
4. Hon. Chris Opoka-Okumu 