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**REPORT OF EALA CHAPTERS ON THE SENSITISATION ACTIVITIES IN EAC
PARTNER STATES, JUNE 9TH TO 28TH 2016**

THEME: EAC INTEGRATION AGENDA: ACCESSING THE GAINS

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

AUGUST 2016

1.0 BACKGROUND

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

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

1.1 EALA's Achievements

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

Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and Economic Community for West African States – Parliamentary Forum (ECOWAS-PF);

- (viii) The Assembly has also been successful in the area of liaison with National Assemblies of Partner States through various forums such as Speakers Bureau, Inter Parliamentary games, Nanyuki Series and National Assembly Committees on EAC Affairs among others.

1.2 Achievements in the integration process 1999-2016

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

1.2.1 Economic Benefits

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

1.2.2 Social/Cultural Achievements

- (i) Adoption of the EAC Anthem "Wimbo wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki" in 2010 and its popularization in the Community;
- (ii) Operationalization of the East African passport and abolition of the visa requirements for the citizen of the East African Community Implementation of seven-day grace period for personal motor vehicles crossing national borders of the EAC Partner States;
- (iii) Establishment of special immigration counters for East Africans at ports of entry;
- (iv) Issuance of temporary travel documents to facilitate travel within the region by EAC citizens;
- (v) Harmonization of immigration forms at ports of entry;

- (vi) Harmonization of educational curricula, examinations, standards, certification and accreditation of educational and training institutions to facilitate recognition of academic qualifications;
- (vii) Conduct of the annual EAC Military Sports and Culture Week;
- (viii) Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki Utamaduni Festival (JAMAFEST) it's a biennial Arts and Culture Festival held on a rotational basis among the Partner States.

1.2.3 Political/Security/Defense Achievements

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

1.2.4 Institutional Achievements

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

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

1.3 Challenges in the EAC Integration Process

- (i) The overlapping REC's memberships by partner states continue to pose harmonization and coordination challenges;
- (ii) Lack of political commitment among partner states;
- (iii) Weak institutions that lack the capacity to enforce sanctions against partner states that fail to implement protocols. The selection process of the members of these institutions is not democratic as they are handpicked by partner states with the absence of the citizens' views;
- (iv) Non-Trade barriers (NTBs);

- (v) Poor infrastructure and Energy shortages;
- (vi) Limited private sector engagement is an impediment to economic growth in the region;
- (vii) The biggest challenge is the issue of peace and security. Civil strife and political instability in Burundi, South Sudan and Somalia continue to impact negatively on the security and economic performance of the region;
- (viii) Corruption remains a major challenge in the region as most EAC partner states appear to have lost the war against official graft.

2.0 SENSITIZATION ACTIVITY

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

The current sensitization was a continuation of the previous one that was undertaken in April 2016, which also emanated from the policy guidance by the Summit and the decision of the Assembly's Commission to reach out to the people of East Africa as part of their representatives, which was also in accordance with its EALA Strategic Plan (2013-2018) that is based on a people-centered approach. The sensitization was carried out from June 9th to 28th 2016 under the Theme: EAC Integration agenda: Accessing the gains.

2.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE SENSITIZATION

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

2.2 METHODOLOGY OF THE SENSITISATION

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

- (i) Chapters held planning meetings to deliberate on the modalities of the how and where to conduct the sensitization;
- (ii) Chapters held press conferences to inform the public on the objectives of the sensitization;
- (iii) Chapters held discussion with different media houses on the EAC Integration;
- (iv) Chapters distributed brochures on the EAC Integration process, and handed over various materials like EAC Flag and Anthem to the Stakeholders;

- (v) Chapters conducted interactive sessions with the Parliamentarians, Local Government Authorities, Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Youth and Women Councils, Persons with Disabilities among other stakeholders;
- (vi) Conducted sensitisation programs in the Higher Learning Institutions;
- (vii) Chapters conducted field visits;
- (viii) Chapters made courtesy call different dignitaries and held roundtable meetings.

2.2.1 Stakeholders of the Sensitization

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

2.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SENSITIZATION

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

2.4 FINDINGS OF THE SENSITIZATION

2.4.1 BURUNDI

In Burundi, the following Members participated in the sensitization activities: Late Hon. Hafsa Mossi - Leader of Delegation, Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo, Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye, Hon. Emerence Bucumi, Hon. Nengo Emmanuel, and Ms. Beatrice Ndayizeye - Secretary to the Delegation.

(a) Courtesy call on the Right. Hon. President of the Burundi Senate

The Rt. Hon Speaker of the Burundi Senate appreciated the visit and Members congratulated him on his recent election. They briefed him on EALA activities in general and in particular the sensitization program. During the interaction, the Hon. Speaker of the senate raised three main points:

- (i) The need to fast-track negotiations on Monetary Union;
- (ii) The need for Burundians to change their mind-set and look for opportunities in EAC; and
- (iii) Encouragement of sports activities between EAC Partner States;

(b) Courtesy call on the Minister at the president's office in charge of EAC Affairs

Members reported back on issues raised by stakeholders to the Minister in charge of EAC Affairs, and she expressed gratitude to EALA Members for the continuous sensitization program. The Minister further acknowledged that there is tremendous improvement on information sharing on EAC integration with the media, business communities and other stakeholders.

(c) Courtesy call on the Minister of Justice

The Minister appreciated the visit by EALA delegation to get information on the progress on the integration process especially with regard to harmonization of laws. At the meeting, the following are issues raised:

- (i) Lack of a harmonization Commission in the ministry;
- (ii) The need to receive from EALA a compendium of all EAC enacted laws;
- (i) The need for capacity-building on harmonization for all technical teams going for negotiations in EAC and those in charge of harmonization;
- (ii) The need for EAC teams from all ministries to be held accountable whenever they are nominated to attend EAC meetings, and they should report to other stakeholders;
- (iii) The urgent need to harmonize laws not to hamper EAC integration process;

(d) Interactive session with the Media

This interaction was preceded by a press statement by the chair of the EALA delegation. The following media houses were present: Burundi National Radio and Television, National Radio, Nderagakura Radio, Radio culture, Isanganiro Radio, Burundian Press Agency, Renouveau newspaper, Studio Ijambo, Ubumwe newspaper, Radio REMA FM, Voice of America, IWACU newspaper, Burundi Echo, ABP Info Newspaper, and CCIB FM+

Members focused on the role of media in the integration process; they also briefed them on the works of EALA during the May session, 2016 as a response to their request during the previous phase of sensitization. They also exchanged views on access to information.

(e) Courtesy call on the Minister of Youth, Sports and culture

After a presentation by Members which focused on the gains of integration on the youth sector like employment opportunities gained through the free movements offered by the Common Market Protocol and EAC Projects and Programs, the following observations came out:

- (i) There are diverse cultures that need to be preserved by the people to market the EAC;
- (ii) Youth sensitization program on integration should be undertaken;
- (iii) The need for youth to open-up and change mind-set to reap the benefits of integration;
- (iv) The need for youth to put more efforts in learning the English language to be competitive at regional level;

(f) Courtesy calls on EAC Ambassadors in Burundi

i. Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya

EALA Members paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador to encourage him to enhance their Forum to support the regional integration.

The Ambassador commended the work of EALA Members and thanked them for associating him to the integration. He raised the following issues:

- (i) Due to EAC Common Market Protocol implementation, cross border investments and movement of people, services and capital have been realised among the EAC Partner States. For example, a number of Kenyan business people have invested, while Burundi students studying in Kenya. Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) is one of the investors in Burundi and it employs more than 150 Burundians;
- (ii) The ambassador urged Burundians to do more efforts in learning the English language to integrate well in the EAC region;
- (iii) He recommended Burundians to open-up and start exporting their products in EAC countries; these are among others, palm oil and fruits;
- (iv) He commended security recovery in Burundi and condemned some media which continue to portray on the country negatively; media should market their country and report it positively;
- (v) He promised to report back to his government complaints raised by transporters through EALA Members on fees paid in counties;
- (vi) He further said that in the spirit of integration, he invited EALA Members to the second round of a competition termed "run for peace" scheduled for August 2016 in which MPs from Kenya and Burundi together with other stakeholders will participate;

ii. Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania

EALA Members paid a courtesy call on Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania in Burundi to inform him on the sensitization being undertaken and to inform him on some challenges raised by Burundian stakeholders with regard to the regional integration. In this regard, the following were discussed:

- (i) Enhancement the EAC Ambassadors' Forum;
- (ii) A follow-up on challenges faced by Burundians who use the Central Corridor;
- (iii) A reduction of weighbridges on the Central Corridor to only three;
- (iv) The Ambassador committed to follow-up to ensure Non-tariff barriers are removed;
- (v) The Ambassador appreciated the current security situation in Burundi and assured those who need to do business to come and invest;

(g) Interaction with the National Women 's Forum

The National Women's Forum is a National women's Platform made of women from different backgrounds for purposes of empowerment.

EALA Members met with the National Committee of the forum and the interaction focused on the gains of integration particularly those offered by the Common market and Customs Union Protocols in order to promote EAC intra-trade and good neighborliness. The following issues were raised:

- (i) Little knowledge about regional integration and its gains;
- (ii) Little knowledge of laws facilitating doing business across borders;
- (iii) Need to start interacting with other Women's Fora from EAC Partner States to learn from each other;
- (iv) There is a need for the girl child education so that they can participate in EAC integration;
- (v) The Forum noted that children's adoption in EAC is a serious issue that needs attention;

(h) Interactive session with university students and Lecturers.

The interaction brought together more than 600 participants including Academicians, Students, and staff members.

After a presentation by the Members, the audience made the following:

- (i) They wish to see tangible gains resulting from the membership of Burundi in EAC with regards to education opportunities and employment;
- (ii) They needed more clarification on harmonization of school fees and asked if Burundians are treated as nationals of EAC Partner States;
- (iii) Their questions were related to seeking clarification on how regional laws take precedence over national laws, to knowing if the interconnectivity between Partner States will be free, the concern around the monetary union, knowing what is done to facilitate the youth's initiatives (projects) to start being competitive;
- (iv) The EAC tourist visa should be effective to allow Burundians benefit from it as the country has much to offer;
- (v) Lack of information on EAC integration : they appreciated Members of EALA because they did not know much about EAC integration before the sensitization activity;
- (vi) The leadership of the university requested to be given all available information/documentation on EAC to relay it to the students;
- (vii) Students needed to know how the Community handles disputes between EAC Partner States, how the Community fights against pollution and how creativity is protected in the region;
- (viii) There should be free movement of Academicians through professional Networks between Universities in the region;

(i) Field Visit to Rumonge Port and Manyovu Border post between Burundi and Tanzania

i. Field visit to Rumonge Port

Rumonge port is port on Lake Tanganyika which facilitates small traders from Burundi, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo to do business. The exchange with traders focused on how they are benefiting in the context of the Common Market. While interacting with the small business communities found at the port, the following came out:

- (i) Burundi exports beer, forest products like timber and fruits to these Countries;
- (ii) Burundi imports from Tanzania salt, fish, maize, onions and beans;
- (iii) Traders are facilitated to cross the border;
- (iv) Traders portrayed ignorance of regional laws while transacting their businesses.

(j) Field visit in Mabanda/Manyovu border post

EALA Members undertook a field visit in Mabanda to assess the movement of people and how they are facilitated when crossing the border to Tanzania.

Burundians who were travelling to Tanzania appreciate good neighborliness between the two countries whereby they use identity cards to cross the border.

The only challenge raised was the time zone challenge which does not facilitate travellers from both sides.

2.4.2 Specific Observations

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

- (i) Burundians need to open – up, change their mind-set and start to travel in EAC Partner States to assess opportunities and start engaging in entrepreneurship;
- (ii) Students are very enthusiastic about being part of a big Community and want the EAC Passport to be operational as soon as possible;
- (iii) There is need for a regular update by Ministry in charge of EAC Affairs to the Ministry of Justice on laws being enacted at regional level.

2.4.3 Specific Recommendations

1. The East African Legislative Assembly should follow up on discrimination done towards Burundian travellers when they are crossing borders and requested to pay in foreign currency;
2. EAC should avail to the Ministry of Justice a compendium of all EAC Acts;
3. Burundi should adhere to one tourist visa;
4. EALA Chapter should regularly update the Ministry of Justice on EAC Laws;
5. Urge the government of Burundi to do more sensitization on regional integration to allow citizens fully understand it and benefit from opportunities it offers;
6. Urge the Government of Burundi to harmonize laws related to implementation of the Common Market Protocol;
7. Urge the EAC Partner States to fully implement the Common Market Protocol;
8. Urge the Council of Ministers to fast-track the decision of Summit to consider French as one of the official language of the Community;
9. Recommend the media and schools to teach the EAC anthem to citizens of Burundi.

2.4.2 KENYA

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

(a) BIDCO Africa

Members visited and interacted with BIDCO Africa about the EAC integration and its benefits. BIDCO Africa is a multinational manufacturing company of consumer goods based Kenya with subsidiaries and distributorships across 16 countries in East Africa, Central Africa, and Southern Africa, and it employs over 6,000 employees in Kenya and approximately 10,000 within the region. During the interaction, the following issues were highlighted:

- 1) It was observed that 25% import duty is imposed by the EAC Partner States because of lack of understanding, or misinterpretation of the application of the Rules of Origin. The EAC Rule of Origin 2015 states that only material sourced locally will be deemed as Origin Status. However Partner States fail to appreciate that BIDCO Africa procures oil seeds (soya beans, sunflower seeds and maize germ) which are under different tariff headings.

Recommendations: In light of equitable fair play and the spirit of East African Community BIDCO recommends:

- (i) EAC should consider amending the Rules of Origin to include Sub-headings (the first six digits of Tariff classification), and include more than 30% local value addition to qualify for preferential trade treatment within the EAC Partner States. And;*
 - (ii) There should be a proper cross verification by local revenue authorities to confirm origination and should be accepted as evidence and proof to gain a preferential Trade treatment. The certificate of origin issued by a Partner State should be sufficient enough for preferential treatment.*
- 2) The EAC Region operates under a Customs Union Protocol yet each Country has deployed its own IT infrastructure to manage imports and exports into their Country as follows: Kenya uses the Simba system, Tanzania is operating on Tancis whereas Uganda and Rwanda are using the Asycuda system. These different systems lead to delays in the clearing of goods and turnaround time. Further logistics are disrupted and demurrages cost incurred by the business communities.

Recommendation: *The EAC should implement a single system across the Partner States such that communication between the systems and procedures are unified and harmonized.*

3) Weak administration due to inadequate staff to process documents.

Recommendations:

- (i) EAC Partner States should ensure their revenue authorities work as one team and are able to undertake cross verifications.*
- (ii) The EAC Single Customs Territory (SCT) should automate the entire process thereby eliminating any delays through human discretion.*
- (iii) Harmonization of rules and regulations between the Partner States;*
- (iv) Removal of any other statutory licenses, fees, Levies or other charges imposed by Partner States;*
- (v) Commit Partner States to ensure cargo is released within 24 hours of documents presented for export;*
- (vi) Single window service for all documents (certificate of origin, import/export entry, release order, exit note and cargo manifest); and*
- (vii) Simplify endorsement of export/import entries at the border points and ports.*

(i) Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS)

Members of EALA visited and interacted with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), and highlighted the EAC integration process and its benefits to the people of EAC. KEPHIS is a government parastatal whose responsibility is to assure the quality of agricultural inputs and produce to prevent adverse impact on the economy, the environment and human health.

It was observed that KEPHIS plays the following roles; Prevents introduction of harmful foreign pests and diseases from affecting plants; Grades and inspects agricultural products to ensure that they conform to the law; Seed certification and sensitisation of farmers to ensure that they get more produce from seeds; Offer advisory service; imported plants are quarantined and risk assessment is carried out; and Surveillance for plant diseases.

It was also observed on the other hand that KEPHIS faces the following challenges;-

- (i) Insufficient number of staff at border and entry points;
- (ii) Lack of a method to relay information on confiscated items;
- (iii) Non-regulated informal trade/traders;
- (iv) Non designated entry points;
- (v) Different country border regulations on operations;

- (vi) Differences in the level of enforcement and application of the EAC Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures;
- (vii) Insufficient budgetary allocation;
- (viii) Insecurity; and
- (ix) Insufficient staff/inspectors.

(j) Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)

Members held interactive session with KEBS where they were informed that it started its operations on 12th July 1975, and is mandated for Standardization Services, Conformity Assessment Services, Metrology and Training and Education. Members were further informed that standards are used to facilitate trade, protect consumers from harmful and poor quality goods and to protect the environment.

During the interactions, Members noted that KEBS faces various challenges as follows;

- (i) Inadequate in-house testing capacity and capability;
- (ii) Non application of East African Standards (EAS) where they exist by other Partner states thus denying Kenya goods certified against EAS market access;
- (iii) Lack of Harmonized EAS for some products e.g. Motor vehicles (Mainly imports);
- (iv) Slow pace of harmonization and regular review of East African Standards (EAS);
- (v) Some Partner States introducing additional requirements for example TFDA sometimes not recognizing the quality mark;
- (vi) Surveillance testing of products in the market and sharing the outcome;
- (vii) System integration for clearing of goods at the borders; and
- (viii) Lack of a common platform for sharing certification data.
- (ix) Slow pace of harmonization of Standards within the EAC.

EAC Standards Management Committee (SMC), under support from TMEA has developed a draft revised procedure for harmonization and this will be presented for approval by the East African Standards Committee within the first quarter of 2016/17.

Section 24(2) of the EAC SQMT ACT requires that Partner States shall recognize quality marks issued by partner states as equal to their own. The requirement in section 24(2) is meant to facilitate free movement of goods and envisages no retesting of certified products except for post market surveillance purposes.

Members were informed that United Republic of Tanzania is subjecting certified products from the community to pre-marketing surveillance contrary to the provisions

of Section 24(2) of the EAC SQMT ACT. This action has been admitted as an NTB and listed in the EAC time-bound program for NTBs.

EAC Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) Meeting of May 2016 directed United Republic of Tanzania (URT) to consult on the requirement by Tanzania Food and Drug Authority (TFDA) requiring companies exporting to URT to register, re-label, and re-testing of certified products from EAC partner states and report in the next meeting of SCTIFI in November 2016.

SCTIFI also directed EAC Partner States to initiate bilateral resolution mechanism and KEBS has in this regard requested for meeting with TFDA in July 2016.

It further emerged that funding of harmonization meetings is still a challenge for Partner States. However it was recommended that;-

- (i) EALA is requested to use its global networks to attract development partners to fund standards harmonization activities.
- (ii) The East African Standards Committee (EASC) has urged EAC Partner States to have a budget line for harmonization activities.

(k) KENYA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Members carried out the sensitization session with the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority on the EAC integration and benefits, at the same time members were also briefed about;-

- (i) The mandate of the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority as to promote development of a safe, secure and sustainable aviation industry in the Country and Region as a whole.
- (ii) Compliance Audits, where Partner States audited for safety and aviation security by ICAO for compliance, and how the Audits establish the effectiveness of the regulatory oversight provided by KCAA.

On the other hand, members were informed about the challenges that are faced by KCAA as follows;

- (i) High cost of attracting and retaining qualified flight safety inspectors;
- (ii) Restrictive employment conditions based on Public Service pay structure;
- (iii) High cost of training safety inspectors;
- (iv) Incompatible land uses around aerodromes; and
- (v) Common framework for air transport liberalization within the EAC.