

ABSTRACT

East African Court of Justice is a regional Court of the East African Community, an inter-governmental organization with 6 partner states namely the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda. The mandate of the Court is to ensure adherence to law in the interpretation and application of the treaty for the establishment of the East African Community. The aim of the research is to assess the use of Information Communication Technology as an enabler in the administration of Justice for the case of the East African Court Justice. The research is extended to all the six partner states of the East African Community using a mixed methods approach which is a method of collecting both qualitative and quantitative to have a more comprehensive understanding of the research problem. Data is collected using two questionnaires, the first one collecting quantitative data while the second one collects qualitative data and exclusively for EACJ. The researcher also collected data using the observation method on how EACJ holds its Court's sessions. In total, 81 respondents participated during the data collection process. It transpired that EACJ uses a lot of funds to hold its Court's sessions since its judges are not based at its headquarters in Arusha but in their respective countries offering ad hoc services to EACJ. Therefore, Court's sessions are held on need base. Most of EACJ's Court's sessions are held in Arusha but can also be held in any other location once the Court deems it necessary. It is also a requirement for parties and/or their advocates to suits to physically appear in Court as mentioned by a judge during data collection. This ends up being costly to EACJ's litigants who have to incur costs related to travels to and from Arusha to appear in Court. It hinders EACJ's strategic objective in its strategic plan 2010-2015 of bringing justice closer to people since only the fortunate ones will be able to seek justice at EACJ due to the high costs associated with physical appearance in Court. However, this can be remedied by using Information Communication Technology such as video conferencing technology to hold Court's sessions in a virtual environment just like other Courts in the world do like in the United States of America as well as Singapore.

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