

26/10/2011

Title **Eac Eyes Trade Growth With Cyber Laws**
Media **Business Daily**
Category: Online Media
Country Kenya English
Theme **ICT Cyberlegislation**

Five East African states are working on harmonising cyber laws with the aim of increasing regional trade and investment.

It is also intended to improve delivery of government services.

The need to have common cyber laws among the five partner states of East African Community (EAC) Kenya, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, comes at a time when the countries have started exploiting benefits of being connected to high speed Internet following linking of the region to three undersea fibre cables.

However, the link has also opened up a floodgate of cyber crimes.

The partners see adoption of harmonised cyber laws as critical to implementing e-government services effectively and facilitating faster regional trade and investment.

Acting ICT secretary at the Directorate of e-government John Sergon said a common cyber law is important for the integration of the EAC since it will address subjects like e-taxation, competition and monopolies, and enforcement of law.

"The framework has been approved by the council of ministers for EAC and the task force will meet in September in Nairobi to finalise the document," said Mr Sergon.

Locally, the drive is spear headed by the Directorate of e-government, the EAC ministry, Communication Commission of Kenya (CCK) and Central Bank.

But players will be expanded to cater for all interested parties in e-commerce.

The harmonisation of cyber laws is to be done in two phases, with the first entailing focusing on electronic transactions, electronic signatures and authentication, data protection and privacy, consumer protection, and computer crimes.

Apart from Burundi, the other four countries have embarked on the first phase of the project.

Even while Kenya adopted, last year, a law addressing e-transactions, e-signatures, consumer protection, and computer crime, legal expert Nzioka Waita said the move still falls short of the globally recommended model UNCITRAL law on electronic transactions.

The Kenya Information Communication Amendment Act 2009, he said, does not address issues such as data protection or information security.

Other areas that the law falls short of meeting in regard to global standards is that it passes the liability for carriage of illegal content to the carrier of illegal information as opposed to the person creating and utilising the data, such as adult content.

This means that Internet Service Providers (ISP) are liable for the sites visited by customers, which is out of keeping with the international norm which favours a "take down" approach where ISPs are

notified of the illegal content and given some time to block the offending information from being accessed through its systems.

"East African countries would be better off adopting the UNCITRAL model law on e-transactions as it is a much more focused and better drafted basis upon which to legislate," said Mr Waita.

"A key challenge to note when discussing cyber crime law is that the question of legal jurisdiction is a key consideration. The internet is a global portal and therefore it is not always easy to ascertain exactly where a crime has been committed and what national law has jurisdiction over the offence."

Cyber offenders

Mr Serگون concurred that the Kenya Information Communication Amendment Act 2009 is a good piece of legislation because the country is now able to anticipate, project, and prosecute cyber crime offenders.

However, he said, it is not comprehensive since it does not, for example, address cross-border crime while in the cyber world jurisdiction is a key issue.

In Rwanda, a draft information and communication technology (ICT) bill was prepared last year covering the issues of e-signatures, consumer protection, privacy, and content regulation.

Last February, the country prepared a draft criminal law on cyber crime.

Rwandan laws on digital copyright and e-contracting were passed earlier this year.

In Tanzania, the Central Bank, the Tanzanian Revenue Authority, and the Public Procurement Regulatory Authority are setting up an e-procurement system for the Tanzanian Public Service.

Last year, the Uganda Government passed bills on electronic transactions, electronic signatures, and computer misuse.

The East Africa Community Task Force on Cyberlaws was recently set up in Kigali, Rwanda, with community members focusing on putting into effect a framework for cyber laws adopted by the EAC Sectoral Council of Ministers on Transport, Communications, and Meteorology.

The EAC framework recommends the creation of regional oversight bodies; one such body being the Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT), an electronic authentication body, among others.

The framework was prepared with the assistance of **UNCTAD**.

Partner states have been briefed on resources at the international and regional levels that can be of use when designing domestic legislation on cyber laws.

The Kigali meeting also reviewed progress by EAC partner states in preparing and adopting cyber laws.

25/10/2011

Title **Eac Develops Cyber Laws**

Media **East African Community**

Category: Online Media

Country: Kenya

English

Theme ICT Cyberlegislation

Deputy Secretary General floats the idea of establishing a Centre of Excellence in Cyber Science in the region

East African Community Secretariat Arusha, 25 October 2011: The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Dr. Enos Bukuku has stated that the realization of a solid cyber laws regime in the Community will underpin the implementation of the Common Market Protocol especially on the services, an area of great potential for the region.

Dr. Bukuku, who was addressing participants attending a three-day EAC Task Force meeting on Cyber Laws (Phase II) at the Zanzibar Beach Resort Hotel in the United Republic of Tanzania, revealed that the EAC Cyber Laws reform programme began in November 2006, following the approval of the regional e-government strategy by the EAC Council of Ministers.

He said since then the EAC legal framework for Cyber Laws (Phase I) covering electronic transactions; electronic signatures and authentication, cyber crime, and data protection and privacy had been adopted by the Council of Ministers and was under implementation.

The EAC official said about KShs. 106 billion (approximately \$1.05 billion) is reportedly transferred in a month via M-Pesa, a mobile money transfer concept launched in Kenya and which is being replicated across the region.

"This volume of business must be anchored on an effective regulatory framework and a robust cyber laws regime," asserted Dr. Bukuku.

He saluted the experts, consultants and supporters of the EAC cyber laws development process for making it possible for the region to stand tall in the development of laws that will enable it to tap into the multi-billion dollar e-business world.

The Deputy Secretary General applauded the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** for the technical and financial support to the Cyber Laws Phase II Framework that is focusing on intellectual property rights, competition, e-taxation and information security.

Dr. Bukuku appealed for the continued assistance from **UNCTAD** bearing in mind that Partner States were at different stages of developing national cyber law regimes and therefore capacity building will be required for some of them.

The Deputy Secretary General floated the idea of establishing a Centre of Excellence in Cyber Science in the region as this was a growing field that would require better preparations if the region was to fully exploit the potentials in the e-business sector.

Representatives from **UNCTAD** including Madam Cecile Barayre-El Shami, and UNECA; Partner States ICT and cyber law experts; EAC Director for Infrastructure, Mr. Philip Wambugu and Senior Communication Engineer, Mr. Robert Achieng are attending the meeting.

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28/10/2011

Title M-Pesa Hits U.S.\$1 Billion Mark Transfer
In The Region States

Media **All Africa**

Category: News/Agency

Country Mauritius

English

Theme ICT Cyberlegislation

Arusha -- At least \$1.05 billion (more than Sh1.7 trillion) is transferred monthly through M-Pesa in East Africa. The mobile money transfer started in Kenya a few years ago, but has now spread across the region, and is replicated by almost all mobile phone companies.

Information Technology (IT) experts are now worried over the increasing volume of money exchanged through mobile transfers in the region.

They have suggested that the concept, which has gained popularity in all corners of the region and now popular with people in all income categories, should be guarded against cyber crime.

"This volume of business must be anchored on an effective regulatory framework and a robust cyber laws regime," asserted the East African Community (EAC) deputy secretary general (Planning and Infrastructure), Dr Enos Bukuku. He was addressing a meeting of the EAC Task Force on Cyber Laws which started in Zanzibar on Wednesday.

He said the realisation of a solid cyber laws region in the EAC would underpin implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol, especially on the services. He described the area as having a big potential in the region's economic development.

According to him, the EAC Cyber Laws reform programme began in November 2006 following approval of the regional e-government strategy by the EAC Council of Ministers, the EAC policy organ.

He said in a speech available to The Citizen in Arusha that since then the EAC legal framework for Cyber Laws (Phase One) has been under implementation and had been adopted by the Council of Ministers. It covers electronic transactions, electronic signatures and authentication, cyber crime as well as data protection and privacy, he said.

He told senior officials from the five partner states that the region has been ahead of other parts of the world in electronic money transfers, with M-Pesa having taken the lead in terms of innovation.

The official lauded experts, consultants and supporters of the EAC cyber laws development process for making it possible for the region to stand tall in the development of laws that will enable it to tap into the multi-billion dollar e-business world.

The deputy SG also applauded the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** for the technical and financial support to the Cyber Laws Phase II Framework that focuses on intellectual property rights, competition, e-taxation and information security.

Dr Bukuku appealed for continued assistance from **UNCTAD**, bearing in mind that partner states were at different stages of developing national cyber law regimes and, therefore, capacity building will be required for some of them.

The former deputy governor of the Bank of Tanzania (BoT) floated the idea of establishing a Centre of Excellence in Cyber Science in the region. He said this was a growing field that would require

better preparations if the EA region was to fully exploit potentials in the e-business sector.

Then growing of mobile money transfer in the region has been apparently sprouted by expansion of the mobile phone industry.

Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda currently have a combined active mobile subscriber base of 43.3 million. Of these, Kenya has the largest share with 18.7 million subscribers, followed by Tanzania (11 million) and Uganda, (8.7 million). Rwanda has the smallest mobile telecommunications market with only 1.6 million active subscribers.

Mobile penetration rates of these four East African countries were below 40.0 per cent in 2008. Kenya's penetration rate of approximately 42 per cent is the highest in the region, whereas Rwanda has the lowest with 13 per cent.

Most transactions between individuals and businesses which sell goods to consumers are cash based. This is in part a reflection of the low number of bank accounts in the region.

In contrast to mobile subscriptions, there are only an estimated 14.5 million bank account holders in East Africa. This indicates that for every bank account holder there are three mobile phone owners.

It translates to 90.3 per cent of the total population of 121.9 million people not having a bank account.

27/10/2011

Title Eac Develops Cyber Laws / Deputy Secretary General Floats The Idea Of Establishing A Centre Of Excellence In Cyber Science In The Region

Media **StarAfrica**

Category: Online Media

Country South Africa

English

Theme ICT Cyberlegislation

ARUSHA, Tanzania -- The EAC Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Dr. Enos Bukuku has stated that the realization of a solid cyber laws regime in the Community will underpin the implementation of the Common Market Protocol especially on the services, an area of great potential for the region.

Dr. Bukuku, who was addressing participants attending a three-day EAC Task Force meeting on Cyber Laws (Phase II) at the Zanzibar Beach Resort Hotel in the United Republic of Tanzania, revealed that the EAC Cyber Laws reform programme began in November 2006, following the approval of the regional e-government strategy by the EAC Council of Ministers.

He said since then the EAC legal framework for Cyber Laws (Phase I) covering electronic transactions; electronic signatures and authentication, cyber crime, and data protection and privacy had been adopted by the Council of Ministers and was under implementation.

The EAC official said about KShs. 106 billion (approximately \$1.05 billion) is reportedly transferred in a month via M-Pesa, a mobile money transfer concept launched in Kenya and which is being replicated across the region.

"This volume of business must be anchored on an effective regulatory framework and a robust cyber laws regime," asserted Dr. Bukuku.

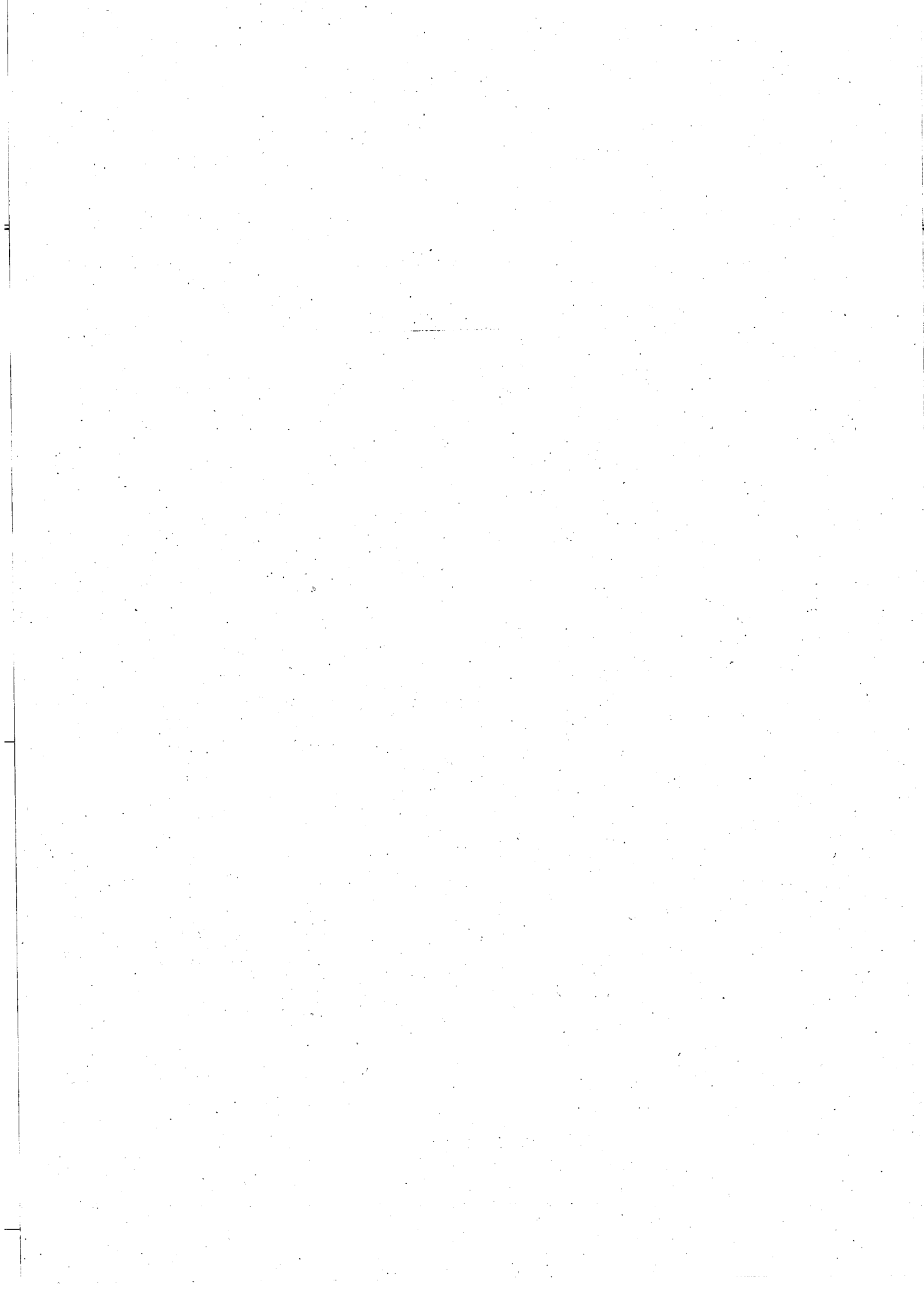
He saluted the experts, consultants and supporters of the EAC cyber laws development process for making it possible for the region to stand tall in the development of laws that will enable it to tap into the multi-billion dollar e-business world.

The Deputy Secretary General applauded the **United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)** for the technical and financial support to the Cyber Laws Phase II Framework that is focusing on intellectual property rights, competition, e-taxation and information security.

Dr. Bukuku appealed for the continued assistance from **UNCTAD** bearing in mind that Partner States were at different stages of developing national cyber law regimes and therefore capacity building will be required for some of them.

The Deputy Secretary General floated the idea of establishing a Centre of Excellence in Cyber Science in the region as this was a growing field that would require better preparations if the region was to fully exploit the potentials in the e-business sector.

Representatives from **UNCTAD** including Madam Cecile Barayre-EI Shami, and UNECA; Partner States ICT and cyber law experts; EAC Director for Infrastructure, Mr. Philip Wambugu and Senior Communication Engineer, Mr. Robert Achieng are attending the meeting.



UNCTAD
Press Clipping

30/10/2011

Title East Africa Asked To Build Cyber Science School

Media East African Business Week

Category: Online Media

Country Uganda

English

Theme ICT Cyberlegislation

ARUSHA, TANZANIA-East African Community (EAC) Deputy Secretary General in charge of planning and infrastructure Dr. Enos Bukuku has advised partner states to plan for establishing a centre of excellence in Cyber Science in order to prepare the region to fully exploit and protect the growing potential of e-business.

"E-business is a growing field that would require better preparations if the region was to fully exploit the potentials in the e-business sector and the realization of a solid cyber laws regime in the Community will underpin the implementation of the Common Market Protocol especially on the services, an area of great potential for the region," he explained.

Dr. Bukuku, who was addressing participants attending a three-day EAC Task Force meeting on Cyber Laws (Phase II) at the Zanzibar Beach Resort Hotel in the United Republic of Tanzania, revealed that the EAC Cyber Laws reform programme began in November 2006; following the approval of the regional e-government strategy by the EAC Council of Ministers.

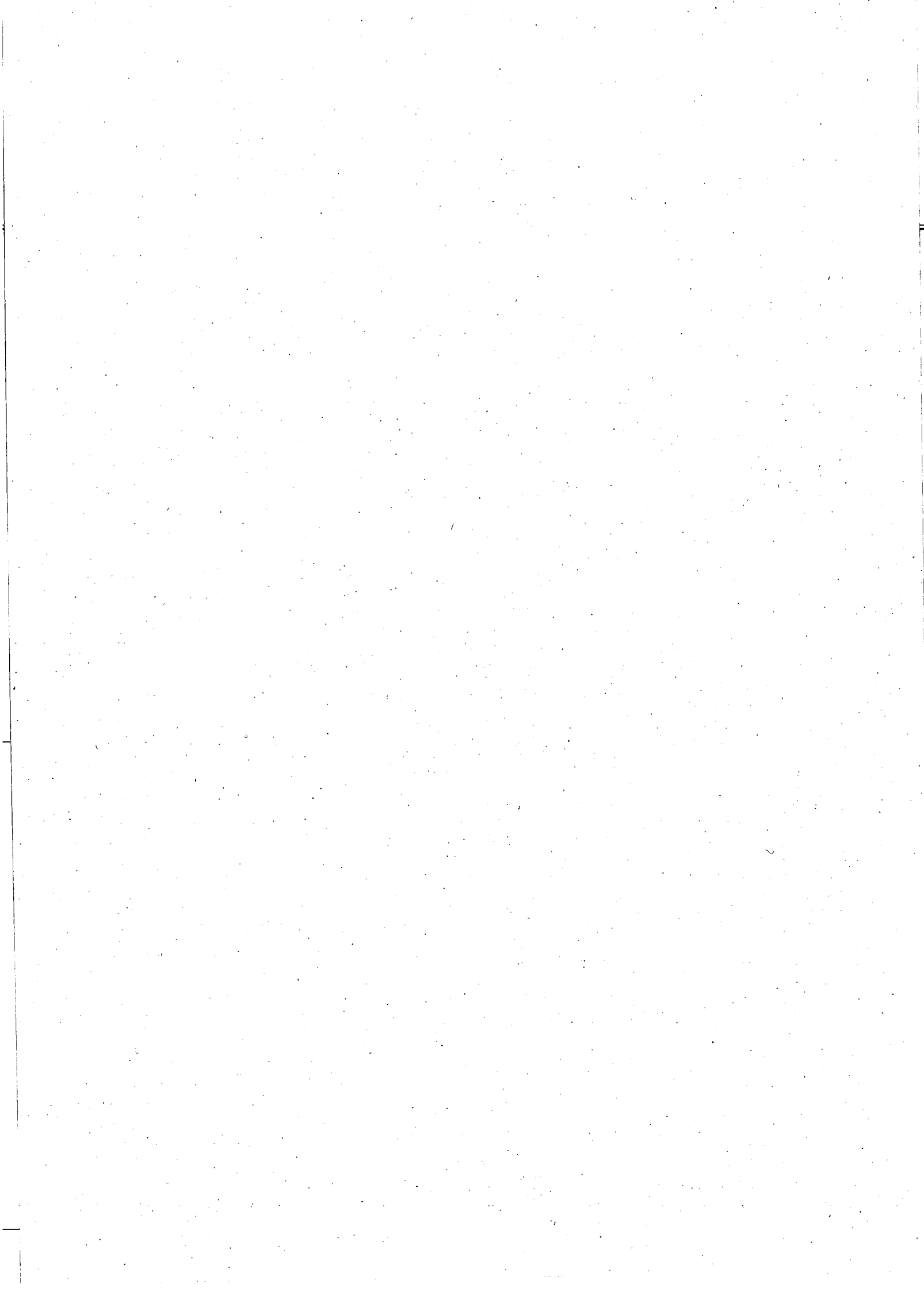
He said since then the community's legal framework for cyber laws covering electronic transactions, electronic signatures and authentication, cyber crime, and data protection and privacy had been adopted by the council of ministers and was under implementation.

Dr. Bukuku pointed out that about KShs. 106 billion (approximately \$1.05 billion) is reportedly transferred in a month via M-Pesa, a mobile money transfer concept launched in Kenya and which is being replicated across the region.

"This volume of business must be anchored on an effective regulatory framework and a robust cyber laws regime," asserted Dr. Bukuku in a statement issued last week in Arusha, Tanzania.

He hailed the experts, consultants and other stakeholders on the community's cyber laws development process for making it possible for the region to develop laws that will enable it to tap into the multi-billion dollar e-business world.

Dr. Bukuku appealed for the continued assistance from **UNCTAD** bearing in mind that Partner States were at different stages of developing national cyber law regimes and therefore capacity building will be required for some of them.



25/10/2011

Title Eac Develops Cyber Laws

Media In 2 East Africa

Category: Online Media

Theme ICT Cyberlegislation

East African Community [1] Secretariat Arusha [2], Tanzania [3], 25 October 2011: The EAC [1] Deputy Secretary General in charge of Planning and Infrastructure, Dr. Enos Bukuku has stated that the realization of a solid cyber laws regime in the Community will underpin the implementation of the Common Market Protocol especially on the services, an area of great potential for the region.

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