EAC

JUMUIYA YA AFRIKA MASHARIKI

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

BUDGET SPEECH

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024 TO THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

BUDGET SPEECH

Theme: Accelerating Economic Recovery, Climate Change Mitigation and Enhancing Productive Sectors for Improved Livelihoods

PRESENTATION OF THE BUDGET OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024 TO THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

BY HON. AMB. DR. EZÉCHIEL NIBIGIRA, MINISTER FOR EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, YOUTH, SPORTS AND CULTURE, REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI, AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

13TH JUNE, 2023

EAC Budget Speech for the FY 2023/2024 - June 2023
© East African Community
Arusha, Tanzania
www.eac.int | eac@eachq.org

TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS		**iii**
I	**INTRODUCTION**	**1**
II	**ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK**	**2**
III	**REVIEW OF EAC PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE FOR FY 2022/2023 AND PRIORITIES FOR FY 2023/2024**	**3**
3.1	EAC SECRETARIAT	3
3.1.1	CUSTOMS UNION	3
3.1.2	COMMON MARKET	7
3.1.3	MONETARY UNION	18
3.1.4	POLITICAL FEDERATION	20
3.1.5	CROSS-CUTTING SECTORS	23
3.2	EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY	28
3.3	EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE	31
3.4	LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION	32
3.5	INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF EAST AFRICA	34

3.6 LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION 36

3.7 EAST AFRICAN KISWAHILI COMMISSION 37

3.8 EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION 38

3.9 EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION 40

3.10 EAST AFRICAN COMPETITION AUTHORITY 41

IV AUDIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022 42

V EAC BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024 43

VI ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS 48

VII CONCLUSION 50

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AFCAC	African Civil Aviation Commission
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade area
AFD	French Development Agency
AfDB	African Development Bank
AGOA	African Growth and Opportunity Act
AGRA	Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa
AIP	Agricultural Investment Plan
AU	African Union
AWF	African Wildlife Foundation
BEA-BEA	Buy-East Africa-Build East Africa
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity for Protected Areas Management
BMGF	Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
BMS	Budget Management System
CAADP	Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme
CASSOA	Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency
CDD	Community Driven Development
CEDAT	College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology
CENIT	Centre of Excellence for ICT
CET	Customs External Tariff
CMA	Customs Management Act
CMI	Capital Markets Infrastructure
CMP	Common Market Protocol
CODESRIA	Council for the Development of Social Sciences in Africa
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa

COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019
CTC	Counsel to the Community
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency
DRDM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Bill
DRRM	Disaster Risk Reduction and Management
EABIN	EAC Ballistic Information Network
EABC	East African Business Council
EAC	East African Community
EACDF	EAC Development Fund
EAC-EU-EPAs	East African Community – European Union- Economic Partnership Agreements
EACJ	East African Court of Justice
EACREEE	East African Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency
EACWARN	EAC Early Warning System
EADB	East African Development Bank
EAHRC	East African Health and Research Commission
EAKC	East African Kiswahili Commission
EALA	East African Legislative Assembly
EAMI	East African Monetary Institute
EAMU	East African Monetary Union
EAPCE	East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition
EAPP	Eastern Africa Power Pool
EAPPCCO AGM	East African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization – Annual General Meeting
EASTECO	East African Science and Technology Commission
EASTRIP	East Africa Skills for Transformation Project
EATUC	East African Trade Union Confederation
ECOWAS-PF	Economic Community for Western Africa Parliamentary Forum
EGL	Energy for Great Lakes
EPA	Ecosystems Profile Assessment
EU	European Union
EUR	Euro

FDIs	Foreign Direct Investments
FN	Fast Jet
FSDRP	Financial Sector Development and Regionalization Project
FTA	Free Trade Area
FY	Financial Year
GAVI	Global Alliance for Vaccines
GBV	Gender Based Violence
GDP	Gross Development Product
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft fur International Zusammenarbeit
GMP	Good Manufacturing Practice
HIV/AIDs	Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IMO	International Monetary Organization
IPU	Inter-Parliamentary Union
ITC	International Trade Centre
IUCEA	Inter-University Council for East Africa
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IWRM	Integrated Water Resources Management Programme
JAMAFEST	Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival
KfW	German Development Bank
KQ	Kenya Airways
LVBC	Lake Victoria Basin Commission
LVEMP	Lake Victoria Environmental Management Project
LVFO	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization
LVWATSAN	Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation Project
MECCA	Mental Models of Climate Change Risks to facilitate Climate Action
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MRAS	Mutual Recognition Agreements
MTEF	Medium Term Expenditure Framework
NELSAP	Nile Equatorial Lakes Subsidiary Action Programme

NBI	Nile Basin Initiative
NCCR	Nile Cooperation for Climate Resilience
NIRTO	Network of Industrial Research and Technology Organization
NMRAs	National Medicines Regulatory Authorities
NPCA	NEPAD Planning and Coordinating Agency
NPFMPII	Nile Perch Fishery Management Plan
NTBs	Non-Tariff Barriers
OSBPs	One Stop Border Posts
OSNP	Operation Save Nile Perch
PAP	Pan-African Parliament
PHE	Population Health and Environment
PPS	Public Private Sector Partnerships
PRAs	Pest List Analysis
PREPARED	Policy, Adaptation, Research and Economic Development
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
RMNCA	Reproduction Maternal New-born, Child and Adolescent Health
RRIS	Regional Reference Information system
RSS	Republic of South Sudan
RTOS	Research and Technology Organization in Africa
SAATM	Single African Air Transport Market
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADC-PF	Southern African Development Community – Parliamentary Forum
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SCT	Single Customs Territory
SCTIFI	Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SEZs	Special Economic Zones
SIDA	Swedish International Development Agency
SMEs	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOLAS	Safety of Life at Sea

SoPs	Standard Operating Procedures
SPS	Sanitary and Phyto-sanitary
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SQMT	Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology, Testing
TBP	Time Bound Programme
TBT	Technical Barriers to Trade
TCM	Sectoral Council on Transport, Communication and Meteorology
TMA	TradeMark Africa
TORs	Terms of Reference
TTPF	Tax Treaty Policy Framework
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UHC	Universal Health Coverage
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
USA	United States of America
USD	United States Dollar
VAT	Value Added Tax
VC	Video Conferencing
VETGOV	Reinforcing Veterinary Governance in Africa
VIA	Vulnerability Impacts Assessment
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WTM	World Travel Market

Theme: Accelerating Economic Recovery, Climate Change Mitigation and Enhancing Productive Sectors for Improved Livelihoods

I. INTRODUCTION

1. **Mr. Speaker Sir,** I beg to move that this Assembly resolves into a House Committee to debate and approve the proposals by the Council of Ministers for the Budget of the East African Community for the Financial Year 2023/2024.

   The theme of this year's budget is: ***Accelerating Economic Recovery, Climate Change Mitigation and Enhancing Productive Sectors for Improved Livelihoods.***

2. **Mr. Speaker,** in this Budget Speech, I shall present the following:

   i. An overview of the region's economic performance and outlook;

   ii. Review of EAC Programme Performance for Finance Year 2022/2023 and the priorities for Financial Year 2023/2024;

   iii. The Audit report for the Financial Year 2021/2022; and

   iv. The EAC Budget for the Financial Year 2023/2024, also highlighting priority interventions; expected outcomes; budget proposals and allocation to Organs and Institutions; and budget assumptions.

3. **Mr. Speaker,** trade is the fulcrum around which the EAC integration process revolves. The EAC total trade increased by 13.4 percent to USD 74.03 billion in 2022 from USD 65.268

billion in 2021. In 2022, EAC total exports to the rest of the world were valued at USD 20.139 billion, while total imports from the rest of the world into the EAC amounted to USD 53.891 billion. Further, total Intra-EAC trade grew by 11.2 percent to USD 10.910 billion in 2022 from USD 9.810 billion in 2021. The major Intra-EAC traded products are cereals, cement, iron and steel, live animals, petroleum products, sugar, foods and beverages, which signify that our economies are Agro-based with good signs of moving to Industry based.

II. ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE AND OUTLOOK

4. **Mr. Speaker,** I now wish to give highlights on the overall state of the EAC economies**:**

The budget estimates for the Financial Year 2023/2024 are being presented at a time when the EAC economies are experiencing global shocks arising from the on-going Russia-Ukraine war, tight global financial conditions, lingering effects of Covid-19 and the impact of climate change. Despite these challenges, economic growth in the region improved to 4.8 percent in 2022 from 3.5 percent in 2021. The strong growth in the region was supported by the good performance of the industry, services, construction, mining and manufacturing sectors. Global economic growth is expected to remain weak, mainly due to anti-inflationary measures and geopolitical risks.

5. A positive outlook is projected for EAC economies, largely driven by the strong performance of the services sector, prudent government policies and increased public and private investment. However, downside risks remain, attributed to weaker global growth, tight financial conditions and climate change risks.

III. REVIEW OF EAC PROGRAMME PERFORMANCE FOR FY 2022/2023 AND PRIORITIES FOR FY 2023/2024

6. **Mr. Speaker**, this August House approved a Budget of USD 91,579,215 for the Community for the Financial Year 2022/2023 in June 2022. Subsequently, supplementary appropriation Bills were tabled for consideration and approval.

The performance on implementation of the above Budget by the EAC Organs and Institutions as well as the plans for the FY 2023/2024, is as follows:

3.1 EAC SECRETARIAT

3.1.1 CUSTOMS UNION

a) Implementation of the Single Customs Territory

7. **Mr. Speaker,** enhancement and interconnectivity of Customs Systems is at the forefront to facilitate seamless exchange of trade information and faster clearance of goods across borders. All processes relating to the accreditation of Regional Authorized Economic Operator Programme, and the issuance of the EAC electronic certificate of origin have been automated.

8. **Mr. Speaker,** to achieve efficiency in the clearance of goods across borders, the EAC conducted training for 1,000 officers and stakeholders and accredited eight (8) experts as EAC Associate Trainers in Risk Management.

9. **Mr. Speaker,** in the next financial year, the Customs sector will focus on the following key areas:

   i. consolidation and updating of the regulatory framework for the Single Customs Territory to ensure sustainability of the gains made so far;

   ii. integrating the Electronic Cargo Tracking Systems along the Transit Corridors;

   iii. enhancement of interconnectivity of systems in key sectors to facilitate information exchange;

   iv. streamline the implementation of the reviewed EAC instruments – including the EAC Common External Tariff, Customs Management Act 2004, Rules of Origin and Customs procedures;

   v. enhancement of Customs institutional framework for efficient revenue collection and trade facilitation;

   vi. integration of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of South Sudan into the Customs Union; and

   vii. capacity building for trade particularly small-scale women traders.

b) Trade Matters

10. **Mr. Speaker,** in accordance with the provisions of the EAC Treaty and its Protocols, EAC has continued to put in place mechanisms to enhance intra-EAC trade and, at the same time, actively participating in the negotiations at the Tripartite (COMESA, EAC and SADC) and at the African Continental Free Trade area (AfCFTA).

11. The key milestones achieved in the FY 2022/2023:

    i. resolved 23 out of 32 Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) that were reported. The remaining nine (9) NTBs are at different stages of resolution;

    ii. finalised and submitted to African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat the EAC offers for tariff and services liberalisation. This facilitates trade between the EAC Partner States with other African countries under the AfCFTA framework. Additionally, three of the EAC Partner States are participating in the AfCFTA Guided Trade Regime which involves match-making of firms ready to trade within the AfCFTA framework;

    iii. finalised and adopted the following:

        - EAC Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy which provides for a conducive environment for the establishment and development of competitive SEZs;

- EAC E-Commerce Strategy to strengthen cross-sectoral and public-private collaboration in developing regional approaches to cross-border e-commerce; and

- EAC Strategy on Trade in Services to enhance service sector integration in the region and enhance intra-EAC trade in services;

- EAC Mechanism for removal of restrictions on Trade in Services and the commitment by Partner States to remove restrictions on committed sectors within a period of five years (by February 2028);

iv. the harmonisation of 172 standards for the commonly traded goods and about 86% of the adopted standards were harmonised and implemented across the Partner States in accordance with the Standardisation Quality Assurance Metrology and Testing (SQMT) Act, 2006; and

v. organised the 22nd EAC Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) Trade Fair in Kampala, Uganda that was attended by 1,500 exhibitors from all the Partner States. The fair provided an opportunity for exhibitors to showcase and sell locally made products, build cross border linkages and technology transfer.

12. Mr. Speaker, awareness creation, capacity building in negotiations skills, standardisation, and conformity assessment, and Small and Medium Enterprises Development will be the key priorities in the FY 2023/2024.

3.1.2 COMMON MARKET

a) Tracking the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol

13. **Mr. Speaker**, in November 2021, the Community adopted the third EAC Common Market Scorecard, 2020 tracking the progress on the implementation of the Protocol for the Establishment of the EAC Common Market. The Scorecard highlighted areas of non-compliance in the respective laws, regulations and administrative guidelines covering the free movement of goods, services and capital. The Partner States have made progress in amending identified laws, regulations and administrative guidelines with some reforms being realised.

14. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2023/2024, the Secretariat will continue to track Partner States' progress in amending identified noncompliant laws, regulations and administrative guidelines impacting on the key freedoms and rights under the EAC Common Market Protocol.

b) Infrastructure Development

Roads Sub-sector

15. **Mr. Speaker,** the Secretariat has continued to coordinate the development of multinational roads linking the Partner States as updated below:

i. The construction of the 400 km long multinational Kenya/Tanzania road: Malindi - Lunga Lunga and Tanga - Bagamoyo road is in progress, and the road sections are in different stages following the two Governments securing a financing package of Euro 375 million from the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the European Union (EU). However, there are some remaining sections that need funding to connect the entire stretch of the coastal corridor;

ii. Construction of the multinational Tanzania/Burundi road: Kabingo-Kasulu-Manyovu (260 km) in Tanzania and Gitaza-Rumonge (45 km) in Burundi is ongoing following Burundi and Tanzania securing financing amounting to USD 322.35 million in the form of grants and loans from the AfDB. Furthermore, the procurement of the first phase of construction of the Mugina-Manyovu One Stop Border Post (OSBP) has commenced after the Secretariat successfully guided the Partner States in rationalising the construction phases;

iii. The Secretariat secured funding of USD 1,707,650 from AfDB for carrying out the feasibility studies and detailed designs of the multinational Tanzania/Burundi: Uvinza - Kanyani / Rusengo - Gisuru - Bugarama roads. The feasibility and preliminary designs have been completed;

iv. The Secretariat further secured funding of USD 1,399,500 from AfDB for carrying out the Feasibility and Funding Options Study on the multinational Kenya/ Uganda: Kisumu – Kisian – Busia / Kakira – Malaba and Busitema Busia Expressway Project; and

v. The Tripartite Transport and Transit Facilitation Programme (TTTFP) implemented by COMESA-EAC-SADC and funded by EU ended in May 2023. The programme developed the Vehicle Load Management Agreement (VLMA), Multilateral Cross Border Road Transport Agreement (MCRBTA) and model laws and regulations that were adopted by the TTTFP Council of Ministers on 29th March, 2023. COMESA, EAC and SADC are exploring opportunities for Phase 2 of the programme.

16. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2023/2024, the Secretariat will continue implementing successor multinational road projects linking Partner States and the Phase II OSBP programme including the design, construction and operationalisation of prioritised OSBPs within the region to enhance regional integration and trade facilitation.

Railways

17. **Mr. Speaker,** the implementation of the Northern Corridor and Central Corridor Standard Gauge Railways in Kenya and Tanzania respectively is ongoing.

Civil Aviation and Airports

18. **Mr. Speaker,** the EAC Secretariat continued coordinating the implementation of the EAC Upper Airspace Seamless Operations Project. The Memorandum of Agreement for implementation of the EAC Upper Air Space Seamless operations was concluded and signed by Partner States.

19. EAC Partner States are also implementing the established regional framework for handling Aircraft Accidents and Incidents Investigations, and operationalisation of the EAC Agreement on Aviation Search and Rescue.

Meteorology

20. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2022/2023, the EAC Partner States continued to expand the Meteorological Infrastructure with two additional Meteorological Radar Stations installed at Kigoma and Mbeya by the United Republic of Tanzania. In addition, 342 automatic weather stations and143 automatic rain gauges were procured and installed by Partner States. This is expected to enhance Early Warning Systems for severe weather incidents such as thunderstorms, floods and strong winds in order to improve safety of air transport, and minimise loss of life and property.

21. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2023/2024, the Secretariat will develop strategies aimed at transforming meteorological services and the production of more accurate and timely weather forecasts.

Communications

22. **Mr. Speaker,** the Secretariat is cooperating with COMESA and SADC on the ICT Tripartite Programme Enhancement of Governance and Enabling Environment in ICT Sector (EGEE-ICT). The programme provides technical assistance and capacity building for regional ICT associations as well as development of ICT enabling policies and regulations such as e-commerce and data protection.

23. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2023/2024, the communications sector will harmonise policies and push for the full implementation of the EAC Roaming Framework. The sector will also develop the Broadcast Content Framework and Cross-border Interconnection Regulations to facilitate EAC citizens, especially the youth, in the production of local content.

c) Productive Sectors

Agriculture and Food Security

24. **Mr. Speaker,** Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) required for implementation of Pest Risk Analyses (PRAs) for maize, beans and rice were adopted and are being implemented by Partner States. EAC procured and donated computer equipment to the plant health inspectors in the Republic of South Sudan to facilitate conduct of PRAs.

25. The EAC also conducted capacity building workshops for plant health inspectors at two (2) OSBPs on the SOPs for inspecting maize, beans and rice for pests of phytosanitary importance in the region. Further, the EAC donated key inspection tools to strengthen phytosanitary inspection capacity at seven (7) OSBPs.

26. **Mr. Speaker,** in supporting interventions meant for potato seed multiplication for increased cross-border trade, the EAC procured and handed over laboratory equipment and consumables to designated National Plant Protection Organizations (NPPOs).

27. Mr. Speaker, for the FY 2023/2024, the focus under the agriculture sector will be to:

i. promote delivery systems for agricultural inputs and technologies in the region;

ii. strengthen capacities for post-harvest losses reduction in prioritized strategic value chains in the region;

iii. improve integrated management of transboundary crop and animal pests and diseases; and

iv. attain the recommended Mutual Residue Limits/Levels (MRLs) towards reducing rejections on fruits and vegetables from the region to trading partners in the European Union and the United States of America.

Industrialisation and SMEs Development

28. Mr. Speaker, the Community has developed a Self-Assessment Quality Management Tool for use by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) in the leather sector to promote quality of leather products.

29. The Community adopted a five-year EAC Industrial Policy Implementation Action Plan for (2023-2028) that focuses on recovery and building resilience for sustainable industrial growth and competitiveness.

30. **Mr. Speaker,** for the FY 2023/2024, the focus under the industrial development sector will be to:

i. develop a regional local content policy;

ii. develop a regional pharmaceutical waste action plan;

iii. develop regional seed certification standards and release procedures;

iv. adopt green technology for leather tanneries to reduce pollution in the region; and

v. support small-scale processing of quality leather products in East Africa.

Energy Sector

31. **Mr. Speaker**, EAC continued with the implementation of priority energy generation and transmission projects. The construction of the 80 MW Rusumo hydro-power project between Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania has been completed and wet commissioning undertaken. The implementation of the Rwanda-Burundi Power Interconnector is underway.

32. **Mr. Speaker,** the Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for lighting appliances which were adopted at the regional level are now being implemented by Kenya and Rwanda. Other Partner States are in the process of adopting the MEPS.

33. **Mr. Speaker,** the 10th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2023 (EAPCE'23) was held in Kampala, Uganda drawing participation of more than 1,000 delegates from Partner States and beyond. The construction of the East Africa Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) from Hoima (Uganda) to Tanga (Tanzania) has also commenced.

34. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2023/2024, EAC will start preparations for the 11th East African Petroleum Conference and Exhibition 2025 (EAPCE'2025) that will be hosted by the United Republic of Tanzania.

Environment and Natural Resources

35. **Mr. Speaker**, during the FY 2022/2023, the Community adopted the following instruments:

    i. the EAC Forestry Policy and EAC Forestry Strategy;

    ii. the EAC Climate Finance Access and Mobilization Strategy; and

    iii. the EAC Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan.

36. **Mr. Speaker**, in the FY 2023/2024, the priorities for the environment and natural resources management sector will be to:

i. convene EAC Environmental Week in Rwanda;

ii. develop three regional climate change bankable projects;

iii. finalise the EAC Water Policy and Integrated Water Resources Management Strategy; and

iv. coordinate the construction of 10 hand-washing facilities at selected areas bordering DRC.

Tourism and Wildlife Development

37. **Mr Speaker**, the Community has continued to implement the EAC Tourism Marketing Strategy. The strategy is aimed at reinforcing the individual efforts of Partner States by providing a framework for cooperation in the promotion of marketing of tourism within the region and internationally.

38. **Mr. Speaker,** for the FY 2023/2024, the sector's priorities will be to:

i. finalise the Protocol on Tourism and Wildlife Management;

ii. implement the tourism recovery interventions;

iii. organise the 3rd Regional Tourism EXPO;

iv. finalise the review of the classification criteria for Tourism accommodation establishments;

v. finalise the draft regional wildlife policy;

vi. develop a regional wildlife conservation and management strategy and action plan; and

vii. establish a trans-boundary wildlife conservation areas network.

d) Social Sectors

Culture and Sports

39. Mr. Speaker, the Community successfully organised the 5th Edition of the East African Culture and Arts Festival (JAMAFEST) from 4th to 12th September, 2022, in the Republic of Burundi. The biennial festival attracted more than 2,000 participants including performers, exhibitors, academicians and stakeholders in culture and arts from across the region. The 6th Edition is set for 2024 in another Partner State.

Immigration

40. Mr. Speaker, the Partner States have continued the issuance of the East African e-Passport. Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania have phased-out the old machine-readable passports. South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo are yet to commence the issuance of the East African e-Passport.

Gender and Community Development

41. **Mr. Speaker,** the Community remains committed to prioritising the needs of youth and children. In the FY 2022/2023, the Community adopted a Youth Peace and Security Strategy, establishing a platform for youth engagement in peace and security initiatives.

Health

42. **Mr. Speaker**, the EAC Secretariat has provided support towards preparedness and response to pandemics and disease outbreaks. Indeed, the EAC Mobile Laboratories contributed to the early detection and surveillance of the Ebola outbreak in the Republic of Uganda in September 2022 and Marburg outbreak in the United Republic of Tanzania in March 2023.

43. In a move to ensure a more effective response to disease outbreaks, the Community has mobilised resources to build vaccines manufacturing capacity in collaboration with the EAC Regional Centre of Excellence in Vaccines, Immunisation and Supply Chain Management and to expand the laboratory testing capacity.

44. **Mr. Speaker,** the EAC is promoting the health of women and children through the use of digital technologies. In March 2023, EAC facilitated the development and launch of the digital version of the Zanzibar scorecard for tracking the progress of Reproductive, Maternal, New born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH). The support to develop digital health systems will be extended to all the Partner States.

Education and Training

45. **Mr. Speaker,** the Summit has continued to recognise and award prizes to the secondary school winners of the EAC Essay Writing Competition on annual basis. The essay writing is part of the broader EAC outreach programme aimed at involving students in the activities of the Community and to foster an East African identity in the students. During the 22nd Ordinary Summit held in July 2022, the winners of the 2019, 2020 and 2021 editions were presented with their awards.

3.1.3 MONETARY UNION

a) Cooperation in Statistics Harmonisation and Development

46. **Mr. Speaker,** during the FY 2022/2023, the EAC Statistics Development and Harmonisation Regional Project was restructured into the EAC Project of the Eastern Africa Regional Statistics Program for Results (EARSPforR). The project is supporting:

    i. the production of harmonised and quality statistics through capacity building of the National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and the EAC Secretariat; and

    ii. the delivery of the statistical requirements for monitoring the progress towards achieving of the macroeconomic convergence criteria as set out in the East African Monetary Union (EAMU) Protocol.

In the FY 2023/2024, the Secretariat will continue to enrich the statistical content of the Open Data Portal – a one-stop interface that allows data users to access EAC statistical data in various sectors (eac.opendataforafrica.org\\dlpbiif)

b) Establishment of Institutions to support the East African Monetary Union

47. The Council of Ministers approved the organisational structure for the East African Monetary Institute (EAMI) and initiated the administrative process for identifying the host Partner State for the EAMI. The EAMI is expected to carry out the preparatory work for the creation of the EAMU.

c) Implementation of Payment and Settlement Systems in the region

48. **Mr. Speaker**, the EAC Secretariat continues to support the Partner States' Central Banks in implementing a secure, efficient, and reliable payment and settlement system to ensure efficient flow of transactions within the region through the EAC Payment and Settlement System Integration Project (EAC-PSSIP).

49. The EAC-PSSIP is supporting the modernisation of financial market infrastructure, including: putting in place business continuity and disaster recovery sites for Central Banks; upgrading the high value payment systems (real time gross systems); implementing Automated Clearing House (ACH) for retail payments systems; and capacity building for staff through training and exchange programmes in financial institutions with advanced payment systems operations.

3.1.4 POLITICAL FEDERATION

a) Political Affairs

50. **Mr. Speaker,** fair and credible election is crucial for stability. The EAC sent an Election Observation Mission to the August 2022 General Election in the Republic of Kenya. The Community congratulates the Republic of Kenya for conducting a peaceful general election.

51. **Mr. Speaker**, with regard to conducting national consultations for the drafting of the Constitution of the EAC Political Confederation, the consultations in Kenya were held in May 2023. Consultations have already been undertaken in Burundi and Uganda. In the FY 2023/2024, the national consultations will be undertaken in the remaining Partner States.

b) Peace and Security

52. **Mr. Speaker**, peace, security and stability remain prerequisites to social and economic development of the Community. In the FY 2022/2023, EAC established and operationalised four (4) National Early Warning Structures within four (4) Partner States, namely: Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan and Uganda.

53. In the FY 2023/2024, the focus will be on further strengthening of regional conflict prevention and management capacities, through operationalisation of the remaining national early warning centres to cover all the Partner States. Structured

engagement of women and youth in peace and security initiatives will continue in line with the Strategy on Regional Peace and Security as well as the EAC Youth and Gender Policies.

54. **Mr. Speaker,** partnerships with the UN and other international and regional organisations with peace and security mandate remain of utmost importance in ensuring peace, security and stability of the region. The structured partnerships facilitated assessment, funding and extension of the INTERPOL I/24/7 System to the Partner States' borders and international airports. It also supported the development of a Regional Refugee Management Policy.

55. **Mr. Speaker,** I am happy to report that the EAC Peace Fund became operational during the FY 2022/2023. In the FY 2023/2024 focus will be:

i. mobilisation funds for peace efforts;

ii. finalising the structures to operationalise the Rapid Decision-Making Mechanism for EAC on peace and security matters;

iii. countering cross-border and trans-national organised crimes including terrorism;

iv. finalising the Standard Operating Procedures for harmonisation of law enforcement practices;

v. adoption of the Regional Refugee Management Policy and embark on its implementation; and

vi. enhancing Partner States' interconnectivity through the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) to strengthen regional capabilities in investigations and prosecution of crimes related to Small Arms and Light Weapons.

c) International Relations

56. **Mr. Speaker Sir,** I am happy to inform this August House that following the application by Federal Republic of Somalia in the year 2012 to join the EAC, a verification mission visited Somalia in January 2023 to assess the country's readiness to join the Community. The report of the mission will be tabled before the Council for consideration and onward transmission to the Summit.

d) Defence Sector

57. **Mr. Speaker,** during the FY 2022/2023, the EAC Defence Sector undertook:

i. Joint Military training and operations to enhance the state of readiness and inter-operability of Partner States' Armed Forces, Police, civilian components and other stakeholders in responding to complex security challenges;

ii. Technical Cooperation to draw strategies and measures to mitigate health threats to the Partner States' Armed Forces and identified Defence industrial products and services in order to limit reliance on external suppliers; and

iii. Visits and exchange of information and intelligence to address various emerging regional security challenges.

58. **Mr. Speaker**, upon the request by the Government of DRC, the Community deployed the EAC Regional Force (EACRF) in Eastern DRC. The EACRF has in its first 6 months of deployment made significant progress in restoring peace and stability in Eastern DRC. In the FY 2023/2024, the Heads of State at their 21st Extra Ordinary Summit held in Bujumbura, Burundi on 31st May, 2023, directed the Secretary General to intensify efforts to mobilise resources and support the EACRF to consolidate the gains made to achieve lasting peace and security in Eastern DRC.

3.1.5 CROSS-CUTTING SECTORS

a) Human Resource Matters

59. **Mr. Speaker**, in the FY 2022/2023, the Secretariat recruited 27 members of staff including 10 nationals from the Republic of South Sudan as directed by the Council. The two (2) positions of Deputy Secretaries General were competitively filled as directed by the Summit.

60. In the FY 2023/2024, the remaining vacant positions are expected to be filled. The Council has directed that 11 out of the vacant positions be ring-fenced for nationals of the Democratic Republic of Congo. It is also expected that some of the pending matters on Institutional Review, especially in the area of under-staffing, will be addressed.

b) Land Donated to the Community by Partner States

61. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2022/2023, the Community received:

i. a title deed for a 125-acre parcel in Arusha, Tanzania from Her Excellency Dr. Samia Suluhu Hassan, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania;

ii. a 4,500 m^2 land in Zanzibar, Tanzania for the East African Kiswahili Commission;

iii. approximately 6.1 acres land in Bujumbura, Burundi for the East African Health Research Commission; and

iv. approximately two (2) acres leasehold in Nairobi, Kenya for the CASSOA Centre for Aviation Medicine.

In the FY 2023/2024, the Community will prepare proposals for the development of the land and mobilise resources to support development of these properties.

c) Information and Communication Technology

62. **Mr. Speaker**, the Community adopted the ICT Policy and Strategy to guide efficient use of ICT resources. The Secretariat hosted the 9th East Africa Internet Governance Forum in November 2022. The forum called for the development of locally relevant content, applications and services so as to make ICT meaningful in the daily lives and operations of people and organisations in East Africa.

63. In the FY 2023/2024, the priorities will be to: integrate EAC ICT Systems; implement the EAC ICT Policy; harmonise and develop Regional Cybersecurity and Data Protection frameworks; and strengthen the enabling environment to support digital integration in the region.

d) Visibility and Sensitisation Programmes

64. **Mr. Speaker,** on visibility and awareness creation, the focus was on sensitisation programmes aimed at delivering the integration message to various stakeholders and EAC Citizens to ensure inclusivity and participation in the integration process. Among the key achievements were convening the inaugural EAC Managing Editors Forum in July 2022 and a two-day Media Training Workshop on EAC integration for journalists from all the seven (7) Partner States in November 2022. The rationale for the two meetings was to improve relations with media houses for purposes of increased and in-depth coverage of the integration.

65. In the FY 2023/2024, the priorities will be to: implement the 2nd EAC Communication Policy and 2nd EAC Communication Strategy; improve media relations and enhance social media engagement; launch and popularise the new EAC Brand Identity; and produce and disseminate infomercials and public education programmes to EAC Citizens and other stakeholders.

e) Cooperation in Legal and Judicial Affairs

66. **Mr. Speaker**, in the FY 2023/2024, the Council will:

i. introduce a number of Bills to consolidate the integration agenda including the EAC Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary Bill and the EAC Seed Bill;

ii. support all initiatives in respect of judicial education, training and harmonisation as championed by the East African Judicial Education Committee;

iii. support the harmonisation of Partner States' laws to conform with the EAC Treaty and protocols; and

iv. ensure the expeditious implementation of all legal and judicial aspects of the roadmap for the integration of the Democratic Republic of Congo into the EAC once adopted.

f) Resource Mobilisation

67. **Mr. Speaker,** the Secretariat mobilised resources from Development Partners for the implementation of EAC Projects and Programmes. Financing Agreements totaling USD 39,277,797 and 600,000 EUROS in direct grant were signed.

68. Development Partners who provided the aforementioned financial support to the Community include:

i. African Development Bank - USD 8,000,000 towards the EAC Capacity Building Project;

ii. European Union - EUROS 600,000 towards the EAC Institutional Strengthening Programme;

iii. United States Agency for International Development - USD 2,277,797 towards the Food, Nutrition Security and Agricultural Trade Facilitation project;

iv. World Bank - USD 29,000,000 towards the Eastern Africa Regional Statistics Programme; and

v. The Federal Government of Germany committed Euro 10 million for an EAC Infrastructure Development Facility for preparation of projects to bankability. The facility will be administered through the KfW Development Bank, and the Trade and Development Bank.

Further, the EAC Secretariat received three (3) executive buses and five (5) pick-up trucks from the People's Republic of China under the China-Aid Project.

69. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2023/2024, the Secretariat will prioritise the development and adoption of resource mobilisation instruments and enhancing donor coordination mechanisms.

g) Monitoring and Evaluation

70. **Mr. Speaker**, in accordance with Article 49(2) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC, the EAC Secretariat published the EAC Annual Reports 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 on the EAC website (https://www.eac.int/documents/category/annual-report). The Annual Report 2019/2020 was adopted by the Assembly for publication while the Annual Report 2020/2021 is awaiting debate and adoption by the Assembly.

3.2 EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

71. **Mr. Speaker,** allow me to commend the Assembly for its continued contribution in furthering the objectives of the EAC integration. The FY 2022/2023 witnessed the end of term of the 4th Assembly on 17th December, 2022 and the inauguration of the 5th Assembly on 19th December, 2022. The Council is glad that the 5th Assembly was successfully inaugurated. I would like to congratulate you for this major milestone and to especially welcome the Members from the DRC to the August House. In the FY 2022/2023, the Assembly recorded the following major achievements:

    i. Passage of the EAC Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 2022 to enhance seamless operations of the EAC Single Customs Territory; the EAC Financial Service Commission Bill, 2022 and the EAC Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission Bill, 2022 which further lays the foundation for the establishment of the EAC Monetary Union; and the EAC Supplementary Appropriation No.3 Bill, 2022 which provided the legal framework for the Supplementary Budget;

    ii. hosting two members of the Summit during the its rotational sittings in the Republic of Rwanda in October 2022 and the Republic of Burundi in March 2023. H.E. President Paul Kagame and H.E. Evariste Ndayishimiye reaffirmed their commitment to the integration process;

    iii. In line with the oversight function, adopted a number

of recommendations which served as a guide towards enhancing efficiency in the EAC's efforts to promote peace and security, movement of people and goods, and environmental conservation;

iv. convened the 14th Meeting of the EAC Speakers Bureau and the 15th Meeting of the Clerks of EAC Parliaments and EALA. The two meetings gave impetus and direction to the national parliaments in mainstreaming EAC ideals in their respective agendas; and

v. held the 12th EAC Inter-Parliamentary Games were held in Juba, South Sudan.

72. Mr. Speaker, in the FY 2023/2024, the Assembly has prioritised the following:

i. enactment of the remaining Bills that are a prerequisite for the establishment of the Monetary Union, and enactment of the following pending bills from the 4th Assembly: The Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) Bill; The EAC Youth Bill; The EAC Cross Border Trade in Professional Services Bill; The EAC Pharmaceuticals Bill, The EAC Emblems (Amendment) Bill; The EAC Sexual and Reproductive Health Bill; The EAC Cultural Heritage Bill; and The EAC Standardization, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment Bill;

ii. enhance the Assembly's oversight function to ensure that East Africans benefit fully from the full implementation of the Common Market Protocol;

iii. strengthen the Assembly's collaboration with National Legislatures to ehance popular participation of people in the integration through their elected representatives;

iv. fast-track the implementation and operationalisation of the Assembly's administrative and financial autonomy;

v. amend the EALA Rules of Procedure;

vi. prepare and submit proposals to amend the EAC Treaty;

vii. audit the implementation of Assembly Resolutions and recommendations;

viii. develop the Assembly's 4th Strategic Plan (2024 – 2029);

ix. build capacity for the Members of the 5th Assembly and staff to efficiently discharge the Assembly's legislative, oversight and representation roles;

x. organise the 16th EAC Bureau of Speakers in Juba, South Sudan; and

xi. organise the 13th EAC Inter-Parliamentary Games in Kigali, Rwanda.

As Council, we shall **endeavour** to give our full support to the Assembly in achieving what it has set out to do to the extent possible.

3.3 EAST AFRICAN COURT OF JUSTICE

73. **Mr. Speaker,** the Court has seen an increased number of matters filed before it, as a result of its enhanced visibility and the rising confidence among East Africans in the Court's operations. During the FY 2022/2023, 105 matters were filed before the Court compared to the 77 matters filed in the FY 2021/2022.

74. Though the Court has seen an increase in the number of matters filed, it has also seen a considerable increase in its case backlog. The case backlog increased from 183 matters in FY 2021/2022 to 265 matters in FY 2022/2023.

75. The Court held its Annual Rotational Session and Annual Judicial Conference in Kampala, Uganda in November 2022 with the aim of bringing its services closer to the people and stimulating high-level conversations and discussions on emerging jurisprudence, and issues affecting Courts and Court users.

76. **Mr. Speaker,** the Court's major challenges remain: low budget allocation; increasing case backlog; insufficient number of days for court sittings; the ad hoc nature of the services of the Judges; and an obsolete court management system.

77. The Court's priority interventions in the FY 2023/2024 will be to: increase the number of days for its sittings; conclude more

cases in a timely manner; enhance the skills of Judges and staff for efficient delivery of justice; conduct sensitisation and awareness programmes in the Partner States; and enhance collaboration with other regional and international Courts.

3.4 LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION

78. **Mr. Speaker,** in ensuring improved water quality and availability and providing access to improved sanitation services to the population in the Lake Victoria Basin, the Commission concluded the signing of two project financing agreements for the implementation of the Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) programme in Mwanza, Tanzania worth USD 5 million and Kigali, Rwanda worth USD 7 million. In addition, the Commission signed a joint implementation agreement for the EAC-LVBC-GIZ Technical Cooperation to strengthen EAC and LVBC's capacity to coordinate the IWRM interventions.

79. **Mr. Speaker**, reducing vulnerability and negative effects of climate change in the Lake Victoria Basin continues to be a priority. Through the Adapting to Climate Change Project, the Commission has:

i. installed 108 beehives that produce 160kgs of honey per harvest;

ii. drilled three (3) new boreholes powered by solar pumps that provide water for home use and irrigation in three (3) villages of Mbiti, Busalanga and Sekouture in Magu District, Tanzania;

iii. drilled three (3) boreholes powered by solar panels

in Siaya and Busia counties in Kenya, which will provide access to water for domestic use for about 1,500 households;

iv. established a tree nursery at Busalanga Primary School, Tanzania;

v. constructed three (3) Greenhouses for horticultural production in Magu, Tanzania; and

vi. constructed eight (8) green houses and supplied 14,000 bamboo seedlings and 3,000 fruit trees to support ecological conservation in Siaya and Busia counties in Kenya.

80. The Commission celebrated the 15th Mara Day as part of creating public awareness, mobilising and rallying various stakeholders to appreciate the importance of conserving the transboundary Mara River Basin, the home to world-famous Maasai Mara and Serengeti ecosystem.

81. **Mr. Speaker,** the Commission continued with efforts to mobilize resources which led to the commitment of signing financing agreements worth Euros 22.5 million with the Federal Republic of Germany through KfW and GIZ to fund initiatives related to transboundary water management.

82. **Mr. Speaker,** the Commission embarked on the construction of the regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Mwanza worth USD 2.5 million. This centre will serve as coordination centre of maritime rescue operations to reduce accidents of vessels and boats plying the lake and promote trade between the riparian states.

83. **Mr. Speaker,** the Commission commenced the second phase of its Headquarters construction in Kisumu, Kenya.

84. The LVBC Act, 2022 was assented to by the Summit thereby enhancing the Commission's corporate legal status and its resource mobilisation capacity.

3.5 INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF EAST AFRICA

85. **Mr. Speaker**, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) made significant achievements in the FY 2022/2023:

i. successfully organised the 12th Academia Public Private-Partnership Forum (APPPF-2023) that brought together 270 participants. The forum called on academic institutions to work with private sector to develop joint curricula that will promote graduate employability;

ii. continued to operationalise the harmonised tuition fee structure model through the EAC Scholarship Programme. The total number of beneficiaries for the first phase of the KfW scholarship programme is 180 students, 30% being female students;

iii. initiated the establishment of an EAC Students Mobility Scholarship Scheme (EAC-SMS) whereby universities in the region are expected to commit to provide support to students from the EAC Partner States in the form of tuition waiver, IUCEA to pay for transport and insurance, and the parents or guardian the stipend. So far, 11 universities have committed to a total of 296 scholarships for the programme;

iv. negotiated the extension of the dSkills@EA Project through the EAC-German Government cooperation. The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) committed additional funds of Euros 2.5 million to the project;

v. completed the selection of an additional 20 candidates from the Regional Flagship TVET Institutes to undertake postgraduate studies (7 for PhD and 13 for Masters) in China under the tripartite agreement signed between IUCEA, the World Bank and the People's Republic of China to train 100 young lecturers in China; and

vi. signed with the World Bank a USD 10 million grant agreement towards the East and Southern Africa Higher Education Centres of Excellence Project (ACE II). The ACE II grant includes scholarship opportunities for female regional students to pursue master degrees in agricultural fields.

86. Mr. Speaker, in the FY2023/2024, IUCEA will focus on:

i. implementation of the Common Higher Education Area through the enhancement of the EAC Quality Assurance, Qualifications framework, regional accreditation of programmes, staff and students' mobility in the region;

ii. strengthening the capacities of universities in research and innovation including establishing a regional hub for integrated higher education; and

iii. strengthening the management and use of

technology for education and development by universities in the region.

3.6 LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION

87. **Mr. Speaker,** the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) realised the following key achievements in the FY 2022/2023:

i. restocked 52,000 catfish at three sites in Lake Victoria to enhance food security, income and reduce snails which are intermediate hosts in the bilharzia infestation cycle;

ii. training of government officials in tenure and user rights management regimes, sensitised stakeholders on fisheries co-management, and harmonised fisheries monitoring, control and surveillance; and

iii. carried out a hydro-acoustic survey to establish fish stock in Lake Victoria. As at October 2022, the standing stock of Nile Perch biomass was 330,000 tonnes, compared to 500,000 tonnes in 2021.

88. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2023/2024 LVFO will focus on:

i. sensitising stakeholders on fish flows and linkages for enhanced access to external markets and solar dryer technologies for enhanced fish quality and safety;

ii. installation of solar drying equipment in the Partner States;

iii. developing standards and guidelines for quality assessment of small fish with associated capacity building;

iv. supporting Partner States in developing country-specific Aquatic Animal Health (AAH) strategies and surveillance, control and contingency plans;

v. supporting Technical and Vocational Education and Trainings (TVETs) to deliver tailor made courses to aquaculture business operators and national fisheries officers; and

vi. developing a regional framework for synchronised conduct of fisheries enforcement.

3.7 EAST AFRICAN KISWAHILI COMMISSION

89. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2022/2023, the East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC):

i. coordinated the development of national implementation plans on the adoption of Kiswahili as an official language of the Community;

ii. successfully convened the inaugural World Kiswahili Language Day in Zanzibar, Tanzania following the declaration of the 41st General Conference of UNESCO in 2021 designating 7th July as World Kiswahili Language Day in recognition of the relevance of Kiswahili as a language of global communication. The event will continue to be

celebrated annually on a rotational basis; and

iii. funded five (5) postgraduate students undertaking research on Kiswahili in Partner States.

90. Mr. Speaker, in the FY 2023/2024, EAKC will focus on:

i. formulation of a Kiswahili language policy to facilitate development and use of Kiswahili in official domains;

ii. celebrating the 2nd World Kiswahili Day and holding the 2nd International Kiswahili Conference; and

iii. translation and interpretation of EAKC instruments into Kiswahili for use in official business.

3.8 EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION

91. Mr. Speaker, in the FY 2022/2023 East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) achieved the following:

i. successfully held the first EAC Regional Youth Innovation Forum and Exhibition, which attracted 500 participants, hosted 40 innovation exhibitors, and awarded USD 5,000 to the best innovator from each Partner State;

ii. published four (4) Issues of the East African Journal of Science, Technology and Innovation;

iii. trained 150 faculty members and postgraduate students from universities in Partner States on entrepreneurship development for creativity and job creation; and

iv. established collaborative linkages with four (4) regional and international organisations through MoUs.

92. Mr. Speaker, in the FY 2023/2024, EASTECO's priorities will include:

i. establishment of Centres of Excellence for Adaptation and Transfer of Manufacturing and Industrial Technologies and identification of Centres of Excellence for the Fourth Industrial Revolution;

ii. development of a regional Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) data management infrastructure;

iii. operationalisation of STI data indicator and web-based database systems;

iv. evaluation and mainstreaming indigenous knowledge and technologies;

v. promotion of access and adoption of technological solutions for energy and environment; and

vi. identification, transfer and diffusion of technology solutions in processing, conservation and distribution of agricultural products.

3.9 EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION

93. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2022/2023, the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC) recorded the following achievements:

    i. trained 150 young researchers under the Young East African Research Scientists (YEARS) in research ecosystem skills;

    ii. published:

        - two (2) regular issues of the East African Health Research Journal. The primary aim of the journal is to present evidence that can be the basis for better health policy and practice in the region; and

        - one (1) issue of the East Africa Science Journal. The journal promotes innovative ideas, application of Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) and ICT in health; and

    iii. The training of young researchers under the Young East African Research Scientists (YEARS) initiative and the publication of both scientific journals will continue in the next financial year.

94. **Mr. Speaker,** during the FY 2023/2024, EAHRC will focus on the following key priorities:

i. resource mobilisation to implement the health programmes of the Digital Regional EAC Health (REACH) initiative;

ii. harmonisation of the ethics review frameworks in the Partner States; and

iii. finalisation of plans for the construction of its headquarters building in Bujumbura, Burundi.

3.10 EAST AFRICAN COMPETITION AUTHORITY

95. **Mr. Speaker,** in the FY 2022/2023, the East African Competition Authority (EACA) achieved the following:

i. commenced enforcement of the EAC Competition Act, 2006. Consequently, pursuant to Section 24 of the Act, any Partner State or person may file a complaint with the Authority against a Partner State or any person for a breach of the provisions of the Act; and

ii. developed guidelines and frameworks which include: the EAC Mergers and Acquisition Assessment Guidelines, 2023; EAC Competition Authority Screening Methodology for Initiating and Conducting Investigations, 2022; and EAC Competition Authority Internal Procedures for Investigations and Complaints, 2022 to facilitate enforcement of the EAC Competition Act, 2006.

96. Mr. Speaker, in the FY 2023/2024, the Authority will focus on the following key priorities:

i. develop regulations and guidelines in respect to consumer welfare;

ii. conduct a market inquiry into prioritised sector as per the Prioritisation Strategy;

iii. implement the Outreach and Advocacy Strategy; and

iv. finalise and implement MOUs with EAC national competition agencies and other regional competition authorities to facilitate cooperation in information exchange, capacity building, investigations and research.

IV. AUDIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2021/2022

97. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that, as result of enhanced internal controls and accountability across the Organs and Institutions, the EAC Audit Commission issued an unqualified (clean) audit opinion to all Organs and Institutions of the Community, as well as projects and programmes implemented, for the financial year ended 30th June, 2022. The statutory audit reports are due for tabling before this Assembly pursuant to Article 134 of the Treaty.

V. EAC BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2023/2024

98. **Mr. Speaker,** the budget estimates for the FY 2023/24 have been prepared in line with the 6th EAC Development Strategy, global and sector-specific priority areas as adopted by the Council of Ministers, and various Decisions and Directives of the Summit.

a) Priority Interventions for the FY 2023/2024 Budget

99. During the FY 2023/2024, the Community will focus on the following global priority areas:

i. Strengthening of regional governance processes, and domestication of regional and international commitments for sustainable peace and stability;

ii. Increasing sensitisation, visibility, knowledge, awareness and participation of the private sector, citizens and other stakeholders in the EAC integration process;

iii. Harmonisation of trade related policies, laws and regulations, and streamlining of customs and trade facilitation systems for increased trade and investment;

iv. Harmonisation of fiscal and monetary policies, and establishment of requisite institutions towards the realisation of the East African Monetary Union;

v. Leveraging modern technologies to enhance productivity, value addition, and to promote regional supply and value chains and digital platforms;

vi. Enhancement of the regional productive capacity and increase in value addition to improve the economic welfare of East Africans;

vii. Strengthening of the social sectors to improve the social welfare of East Africans;

viii. Improvement and expansion of quality multi-modal and multi-sectoral infrastructure to support free cross-border movement, and;

ix. Strengthening of the capacity of all EAC Organs and Institutions to effectively discharge their mandate.

b) Expected Outcomes during Financial Year 2023/2024

100. Mr. Speaker, it is expected that the implementation of the above global priority areas will result into the following outcomes:

i. improved peace and security in the build-up to an EAC Political Confederation;

ii. increased awareness and active participation of the

private sector, citizens and other stakeholders in the EAC integration process;

iii. increased EAC intra-trade and enjoyment of freedoms and rights under the Common Market Protocol;

iv. improved productivity, value addition, promotion of regional supply chains, local content leading to improvement of the socio-economic welfare of East Africans;

v. increased level of e-business opportunities resulting from the migration of production and service delivery to digital platforms;

vi. strengthened Global Health Agenda for the EAC Region;

vii. enhanced implementation of the Road Map for the attainment of the EAC Monetary Union;

viii. improved quality multi-sectoral strategic infrastructure and related services to support and accelerate sustainable regional integration and competitiveness; and

ix. strengthened capacity of all EAC Organs and Institutions to effectively execute their mandates.

c) Budget Proposal and Allocation to Organs and Institutions for FY 2023/2024

101. Mr. Speaker, the Council submits a budget amounting to USD 103,842,880 for the next FY 2023/2024. Out of this amount, USD 59,033,010 (57%) will be contributed equally by Partner States or raised as other internal revenues, while USD 44,809,870 (43%) will be sourced from Development Partners.

102. The Budget is allocated to the Organs and Institutions of the EAC as follows:

i. EAC Secretariat: USD 50,931,553;

ii. East African Court of Justice: USD 4,450,488;

iii. East African Legislative Assembly: USD 17,681,365;

iv. Lake Victoria Basin Commission: USD 8,471,980;

v. The Inter University Council for East Africa: USD 12,394,945;

vi. Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation: USD 2,807,993

vii. East African Science and Technology Commission: USD 2,016,543;

viii. East African Kiswahili Commission: USD 1,502,535;

ix. East African Health Research Commission: USD 2,193,811; and

x. East African Competition Authority (EACA): USD 1,391,667.

d) Budget Assumptions

103. Mr. Speaker, the budget for the FY 2023/2024 has been developed taking into consideration the following key assumptions:

i. political stability, peace, security and good governance in the region;

ii. a conducive macro-economic and business environment in the region;

iii. continued resilience of the Partner States' economies in view of global shocks; and

iv. timely disbursement of financial resources by Partner States and Development Partners in line with the EAC Financial Rules & Regulations and signed financing agreements to facilitate the implementation of the projects and programmes.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

104. Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing and appreciating the continued cooperation and support from both Partner States and the following key Development Partners:

i. The Federal Republic of Germany;

ii. Japan;

iii. The Kingdom of Sweden;

iv. The Peoples' Republic of China;

v. The Swiss Confederation;

vi. United States of America;

vii. African Development Bank;

viii. The African Union;

ix. The Arcadia University;

x. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation;

xi. European Union;

xii. International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis;

xiii. TradeMark Africa;

xiv. China;

xv. United Nations; and

xvi. World Bank Group.

The EAC looks forward to strengthening and expanding cooperation and collaboration with all Development Partners.

VII. CONCLUSION

105. Mr. Speaker, the budget for the Financial Year 2023/2024 presents priority interventions that are geared towards accelerating economic recovery, mitigating the adverse effects of climate change and enhancing the productive sectors for improved livelihoods of all East Africans.

106. Resources have been allocated with this objective in mind and I therefore urge all Heads of EAC Organs and Institutions to ensure that these resources are utilised to achieve the desired objective.

I call upon all East Africans to continue to tap into the opportunities presented with a bigger and expanded East African market.

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

East African Community
Arusha, Tanzania
June 2023

Hon. Amb. Dr. Ezéchiel Nibigira
Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers
Minister, Ministry of East African Community Affairs,
Youth, Sports and Culture
Republic of Burundi

Hon. (Dr) Peter M. Mathuki
Secretary General
East African Community

East African Community
EAC Close
Afrika Mashariki Road
P.O. Box 1096
Arusha, Tanzania
Tel: +255 (0)27 216 2100
Fax: +255 (0)27 216 2190
Email: eac@eachq.org
www.eac.int