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The East Africa Community Secretary General, Amb. Liberat Mfumukeko, called on me today at State House, Entebbe.

He briefed me on the progress of talks to restore peace in Burundi and the federation exercise of the EAC.

The issue of Burundi, I told him, is largely a result of historical mistakes. The Belgians mismanaged Rwanda and Burundi by creating divisions based on so-called clans (Tutsi/Hutu).

Actually these are not clans but occupation/job classifications. Hutu refers to farmers, Tutsi to cattle keepers. This pseudo-ideology has created unnecessary division.

I therefore appeal to the parties in Burundi to use this EAC mechanism led by H.E Benjamin Mkapa to resolve these matters.

I am happy with the progress towards the EAC federation. I was informed that South Sudan will actively begin participating in EAC affairs from November and member states are soon agreeing on the roadmap for political federation.

