



EABC - The Voice of the Private Sector  
in East-Africa

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## **PRESS STATEMENT OF EABC ACTING CHAIRMAN MR. JIM KABEHO**

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**15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2017, TANZANIA**

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### **Members of the Media**

Thank you for honouring our invitation to attend this media briefing.

Following the sudden death of EABC Chairman, Mr. Kassim Omar EABC Board was meeting here in Arusha to come up with a way forward and also provide strategic direction to the EABC Secretariat.

Yesterday, we also held a meeting with EAC Secretary General and agreed on strategic focus areas for the remaining part of the year, including the EABC Entrepreneurship conference in November 2017 and the EABC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary scheduled at the end of the year.

Some of the key issues raised with the Secretary General and which we have discussed extensively are on

- 1.The slow pace of the EAC Integration process given that some of the directives of the Summit and the Council of Ministers are not implemented on time. We urge Partner States to expeditiously implement the directives particularly those with a bearing on private sector growth and development.
- 2.The finalization of the EAC air transport regulations to give way to the domestication of

the EAC air space and reduce the cost of doing business in the region.

3. The cost of telecommunications in the region needs to be brought lower to facilitate business across the region. We urge the United Republic of Tanzania and the republic of Burundi to expeditiously remove the roaming charges and join the “One Network area”.

4. Further we wish to reiterate that the region should focus strongly on industrialization on specific priority sectors as per the EAC Industrialization Strategy. In particular the Heads of state directive to phase out importation of used clothes and footwear should be implemented to the latter. This will unlock the potential in the sectors to allow for more industries to be set up.

Finally we wish to thank the Media for extensive coverage on EAC issues and to reiterate the need for the private sector inputs to be considered on regional matters.