



REPORT OF THE 26TH EACO POSTAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 3RD JULY, 2019 AT BELMONT HOTEL IN MWANZA, TANZANIA

1.0 Introduction

The East African Communications Organisation (EACO) held its Postal Assembly meeting on 3rd July, 2019. The meeting had participants from Postal Corporation of Kenya (PCK), Communications Authority of Kenya (CA), Uganda Post Ltd (UPL), Uganda Communications Commission (UCC), Tanzania Posts Corporation (TPC), Rwanda Utilities Regulatory Authority (RURA), National Post Office of Rwanda, Representative of the Secretary General of Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), Representative of Universal Postal Union (UPU) and Representatives of SAPOA participated in the meeting. The list of participants is contained in **Annex 1**.



Postal Assembly
participants 3 July 19.

2.0 Opening of the meeting

The meeting was opened by the outgoing Chairman of EACO Postal Assembly Mr. Dan Kagwe the Postmaster General of Postal Corporation of Kenya. He thanked members on the work done at the previous meeting in Nairobi, Kenya. **The report of outgoing Postal Assembly Chairman is attached as annex 2.**



Report of Chairman
of Postal Assembly.doc

3.0 Election of the Bureau

The meeting elected the Bureau as follows:

Chairperson	: Elia Madulesi – Tanzania
1st Rapporteur	: Jasson Kalile - Tanzania
2nd Rapporteur	: Charles Opio-Ogwal - Uganda

4.0 Adoption of the agenda

The agenda proposed was adopted with minor amendments. The agenda is contained in **Annex 3**.



Postal Assembly
Agenda.docx

5.0 Matters arising from the outgoing Chairman's communication

The outgoing Chairperson thanked Tanzania Communications Regulatory Authority (TCRA) and Tanzania Post Corporation for their excellent welcome, the EACO Secretariat and Working Group 4 which through their joint effort and commitment tried to achieve their tasks and a number of challenges have been recorded. He informed members that in 2018, the Executive Committee considered and approved a Five Years Strategic Plan for 2018-2023 which guided the Action Plans and programmes of the Secretariat and the organization in general and, in which the postal operators were invited to contribute.

The following are some of the pending issues and programmes that will require close attention in the forthcoming year:

- a) Development of a regional Postal Strategy and harmonization of the national addressing systems and postcodes. In order to handle this issue, it is planned a workshop on Addressing and Postcode system back to back with WG4 meeting on a date to be communicated. We invite you in advance to take part in this workshop and make your contributions.

- b) Remuneration system: As indicated above, the remuneration became a complex and critical issue with the intention of United States of America (USA) to withdraw from the Universal Postal Union. We got also information that some countries have been approached by USA in regard to signing bilateral agreements. Participants were therefore invited to convene on the way forward in the discussions of the issue at EACO regional level.

6.0 Consideration of the Report of Working Group 4 - Postal Service Development and Regulation

The chair of WG4 did a presentation on the deliberations that were discussed in WG4 meeting held on the 2nd July 2019. The report is herein attached as **Annex 4**.



REPORT OF THE
EACO WORKING GRC

7.0 Update on the implementation of the recommendations of the 25th Postal Assembly

Members gave updates on the implementation of the recommendations of the Assembly as follows:

- i. Expert teams held four online meetings to discuss the strategies on implementing the respective action plans
- ii. Regulators and Operators to continuously submit status reports to EACO Secretariat on quarterly basis.
- iii. EACO member countries supported the African common position on UPU thematic issues during the extra ordinary Congress.

8.0 Consideration of cross-cutting issues for submission to the Joint Committee

It was agreed that the following cross – cutting issues be forwarded to the Joint Committee:

- i. The Committee should take note of the current UPU discussions on remuneration of postal items in view of US's self-declaration proposal and withdrawal from UPU. Member countries urged to set up a team of experts in their respective countries to examine the impact of the proposed options on their operations.
- ii. Harmonize cross-border customs and regulatory issues for ease of exporting and importing of mails and merchandise, goods and cargo.
- iii. Redefine the scope the of universal service obligation to include financial services and to rhyme with the changing trends in the postal sector.
- iv. Put in place ecommerce policies, laws and regulatory frameworks to provide an enabling environment for ecommerce development.
- v. Procure x-ray screening machines for border points and offices of exchange to curb transmission of prohibited items and dangerous goods in the mail supply chain such as drugs like cocaine, explosive items and wildlife products like ivory.

9.0 General Recommendations

- i. It was noted that due to low volumes of mail and business revenues, Designated Operators are not able to contribute to the universal service fund as per the existing legal frameworks in the member countries. All member countries are called upon to explore ways through regulatory authorities of ensuring the Designated Operators access universal service fund for further development of universal

- service obligation in their countries.
- ii. EACO Secretariat to engage PAPU and get all agreed high level resolutions at AU heads of state meetings and circulate to member countries for implementation.

10.0 Consideration and adoption of the Postal Assembly Report

The report was adopted by members.

11.0 Date and venue of next meeting

The next meeting will be held in Burundi. The dates to be communicated by EACO Secretariat.

Chairman: Tanzania

Elia Madulesi

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1st Rapporteur: Tanzania

Jasson Kalile

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2nd Rapporteur: Uganda

Charles Opio-Ogwal

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