



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI POLITICAL
SCIENCE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

REPORT OF THE NUPOSA VISIT TO MAKERERE UNIVERSITY IN NOVEMBER, 2012.

**THEME: THE PLACE OF THE STUDENTS
IN THE EAST AFRICAN INTEGRATION
PROCESS.**

UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI POLITICAL SCIENCE STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION.

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BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

The University of Nairobi Political Science Students' Association is a body under the Department of Political Science and Public Administration. Its sole commitment is to ensure that the students of Political Science and Public Administration have a platform to share ideas on issues of governance in the country; and interact with their global counterparts on issues of international concern, for instance regional integration.



Dr. Tom Ochola and Seth Ouma making a presentations.

The Makerere University International Relations and Diplomacy Students' Association is a club under the Department of Political Science and Public Administration at Makerere University. The two clubs have established a sound partnership which saw the Makerere team visit Nairobi in March 2012, launching the exchange relations which were made complete by Nairobi travelling to Makerere from 19th to 21st November 2012. The students from Nairobi were under the guidance of Tom Ochola from their parent department.

The students made contributions to support themselves while in Kampala; and they appreciated the subsidy from the University of close to Ksh. 500,000 (covering fuel, student subsidies, allowances for the lecturer and two drivers); and most importantly, moral support. NUPOSA is grateful to the University Administration for the support offered and the permission granted to the students to make the initiative a success.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

- To enhance dialogue among students and key personalities from the two institutions and respective countries; who have an interest in the affairs of the East African Integration, with a view of imparting knowledge and creating programmes of action.
- To inculcate into students the skills of research, academic writing and academic presentation. These skills we believe shall go a long way in enhancing the career objectives of students.
- To create awareness on the East African Integration with a view of aiding current and future efforts at civic education on the same. We believe that university

students, especially students of Political Science, Law, Literature, History, et cetera, can be a key component of these efforts.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES AND LESSONS LEARNT.

The students had a comprehensive discussion on the East African Integration, based on the revised programme. There were presentations by students from both institutions on particular topics. The University of Nairobi had two students presenting: Seth Edwin Omondi Ouma on, the History of the East African Community; and Gideon Wangige on, the East African Community: challenges and prospects. From Makerere we had Daniel Mubekwa and James Tayebwa on, the place of the Youth in the EAC integration process; and the future of the EAC, respectively. The lecturers participated actively in the discussions by offering guidance and generally acting as adjudicators, especially during the panel discussions, of which the panel was constituted by all student presenters.



Prof Rutanga, Dr Tom Ochola and Dr Simba during a tour of the new Makerere Library Building.

It was observed that the EAC has roots in the integrations schemes that were initiated by the three governors of then colonies of Britain. As early as before World War II, there were several harmonized services, eased by the sharing of a colonial master ; and thus uniform policies on: veterinary services; income tax regimes; education through the joint exams and the University of East Africa; postal services, etc. The governors too had a summit, and all these efforts culminated into the East African High Commission in 1947.

The first EAC was established in 1966 but collapsed in 1977 due to serious disagreements between the partner states, especially Tanzania and Kenya. Barely five years later in 1982, efforts began to revive the cooperation and all these culminated in the signing of the East African Treaty in 1999. Rwanda and Burundi later joined in 2005, and other Eastern African states like South Sudan are expected to join soon. The participants shared an opinion that the prospects for proper integration are advanced now and with the unveiling

of the ¹Monetary Union, Political Union, the last and major component of the integration, wasn't far from being realized.

However, several set backs were still pointed out: most notably tariff and non-tariff barriers. Also, the level of popular participation was pointed out as having not attained the status aimed at in the Treaty, which could otherwise expedite the integration process. This is where students also fell, since there are limited avenues through which East African Students interact as expected of social integration. Otherwise, there was a general belief that the gains so far achieved were irreversible and good will among the East Africans would make everything a success.

The following day, the students had site visits where they collectively visited: Entebbe Beach; Gadhafi Memorial Mosque; the Baganda Tombs; Owino Market; and Kampala City. During these visits, the students managed to witness first-hand, the feelings towards one another, among East Africans. This enabled us realize the need for thorough civic education by the respective EAC states on the EAC and the integration process so as to bring a change in the attitudes of East Africans.

CHALLENGES

We acknowledge facing a few challenges but which were outweighed by the accomplishments.

- The greatest challenge we faced was at the Busia border where we couldn't be offered passage due to lack of the Yellow Visa Card. It took the students great pains realizing that they had come face to face with one of the non-tariff barriers.
- Also, we had several mechanical problems which made our journey slow. The first was a tire-burst a few miles to Narok Town, in a remote area and it took long to replace the same. The braking system wasn't also working properly and this further worsened the pace of our journey till it was serviced.
- The long but slow journey meant that we arrived in Kampala late Monday of 19th and thus altered the programme massively. Some invited Ugandan Government officials who were to attend had to cancel due to other commitments which they couldn't avoid.

¹ The Customs Union and the Common Market Protocol have both been unveiled to set common tariff walls for third parties and permit the free movement of people and goods, respectively.

- Also, time was limited and compelled some presenters to cut short their presentations against the wishes of the participants who appeared not to tire from asking questions.
- Overall, we spent more time on the way than expected. From Nairobi; on 18th November, 2012, we had to stay for the night in Kisumu since the mechanical breakdowns had slowed our pace. From Kampala, we also had to stop in Eldoret for the night since it was late and we didn't want to violate the University transport rule against night student transit. We arrived in Nairobi on 23rd November 2012, four thirty o'clock.

RECOMMENDATIONS/WAY FORWARD.

A civic education and awareness campaign on the East African Integration process is imperative if we are to achieve the expectations of the same in time. It's very necessary that the respective governments of the EAC states take the matter seriously as, without this, the integration would remain an elite's integration only. The greatest channel through which to enhance this is a student exchange programme, which shall obviously culminate into elite-complementarity.

It was thus observed that such initiatives should be highly encouraged and supported by learning institutions, the respective governments and donor agencies. However, the students were challenged to take such initiatives seriously and not to take them merely as social exploration initiatives. All avenues that could ensure the interaction of East African students are worth exploring without any tire. Thus, the students realized the need for a joint ²*East African Students' Forum* through social media, which would enhance easy communication among them.

The two institutions resolved to have the exchange program be annually, but bestowed upon the respective departments the role of agreeing on the modalities. Also, there was an agreement that all EAC institutions of higher learning converge in Rwanda for an ³*All EAC Students' Forum in early 2013*.

² The group is already operational and is very active on Facebook.

³ The arrangements are on-going and the University Administration shall be informed adequately once everything is set.

ANNEXES.

LIST OF KEY GUESTS AND SPEAKERS.

1. Prof Rutanga, Patron-MUIRDSA
2. Dr Simba, Chair-Department of Political Science and Public Administration-Makerere University.
3. Tom Ocholla-Lecturer-University of Nairobi.
4. An official from the Ministry of Education, Uganda.
5. 55 students from the University of Nairobi.
6. 62 students from Makerere University.



Students during a tour of the new Library Complex at Makerere University.



The Makerere University Library.



Students on their way to Kampala City.



Professor Rutanga explaining something.



Students during a tour of Makerere University.



Students during the discussion.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS.

DAY 1 (19TH NOVEMBER 2012)

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTERS
8.00-8.30 am	Introduction and official opening of the study tour	Vice Chancellor Makerere University. The Chair Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University.
8.30-10.30 am	EAC Integration: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Brief background on the EAC 2. Evaluation of EAC 3. Where are we at Integration? Challenges and Solutions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ One student from Makerere University. ▪ One student from University of Nairobi. ▪ The Chair Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Makerere University.
10.30-11.00 am	BREAK	BREAK
11.00-12.30	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Why is the EAC Integration important for the Youths in the region? 2. The role of the youth in the EAC Integration. 3. The role of Institutions of Higher Learning on the EAC process 	Two students from University of Nairobi Two students from Makerere University The Dean, Faculty of Arts, Makerere University
12.30-1.00 pm	Plenary session	A Panel of 4 students and 2 lecturers
1.00-2.00 pm	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
2.00- 4.30 pm	Presentation by official from Ministry of East African Cooperation. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Role of the Ministry of EAC Integration 2. Kenya's/Uganda's Foreign Policy on EAC Integration Discussions 	Official(s) from Ministry of East African Community-Uganda.

Day 2 (20TH NOVEMBER 2012)

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTERS
8.00-10.30 am	Presentation by officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Programs for East African Integration.2. Challenges of the East African Integration3. Opportunities for the Youths in the Integration Process	Officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs-Uganda.
10.30-11.00 am	BREAK	BREAK
11.00-1.00 pm	Plenary discussion from students of the East African Region on what the Integration process has achieved so far.	Students and moderated by lecturer from Makerere
1.00-2.00 pm	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
2.00- 5.30 pm	Visit to Ministry of East African Community.	Official(s) from Ministry of East African Community-Uganda.

Day 3 (21ST NOVEMBER 2012)

TIME	ACTIVITY	PRESENTERS
8.00-1.00 pm	Debate/ Open discussion on: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The role of the University student in the Integration Process.2. What lessons can EAC II learn from EAC I3. After Political Federation: what next?	All
1.00-2.00 pm	LUNCH BREAK	LUNCH BREAK
2.00- 4.30 pm	CULTURAL AFTERNOON	All