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**REPORT OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> EACO POSTAL ASSEMBLY HELD ON 26 –27 JULY, 2017 HELD AT  
SILVER SPRINGS HOTEL IN KAMPALA, UGANDA**

**1.0 Introduction**

The East African Communications Organisation (EACO) held its Postal Assembly meeting in Kampala, Uganda from 24- 28 July, 2017. The meeting had participants from: National Post of Burundi (NPB), 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), and National Post Office of Rwanda (NPO). The Secretary General of Pan African Postal Union (PAPU), Representative of Universal Postal Union (UPU) and AFRALTI also participated in the meeting.

The list of participants is contained in **Annex 1**.

**2.0 Opening of the meeting**

The meeting was opened by the outgoing Chairman of EACO Postal Assembly Mr. Celestine Kayitare, Postmaster General of National Post of Rwanda. He thanked members on the work done at the previous meeting in Kigali, Rwanda and handed over the Chairmanship to the host country, Uganda.

**3.0 Election of the Bureau**

The meeting elected the Bureau as follows:

Chairperson : Ashim Tumwebonire - Uganda

1st Rapporteur : Jessica UweraSsenkooba - Uganda  
2nd Rapporteur : EliaP.K. Madulesi - Tanzania

#### **4.0 Adoption of the agenda**

The agenda proposed was adopted with minor amendments.

The agenda and work programme is contained in **Annex 2**.

#### **5.0 Remarks from the Secretary General of PAPU**

The Secretary General of PAPU thanked the host country and EACO for inviting PAPU to participate in the EACO Congress. He made remarks on the Postal sector in Africa and commended the theme of EACO Congress: "Promotion of ICT through local content development" emphasising that ICT is a tool and should be applied in local content to deliver services such as financial inclusion, health, education, e-government, agriculture etc with the final outcome of offering services to improve on the social and economic livelihood of all citizens.

His statement is contained in **Annex 3**.

#### **6.0 Report of the outgoing Chairman**

The outgoing Chairman presented the report, highlighting the achievements and challenges in implement agreed actions.

- i) From the last Postal Assembly, 3 Working Group 4 meetings were held respectively in Bujumbura, Arusha and Kampala and issues pertaining to Quality of Service and Security were addressed.

During the WG 4 meeting in Bujumbura, a joint Inspection was carried out, but some countries were not able to attend as earlier recommended. We hope that efforts will always be made by the different countries for their active participation.

- ii) Regarding training for Postal and Couriers Operators, EACO Secretariat in collaboration with AFRALTI has programmed them for 2018. EACO Secretariat will contact all Regulators for a smooth implementation.

- iii) EACO Secretariat in collaboration with host countries, Industry players was regularly invited to participate in relevant Working Groups' meetings to address cross cutting issues.
- iv) Regarding recommendations whose implementation is the responsibility of EACO, arrangements have been made by EACO for their implementation during the coming fiscal year.

The report is contained in **Annex 4**.

## **7.0 Consideration of Matrix on Status of Implementation of Decisions of the last Assembly**

Members took note of the updates on status of implementation with highlights on the following:

- Members to take advantage of E-Commerce opportunities.
- Implement the Integrated Product Plan (IPP).
- The development of security policies where none existing e.g. put in place appropriate firewalls to prevent cyber crimes, physical security of the system;
- Infrastructure development e.g. broadband connectivity, roads, airports, power and the National Addressing System as a business driver;
- Put in Policies on Private and Public Partnerships. Members to enter into bi-lateral agreements on mail transfers across borders
- EACO secretariat to carry out a study on the terminal dues systems and prepare the region's position on negotiations for the next cycle.
- EACO to lobby Governments to invest in infrastructure and support the National Addressing System (NAS) project.
- Members to take advantage of the developed curriculum by AFRALTI for training.
- Members to take advantage of opportunities in the region to enhance financial inclusion.

Details on status of implementation are contained in **Annex 5**.

## **8.0 Consideration of the Report of Working Group 4 - Postal Service Development**

## **and Regulation**

The report was presented by the Chairman of WG4 and adopted by the Assembly.

Details of the report are contained in **Annex 6**.

### **9.0 Recommendations**

- I. EACO and Rwanda as Coordinator to fast track the harmonization of the EACO National Addressing System project with EAC and seek funding for implementation of the project in the region.
- II. Member countries to implement the recommendations of the Report on the Study on Harmonization of the NAS in the EAC region as carried out by the UPU Consultant.
- III. Build capacity at Strategic level and the operational level while embracing the emerging business trends in the Postal industry.
- IV. Timely settlement of accounts.
- V. Member countries to validate the EAC Postal Strategy in collaboration with line Ministers and stakeholders.
- VI. Member countries to involve the courier sector in the Policy formulation and implementation.
- VII. Member countries to adopt the use of teleconference facilities to fast track implementation of recommendations of the different meetings.
- VIII. Member countries through the regulators to consider holding National stakeholder forum meetings with licensed postal and courier operators so as to share experience, and enter into partnerships.
- IX. EACO Secretariat to request regulators to consider sponsoring capacity building programmes for Postal and Courier Operators to address emerging postal security risks e.g revenue protection, terrorism, Cybercrimes, money laundering, narcotics, disaster risk management and mail security among others by September 2017.

### **10.0 Presentations on Ecommerce and UPU Integrated Product Plan (IPP)**

Presentations on the above thematic issues; Ecommerce and Integrated Product Plan (IPP) were made by Kenya and Uganda respectively.

Presentation annexed to the report.

**11.0 Cross-cutting issues to the Joint Assembly**

The following were noted as the cross-cutting issues that should be presented to the Joint Assembly:

- I. National Addressing Systems infrastructure as a national social and economic driver;
- II. Ecommerce
- III. Social and Financial inclusion for the under-served and un-banked.
- IV. High cost of internet connectivity and broad band.
- V. Power availability
- VI. Cyber security

**Recommendations**

- I. Working Group 2 on Infrastructure Development, Connectivity and Digital inclusion to follow up on National Addressing Systems and Power and internet connectivity.
- II. Working Group 3 on ICTs Services, Transactions and e-Applications to follow up ecommerce facilitation; and social and financial inclusion.

**12.0 Consideration and adoption of the Report**

The report was considered and adopted.

**12.0 Closing of the Meeting**

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm with the chairman appreciating the members for their active participation throughout the meeting.

Chairman: Uganda

**Ashim Tumwebonire**

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1<sup>st</sup> Rapporteur: Uganda

**Jessica Uwera Ssenooba**

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2<sup>nd</sup> Rapporteur: Tanzania

**Elia P.K.Madulesi**

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