



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

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### **IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)**

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

#### **62<sup>ND</sup> SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: FIRST MEETING – THIRD SESSION**

**Tuesday, 2 September 2014**

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:40 p.m. in the Karimjee Hall, Dar-Es-Salaam, Tanzania*

#### **PRAYER**

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

*(The Assembly was called to order.)*

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### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, I wish to welcome you to today's sitting. As I welcome you to the sitting today, and I want to appreciate and thank the Tanzanian Ports Authority (TPA) for receiving us so well on Friday and the comprehensive brief on the operations of the port, which was given to us and the progress registered in the previous years. Special mention goes to the Director General, Engineer Kipande and the Deputy Mr Masawe. *(Applause)*

In the same breath, allow me to thank the Tanzania Revenue Authority (TRA) for also meeting with us and giving us an update on the progress made in the areas of trade facilitation especially on the Single Customs Territory implementation. The acting Commissioner General, Mr Rusekero Mwaseba is specifically thanked for availing himself and all the commissioners of the revenue authorities in all our five Partner States. *(Applause)*

Allow me also to thank the *Taasisi ya Sanaa Bagamoyo* (TASUBA) for the warm welcome to Bagamoyo, and for updating us on the progress made by this EAC Centre of Excellence in the area of art and culture. We thank the Minister of Information, Youth and Culture, Dr Fenella Mukangara and her Deputy Permanent Secretary and the Board Chairman, TASUBA, and the Regional Commissioner, Bagamoyo, the staff and the students for being there and welcoming us very warmly. *(Applause)* At an appropriate time, we shall table our report to this House where

some of the issues, which we discussed, will also have an opportunity to be brought to the proceedings of the House.

Let me also appreciate the Tanzanian Chapter of EALA because they were able to work with the relevant authorities and we were able to undertake the critical activity of tree planting during our visit to this centre. *(Applause)*

Allow me in the same breath to congratulate the Tanzania Ministry of Education and the National Council of Sports for holding successful East African Secondary Schools' games here in Dar-es-Salaam, which attracted over 4,000 students and over 700 teachers and officials from the five Partner States including South Sudan and Zanzibar. *(Applause)*

We congratulate the winners and laud the spirit of integration exhibited, showing that indeed we are on the right track of "one people for one destiny."

Before I conclude, allow me to thank the honourable Assistant Minister of EAC, Tanzania, hon. Dr Abdullah Saadalla Abdulla and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of EAC for the personal involvement and presence and all the other members of staff who facilitated these very important outreach programs. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**Mr. Ogle:** Clarification, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Yes, clarification.

**Mr. Ogle:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, last week, to be precise, on Thursday last week, hon. Peter Mutuku Mathuki rose on a point of procedure seeking to know the status of the motion we had moved on whether it was aligned. And, as far as I am concerned, we asked for the take of the Council to Community on the matter, because matters pending before the House ordinarily should be taking precedence over any other matter in the House.

You also ruled on that request by hon. Mathuki that you had earlier made a ruling. Now to the best on my recollection, the Counsel to the Community's take is already on record; it is on the *Hansard* and he said very clearly that the motion was very much alive. Now, the clarification I am seeking, Madam Speaker, is whether the ruling you gave was going to run counter to the Counsel to the Community's advice.

Two, if you delivered the ruling as you said, on what basis were you delivering that ruling? Who made that request and application to, Madam Speaker? Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Ogle for seeking clarification from the Speaker. One, the *Hansard* is very clear that the ruling was made on the procedural motion you raised.

Secondly, I want also to go on record by telling you that unfortunately the Counsel to the Community is not in the House currently to give clarification as you may seek. So, when he is available, the clarification will be given. Can we proceed?

**Mr. Mathuki:** Procedure Madam!

**The Speaker:** Laying of Papers – *(Interruption)* -

**Mr Mathuki:** Procedure Madam Speaker, the House, I am seeking – (*Interruption*) – point of procedure...

**The Speaker:** Laying of Papers.

**The Chairperson, Committee on Communication, Trade, and investment (Ms. Angella Kizigha) (Tanzania):** Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table - (*Procedure Madam Speaker*) - the Report of the Committee on Communication, Trade, and Investment on the east African Community – (*Procedure Madam Speaker*) – Aviation Sector. I beg to lay.

**Mr Mathuki:** Procedure Madam Speaker! Madam Speaker Procedure! Procedure! Procedure...

**MOTION FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, TRADE, AND INVESTMENT ON THE EAST AFRICAN AVIATION SECTOR**

**The Speaker:** Hon. Angella Kizigha

**Mr. Mathuki:** Procedure Madam Speaker!

**The Chairperson of the Committee on Communication, Trade, and Investment (Ms Angela Kizigha) (Tanzania):** Madam Speaker, once again I thank you for giving me the floor. Allow me, since I have already laid on table the report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment of the East African Community Aviation Sector, may I now invite the Secretary General for further clarification concerning the report - (*Interruption*) -

**The Speaker:** Hon. Kizigha, first read the motion and then the Secretary General will come in.

**Ms Kizigha:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I proceed with the motion that the report of the Communication, Trade, and Investment Committee on the East African Community Aviation Sector be adopted.

**The Secretary General to the East African Community (Dr Richard Sezibera):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise under rule 15 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly to request that debate on this motion be postponed.

Madam Speaker, I wish to say that I fully support the Committee and the work that they are doing, but I also wish to inform the House that since the Committee last met, a number of developments affecting civil aviation in our region have arisen. One of them being that, as you know, one of our airports was declared by the WHO as, for lack of a better term, a difficult airport to use because of the outbreak of Ebola. This has led the civil aviation to call for an emergency meeting of civil aviation authorities and others responsible to discuss these developments.

Subsequent to that, the Community has called for an emergency meeting of Ministers responsible for Health and those responsible for air transport in our region on 17 September to discuss this and other emerging matters. And these are issues, Madam Speaker, that we would like to appraise the Committee on. And I, therefore, rise under rule 15 to request for postponement of this debate so that these and other matters could be put before the committee. Madam Speaker, I beg to move. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** Chairperson, do you concede to the request by the Secretary General?

**Ms Kizigha:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do concur with the Secretary General on behalf of the Committee on Communication, Trade, and Investment. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** For that, I think we will not put the question. I think it is in general agreement that debate on this report is postponed until further information is given to the Committee. And we envisage getting a report – (*Interjection*) - Okay, honourable, as clarification, as procedure...information? You know, we have entries, so, if you are giving information say you are giving information.

**Mr Zein:** I have a request.

**The Speaker:** Okay.

**Mr. Zein** Thank you, Madam Speaker. It is the tradition of this House that when such a request is given, we seek the Secretary General - and I support what the Secretary General has said and what the hon. Chair of the Committee has said, but I seek to be informed, to be given some idea of a timeline. And why it is critical to deal with the question of a timeline is that once that indication has been given in the House, then we shall take that adjournment together with the timeline, if it is possible to give. I am not asking for a specific date. It could be – as we are told - in November, when we will be seized of this report again, or in Kigali...So, an idea of a time frame, Madam.

**The Speaker:** Secretary General, can you make an undertaking? When do you think you will give this information? First, make an undertaking...we do have some time on Thursday or earlier. Let us see what happens.

**Dr. Sezibera:** Madam Speaker, I can say that we will try, as much as possible, to get this done before Thursday. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** Okay. Thank you very much.

### QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

#### Question Reference EALA/ PQ/OA/ 3/43/2014

**Ms Shy-Rose Sadrudin Bhanji (Tanzania):** Asked the Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers: -

*About 90 percent of Tanzania's trade transits through the port of Dar-es-Saalam. This port also serves as a hub for international trade for EAC landlocked countries such as Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi:*

- a) *Could the Chairperson of Council inform the House on the state of preparedness of this port and that of Mombasa to handle the ever-increasing volumes of both internal and export goods, well aware that they also serve countries neighbouring the EAC region?*
- b) *Efficiency is key for any port to facilitate trade of merchandise in and out of the country at the lowest cost as far as possible. For Imports, these include the following chain:*
  - i. *Anchorage*

- ii. *Berthing*
- iii. *Merchandise*
- iv. *Unloading*
- v. *Customs clearance*
- vi. *Exiting the merchandise from the premises*
- vii. *Tariff waiting at anchorage*
- viii. *The more cost efficient the port is in handling these operations, the lower the cost for importers and exporters and greater the benefits for the economy establishment of an electronic single windows system.*

*Could the Chairperson inform this august House on the efficiency levels for each chain of operation for Dar-es-salaam and Mombasa ports to handle goods in the region? What is the average local container dwell time in the container terminal, the tariff amounts, and the minimum cost of waiting at anchorage?*

- c) *Could the Chairperson of Council further inform the House about the average cost/price for shipping companies coming into the region from other continents, as well as transportation costs inland?*

**The Assistant Minister for EAC Cooperation, Tanzania (Dr Abdallah Saadalla) (Ex-Officio):** Madam Speaker, allow me to answer the question asked by hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji.

Madam Speaker, on the first part of the question, I wish to inform this august House that the Port of Dar es Salaam is the main port of Tanzania.

Volumes handled by the port reached 13.1 million tons in 2013 up from 12.1 million tons in 2012; and 10.4 million tons in 2011.

The port has 11 bars, two tankers, a multiproduct single point lowering SPN and handles a vast of arrays of cargo including containerized bulk, roll, and liquid bulk cargo.

Madam Speaker, port holdings are growing by 9 percent per year with containerized volumes increasing even faster. The volume of containers transit held at Dar es Salaam Port increased from 142,022 feet equivalent to units TU in 2010 to 547,047 in 2013. This is an increase by a factor of 3.4 times over the last decade, which is equivalent to an annual average rate of increase of 12 of percent.

Madam Speaker, the port also represents a strategically important gateway to the landlocked countries of Zambia, Malawi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda. Transit rate accounted for as much as 35 percent volume in 2012 or just over 4.2 million tons focused, which suggests this could increase to 9.7 million tons by 2030.

Madam Speaker, the Port of Mombasa is the largest port in East Africa and a vital gateway for Kenya's international trade and that of its neighbouring countries including Uganda, Rwanda, and Burundi, the eastern part of DRC, Southern Sudan and Ethiopia as well as Northern Tanzania.

In 2013, the total through port of Mombasa registered 22.3 million tons, an increase of 0.4 million tons or 1.8 percent against 21.9 million tons realized in 2013. Containerized cargo

accounted for 39.8 percent of the total cargo handled in 2012, against 39.0 percent registered in 2011. Out of the total cargo through put, 19.1 million tons were imported as opposed to 2.98 million tons of export cargo.

Madam Speaker, in 2013, imports grew by 2.2 percent against the 2012 volume while exports shrank by 2 percent during the same period. Container traffic of the Port of Mombasa has achieved a compound growth rate of 9.6 percent for the 2012/2013 period. Current container through put has very much exceeded the original design of passage of 500,000 TUs.

In 2012, the container traffic through the Port of Mombasa recorded 903.4 TUs and 894 TUs in 2013 as compared to 9.0 TUs in 1978.

Madam Speaker, in general, both Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports are already operating at a near maximum capacity for general cargo while containerized operations have superseded designed capacity at both ports.

Both, Madam Speaker, have undertaken the following measures to deal with increasing through puts:

- (a) At Dar es Salaam Port, current and planned measures for addressing capacity and operational constraints are as follows:
  - (i) Licensing of inlet container terminals (ICD) to supplement the port storage capacity for containers.
  - (ii) Strengthening of one out of seven to facilitate the concession of Ugrian bulk break back;
  - (iii) Commencement of container operations at berth 1 to7;
  - (iv) Implementation of one stop inspections station along the Central Corridor.
  - (v) Construction of a berth to facilitate the concession of the rural terminal at Gerethani;
  - (vi) Increase the capacity of the grain silo and installation of a conveyor system;
  - (vii) Construction of the new berth 13 and 14;
  - (viii) Strengthening the railway performance through the intra Tanzania railway-modifying project supported by the World Bank and the Big Result Now (BRN) program.
  - (ix) Efforts are underway to build new ports at Mbegani-Bagamoyo and Mwambani
  - (x) Improvement of various operation efficiency covering standard operation procedures, key performance indicators and tariff implementation of 24 hours working routine by all ports stakeholders and implementation of the port community based ICT system.

- (b) Madam Speaker, at Mombasa Port, current and planned measures for addressing capacity and operational constraints are:
- (i) Licensing of near port container freight station (ICD) to supplement the port's storage capacity for containers;
  - (ii) Launching of a new container berth 19;
  - (iii) Ongoing construction of a new container terminal berth 20 to 23;
  - (iv) Operationalization of the Mombasa Port Chattel;
  - (v) Reducing a to a minimum road blocks, police checks, weighbridges and custom check points along the Northern Corridor;
  - (vi) Strengthening the railway performance through rehabilitation of current railway lines operated by RVR and construction of the new standard gauge railway; and lastly
  - (vii) Improvement of operational efficiency covering standard operation procedures, key performance indicators and tariffs implementation of 24 hours working routine by all ports stakeholders and implementation of the port community based ICT system.

Madam Speaker, on the second part of this question, I wish to state that efficiency is a key issue for any port to facilitate trade or merchandise in and out of the country at the lowest possible cost. For imports, these include the following chains: acreage, developing, merchandise, unloading, customs clearance, exiting the merchandise from the premises, tariff waiting acreage and the more cost efficient a port is handling these operations, the lower the cost for importers and exporters and the greater the benefit for the economy for the establishment of an electronic single window system.

Madam Speaker, efficiency level at both Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports have been improving very much over a period of time and this is very much obvious. For example, at Dar es Salaam Port, in 2013 transit containers recorded an average dwell time of 8.3 days. While domestic containers recorded an average of 5.7 days as opposed to 29.3 days for transit and 22 days domestic containers recorded in 2008. (*Applause*)

Overall, average stay in Dar es Salaam Port has been 5.6 days for the last 10 years. Port berths are occupied differently according to the vessels' times. Overall berth occupancy at the Port between 2003 and 2013 was 24.8 percent. In 2012, general cargo berths were occupied by 47 percent; containers berth 81.9 percent and bulk liquid cargo berths by 87.1 percent.

At Mombasa Port, average waiting time for vessels has been reduced to two days because of ongoing port improvements in terms of working practices combined with heavy investment in new and better equipment.

During the first half of 2013, the average turnaround time per ship or all vessels improved by 1.2 days to a record 3.4 days into 2013 from a record of 4.6 days recorded in a similar period in 2012.

The general productivity has improved to 20 moves per a crane per hour. During the first half of 2013, the average container dwell time improved significantly to register 5.8 days against 8.8 days recorded in the corresponding periods of 2012 thus reflecting decrease of 3.8 days or 33.6 percent.

Madam Speaker, the Kenya Ports Authority, and Tanzania Port Authority specify the tariff amount in the respective tariff book. Charges cover maritime services and ship dews, cavilling services, show handling, and storage services.

**Charges for General Services:**

These charges are applied differently depending on the type of cargo size of ship, duration of safe storage charges etcetera. For containerized cargo, indicative charges per TU and 20,000 feet container, charges of Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports are comparable. I will give this table to hon. Members so that I can move on because it is really a comprehensive book. But it is of course wise for them to know it so that they can do good oversight.

Madam Speaker, regarding the last part of the question, I wish to state that the prices charged by shipping companies for ship employees on charter terms, for example, for oil tankers depends on the size of the ship and the duration of the hire and the nature of the hire, either voyage or time charter, whether the ship is employed on liner terms, charges will depend on size, weight and volume, break bulk or container, consignment and associated time kilometres.

And, of course, Madam Speaker, more details on this point concerning the charges will be availed in a written form so that the details can be scrutinized very well by the Members so that any further question that can be asked to the Council, we shall be ready to answer.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Chair, Council, supplementary question, hon. Shy-Rose?

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank Dr Abdullah Saadalla for his response to my question. Madam Speaker, the two ports, Dar es Salaam and Mombasa, play a very critical role as gateways for our five Partner States. At this juncture, I would like to commend the Dar es Salaam Port for increasing efficiency despite the low port capacity to handle the growing traffic at the port. We have seen from his response – *(Interruption)* -

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, you will appreciate that this is supplementary – *(Interruption)* -

**Ms Bhanji:** Yes, Madam Speaker, I was just concluding by saying that we appreciate Dar es Salaam Port for its increased efficiency. Now, my question is, how comparable is Dar es Salaam and Mombasa ports within the benchmarks of Singapore, which stands out to be one of the best ports in the world. Secondly, what are the limiting factors that can help these two ports to increase their efficiency to the level of Singapore and other ports that are leading in the world?

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, to answer the two supplementary questions by hon. Shy Rose Bhanji, one really needs to have a lot of knowledge. They can be asked as substantive questions so that she gives us time to do some research and respond. But, I appreciate the fact that she thinks big, and here is where we want to go. This is very important, we have to dream for that – *(Applause)* – and our vision, and I believe that the vision of Dar-es-Salaam and Mombasa ports is to focus and be a very good port for transshipment for importing goods into the



region and outside the region. So, I would like to take this question as a challenge for me, Madam Speaker, if hon. Shy-Rose will accept it, and we do much more research. But I believe that it is always possible to compare the two ports with other international ports let alone that of Singapore. And I believe this is where we want to go.

Concerning increasing of efficiency, first I would like to take this opportunity to thank hon. Members for their visit to Dar es Salaam Port. They witnessed for themselves how much efficient it is, how improved it is to increase the loading and importation of containers in bulk and oil into the country and to the neighbouring countries.

They saw the interconnecting pipelines of oil between Dar es Salaam and Zambia and other ongoing activities there to improve the efficiency of it. But to make the thing much better, they have seen the 24 hours working; they have seen the different offices of customs and revenue authorities from two or three Partner States working together at the Dar es Salaam Port. (*Applause*) This is a very good measure, which is working under the Single Customs Territory principles, and we believe that we are going to improve it.

Of course, there were some shortfalls on the rail, but there are many improvements down under the BRN, and this will be clearly stipulated in the near future once it is 100 percent. This is almost the same if you have seen what I have read here, Mombasa and Dar es Salaam are really.

The good thing to report to this House is that these two ports are collaborating with each other, and they are almost working at the same standard. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Do you have another supplementary question, hon. Shy-Rose?

**Ms Bhanji:** I wanted to inform the acting Chair Council that I was not trying to compare the two ports, but rather finding out what are the limiting factors for the two ports to reach the standards of Singapore. I was not trying to compare the two.

**The Speaker:** Okay, I think the good thing is that the Chair Council has made an undertaking that he is going to provide this kind of comparison and then it will be good for us to appreciate it.

**Mr. Mulengani:** I was contemplating suspending it because the response seems to be known, however, let me raise two supplementary questions. One, what structural changes are being done at Dar es Salaam Port to envisage the Single Customs Territory in order to reduce the supply chain time. Two, do these ports, both Mombasa and Dar es Salaam charge uniform fees for the Member States? Do they have harmonized procedures for Member States to handle their cargo? If not, why? Thank you.

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, allow me to answer two plus one supplementary questions asked by hon. Mulengani. The first question was about the structural changes in the Single Customs Territory.

Madam Speaker, for the benefit of East Africans - I know that the hon. Members know about this, but why they asked it is because they want East Africans to know about it. Now, on structural changes, number one is that we have allowed opening of offices of revenue authorities and customs authorities from all the five Partner States. And in Tanzania, currently we have three of them; Burundi, Rwanda and Uganda is about to come. But, together with that, there are

others, DRC offices here in Dar es Salaam working under the one destination principles and the Single Customs Territory format.

But another structural one is that – I know Members know that we have one Customs Management Act. This is a structure but on the legal framework point of view. All five Partner States work under this Customs Management Act under the common CET. This is another structural format, which is still working on the importation and exportation of these goods.

Three, there were many pitfalls in the last four or five years on management of goods within these two ports. As I have said last time, you cannot have a port without a good railway output. You cannot have a good customs management without having good ICT management and in order to improve on the efficiency activities within these two ports, you must have a very good ICT management working 24 hours under the single window. All these are the structural improvements, which are performed in both Mombasa and Dar es Salaam ports.

This really augments your third question that; are these structural procedures and standards harmonized? My answer is yes, they are harmonized. Structural procedures sometimes lack certain standards but I have to tell East Africans that under the working principles of EAC, we are still working in a competitive manner. So, we cannot have common tariffs in Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. This is impossible but we harmonize the principles and, which does not mean having common standards so that we work in tandem within the perspective of the EAC law.

This also includes your second question of port charges. Of course, some of the port charges are international charges based on international tariffs. I think I have answered you.

#### **Question Reference EALA/ PQ/OA/ 3/44/2014**

**Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania):** Asked the Chairperson EAC Council of Ministers: -

*Could the Chairperson of the Council inform the House of the status of the harmonisation of the education systems in all the five Partner States?*

**The Assistant Minister for EAC Cooperation, Tanzania (Dr Abdallah Saadalla) (Ex-Officio):** Madam Speaker, allow me to answer the question asked by hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji as follows:

Madam Speaker, the Partner States have, pursuant to Article 102 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, made explicit commitments to undertake consultative measures to foster cooperation in education and training within the Community. In this regard, emphasis has been placed on capacity building and joint efforts to develop specialized training facilities and divisions of capabilities in training and research as well as harmonizing education and training curricular.

Madam Speaker, in 2004 the Ninth Meeting of the Council of Ministers directed the Secretariat to facilitate the undertaking of the regional study of the harmonization of EAC education system and training curricular.

In 2008, the Secretariat engaged the Inter University Council for East Africa to carry out this study with overreaching aim of developing such program in basic, intermediary, and tertiary

education and a program for elders in continuing education that would promote the emergency of well-trained personnel in all sectors relevant to the aims and objectives of the Community.

Madam Speaker, the study detailed a comprehensive analysis of the education system of the Partner States education systems. A report of the harmonization of the East African education system was finalized by IUCEA and handed over to the Secretary General in 2009.

Subsequently, 13 workshops involving multiple stakeholders were held in each Partner State to validate and get stakeholders' views on the report.

A consultancy was hired to incorporate all the views of the experts and stakeholders, which culminated into the production of the regional report of the harmonization of the East African education system and training curriculum.

The Council at the 23rd Meeting adopted the recommendations contained in the regional report and then the Council directed that the recommendations be transformed into the East African Education Strategy.

Madam Speaker, at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting, the Council of Ministers approved the establishment of the technical committee, TECOM to oversee the process of harmonization of the East Africa Partner States Education System and Training Curriculum based on the study earlier commissioned and the eventual harmonization of the education system and training curricular in the Partner States.

The technical committee is mandated with the task of harmonizing curricular and examination systems in all sub sectors of education, harmonizing education structures, policy and frameworks in terms of admission, ration of learning, language of instructions, gender, and equity and the comparability of the content as regards to depth and scope.

Determining the competency expected to be taught at each level of education and taking into account the different existing structures of education in the Partner States.

Madam Speaker, so far, the technical committee has negotiated and consolidated the amended recommendations of this report in accordance with the decision by the Council at its 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting.

It also reviewed and adopted the roadmap leading to a full-scale implementation of the harmonization process. Since then, the technical committee has developed the following seven strategies to harmonize key components of all levels of education in the Partner States:

- (a) The East African Pre-Primary Education Strategy
- (b) The East African Primary Education Strategy
- (c) The East African Secondary Education Strategy, which means mid and high schools
- (d) The East African Technical Education Strategy
- (e) The East African Technical and Vocational Education and Training Strategy
- (f) The East African Non Formal, Adult and Continuing Education Strategy

(g) The East African Special Needs Education Strategy

Madam Speaker, the above-mentioned seven strategies were considered by the Sectoral Council of Education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports at its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting and were recommended for adoption by the Council at its 28<sup>th</sup> Meeting held in November 2013.

The Council directed the Secretariat together with the technical committee to develop structures and frameworks for the harmonization of the East African Pre-Primary Education, Primary Education, Secondary Education, Primary Teacher Education, and EAC Secondary Teacher Education with rules and guidelines for the conduct of education assessment in the East African institutions.

All these documents have been developed and will be presented to the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Education, Science and Technology, Culture to be had and scheduled in the first week of October 2014 for consideration.

Madam Speaker, the technical committee is now developing a workable and sustainable financing model to anchor the harmonization process and future activities and working out modalities to determine an appropriate education quality assurance facility within the region.

Special emphasis is being laid on developing teacher training and management program leading to enhancement of a harmonized regional teacher education system. This regional teacher education system will require developing and enhancing a harmonized teachers code of conduct; developing of teachers qualifications framework; developing framework for free movement of teachers within the region; working modalities leading to the exchange of teaching staff within Partner States.

Finally, the technical committee has developed a roadmap to address issues concerning education planning and management, quality assurance, gender disparity, HIV/AIDS, co-curricular activities and merging issues like drug abuse and hazardous behaviour in the East African Community education institutions.

Madam Speaker, regarding harmonization of higher education in the Community, the Inter University Council for East Africa is developing appropriate systems as follows:

(a) Regional Quality Assurance System

IUCEA has developed a regional quality assurance system, which is now being used as a harmonization tool for quality assurance system in all Partner States. The system is based on instruments that are contained in a full volume quality assurance book titled as “*A Roadmap to Quality – Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education*” The handbook is being used by all the national councils and commissions or higher education and higher education institutions in all Partner States.

Madam Speaker, the regional quality assurance system is a framework for harmonization and comparability of the quality of higher education in the region and for promoting students mobility in the region.

Madam Speaker, IUCEA is now developing program benchmarks that will be part of the quality assurance system. Development of program benchmarks is based on the process carried out in 2007-2009, which led to the establishment of the pilot benchmark for the engineering, natural science, human medicine, and agricultural program.

Fully-fledged benchmarks are now being developed basing on that pilot process. Currently, benchmarks for business studies programs have already been developed and are in use in all Partner States. Development of benchmarks for information, technology, and computer science programs is in progress.

Madam Speaker, the benchmarks will be available before the end of 2014. Further IUCEA has already developed EAC principles and guidelines in quality assurance in higher education that are meant to guide and harmonize quality assurance processes and practices in higher education in the Community.

Madam Speaker, after the regional quality assurance system, there is the East African Quality Qualification Framework for higher education.

IUCEA is also developing an East African qualification framework for higher education, which will be an important tool for harmonization of education and training system. And the qualifications attained in the Community, once operational, the East African qualification framework for higher education will facilitate operationalisation of Article 11 of the Common Market Protocol as a guiding instrument for mutual recognition and qualification among the Partner States.

It will also serve as a convergence platform for harmonization of qualifications. Also entry requirements in the education and training system and articulation and existing qualification level and types.

Furthermore, the East African qualification framework will provide the framework for a comparability of qualifications attained in the Community with other regional and international qualifications and facilitate mobility of learners between Partner States, institutions, and educational level. Thus, the East African qualification framework will contribute towards transforming East Africa into a common higher education area.

A draft has already been developed. The Sectoral Council of Science and Technology, I suppose, at its forthcoming meeting later this year will consider the draft of this framework.

Madam Speaker, globally, qualifications frameworks are regarded all-encompassing tools for guiding systems approaches for human resources development.

Qualifications frameworks are also designed to serve as useful instruments for guiding higher education institutions in curriculum development, delivery, and assessment of certificates in line with the needs of the labour market. Hence, the East African qualification framework has been designed both as a higher education supportive tool and as an instrument for guiding structural human resource development within the Community.

It really focuses on skills, competence, and relevance of such skills and competence to the region's social economic needs.

Madam Speaker, it is expected that each Partner State will develop a national qualification framework that is aligned but not necessarily identical to that of the East African qualification framework. This will only guide the alignment of the national qualification framework to the regional set up and facilitate readability of national qualification framework across the region.

Madam Speaker, this will also facilitate comparability of the education and training system and the qualifications attained in the Partner States. It will also facilitate a systemic approach to human resources development in the Community and provide mechanisms for streamlining qualifications by simply their comparability nationally, regionally and globally.

Finally, the framework will be a generic instrument for the region into which the Partner States national qualifications framework will be anchored for the purpose of harmonizing and synchronizing of education and training systems and qualifications attained within the Community.

Madam Speaker, the framework will by no means be a replacement of the national qualifications framework or similar instruments of the Partner States. Nor will it be prescription for each Partner State to make its national qualification framework the same as the East African qualification framework is directing.

It will rather be a guiding instrument for the Partner States qualification frameworks to be aligned with the regional framework so that the regional education and training systems and the qualifications are appropriately harmonized. I will underline these words, Madam Speaker, that “the training systems and the qualifications are appropriately harmonized.” I so submit.

**The Speaker:** Supplementary question, hon. Shy-Rose?

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I thank the Chair, Council for his very well elaborated answers. However, I would like to add the following supplementary questions; Chair, Council, education plays a key role in the integration agenda and yet harmonization of educations seems to be dragging. It is now almost more than 10 years and we are still talking about harmonization of education.

Whenever we meet students, they ask us about the progress and the answer we always give is that things are progressing on well. I would like you to tell this House what is delaying this process of harmonization. That is one.

Two, can you give us the design of this harmonization; how is it going to be like? We have students of College of Business Education here and others who will be reading in the media so that they can follow up. What is the design of this harmonization of the education system going to be like?

When shall we achieve full harmonization? Can you give us the timeframe; is it in 2020; 2035; 2050, or 2015? That is all for now. Thank you.

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to answer the supplementary questions from hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji. The first question is about – she is wondering why the harmonization is dragging on. As we have already said, we want to go on with quality education and in order to do so, a lot of research has to be done.

Madam Speaker, I would like to inform this House that there are almost four systems of education working in this region, starting from primary to higher education. There is a French System, which is working in Rwanda and Burundi; there is a British System, which is working between Uganda and Tanzania; the last system is a Kenyan System, which is a modified brand of its own type.

So, Madam Speaker, for these systems to work together and get harmonized - that is why I insisted on saying that we are not going to have a common system but we are have to harmonize so that every country will reciprocate another's education system. But to make my answers short, as I have said, during the November 2014 meeting, all those eight strategies are going to be approved and put into practical solutions so that right from primary school to the vocational trainings, they will incorporate and revise the curriculum because they are ready.

As to when, let me give you a short answer that up to December 2014, after the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology has adopted it, that is when they will be distributed to the Partner States for them to incorporate within their curriculum systems.

For Tanzania, the Ministry of Education is keenly waiting for it, although it has already incorporated certain aspects into the curriculum. That is what I can say. *(Applause)*

About the design, Madam Speaker, as I have said, researches are still going on. So, it is premature for me to give you what design will be effected but the designs will different. The higher education systems design will be different from the lower education systems design. But as I said, harmonization will bring the designs of the different Partner States in a convergence. So, once you consolidate them, then the only way will be nothing but to adopt them. We do not have a fixed East African design.

I met hon. Munya and hon. Mwinyi and the IUCEA team and they said that they want to design the curriculum qualifications and examinations system in such a way that they will create a brand of East African students who are capable and able to employ themselves and work within the perspectives and prosperity of the East African Community.

Madam Speaker, there is a question here as to when the full harmonization will be achieved. I am sorry; Madam Speaker but I cannot give hon. Shy-Rose a full answer to this question, but we shall be working together to fast track the system so that the full harmonization will be full blown within the very near future. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, you have another supplementary on a supplementary? Because that is what is should be, otherwise I will take hon. Taslima.

**Mr. Taslima:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Chair, Council whether – first of all, let me justify. Taking into account the fact that law, as a subject, is one of the major vehicles for coordinating and streamlining the East African integration agenda, can the Council tell this august House whether development of legal education in the region is in line or is under consideration? If so, when can it be expected to be in place?

If I may explain a bit, Madam Speaker, because we have this integration, everywhere you go now, you find that the legal requirements are needed and they are of utmost importance. So, may the question be answered, please? Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Taslima was assuming that the Chair, Council had not grasped his question, and that is why he was labouring. But I think the Chair, Council grasped it very well.

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Allow me to answer hon. Taslima, my mentor, and a wise man. Simply, the answer is that currently there is a study on the harmonization of law education within the region and we believe that development and improvement of legal education within the country together with its harmonization will uplift the standard of peace and security within the region. So, briefly there is ongoing harmonization of legal education and after the harmonization, it will be incorporated within the qualification framework so that it can be adopted in the Partner States.

But, Madam Speaker, personally I am a doctor and allow me not to be biased by saying that law is the major subject. Unfortunately, law is not the major subject – (*Laughter*) - for harmonization. There are many other respectable subjects as well; journalism, as hon. Shy-Rose says, medicine, engineering, peace, and security, strategic planning, just mention them. But the reality is that we would like all of them to be incorporated within the qualification framework, get harmonized and adopted within our Partner States so that once they are consolidated, the points of divergence are eliminated. Thank you.

**Mr. Sebalu:** Thank you. In the previous interventional arrangements in the EAC, we had what was called the East African Examinations Board. Do we envisage having the same in this arrangement?

Secondly, Kiswahili is an important lingua franca; do we consider factoring it within the harmonized East African curriculum if it were to be put in place?

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Allow me to answer hon. Sebalu's question that yes, it is envisaged that at the end of adopting these systems of qualifications, we are going to have the East African Examinations Board, which will be the umbrella board having pools of questions and examiners. That is the target of the East African qualification framework.

For Kiswahili, yes, of course the Treaty says it is the lingua franca. It helps us have dialogues and negotiations within the Partner States and even you, when you want to go and vie for a constituency, you will be speaking Kiswahili. I know you are very good at Kiswahili. So, it is also going to be harmonized and we are going to have a single curriculum of Kiswahili, which we will brand the East African Swahili under the tasks given to East African Swahili Commissions. And I am happy to say that the East African Swahili Commissions is housed in Tanzania, Zanzibar. (*Applause*)

**Mr. Mwinyi:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for his well-informed responses to the substantive questions as well as the supplementary questions. (*Applause*) However, the elephant in the room is simple, what do we understand by harmonization? I think that is the trickiest thing that the rest of east Africans and most of the people that I speak to do not seem to understand what harmonization means. Does harmonization mean having identical processes or education from primary to tertiary education? Or does harmonization mean that the outcome of that education is equivalent to one another? And the accreditation within the Partner States that each Partner State would recognize the other Partner



State's qualifications. I think that needs to come out very clearly in this discussion. Thank you.  
(Applause)

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you Madam Speaker. Hon. Mwinyi's comments really need some sort of clarifications and he himself started by clarifying. For the sake of the East Africans, I would like to explain what harmonization means.

Harmonization is the creation of common standards because in all the five Partner States, it is impossible for us to talk the same language in all aspects or criteria in specific or particular subjects. But we create a room to help common standards on specific subjects; standards of congressing that we are going together on this particular issue. That is number one.

After having these common standards, we sit down and work on two things; the points of convergence and the points of divergence. We all expect because we are coming from the same culture, we are almost having the same traditions; we are living within the African customs, so we always expect that the points of consolidation will be more on the base of convergence rather than divergence. This is the meaning.

So, harmonization is not having an identical- is not something in common but consolidate, talk the same language and pick up those points of convergence, employ them and adopt them to work and implement them in order to see the results. This is the meaning of harmonization.

So, for the sake of students, I am just saying that we always say, *kuhuisha*; *kuhuisha* means having harmonization but not having it identical. For the military, here they are using submachine guns and Kenya is using AK 47 but all can kill.

**Ms Yahya:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I have a supplementary R There were efforts to harmonize fees for higher education especially university but then this has been halted. Can the Chair tell us why? Thank you.

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you Madam Speaker. It is true there were efforts on harmonization of higher education and universities fees. This process is still ongoing and we anticipate that at the end of this year, the findings will be reported to the Sectoral Council of Education, Science, and Technology. So, the system is still ongoing and I know that there are many concerns of discrepancy of implementation of tuition fees within the region. It is unacceptable. We have some students now being recognized as foreigners in Kenya and even Tanzania. This is not a good thing and cannot be enjoyed.

So, the process is underway and I believe that by December, IUCEA will report to the Sectoral Council of Education, Science, and Technology to see how far they can go. But this is a fast tracked system. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much. Can we proceed to the next question?

#### **Question Reference EALA/ PQ/OA/ 3/45/2014**

**Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania):** Asked the Chairperson EAC Council of Ministers: -

*Telephone communication is no doubt crucial to investment and business development in the EAC region. Is the Chairperson, Council of Ministers aware that telephone-roaming charges are*

*too high for the common East Africans? Is the Chair further aware of the roaming costs of the various networks? If so, can they be tabled before the House? Is the Chairperson further aware that the charges are detrimental to EAC integration?*

**The Assistant Minister for EAC Cooperation, Tanzania (Dr Abdallah Saadalla) (Ex-Officio):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, allow me to answer the question asked by hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji dealing with telephone communication.

Madam Speaker, roaming within the Community began in the late 1990s. Between 2004 and 2010, mobile operators within the region on their own initiative, I underscore this, “under their own initiative,” implemented arrangements that ensured that roaming charges were affordable.

The arrangements put in place by the providers unfortunately collapsed in 2010 leading to a sharp rise in roaming charges.

Following the collapse of the arrangements, the Council of Ministers decided that joint intervention by EAC governments was necessary in order to cop the costs of roaming within the region. In this regards and considering the inherent challenges of regulating roaming, the EAC has initiated two parallel approaches:

(a) Short Term Approach

Under this arrangement, the Sectoral Council on Transport, Communication and Meteorology at its 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting directed the heads of communication regulatory authorities be convened to develop a proposal aimed at reducing roaming charges within the Community. The deadline for receiving proposals was set to be 31<sup>st</sup> December. This is only for the heads of regulatory authorities to convene a meeting and bring up proposals.

In line with this directive, a meeting of heads of ICT regulators has become scheduled for 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2014. Telecom operators under the East African Communication Organization have been invited in this ICT meeting on developing proposals for reducing roaming charges by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2014.

Madam Speaker, the proposals will then be presented and considered for adoption by the multi-sectoral meeting of Council and thereby the Council scheduled for next year.

Madam Speaker, both ministerial level meetings are scheduled for November 2014. It is, however, noted that under the Northern Corridor initiative, Republics of Kenya, Rwanda, and Uganda have decided to establish among themselves a one-area network for communication by end of September 2014.

Madam Speaker, documenting existing roaming charges for each operator and proposing harmonized charges is one of the activities in the proposed plan. It is, therefore, envisaged that a detailed part of this question will be availed in a written manner later.

(b) Long Term Solution

Madam Speaker, the Council considers that a long-term solution for roaming needs to be anchored on policy and laws not merely simply sitting in a meeting and giving deliberations. Consequently, the East African Community has commenced a process if developing a policy

framework and a regulatory framework for roaming. The third Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Transport, Communication, and Meteorology in August 2013 approved the terms of reference for the activity.

Funds have been set aside in the EAC Budget of 2014/15 and the process of procuring a consultant has begun. *(Applause)* It is estimated that procurement will be finalized by November 2014 and the study will commence in the first quarter of 2015. I submit.

**The Speaker:** Any supplementary question, hon. Shy-Rose?

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Thank you, Chair for your very good answers. I would like to know the time limit as to when you are going to submit the written response about the charges for the different networks. So, we will appreciate the timeframe. Thank you.

Secondly, why the disparities between *Vodacom, Safaricom, and Airtel*, what is causing the different tariffs? Can you tell us?

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, allow me to answer two supplementary questions from hon. Shy-Rose. Madam Speaker, hon. Shy-Rose as you have seen- we here in Tanzania call her Iron Lady. She really penetrates into the heart and bones of East Africans. Because as you have seen here, all the questions she has asked really touch the peasants - the real East Africans- not leaders – I congratulate you, Madam. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, the report of the research will be availed once it is ready, but it has to be adopted first. So, by the end of October and so in the next session of EALA, it will most probably be available. It is not a very big problem.

For the second question as to why there is a disparity. Madam Speaker, as you know, this is a business and it is a competition. Our Treaty allows competition although there are also subsidies. So, what we are trying to do is to see how much we can subsidize that gap of disparity between these competing firms. So, that is why we needed a research to do it; call them together and sit down and harmonize and then whatever has been harmonized be adopted within the East African perspective. Thank you so much.

**Mr. Nsabimana:** Thank you, Madam Speaker I have one supplementary question. Is the Chairperson aware that investment and business development in the EAC region is not killed by the telephone roaming charges only but mostly by the incoming telephone call charges originated by one Partner State to another, because it kills the volume and quality of communication? If yes, is this policy developed by the communication regulatory authorities touching this particular problem?

This is the biggest problem we have in the region - the incoming calls charge coordinated by another Partner State. And, I can tell you that it is ten times a call coming from USA into our region. This is affecting business and investment in the region. Thank you.

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to answer two questions on those aspects. I agree with the hon. Member that among the factors that increase charges are for not only roaming but also for incoming call charges. But I have said that we have to make research as to

how much there is a discrepancy of charges between the Partner States and if possible make subsidize in one way or the other.

What I can assure you is that we are still at that stage of research, which has not yet been adopted by the Council. So, it is too hard for me now to say that by solving this we can decrease on the call charges or roaming between the Partner States. But the spirit of our vision is to do that and we believe in the policy and the regulations we are going to bring to this House and incorporate that. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Yves, do you have another question.

**Mr. Nsabimana:** Yes, I would like to add something to what he was saying. Why don't you adopt the exchange system, which is known in telecommunication? It means "send; cheap; all." This system worked previously in the four Partner States of Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda under what was called the Kagera Basin Organization. Can you adopt this system? It is very good for our Community. Thank you.

**Dr. Saadalla:** Madam Speaker, I appreciate the technicality brought forward in front of your House. The Council will meet with the hon. Member and stakeholders in these issues and I hope your opinions as a honourable Member will be incorporated in the policy. And especially if you say that, they are currently practicable in all countries. So, we have converged in that sense and no problem in harmonizing it. Thank you, hon. Member.

**Mr. Mwinyi:** Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. I thank my honourable friend the Minister for a very clear and well-prepared response. My question centres on the approaches to handling this issue, and that is where my concern is.

The short term and long term approach. There are two issues of concern that I would like to be alleviated. One, it is the issue of free market economy, which has been enshrined in our Treaty and the process of making regulations that may impinge upon the principles of free market economy. Would it be correct to stipulate a particular price or particular tariff where competition should thrive? If one network wishes to charge a higher tariff, then the consumers will choose to use another network. That is my question. So, that is one.

Two, is in relation to creating policy and legislating on this matter. We all know that the telecommunication industry is very fluid and changes instantly. It is one of the most dynamic industries anywhere. It has changed how our financial transactions are taking place. There is more financing, more money transferred in mobile phones today than all the banks put together.

Won't the Chair, Council of Ministers think of this as impinging on that if we make policies and legislations in a field, which changes so fast that it restricts further innovation? What actions are you taking in relations to that? I thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Dr Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, allow me to answer the questions brought forward by hon. Mwinyi. First of all, let me start with the last one. It is known in economics that exhaustion of market or having too many commodities in the market gives the consumers chance to choose which one they want, depending on the quality, price, availability, depending on x, y, z. So, we allow competition and the long term regulations and policies that we are going to make are the

ones which are going to give directives on the firm which will abuse those laws or policies which we shall make.

What we are concerned with is to facilitate East Africans with this service in the cheapest manner and in the most peaceful way. So, hon. Mwinyi, I can assure you, because I know you are a lawyer and you are doing business, that competition must be there, and this policy will not restrict competition because it is also mentioned within the Treaty. We believe that competition will allow East Africans to consume services at a very reasonable price and at high quality.

I believe that in the short-term principles of marketing, this is a short-term measure to allow some researches to be done, some principles to be made, and to get to know each other within the market so that we end up consolidating East African perspectives on the utility of telecoms and the use of services by the East Africans. Thank you so much.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Mumbi...I think you will be the last on this.

**Ms. Mumbi Ng'aru:** Thank you Madam Speaker, I rise to ask a supplementary question. I am sure that the Minister knows, and that is why I am worried about his two approaches. The reason the prices are high is the taxes that the governments levy on the mobile telephone operators as a source for their revenues. Therefore, would it be in order to think that in the Council meeting if you probably recommended that a decision be made instead of going for a procurement process and to do a research of some kind, because from your answer I can see that the process has started and it is supposed to end in the first quarter of 2015. Isn't it that somebody is holding you so that this cash cow, through taxes, continues to kind of make it difficult for East Africans to communicate? Thank you.

**Dr Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, allow me to answer questions from hon. Mumbi. Madam Speaker, if we have been living with the sanctions here, everybody will assume their own in their own way. So, I think hon. Mumbi, I seek your indulgence and we give chance to the investigative researchers and other things to come out, be adopted by the Council and see the way forward. Otherwise, there will be many issues here, which can be raised on this issue, and yet it is still in the pipeline.

So, I don't know, Madam Speaker, I am so sorry that I could not answer hon. Mumbi because she is my best friend in this House. I do not want to assume what might be the outcome of the report. So, I am sorry.

**The Speaker:** Let us proceed.

#### **Question Reference EALA/ PQ/OA/ 3/46/2014**

**Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania):** Asked the Chairperson EAC Council of Ministers: -

*The air transport fares and charges for regional flights is too high to the extent that flying to destinations beyond Africa appears cheaper and more affordable than within the EAC region.*

*What has the Council of Ministers done so far to minimise air travel costs in the EAC region?*

**The Assistant Minister for EAC Cooperation, Tanzania (Dr Abdullah Saadalla):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, allow me to answer the questions asked by hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji as follows:

Madam Speaker, the Council of Ministers is seized of this matter. This matter has been subject to several Council decisions, especially targeted at enhancing competition in this sector. The ongoing effort on liberalization of air tickets services in the EAC region is an important step towards the minimization of air travel costs through increased competition.

At its 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Meeting, the Sectoral Council on Transport, Communication, and Meteorology considered the completed draft regulation for the liberalization of air transport services and directed Partner States to conclude consultations and complete the regulations and the framework by the end of 2014.

Madam Speaker, the other challenges in minimizing air travel costs through increasing air transport services in the region are the issues ready to the current low EAC regional and international airport capacities.

Aviation oversight and security concerns

These issues are currently being addressed through the development of an EAC airports development strategy under EAC Civil Aviation and Security Service Oversight Agency (CASSOA). They are overseeing the implementation of regulations covering aviation safety and airports and aerodromes security.

Madam Speaker, the Council has also noted that a big proportion of regional fares to the tune of nearly 40 percent are Government taxes and there are airport tax charges. The council has appealed to the Partner States to consider lowering such taxes in order to reduce airfares and flight charges substantively to enable this mode of transport play its rightful role in the regulation. I submit.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, any supplementary questions? You are satisfied.

**Mr Mwinyi:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I have been very happy with all the responses from my hon. friend up to this point. I do not believe that the biggest challenge here is actually the taxation.

We are all travellers here, Madam Speaker. If you take a flight by Emirates or Turkish Airlines or Qatar Airlines from here to the Middle East in Economy Class, some of us use that, it will probably be the same price as your flight from Dar es Salaam to Nairobi or from Nairobi to Entebbe.

Clearly, the issue is not the taxation. Clearly, the tickets for travel within the region are inflated. If you look at the pricing and the distances – *(Interruption)* -

**The Speaker:** Be brief.

**Mr Mwinyi:** Yes. So, is it genuine? Would the Chair, Council of Ministers tell us that the real reason is a monopoly and not the taxation? And, what actions can you take to alleviate that monopoly and to reduce the cost of travel? Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Chair, Council, is it monopoly or taxation? It would have been as brief as that.

**Dr Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, I think it is both because being from the Executive arm of Government, I can say that taxation contributes to this. Also, monopoly does so. So, let us wait for this meeting of liberalization and maybe CASSOA will act or give us advice because it comprises members from all Partner States on all aspects, business and technical. They will advise us on how to move forward.

Madam Speaker, there were many challenges facing air travel; security and traffic including financing CASSOA itself. Therefore, Madam Speaker, allow me to receive the challenges brought forward by the hon. Mwinyi that I consider taxation, liberalization and monopoly, which contribute to increasing the fares but we shall work on them and the process is in the pipeline.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Taslima, hon. Kizigha, hon. Sebalu, and hon. Shy Rose, in that order. If we are all brief then we shall be able to...

**Mr Taslima:** Thank you, Madam Speaker – *(Interruption)* -

**The Speaker:** Procedure? okay hon. Taslima give way.

**Ms Kizigha:** Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me the floor. Since we have tabled a report, which is also discussing this matter about CASSOA and air tickets, kindly allow me not to discuss this matter until after laying the report on the table on Thursday. Thank you, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** That is a critical observation considering that this afternoon we should have had the report on aviation or CASSOA from the Committee on Communications, Trade, and Investment. I guess several of the questions would have been answered, and because of that, I think let us hold all our questions. Now I take rescind the floor, which I had offered to hon. Taslima, hon. Sebalu and hon. Bhanji to wait until after Thursday. *(Applause)* I will promise to give you the floor to contribute substantively on the report.

**Question Reference EALA/ PQ/OA/ 3/47/2014**

**Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania):** Asked the Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers: -

*East Africans would like to get a brief on the status of benefits and challenges of the integration steps, namely the Customs Union, the Common Market, and now the Monetary Union, and Ultimately the political federation. Now that EALA has planned sensitisation activity between 25<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2015, will the Chair, Council of Ministers and the Secretary General participate in this activity to brief East Africans? Could the Chairperson further table a progress report on the implementation of each of the successive stages?*

**The Assistant Minister for East African Cooperation, Tanzania (Dr Abdullah Saadalla):** Thank you, Madam Speaker, allow me to answer verbally though I would have loved to give this in written form because the answer is very long.

Madam Speaker, the implementation of the Customs Union commenced in January 2005 after the Partner States ratified the Protocol on Establishment of the East African Customs Union. Partner States henceforth

- (a) started applying the Common External Tariff on trade with third parties;
- (b) adopted and commenced applying East Africa Community Customs Management Act and Regulations;
- (c) started to progressively eliminate the internal tariff that reached zero in 2010;
- (d) adopted common customs operational manuals;
- (e) agreed and started negotiating as a bloc bilateral trade arrangements;
- (f) commenced on harmonization of standards;
- (g) developed a program for elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers;

Madam Speaker, the implementation of the Customs Union has registered a positive impact on intra EAC trade, which has grown from US \$ 2 billion in 2005 to US \$ 5.5 billion in 2013-*(Applause)* – a growth of almost 36.36 percent.

Intra-regional trade as percentage of total EAC growth has made modest growth from 7.5 percent in 2005 to 10.5 percent in 2013.

The implementation of a Single Customs Territory has already signalled significant levels of positive results in terms of turnaround time of movements of cargo, which has reduced from 18 to four days from Mombasa Port to Kampala and from 21 to six days from Mombasa to Kigali. These pilots being undertaken on the Central Corridor indicate that movement of cargo from Dar es Salaam can reach Kigali and Bujumbura in three to four days from over 18 days.

Associated with this is the reduction of documentation by 20 percent since goods are declared once and released from the first point of entry.



The cost of transportation is correspondingly going down since trucks, which used to make one trip a month can now make up to four trips a month.

Most of the policies on customs and trade related matters are developed and reviewed at the regional level. EAC is participating as one entity in the ongoing negotiations with EU and EPAS; Tripartite EU on EPAS; Tripartite free trade area with COMESA, SADC, and trade investment negotiations with EU.

The Ministers of Finance annually hold pre-budget consultations to agree on policy matters that are pronounced in the national budget speeches, which are read on the same day and at the same time in the four Partner States.

The Republic of Burundi is awaited to harmonize its fiscal year to also join the other Partner States harmonized budget day.

In the course of inventing the Customs Union, the EAC has enacted the Standardization Quality Assurance Meteorology and Testing Act, 2009. The Competition, 2009 and the One Stop Border Post Act, 2013 to facilitate trade in the region.

A number of this August House is finalizing Bills for enactment. These include Draft East African Community Non-Tariff Barrier Bill, Draft East African Community Anti Counterfeit Bill.

Madam Speaker, I cannot claim that implementation of the Customs Union has not had challenges. The main challenges we have encountered include:

- (a) Re-occurrence of Non-Tariff Barriers that increase the cost of doing business. These mainly emanate from national, legal and administrative measures of Partner States;
- (b) Limited awareness of stakeholders of economic opportunities created by integration which impeded market exploitation and cross border trade;
- (c) Poor infrastructure including dilapidated road networks, limited railway services, unutilized water ways, expensive air transport and communication services;
- (d) Inadequate capacity both at the regional and national level to drive the integration process;
- (e) Unilateral safeguard decisions taken by Partner States to address some emergencies that distort regional trade policy framework;
- (f) Multiple memberships to regional economic groups that may erode the trade preferences within the region. This will, however, be addressed within the establishment of the Tripartite and free trade area;
- (g) Weak industrial base and non-commercialized agricultural sectors to feed the intra-trade and expanded market. In this regard, movement of agricultural products from surplus to deficit areas has been hindered.

Madam Speaker, the implementation of the EAC Common Market commenced in July, 2010 pursuant to Article 50 of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Common Market,

which requires the development of the framework for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Protocol.

The EAC Secretariat with assistance of the World Bank Group and Trade Mark East Africa developed the EAC Common Market Score Card, 2014. The EAC Common Market Score Card, 2014 was developed over a period of two years led by EAC Common Market Score Card Reference Group with participation from the EAC Partner States, EAC Secretariat, East African Development Bank, World Bank and World Bank Group and a number of regional research institutions.

The scorecard was finally launched on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at the Mount Meru Hotel, Arusha, Tanzania followed by dissemination workshops in all the Partner States.

Madam Speaker, the EAC Common Markets Score Card;

- (a) Covered three fundamental areas required for the diverse delivery of the Common Market, namely: Capital, services and goods;
- (b) Created a data base of over 770 laws and regulations referring to the reform process and provided a guide on the laws and regulations;
- (c) Organized its analysis along key sectors and types of commitment thereby providing an opportunity to sectors to specific discussions in designing reforms, programs and accelerated implementation of the Protocol;
- (d) Made recommendations on the strategic, organizational, and legal actions required to fast track a full implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

Madam Speaker, the EAC Common Market Score Card examined selected commitments made by Partner States, outlined progress in removing legislative and regulatory restrictions and recommended reform measures thereafter.

The score card found several bottlenecks in the implementation of the Common Market by Partners States, for example, regional trade in goods is constrained by not less than 51 Non-Tariff Barriers. At least 63 non-conforming measures slowdown trade ad important services such as professional services, distribution, transport, and communication and only two of the 20 operations that facilitate deeper financial integration are free and restricted in all the EAC partner States.

Madam Speaker, the scorecard has further assisted in galvanizing our combined effort to implement the Protocol fully. It is expected that the scorecard will be produced every after two years. The next score card to cover the free movement of goods, services, capital, persons and labour plus the right of establishment and residence.

Madam, Speaker, additionally, the Secretariat has developed an online and web based monitoring system in an effort to improve the implementation of the EAC Common Market. The system is based on the monitoring and evaluation framework that was approved by the Council in line with Article 50 of the Protocol.

Madam Speaker, the system, which is assessed through the link, is entitled to facilitate timely reporting on the status of the implementation of Partner States commitments in the Protocol. The system has inbuilt mechanisms that allow the person to monitor what each partner States has done concerning the given Protocol commitment. The system is also flexible enough to generate different types of reports, for example, comparison of countries performances against selected commitments and indicators.

Madam Speaker, the system should enable the Council to make timely and evidence based decisions relating to the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol.

It is now my pleasure to table the EAC Common Market Score Card before this august House.

Madam Speaker, the process of establishing the East African Monetary Union is ongoing. In November 2013, at the 15<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Summit of Heads of State, the Heads of State signed a Protocol on the establishment of the East African Monetary Union and directed that Partner States should ratify the East African Monetary Union Protocol by July 2014.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to tell this august House that currently, the United Republic of Tanzania has ratified this Protocol and has deposited the instruments at the Secretariat on time.  
*(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, next steps on implementation of the East African Monetary Union Protocol include the establishment of the following four institutions to support the East African Monetary Union process. The institutions are -

- i. The East African Monetary Institution;
- ii. The East African Statistics Bureau;
- iii. The East African Surveillance, Compliance And Enforcement Commission; and
- iv. The East African Financial Services Commission

To this end the process of developing draft Bills for these institutions is ongoing. The Bills shall be introduced in this august House during the first half of 2015/2016.

The development of the medium term convergence program, which each Partner State will follow in order to achieve the macro-economic convergence targets by 2021 is stipulated in the Monetary Union Protocol.

Madam Speaker, as the above processes are ongoing, the East African Payment System has been established. The East African Payment System will increase efficiency and facilitate cross-border transactions, which is essential for boosting intra-regional trade among East Africans. The East African Payment System will also transform doing business in the East African region through provision of a safe and accessible payment system in the region, finality of payments, irrevocability of payments, real time settlements, and use of local currencies, which will enhance regional trade within EAC. The East African payment system went live on 25 November 2013 and has so far successfully proceeded a volume of over 1,106 transactions.

To further ascertain the achievement of the East African payment system, Central Banks have signed a memorandum of understanding on currency convertibility and repatriation among Partner States, which will strengthen the convertibility and accessibility of East African domestic currencies across the region and will further enhance trade and decrease transaction costs.

Madam Speaker, the processes of harmonizing the different frameworks in the different macroeconomic areas are necessary for the transition to single currency by 2024 are still ongoing. These include; harmonization of frameworks on monetary policy, exchange rate policy, fiscal policy, production of reliable statistics, capital markets, insurance and pension sectors.

#### Progress of Political Federation

Madam Speaker, the Treaty in its Article 123 (6) mandates the Summit to initiate the process towards the establishment of a political federation by directing the Council of Ministers to undertake the process. The process's steps towards EAC Political federation, which have been undertaken, from 2004 to 2014 are as follows:

- (a) 2004 Summit of Heads of State established the Wako Committee to fast track the EAC Political Federation;
- (b) 2007-2008 National Consultations in the Partner States to consult East Africans on their views and fast tracking political federation;
- (c) 2009 Constitution of the team of experts by Summit to make recommendations on how to address fears, concerns and challenges expressed towards fast tracking of the political federation;
- (d) 2011 Report of fears, concerns and challenges presented to the Summit;
- (e) 2012 Draft model of the structures of political federation developed and considered by the Summit;
- (f) 2013 Consultations with national stakeholders on the model of political federations;
- (g) 2014 Consideration of the model structure by the Summit directive to initiate the process of drafting a Constitution for the political federation.

Madam Speaker, the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit of the Heads of State held on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2011 in Bujumbura, Burundi adopted the report of fears, challenges and concerns (FCCs) on the political federation.

The Summit also directed the East African Secretariat to, be among others, propose an action plan and a draft modal of the structure of the East African Political Federation.

The East African Secretariat together with the group of selected regional and senior experts from the Partner States developed a draft modal of the structure of the East African Political Federation in October 2012. The 14<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State considered the draft model structure in 2012.

Because of the far-reaching implications of the proposed modal in relation to national governance structures, the Summit directed the Council to engage in further consultations with the national stakeholders and to report progress at the 15<sup>th</sup> Meeting in November 2013.

The comments of the national stakeholders were a little diverse. The Summit reversed consideration of the modal structure and action plan at its 12<sup>th</sup> Extra Ordinary Summit of April 2014.

A meeting of regional experts to review and incorporate Partner States comments into the instrument was found necessary due before submissions of the revised instrument to the Council for onward transmission to the Summit.

The Summit then decided that the subject will be considered during the next meeting after experts had incorporated comments from the Partner States.

Over time, a mixed modal has cited a mixed bag of opinions and views and over generated constructive dialogue around political integration among different stakeholders.

Madam Speaker, the 12<sup>th</sup> Extra Ordinary Summit of Heads of State held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2014 in Arusha directed the Council of Minister to:

- (a) Initiate the process of drafting a Constitution for the East African Federation;
- (b) Develop a roadmap on what the negotiated Constitution making process would involve and make a comprehensive evaluation of the implementation of the Protocol on the East African Customs Union, Common Market and Monetary Union plus other laws of the Community. This shows that the issues will be step by step.

The Council of Ministers at its 29<sup>th</sup> Extra Ordinary Meeting also directed partner States to sensitize and consult widely with their key stakeholders on the political federation and report on the 29<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Meeting of the Council.

It is expected that the November 2014's Summit will consider the proposal for a mechanism for the East African Constitution making process and the roadmap of broad activities.

Other activities towards laying the foundation for the political federation continue being implemented. These include programs under peace and security, foreign policy coordination, good governance, strengthening of electoral processes, mobilization of different segments of stakeholders for greater political will as well as effective implementation of the prior stage of integration.

Madam Speaker, as you have seen, my answer was very long but it really responded basing on the way the question was asked by hon. Bhanji. It is educative and I thank her very much. Thank you. (*Interjection*)

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Chair, Council. Yes, hon. Zein, procedure.

**Mr Zein:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to thank the Chair, Council of Ministers as she is represented by hon. Minister Abdallah, who gave us a detailed and very articulate answer.

I saw that the hon. Minister laid on table a scorecard. And I appreciate that this is further information that he is availing to us. This scorecard is not available to the hon. Members of this House and we will not be able to appreciate his answer fully without reading the scorecard. Therefore, in line with the previous two rulings that you have made this afternoon, I would request that this matter be referred no other supplementary questions or clarifications at such until we have had the opportunity to look into the score card, read and digested the details therein. Then we shall be able to ask any supplementary questions. I seek your guidance, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Zein, I think it is in order that the scorecard is circulated. But the whole answer is not just around the scorecard. Others may have other questions. So, I think those who have other clarifications or supplementary questions may go ahead. Also, hon. Zein, if you have another question, which may arise out of the scorecard, and the answer is given, you will be at an appropriate time at liberty to put another question. I think it will be in order. Do you have any supplementary question, hon. Shy-Rose?

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to ask a supplementary question to the Chair, Council. I would like to know the progress on the status of assent of the following Bills: The One Stop Border Post Bill and The Vehicle Load Control Bill, how far have they gone as far as their assent is concerned?

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, I think that is a substantially different question. It does not fall within the question. I think that will be a substantively different question. So, the Chair may not be at liberty to answer that.

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I stand to be corrected but in his explanation, I have seen that on the progress he mentioned that the One Stop Border Post Bill was legislated in this House. That is the reason I am asking for its status because East Africans are eagerly waiting for the implementation of that Bill. So, I just want to know its status. That is number one.

**The Speaker:** Okay, proceed and then others will have the floor.

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Two, it is regarding harmonization of education.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, can you be guided? Your supplementary question must be in line with the question you asked. This is the rule; if you can look at rule 17; your supplementary question must be in line with the question you asked. Now the question you are asking is PQ/OA/3/ 47/2014, which is around the Common Market; Customs Union and now the Monetary Union. So, let us stick there.

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I think education falls under the Customs Union Protocol. Okay, I beg to withdraw.

**The Speaker:** Okay, thank you.

**Ms Bhanji:** No further questions, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Okay, Chair, Council, and then hon. Mwinyi.

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, I would just like to give answers to hon. Shy-Rose's question. According to the rules and procedures of the EAC, once a law has been enacted in this august House, then the communication for assent is between the top leaders, that is, between the Speaker and the Presidents. So, unfortunately, the Council of Ministers does not have any room to know as to why there has not been assent nor at which level of the President's desk it is. So, it is a complicated procedure, which falls under the presidential institution. But, once it is assented, we know which President has assented to it.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, you put a question and there is no provision for you to be informed. But, just be informed that under rule 63, which one of the cardinal rules under the Bills transmitted to the Heads of State or Summit that that role is being done and you will be informed when it is executed.

**Mr. Mwinyi:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Thank you this opportunity to ask a supplementary question from my hon. friend. I had supplementary questions on each of the Protocols but in line with your ruling, I shall refrain from asking any questions on the Monetary Union. Moreover, that was the basis of my seeking clarification.

On the Customs Union, you very elaborately went through the processes and developments under the Protocol. But of those eight, (g) I do not see a Single Customs Territory. Isn't this phase under the Customs Union Protocol and is there any development on that?

**The Speaker:** Where do you place the Single Customs Territory under the Customs Union arrangement?

**Mr. Mwinyi:** And how far have we gone in establishing a true Single Customs Territory?

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to answer the question brought forward by hon. Mwinyi. If hon. Mwinyi can read my answer on page 16, he will see that from (a) up to (g) are the challenges. So, establishment of a Single Customs Territory is no longer a challenge within East Africa. It is a process to be put forward and only remains there for implementation. And implementation is ongoing.

We are so far very successful; we have the extension modal now; we are continuing with the trials; we are in the process of decreasing roadblocks; we have established offices of revenue and customs authorities in our Partner States, meaning Kenya and Tanzania; we are fast tracking the systems using ICTs. We have single a single window.

So, Madam Speaker I wish hon. Mwinyi was there when we visited Dar es Salaam Port you would have learnt a lot. But let me take this chance, Madam Speaker, we shall be having a very good session with heads of Tanzania Revenue Authority and Customs Authority so that we can

clearly explain to Tanzanians what is transpiring now and the future prospects on the implementation of a Single Customs Territory. *(Applause)* Thank you very much.

**Ms Kizigha:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker for giving me the floor to ask a supplementary question. To what level of the computerizing of the stages of integration process from Customs Union to Monetary Union have you reached to allow ease of communication and linkages of information sharing in the region? Thank you

**Dr. Saadalla:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, allow me to answer the question from hon. Kizigha about the computerized system or linkages within the EAC.

Madam Speaker, currently, as the Secretary General of the EAC will be support me on the executive arm, within the legislative arm we are very modern and are operating under the good linkages of ICT.

Another thing on the Customs Union is that we have started the implementation of the Customs Management Act. We have a good modal of data collection started in Arusha. This data base links with all customs authorities within the five Partner States and whoever wants can go there and get whatever information they are interested in on the day- to- day dynamism within each Partner State.

The model is known as Raddex. This Raddex system is being linked with other Partner State Customs ICT systems so that we can get the day-to-day activities transmitted. We also have the education systems and the examination systems interlinked.

Even the scorecard was linked from all the Partner States and it was consolidated at the centre. Therefore, we are not working on papers. Papers are aside and almost whatever is being done within the EAC, more especially the Secretariat, and I commend them on this. We are doing it via ICT. Thank very much.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. I think we appreciate this answer. It is very comprehensive and I would urge Members -particularly we have been having a comprehensive talk show program where Members have appeared severally- I think this very comprehensive information, which should be used to educate the public on what is in place on the four stages of integration.

What we request is that the Clerk should avail the scorecard information so that Members fully internalize what has been done and what is available so that they are able to disseminate this information effectively. And where they feel that they still require information, and then they can come back to the Chair, Council.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO URGE THE EAC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO PUT IN PLACE MECHANISMS (INFECTION CONTROL MEASURES) TO HANDLE AND MANAGE THE EBOLA OUTBREAK IN THE REGION**

**Mr. Ogle:** Procedure

**The Speaker:** Hon. Ogle, you have been on procedure ever since we started!

**Mr. Ogle:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, you will recall early this afternoon the Secretary General of the Community stood up to seek an adjournment of debate on the Report of



the CTI Committee, and the reasons that he advanced then were, amongst other things, that the Council of Ministers were held up in a meeting. Among other things, they were discussing the Ebola outbreak. So, I was saying in the circumstances, isn't it nugatory to bring a motion of the same nature where the Council and the region is already discussing the Ebola Outbreak? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** You know, if you had waited for her to move the motion, you would have been very relevant in bringing that procedural observation. So, let her move the motion and then we shall be able to say whether we are relevant or not. I think that is how the House moves.

**Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I beg to move that this Assembly pursuant to Article 59 of the Treaty and rule 35 (1) of the Rules of Procedure do resolve to urge the EAC Council of Ministers to put in place mechanisms, that is, infection control measures to handle and manage the Ebola Outbreak in the region. I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Seconded by hon. Pareno and hon. Shy-Rose.

**Ms Nakawuki:** Madam Speaker, I beg to move\_

*THAT THIS Assembly;*

*RECALLING that on the 26<sup>th</sup> August 2014, the Minister of Health of the Democratic Republic of Congo notified the World Health Organization of an outbreak virus disease in the Equator Province of the Democratic Republic of Congo;*

*AWARE THAT the index case was of a pregnant woman from Ikanamongo Village who ate bush meat from a bush animal butchered and given to her by her husband;*

*FURTHER AWARE THAT she dies on 11<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 and several health care workers who attended to her were exposed and presented with similar symptoms the following week;*

*NOTING THAT in West Africa, that is, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea, the total number of probable and confirmed cases in the current outbreak is 3,069 with 1,553 deaths and more than 40 percent of the cases have occurred in that last 21 days as per the World Health Organization; between 28<sup>th</sup> July and 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2014, 24 suspected cases, including 13 deaths, have been identified in the Democratic Republic of Congo and includes health personnel;*

*RECOGNIZING THAT the Ebola Outbreak in Congo constitutes a public health risk to the EAC region and the consequences of a further spread are detrimental in view of the virulent nature of the virus;*

*NOW THEREFORE, do hereby resolve here as follows to recommend the Partner States of EAC to:*

- 1) Institute rapid control strategies to control the virus;*
- 2) Undertake sensitization of the general public and health care workers in dealing with Ebola outbreaks and identification of probable cases;*

- 3) *Regulate cross-border movements between the Democratic Republic of Congo and Partner States;*
- 4) *Put in place adequate infection control practices in hospitals and other health centres;*
- 5) *Provide funding and other necessary material resources or equipment to Ministries of Health;*
- 6) *Activate their disaster management mechanisms, such as establishment of emergency operation centres;*
- 7) *Procure medical gear essential in the protection and management of the virus and its spread.*

Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Maybe this would have been the appropriate time when hon. Ogle would have suggested moving under procedure, but I think let us proceed by having hon. Nakawuki speak to her motion.

**Mr. Ogle:** Can I move now on procedure, Madam Speaker?

**The Speaker:** Proceed, hon. Ogle.

**Mr. Ogle:** Madam Speaker I just want to repeat myself. I said that in view of the fact that an adjournment was sought earlier in this Assembly by the Secretary General of the Community for reasons that the Council of Ministers was currently meeting and discussing, amongst other pressing issues, the Ebola Outbreak in the region, does it not look nugatory or will the motion not have been rendered worthless in view of the fact that the region is already attending to the outbreak? Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Okay, I can appreciate the concerns that Ebola issues are part of the aviation sector problems. The aviation sector has note that one of the challenges it is facing currently is the Ebola Virus, which is normally due to people who are transiting from one destination to another. But you should also appreciate that Ebola itself is a health issue, which should be dealt with from that perspective. And I think this House can propose recommendations to the relevant sectors including those of health.

So, I think in that respect we could proceed to discuss this motion and make ourselves relevant to this problem, which is affecting many of us and noting that the recommendations that may arise out of this can also, be related to the aviation sector.

**Ms Nakawuki:** Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. Allow me give a background to this Ebola epidemic, which is currently a serious scourge in the African Region.

Madam Speaker, the Ebola Virus formally known as Ebola Haemorrhagic Fever is a severe and often fatal illness in humans. Its case fertility rate is up to 90 percent and is one of the World's most virulent diseases.

The Ebola Virus disease outbreaks occur primarily in remote villages near tropical rain forests. The virus is transmitted to people from infected wild animals and spreads in the human population through human-to-human transmission by direct contact with blood, body fluids, and tissue of infected people.

It is also transmitted through indirect contact with the environments contaminated with such fluids through burial ceremonies in which mourners have direct contact with the body of a deceased person, and it is also important to note that men who have recovered from the disease can still transmit the virus through their semen for up to seven weeks after recovery from the illness. That is according to the World Health Organization.

It is also important to know that health care workers have been frequently infected while treating patients with suspected or confirmed Ebola Virus disease. This has occurred through close contact with patients when infection control precautions are not strictly practiced.

The Ebola Virus can be spread from fruit bats which harbour the disease; it can also be transmitted from chimpanzees, gorillas, monkeys, forest antelopes, and it has recently been noted that from pigs as well, though the virus which is spread from the pig is different from that in humans, that is the Reston virus, which was confirmed in 2008 with a case in the Philippines.

Madam Speaker and hon. Members, the Ebola virus disease is a severe acute viral illness often characterized by the sudden onset of fever, intense weakness, muscle pain, headache, and sore throats. This is followed by vomiting, diarrhoea, rash, impaired kidney and function, and in some cases both internal and external bleeding.

Madam Speaker, allow me also to note that the incubation period, that is, the time interval from infection with the virus to onset of symptoms is usually two to 21 days. And allow me to note that no licensed specific treatment or vaccine is available for use in people or in animals.

As part of the background, the Ebola virus first appeared in 1976 in two simultaneous outbreaks in Zara, Sudan and Yambuku in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This disease was named after a river in the Democratic Republic of Congo, where the virus was first detected.

Madam Speaker, on 26 August 2014, the Ministry of Health in the Democratic Republic of Congo notified the World Health Organisation of an outbreak of the Ebola virus disease in Equator province. The index case, as I said earlier, was a pregnant woman from Akanamongo village who butchered a bush animal that had been killed and given to her by her husband to cook. She became ill with the symptoms of the Ebola virus disease and was taken to a private clinic in Isafa village. Unfortunately, on 11 August 2014, she died of a then unidentified haemorrhagic fever. Madam Speaker, local customs and rituals associated with death meant that several healthcare workers were exposed, and presented with similar symptoms in the following week. And in that very week, the doctor who conducted the operation, two nurses, a cleaner, a laboratory technician contracted the same disease and died. Even the close family members who performed the burial rituals contracted the disease and died. For that matter, just from one case, 24 cases of Ebola have been confirmed, of which 13 have died, and eleven are under intensive care in the Democratic Republic of Congo. At the same time, another 80 people are still being followed with suspicion that they could still be symptoms of this very disease.

Madam Speaker, the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo constitutes a public health risk to the East African Community Partner States, and if it further spreads, the consequences will be far-reaching hence it is really essential to stop and reverse the spread of the virus in the East African region.

Madam Speaker, when Ebola broke out in West Africa, it started with just one country, Guinea, and then spread to other countries to include Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone. And as of last week, there was another Ebola case reported in Senegal, indicating that the disease is being transmitted from one country to another, and it is one reason why we should take serious precaution.

Madam Speaker, health officials and governments have been on the alert since the outbreak, and for that matter, we have also seen our Partner States taking action. For example, when you go to the Republic of Rwanda, when you appear at the Airport, a thermometer will take your temperature. The other Partner States are simply giving you a form for you to declare voluntarily whether you have been exposed, or you have the fever, and you are at liberty to deny or admit. And because some people do not want to go through the hustle because when you confess that you have been exposed, or that you have been in any of those countries, and for some of us who have both the EAC Passport and the national passport from our Partner States, it is also very hard to detect.

Madam Speaker, allow me to quote one scholar, Jackie Joiner, who once said that it is better to look ahead and prepare than to look back and regret. Therefore, Madam Speaker, despite the border controls that we have now, it is very difficult to seal off a country whose frontiers have always been porous. And, in fact, even if we were to close off the borders, with the current habit of “*kitu kidogo*” in some countries, people would still cross. For example, Guinea tried to close the borders, but people had to pay up to US\$30 to cross. So, still they made their way. So, that means that closing the borders is not the option but we need to take other measures.

Among my justifications, Madam Speaker, in almost all the Partner States, there is a common practice of eating bush meat. In fact, if you had the chance of visiting *the Carnivore* in Kenya, it is always full to capacity because people enjoy meat. In Uganda, we were forced to copy *the Carnivore* in Kenya and do one in Naguru simply because we realised that meat, and more so wild meat is a delicacy to many. So we have one in Uganda. And, in many communities in the East African Region, people still eat raw blood fresh from animals, uncooked milk, and improperly cooked meat, and it is very difficult to stop this culture because many people have lived with it. That means that it is better we wake up and maybe sensitise our people on the dangers of the Ebola virus and how it can be contracted.

Madam Speaker, there is also high mobility of and several incidences of cross-border movement of travellers with infection. When you look at the WHO regulations, it does not recommend restriction of travel or trade except in cases where someone is confirmed to be carrying the Ebola virus. So that means that people will continue to move, but all we need is extra precaution.

Allow me to add that there have been a number of misconceptions of the disease, including how it transmitted. It is apparent that people have now found stereotype of how to have the Ebola virus. For example, I was watching the CNN recently, and I saw that in Guinea the people had decided that when you drink salt water and use salt as lotion for your body, you cannot get the

Ebola virus disease, even if you got close to an infected person. I think that is very dangerous. Even in Uganda, in Bundibugyo the time when there was an outbreak, there was a rumour going around that when you take raw onions or *kachumbari*, you would be immune to the virus, which has been proved wrong, and so we have to wake up and sensitise more. And there has been a myth in West Africa where we recently heard that a group of people went to a facility where Ebola patients were confined and made them to escape because there is no such thing as Ebola, and that the virus was invented by the Whiteman to decimate the African population. That myth is still alive in our populations and it is a call to all of us as stakeholders to wake up and do something about it.

Further, most of our health systems are fragile, with significant deficits in human, financial, and material resources, resulting in compromise ability to mount an adequate Ebola outbreak, and control response. So, since we have that deficiency in human resource and finance, it is better, we look for the option of control instead of cure.

Madam Speaker – (*interjection*) - my second last issue is that it is important to prevent the spread of the Ebola virus, to the neighbouring countries of East Africa, through strengthening epidemic preparedness and response measures. And, finally, recently the WHO alerted the different African states by saying that unaffected states with borders adjoining the states with Ebola transmission should urgently establish surveillance of clusters of unexplained death due to febrile illness, establish access to a qualified domestic laboratory for Ebola virus disease, ensure that health workers are aware of and trained in appropriate IPC procedures, and establish rapid response teams with a capacity to investigate and manage the Ebola virus disease cases and their contacts.

Allow me to quote J.F. Kennedy, the former president of the United States of America who once said that the time to repair the roof is when the sun is shining.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much. I will take hon. Shy-Rose – (*Interjection*). Procedure, hon. Angela Kizigha.

**Ms. Angela Kizigha (Tanzania):** I thank you Madam Speaker for giving me the Floor, and you will also allow me to appreciate the report given by hon. Nakawuki, which was well presented since Ebola is a critical disease within in Africa. But, I want to move under Rule 31 (c) of the Rules of procedure, on a motion for the adjournment of debate. As I said in the afternoon, this report on the Ebola outbreak is part of the report that I laid on the Table before you, Madam Speaker, and if we proceed to debate this one, it means that we shall not have anything important or crucial to debate on Thursday. I beg your indulgence and thank you, Madam Speaker. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, hon. Angela Kizigha is moving under Rule 31, and she is proposing adjournment of debate. Who is seconding her? Hon Dora, Hon. Abdul Karim... honourable...everybody.

Now I put the question on the motion to adjourn debate.

*(Question on Motion put and agreed to)*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, I realised that when the Hon. Chair, Council was answering the questions, he mentioned that he was going to Table...it looks like the Chair Council...well, I think the books have come and they are the ones laid on the Table, so at an appropriate time, they will be circulated. Hon. Members you should also take a leaf, including the scorecard that Hon. Zein actually wanted to refer to.

Hon. Members, with the Motion of hon. Nakawuki adjourned, I can tell you that we have come to the end of today's deliberations, I want to thank you for today's active participation...sorry I was trying to catch Chair Council to see whether his report is already on the Table and I think it is on the Table.

With that, I want to adjourn the House to tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

*(The House rose at 5.30 p.m. and was adjourned until Wednesday, 3 September 2014 at 2.30 p.m.)*