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THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

ELEVENTH PARLIAMENT – THIRD SESSION: 2015

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON
REGIONAL INTEGRATION

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE'S VISIT TO THE EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY INSTITUTIONS IN ENTEBBE, KAMPALA AND JINJA, UGANDA
27TH - 31ST JANUARY 2015

CLERK'S CHAMBERS
PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS
NAIROBI

APRIL, 2015

1.0. Introduction

The Select Committee on Regional Integration is established under Standing Order No. 212 and is mandated to:-

1. Enhance the role and involvement of the House in intensification and development of the integration process in the East African Community and the greater African region;
2. Examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the East African Legislative Assembly;
3. Examine the Bills introduced in the East African Legislative Assembly and Acts of the East African Community;
4. Examine the records of all the relevant debates and resolutions of the meetings of the Pan African Parliament, the African, Caribbean and Pacific-European Union Joint Parliamentary Assembly and other regional integration bodies;
5. Inquire into and examine any other matter relating to regional integration generally requiring action by the House

1.1. Committee's Membership

The committee comprises the following Members:-

1. Hon. Florence Kajuju, MP (Chairperson)
2. Hon. Christopher Nakuleu, MP (Vice Chairperson)
3. Hon. David Ouma Ochieng, MP
4. Hon. Dan Kazungu, MP
5. Hon. Bady Twalib Bady, MP
6. Hon. Robert Mbui, MP
7. Hon. Anyanga Andrew Toboso, MP
8. Hon. Florence Mwikali Mutua, MP
9. Hon. Ogendo Rose Nyamunga, MP
10. Hon. Charles Mutisya Nyamai, MP
11. Hon. Alois Lentoimaga, MP
12. Hon. Anthony Kimaru, MP
13. Hon. David Kariithi, MP
14. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, MP
15. Hon. Murungi Kathuri, MP
16. Hon. Ali Wario, MP
17. Hon. Eric Keter, MP
18. Hon. Mary Seneta, MP

19. Hon. Gideon Konchella, MP
20. Hon. Dido Ali Rasso, MP
21. Hon. Ann Nyokabi, MP
22. Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe, MP
23. Hon. Peter Shehe, MP
24. Hon. Alex Mwiru, MP
25. Hon. Mark Lomunokol, MP
26. Hon. Sarah Korere, MP
27. Hon. Cyprian Kubai Iringo, MP
28. Hon. Timothy Bosire, MP
29. Hon. Joseph Kahangara, MP

1.2. Objectives of the Visit

The Select Committee on Regional Integration was established in the Eleventh Parliament in May, 2013. The Committee is tasked with the mandate of enhancing the role and the involvement of the House in intensification and development of the integration process in the East African Community and the greater African region among other duties. Parliament therefore is faced with a major role of legislating for the region as it endeavors to strengthen the economic, social, cultural, political and technological ties for the establishment of a strong EAC, with an East African Customs Union, a Common Market, a monetary union and ultimately a political federation.

The delegation intended to meet with the officials of the EAC institutions hosted in Uganda to understand how they discharge their institutional mandate in the region especially on areas of regional integration.

The delegation was also interested in understanding the measures and plans that the institutions have in place to be good ambassadors of regional integration and to help in integration process.

The Committee visited the following institutions;

a. Civil aviation Security and safety oversight Authority
b. Inter University Council Of East Africa
c. Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization

The Committee also paid a visit to the Kenya High Commission in Uganda.

1.3. The Delegation

The Delegation comprised of the following:

1. Hon. Florence Kajuju, MP - Leader of the Delegation
2. Hon. Cyprian Kubai Iringo, MP
3. Hon. Anyanga Andrew Toboso, MP
4. Hon. Ochieng' David Ouma, MP
5. Hon. Mary Seneta, MP
6. Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MP
7. Mr. Fredrick Otieno - Delegation Secretary

2.0. BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The East African Community (EAC) is a regional intergovernmental organisation of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Republic of Uganda, with its headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

The Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community was signed on 30 November 1999 and entered into force on 7 July 2000 following its ratification by the original three Partner States – Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi acceded to the EAC Treaty on 18 June 2007 and became full Members of the Community as from 1 July 2007.

The EAC region comprises a combined population of more than 140 million, land area of 1.82 million sq. kilometers and a combined Gross Domestic Product of $74.5 billion. The realization of a large regional economic bloc encompassing Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda bears great strategic and geopolitical significance and prospects of a renewed and reinvigorated East African Community.

3.0. COURTESY CALL TO THE HIGH COMMISSIONER IN KAMPALA

The delegation made a courtesy call to the Kenya High Commission in Kampala and held a meeting with the him. In His brief, the High Commissioner highlighted that: Regional Integration implies three things: Integration (adjustment), cooperation (coordination on challenges arising) and interdependence (reciprocity), all within the law and through institutions. Thus, Regional Integration is cooperation, coordination, integration and correlation of activities among member states through the establishment of regional institutions as guided by treaties, laws, norms and policies for enhancing collective benefits. It is also about reciprocation.

He indicated that emphasis should be placed on:

i. A positive dynamic interaction between politics and economics (IPE) with the political process assisting the economic integration process in accordance with the law of cumulative causation
ii. The integration of the physical, institutional and social infrastructure
iii. Integration of the production structures
iv. The integration of the regional markets and investments
v. Resolution of intra and inter-country conflicts and the prevention of acts of political destabilization
vi. Integration of sustainability issues in principles of development

3.1. Rationale for regional integration

The rationale for regional integration is individual and collective economic growth and development as a strategy. States believe, together economically, they will enhance trade and commerce; politically, they will enhance governance; and security – wise, they will enhance collective security.

3.2. The value and significance of Integration

The value and significance of integration lie in goals or purpose (which is cooperation towards common interests), the objectives (which is to maximize individual capacities within the collective capacities) and the benefits (which are economic, political and security).

3.3. Benefits of Regional Integration

The benefits of Regional Integration are as follows;

i. Political - policy and decision making
ii. Economical - trade and commerce
iii. Socio-cultural - common identity
iv. Technological - enhancing technology, development and transfer

3.4. Challenges to Regional Integration

In a nutshell, the challenges to Regional Integration can be seen as:

i. Lack of political will to establish effective and dynamic supra-national institutions and to implement agreed treaties and protocols.
ii. Lack of sanctions against non-performance
iii. Overlapping memberships – many members are unable to manage effectively and fund adequately the many RIAs which they belong to
iv. Heavy reliance on tariffs for fiscal revenue
v. Inadequate mechanisms for equitable sharing of the costs and benefits of integration
vi. Over ambitious goals and unrealistic time frames

vii. Non observance of the rule of law and good governance code (democracy)
viii. Poor private sector, civil society and people-to-people participation

3.5. Proposed solutions to the challenges

The following are some of the proposed solutions to the challenges facing Regional Integration:

1. Economic:
    - Taxation should be harmonized, coordinated and correlated for cooperation. A harmonized banking system that involves monetary and fiscal policies.
    - Finance (budgeting, exchange rates and currency- The solution to this is one single common currency. Common currency should be stronger than national currency and stability of the currency should be maintained.
    - Budgets of the partner states should be read on the same day to enable planning
    - Partner states should borrow jointly by meeting the conditions of joint borrowing and should share the duties and obligations of borrowing for infrastructures.
    - Non-compliance should be punished through diplomacy, sanctions and finally expulsion.
2. Political:
    - Partner states that have divided loyalties in different regional bodies must meet conditions set by the laws.
    - Weak states that cannot control their territories and have porous borders should be subjected to joint monitoring and evaluation (inspection) as this can lead to leaking tariffs.
    - Government lacking legitimacy may have to wait out. The conditionalities for entry must ensure domestic legitimacy.
    - Democracy and good governance should be key
3. Security
    - Joint Operation Exercises – to avert disaster management, terrorism, epidemics ,disarmament e.t.c
    - Cultural and sports activities

4.0. THE CIVIL AVIATION SECURITY & SAFETY OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY (CASSOA)

The CASSOA came into existence following the recommendations from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to pull the regional resources together to create safe and orderly development of international civil aviation.

The major achievements of CASSOA since its establishment have been the harmonization of regulations and development of guidance materials which have been promulgated in the partner states.

CASSOA has also trained inspectors in partner states to supervise aircrafts. Each aircraft in the region has an inspector.

4.1. The Department of Finance

The department is a support function of The CASSOA, responsible for the prudent management of financial resources of the Agency. It is entrusted with recording and reporting all financial transactions of the Agency, responsible for coordination of the budget preparation exercise and coordination of Internal and External audit exercises

It has a Staff composition of two; a Senior Accountant and Accountant.

4.1.1. Sources of funding

The CASSOA receives its funding from the following sources;

- Contributions from the Partner States - 80%
- Funding from Development Partners - 15%
- Other income from the activities of the Agency- 5%
- Any other sources as approved by the Council

4.1.2. Annual funding by source

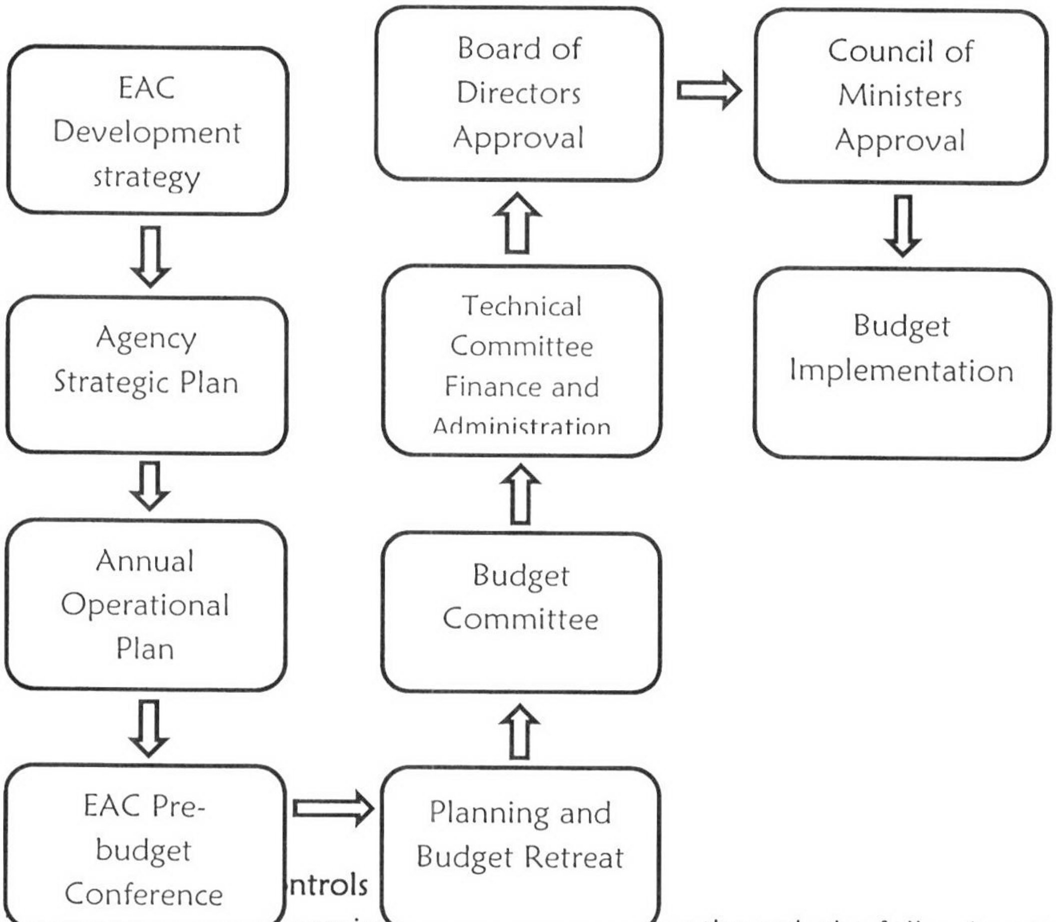
Financial Year	Contributions From the Civil Aviation Authorities	Development Partners	Other Income	Total
2011/2012	1,250,000.00	293,750.00	3,250.00	1,547,000.00
2012/2013	1,250,000.00	-	1,500.00	1,251,500.00
2013/2014	1,379,911.00	161,700.00	1,500.00	1,543,111.00
2014/2015	1,661,654.00	361,780	4,305.00	2,027,739.00

4.1.3. Financial Rules and Regulations

Financial management at the Agency is guided by the Agency Financial Rules and Regulations (2013) which are based on the broader EAC Financial Rules and Regulations and customized to fit the structure of the Agency.

The Agency is also guided by Treaty requirements for Self accounting institutions of the Community (Article 132).

4.1.4. CASSOA Budget cycle



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ensuring oes through the following stages;

- Board and Council approval of budgets
- Pre-expenditure approvals by Accounting Officer
- Quarterly reporting to the Board of Directors through the Technical Committee Finance and Administration
- Quarterly Internal Audit reviews
- Annual external audit

4.1.6. Achievements

The department managed to achieve the following:

- Track record of unqualified audit reports
- Strong internal controls
- Adoption of quarterly reports to the Board of management.

4.2. Information Technology Department

4.2.1 CASSOA IT Infrastructure

CASSOA's IT infrastructure incorporates a blend of Servers, Software, Storage, and Networks which are all supported by an IT officer.

1. **CASSOA IT Systems**
   The Agency uses a number of software solutions for its day to day work.
   These include:
   - Windows Operating systems Platforms
   - ORACLE Database / Finance System
   - Microsoft Enterprise 2007
   - Kaspersky business space security
   - VOB finance and payroll system
   - CASSOA Website
   - Document Management System

4.2.2 Safety Oversight Facilitated Integration Application (SOFIA)

SOFIA is a proven European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) IT application that can assist a Regional Safety Oversight Organisation or a single Civil Aviation Authority in reorganising its process and streamlining its technical tasks to be more efficient and effective.
SOFIA aims to assist the CASSOA and its members in the harmonisation and streamlining of their safety oversight responsibilities. Using SOFIA in a Regional context will support and speed up the harmonisation process, as the need for standardization and harmonisation is self-evident when using the same application.

SOFIA was launched officially by the CASSOA Board during the 24th Board Meeting of 31st October to 1st November, 2013 in Entebbe. It is hosted at CASSOA on a dedicated Server and all Partner States are connected to the server and access SOFIA through web.

The Challenges of using SOFIA:

The use of SOFIA continues to be at a very low level; all Partner States are not using SOFIA as a primary working tool for Personnel Licensing, Aircraft Registration, Airworthiness and AOC Certificate issuance. CASSOA and Partner States need to enhance sensitization and training of all the safety inspectors on the use of SOFIA.

4.2.3 EAC Examination System

The CASSOA in collaboration with the EAC Partner States has initiated efforts to improve the quality of the examination system within the region with a view to improving the competency of licensed aviation personnel within the Region to enhance aviation safety.

The objective of this project is to enhance the examination system for aviation licensed personnel within the EAC by eliminating the examiner-candidate interface while at the same time having a harmonised examination technique to facilitate the free movement of labour within the EAC. The CASSOA has procured a computerized examination system under development funding for this purpose.

The Aviation personnel required to be licensed are pilots, Flight Engineers, Aircraft Maintenance Engineers, Air Traffic Controllers and Flight Operations Officers.

Currently, the EAC Examination system has capability for candidates of Aircraft Maintenance Engineer (6,781) and Flight Crew (9,069) category licenses and all licenses conversion examination. The available questions for flight crew license cover the scope of Airline Transport Pilot License (ATPL), Commercial Pilot License (CPL), Private Pilot License (PPL) and all AMEL modules. The examination system is yet to get populated with questions in the categories of ATC, Flight Operations officers, and Ground instructors.

It is anticipated that the establishment of the Examination taskforce, comprised of experts nominated by Partner States will enhance and improve the capacity to set questions and build the Examinations bank, validate existing ones and expand the scope of categories of the Examinations within the Systems. It is therefore absolutely essential, that the Agency engages an officer/coordinator dedicated to full time Coordination and operation of the Examination System.

Advantages of Common Examination System

i. Harmonization of licenses within the EAC.
ii. Flexibility of examination system due to large pool of questions.
iii. Eliminates manipulation of examination results by interested parties–minimizes/ eliminates cheating by candidates or examiners.

4.3. Flight Safety Standards Department (FSS)

The Department deals with the following sets of Regulations:

i. Aerial Work
ii. Aircraft Registration and Marking
iii. Airworthiness
iv. Approved Maintenance Organization
v. Air Operator Certification and Administration
vi. Aviation Training Organization
vii. Commercial Air Transport Operations In and out of (EAC).
viii. Instruments and Equipment
ix. Operation of Aircraft
x. Parachute Operations
xi. Personnel Licensing
xii. Rules of the Air and Air traffic
xiii. Safety Management
xiv. The Department ensures the Regulations are up-to-date and comply with ICAO SARPs and EAC stakeholders recommendations

The Department carries out research to ensure the Model EAC Civil Aviation Regulations are in tandem with global best practices, for example the AOC Regulation 27(5) regarding 100 hours non-revenue demonstration Flights which was amended to remove the 100 hour requirement after carrying out detailed research.

The Flight Safety Department is comprised of three divisions that deal with specific sets of regulations and technical guidance materials. The divisions are:

- Airworthiness,
- Flight Operations,
- Personnel Licensing.

4.3.1. Technical Guidance Materials (TGMs)

TGMs provide detailed information which is of guidance in nature.

The FSS Department develops & updates the following TGMs:

i. **Policies** - Provides high level information and guidance to CAA Management.
ii. **Orders** - provide information and guidance to the CAA inspectors on the implementation of Regulations.
iii. **Advisory Circulars** - Provides information and guidance to the service providers on the compliance with the Regulations.
iv. **Manuals** - Provide detailed procedures and guidance to inspectors and service providers.

v. **Checklists** - Used by CAA inspectors to document activities carried out.

The TGMs are reviewed after promulgation of Civil Aviation Regulations by the CASSOA Board. This function is achieved through convening of FSS Working Groups comprised of experts from the Region.

4.3.2. Technical Missions

The FSS Department carries out technical missions to the EAC Partner States in order to:

i. Ascertain the level of implementation of the promulgated Civil Aviation Regulations.
ii. Ascertain the extent to which the CAA Inspectors and the Service providers use the developed TGMs.
iii. Assist the Partner States in preparation for ICAO Audits.
iv. Assist the Partner States in developing their post-audit corrective action plans.
v. Assist the Partner States in closing their ICAO audit findings.
vi. Ascertain the extent to which the Partner States use the developed IT tools like the SOFIA, EA AITS, ECCAIRS, and Examination System etc.

4.3.3. Training

The Department coordinates/conducts training to the CAA inspectors on:

i. Overview and implementation of EAC Civil Aviation Regulations and Technical Guidance Materials
ii. Use of various tools like the Inspector Training Program, ECCAIRs, SOFIA
iii. Specialized courses like Resolution of Safety Concerns, Surveillance, Aircraft type courses etc

4.3.4. Achievements

The FSS in conjunction with other Departments successfully coordinated development of the following projects:

i. The establishment of Centre for Aviation Medicine (with HR)
ii. East African Examination System (with IT),
iii. East African Aviation Inspector Training System (with HR).
iv. Regional Safety Program (with ICAO ESAF).
v. SOFIA (with IT).

4.3.5. ECCAIRS

- ECCAIRS is a computer based application developed and recommended by ICAO to be used by Contracting States to record accident/ incident data.
- The Agency has installed the software in all EAC Partner States and facilitated training for the end users.

4.4. Department of Human Resource & Administration

The main function of the department is to provide effective and efficient human resource and administrative management support to the Agency

4.4.1. Main Duties and Responsibilities

i. Coordinate all matters related to Human Resource including recruitment, performance management, development of job description and training.
ii. Manage all administrative matters of the Agency including procurement of goods, services and works.
iii. Ensure effective running of the Agency offices.
iv. Provide departmental input in preparation of the annual Programme of activities and budget for the Agency.

4.4.2. Staff

CASSOA currently employs 11 staff members and two consultants as detailed below:

- One Executive staff
- Six Professional staff
- Four General staff, and
- Two consultants (One medical Assessor responsible for functioning of the Centre for Aviation Medicine and a Flight Operation Coordinator).

Currently there are 6 vacant positions at CASSOA: these are;

- Airworthiness Coordinator,
- Aviation Security (AVSEC) Coordinator,
- Airlines Ground Assistance(AGA) Coordinator,
- Air Navigation Services(ANS) Coordinator, and
- Senior IT Officer
- Internal Auditor(currently using EAC-HQ internal auditor)

4.3 Challenges facing CASSOA

The agency faces the following challenges:

i. **Staff constraints-** CASSOA is affected by inadequate numbers of technical and administrative personnel for effective operation and execution of its mandate. This can be attributed to unattractive terms and conditions of service offered by the East African Community, specifically for Aviation experts in relation to the industry.
ii. **Inadequate funding-**Insufficient finance to fund the activities of the departments of the agency.
iii. The Partner States are not fully utilizing the developed IT tools such as SOFIA, ECCAIRS etc.
iv. **Lack of commitment by partner states-**Developed /amended EAC Regulations take too long to be promulgated by Partner States.

4.4.3. Achievements

Despite the challenges, the department has been able to achieve the following:

i. Development of the Inspector Training System (ITS)
ii. Coordinate the review of Regulations and Technical Guidance materials,
iii. carry out missions to Partner States,
iv. Facilitate training for Regional inspectors,
v. Develop the EAC Examination system and SOFIA implementation; and
vi. Assist Partner States prepare and go through the ICAO audits.

4.4.4. Delegation's Concerns and Observations

The delegation made the following observations and concerns:

1. **Source of funding for the institution**- It was observed that the institution gets its funding from the Partner States' contributions through their respective Civil Aviation Authorities and other Development Partners.
2. **Commitment by partner states**-Whether the partner states were fully committed or which ones were not engaged fully to help in fast tracking the process of integration. It was noted that Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania are contributing equally.
3. **Human resource constraints**- It was observed that the institution has a shortage of human resource especially the technical staff due to lack of enough funding, thus affecting its ability to discharge its functions effectively.
4. **Security at the airports** especially on the measures that the institution has put in place to ensure proper screening is done at the security checks to ensure that any form of insecurity is dealt with.

5.0. INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA (IUCEA)

Background

IUCEA was established in 1970 as Inter-University Committee under the former East African Community (1967 – 1977) to foster and facilitate collaboration among the newly established separate universities after the dissolution of the University of East Africa iit comprised of:

- Makerere University (Uganda)
- University of Dar es Salaam (Tanzania)
- University of Nairobi (Kenya)

Inter-University Committee survived the collapse of the former East African Community (1967 – 1977)

In 1980 Inter-University Committee was transformed into Inter-University Council for East Africa of today, as an inter-governmental organization of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda facilitating contacts between universities in these countries

In 1999 when the East African Community was re-established, the Inter-University Council for East Africa was recognized as a surviving institution of the former East African Community, hence was taken up once again as an institution of the Community.

5.1. IUCEA Legal Framework

In 2002 IUCEA was re-established under a Protocol ratified by Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The Protocol is part of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community of 1999, which came into force in July 2000.

In 2009 the IUCEA Act was enacted by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). IUCEA operates under this Act.

5.2. IUCEA Financing

IUCEA is financed through:

i. Equal contributions by the East African Community Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Uganda)
ii. Subscriptions by:
    - Higher Education Institutions that are members of IUCEA

- National Commissions/Councils for Higher Education
- National Commissions/Councils for Science and Technology
- East African Business Council

iii. Specific projects funded by development partners (local as well as foreign organizations, including funding obtained through programmes at the EAC Secretariat)

5.3. Role of Inter-University Council for East Africa

i. It is an institution of the East African Community responsible for coordinating the development of higher education and research
ii. Advises the East African Community Partner States on higher education matters in the Community
iii. Facilitates networking among higher education institutions in the Community, and with external institutions
iv. Facilitates maintenance of quality standards and harmonization of higher education systems for promoting regional integration
v. Provides support for the development of higher education systems and research
vi. Coordinates inter-university student exchange between EAC Partner States
vii. Coordinates academic staff exchange between EAC Partner States as short-term lecturers, external examiners and research collaborators

5.4. Inter-University Council for East Africa Governance and Operation Framework

The Protocol is part of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. Operations are guided by the Inter-University Council for East Africa Act enacted by the East African Legislative Assembly in 2009.

Governance is through the Executive Committee, which is a Governing Board on operational issues. On policy issues, it reports to the EAC Sectoral Council responsible for Education and the EAC Council of Ministers.

It operationally works with national commissions/councils for higher education and higher education institutions in the Partner States

5.4.1. Important Higher Education Harmonization Interventions

1. Development of a regional quality assurance system upon which regional higher education agencies and institutions operate, which is based on regional policy framework referred to as Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher

Education in East Africa, providing a common frame of reference to assist and guide national higher education commissions and councils and higher education institutions in the Community to operationalize the regional quality assurance system in a harmonized approach

2. Development of harmonised quality assurance standards, guidelines and procedures contained in the Handbook for Quality Assurance developed in four volumes. The Handbook is in use in most universities and all commissions/councils for higher education in the EAC Partner States.
3. Development of Regional Programme Benchmarks based on learning outcomes, skills and competence development, and clearly defined regional credit system. However, this is still work in progress

5.5. East African Qualifications Framework for Higher Education

This is a convergence platform for harmonisation of higher education and training systems thus providing for mutual recognition of qualifications among the EAC Partner States, thereby enabling free movement of students and labour in the Partner States, institutions and education levels.

The framework also provides for international comparability of qualifications in EAC, and facilitates lifelong learning.

It is a platform for anchoring national qualifications frameworks in the EAC partner State as an instrument for their harmonization.

5.6. Regional Quality Assurance Policy

The policy framework has already been developed under the title "Principles and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in East Africa".

It is a common frame of reference for guiding higher education institutions and national commissions/councils for higher education in operationalizing the regional quality assurance system, and in developing and practicing a common quality assurance culture in line with the regional aspirations for harmonization of higher education systems, and international developments in quality assurance.

5.6.1. Capacity Building in Quality Assurance

This was one of the first initiatives to be undertaken as part of the process to develop a regional quality assurance system for East Africa, in order to ensure that higher education institutions and national commissions/councils for higher education have the human capacity to operationalize the system in their institutions

Achievements in the capacity building process include:

- successful training of 72 institutional Quality Assurance Coordinators/Officers in three cohorts (2007 – 2014), training for each cohort lasting 18 – 20 months in about 5 sessions of one week each, as well as carrying out pilot self-evaluation and peer reviews
- Periodically organizing advocacy events as well as information and networking visits for top leadership (ES, VCs, DVCs, Registrars) to European institutions under DAAD/HRK support
- 64 programs subjected to both internal and external review using the quality assurance handbook guidelines and standards
- 78 East African peer reviewers trained and participated in the peer review process

5.7. Instruments to be developed for Operationalization of the EAQFHE

- Regional Higher Education Policy and Strategy
- Guidelines on Determination/Calculation of Credits
- Regional Qualifications Register and Policy
- Qualifications Issuance Policy
- Policy on Addition and Removal of a Qualification to/from the Register
- Guidelines for Alignment of EAQFHE with Qualifications Framework(s) elsewhere

5.8. Impact of the Process of Harmonization of Higher Education

i. Mutual recognition of academic/professional qualifications thus simplifying mobility of labour and students
ii. Contributed towards transforming EAC into a Common Higher Education Area
iii. Regional quality assurance framework has contributed to quality improvement of the graduates for the regional labour market
iv. Regional quality assurance framework has promoted transparency in the academic world in the Community.

5.9. Academia-Public-Private Partnership Forum and Exhibitions

Aim

To provide a point of connection between knowledge and human resources produced by the academia on one hand and on the other, the dissemination and use of knowledge by the private sector, for eventual diffusion into the productive, social and service sectors. The current PPP is between the following institutions which fall under the auspices of the EAC:

- Inter-University Council for East Africa
- East African Business Council
- East African Development Bank

5.10. Lake Victoria Research Initiative (VicRes)

A regional collaborative multidisciplinary research programme for East Africa established in 2002 with support from Sida. VicRes awards research grants on a competitive basis and is open to researchers in universities, research institutions and government agencies in the EAC Partner States, addressing the following themes:

1. Wetlands
2. Land Use
3. Ethnobotany and Health
4. Fisheries and Aquaculture
5. Indigenous and Local Knowledge
6. Land Use Options
7. Natural Resources Management
8. Pollution and Heavy metals

5.11. Ultimate Goal: Common Higher Education Area

The East African Community decided that by 2015 East Africa has to be transformed into a Common Higher Education Area. Higher Education will be characterized by comparable, compatible, coherent and harmonized systems of higher education thereby facilitating free mobility of student, staff, programmes and institutions, and mutual recognition of qualifications.

5.12. Conclusion

The success in harmonization of higher education in East Africa is due to:

- Involvement of key stakeholders through consultative and participatory processes
- Conducive political support by all the five EAC Partner States and the EAC Secretariat
- Ownership and sustainability of the process by IUCEA, National Commissions/Councils for Higher Education, and Higher Education Institutions

- Regional and International support from various organizations, particularly DAAD, HRK, Sida, UNESCO, East African Business Council, Private sector organizations, etc.

5.13. Delegation's Concerns and Observations

1. The quality of education that is offered within the EAC and the need to harmonize qualifications within the region-There has been a decline in the quality of education hence the interest in knowing what plans the institution had put in place to ensure all the higher institutions of learning are running under the EAC requirements.
2. It was observed that most of the institutions of higher learning in EAC are only producing white collar jobs graduates and job seekers instead of producing wealth creators. there is need for institutions of higher learning to ensure that learning is such that students are equipped with technical and entrepreneurial skills that will enable them be self-employed instead of being over reliant on employment especially given the high levels of youth unemployment in the EAC region.
3. A concern was raised over the mutual recognition of qualifications from different institutions of higher learning within EAC region. Some qualifications from institutions in some Partner States were not recognized by other Partner States; for example Kenya students who were denied admission into Kenya School of Law, because the law qualification they earned from an institution in Uganda was not recognized.
4. It was further observed that the IUCEA lacks publicity and its visibility is still low. It was a surprise to the delegation that even most of the people in Kampala, Uganda where the institution is located do not know about it.

6.0. LAKE VICTORIA FISHERIES ORGANIZATION (LVFO) SECRETARIAT

The delegation visited the Institution in Jinja and had discussions with the Secretariat on different issues.

6.1. Lake Victoria – The Importance of the fisheries to the Region

The Lake Victoria Basin is shared by the 5 EAC Partner States- Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi. The Lake is shared by Kenya (6%); Tanzania (51%) and Uganda 43%) and covers a total area of 68,800 KM^2

It is the largest fishery in the continent - 1 million tons annually- and very important to the economies of the East African Community (EAC) Partner States. It supports more than 200,000 fishermen and about 4 million people in the Lake Basin who indirectly depend on the fisheries for their daily livelihoods. The value of the fishery at beach level in 2011 was estimated at US $ 550 million with Nile perch contributing US $ 372 million (68%). It yields economic returns of approximately US$ 3-4 billion annually.

There are 3 commercially important species in the current fishery;

i. Nile perch (Lates niloticus)
ii. Tilapia (Oreochromis niloticus)
iii. Dagaa (Rastrineobola argentea)

6.2. LVFO Convention

The Convention for the Establishment of LVFO was signed on 30th June 1994 in Kisumu, Kenya by the "Contracting Parties" who consist of the three partner states of the East African Community namely: Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. It entered into force on 24th May 1996. Upon entering into force of the treaty establishing the EAC, the LVFO became a specialized institution of the Community. However, the EAC now also comprises of the Republic of Burundi and Rwanda which need to be incorporated into the LVFO operations.

Formation:
The Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations shall be the Depositary of this Convention.

The Depositary shall:

- Send certified true copies of this Convention to the Contracting Parties and to any other government which so requests;
- Arrange for the registration of this Convention, upon its entry into force, with the Secretariat of the United Nations in accordance with Article 102 of the Charter of the United Nations.

6.3. Objectives

The objective of the LVFO is to Foster cooperation among the Partner States by harmonizing national measures, developing and adopting conservation and management measures for the sustainable utilization of living resources of Lake Victoria for maximum Socio-economic Benefits.

6.4. Mandate

The Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization (LVFO) is a regional organization under the East African Community.

It is responsible for coordinating and managing fisheries resources of Lake Victoria.

The organization was formed through a Convention signed in 1994 by the three East African Community (EAC) Partner States of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania sharing Lake Victoria.

6.5. The Institutional Structure of LVFO

The main organs of the LVFO are the

i. Council of Ministers,
ii. Policy Steering Committee,
iii. Executive Committee,
iv. Fisheries Management Committee, Scientific Committee,
v. Working Groups,
vi. Beach Management Units and the
vii. Secretariat.

6.6. The Functions of the LVFO

- Promote the proper management and optimum utilization of fisheries and other resources of the lake;
- Enhance the capacity of existing fisheries institutions;
- Provide a forum for discussion of the impacts of initiatives on the lake;
- Provide for the conduct of research on the living resources of the lake and its environment;
- Coordinate and undertake training and extension in all aspects of fisheries;
- Consider and advise on the impact of introduction of non-indigenous organisms into the Lake Victoria;
- Serve as a clearinghouse and a data bank for information on the fisheries of the lake; and
- Promote the dissemination of information.

6.7. Recent Accomplishments

- Catch Assessment Survey
- Stock Assessment
- Hydro acoustic survey
- Frame survey
- Regional working groups meetings on Fisheries policy harmonization, and Development of Fisheries Management plans

6.8. Challenges

- Excessive fishing pressure in the Lake
- Insufficient operational funds from partner states
- Need to review the operational area in line with the East African Community and hence revision of the convention
- Need for widening the scope of activities and the mandate

6.9. Towards integration

- Amendment of the LVFO convention
- Alignment to the Regional Economic community
- Roadmap for the full Integration of the Republic of Rwanda and Burundi
- Embracing Aquaculture as supported by EDF 11 through the East African community
- Shifting the findings from the institutions of Fisheries to the Ministry of East African community affairs.

6.2. Delegation Concerns and Observations

The following issues were flagged by the delegation:

1. Whether the LVFO was mandated to help in the maintenance of the environment of the lake especially removal of water hyacinth which has been a problem in the lake.
2. What strategies and plans the organization has put in place to ensure value addition to the products from the lake. It was noted that most of the products from Lake Victoria especially Kenya were processed outside the country and then the end products sold back to the Country.
3. The efforts that the Organization has put to encourage investors of fish and fish products to the area and even open up industries.
4. The plans and how the Organization intends to work with the Kenyan Counties that lie along the lake and the measures the organization has apart from fisheries to improve integration.

7.0. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND FINDINGS

7.1. Observations

Having held fruitful interactions with various institutions, the delegation observed the following:

1. The institutions are funded by the respective ministries of EAC Partner States and the highest percentage of funding comes from donors. It was further noted that the funds are not enough to enable the institutions effectively discharge their mandates.
2. The institutions were faced with the problems of human resource. Most of the institutions were under staffed due to lack of capacity to retain qualified personnel in terms of funds.
3. Publicity and Visibility: the delegation observed that the institutions were not known to the public to an extent that even the citizens of the countries where the institutions are hosted are not aware of their existence. Some are located in places where they cannot be easily accessed. This was an indication of lack of enough sensitization of the public.
4. Over reliance on tariffs for fiscal revenue, this is a great challenge to regional integration. Communication from one partner state to another has proven to be expensive due to different tariffs.
5. The challenges in the borders due to inaccessible roads especially on the Kenya side. The Kenyan roads are not accessible rendering it impossible for the security officers to patrol along the border to deal with insecurity cases as compared to the Ugandan side which have accessible roads at the border.

8.0 Recommendations

The delegation made the following recommendations:

1. The government should prioritize and strengthen EAC and other organs of EAC through funding in order to help in speeding up the integration process.
2. The partner states should thoroughly do sensitization to create awareness to the public of the existence of the institutions. The leadership of the institutions should as well market the institutions through advertisements on media and also ensure their offices are visible to the public.
3. The partner states should come up with a common tariff to solve the problems of movement, trade and communication.
4. The Kenya Government should open up inaccessible roads at the borders to enable easy movement along the border and to ensure adequate security.

MINUTES OF THE 5TH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION HELD ON TUESDAY 3RD MARCH, 2015 IN CONTINENTAL HOUSE, 2ND FLOOR, COMMITTEE ROOM, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS AT 12.00 PM

Present:

1. Hon. Florence Kajuju, MP - Chairperson
2. Hon. Christopher Nakuleu, MP - Vice-Chairperson
3. Hon. David Ouma Ochieng', MP
4. Hon. Mary Seneta, MP
5. Hon. Peter Shehe, MP
6. Hon. David Karithi, MP
7. Hon. Robert Mbui, MP
8. Hon. Andrew Toboso, MP
9. Hon. Eric Keter, MP
10. Hon. Ogendo Rose Nyamunga, MP
11. Hon. Gideon Konchella, MP
12. Hon. Timothy Bosire, MP
13. Hon. Mark Lomunokol, MP

Absent With Apology

1. Hon. Dan Kazungu, MP
2. Hon. Bady Twalib Bady, MP
3. Hon. Sarah Korere, MP
4. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, MP
5. Hon. Kathuri Murungi, MP
6. Hon. Dido Ali Rasso, MP
7. Hon. Emmanuel Wangwe, MP
8. Hon. Alois Lentoimaga, MP
9. Hon. Ali Wario, MP
10. Hon. Joseph Kahangara, MP
11. Hon. Florence Mutua, MP
12. Hon. Anthony Kimaru, MP
13. Hon. Annah Nyokabi, MP
14. Hon. Alex Mwiru, MP
15. Hon. Cyprian Kubai Iringo, MP

Absent

Hon. Charles Nyamai, MP

In Attendance

1. Ms. Fredrick Otieno - Clerk Assistant

2. Ms. Lynette Otieno - Legal Counsel

MIN.NO. CRI/015/2015 PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12.15 p.m and prayed. She then welcomed all Members to the meeting.

MIN.NO. CRI/016/2015 ADOPTION OF THE REPORT ON THE VISIT TO EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS, UGANDA

The Committee having considered the report on the visit to the East African Community Organs and Institutions in Uganda, made the following recommendations-

1. The EAC, organs, institutions and Partner States must get a well-structured funding line.
2. The Partner States should do thorough sensitization to create awareness to the public f the existence of the EAC institutions. The EAC Institutions should sensitize the public on existence of the institutions, their functions and services by ensuring visibility of their programmes.
3. Partner states should ensure proper implementation of the Common Market Protocol especially in movement of students and parity in payment of fees.
4. The Kenyan Government should open up roads at the borders to enable easy movement and to ensure adequate security.
5. Partner States should hasten the implementation of one area network and harmonization of calling rates.
6. Partner states should encourage relevant national institutions to encourage uptake of modern methods of fish farming, value addition and consumption.

The Committee thereafter adopted the report unanimously as proposed by Hon. David Ourr Ochieng, MP and seconded by Hon. Mary Seneta, MP.

MIN.NO. CRI/017/2015 CONSIDERATION OF THE EAC PEACE AND SECURITY PROTOCOL AND MUTUAL PACT ON PEACE AND SECURITY

The Chairperson informed the Committee Ministries of Interior and Coordination, Foreign affairs and International Trade, East African Affairs, Tourism and Trade and the National Treasury will be appearing to brief the Committee on the provisions of the security pact and the protocol. She then asked the members to go through the information brief that had been prepared by the Research Officer attached to the Committee in readiness for the Cabinet Secretaries.

MIN.NO. CRI/018/2015 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. The Chairperson informed the Members of the intention by the East Africa Legislative Assembly, Kenya Chapter to invite the Committee for a retreat between 6th to 11th April, 2015 and 15th to 17th June, 2015 and asked Members to settle on a preferred date. The former was agreed in principle pending receipt of the invitation letter and venue.

MIN.NO. CRI/019/2015 ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 1.20 p.m.

Signed..

Chairperson

Date.........19th Nov.. 2015...