



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY - NYERERE CENTRE FOR PEACE RESEARCH (EAC-NCPR) 4TH EAC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DEBATE ON EAC INTEGRATION SEPTEMBER 2015, KAMPALA-UGANDA

(CONCEPT NOTE-ADVERTISEMENT)

1.0 BACKGROUND

The East African Community (EAC) is the regional intergovernmental organization of the Republics of Rwanda, Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania with its Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania. The Vision of the EAC is “A prosperous, competitive, secure, stable and politically united East Africa”. The Mission is to widen and deepen economic, political, social and cultural integration in order to improve the quality of life of the people of East Africa through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments.

The EAC integration is to be realized in an incremental progression through the stages of a Customs Union; Common Market; Monetary Union; and ultimately a Political Federation of the East African States. A fully-fledged Customs Union was established on 1st January 2010, after five years of transitory implementation. The EAC Common Market, which came into force on 1st July 2010, provides for free movement of persons, capital, goods, services, and the rights of residence and establishment. Negotiations for the Monetary Union commenced and it is expected that they may be concluded soon. The ultimate and the last stage of EAC integration is the Political Federation, institutional and capacity development to lay its foundation are going on.

The Treaty for establishment of the EAC in Article 6(d) emphasizes on the principle of good governance including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities and gender-equality, among others as one of the fundamental principles of the Community. The EAC core values are: professionalism, accountability, transparency, teamwork, unity in diversity and allegiance to EAC ideals which are vital in achieving the objectives of the Community given that the EAC Integration is people centered.

2.0 ENGAGING YOUTH AS STAKEHOLDERS IN EAST AFRICA INTEGRATION PROCESS

The youth of East Africa are important stakeholder in the EAC processes and form substantial part of the population. Article 120 (c) of the EAC Treaty¹ provides for adoption of a common approach for involvement of the youth in the integration process through education, training and mainstreaming youth issues into EAC policies, programmes and projects as one of the strategic interventions towards the realization of a fully integrated Community.

The East African Community Youth Summit on EAC Integration and Development Processes held in Arusha, Tanzania from 2nd – 3rd November 2007 set the precedent for youth participation in the EAC

¹ The Treaty for Establishment of the EAC is available at www.eac.int

integration. The Summit acknowledged that information and education on East African Integration and development is fundamental for enhancement and sustainability of regional integration. The youth called upon the EAC Secretariat to engage young people as partners to reach out to their peers on issues of EAC Integration and processes, which will empower high-level skills needed to drive national and regional development.

Youth are a critical demographic group and their views and aspirations will shape the future of East Africa. The promotion of integrity and accountability is key to an integrated East Africa especially as the implementation of the Common Market Protocol deepens. The values, ethics and leadership skills of youth in East Africa are vital in advancing the regional integration because they influence the choices that youth make.

The Secretariat through the office of the Deputy Secretary General-Political Federation, Directorate of Social Sectors and the Department of Corporate communication on a continuous basis have engaged youth on issues pertaining to the integration process through platforms such as dialogues, sensitization forums and students' training exchange programmes. To this end, over 100 students from East African Universities have benefited from the exchange training programs on Peace and Conflict Resolution and Human Rights carried out at Nyerere Centre for Peace Research. These programs create an enabling environment for students to play an active role in the integration process as well as offer the students a platform that enables them to learn more about the region.

3.0 EAC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DEBATE ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The Secretariat initiated the EAC University Students Debate on Regional Integration in 2012. The aim of the debate is to provide a regional platform to promote dialogue among the youth and interest them in advocating for regional integration initiatives. The Debate is an annual event that attracts an audience over 100 students from the hosting country and lecturers from public, private and other higher institutions of learning. In addition, the debate also brings together representation from youth councils, private sector, civil society, media, technocrats and academia. Six participants are drawn from each Partner States making a total of 30 debaters. The debates have been moderated by Mwalimu John – Sibi Okumu, former moderator for Inter-University Zain African Challenge.

During the debate one winner from each Partner State is appointed as EAC Youth Ambassador and the 1st runner up appointed as Deputy EAC Youth Ambassador for a period of one year as focal points in their respective Universities/Partner State. As a result the Secretariat established the EAC Youth Ambassadors' Platform² to popularized EAC integration through structured engagement with the university students. The EAC Youth Ambassadors in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat have sensitized their peers on the EAC integration processes, benefits and challenges. This has enhanced increased awareness on regional integration and networking among institutions of higher learning in the region.

Moreover, the fact that the EAC integration is people centered, the Youth have the potential to foster creativity, innovation, leadership and sharing of information and nurture a bond of “*Eastafricaness*” with a distinct East African identity that is very much desired. The EAC University Students' Debate has seen the formation of over 50 EAC Youth Clubs in different universities in Partner States, this has resulted in appreciation and constructive youth dialogues on the integration process thus increased enthusiasm among the youth and support for the EAC integration.

²Concept Note and Terms of Reference for EAC Youth Ambassadors' Platform available at www.eac.int/ncpr/index.php

4.0 THE 4th EAC UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' DEBATE 2015 ON REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The 4th EAC University students' debate is scheduled to take place on 7th – 8th September 2015 in Kampala-Uganda. The debate is expected to bring together representation from university students, lecturers, academia, policy makers, media, youth leaders and one high school to participate in the event.

The specific objectives of the EAC University Students' Debate are:-

- i) To promote continued participation of the youth on issues of the EAC integration;
- ii) To encourage networking among university students to enhance regional integration;
- iii) To prepare the youth for future leadership roles at regional and international levels as they hold the mantle as Ambassadors of EAC integration in the region; and
- iv) To popularize the EAC integration

About 65 percent of the population in the EAC region is below the age of 25 and several studies have informed the above assertions, including; The EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform Online Study, Report on youth engagement in the EAC Integration process, and the East African Institute of the Aga Khan University survey to assess the views and perspectives of East Africa's youth. These studies demonstrate further the need for youth debate and dialogue to advocate for ethical and accountable leadership to develop positive attitudes and identify and train role models to enhance economic integration.

The 4th EAC University Students' Debate will focus on values, ethics and leadership which are critical to advancing the broad aims of the EAC integration, with youth as key stakeholders. It is worth noting that these three are vital in molding the choices that youth make by imparting in them the desired morals such as integrity and accountability that are key to an integrated East Africa

5.0 PARTICIPATION AND GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATION

The East African Community Secretariat will cover transport expenses, accommodation and meals for the participants during the two days event.

Six participants will be selected from each of the EAC Partner State, drawn from national universities, public, private and other institutions of higher learning. The participants will be either on the affirmative or alternative strategy team but the Secretariat reserves the prerogative to ensure that both sides have equitable membership. More information will be submitted to successful candidates in good time to allow for sufficient preparations.

Participation in this debate is limited to students who are in their second year at the university pursuing a degree. Students who participated in the last three debates need not to apply to give an opportunity to others to take part. Interested applicants with good analytical, communication skills; and a good command of English are encouraged to apply. Please note that the Debate will be conducted in English.

6.0 EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The debate will also bring together representatives from academia, private sector, civil society, media and technocrats from the East African region who will listen to the debate and make their comments on the strength of the deliberations and make recommendations on the way forward for the debate. The debate will be streamed live on the EAC website and other social media platforms like Twitter and Facebook will also be used to enable a wide participation of youth across the EAC region.

The best debaters will be appointed as EAC Youth Ambassadors 2014/2015 with an obligation to spear head peer-to-peer learning in their respective universities in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat, the East African Legislative Assembly and EAC Ministries in Partner States. There will be a Gala Dinner where a cash prize will be given to the Best debaters and the winning team.

In the spirit of promoting a sense of “*Eastafricaness*”, it is expected that by the end of the debate, a bond will have been created among the students thereby shaping and nurturing the East African identity among the youth, in the long run. Participants would have been empowered to continue engaging in dialogue on matters of EAC integration. The EAC University Debate on regional integration provides a pedestal to the youth to participate, dialogue and contribute to policy formulation on issues that constitute the EAC Youth agenda.

7.0 HOW TO APPLY

Applicants who are interested to participate should apply by submitting the following documents:

1. A 1 page motivation letter explaining why they are interested to participate and indicating which University they come from and the Year of Study and
2. A two-page essay on “**The success of EAC integration is premised on accountable leadership and built upon the Community’s core values of integrity, accountability and ethics.**” In this essay participants should also identify one leader whom they regard as a role model in East Africa and whose values they would emulate as leaders of tomorrow and explain why? and
3. A two-page Curriculum Vitae, a copy of their national ID or Passport and their University Identity Card.

The documents should have a font of size of 12, bookman old style with single line spacing and sent as one attachment.

Please send your applications to – EAC Secretariat on Email: eac@eachq.org and copy Ms. Barbara Kaboha, Program Assistant, EAC-Nyerere Centre for Peace Research, on email – BKaboha@eachq.org. The applications should reach EAC not later than 17th August, 2015 at 5:00pm East African time. Please note that only successful candidates will be contacted.

**East African Community Secretariat
August, 2015
Arusha - Tanzania**