



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly 18th SITTING – THIRD ASSEMBLY: FIFTH MEETING - FIRST SESSION

SPECIAL SITTING

Tuesday, 16 APRIL 2013

(The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Rwanda, in Kigali.)

(Rwanda National Anthem was played)

(The EAC Anthem was played)

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Ms Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

The Chairperson, Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee (Ms Dora Byamukama): Madam Speaker, permit me to recognise the presence of His Excellency, Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda and that of the Rt.Hon. Rose Munkantabana, Speaker, Rwanda Chamber of Deputies, distinguished guests;

Madam Speaker, I beg to move_

THAT, this House, pursuant to the provisions of Article 55(1) of the Treaty and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure, do resolve to hold sittings in Kigali in the Republic of Rwanda.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move. *(Applause)*

The Counsel to the Community (Mr Wilbert Kaahwa) (Ex-Officio): Seconded.

Ms. Byamukama: Madam Speaker,

WHEREAS Clause 1 of Article 55 of the Treaty provides that, the meetings of the Assembly shall be held at such times and places as the Assembly may appoint

WHEREAS Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure provides that, the seat of the Assembly shall be at Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania

AND WHEREAS Sub-Rule 7 of Rule 11 provides that the Assembly may on a resolution adopted by the majority of its members decide to hold one or more sittings elsewhere within in the Partner States other than its seat.

NOW THEREFORE, This Assembly do resolve as follows:

THAT, pursuant to the provisions of Sub-Rule 7 of Rule 11 cited above, the Assembly shall hold sittings in the Chamber of the Rwanda National Assembly from today Tuesday, 16 April 2013 up to Thursday, 25 April 2013.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you very much hon. Byamukama. Hon. Members the motion on the floor is that this House pursuant to the provisions of Article 55 (1) of the Treaty and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure do resolve to hold sittings in Kigali in the Republic of Rwanda.

(Question proposed)

The Speaker: Hon Members I now wish to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to)

– (Applause)–

The Speaker: Hon. Members, amidst us today is His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda.*(Applause)*I have, in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty invited him to address this Assembly.

I would now like to make the following proclamation to welcome the presence, in the Assembly, of the President of the Republic of Rwanda.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Clause (1) of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to attend the Assembly notwithstanding that he or she is not a Member of the Assembly; if in his or her opinion the Business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable.

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda is desirable in accordance with the Business now before the Assembly.

NOW THEREFORE, It is with great pleasure and honour, on your behalf, Hon. Members, that I welcome in this Assembly, the presence of the President of the Republic of Rwanda.

- (Applause) -

WELCOME REMARKS

The Speaker of EALA (Rt. Hon. (Dr) Margaret Nantongo Zziwa): Your Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda; Rt. Hon Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo, President of the Senate; Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of Rwanda Chamber of Deputies; Your Lordship Sam Rugege, the Chief Justice of Rwanda; Hon Shem Bageine, Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers; Hon. Ministers of Rwanda; The Secretary General of the EAC; Hon. Members of EALA and Chamber of Deputies and Senators; Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

I wish first of all to thank Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabana, the Parliament of Rwanda, and indeed the entire Government of the Republic of Rwanda for accepting to host us here at the Parliament of Rwanda once again. The relations between Parliament of Rwanda and EALA are very cordial. I am proud that both Assemblies are pulling together as we collectively learn from each other and we are building ties across the Community. We consider the precincts of Parliament here as our second home and we have a sense of belonging whenever we sit in Kigali.

Allow me thus to thank Rt. Hon Mukantabana who has graciously offered us the use of the facilities of her Parliament. Such a move exemplifies the warm friendship both Assemblies share and is a gesture of the magnanimity of Rt. Hon Mukantabana. We are truly grateful.

The Rt. Hon. Mukantabana is a very active Member of the Bureau of the EAC Speakers, the umbrella body that the National Assemblies are using to spearhead and intensify the linkages of EALA and the National Assemblies as stipulated in Article 49 (2) and 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. As the current Chairperson of the Bureau of the EAC Speakers, Rt. Hon Mukantabana has continued to oversee the increase in interactive activities like the Inter-Parliamentary Games and on the proposal to establish the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI).

I must admit I admire the person of Rt. Hon Mukantabana for her leadership style, political philosophy, soft-spoken, gracious but always firm. When the annals of history are written, Rt. Hon Mukantabana shall definitely grace the pages of history of modern times. I recall nostalgically that when Rt. Hon Mukantabana was elected in October 2008, she was the first woman Speaker in the Great Lakes region to become a Parliamentary Speaker. I later discovered that in addition, she was the sixth female Speaker in the Continent and the 31st in the whole world. These are remarkable facts to behold.

As the Presiding Officer of the House, she is already spearheading reforms including the introduction of radio broadcasts of Parliamentary proceedings and we expect much more to come in the near future. I congratulate the Parliament of Rwanda and wish her well.

On a personal note, let me thank Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabana for the sisterhood she showed me when I assumed the Office of the Speaker. She warmly welcomed me to the Speakers Bureau and gave me many useful tips to ground me in this precious office. Indeed, she has always received me personally in this capital of Kigali.

Allow me also to appreciate the invitation extended to me to join Rwandans as they celebrate 50 years of independence, which gives the EALA and I the opportunity to share the joyous memories of a nation breaking the colonial shackles. This was a great opportunity and congratulations once again. (*Applause*) I am aware that the Republic of Rwanda shall be holding parliamentary elections in September this year. I wish Rt. Hon. Mukantabana as well as all Parliamentarians and Senators all the very best.

Finally, my family and I cannot forget the honour you bestowed on me on 22 September 2012 when you joined us and presided over our thanksgiving prayers for God's providence. That left an indelible mark on our hearts. As Chairperson of Speakers' Bureau then, this was beyond the call of duty. I was humbled.

With these few remarks, I now take this opportunity to invite my very good friend, the Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda to make her remarks. *Karibu Mheshimiwa Spika*

The Speaker, House of Deputies, Parliament of Rwanda (Ms Rose Mukantabana):

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda; Right Honourable President of the Senate of Rwanda; Right Honourable Speaker of EALA; Right Honourable Chief Justice; Right Honourable Prime Minister; Honourable Secretary General of EAC; Honourable Chairperson of the Council of Ministers; Honourable of Ministers; Honourable Members of EALA and Rwandan Parliament; Distinguished guests all protocol observed; Ladies and gentlemen.

It is a pleasure and honour for me to have this opportunity to address a warm welcome to all distinguished members of EALA who have travelled from member States of EAC to come in Kigali, the Capital City of the Republic of Rwanda. I extend also a heartfelt welcome to everyone here present for having honoured the invitation to attend this important ceremony.

On behalf of the Parliament of Rwanda and in my own name, I would like to express our sincere gratitude and thanks to the Rt. Hon. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, the Speaker of EALA for choosing our Parliament to host this session.

Our special thanks go to HE Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda who accepted to be with us this afternoon despite His busy schedule. (*Applause*) This is an eloquent sign of His engagement to the businesses of the Community. Please join me to show Him we are proud of such a political will.

Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Rwanda; Rt. Honourable Speaker; Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, the existence of the East African Community (EAC) and its institutions, among them EALA, is a cornerstone to raise the standards of living of the citizens of the respective countries and to foster close and peaceful relations among States.

To achieve this goal, it is important to strengthen the already established institutions and to build their capacity to deliver on their specific missions. It is also relevant to enhance the existing relations between the National Parliaments of the EAC member States and EALA. A well-established mechanism of communication and dialogue will help everyone to fulfil his/her responsibilities and will contribute to the accomplishment of our common vision to have the five countries fully integrated in a political federation. EALA as well as National Assemblies have to oversee that what has been agreed on is implemented, that all stakeholders are part of the whole process and that each institution is playing its role.

In this context, we have to commend the achievements of EALA, like the number of bills, which have been passed, tours, and public hearings across member States to witness the level of economic development and citizens' involvement in the regional integration. But particularly, such manner of holding sessions on rotational basis among member States is a sign of the community dimension of EALA. I would like to thank EALA leadership that used to gather in our country at the time of memorial of genocide against the Tutsi and to participate alongside Rwandans to different activities organized during the period. This is a way of the visibility of the Assembly and proves the commitment to share our history so that what happened in Rwanda in 1994 never again happens in any other country either in the East African Community or in elsewhere in the World.

Together we will make the EAC a better area to live, a better area for investment, a better area for economic development, a better area for the citizens to enjoy their fundamental human rights, a better area for the dignity of all East African People.

I do expect that the discussions, deliberations, and resolutions during this session will be of an added value to what has been done before. I would ensure the Speaker of EALA, members and support staff that Rwandan Parliamentarians and staff members will spare no effort to have their stay as enjoyable as possible.

Long live the East African Community! Long live the Heads of States! Long live the members of EALA and of National Assemblies!

I thank you for your kind attention, and may God bless you all! (*Applause*)

REMARKS TO WELCOME PRESIDENT KAGAME

The Speaker of EALA (Rt. Hon. (Dr) Margaret Nantongo Zziwa): Your Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda; Rt. Hon Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo, President of the Senate; Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of Rwanda Chamber of Deputies; Your Lordship Sam Rugege, the Chief Justice of Rwanda; Hon Shem Bageine, Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers; Hon. Ministers of Rwanda; the Secretary General of the EAC; Hon. Members of EALA and Chamber of Deputies and Senators; Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Excellency, It is with profound humility that I stand before this *august* House to welcome you warmly to address the Fifth Meeting of the First Session of the Third Assembly. I wish to sincerely thank you and your government for hosting this session in Kigali.

We are honoured to have you in our midst today, exemplifying the importance that you and your Government attach to this *august* House, and indeed to the entire EAC integration efforts. May I use this opportunity to confirm to you that Kigali has always presented itself as one of the cities in the EAC region, which EALA MPs like to frequent owing to its nice and friendly people, a clean environment, and an ever-changing beautiful skyline? (*Applause*)

This Session, which is the inaugural one for the Third Assembly in Rwanda, is taking place at a time when our region is on an irreversible movement towards deeper integration and increased socio-economic prosperity.

Your Excellency, the decision to be in Kigali on these dates was intentional by the Assembly to enable us join our brothers and sisters of Rwanda in commemorating the 19th Anniversary of the genocide. Your Excellency, we continue to express our condolences and sympathies with the victims of this horrendous act. To make our imprint as an Assembly, we intend in the course of this meeting to adopt a Motion to commemorate the genocide as well as to express our disappointment with the UN over its failure to support the victims.

Your Excellency, the Third Assembly has consolidated on the gains made by our predecessors - the first and second EALA, and it continues in its quest to take the integration process to the next level through legislation, oversight, and representation.

Since January 2013, EALA has had a busy calendar. The Fourth Meeting of the First Session took place in Bujumbura, Burundi from 22 January 2013 to 1 February 2013. At that particular meeting, the EALA adopted a number of reports and resolutions key to the integration dispensation.

The EALA Committees have in the last four months also continued to engage the region, Rwanda included, in public hearings and stakeholder meetings on key issues and on Bills presented by the Council to the Assembly. We believe that the constant dialogue with citizens of the region is of utmost importance to ensure that we all move together from one stage of integration to the next so that ultimately, we all own and share in our achievements.

In this regard, over the weekend, EALA Members toured the beautiful countryside of Rwanda courtesy of the Office of the Prime Minister. The visit took us to among other places: the Muhanga Concession Mining Plant in Muhanga District and the Kinazi Cassava Plant in Nyanza District. We also toured the East Africa Granite Industries in Nyagatare and the Kitazigurwa model village in Muhazi sector. We also participated in commemorative activities at the Gisozi Genocide Memorial Museum and at Rebero. We were indeed privileged to interface, meet and join citizens of Rwanda in their daily undertakings. We thank your Government for the broad policies that have resulted in successful organization of the activities visited. The visits definitely open 'our eyes and ears' to development placing us at a vantage position so that when it comes to legislation and to further strengthen our collaboration with citizens of this great Republic, our Members are knowledgeable.

It is evident that EALA's mandate of Representation remains pivotal in contributing to the significant and positive change in the lives of the ordinary citizens of the region. It is however necessary for the key players to 'take integration a notch higher' by ensuring implementation of

decisions and enforcement of legislation. That way, we can collectively strive to see to it that the citizens of the region enjoy the real benefits of integration.

Your Excellency, the Assembly further commits itself to ensuring that we realize the pillars of integration as envisaged by the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC (Article 5 (2)). The incremental approach in the pillars is intended to harmonize and balance the integration process as each stage builds the solid foundation for and feeds into the subsequent stage. The EAC should do more especially regarding the realization of the tenets of the Common Market Protocol, which is soon approaching the 3rd year of implementation.

Partner States need to review their domestic laws to conform to the commitments and undertakings made in the Protocol. The Common Market Protocol spells out a number of benefits for the region including free movement of persons, labour, goods, and services among others. We recognize the steps being taken by the Republic of Rwanda to this effect. However, the uptake of the said Protocol within the Partner States can be more encouraging and we remain hopeful this will allow our region to deepen the integration. I assure you of EALA's support for required legislation to support this pillar.

Allow me, Your Excellency, to congratulate you and your colleagues on the recently concluded Summit of 30 November 2012, and the Retreat on Investment and Infrastructure held in Nairobi where strategic interventions were proposed for the infrastructure sector.

Madam Speaker, recognizing the importance of this sector in the integration process, this requires direct commitment in terms of actions on the part of the Summit. Notably, the railway sector, which is deemed an economic lifeline for the giant economies like China, needs to be bolstered with direct implementation and targets per year. We wait to see clear targets say in terms of distance per period. For instance, construction of 100 kilometres of railway-line per year with a clear roadmap and an institutional mechanism to enforce the implementation would be ideal. EALA looks forward to the realization of its Resolution on Establishment of the East African Railway Authority in the bid to implement the EAC Railway Master Plan.

The Non-Tariff Barriers continue to pose a big threat to the free flow of business in the region and this limits the people of East Africa from enjoying the benefits of integration. The time has come for the EAC region to seek collectively, permanent solutions to the removal of NTBs.

The aspiration to establish a single Customs Territory should be kept highest on the EAC agenda and there must be drastic steps taken to affect it. This may be one of the quickest ways to fight the NTBs. We urge the Summit to cause the Revenue Authorities and Customs Departments to move with haste to implement the above.

Your Excellency, May I take this opportunity to congratulate you for steering the Republic of Rwanda to greater heights. Rwanda celebrated 50 years of Independence mid last year (2012) and it has now embarked on a steady economic growth and is a peaceful country.

Much of what has been realized is due to your outstanding personality. Your consistent yet focused, steady yet soft-spoken approach to issues has contributed to raising the self-esteem of the citizens of Rwanda on the one hand and the profile of the country on the other.

Today, to name but a few successes, Rwanda stands as an ‘icon and hub’ in the ICT sector in the region. Due to your techno-savvy abilities, the internet continues to be a mode of communication between leadership and the people. I for one have been a keen follower of your personal website, blog, and twitter accounts.

In the aviation industry, only a few years back, Rwanda had a few leased aircrafts plying the region. Today, courtesy of your foresight, Rwandair, the national airline carrier has been revamped. In fact, with the recent introduction of the new modern aircrafts – the Boeing 737 New Generation, the airline is geared to be very competitive in the industry. We continue to seek your support towards the establishment of a common East African Airspace so that the airline industry can thrive even better.

The country is environmentally conscious, clean, and beautiful, thanks to the decision of the leadership to rid the use of polythene bags. The landmark achievements of this beautiful country, coming 19 years after the horrendous genocide, have been hailed far and beyond and it is befitting that we too add our voice in heralding this notable achievement. Further, your Government’s desire to invest in people is remarkable and deserves accolades, particularly in the sector where the universal education programme and the One Laptop per Child (OLPC) is now emulated in East Africa. In addition, your Government’s desire and consistent spirit to fight corruption has borne fruits on the economic index of Rwanda. *(Applause)*

Your positive outlook towards women empowerment, which is reflected in all structures of your Government and other institutions, needs to be hailed. In the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Rwanda’s rating of women in decision making remains highest. EAC should emulate Rwanda’s example by constantly reflecting on the role of women in the EAC integration process and in leadership roles.

Madam Speaker, As an Assembly, we totally concur with you on other social development approaches undertaken like: investment in our youth, women and People with Disabilities (PWDs) to increase productivity and business acumen; and in the Government’s pledge to avail all the stakeholders with the necessary resources and tools of trade. Such are the ingredients that have spurred development and created an impetus in the country and the EAC at large. EALA wishes you the best and assures you of its unequivocal support in building the Republic of Rwanda and the EAC.

Finally, Your Excellency, before I welcome you, I wish to recognize the following special dignitaries in attendance. In our midst today, we are privileged to have (see other list).

Your Excellency, it is with great pleasure and honour that I execute my humble duty to welcome Your Excellency to address this August Assembly, today, Tuesday, the 16th of April 2013. *Karibu Mheshimiwa Rais! (Applause)*

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

The President of the Republic of Rwanda (H.E. Paul Kagame): Honourable Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly; Honourable Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo, Speaker of the Senate; Honourable Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies; Honourable Shem Bageine, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of the East African Community; Dr Richard Sezibera, Secretary General of the East African Community; Honourable members of the East African Legislative Assembly; Members of the Diplomatic Corps; Ladies and Gentlemen. Thank you Madam Speaker for inviting me to address this august assembly as you begin your deliberations in Kigali.

Let me first congratulate you on being elected to the high office of Speaker as well as the new members of this assembly. I am certain that you will build on the achievements of your predecessors in driving the East African integration agenda forward.

Thank you also for joining and supporting Rwandans in commemorating the genocide against the Tutsi that happened nineteen years ago. I also understand that you have had occasion to visit various development activities across the country.

These activities must have given you an insight into the tragic consequences of bad politics and leadership, as well as the determination of Rwandans to rebuild their country and strive for dignity and a better quality of life.

Madam Speaker, the process of integration in East Africa is advanced and, although it may not yet be progressing at the pace we would desire, we have not given ourselves the option of turning back. We can only move forward. It remains the responsibility of the governments of partner states, organs of the East African Community and other partners and stakeholders to make integration work better and more efficiently in order to benefit all the citizens of East Africa.

As we focus on improved functioning of the East African Community, we must keep in sight the advantages of integration, not just in this region, but across the continent.

A better performing East African Community is good for our citizens. It would be even more beneficial if we established links with other regions of the continent so that all Africans can enjoy the benefits of larger markets, greater safety, peace and stability and collective strength.

We have already tasted the dividends of integration in this region, however limited, and have found them satisfying. It is in our best interest to multiply that level of satisfaction through enhanced cooperation. However, we have also experienced the costs of acting individually where we are open to mistreatment, marginalisation or become victims of other international actors. Continental unity and integration are our best insurance against denial of our ability to play our rightful role in the world.

Africa presents us with immense opportunities for further economic growth and a stronger voice in the international arena. In this period of economic turmoil, Africa is the only region where GDP has been growing at an average of 5% per year for the last few years. We have the world's largest reserve of natural resources. Our population is youthful and increasingly has more money to spend.

These are opportunities that we cannot permit others to benefit from more than us. However, to get maximum benefits from this situation demands that we increase the level of intra-African trade and investment and extend integration across the continent – starting, of course, as we have

done at regional level. Equally, in order to get the most out of regional and continental integration, it is crucial that we address existing weaknesses. In our case, for instance, we must ensure that commitments on the free movement of people, labour and services, which have not been fully or evenly implemented across the region, are urgently addressed. The delay as we all know has caused business people, investors, and ordinary East Africans immense frustration. For the same reason, we must move fast on the creation of a single customs territory to facilitate trade across the region.

The East African Legislative Assembly in particular has a critical role to play in this regard - in enacting enabling laws and in its oversight duties. It is important that this latter function be given its due emphasis because it is central to the satisfactory performance of all Community programmes.

We expect that in this session in Kigali you will continue deliberations on how EALA can better contribute to the efficient functioning of the East African Community in order to further the integration agenda. In addition to the bills before you, it is important to find ways to plug the gaps in the existing laws and protocols that have an impact on the pace of implementation.

Therefore, for the better functioning of the East African Community, it is crucial that the decision-making and oversight mechanisms become more responsive to the aspirations of East African citizens. This requires expediting institutional review and streamlining the functions of the organs of the Community to give them the necessary autonomy, make them more accountable and enhance complementarity.

Madam Speaker, honourable Members, East Africa, and the continent in general must be prepared to compete on the world stage and take full advantage of the evolving situation where new and important economic and political actors are emerging in addition to the traditional economies. This calls for a vibrant, well-informed, and competitive private sector. It is therefore imperative that the relevant organs of the Community expedite the approval of the Public-Private Partnership framework and strategy to support commitments and initiatives of Partner States.

The East African Community has been in existence for close to a decade and a half, but still relies on external support from development partners to fund its activities. We must seek, as a matter of urgency, innovative and sustainable ways, from within the partner states and international private capital, of funding the Community's priority programmes and activities, and reduce dependence on external sources whose continuity cannot be guaranteed.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, our integration agenda will have more meaning if it gets out of government and East African Community departments and spreads to the people of partner states so that they are involved in all its activities. They must know at what stage we are, what their rights, obligations and benefits are, and what issues stand in the way of faster integration.

The responsibility to sensitise citizens belongs to EALA. I am confident that members of this Assembly have the will, drive, and commitment to discharge this duty and make consultations with all stakeholders on various legislation in order for East African citizens to realise the full benefits of integration.

Thank you for your kind attention and I wish you fruitful deliberations. *(Applause)*

VOTE OF THANKS

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Your Excellency, President Paul Kagame for that very moving speech and also the encouragement you have given us and the support your government and the people of Rwanda have extended to the EALA. May I invite hon. Peter Mathuki to come and move a vote of thanks on our behalf so that our words can be rounded up properly? You can take the podium on left hand side.

Mr. Peter Mutuku Mathuki (Kenya): Your Excellency Paul Kagame, the President of the Republic of Rwanda; Rt. Hon Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo, President of the Senate; Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of Rwanda Chamber of Deputies; Your Lordship Sam Rugege, the Chief Justice of Rwanda; Hon Shem Bageine, Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers; Hon. Ministers of Rwanda; the Secretary General of the EAC; Hon. Members of EALA and Chamber of Deputies and Senators; Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen. I am profoundly honoured and humbled Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity on behalf of my colleagues of EALA to give the vote of thanks to His Excellency for agreeing to be with us in this special sitting. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, right from the outset, allow me to express sincere gratitude and thanks to His Excellency for the good remarks that you have made and a very moving speech which is encouraging to all of us. *(Applause)*

Basing on the remarks, that His Excellency has made, and of course, what we have experienced in the last two days, you will agree and confirm that as I was saying, Rwanda is a country favoured by God. Reason why I say this because of the visionary leadership that we have all of us experienced and seen through the leadership of President Paul Kagame. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, it is through your very visionary leadership that all of us get encouraged and east Africans watches very carefully, what you are doing in this beloved country. We want to encourage you and tell you *hongera* for the well done job. *(Applause)*

We have had the opportunity for the last two days to visit a number of places as Madam Speaker said when we visited the genocide memorial. Some of us said that it was a very big lesson because we would not believe Rwanda for the last 19 years, Rwanda has come this far. I want to congratulate you, Your Excellency, specifically for your equal task, first and foremost of stopping the genocide - *(applause)* - that would not ordinarily happen in many countries. You have seen some countries in Africa and across the world, have remained crisis countries because of lack of leadership and therefore you have done us proud as east Africans.

We have watched and seen the progress made by Rwanda as a country so far in a number of issues that have been done in terms of development and Madam Speaker has put them very well but allow me to mention one which is very key and that is the aspect of security. *(Applause)*

When some of us as visitors walk around in Kigali and move freely without any disturbance, we feel so proud. I congratulate you. You have also managed to create resilience of the people of Rwanda to accept to walk along with you in this journey of rebuilding the country and of course the region. I want to congratulate you for that. The aspect of self reliance which truly and

eloquently put that in Africa we cannot rely and develop on the basis of aid, we can only develop on the basis of our own resources. *(Applause)*

Therefore, I am encouraged whenever I walk on the streets and see words like “*Guharanira Kwigira*”, which I am told means striving for self-reliance. *(Applause)*- I think this is something we need to take from this country as we go to other Partner States.

Before I proceed, I thank you for gracing the inauguration of the fourth President of Kenya. Your presence was very critical because some of the things that are taking place in this country form part of the manifesto of the current government and therefore we want to tell that you have a big task ahead of you in terms of us learning from you. We know that you are equal to that task. When we come to issues of social-economic development, your Excellency, we have been interacting with different structures of your governance and we have seen key pillars of good governance transparency in all the sectors that we have gone. I had an opportunity to visit the chief Justice, His Lordship, Sam Rugenge and took me through some of the homegrown solutions that have worked very well in this country and we feel encouraged. We have seen things like *Gacaca Courts*. I can assure you; in Kenya, the Chief Justice has already started adopting that. *(Applause)*

Therefore, we need to continue setting that pace and of course call upon all of us as east Africans and the people of Rwanda to continue supporting you towards this very noble cause. We have seen initiatives like *itorero* and *abunzi*, which again are unique, and they are homegrown. I think it is very important that some of us in East Africa may need to borrow this.

I do congratulate you and remember very well when you were the Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC and the spirit that you gave to the East Africans. I can assure you one thing, when East Africa becomes one country; you have earned yourself a job as the first president of the EAC. *(Applause)*

We say this Your Excellency because east Africans are watching and some of us whenever we tell them we are travelling to Rwanda, they envy because everyone wants to come and see the beautiful city of Kigali. You can see the cleanliness in the city. My colleague yesterday was trying to walk along the road, he was stepping on the roadside garden, and the police arrested him. *(Applause)*

And what he told the police, that please call the media so that Kenyans can see the discipline and therefore we want to encourage you for this very good our effort. It is during your time that the Common Market Protocol was realised and we are aware of that and that's where the challenge now lies with all of us and those who took after you because it's now about trying to implement. We are aware that we have a duty to play as an Assembly and of course, we count on your support as part of our leadership and this we are assured that we are going to get that kind of support.

On the international arena, again permit me to salute Rwanda for sitting in the UN Security Council to represent Africa. *(Applause)* We are aware of that. I am told that this month Rwanda is chairing this meeting. I want to congratulate you for that. I am sure you will use the position to tell the world that in Africa, we have visionary leaders, and I am sure you are equal to task as a country. Also, your spirit of telling us and all of us in the international Community that us in

Africa we are ready to work with everyone internationally but with dignity and respect for one another but not seeing some people to be - (*Applause*)- more equal than others. We want to follow those footsteps. I agree with you that when this comes to Africa, we are told that all manner of conditions and choices have consequences and so forth. Moreover, you will agree that when you attended the inauguration of the Fourth President, Kenyans disproved that kind of thinking and, therefore, we have moved ahead.

It is a challenge for all of us as East Africans, as citizens of the EAC Partner States, to sustain the achievements you have made so far, and I think we cannot allow anybody at all to come along the way and take the gains that we have seen away. Therefore, we have to make sure that we all move together and make sure that the gains you have made for this country and for the region as a whole...so that some of us who are now growing in politics, we are we are ready to grow in your hands and therefore emulate the things that your making for East Africa moving forward - (*Applause*).

I do not want to make a long speech, but we sincerely thank you very much for your presence and continuous encouragement. Therefore, please allow me to say thank you, your Excellency.

Long live Rwanda! Long live East Africa! Long Live Africa!

Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Thank you very much hon. Mathuki for saying those words on our behalf.

Hon. Members, we have come to the end of this very important session. Indeed, it has been an honour for us to have His Excellency, Paul Kagame amidst us addressing us, together with all the very important dignitaries who have graced this very important session. As we adjourn, allow me to make one or two announcements: One, we shall have a group photographs. The photographs are very important for the EAC and the EALA archives. So all the important dignitaries you are kindly invited to join us for the photographs.

Two, we are going to partake on a meal; we call it a meal because in Africa when you come together, you eat and celebrate. So we are going to have a cocktail, and I want to take the opportunity to invite all of you, our visitors and our guests to kindly join us as we join His Excellency, the President in cementing the spirit of East African Community. With those few remarks, I wish to say that Parliament stands adjourned until tomorrow 2.30.

(The Rwanda National Anthem was played)

(The EAC Anthem was played)