

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, February 22 (Infosplusgabon) - Tanzanian President John Pombe Magufuli arrived in Kampala on Wednesday to attend the 19th Summit of the East African Community (EAC) leaders holding in the Ugandan capital on Friday.

President Magufuli was met on arrival at Entebbe International Airport by Ugandan Foreign Affairs Minister Sam Kutesa. From there he proceeded to the State House where he had talks with Ugandan President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The EAC Heads of State are scheduled to hold a joint retreat on Thursday in Kampala to address issues related to Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development, the EAC Secretariat said.

It will be the first EAC event bringing together Heads of State and Health Sector Investors with a Donors Round-Table and International Exhibition.

The retreat aims at accelerating the attainment of the objectives of the EAC Development Strategy, Agenda 2063 of the African Union and the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations in the infrastructure and health sectors.

The first Summit on Investment in Health was recommended in June 2016 by the 12th Sectoral Council on Health and subsequently adopted in April 2017 by the 35th Meeting of the EAC Council of Ministers.

According to the EAC Secretariat, convening of the event is in recognition of the fact that the EAC region is undergoing major public health transformations fuelled by changing human-animal-environmental interactions, population dynamics and socioeconomic development.

Like other low and middle-income regions, the EAC is experiencing a concurrent triple burden of common infectious diseases such as malaria, HIV/AIDS and Tuberculosis and maternal and child health complications; non-communicable diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and cancers; and epidemic and pandemic diseases related to increasing globalization, trade and climate change.

The retreat also aims at supporting infrastructure development to facilitate regional integration and socioeconomic development in the EAC. Three previous retreats, held in 2008, 2012 and 2014, provided high-level political push for investments in major infrastructure projects in the region.

Several projects in transport, energy and civil aviation have been identified for development at the regional level and resources mobilized for their implementation.

Given the limited time for the heads of state to address numerous yet equally heavy agenda items, the EAC Secretariat and Partner States have combined the events through a Joint Retreat that is preceded by the separate infrastructure and health sector investors' and donors' round-tables on 21 February 2018. An international infrastructure and health exhibition has been organized for 21-22 February 2018.

The separate donor round-tables are being held at ministerial level to generate refined outcome documents that will subsequently be presented to the Joint Retreat of the EAC Heads of State on Infrastructure and Health Financing and Development.

FIN/INFOSPLUSGABON/EFG/GABON 2018

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