



**REMARKS BY DR. ENOS S. BUKUKU DEPUTY
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INFRASTRUCTURE DURING THE THIRD MEETING
OF EAC TASK FORCE ON CYBERLAWS (PHASE II):
24TH – 26TH OCTOBER 2011; ZANZIBAR**

Distinguished Delegates from the EAC Partner States,
Representatives from UNCTAD, and UNECA,
Fellow Colleagues from the EAC Secretariat,
All Protocols Observed,

First, I wish to welcome all of you to this meeting of the EAC Task Force on Cyberlaws (Phase II) hosted in this historic City and Island of Zanzibar. I thank the Peoples and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar for the excellent hosting arrangements for this meeting.

I wish to also thank all the officials and organizations that have participated in the planning and holding of this meeting, namely from all the Governments of the five Partner States, UNCTAD, for technical and financial support and I wish to especially mention Madam Cecile Barayre-El Shami from UNCTAD, for her steadfast support in this process and the EAC Secretariat, for the coordination.

Distinguished delegates,

As many of you are aware, 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. 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 has been adopted by the Council of Ministers and is under implementation. I am sure that Partner States have reported on the progress they are making in implementing the Framework for Phase I.

I am happy to note that UNCTAD agreed to continue the support to the Cyber Laws Phase II Framework, focusing on intellectual property rights, competition, e-taxation and information security. I am informed that good progress in the development of this Phase was made in the previous two meetings held in Kigali and Mombasa and that this meeting will be consolidating these gains and making recommendations to the Council of Ministers for adoption of the Phase II Framework. I wish to inform you that your recommendations will be part of the agenda for the 9th TCM Sectoral Council meeting that is scheduled for November 2011.

Distinguished delegates,

I am gratified to note that the realization of a solid Cyber Laws regime in the EAC will underpin the implementation of the Common Market Protocol especially on the services, an area of great potential for this region.

Just this morning while having breakfast with a colleague, I have learnt that the revolutionary Mpesa, a mobile money transfer concept which is being replicated in the region, moves approximately Ksh. 110 billion in a month with daily transactions of about 1 million. This volume of business must be anchored on an effective regulatory framework and a robust Cyber Law regime. I, therefore, salute the experts, consultants and financiers of the EAC Cyber Laws process for making it possible for the region to stand tall in the development of laws that will enable it share a pie of the multi-billion e business in the World.

Distinguished Delegates,

As I conclude my remarks, allow me to appeal for the continued assistance from UNCTAD on behalf of the Partner States in this area of Cyber Laws for the implementation Phase. I know that Partner States are at different stages of developing national Cyber Laws regimes and therefore capacity building will be required for some of the States.

I also dare float the idea of the establishment of a centre of excellence in Cyber Science in the region as this is a growing field that will require better preparations if the region is to fully exploit the potentials in the e business sector.

I wish you fruitful deliberations and look forward to a successful meeting of the Cyberlaws Phase II development in Zanzibar.

Thank you for your attention.