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The EastAfrican
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EA Standards Bill awaits three presidents' nod

By A CORRESPONDENT
The EastAfrican

A Bill to harmonise domestic and regional standards approved by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is waiting to be assented to by the three East African Community Heads of State before it becomes law.

This is the 10th Bill to be approved by the Assembly since the latter was formally launched in 2002.

Dr George Nangale, the chairman of the Assembly's committee on communications, trade and investments said.

The Bill for Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing intends to ensure adequacy of the highest quality system at national level in order to facilitate industrial development and trade, as well as help protect the health and safety of the people and environment in the Community.

He said the Bill will enhance confidence and limit consumer exploitation by increasing the number of processes and services that conform to established standards.

"It is hoped that there will be improved product quality and reliability that will enhance the reputation of East Africa's goods and services, he said.

The Bill will also ensure regard for the World Trade Organisation agreement on technical barriers to trade requirements and obligations. The Bill seeks to set up regional bodies such the East Africa Standards Committee and the East Africa Accreditation Board.

However, all the core administrative duties of the authorities are to be carried out at national level, under the authority of their respective parent ministries.

The protocol for the Bill was concluded in 2002.

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