

Poor funding, information exchange hurt war on terrorism

BY STELLA CHERONO

Lack of information exchange between states and poor funding have slowed efforts to fight violent extremism in Eastern Africa, a regional bloc has said.

The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (Igad) says each state has been gathering its own intelligence and using national resources to fight terrorism.

"We should think of how different programmes need to be run differently against normal government systems in order to make it work at all costs. We need to get people to work together and harness any good they have within them so as to help make the region better," Igad Executive Secretary Mahboub Maalim said in Nairobi yesterday.

Mr Maalim said the fight against terrorism should begin by understanding the reason why people are getting convinced to blow themselves up and take others with them.

"We are trying to understand this global phenomenon, these are very vibrant educated people who have a lot going for them," he said.

He was addressing security experts who are



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Tourists enjoy coconut juice in Mombasa. Africa's export potential in traditional services, such as tourism, is clearly recognised.

LABAN WALLOGA

World Bank praises EA tourism platform for strong leadership

BY PAUL REDFERN

A World Bank report has praised the East Africa Tourism Platform (EATO) for showing strong leadership in championing a coordinated approach to enhance the region's travel and tourism competitiveness.

The report says the EATP has enabled practitioners, policy makers, and regulators to engage in "meaningful dialogue" about the critical issues that are currently transforming these services in Sub-Saharan Africa.

"Cooperation initiatives are necessary to increase the regulatory capacity that African governments need to build over time to engage in meaningful liberalisation efforts," says Alemayehu Geda, Associate Professor of Economics at Addis Ababa University.

"Through analytical support and technical assistance, the World Bank can assist African countries to improve regulation, facilitate services flows, and

ultimately make services in Africa more competitive." Africa's export potential in traditional services, such as tourism, is clearly recognised, but the emerging success of exports of nontraditional services, such as business services, is often overlooked, the report says.

For example more than 16 percent of the accounting, architectural, engineering and legal firms in the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (Comesa) countries are already engaged in exports, mainly to neighbouring countries.

"This contradicts official statistics, which assert that professional services exports for several countries are negligible or non-existent," the report says. "Likewise, many hospitals in Sub-Saharan African countries are treating foreign patients and are using tele-medicine; yet official statistics often do not record such trade flows in medical services."

But the service sector is blossoming in ways that are currently unheralded, the World Bank says.