



TAX FLASHLIGHT

Updates on Economic Justice in the EAC
eataxgovernance.net

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Back in action and ready to conquer 2024!

We are back in the office after a refreshing holiday break, invigorated and eager to begin another year of collaboration. As we enter 2024, we reflect on the struggles and successes of the previous year and are energized by the opportunities that await us. We thank you, our partners, and stakeholders, for your consistent support in our shared goal of advancing openness, accountability, and good governance throughout the region. Our network is more than just a collection of experts; it is a dynamic ecosystem of collaboration, knowledge-sharing, and invention, and we are grateful for it. As the new year begins, EATGN extends warm wishes for a prosperous and transformative 2024. Stay tuned for exciting events, workshops, and initiatives lined up throughout the year.

Top EAC Stories to Keep an Eye on in 2024.

East Africa is poised for a dynamic and eventful year, with several key moments that are set to shape the region's political, economic, and social landscape. Here are some of the key events and developments to look out for:

- **Simmering Regional Tensions:** The **East African Community (EAC)** bloc is off to a rocky start in 2024 as **trade** and **diplomatic** tensions escalate, testing the region's unity to the fullest.
- **Presidential Elections:** Citizens in **Rwanda** and **South Sudan** are headed to the polls this year. The outcomes of these elections will have a significant impact on the future direction of both countries and the region at large.

- **Economic outlook:** Though economic growth in East Africa is expected to rebound in 2024, the region's economic outlook remains clouded by debt, lingering inflation, and climate risks, compounded by uncertainties on the political front.
- **Pan-African Payment and Settlement System:** The EAC launched the PAPSS platform in December, with Kenya the first country to go live. Full implementation across the region is expected by mid-2024 if foreign exchange rules and infrastructure challenges can be addressed.
- **Regional Integration:** The EAC has achieved notable milestones in regional integration, such as establishing a Customs Union, Common Market, and Monetary Union. Despite this progress, challenges persist, including infrastructure gaps, non-tariff barriers to trade, varying economic development levels, and political instability in some member states.
- **Geopolitical relations:** East Africa's relations with global powers, as well as with neighboring regions, will be under scrutiny in 2024 as the region seeks to balance its relations with China, the United States, Gulf states and other major powers. Competition for influence will likely intensify amid global uncertainties.
- **Innovation and Technology:** East Africa has been a hub for innovation and technological advancements, particularly in the areas of fintech and mobile money. Developments in these sectors, as well as advancements in digital infrastructure are expected in 2024.

Must-Reads from Our Blog: A Compilation of Top Picks from 2023.

Last year, as part of the Scaling Up Tax Justice (SCUT) project, we initiated a media fellowship initiative that resulted in the development of several feature articles.

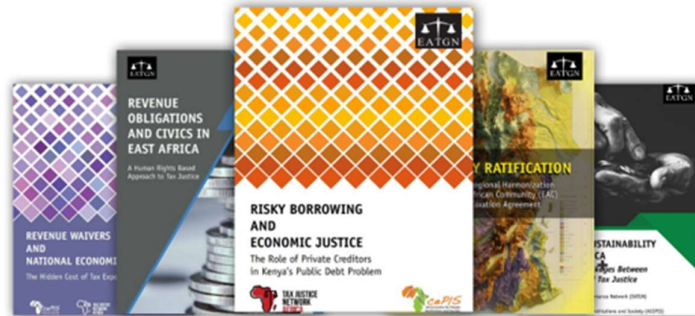
Checkout the reading list at your convenience:

- **Fighting the Good Fight: An African Journey in Redefining Global Tax Rules**
- **The Borrower is Slave to the Lender: Debt Bondage and Economic Justice in Kenya**
- **Collection Overreach: Increasing Kenyan Revenue Sources and Rates in Taxing the Informal Economy**
- **Towards A Just Global Tax System: Glaring Gap Between the Haves and the Have Nots**
- **Harvest of Turbulence: Hard times as Kenyans come to terms with IMF Structural Adjustment Policies**

Remember to send comments or feedback to info@eataxgovernance.net.

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EATGN REPORTS AND RESOURCES



Start the new year with these EATGN essentials. Our curated research features in-depth analyses of fiscal policies and governance frameworks in East Africa. These data-driven resources are meticulously crafted to empower policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders with the knowledge needed to catalyze positive change.

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