

## CCES and ESAMI Collaborate to offer MBA with Customs Specialization

*Creck Buyonge*

A new Masters of Business Administration (MBA) with a specialization in Customs Management has been launched in Arusha, Tanzania by the East & Southern Africa Management Institute (ESAMI) in collaboration with the Centre for Customs & Excise Studies (CCES), University of Canberra. ESAMI is chartered to grant degrees by eight countries in the ESA region: Kenya, Namibia, Malawi, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The new degree marks a milestone for customs in Africa, as students from these countries have the opportunity for specialized postgraduate studies similar to what CCES has been offering in Canberra (face-to-face) and in all continents (online).



The pioneer group of sixteen students (from Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe) started their residency session at the ESAMI Campus in Arusha in July 2011. During the residency, the students, including a consultant with a background in accountancy, studied the required specialization subjects under the guidance of CCES lecturers George Grace (Australia) and Creck Buyonge (Kenya) with the assistance of tutors Jackie Murekatete and Rosine Uwamaliya (Rwanda Revenue Authority). Jackie and Rosine are both graduates of the University of Canberra Masters in International Customs Law & Administration.



The Director General of ESAMI, Prof. Bonard Mwape sees the programme as “our contribution in solving the challenges in customs management and administration in Africa,” and adds that “without a critical mass of trained staff in customs

management, Africa’s customs performance will remain poor.” He challenged the students to influence positive change in their countries by beginning to put in practice what they learn throughout the period of their study.

After the residency, students return to ESAMI centres in their countries to take classes in various subjects including *Research Methods, General Management & Organizational Behaviour, Financial Management, Human Resource Management, International Procurement and Global Supply Chain & Logistics Management*. The students will have further online learning on the Customs subjects after their residency using the University of Canberra’s Learning Management System (Moodle). The Master’s Thesis will be on a topic relevant to Customs, and in this manner students will have an opportunity to contribute to the further development of knowledge through their research.



Those who attended the official launch of the programme included the Dean of the ESAMI Business School, Prof. Joseph Mumba, Academic Director at the ESAMI-based Trade Policy Training Centre in Africa (*trapca*), and Prof. Göte Hansson, the Director of Round Table Africa (RTA), Drs. Diederik de Boer.

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