Issue No 16

NEA

Weekly e-SHOT

1st-5th November 2021

Working Together! :-

Harnesing Labour Migration for Economic Growth



East African Community Partner States have been called upon to harness labour migration for economic growth through policy alignment. This was during the 5th East African Community (EAC) Forum for Ministers held on 26th October 2021 at the Julius Nyerere Convention Centre in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The objective of the meeting was to deliberate on various issues affecting the region on labour and employment.



Mawaziri wanaohusika na Sekta ya Kazi na Ajira katika Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki (EAC) wakionesha Ripoti ya kikao cha jukwaa la Tano (5) la sekta hiyo lilifanyika Jijini Dar es Salaam, Oktoba 29, 2021.

The meeting was attended among others; Hon. Domine Banyankimbona, Minister of Public Services, Labour and Employment, Burundi; Hon. Fanfan K Rwanyindo, Minister of Public Service and Labour, Rwanda; Hon. James Hoth Mai, Minister of Labour, South Sudan; Hon. Betty Amongi, Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda, and; Hon. Mudrik Ramadhan Soraga, Minister of Labour, Economic Affairs and Investment, Zanzibar, United Republic of Tanzania.

In his opening remarks, the Cabinet Secretary for Labour, Hon. Simon Chelugui who was the chair for the meeting, urged EAC Partner States to always **negotiate as a bloc with other regional economic communities and big economies in order to reap from the economies of scale.** Hon. Chelugui underscored the importance of **aligning national social security laws to extend access to social protection and portability of benefits for workers across the region.** The CS singled out key issues that needed to be addressed to promote labour migration in the region, namely: **harmonization of Labour laws, and; enhancement of the use of ICT in collection, analysis and dissemination of labour market information, data and statistics on migrants.** He further called upon Partner States to **promote ethical recruitment of migrant workers according to international standards and principles of**

ABOUT NEA

The National Employment Authority (NEA) was established in April, 2016 by an Act of Parliament (the National Employment Authority Act 2016) . The Authority main policy priorities are the promotion of employment in all aspects of national development. Specific policy priorities are:

1. Employment creation, especially for the youth, minorities and marginalized groups
2. Provision of labour market information;
3. Re-engineering of public employment services; and
4. Promotion of foreign employment.

International Migration Law, adding that Kenya had already established an oversight and community Feedback mechanisms for the recruitment industry.

Addressing the forum, EAC Secretary General Hon. (Dr.) Peter Mathuki said the labour and migration sector had registered several achievements such as t**he development and adoption of the EAC Common Market Scorecard on Free Movement of Labour, Rights of Establishment and Residence, 2018**. Dr. Mathuki disclosed that the Secretariat was developing and an implementation plan to implement the Scorecard.

In his remarks, the International Labour Organization (ILO) Country Director for Tanzania, Mr. Wellington Chibebe, informed the forum of **Africa's high informality rate, currently estimated at 82.9 per cent. "Informality" is a term used to describe the collection of firms, workers, and activities that operate outside the legal and regulatory frameworks or outside the modern economy. Mr.** Chibebe reveal that the social protection expenditure in Africa amounts to less than 5 per cent of GDP compared to a global average of 12.9 per cent. He noted that one vital lesson learnt from the pandemic was the importance of digital technology in response to crises.

Also present were Partner States' Permanent/Principal/Under Secretaries for Labour and Migration, Social Partners, East African Trade Unions Confederation and East African Employers Organization.

NOTICE ! NOTICE! NOTICE!

Submission of Employee Returns for the year ending 31st Dec 2021

Pursuant to Section 76 – 81 of the Employment Act, 2007, **The National Employment Authority reminds all employers that filling of Annual Employee Returns is due from 1st December, 2021.** Employers are therefore informed that the link for filling the returns will be active between 1st December, 2021 and 31st January, 2022.

Filling of Annual Employee Returns is done online only through the Authority's portal *www.neaims.go.ke* and employers are therefore advised to ensure that they update/capture the records of their employees directly in to the system well in advance in reediness for filling their returns. The procedure for filling the returns are as follows:

1. Log *in to your NEAIMS Account through www.neaims.go.ke, (User Name is KRA PIN Number)*
2. *Click on Returns/Uploads,*
3. *Click on Capture/View List of Employees then KEY in and SAVE the details/records of each employee one by one.* **(This can be done any time within the year).**

Employers are also informed that:

1. *The "Declare" button is activated/enabled between 1st December to 31st January every year.*
2. *When the "Declare" button is activated/enabled, an employer will only need to confirm that the list of his employees is upto date in the system then just click on "Declare" so that the compliance certificate is activated and be able to download and print the compliance certificate. The procedure is the same for all other subsequent years.*
3. *Employers whose employee's records are already captured in the system are only expected to update their records (new employees and employees who exited the service within 2021) and wait for the "Declare" button to be activated/enabled so that they can file their 2021 Employee Returns.*

For more information, we encourage you to familiarize yourself with the Employment Act, 2007 which is downloadable from:
https://nea.go.ke/web/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/kenya_employment_act_2007.pdf
#File_Your_Annual_Employee_Returns_In_Time#

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