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A SUMMARY OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR'S - AMB. PROF. COSTA RICKY MAHALU VISIT TO HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN EUROPE - DATES: 24th MARCH - 20th APRIL 2024

The Vice Chancellor, Amb. Prof. Costa Ricky Mahalu left the country on the 24th of March 2024 for Europe. His working trip included visiting five cities in Europe. He had engagements in; Wroclaw, Poland; Geneva, Switzerland; Rome, Italy; Vechta, Bremen and Freiburg in the Federal Republic of Germany.

He had some invitations from host higher learning institutions in the mentioned cities. He carried discussions on future working plans and areas of collaboration between the universities in Europe and St. Augustine University of Tanzania and he was expected to attend and carry on discussions with various universities in those cities as just above mentioned. In places with embassies of the United Republic of Tanzania, the embassies were well informed of his visits and accorded him special and quite warm welcome. These are Tanzanian embassies in Geneva and Rome. The embassies expressed unconditional support and, offered their assistance in promoting and, SAUT in the areas of their representation.

He is sincerely grateful to their excellencies in these embassies. They are, to say the least, friends of SAUT. The specifics of each visit is highlighted below.

• **POLAND**

While in Poland, his host institution was the International University of Logistics and Transport. It is ranked among the six best

institutions in Europe on the study of logistics. The university expressed keen interest in establishing cooperation with SAUT in programmes related to logistics in transport and in mining. They proposed that SAUT be the centre of such programmes but echoed that if there was such a possibility, two more universities, one public and the other private would be included in the collaboration..



The Vice Chancellor did some interesting practical simulation exercises in their simulation unit, off-loading of boxes with a fork lift.



Visiting the laboratory on loading of goods which the University expects to establish at SAUT through Erasmus funding.



Vice Chancellor gave a series of lectures on various topics of mutual interests to our institutions.



Vice Chancellor managed to remotely control a robot packing goods

• **SWITZERLAND**

In Switzerland, the Vice Chancellor was warmly welcomed by the Tanzanian Embassy. He met with the Tanzanian Ambassador and had very useful discussions on planned cooperation between SAUT and with Swiss universities.



Vice Chancellor with H.E. Ambassador Dr. Possi, a great young lawyer.



They discussed a lot in relation to cooperation between SAUT and two universities in Switzerland. He had hinted on our visit to Switzerland to the presidents of those universities. It was Easter and he could not meet with them. They agreed to have zoom meetings with them once he was back home. University colleagues will be able to participate effectively in the planned talks. Arrangements for such meetings will be done in the first two week of May through the Embassy.



Vice Chancellor with H.E. Ambassador Hoyce Temu.

H.E. Ambassador Hoyce Temu Deputy Head of Tanzania Mission in Geneva is an alumnus of SAUT, and she has just recently pursued her PhD programme with SAUT. She is our most effective ambassador. She is organising cooperation between SAUT with a Polytechnic in Switzerland. She gave Vice Chancellor the full name of the Polytechnic.

In Switzerland, the interest was/is establishing contacts and therefore cooperation with technical universities. This would benefit our Faculty of Engineering in matters of Science and Technology. The Embassy through Ambassador Dr. Possi gave the Vice Chancellor contacts of a university in the Czech Republic, which has shown keen interest in cooperating with an African university. The Vice Chancellor has already contacted them, and further contacts

will be made while he gets home. H.E. Ambassador Temu was really keen in connecting us with technical institutions in Switzerland.

• **ITALY**

The Vice Chancellor was very warmly received by the Embassy. They discussed a lot of issues as far as SAUT, and some universities in Italy were concerned. There is a connection that the Embassy will make for us with the Sapienza University. A professor there who works with UDSM has expressed interest in cooperating with a private university in matters of science and technology. Since it was the after Easter week, it was recommended that we initiate correspondence when the Vice Chancellor is in Tanzania. . The Embassy also recommended cooperation between SAUT and two universities, namely the University of Sienna and the Torino University. Their main area of cooperation is the Kiswahili language. Our Department of Kiswahili will benefit through such cooperation.. A ASAUT alumnus member of staff was given the assignment of following up on this collaboration. The following are some impressions from Rome.



Vice Chancellor with Embassy Officials



The Vice Chancellor had dinner with some of the Embassy staff in Rome.

• THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY

The Vice Chancellor was able to visit Vechta. This is a university that had an ageing MoU with SAUT. We have a number of young colleagues who are doing PhD, programmes over there. The Vice Chancellor had long and impressive discussions with the Vice Chancellor of Vechta as well as other members of staff. They resolved the following: Continue cooperation in matters related to the discipline of sociology.

- Establish cooperation in the study, research and exchange of both academic staff and students in the field of social welfare.
- Promote the training of teachers for both primary and secondary schools.
- Any other programmes of mutual interests.
- We should organise zoom meetings regularly and make close follow up of our colleagues doing their doctorates there.

The Vice Chancellor at the ceremony of signing a new MoU with Vechta University and exchange of signed documents.



Amb. Prof. Mahalu with the Vice Chancellor of Vechta signed a new MoU outlining our cooperation.

• Bremen

The Vice Chancellor, Ambassador Prof. Costa Ricky Mahalu visited the Bremen City University and met with the Vice Chancellor.

They signed MoU with the City University without specifying the programmes for cooperation. There were, however, some indications on the areas to be identified for the intended cooperation, namely:

- Cooperation in the field of science and technology, specifically with the SAUT Faculty of Engineering.
- They have a Faculty of Nautical Engineering. They train marine engineers and sea pilots. The Tanzania Ports Authority trains its pilots at this Institution. "We discussed cooperation on this kind of training, but I thought I should consult the Tanzania Shipping Company, where I am the Deputy Chairperson of the Board if we can join hands. TASHICO plans to initiate training programmes for pilots and marine engineers. He raised the matter with both the Chairperson and the CEO. They did indeed welcome the idea. The Vice Chancellor indicated that the discussion would be finalized once he was in Tanzania.
- They do have a very strong school for nursing and midwifery. This would be an area of cooperation between SFUCHAS and Bremen. He later visited the facility and it is really impressive. A midwifery professor will be coming to SAUT to discuss the intended cooperation with SFUCHAS. Some nitty-gritty will be highlighted next month when Dr. Judith Wanda visits Bremen.



Amb. Prof. Mahalu with the Vice Chancellor of the City University, Bremen.

• Freiburg

Ambassador Prof. Mahalu met with the Vice Chancellor of this very famous School of Education. The meeting was quite long and both informative. They planned to sign an MoU with the school, identifying the following areas of cooperation:

- Cooperating in research related to the training of primary and secondary school teachers. Working together to identify problems and devising solutions to the issues.
- Training teachers for mathematics and science subjects for both primary and secondary schools.
- Promoting research and staff and students in the fields of education, sociology, and social welfare.
- Initiating joint research in the field of history as they have a strong Department of History. This would mean initiating research on African history and publishing frequently on African history from an independent point of view and, therefore, without any prejudice. This element is based on the fact that African history has to a large extent been written by colonial historians who misjudged African values. A joint research approach between SAUT and German scholars would effectively contribute to scholarship. There are several institutions in Germany that are depository of archival materials on Africa. They are in the German language. There are also a lot of materials in our archives related to pre and colonial periods of Germans in the then German East Africa.

The Vice Chancellor gave his inputs on views them his own understanding and, therefore, on culture and a heritage. He also described to them attempts by the West to erase African culture and, therefore, African civilisation by hiding the African cultural heritage in their museums. It was a good and thought provoking discussion.

One thing that is quite important to report is that some member of staff had been mandated to make appointments for the Vice Chancellor to meet with several institutions and/or persons related to the Vatican in Rome by virtue of their relation and knowledge of Vatican. For some reason he could not comprehend; these appointments were not possible. The same thing happened with the trip to Aachen, where he was supposed to meet with the Mission and discuss our projects. The contacts were not made.

The Vice Chancellor completed his official tour in European Higher Education Institutions on Friday and on 20th April, 2024 embarked home. It is hoped that the trip will bear fruitful areas of collaboration that will see SAUT benefit and elevate its key roles as a higher learning institution.



Vice Chancellor in a discussion with members of staff and students of history on the issue of Cultural Heritage.