TO: ALL EAGC MEMBERS
FROM: BOARD SECRETARY/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: 20th APRIL 2021
SUBJECT: ELECTION OF EAGC COUNTRY DIRECTORS 2021 - 2023

1. INTRODUCTION

EAGC is a regional, not-for-profit, membership-based organization for the grain sector in Eastern and Southern Africa. The Council draws its membership from grain farmers, grain traders and processors; and support service providers. The Council operates in 10 countries, these being Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. EAGC Membership is divided into 3 categories including core members, affiliate members and associates.

EAGC objective is to facilitate efficient, structured, inclusive and profitable trade in grain commodities and derived products for optimal benefits for all stakeholders in the grain value chain –from producers to consumers. In pursuit of its mandate, EAGC provides services aimed at promoting structured grain trade across the region through provision of market information, capacity building of stakeholders on structured trading systems, and public-private policy dialogues in pursuit of a supportive policy environment for the grain sector to thrive.

2. GOVERNANCE MILESTONES

The Eastern Africa Grain Council is governed through a Board of Directors elected during the Annual General Meeting. This year, EAGC celebrates its 15th Anniversary since its formation on 4th December 2006. During this period, EAGC has been ably governed by the Board led by the various Board Chairmen as below;

i. The 1st Board was led by Naftali Mogere, (Former MD, National Produce and Cereal Board - NCPB).

ii. The 2nd Board was led by Nick Hutchinson, (Group MD UNGA Group).

iii. The 3rd Board was led by Judah Arap Bett.

iv. The 4th by Dr. Bernard Otim (RIP), Former MD Farmers Centre, Uganda.

v. The 5th Board was led by Eugene Rwibasira (Executive Director, Rwanda Development Organization – RDO, and chairman Rwanda Grains and Cereals Corporation (RGCC).
vi. The 6th and current Board Chairperson is Professor Samuel Wangwe serving for the period 2019 to 2021.

3. BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The EAGC Board of Directors is a voluntary institution and does not receive honorariums, stipends or sitting fees. Costs associated with the conduct of preapproved business on behalf of the Council are eligible for reimbursement following a review process and set procedures approved by the Board.

The EAGC Board of Directors (BOARD) is selected through an approved process that recognizes the need for sub-sector and geographic representation. Each sub-sector category, (1) Production, (2) Trade, and (3) Processing, is each assigned two permanent seats on the Board of Directors.

All members of each sub-sector meet during the Annual General Meeting and, following due process; members elect two Sector Board Directors from each sub-sector, making a total of six Directors.

To be eligible, the candidate must be the officially appointed representative from the institutional member which is determined to be a member in good standing. In such a case that a director’s company/organization ceases to be a member during the term in office, that Director must relinquish his/her seat.

The term of office for the Board is two years with the commencement of the term dependent on the dates of the Annual General Meetings. There is a two-term limit (served consecutively) for sitting members of the Board who are eligible to run again after standing down for one term (two-year period).

The Board has authority to form committees which must have specific scopes of work, deliverables, and time frames. The term of a sub-committee must be renewed (or closed) by newly elected Boards.

Board Officers are elected by Board members at the first meeting of each new sitting Board; these being Chair, Vice Chair, and Treasurer. The term of office for the Board Officers (Chairperson, Vice-chair and Treasurer) is two-years.
Duties and responsibility of the Board

The Duties include but not be limited to;

- Meet quarterly or as need dictates
- Oversee the finances of the EAGC and authorize expenditure through a budget process Appoint or authorize the appointment of staff on behalf of the EAGC agenda
- Appoint inspection companies to inspect certain premises to receive EAGC certification Appoint an Arbitration subcommittee
- Appoint other subcommittees as needed Report to the members on current issues affecting the grain industry
- Call for Annual General Meetings at appropriate times

4. THE 7TH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

During the upcoming Annual General Meeting, EAGC will institute the 7th Board of Directors. The Board of Directors are made up of representatives of Country Directors from all EAGC countries of operation with more than 5 registered members and representatives of Farmers, Traders and Processors.

To embark on this, EAGC will begin by election of EAGC Country Directors in all the EAGC Countries to take place ahead of the Annual General Meeting. All countries with more than 5 Members in good standing with subscriptions paid up to and including the year 2021, will hold election of the Country Director. The elected Country Directors will commence their term at the AGM, once they are confirmed at the AGM.

5. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The EAGC Country Director position of the EAGC forms part of the Governance Structures of EAGC.

According to the EAGC Bylaws, Clause 20.1.2 All participating countries within the designated area of operation with a membership of at least five Active and/or Affiliated members are entitled to one permanent seat on the Board. These Country Directors are elected following due process at country-based meetings of all members from all sub-sectors that take place at the Annual General Meeting. A Sector Director cannot also serve as the Country Director and vice versa.
To be eligible, the candidate must be the officially appointed representative with a letter to the Executive Director/Board Secretary from the institutional member which is determined to be a member in good standing.

The term of office for the Board is two years with the commencement of the term dependent on the dates of the Annual General Meetings. There is a two-term limit (served consecutively) for sitting members of the Board who are eligible to run again after standing down for one term (two-year period).

6. NOMINATION PROCESS.

A) BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTATING MEMBERS OF THE COUNTRY. (ACTIVE MEMBERS – FARMER, TRADER OR PROCESSOR)

A nomination form is filled by the Company Nominating their own Director or appointed representative to represent the EAGC Country to the regional Board. A company can also nominate another representative of another EAGC Member Company in the specific Country.

Once the nomination is received during the specified nomination period. The Nomination are compiled and shared back to the members within the period. The Nominations are compiled to show the profile/Bio Data of the Nominee and a passport photo.

During the Members meeting, the Nominees are presented to the Members and each member is given five minutes to explain to the members why they would wish to be elected, and the value they intend to bring to the members.

B) BOARD MEMBER REPRESENTING SECTOR (PRODUCERS/FARMERS, TRADERS AND PROCESSORS)

7. ELECTION PROCESS.

The Country Members who are present at the members meeting are allowed to vote through a secret ballot. Voting forms are provided by the returning officer (who is the Executive Director), or any staff duly appointed to conduct this process on behalf of the Executive Director. The Members present must form at least a 2/3 majority quorum of the Members in the particular country.

The voting shall be one vote per member unless one has been duly appointed to vote as a proxy.
Once the Members vote, all the Voting forms are collected by the returning officer, they are opened and read out allowed to the members. Each voting form is read and listed as per the voting. The Majority vote becomes the winner.

In case of a tie among two or more members, the Voting is repeated among the two candidates until a majority vote is reached. Voting can be done through a Proxy. However, the request to appoint any company as a proxy must be received 5 days before the membership day, where elections are due to be held.

Attached Alongside this are:
2. Proxy Forms

Eligible and interested members are requested to complete the nomination form and email back to the EAGC Secretariat, Executive Director/Board Secretary vide email gmasila@eagc.org.

The date for election of Country Directors for countries with above 5 renewed members subscription for the year 2021 will be communicated by the Secretariat. The election for Sector Directors (Producers, Traders and Processors) will be done at the Annual General Meeting scheduled for 20th May 2021.

For any clarification, please feel free to contact the EAGC Secretariat vide telephone number +254 733 444 055/722 516 250 or email gmasila@eagc.org.

Sincerely,

GERALD MAKAU MASILA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/BOARD SECRETARY