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Experts: Implement protocols to achieve EA federation goal

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Sunday, 06 May 2012 11:47

By James Gashumba

The Citizen Correspondent

Arusha. East Africa's political federation may not be realised if the five member states of the East African Community (EAC) do not fully implement the already agreed protocols, experts have cautioned. Delegates at a recent meeting on the second EAC Dialogue on Political Federation said the protocols yet to be fully enforced include the Common Market Protocol that was signed in 2009 and the Customs Union Protocol signed in 2004 but came into force in 2005.

Speaking at the meeting held in Dar es Salaam, Prof Gilbert Khadiagala of the University of Pretoria said EAC's federation will be achieved on the condition of successes in the region's economy that would be obtained after executing the economic protocols.

Prof Sam Tulya-Muhika from Makerere University said it was imperative to eliminate all trade barriers in the region for the federation to be realised. The meeting was attended representatives of the civil society, academicians, political scientists and government officials from the EAC.

A recent report of Team of Experts on Addressing the Fears, Concerns and Challenges of the East African Federation indicated there was still fear that partner states would lose power and independence of decision-making and citizens are still unaware of how political federation will modify the sovereignty of the partner states, and the kind of sovereignty that will emerge out of the federation.

EAC's political federation will be the last in the four stages on integration, including the Common Market, Customs Union and the Monetary Union that is being negotiated.

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