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THIRTEENTH PARLIAMENT- FOURTH SESSION - 2025

THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

REPORT ON THE INSPECTION VISIT TO THE EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE
AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION AND THE EAST AFRICAN HEALTH
RESEARCH COMMISSION

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|  THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY PAPERS LAID | | NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RECEIVED 04 NOV 2025 SPEAKER'S OFFICE P.O. BOX 518 00, NAIROBI. |
| DATE: | 05 NOV 2025 | |
| TABLED BY: | CHAIRPERSON COMMITTEE | |
| CLERK-AT THE-TABLE: | ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION WILLIS OBIEDO | |

*The Directorate of Audit, Appropriations and
General Purpose Committees*

The National Assembly

Parliament Buildings

NAIROBI

NOVEMBER, 2025

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CHAIRPERSON'S FOREWORD

In furtherance of the oversight mandate of the Committee on Regional Integration and in line with the overarching desire to strengthen regional integration, the Committee resolved to conduct an inspection and familiarization visit of the following semi-autonomous institutions/organs of the East African Community -

- 1) East African Science and Technology Commission, Kigali, Republic of Rwanda;
- 2) East African Health Research Commission, Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi.

The general objective of the visit was to familiarize Members with the work of the EAC institutions/organs and specifically assess the status of implementation of various projects and programmes with a view to evaluating progress and identifying intervention measures aimed at promoting the East African Community integration agenda.

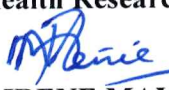
In line with the Committee's mandate to examine regional integration mechanisms and promote Kenya's strategic engagement within the East African Community. The report comprises the presentations, observations, and recommendations from the inspection visit to the two institutions between the 27th July and 3rd August 2025.

Additionally, the visit was also meant to find out the progress made by the two institutions in discharging its mandate under the EAC Treaty and the challenges thereof for purposes of reporting to the House.

Further, the Committee recommends that the National Treasury and Economic Planning enhance budgetary support to advance the efficiency of the two EAC organs/institutions. The Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development should also align Kenya's policies on Science, Technology, Innovation (STIs), and Health with the regional frameworks to improve service delivery and research capacity.

I sincerely thank the Speaker and the Office of the Clerk of the National Assembly for the invaluable support accorded to the Committee in the discharge of its mandate.

On behalf of the Members of the Committee on Regional Integration and Pursuant to Standing Order 212, it is my pleasure and duty to present to the House the Committee's **Report on the inspection visit to the East African Science and Technology Commission and the East African Health Research Commission.**



HON. (CS) IRENE MAYAKA, MP

CHAIRPERSON, COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

1.2. Committee Membership

3. The Committee comprises of the following twenty-one Members -

Chairperson

Hon. (CS) Irene Mayaka, MP

Nominated

Orange Democratic Party

Vice- Chairperson

Hon. Farah Salah Yakub, MP

FAFI Constituency

United Democratic Alliance

Members

Hon. David Ochieng Ouma, MP

Ugenya Constituency

Movement for Democracy and Growth

Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, MP

Marsabit (CWR)

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP

Kipipiri Constituency

United Democratic Alliance

Hon (Dr) Makali Mulu, MP

Kitui Central

Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP

Matayos Constituency

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Joseph Gachoki Gitari, MP

Kirinyaga Central Constituency

United Democratic Party

Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP

Khwisero Constituency

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP

Wundanyi Constituency

Wiper Democratic Movement

Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP

Karachuonyo Constituency

Orange Democratic Party

Hon. Rael Chepkemai Kasiwai, MP

West Pokot (CWR)

Kenya Union Party

Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP

Meru (CWR)

United Democratic Alliance

Hon. Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP

Kesses Constituency

United Democratic Party

2. INSPECTION VISIT TO THE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTIONS OF THE EAST AFRICAN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION IN RWANDA, AND THE EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION IN BURUNDI

2.1. Background

5. The Committee on Regional Integration is established under the National Assembly Standing Order 212. It is mandated, among other things, to enhance the role and involvement of the House in intensifying and developing the integration process in the East African Community and the greater African region, as well as to examine any other matters relating to regional integration that generally require action by the House.
6. The Committee, in its meetings held on Friday, 6th, June 2025 resolved to undertake an inspection visit to the East African Science and Technology Commission, Kigali, Republic of Rwanda and the East African Health Research Commission in Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi, between 27th July and 3rd August 2025.
7. A delegation comprising four Members visited the two institutions and the Kenya High Commission in Kigali, Rwanda and the Kenya Embassy in Bujumbura, Burundi as per the schedule of the visit.

2.2. Composition of the delegation

8. The following Members constituted the delegation -
 - 1) Hon. Naomi Jillo Waqo, CBS, MP - Leader of Delegation
 - 2) Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP;
 - 3) Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP;
 - 4) Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP;
 - 5) Mr. Jimale Mohamed (Clerk Assistant I) – Delegation Secretary.

2.3. Objectives of the Inspection Visits

9. The objective of the inspection visit was to find out the progress made by semi-autonomous institutions/organs of the East African Community charged with the responsibility of ensuring the following -
 - i Formulation of regional Science Technology and Innovation (STI) policies & frameworks; Promotion of regional research centres of excellence in all Partner States, mobilization of resources for STI development in the community; and Fostering scientific & technological innovation in the Partner States.
 - ii To establish an institutional governance, management, and operational framework.
 - iii To promote the One-Health approach and integrated research involving animal health, human health and the environment.

science, technology, and innovation (STI) across Partner States. Its legal foundation is anchored in Chapter 16, Article 103(a) of the EAC Treaty and Articles 42–44 of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

- ii EASTECO is a specialized institution of the East African Community (EAC). Its mandate is to coordinate and promote the development and application of science, technology, and innovation across the region.
- iii EASTECO fosters regional collaboration to address challenges in sectors like health, agriculture, and infrastructure.
- iv The Commission supports research, innovation, and capacity building in science and technology, aiming to enhance sustainable development and contribute to the region's economic growth. It also encourages the adoption of modern technologies for improved livelihoods in East Africa.
- v The East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTECO) is the EAC agency mandated to promote and coordinate the development, management and application of science, technology and innovation (STI) activities in the region.
- vi The relevance of EASTECO's role in coordinating STI activities in the region is seen mainly in the EAC's focus on the improvement of its global competitiveness for faster and sustainable economic growth with the intention of becoming an industrialized region, with STI as a key driver of socio-economic development and progressive growth.



Committee on Regional Integration: Delegation visited EASTECO in Kigali, Rwanda on 29th July, 2025.

3.3. EASTECO's achievements

15. The delegation noted the following key EASTECO's achievements.:

- 1) Development of regional policies on STI, Intellectual Property, Bioeconomy, STEM, and Indigenous Knowledge Systems.
- 2) Establishment of the East African Journal on Science, Technology and Innovation (EAJSTI).
- 3) Launch of regional research grant initiatives and capacity-building programmes.
- 4) Organization of regional STI conferences and ministerial dialogues.
- 5) Support for entrepreneurship, industrial technology transfer, and ICT incubation centres.

- (d) The inspection visit of the East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), which aimed to review the Commission’s operations, assess its contribution to health research within the EAC, and identify opportunities for policy alignment among Partner States.
- (e) The importance of harmonizing health systems across the EAC to address common challenges and improve public health outcomes in the region.
- (f) The role of parliamentary oversight in advancing regional integration objectives reaffirmed the Mission’s commitment to supporting Kenya’s participation and leadership within the EAC framework.
- (g) The challenges faced by the Mission highlighted the possible solutions.



Committee on Regional Integration: Delegation visited Kenya Mission in Bujumbura on 31st July, 2025

3.6. East African Health Research Commission

- 26. The delegation engaged with the EAHRC officials and reviewed the Commission’s strategic priorities (2018–2025), which include: Initiation of regional research and capacity development programmes, improvement of health research ecosystems, scaling up knowledge management platforms and promotion of the One Health approach integrating human, animal, and environmental health.
- 27. EAHRC’s headquarters in Bujumbura, Burundi, was officially launched in March 2019 and is now equipped with modern facilities to support regional research coordination.



Committee on Regional Integration: Delegation visited EAHRC in Bujumbura, Burundi

- (h) There is a need to review the current EAC treaty and initiate mechanisms of mobilising funds at the regional level to inspire regional ownership of EAC projects and programmes.

5. COMMITTEERECOMMENDATIONS

Having undertaken the inspection visit to the East African Science and Technology Commission, Kigali, Republic of Rwanda and the East African Health Research Commission, Bujumbura, Republic of Burundi, the Committee made the following recommendations -

- i. To address the challenges associated with delayed financing, the Council of Ministers is encouraged to creatively explore alternative financing mechanisms, such as establishing a levy on imports to the EAC region or exports from the region. The founding partner states could also consider paying contributions due for South Sudan and Burundi on a Big Brother basis. Additionally, they should review the EAC treaty to allow partner states' contributions to be based on the ability to pay and to retain veto power by the highest paying partner states.
- ii. The Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development, in collaboration with the National Treasury and Economic Planning, is directed to ensure that EAC institutions/organs, particularly EASTECO and EAHRC, are funded to advance the EAC's integration agenda.
- iii. The Council of Ministers is further urged to complete the ongoing staff recruitment process and to allow appropriate staffing in all EAC institutions and organs.
- iv. The Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs and Regional Development to recommend to the EAC Council of Ministers that there is a need to monitor the progress of EAC institutions/organs and foster accountability.
- v. The Ministry of East African Community, the ASALs, and Regional Development should align Science, Technology, Innovation, and health policies with the EAC Treaty. They should also support the scaling up of regional innovation budgetary and joint research initiatives to establish the EAC Research and Technological Development Fund.
- vi. EASTECO recommends that all Partner States should leverage regional Centres of Excellence and digital platforms to improve service delivery and research capacity.

Signed:  Date: ...4/11/25.....

HON. (CS) IRENE MAYAKA, MP – CHAIRPERSON

MINUTES OF THE 26TH SITTING OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION HELD ON TUESDAY, 4TH NOVEMBER 2025, IN COMMITTEE ROOM 25, 3RD FLOOR BUNGE TOWER, AT 12.00 NOON.

PRESENT

1. Hon. CS Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP - Chairperson
2. Hon. Farah Salah, MP - Vice Chairperson
3. Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP
4. Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP
5. Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP
6. Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP
7. Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP
8. Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP
9. Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP
10. Hon. Richard Kipkemoi Yegon, MP
11. Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP

APOLOGIES

1. Hon. David Ochieng', CBS, MP
2. Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP
3. Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP
4. Hon. Didmus Barasa Mutua, MP
5. Hon. Rael Chepkemai Kasiwai, MP
6. Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP
7. Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP
8. Hon. CPA Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP
9. Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP
10. Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP

IN ATTENDANCE

Committee Secretariat

1. Mr. Jimale Mohamed - Clerk Assistant I
2. Ms. Jane G. Ouko - Clerk Assistant II
3. Mr. Danton Kimtai - Hansard officer
4. Ms. Mercy Mayende - Media Relations Officer III
5. Mr. Joahn Nduashi - Sergeant-at-arms

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/167 PRELIMINARIES

The Chairperson called the meeting to order at 12:26 p.m. by welcoming the Members present, after which she prayed.

MIN. NA/ DAA&GPC/ RIC/2025/168 ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously adopted on the proposal of Hon. Farah Salah, MP, and seconded by Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP.

The committee considered the Report the approval of the Ratification of the Amendment to Article 24(2)(a) of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Customs Union and made the following **observations and recommendations, THAT: -**

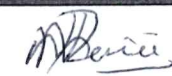
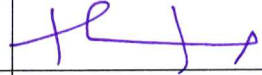

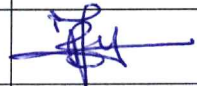

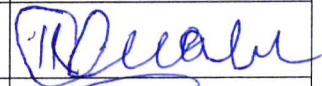


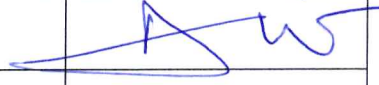
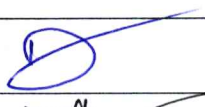
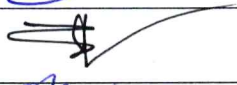

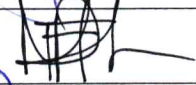
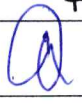

- 1) Article 24(2)(a) of the Customs Union Protocol capped the Membership of the Trade Remedies Committee to nine (9), which excluded any future member of the EAC from nominating members to the Trade Remedies Committee.
- 2) The amendment was done in line with the provisions of Article 150 (6) of the Treaty for the establishment of EAC, which provides that "Any amendment of the Treaty shall be adopted by the Summit and shall enter into force when ratified by all the Partner States". It is also consistent with the expansion of the Community through the admission of new Partner States.
- 3) The amendment is necessary as it expands the membership of the Trade Remedies Committee following the admission of new Partner States and further accommodates more representation in case more countries join the EAC.
- 4) The 30th Meeting of the Council held on 28th November 2014 directed Partner States to deposit with the EAC Secretary General instruments of Ratification of the amendment of Article 24(2)(a) by 15th August, 2015. The amendment shall come into force once ratified by all partner States. So far, Partner States are yet to ratify the amendment.
- 5) The ratification of the amendment will allow for the operationalization of the Trade Remedies Committee that shall provide the EAC Partner States with a platform to handle matters pertaining to Rules of Origin, anti-dumping measures, subsidies and countervailing measures, and safeguard measures within the EAC Customs Union.
- 6) The Council of EAC Ministers should urge Partner States to fast-track the approval of the Ratification of the Amendment to the Protocol.
- 7) In the meantime, the Committee notes that with the proliferation of complaints by the Kenyan traders on increased dumping of some goods such as maize and eggs from some EAC countries, Kenya has established The Kenya Trade Remedies Agency (KETRA under Section 3(1) of the Kenya Trade Remedies Act, 2017 which provides a mechanism for Kenyan traders to lodge complaints on trade remedies matters. There is therefore a need for the government to strengthen this Agency.
- 8) The Committee further notes -
 - a) that while the current amendment under consideration does not include this provision as proposed by the African Women's Studies Centre (AWSC), the proposal is consistent with Kenya's national commitments to gender equity and the principles of inclusivity under Articles 27 and 100 of the Constitution of Kenya (2010).
 - b) The Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs, and Regional Development, in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign and Diaspora Affairs, formally submits this proposal to the EAC Council of Ministers as Kenya's official position for consideration as a future amendment to the EAC Treaty under Article 150 of the Treaty;
 - c) The Ministry East African Community (EAC), ASALs, and Regional Development, shall report to Parliament within six (6) months on progress made regarding this proposal at the regional level;

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

ADOPTION LIST

Adoption of the Report on the Inspection Visit to The East African Science and Technology Commission in Rwanda, and the East African Health Research Commission in Burundi

We, the undersigned, hereby affix our signatures to this Report to affirm our approval:

| No. | HON. MEMBER | SIGNATURE |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | Hon. CS Mayaka Irene Nyakerario, MP- Chairperson |  |
| 2. | Hon. Farah Salah, MP – Vice Chairperson |  |
| 3. | Hon. David Ochieng', CBS, MP | |
| 4. | Hon. Naomi Waqo, CBS, MP |  |
| 5. | Hon. (Dr.) Makali Mulu, CBS, MP |  |
| 6. | Hon. Wanjiku Muhia, CBS, MP |  |
| 7. | Hon. Geoffrey Makokha Odanga, MP | |
| 8. | Hon. Joseph Gitari, MP |  |
| 9. | Hon. Danson Mwashako, MP |  |
| 10. | Hon. Andrew Adipo Okuome, MP |  |
| 11. | Hon. Christopher Aseka Wangaya, MP |  |
| 12. | Hon. Didmus Barasa Mutua, MP | |
| 13. | Hon. Rael Chepkemai Kasiwai, MP |  |
| 14. | Hon. Elizabeth Karambu Kailemia, MP |  |
| 15. | Hon. Beatrice Chepng'eno Kemei, MP |  |
| 16. | Hon. Fatuma Hamisi Masito, MP |  |
| 17. | Hon. Irene Njoki Mrembo, MP |  |
| 18. | Hon. CPA Julius Kipletting Rutto, MP | |
| 19. | Hon. Richard Kipkemai Yegon, MP |  |
| 20. | Hon. Japheth Nyakundi Mokaya, MP | |
| 21. | Hon. Zaheer Jhanda, MP | |