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Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional and International Cooperation minister Dr Augustine Mahiga speaks in Dar es Salaam yesterday at conference on India's Interface with East African Cooperation and South Africa Development Cooperation member-countries on security, stability and development. With him are Indian Council of World Affairs New Delhi Ambassador Nalin Surie (2nd-L), former Prime Minister Dr Salim Ahmed Salim and India's High Commissioner to Tanzania, Sandeep Arya. Photo: Halima Kamol

EAC, other blocs have much to learn from India - Mahiga

By Henry Mwangonde

THE East African Community and other regional blocs have been called upon to capitalise more on their engagement with India.

More specifically, they have been urged to explore various dimensions of their existing relations with the Asian nation to share knowledge on how to forge strong institutions and enhance accountability, stability, security and development.

Foreign Affairs, East Africa, Regional



The summit is organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs, a highly regarded autonomous think-tank specialising in foreign policy issues and external affairs

and International Cooperation minister Dr Augustine Mahiga made the call at the Second India's Interface with EAC and Southern Africa Development Cooperation countries conference in Dar es Salaam yesterday.

He said the conference was essential as it was an occasion for the two sides to interact and reflect on the key issues apart from the bilateral relations that they currently have.

"India has advanced in various sectors and as developing nations we have a lot to learn

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from them because we have common interests that need to be capitalised on," said the minister.

The career diplomat said India played a key role when most African countries were gaining independence to define what it really meant by

ensuring that they had a say in global affairs, adding that the country went ahead to formulate its foreign policy of non-alignment that Tanzania later embraced. The summit is organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs, a highly regarded autonomous think-tank specialising in foreign policy issues and external affairs.

Held under the theme 'Partnering for security, stability and development', the two-day event is also expected to explore various dimensions of Indo-Africa relations on aspects like political dialogue, democracy and good governance as well as enhancing economic and development cooperation.

Another Tanzanian career diplomat, former Prime Minister Dr Salim Ahmed Salim, said India was among the five countries that have invested heavily in Tanzania. He similarly looked at the conference as an opportunity for delegates to explore a wide range of opportunities that would spur development cooperation.

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