

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Citizen participation in port reform and regional integration processes in Kenya boosted with Kshs 24m grant to EACSOF Kenya Chapter

Support expected to improve the capacity of EACSOF Kenya to engage in policy formulation on EAC issues, to coordinate the interventions of the Mombasa Port CSO Stakeholder Group, among others and ultimately improve the participation of citizens in the regional integration

NAIROBI, Kenya, 13th September 2016 – East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOF) Kenya Chapter has signed a Partnership Agreement with TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) Kenya Country Programme to enhanced capacity and participation of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in port reform dialogue and regional integration.

Despite the opportunities provided by Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF), there is still minimal participation of citizens across the region and specifically in Kenya. The structures at the country level (especially institutions for participation) have not been fully developed. The participation by CSOs in the CDF process has remained dismal due to weak capacity of the coordinating institutions. In the same footing, the scoping study commissioned by TMEA (2012) revealed that CSOs had no structured frameworks for engaging in the Mombasa Port reform agenda. The report recommended for the establishment of coordinated structures and action networks to enable the CSOs to effectively participate in the port reform initiatives.

In the spirit of addressing the above gaps TMEA has committed USD 240,050.77 (Approx. Kshs 24 million) to improve the capacity of EACSOF Kenya to engage in policy formulation on EAC issues, to coordinate the interventions of the Mombasa Port CSO Stakeholder Group, among others and ultimately improve the participation of citizens in the regional integration process. Support within the port of Mombasa initiative, which is TMEAs flagship project, will ensure that all actors, including civil society work harmoniously to achieve the overall goal of improving efficiency of the port. Civil society's role will be to ensure that the communities are informed of the operations, opportunities and benefits of the Port to their overall well-being, and will contribute towards creating openness and transparency at the port to minimize disruptions and suspicions from the community within and around the port. The process will enable a win-win situation for both the port and the local communities, leading to enhanced productivity.

The project will be implemented over a period of twenty four (24) months and is expected to: a) Facilitate Port Community to lobby Port Management to incorporate their priority issues in port plans; b) Improve capacity of EACSOF Kenya Chapter to deliver on its mission; and c) to enable EACSOF Kenya lobby for its key priorities to be incorporated by RDC/SG's Forum as policy recommendations.

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For more information, please contact

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2. About TradeMark East Africa

TradeMark East Africa (TMEA) is an organisation funded by a range of development agencies with the aim of growing prosperity in East Africa through trade. TMEA works closely with East African Community (EAC) institutions, national governments, the private sector and civil society organisations.

TMEA seeks to increase trade by unlocking economic potential through:

- Increased physical access to markets;
- Enhanced trade environment; and
- Improved business competitiveness.

Increased trade contributes to increased economic growth, a reduction in poverty and subsequently increased prosperity.

TMEA has its headquarters in Nairobi with branches in Arusha, Bujumbura, Dar es Salaam, Juba, Kampala and Kigali.

To find out more please visit the TMEA website at www.trademarkea.com

3. About East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOE) Kenya Chapter

The East African Civil Society Organisations' Forum (EACSOE) Kenya Chapter is a membership Non-Governmental Organization that was formed in 2013 and registered in 2014. It is an autonomous umbrella body for civil society organisations operating in Kenya whose primary Mission is to provide a platform and catalyse a critical mass of organised civil society to engage in need-driven, people-centred East Africa integration and cooperation process effectively and proactively for equitable and sustainable development. EACSOE envisions a future for people built on self-determination with citizens in control



East Africa Civil Society
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*Strengthening Civil Society in the
Integration Process*



of the social, economic and political capital. EACSOF is recognized as a representative body under the Consultative Dialogue Framework (CDF) adopted by the EAC Council of Ministers for Private Sector, Civil Society and Other Interest Groups during its 26th Meeting (EAC/CM26/DECISION 06). This Decision aimed to create an enabling environment for Private Sector and Civil Society participation in the integration process.

To find out more please visit the EACSOF website at <http://eacsof.net/EACSOF/>