

## PRESS RELEASE

### ARUSHA TO HOST REGIONAL COMPETITION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE EAC ANTHEM

*EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania, Friday 23 September 2005:* The regional competition on the development of the East African Community (EAC) Anthem is scheduled to take place from 26–27 September 2005, at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium, in Arusha, Tanzania. The Secretary General of the East African Community Hon Amanywa Mushega will officially open the Competition on Monday 26 September 2005. The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Hon Abdulrahman Kinana, will present prizes to the winners and officially close the competition on Tuesday 27 September 2005. The Regional Commissioner, Hon. Mohammed Babu and members of the East African Legislative Assembly, will be among the high profile dignitaries to witness the occasion.

According to the programme, National Choirs (Winners), Adjudicators, Choir Masters, Directors of Culture from the Partner States (Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania) will arrive in Arusha, Tanzania, on Saturday 24 September 2005. The rehearsals (practice) by the competing choirs begins on Sunday 25 September 2005, at Natural History Museum, and continues on Monday 26 September 2005 from 9.00am to 12.30pm at the Sheikh Amri Abeid Stadium. Official opening of the competition is at 14.00hrs.

#### **Background information**

The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (Article 119) provides for the promotion of cultural activities including fine arts, literature, music, performing arts and other artistic creations, which safeguard and enhance East African unity. Given that culture forms a basis of unity and upholds the moral fibre of any community, there is recognition that culture can play a significant role in the economic, social and political development of a future integrated East Africa. In their efforts to actualize this goal, the 3<sup>rd</sup> East African Tripartite Commission held in November 2001, directed the EAC Secretariat to initiate a process of composing an East African Anthem.

The Education, Culture and Sports Committee developed the relevant Terms of Reference for the development of the Anthem in 2002. It also prepared the processes needed for the development of the anthem at both national and regional levels.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Council held in November 2002 approved the developed Terms of Reference and directed the EAC Secretariat to mobilise the necessary resources to develop the Anthem.

This regional event marks the end of a process initiated by the EAC Secretariat early this year, in collaboration with the Ministries responsible for Culture in the Partner States, to have the people of East Africa participate in the development of the Anthem. The winning composition will be presented to the East African Community

Council of Ministers for consideration and adoption. Once adopted, the Anthem is expected to promote among the people of the region an East African identity.

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