



## TANZANIAN-GERMAN CENTRE FOR EASTERN AFRICAN LEGAL STUDIES (TGCL)

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**Project theme:** Regional Integration as a Vehicle for Implementing a Pan-African Architecture for AI Governance in Tanzania for the year 2026

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### First Public Panel Discussion

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**Topic:** Revisiting the Law and Practice on Boosting Intra-EAC Trade amid the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Era of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Evolution

**Keynote Presenter:** Prof. John Eudes Ruhangisa  
– A Distinguished Tanzanian Legal Scholar, Former Judge of the High Court of Tanzania, Founding Registrar of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) and Associate Professor at Tumaini University Makumira.

**Venue:** University of Dar es Salaam School of Law Boardroom

**Date:** 17.04.2026

### 1. Introduction

Over two and a half decades, the East African Community (EAC) has made commendable progress toward achieving the objectives outlined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community of 1999. To mention a few, the community has already created the customs union and common market, and is still in the process of fully achieving the monetary union and drafting the constitution for the confederation as a step towards achieving the political federation. Initiatives to remove both tariff (TB) and non-tariff barriers (NTBs)



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are still underway, and the One-stop Border Post stands as a testament to the community's commitment to easing the free movement of factors of production, such as goods, services, labourers, and persons, within the community.

Despite several gains, intra-EAC trade remains stagnant at 15%, far below the 40% target set by the EAC Heads of State by 2030. The adoption of the legal framework in the East African Community aimed, among other things, to ensure that intra-EAC trade flows smoothly. However, the legal framework, initiatives and practices appear to be two worlds apart. That being the case, the present public panel discussion aims to revisit the law and practice on boosting intra-EAC trade, revealing the existing challenges and the opportunities that the 4th industrial era of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital evolution present for addressing them.

## **2. Guiding Questions:**

- i. What avenues does the EAC Legal Framework offer to boost Intra-EAC trade?
- ii. What are the major (legal and non-legal) causes of low intra-EAC trade?
- iii. What opportunities does the AI era and digital evolution offer to boost intra-EAC trade?
- iv. What reforms or initiatives (legal and non-legal) have been adopted by the EAC and selected EAC Partner States in embracing AI and digital evolution to boost trade?
- v. What measures should generally be adopted to boost intra-EAC trade?



### 3. Event Programme

#### First Public Panel Discussion on Regional Integration, AI and Pan-African Architecture

University of Dar es Salaam School of Law

Date: 17/04/2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Venue: UDSoL Boardroom

SN	Activity	Time	Responsible Person
1.	Arrival and Registration	9:30 – 10:00	Organising Committee
2.	Opening Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Dr Laurean Mussa (Dean, University of Dar es Salaam School of Law)</li><li>- Mr Peter KOCH (KAS Resident Representative in Tanzania)</li></ul>	10:00 – 10:30	Moderator
3.	Group Photo	10:30 – 10:40	Moderator / Organising Committee
4.	Citation of the Keynote Presenter	10:40 – 10:50	Dr Evelyn Mduma Richard
5.	Keynote Presentation	10:50 – 11:50	Prof. John Eudes Ruhangisa



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	Revisiting the Law and Practice on Boosting Intra-EAC Trade amid the 4 <sup>th</sup> Industrial Era of Artificial Intelligence and Digital Evolution		
6.	Provoking Discussion	11:50 – 12:00	Dr Leonard Peter Binamungu
7.	Reaction from Participants (Physical and Virtual)	12:00 – 12:50	Moderator
8.	Closing Remarks	12:50 – 1:00	Dr. Petro Protas
9.	Refreshments	1:00 – 1:30	All

Prepared by:

Dr. Petro Protas  
**TGCL Coordinator**