

**ISSN: 0012 - 8678**

# **EASTERN AFRICA LAW REVIEW**

**ISSUE NO. 2**

**VOLUME 46**

**DECEMBER**

**2019**

**A JOURNAL OF LAW AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Published by University of Dar es Salaam School of Law,  
University of Dar es Salaam**

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### **A Journal of Law and Development**

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  - (b) Relevance of the article in terms of substance;
  - (c) Propriety of the format;
  - (d) Whether the article should-
    - be published as it is;
    - be published after corrections indicated by the reviewer;
    - not be published at all.
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who are PhD degree holders and 15 PhD degree holders who are not yet professors.

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Articles to be submitted should comply with the format and Guideline for Authors available at <http://www.sol.udsm.ac.tz/images/Mypdf/UDSoLJournals.pdf>

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Eastern Africa Law Review,  
P.O. Box 35093,  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania  
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### **Price**

Price per issue exclusive of postage is TShs. 15,000 (within Tanzania)

USD 20 (outside Tanzania)

### **Frequency of publication**

The publication comes out biannually: June and December.



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# TOWARDS A CONCEPTUAL CASE FOR HARMONISATION OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAWS WITHIN THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

*Abudho Japheth Odhiambo\**

## **ABSTRACT**

This article attempts to build a conceptual justification for harmonisation of intellectual property laws within the East African Community (EAC). In this regard, the article establishes the conceptual link between IP and regional integration to provide a general context regarding the place of IP in regional economic integration. To establish and expound on the linkages, several claims and arguments are made in the article. First, that there exists a critical role for the law in establishing and developing regional economic integration. Second, that since IP rights are principally constructs of the law, it follows that such rights and their principles are equally vital for regional economic integration. Third, and as a consequence of the foregoing general linkages, IP rights are indeed relevant for the attainment of the four freedoms of the EAC Common Market, namely, the free movement of capital, labour, goods and services. Fourth, considering their character as notions of law, legal and institutional differences in IP rights frameworks are in fact legal barriers to the realisation of the EAC Common Market objectives. This creates the need for harmonisation of such laws.

**Key Words:** Harmonisation, Intellectual Property, Regional Economic Integration, East African Community.

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\* The author is a Ph.D Candidate at the University of Dar es Salaam. This article is based on the author's Ph.D thesis research.