

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY STANDARDISATION PROCESS

Presented by:

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EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

- ❖ The Treaty for establishment of the East African Community was signed on 30th November 1999.
- ❖ Under the Treaty the Partner states set out a vision for the eventual unification and outlined a comprehensive system of cooperation among themselves.
- ❖ The EAC now includes Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda.



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EAST AFRICAN SQMT ACT 2006

- ❖ The treaty, among others, provides under Article 81, co-operation in standardization, quality assurance, metrology and testing (SQMT).
- ❖ In order to operationalise the above provision, *The East African Community Standardization, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing Act 2006* has been put in place.



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EAST AFRICAN SQMT ACT 2006

- ❖ The objects of this Act among others is to harmonize national and East African Standards with international standards to reduce costs, enhance compliance and develop trade opportunities.
- ❖ An East African Standards Committee has been put in place to undertake and coordinate activities related to standardization, metrology and conformity assessment.



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EAST AFRICAN STANDARDS COMMITTEE

- ❖ The Committee has put in place four sub committees to deal with harmonization of standards, quality assurance and accreditation, metrology and testing.
- ❖ The process of building national and regional capacity for implementation of the Act is ongoing.



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DEVELOPMENT OF EAST AFRICAN STANDARDS (EAS)

- ❖ Standards are developed by stakeholders normally consisting of industry (producers), commerce, consumers, researchers, government and independent experts coordinated by National Bureaux of Standards.
- ❖ The SQMT Act states that EAS shall be developed jointly by the national standards bodies of the partner states in accordance with the procedures approved, published and maintained by the Standards Committee.



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DEVELOPMENT OF EAST AFRICAN STANDARDS

- ❖ Standards are developed by the standards Technical subcommittee (STC).
- ❖ When a consensus is reached the Standards Committee submits the draft standards to the standards committee (EASC) which is managed by the Heads of Bureaux for approval before being recommended to Council of Ministers for final approval as East African Standards (EAS).
- ❖ Once EAS are approved NSBs are required to adopt them as national standards and withdraw any conflicting or similar national standards.



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STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

- ❖ Standards development can be initiated by any interested parties, organizations or government with a view of facilitating production, trade, or protection of consumers.
- ❖ The procedures provide for clear stakeholder representation which is achieved by establishment of sector working groups.
- ❖ The private sector is normally key to development of standards as they are the main players in the implementation of such standards.



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EA ORGANIC STANDARD

- ❖ The EAOS
 - ❖ Was developed through a sector working group
 - ❖ The working group was a public private partnership
 - ❖ Input was received, including by farmer groups, through workshops.
 - ❖ is a very good example of active involvement of the private sector in national, regional and international standardization work and needs to be emulated in other areas of the economy.



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CONCLUSION

- ❖ The development of the East African Organic standard is a very good example of Public Private Partnership.
- ❖ Standards are dynamic and are normally reviewed regularly or as necessary and this should be the case for this standard.
- ❖ Compliance to the standards remain the key challenge to all stakeholders if benefits have to be realized.



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Thank you for your attention.



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