



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

80TH SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: THIRD MEETING - THIRD SESSION

Friday, 19 December 2014

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 3:35 p.m. in the Chamber of the Assembly in Arusha, Tanzania

PRAYER

(The Deputy Clerk, Mr Alex Lumumba Obatre, presiding)

(The Assembly was called to order.)

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Deputy Clerk (Mr Alex Lumumba Obatre): Honourable Members, on 17 December 2014, the seat of the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly was declared vacant at 2.50 p.m., and accordingly the honourable Members were informed of the vacancy. In accordance with the rules, interested parties were requested to pick nomination forms. Four Members picked nomination forms, three returned them and two were validly nominated.

This afternoon, I received a letter of withdrawal of candidature from one of the Members, the hon. Chris Opoka Okumu. He notified me of his withdrawal, and he should be able to confirm that this is the true position.

Rule 7 (9) (e) guides me on how to handle the withdrawal of candidature, but before I do this, I would like the hon. Chris Opoka Okumu to confirm this.

Mr Chris Opoka Okumu (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Clerk. Thank you, hon. Members. At the beginning of December, you entrusted me with a very big task. It was a great trust from the honourable Members, a task which was unenviable; it was belling the cat. With great humility, I accepted, and with great support from you, Members, I discharged my duties, I believe, very honourably. *(Applause)*

When the position became vacant, it was in very good faith that I offered myself to serve you. *(Applause)* However, considering what this Assembly went through from the 5th of June 2012, I sought counsel from many of you, and I also sought counsel from people at home. Regardless of the great support from you,

honourable Members, nevertheless, I felt that my distinguished brother, hon. Dan Kidega, can as well serve you well. *(Applause)* I felt that it was better to save this Assembly from going through yet another episode and a repetition of what had happened since 5th June 2012 - *(Applause)*.

I wish to state here that I have given my full support to and have great confidence in the hon. Dan Kidega, and I believe that he can serve this Assembly well. He will bring back the dignity of this House. *(Applause)*

I would like to thank the people who nominated and seconded me; hon. Peter Mathuki, the hon. Kessy Nderakindo and all of you who have given me support, not only at this time, but also during the time when you elected me to serve in the onerous task that I have indicated.

So, with those words, I would like to declare that I have withdrawn my candidature, and I thank you very much. *(Applause)*

The Deputy Clerk: Honourable Members, that goes to confirm that I did receive the notice, and accordingly, under the provisions of Rule 7(9) (e), I hereby take the decision that the name of hon. Chris Opoka Okumu is deleted accordingly from the ballot, which leaves us with one candidate and you have to decide on that candidate.

I will first of all table the list of names of the Members of the Assembly who are to participate in the process.

(The Deputy Clerk laid a list of Members on the Table)

The Deputy Clerk: The list of the membership of the Assembly is accordingly tabled. *(Applause)*

The rules require that in addition to the forms and the consent forms submitted to me, which required the validity of the candidature of the remaining candidate,

hon. Dan Kidega, the Member has to be nominated and seconded on the floor. The floor is now open for that nomination, honourable Members.

Ms Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Clerk. I wish to first of all thank this august House, the Secretariat and all the Members for working tirelessly and ensuring that Uganda retains its position as Speaker, a matter that has shown that there is respect and mutual understanding among Partner States. *(Applause)* I also wish to use this opportunity to nominate the hon. Dan Fred Kidega.

Honourable Colleagues, hon. Dan Fred Kidega has served with us in this House. He was a Member of Parliament in Uganda, where he served as the National Youth Member of Parliament from Northern Uganda, where I hail from. His track record is known, and he has a great number of friends, not only in East Africa, but even outside East Africa.

Honourable Colleagues, if we are to talk about hon. Kidega, there is so much about him. But with those few words, I wish to take this historic moment to nominate our dear colleague, hon. Dan Fred Kidega. *Asante sana. (Applause)*

(Hon. Rwigema; Dr Nyiramilimo; hon. Nyirahabineza, hon. Mbidde and others seconded the Motion).

The Deputy Clerk: The nomination is seconded. The floor is still open.

Mr Fred Mbidde (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Clerk. This is hon. Mbidde - *(Applause)* - and frankly speaking, I am extremely overjoyed because it is an honour for me to second my namesake, Fred - *(Applause)*.

My politics with Dan is extremely historical because we have always had the same politics, but on opposite sides - *(Laughter)*. We have been in student politics together...he was a leader of students while I was the Guild President of Makerere

University, still at loggerheads politically, and we have always appreciated our capacities at extremely contrary views. *(Laughter)* Each time we have made submissions, the paradox would be that the people would always think we were both right, even when we were addressing different things. *(Applause)*

I have extremely high belief in the competencies of my brother, Dan Kidega. I know that he is a listener; I know that he is a fast runner and a learner... we even shared the field, and this time he left me there early because he got injured quickly - *(Laughter)* – but, honourable Members, I think he is a symbol of happiness to this august House - *(Applause)*

With only those few remarks - and that is not because I have few, but because of time - I second him further to this august House for consideration - *(Applause)*.

The Deputy Clerk: Honourable Members, the process is for nominating Members for Speaker. In case there is no other nomination, you could propose to close nominations so that we can move on.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Mr Clerk and hon. Members, I beg to move that we close nominations. I beg to move.

(Hon. Bazivamo; Hon Nduwimana and others seconded the motion)

The Deputy Clerk: The motion is seconded so nominations are closed. We have only one Member validly nominated in this House, and that is the hon. Dan Kidega. It is now my duty to ask hon. Dan Kidega if he consents to the nomination formally on the floor of the House.

Mr Dan Kidega (Uganda): Mr Clerk and hon. Colleagues, I consent to the nomination. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Deputy Clerk: Having confirmed that there is only one Member nominated and who has accepted the nomination, I will give the same Member just one minute to

speak to his candidature and also to greet the electorate.

Mr Dan Kidega (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Clerk. My hon. Colleagues, it is a very interesting afternoon because history is being made and the makers of the history are you, who are seated right there - *(Applause)*. I am under guidance from the Clerk that I should just use one minute. The bureaucracy of the process is ongoing when I will be given the podium to make a full statement.

I would like to say thank you. Thank you and thank you again. God bless you all - *(Applause)*.

The Deputy Clerk: Honourable Members, had it been that we had more than one candidate, the rules would have taken us straight to the secret ballot. However, in accordance with Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of this House and in particular 7 (8): “*If only one person is nominated, he or she shall be declared elected and conducted to the Chair.*” *(Applause)* I would now want to request the hon. Dan Kidega to come forward together with the Sergeant

By provisions of Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of this House and in particular 7(8) I have the honour to declare elected the hon. Dan Fred Kidega and to conduct him to the Chair. *(Applause)*

Honourable Members, it is now my humble duty under Rule 7 of the Rules of Procedure of this House, and in particular 7 (10), to administer to hon. Dan Kidega the Oath of Office.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Oath of Office of Speaker of the Assembly was administered to:

Hon. Dan Fred Kidega.

The Deputy Clerk: Honourable Members, as you can see from the Order Paper, the Speaker will give an acceptance speech, but after suspension of the House for five

minutes. The House stands suspended for five minutes.

(The House was suspended 4:00 p.m.)

(On resumption at 5:15 p.m., the Deputy Clerk, presiding.)

The Deputy Clerk: Honourable Members, we are still on item number (3) on the Order Paper, and proceedings have resumed on item number (3) on the Order Paper.

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE SPEECH

The Speaker: Hon. Members, Excellences, Citizens of East Africa, Ladies and Gentlemen, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to you all for electing me Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly - *(Applause)*. I feel proud and confident of the trust you have bestowed upon me.

It is with utmost humility that I accept the responsibility to lead this Assembly. In accepting this responsibility, I would like to confirm that I will uphold the dignity of this House at all times - *(Applause)* - and I will apply the Rules of Procedure of this House without fear or favour. I will use all my abilities to preside over this House and work closely with you, all the Members, including my predecessors for laying a great foundation for EALA, albeit the current circumstances, which led to the election of a new Speaker for the Third Assembly. *(Applause)* I salute all those who showed interest in the seat but agreed to work with me for the betterment and the better picture of this Assembly. *(Applause)*

You will note that as a House, we have a big and challenging task ahead of us to legislate and represent a Community whose activities and membership is expanding rapidly. I have, however, no doubt that we shall deliver to the expectations. I will pick from where my predecessors left and continue to promote the good ideals of our mandate; widening and deepening the integration process. *(Applause)*

To succeed in this onerous task of building the Community, we will require the support and assistance of all other Organs and Institutions of the Community, the National Assemblies of the Partner States and other stakeholders.

We should, from here, strive to rebuild good and conducive working relationships in order to tap the best skills from each other and from one another.

We take pride in the fact that the national assemblies and the people of East Africa have given us the rare opportunity to serve the Community for the better, not for the worse, when it is faced with new challenges of integration in critical areas. We, therefore, have an immense task ahead of us, but I am sure we have equal opportunities and equal capabilities to face the task. I believe that together with commitment and devotion, we shall be able to make a contribution to the equal growth and development of the Community to the satisfaction of the people of East Africa.

The performance of this House is watched by all East Africans and the world, but I have no doubt that at the end of the remaining two and a half years of the lifespan of the Third EALA, we shall look back with pride and tell East Africans that these are our contributions and achievements.

The expectations by East Africans are high and we have no choice as a House but to work together and resolve whatever differences that may have arisen in the course of our duties amicably. *(Applause)* There is no challenge a united House cannot overcome.

On my past as your Speaker, I promise to uphold the dignity of the House at all times, fully submitting myself to the will of the House, the supremacy of the Rules of the House and laying claim to the privileges of the Assembly and the Members in performing my duties. And I will give the majority their way but respect and protect

the rights of the minority at all times.
(*Applause*)

With these remarks, hon. Members, I submit to the will of the House. (*Applause*)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Now, honourable Members, before the Speaker adjourns the House, we have a few announcements to make: The Speaker invites all Members, staff and friends, senior citizens of East Africa to a reception in the Main Restaurant within the building. You are most welcome.
(*Applause*)

I invite the Secretary General, members of the Council of Ministers, and Chapter Chairs for a brief meeting immediately after we have adjourned this session. The Sergeant –at- Arms will lead us to the venue of the meeting.

Honourable Members, we shall have a group photograph in front of our Chambers outside immediately after the adjournment before we go for the meeting. But before adjourning, I have seen the Chair, Council of Ministers wanting to submit.

The Minister for east African Cooperation, Tanzania and Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Dr. Abdallah Saadalla Abdalla) (Ex-Officio): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I rise on behalf of the Council of Ministers to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, Sir, for having been elected as our new fourth Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly - (*Applause*).

Mr Speaker, Sir, the Council of Ministers, and myself as the Chair of Council, have full confidence and trust in you. They have no single element of doubt in you and your capacity as a leader at all levels of your track record – (*Applause*).

I take this opportunity, Mr Speaker, Sir to assure you of our esteemed cooperation, both in and outside the House, and

especially in bringing the dreams of East Africans and realising their efforts of making East Africa one country, one people, and one destiny. Thank you.
(*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Chair Council of Ministers for the assurances to the office of the Speaker and the Members of this Assembly.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Hon. Members, with those few items on the Order Paper, I now adjourn the House sine die. (*Applause*)

(The House rose at 5:25 p.m. and adjourned sine die.)