



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

104TH SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: FIRST MEETING – FOURTH SESSION

Friday, 21 August 2015

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 12.45 a.m. in the Chamber of the Parliament of Uganda, Kampala

UGANDA NATIONAL ANTHEM

EAC ANTHEM

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Mr Daniel .F. Kidega, in the Chair.)

(The Assembly was called to order)

PROCLAMATION

The Speaker: Honourable members, amidst us today is H.E Gen (Rtd) Yoweri Kaguta Museveni President of the Republic of Uganda and Rt hon. Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda and the Rt hon. Oulanyah Jacob the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.

I have in accordance of the provision of Article 54 of the Treaty invited His Excellency the President to address this Assembly. I would now like to make the following proclamation to well the president to this assembly.

Whereas Clause 1 of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to attend the Assembly,

Notwithstanding that he or she is not a member of the Assembly,

If in his or her opinion the business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable

And whereas in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of the President of Uganda is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly

Now therefore it is with great pleasure and honour on your behalf honourable members to welcome His Excellence the President of the Republic of Uganda in this Assembly.

ADDRESS BY H.E GEN (RTD) YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA STARTING WITH THE SPEAKER OF EALA INVITING THE SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA TO ADDRESS THE HOUSE

The Speaker: Your Excellence, Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni President of the Republic of Uganda, Rt hon. Jacob Oulanyah Speaker Parliament of Uganda, the Prime Minister of Uganda Rt hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, Chairperson Council of Ministers, honourable ministers, the Secretary General of the EAC, honourable Members of Parliament of Uganda and Members of Parliament of East African Legislative Assembly, former members of EALA, Your Excellences Ambassadors and High Commissioners, distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen.

I wish to first of all thank the Speaker, Rt hon. Jacob Oulanyah of Parliament of Uganda and the entire Government of the Republic of Uganda for accepting to host EALA at the commencement of the First Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Third Assembly. (*Applause*)

The Parliament of Uganda has been hospitable enough to host EALA at an extremely busy time; Given that it has over the last few weeks debated on very key Bills and reports, especially the Constitution (Amendment) Bill.

Your Excellency, our presence here today is a further sign of true friendship and commitment to the integration process. The Speaker and the entire staff have in their stride bent over a number of times to ensure we are accommodated and comfortable at that. (*Applause*) We are indeed grateful for this.

On a lighter note, Your Excellency, we cannot wait to find an opportunity to reciprocate. The persons of Rt. hon. Jacob Oulanya is admirable for both his leadership style and political philosophy as well as his friendly and out-going character.

The Rt. hon. Oulanyah is a trade blazer. His leadership characteristics were long horned when he was busy traversing the academic corridors of Makerere University.

Since Rt. hon. Oulanyah joined politics and was elected as the Member of Parliament of Omoro County, he has continued to improve the lives of his Constituency by bringing programs initiated by the NRM Government closer to the people. The people of Omoro have benefited immensely from his servant hood. I wish him well as he continues with his dedicated service of prosperity for all.

Hon. Oulanyah has since elections in his position of the Deputy Speaker in May 2011 continued to offer leadership by offering the much needed day to day guidance in the Parliament of Uganda together with the Rt. hon. Rebecca Kadaga Alitwala.

The Rt hon. Rebecca Kadaga is not here. We salute her for a continued and steadfast support towards the integration process. *(Applause)*

The Rt hon. Kadaga has been at the fore front of ensuring that the EAC Bureau of Speakers continues to make significant contribution to the EAC integration process. Please pass on our regards to the Rt hon. Kadaga. We wish her well in all the political undertaking that she is going through now.

I wish to acknowledge that the Rt hon. Oulanyah has been instrumental in sharing his expertise in Parliamentary work with other Parliaments. We at EALA have benefited immensely from this experience in Parliamentary institution matters. We are grateful for the support he has offered the Assembly.

I am aware that currently the life of the Parliament is soon coming to an end. When the anodes of history are written, you shall definitely grace the pages of history of modern times. I wish you well also in your political future.

On a more personal note, Your Excellency, I am grateful to the support Rt hon. Oulanyah has continued to offer me since I was elected Speaker to the Assembly. *(Applause)* We have time and again consulted over matters of Parliament and otherwise. His healthy guidance and support is immeasurable to me as a person and to the Assembly.

With these few remarks, I now take this opportunity to invite my good friend and mentor Rt hon. Jacob Oulanyah to speak and address this Assembly. Thank you for listening. *(Applause)*

The Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda (Mr Jacob Oulanyah): Mr Speaker, Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Rt hon. Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, honourable members of the East African Legislative Assembly.

The speech by the Speaker has taken the gas out of me. I will not be able to speak any more. He has humbled me. I had intended to give a speech, but I do not have any more to give also constrained by the time that His Excellency the President has.

My responsibility is simple. It is to welcome you. *(Applause)* I do not do this as Jacob Oulanyah, Deputy Speaker. I do this on behalf of the Speaker of this Parliament, the Parliament of Uganda in its entire membership some of whom are here and on behalf of the people we represent.

Honourable members, in the prayers a particular phrase was sighted. It says, "People whose interests you are committed to our charge." In the case of Uganda, it is the people of Uganda. In your case, it is the entire region. They are the people whose interests God has committed to your charge.

When we are dealing with these interests, what we need is not what we already know. What we know has only brought us this far and mistakes have been made. We have learnt from them. Rather we need to employ exploratory thinking which is all about innovation, creativity

and occasionally unconventional thinking if we are to capture the real mood of the changes that are happening in the region and the whole world.

In the end, what works is what will count. It does not matter what you do. If it does not work, it will not count. What we do must work so that it counts for the people that we represent.

Therefore, we must not use rudimentary tools like long meetings and delayed resolutions. Sometimes we get bogged down in Parliament with debates that are irrelevant to the people's interest. They take a lot of time. Sometimes I sit here as Speaker and I am at pains trying to isolate and identify the interests of the people of Uganda in the debate that is going on in the House. Unfortunately, I can hardly find any.

I hope it is not true with the Regional Parliament. This is because those interests must be the campus and guiding star of what we do in this House. Delayed meeting therefore is of no consequence or use to the people we represent.

The year 2015 is an important year. Our biggest partners are the Europeans. They have declared this year as the year of development. This same year we have also celebrated commemorating 40 years of our relationship with the European Union.

Sometimes I sit in the ACP EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly and there are issues that we do not like. This is because they are historically based. We do not like some of the history we have had with the Europeans very much. All this time, we are trying to change and get on our own track. This is all the final year of assessment for the Millennium Development Goals and its impact on poverty reduction.

This year 2015 is also the year in which the international community will adopt the new development framework to move as a way from the Millennium Development Goals to the Sustainable Goals that they are going to declare.

His Excellency the President next month will be one of the people who will be signing up to this new framework for development. The time therefore is important for all of us. Those of us who sit in different assemblies must take heed to the call of the people.

The call of the people of East Africa is that we should come together as one people. The little borders that divide us are not deeper than the blood that connects us as a people. It is not deeper than the history that binds us as a people and the heritage that we have as a people.

I welcome you on behalf of the Parliament of Uganda. I do hope that you have a good time here. In honour of what you are going to do, yesterday I decided to send my members on recess. This is in order for you to have a full time in this House; morning and afternoon. Again, you are welcome. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker East African Legislative Assembly (Mr Daniel F Kidega): Your Excellence Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, the Rt. hon. Jacob Oulanyah Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda Rt. hon. Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, the Chairperson EAC Council of Ministers, honourable Ministers and Members of council of Ministers, the Secretary General of the East African Community, honourable members of Parliament of Uganda and that of the East

African Legislative Assembly, members of the diplomatic core, distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen.

Your Excellence, it is with profound humility that I stand to warmly welcome you to deliver your address during the first meeting of the Fourth Session of the Third Assembly.

Allow me to express my gratitude to you for positively responding to our invitation. I have kept track and I am happy to report that you have honoured all the eight invitations that has ever been extended to you (Applause) since the promulgation of this Assembly. Your Excellence this gives you 100 per cent attendance to our invitation. We are very humbled (*Applause*)

I wish to underscore the confidence that we have in you and your colleagues at the Summit of EAC heads of state as you advance the integration agenda.

Permit your excellence to quote a pan Africanist leader of all time and integration believer and President of the Republic of Uganda H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who in his reflection while addressing investors in Kampala a few years ago said and I quote, “there is tremendous potential in Africa. Africa is a continent of the future just like India and china have become super powers. In the next 25 years, a lot of changes will take place here in Africa.” Definitely, East Africa is the region to live and Africa is a continent to do business with. In this regard Your Excellence, we salute your commitment to the integration process and call upon you and the Summit of EAC heads of states to hasten the process of the monetary union and inevitably, that of the political federation. (*Applause*)

This will enable us to be stronger and more united for without political union Your Excellence, we remain vulnerable to the forces of the world.

We appeal to the Summit to revisit the idea of fast tracking the political federation of the Community. (*Applause*)

The assembly commenced business on Monday this week and we have already debated adopted two key committee reports. One, on the investment strategies in the region and another on the legal framework and implementation of policies on the rights of the children in the EAC partner states.

Yesterday we passed a key resolution that calls for urgent action to prevent trafficking in persons and prosecution of the offenders.

We also commenced debate on the EAC creative industry Bill 2015, that seeks to enhance creative industries and culture and therefore promoting tourism in the region. We expect the Bill to sail through the second and third reading at this sitting in Kampala.

In addition Your Excellence we expect to debate the Electronic Transaction Bill, 2014 and to pause questions to the Council of Ministers.

In line with the principle of scaling up sensitisation of publics and as part of our outreach programmes, we shall tomorrow August 22, 2015 undertake tree planting in Northern Uganda and specifically in Gulu Municipality.

This is the first time EALA is holding such an activity and we shall in that part of the country and we shall use this opportunity to hold frank conversation with the East Africans and people of different works in that part country.

Your Excellence since I took over the speakership of the Assembly in December 2014, the Assembly has passed a total of 6 bills. (*Applause*) 5 resolutions and adopted 12 reports and asked the Council of minister to respond to a set of questions deemed vital to strengthen this integration process.

We have received two petitions from the youth and the regional workers' union and the association of employers both petitions are right now being processed by the relevant committees of the Assembly.

The Assembly has reviewed its rules of procedure and other instruments of governance and picked up useful and vital lessons that strengthen delivery of services. This has smoothed the administration of the Assembly. In doing so, these members sited in this chamber have sacrificed to extend their working hours late in the evening by one more hour from where we used to stop. I congratulate them upon that commitment. (*Applause*)

We are absolutely optimistic that we shall deliver on our promises and contractual obligation with the East African citizen as it is we have little choice since our constituency; East Africans expect nothing less.

The late Kenyan Nobel award winner hon. Wangari Maathai often remarked and I quote, "there are great opportunities even in the most difficult moments." My colleagues and I strongly believe in this conviction and in the resilience of our great region. We shall diligently play our part as it is mandated by the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC and relying strongly on the political guidance of the Summit.

Your Excellence, permit me to highlight to you some of the immediate challenges the Assembly faces. The major concern that the Assembly needs to address to you is the question to assent to bills and specifically the period it takes to undertake the mandent. (*Applause*)

While it is purely in order for heads of state to receive briefs before assenting to bills, the logistical mode of having the bill move from one partner state to another presents serious challenges. We are of the view that the region takes advantage of the Summit sitting which can create an opportune moment for the summit members to exercise their mandent as stipulated in Article 63. We look forward to further conversation and engagement with the Council of Ministers and the Summit on this specific matter because we believe that the bills can be dispatched to the capitals at once and with the due diligence of the technical be done and then at the sitting of the Summit, assent can be done or referral can be made as deemed fit by the members of the Summit.

One of the key bills that the assembly has passes at its sitting in March 2015, is the EAC elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Bill, 2015 which if assented to soonest, will go along way in removing the non-tariff barriers. Indeed some of the NTBs in our region are responsible for promoting vices like corruption thus delaying the assent to this bill allows the growth of this vice.

Your Excellence, this Assembly joins you in the struggle against the vices that the community still faces like corruption and others.

Differing cycles with regard to elections in our partner states also pose challenges in the smooth running of the EAC programs.

Burundi has just held its election and the next in line is the United Republic of Tanzania in October 2015. That is this year. It will be followed by Uganda in early 2016.

In addition, elections cause excitement in many ways amongst the population. At times unpatriotic politicians and citizens can stir emotions leading to disruption of normal society activity, erosion of investor confidence and a lull in economic programs.

Essentially, electioneering is a democratic right. This period should not be used to disrupt society and nation building. We as an assembly appeal to all the political actors in this region to act in such a manner that builds more of the integration process and the prosperity of our people.

There are undeniably some positive democratic milestones that we can be proud of as a region. There are also grave mistakes that have been made and that we must steer clear of in future. We appeal to all actors concerned with elections as a matter of necessity to ensure citizens enjoy their fundamental political and civil liberty to promote a culture of peace and tolerance and insulate electoral management bodies from undue pressure.

In this way, Your Excellency, we stand to secure the future of our region for prosperity.

Your Excellence, with respect to Uganda, I congratulate you for the exemplary leadership that has been seen in the country leaping from one height to another under the NRM ethos for unity, peace, development, well creation and democracy. *(Applause)*

Uganda has continued to leverage investments in the region and its stakes off to industrialisation remain a cure and sure. The agricultural sector has enormous potential for growth while the education sector has seen a number of youth benefit from the universal, primary and secondary education.

On matters of peace and security, Your Excellency, this Assembly and I wish to acknowledge your contribution in ensuring the EAC and its neighbours are peaceful. *(Applause)*

We support your role in ensuring the stability of South Sudan and Somalia is realised amidst all challenges. We urge you not to relent, but to continue with the struggle bearing in mind that EAC and Africa is still yearning for this kind of leadership. We join Ugandans in celebrating your achievements and wish you good health and prosperity as you continue to lead the country to even greater heights.

Your Excellency, before I invite you to address this Assembly, may I humbly request that I introduce our guests who are present in this Assembly. I would like to in a very special way recognise and introduce the ministers of Uganda who are in the gallery of this House. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we would like to in a very special way recognise and introduce the presence of the Secretary General of the National Resistance Movement. We would also like to introduce Members of Parliament of Uganda who are present. *(Applause)*

We also have former members of EALA who are in Uganda in the gallery as well. We would like to recognise and introduce Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Members of the Diplomatic Court. We would like to introduce the Service Chiefs; the Chief of Defence Forces and maybe the representative here present, the Police Chief, the Prison Chief or his representative. *(Applause)*

We would like to in a very special way recognise and introduce the presence of the future EAC Youth Ambassadors and Members of the Youth Forum. We would like to recognise the presence of civil societies here present; we would like to recognise the presence of the private sector. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, I would now like to recognise and introduce my own colleagues who are in this Chamber. I will introduce them country by country. May I start with the Republic of Burundi? Please rise up. We have those from the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Kenya and finally the gallant hosts; the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)*

Finally your Excellency, it is with great pleasure and honour that I execute my humble duties to welcome you to address this August Assembly today Friday 21 August 2015. I thank you for your kind attention. *(Applause)*

The President of the Republic of Uganda (Gen Yoweri Kaguta Museveni): Thank you. The Rt hon. Speaker of EALA Parliament Daniel Kidega, the Rt hon. Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Uganda Jacob Oulanyah, the Rt hon. Prime Minister, the ministers of Uganda, the ministers of East Africa and the EALA members.

I want to start with two proverbs. They are both from Uganda. One says, “*onzalile bwente na mabeera.*” it means that the relationship between a cow and a human being is the milk the cow is giving. If the cow is not giving the milk, the human being loses interest in the cow and normally sells it for beef. The second one says, “*ekeyeyo ekikadde kye kyimanyi ensoda.*” It means that the old broom sweeps better.

When I talk about East African Cooperation, I am on smooth ground because I know the story very well. What some of you people call history, I call current affairs. *(Laughter)* There is therefore a total misunderstanding between me and you people.

This is because somebody says that history tells us and I say what history are you talking about? I was there. It is history for you, but not history for me.

Recently, I was invited by His Excellency Benjamin Mkapa to a seminar in Dar es Salaam about East African Integration. I am very happy he organised that seminar. This is because you normally hold many seminars about children right, women rights, right of animals, but I have not heard you holding a seminar about East African integration. I have not heard it. If it has been there, it is only president Mukapa who organised it recently. That is the one I attended. May be there are others which I did not know about. In that seminar it emerged that integrating is about two words; prosperity of our families and security. These are the two words that are really central to integration.

Integration is crucial for prosperity because, it provides us with a market. I produce agricultural products, industrial, services; I heard that you are going to talk about the creative arts that this is one of your bills you are going to talk about. That is precisely the point. If I

am a singer what audience do I have after I have sung in Kampala; in some of these rural towns singing is not yet very developed? They are still busy with other problems now where else would you go?

The singers in the USA can sing in about 100 big cities each one with more than one million people. You can sing from New York, from there you go to California, Chicago. All these cities have a population of more than one, two, three or ten million. Therefore as a singer you have got a market which supports you. Even basketball players, you can imagine a basketball player becoming a millionaire. *Hanakazi ingene anayofanya, kazi ya mupira peke*. How many footballers do we have? Many of them have died in poverty. They go and win and after some years you ask what happened to so and so? *Ali kufa kwenye umasikini*. His creative art could be sustained by these small markets of Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Kenya. That is on one side when you are talking about creative arts but the products are the same.

When you produce a product you need somebody to buy. Recently we were having a discussion here with President Kenyatta about sugar, Uganda had died but it was not buried but after some years it resurrected. When it resurrected, production went up of so many things. One of them is sugar. *Hatuna soko yakutosha ya sukari*. So we have been arguing with the some civil servants in Kenya who think their job is to stop Uganda sugar, we said no, *fungua hiyo soko ya sukari*. We have been telling them because otherwise the industry here will not grow. Now we are producing more than Uganda is consuming. What do we do with this sugar? Then the Kenyan directors, you know some of these director instead of being directors they misdirect (*Laughter*.)

At one time here in Uganda we had a commissioner of darkness in the Ministry of energy. His job was to ensure that there is no electricity (*Laughter*) and you had to get a bushman like I was the one who was pushing for electricity but the commissioner was satisfied with the darkness. Therefore some of these directors instead of directing, they misdirect. You find he is Mr *Misdirector* there sitting and there are these chairs which are rotating these days (*Laughter*).

Therefore East Africa needs to help Uganda to buy this sugar (*Applause*) Uganda has risen from the dead to now producing. Therefore *nduguzetu lazima watusaidiye kunuwa haya mazawa nabiza kutoka* Rwanda. Otherwise it will be a problem. The sugar industry will die.

In the 1960s Ugandans were not well informed. They had a small economy that was built on what they were calling 3 Cs and 3 Ts and they would be very proud. The economy of Uganda is built on 3 Cs and 3 Ts. What were the 3 Ts; tobacco, tourism and tea. The 3 Cs were copper, coffee and cotton. That was all the economy of Uganda in the 1950s and 1960s with the British. When H.E Idi Amin came he destroyed all this. The only one that refused to be destroyed was only 1 C the coffee. He tried buy it could not be destroyed but all the others died.

The production of tea of Uganda in 1971 was 23 million kilograms of tea by the time we came into government in 1986 it was only 3 million kilograms which were being exported. Now we are exporting 60 million kilograms - (*Applause*). We have overtaken the 1971 level and we have gone far; more than doubled that level. This will be for the prosperity of the families in Uganda. I was talking about maize; Ugandans did not know that maize was a cash crop. This is because Ugandans have a lot of food. They have a lot of food; they eat bananas,

sweet potatoes, cassava, millet all that even me; I do not eat rice except when I am stuck. Recently when I was in Addis Ababa for the Sudan peace talks of, I had no alternative. *(Laughter)* I do not eat bread. I do not know why people like bread. That bread is not all that good. I eat our foods. They are in plenty.

I was with President Obama in Addis Ababa recently and he asked me why I always look young. I forgot to tell him that it is because I eat Ugandan food.

However, when we came in 1986, we told these Ugandans that you do not know that maize is a cash crop. When we told them, they woke up. At that time, the maize was only being eaten by prisoners and the army. It is the maize flour that you call *Ugali*.

I told them that if they do not want *Ugali*, let them produce for others because they will eat it. The production at that time was 200,000 tonnes of maize per annum. It is now 4 million tonnes. *(Applause)*

Ugandans do not want Ugali so much. They are now trying to catch up, but the maize producers are a little frustrated with them. This is because they do not eat enough maize. They have got their traditional foods.

In 1996, Uganda was importing powdered milk from Denmark. You can imagine Uganda importing milk from Denmark. In my family, we have been keeping cattle for the last 7000 years, but Ugandans were importing milk from Denmark.

We woke up the Ugandans and asked them to stop importing milk in order to reduce the milk here. The production at that time was 200 million litres. It is now 2 billion million litres. *(Applause)*

Unfortunately the Ugandans are drinking only 800 million litres. There is already a surplus of 1.2 billion litres. Of course the Ugandans could drink more, but somebody needs to wake them up. This is because a normal human being needs 210 litres per annum. Ugandans are drinking only about 60. That is why they are still losing their teeth and all that. They do not have enough calcium to keep their teeth in their mouth.

The question is if you are really serious about waking up our people to get out of poverty through production and they really wake up, where will you sell these products? Fortunately you the leaders are lucky. The people have been asleep. They have not been producing. Therefore, you do not know the problem of production.

If the East Africans wake up and use modern techniques to produce in agriculture, industry and services, you will have a problem of where to sell what they are producing. That is what I see here in Uganda.

The first point of East African integration is to support prosperity of the families who are growing maize, bananas, milk and so much more. This is what integration is about. *(Applause)*

If you are not interested in prosperity, then of course you do not have to talk about integration. You can continue talking about- I do not know what they talk about. If I do not

talk about prosperity, I go to my house and keep quiet. This is because then I do not have business in the public affairs.

Integration should support prosperity through production. If you want prosperity through Government, bureaucracy, fighting for jobs- because this is part of the problem in Africa. People are fighting to be in the government. They think that is where prosperity is.

How can you have prosperity without production? That prosperity through bureaucracy is temporary and will collapse. The only sustainable prosperity is through production. Once you produce, you must sell. If you sell, where do you sell? This is a simple challenge.

The second crucial element about integration is security. The point I made in Dar es Salam during Mr Mkapa's seminar was that these East African Countries are developing. Even the way we are, we are developing since we are solving the problem of the market now.

I am very grateful to Mzee Moi and Mzee Mwinyi because when we brought that idea in 1993 (those years) of resurrecting the East African Community, we worked together. *(Applause)* That is why you are here. Otherwise, you would not be here if- *(Laughter)*

Then the other leaders later on supported it. Leaders like Mzee Kibaki, Ndugu Mkapa, Ndugu Kikwete and now President Uhuru Kenyatta. Rwanda and Burundi joined with President Kagame, President Nkuruziza.

You have already helped us to solve the initial problem of East Africa. This is the prosperity. This market is now there. It still has some problems. These are weeds to be weeded. If you have a garden and there are weeds, you go and weed. The market is there.

I am very grateful to the East African leaders because we have moved up to where we are now. With the East African market, we can negotiate even for other markets. This is because it is easier for East Africa to negotiate with other people such as China and whoever than just Uganda alone.

Recently, I went to Ethiopia. Those Ethiopians are a bit smatter than us here. You know they have a reasonable market of 90 million people. Ethiopia is country with a big population and they say *kwingia kwenye soko yetu siyo mchezo*. That is what they say. *Hapa sisi tunasema kwiyingiya kwenye soko yetu siyo lazima akuwa mashaniti makali*. We are just open.

Now the Ethiopians do not allow any vehicle to be sold in Ethiopia unless it assembled there. *(Applause)* All of them, Lorries, buses, pickups, these *boda bodas* which are polluting the whole place; None of those can be sold in Ethiopia if it is not assembled there. Now I discovered; that is why tourism sometime is good. As a tourist sometimes you pick some ideas because my Minister of Planning and wisdom and foresight *(Laughter)* had not picked up this idea.

I just picked it as a tourist when I was in Ethiopia and they took around and said there is this idea, then I said that my ministry of wisdom and planning and foresight, why hadn't they discovered this? Therefore all these vehicles, apparently when you assemble, you save 57 per cent of the cost. When you assemble a vehicle here it is 57 per cent cheaper than when you import it when it is already assembled. This is common sense because when the vehicle is already assembled, it feels a lot of space in the ship to come here but when you bring it, it comes knocked down, and therefore takes less space and in containers which can even be put

on top of each other. You cannot pit a vehicle on top of another one. It is not easy because they take up a lot of space. Therefore it saves by 57 per cent the cost. But also those jobs are done by the Ethiopians; the assembling jobs.

Now when you bring all these pickups which are polluting the whole place from Japan that means all those assembling jobs are done by those people there outside. Therefore we are losing jobs and money here in East Africa.

Now as a tourist when I picked up, I immediately brought to the Summit and handed it to Sezibera. Please tourism sometimes it good. I did not take it seriously but if you are a serious tourist you can pick some ideas like the one I picked and brought. Our people have a proverb which say *akana akatayita kekatende nyina okufumba* meaning a child who does not visit homes is the one who praise his mother that she is a good cook but when he goes and eats the neighbours' food, he discovers that the mother is not such a good cook.

Therefore, this issue is with the Summit now because I handed it immediately as a good east African (*Applause*). Now if East Africa now that we are in this one market, the Ethiopians are 90 million, do you how many jobs the Ethiopians are creating? 160,000 jobs by assembling of Lorries, buses, pickups. There are only 90 million here we are 150 million.

Therefore if we stand as one voice and say now please all of you, nobody will important any built up vehicle here in this market of east Africa, it will create jobs for our people, transfer technology because by assembling then later on you learn how to make the parts, you can force the one who is selling and say ok, I have now assembled what you have produced, next time we want to make the gear box, bring the other parts but we are going to make the gear box, next time something else, eventually we take up the whole vehicle.

Therefore the first purpose of integration which is prosperity I think we are moving well. However, the point is that even if were become prosperous, Uganda will become a middle income country in the next few years and we are sure we shall become a first world county in the next 20 or so years because we have done many of the things.

However, even if Uganda becomes a middle income country or first world country, can it be secure globally by itself? There are many first world countries in Europe, Denmark, Poland, Norway, they are highly developed but I have not heard that Denmark or Holland or Switzerland that they have a space programme. I have not heard. They do not have the capacity even if they are very developed but there is a limit in what they can do.

India on the other hand has got a space programme. Now this space programme is very dangerous because the Americans during the day they do not say it at night but during the day. However, the Africans are busy watching football, they know all the clubs in Europe and they do not hear this message. The Americans are saying, we want to be superior on land, air, at sea and in space. That is what they say in writing. You want to be superior in all those places then want happens to me? That is your problem. *Kama omelala haowezi kuzoya wengine kuendelea*. That is what the Americans are saying. That is why we say please, you people you better wake up. Yes Uganda can become a modern country the way it is.

It will be same type as UK, Holland maybe even richer because we have got more resources but we shall not secure our future alone. (*Applause*) That is what now brings the second principle of integration; strategic security. Not security against *Alishabab*, LRA, Kony, this is

not security. That is very easy to achieve. We have achieved it. We have defeated ADF- that is not a problem. It is the security against those who want to dominate us. This is the security we are talking about. *(Applause)*

The other proverb is “*ekeyo ekikadde ekimanyi ensoda.*” The old broom knows how the room is. This makes it easy for me because I have been around for a long time.

Some years ago we made an analysis; we discovered what I call strategic bottle necks for modernisation. They are the *muhimu* or the *bikubwa*. I do not know how you translate it. They are 10 of them. I do not want to go through them now. In other words, the *bizibwizi* block us from being prosperous and being secure.

Fortunately the East Africans are working on these bottle necks. One of them is the market fragmentation in Africa. We are working on that one. The only problems we have now are these disturbances in Burundi which must be solved. I was there.

I hope our leaders there can solve those wrangles. We also have problems in DRC in Eastern Congo. Congo is not part of the EAC, but it is part of COMESA. There are also problems in South Sudan. At least we have addressed that issue of integration. We are now addressing the issue of infrastructure. This is because these are part of the bottle necks; lack of infrastructure is one of them.

We can audit education. We have educated our people. One of the bottle necks was a Human Resource that was not educated. That one is being addressed. I therefore think we are moving well when you audit point by point.

I think what we need to work on is to deepen the economic integration. We need to move all these bottle necks. There will be greater prosperity for us when we completely remove these known tariff barriers. *(Applause)*

I was telling President Kenyatta that Uganda has been supporting the prosperity of Kenya for a long time. In 1986, when we came in to Government, Kenya was exporting to Uganda goods worth 200 million dollars per year. At that time, Uganda was exporting only 12 million dollars.

My people here thought Kenya was cheating us and I told them nonsense and they needed to stop it. At that time, my son was much shorter than me, but now he is about two times my height. *Mijuwa na mtoto mudogo.* Do not say that you are taller. In time, the child will overtake you.

Uganda is now exporting little because we have been busy doing something else. We have been busy killing each other. When people are killing each other, do they have enough time to produce? This is not Kenya’s problem. I continue to support the economy of Kenya by buying what they produce.

The trade has gone up. Kenya is exporting 700 million dollars of goods to Uganda. Uganda has also gone up. It is exporting 150 million dollars to Kenya, but it is still much less.

Therefore, I was telling those directors who came with His Excellency Kenyatta that even in the night you should not whisper that you are delaying goods from Uganda to be exported to Kenya; even in darkness when nobody is seeing you.

You should be working very hard to make sure that you balance the trade between Kenya and Uganda. Now that Uganda has come up, please you should be the first ones to support. In fact I should just keep quiet; you should be the ones doing it.

The other time when Burundi was applying to join the EAC, there were people who were saying that Burundi is unstable and it should not join EAC. They said that they would not even be able to pay the membership fee.

I said gentlemen and I think there were also some ladies; I told them that they do not know what they are talking about. We are not talking unalita addah. Addah is fees. This is not a debate in club where people are paying membership fee or sport club like I have some drunkards near me there (*Laughter*) they call it a sports club, but they spend more time drinking.

Here we are talking about a common market. Burundi is already a common market of East Africa. This is because we are exporting. Burundi is buying from Tanzania, Uganda, and we are buying very little from Burundi. (*Applause*)

At one time, Burundi was actually selling a lot during Bagaza's time. All the beer we were drinking here was from Burundi. I am talking about these drunkards. I do not drink beer every day. I do not think there are any- (*Laughter*) There is a beer called Creams which was coming from Burundi, but of course Burundi went in to problems so they also went down.

The issue about Burundi joining the EAC was not whether they can pay membership fee or not. It was that they are part of our buying and selling. That is why I told that official that if Burundi cannot pay that membership, the other States should pay it. (*Applause*)

In the book of Matthew, it says, "They left undone what they ought to do and they did what they ought not to do and there is no truth in them." Many Africans have left what they should do and do what they should not do. They are lost.

We are moving well with the common market. What we need to do in the case of East Africa is the issue of the political integration. (*Applause*) This is so that on top of the prosperity which we should continue to clear all these little inconveniences put in place by those who do not know what they are talking about like directors.

You are directing Uganda sugar away. That is your job to direct Uganda maize a way and yet Uganda is supporting your prosperity for all these years. What sort of logic is this?

The other day I was with some people in Addis Ababa, you know there are people they call mediators; somebody mediates the obvious for three years (*Laughter*) I said what are you mediating? To discover whether Museveni is Museveni that takes you two years to discover who Museveni is and Sezibera is Sezibera, to discover their identities so that you know how they can relate. This is not serious; therefore some of these issues of East African integration should not waste our time. (*Applause*)

We need this to support the prosperity of our families, companies if we are going to be producers. However, if we are not going to be producers and just parasites on the small state that is there, then we can talk the way we are talking.

I was very happy with President Kenyatta because he told his directors to become directors not *misdirects*. However, I was surprised that my young brother Raila was attacking the sugar deal. I will have to ring him and say (*Laughter*) please do not waste our time. Ugandan sugar should go to Kenya without any hindrance as the Kenyan goods are coming to Uganda without any hindrance (*Applause*).

We should not waste time with mediation, talks, negotiations, what are we negotiating? It is clear that that is what East Africa needs and there is nobody who will lose especially for the coastal states; the countries near the ocean- Kenya and Tanzania. Even if they sat in their houses and stopped working, we in the hinterland we worked and brought more goods and they just collected *wushuru* from the port (*Laughter*) They would be prosperous without doing anything.

Unfortunately I delayed because I was with the Vice President of South Sudan and I am rushing to Karamoja because the Karamajong are trying to become Christians to stop killing each other and so on, therefore I do not want them to have an excuse that Museveni did not come, that is why we did not move forward very fast with Christianity; *sitaki wanitumie kama kinsinziyo*.

Kwa hiyo, with these few words, what you talked about the signing of the bills, I think that is a good idea (*Applause*) If you could do detailed work first with the ministers and then when we come for the Summit we also sign those bills when they are already cleared like we do other business (*Applause*).

The Presidents are sometimes puppets of the system. You just come and say you sign here I just sign (*Laughter*) if there is no controversy, I think that principle can be used and it will be efficient. You first clear everything with the ministries concerned, if there is any controversy, it is brought up if not we sign when we are all in Arusha for me I think that is a good idea.

With these few words, it is my pleasure to declare the Assembly open although it was already open for many days (*Laughter*) Now it is officially opened.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Your Excellence, we have always been expectant of your wisdom whenever we have the chance to interact, engagement with you has never been enough. We look forward all the time to meeting you and engaging with you. (*Applause*)

Before I invite one of us to move a vote of thanks, I deliberately not introduced two members of the assembly who are your own; hon. Shem Bageine, the minister for east African community affairs (*Applause*). Your Excellence, the minister hon. Shem Bageine enjoys and unique space in the Assembly. His commitment to working with the Assembly is immeasurable. We are very grateful. He is great minister to us.

I would also like to introduce the Secretary General hon. Dr Sezibera who has been so supportive to the Assembly in term of his administrative role and advice. We are very grateful for the work they do to make it possible for the assembly to do its duty.

Now let me invite my good friend hon. Ole Nkanee to say thank you on our behalf.

Mr Saole Ole Nkanae (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Your Excellence, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Prime Minister Rt. hon. Dr Ruhakana Rugunda, the Rt. hon. Speaker of Uganda National Assembly Rt. hon. Oulanyah, Chairperson of East Council of Minister, Members of Parliament of Uganda, Members of EALA, Head of diplomatic core, distinguished guests ladies and gentlemen.

Your Excellence, I feel honoured to have been identified by the Speaker to move a vote of thanks on you. I am pleased and proud to do so.

I have personally held you in high esteem, more so because of the honour and respect the East Africans give you. *(Applause)*

Your Excellence, I have keenly followed your history although it might be current affairs to you *(Laughter)* but it is history to us.

I am pleased sir because I started my earlier life with a *kayebi* for a mattress, just as you did. I also chased those *essasi* birds from the animals.

Your Excellency, I am proud because you came from that humble life and you are now the President of this country. In your short spun as the President of this country, you have transformed this country from that war ton country, sectarian dictatorship and non-performing to an economic country with all levels and opportunities for men and women and the disabled. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, allow me now to thank you first for giving me the job by resurrecting the East African Community. *(Laughter and Applause)*

Your Excellency may I also thank you and your people for the obvious generosity in your hospitality. We have always gotten the best of results in East Africa. We appreciate your commitment to the East African Community and EALA both morally and politically. You have continued to fast track the integration of East Africa. You are number one by the way. You started with the resurrection and my Speaker said you are 100 per cent attendant. *(Applause)*

Mr President, we in EALA yearn for your kind of leadership which we have always expanded. You have persistently and continuously guided us and that we should be the disciples and crusaders of integration. We are doing that. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we also thank you for your unwavering support in being with us every foot step we take. Sir, in compliance with your guidance, we have been flying from capital to capital for the last three years preaching that gospel of integration.

Your Excellency, we now want to visit the country side to see the population, carry out sensitisation and be feasible in this region. However, Sir, we have a non-tariff barrier. We cannot do it on foot. We need facilitation to do it. I do not need to say much on it. *(Applause)*

As a member of the summit, Sir- *(Laughter)* Your Excellency, as an Assembly, we have noted the NRM Government through your able leadership has done well in grooming the

young men and women. They have been given opportunities to exercise their democratic right, to develop their leadership skills and take the right places in society.

For example Sir; before us here, is our Speaker of EALA. He is a very skilful person. He has a wonderful occupant. He is a product of your mentorship. He has not let us down and he will not let you down in shaping this country. You have mentored so many, but I will not talk about them because of time. (*Applause*)

Your Excellency, we ask you to be patient and not tire in mentoring us. In EALA, we feel and see your passion in trying to see that we have our ultimate goal of the political federation. We hope if it is not soon, at least in our life time.

Sir, although you do not like mediating; there is a lot of it. Your mediation in peace in this region is very clear. You have intervened in Southern Sudan; now we have Burundi. We wish them a peaceful settlement. (*Applause*) You continue doing that support. Recently, you came to Kenya and talked about terrorists. The advice you gave worked.

Your Excellency, in this world over, people talk about democracy and good governance. We confirm we have not observed and noted lack of this principle in Uganda. I urge you to keep the mental standing.

Sometimes people talk about term limits, but they forget that the very people that constitute the electorate have a Constitutional right to decide how they should be governed. (*Applause*)

Your Excellency, Coming the way you came, from war and the dictatorial stature ship that was the situation in this country. That was the same situation in Rwanda. Such situations require careful understanding to avoid recurrence and the will of the people is paramount.

I normally like giving an example, Your Excellency. I have read 38 inaugural speeches out of the 44 Presidents of the United States. One of them came out odd. I am not sure if it was the 30th or 31st President. It was one written by Franklin Delano Roosevelt. He read it four times in 20 years so he was in office for four consecutive terms because of the situation. The human race was threatened by the kind of Hitler. Those situations are there and they can also be honoured.

Back home, Sir, Your Excellency, you will be forever remembered in this country for the struggle you initiated to bring back freedom and democracy in this country. You started the liberation with a few comrades and little did you know that it will lead this country one time. (*Applause*)

I would like to mention friends of yours who perished and may God rest their souls in eternal peace. I remember you mentioned them in your book the *Sowing of the mustard seed*. You passionately and fondly remembered Martin Mwesiga, William Mwesigwa, Royata Omongin, and you also remembered your Prime Minister, I think he was at university then and we had our comrades the late Eriya Kategaya and many others that we know you will be remembered in the history of this country, East African region and in Africa. (*Applause*)

Your Excellence, I know your wisdom was not from the books. It is natural. We thank God and Mzee Amos Kaguta and Mama Esteria Kukundeka for bringing you to this world (*Applause*). Tell mama that we said; you saved us.

Now as a cattle keeper because; I am one of them, you understand your people very well and your love for animals translates positively to the people. A good example you have just mentioned is Karamoja where you are going. In Kenya, the Turkana are ever now in Karamoja Township. The miracle you did there is so massive that we need in Kenya particularly between the Turkana, Pokot and the Kaburus. I do not know whether somebody has approached to ask what miracle you did there. I also thank Mama Janet. As a minister of that place, I think that contributed a lot.

I was reminded by my colleague who came and visited you in Rwakitura farm, they saw those elegant animals with majestic horns and you showed them and said something. (*Laughter*) Thank you.

Lastly sir, 35 years ago in the 1980, you were our Minister for Regional Cooperation and now as a President of this Republic, we members of EALA wish you well in your political leadership and of course you wrote in the book that you are doing a national service.

We wish you well and in this mood we know you are normally called “The man with a hat”. Therefore I do not know whether it is parliamentary but I would ask my colleagues we say *Mheshimiwa* Museveni oye! Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Your Excellence the Rt. hon. Prime Minister Ladies and Gentlemen. It could not be somebody else but hon. Ole Nkanae. Thank you for expressing it on our behalf.

Your Excellence, allow me to give a few administrative announcements before I adjourn. We shall be moving in front this beautiful chamber guided by the Sergeant-at Arms, for our traditional photo session that will take place there. After that, I would like to announce to the members travelling to Gulu in Northern Uganda to evangelise the gospel of regional integration that after the photo session and a brief refreshments, we will board the buses from in front of Imperial Royale or from your Hotels and we leave this afternoon carefully guided to Gulu town which is about to become a city.

With those announcements, I thank you so much Your Excellence, Rt. hon. Speaker, Rt. hon. Prime Minister. This sitting is adjourned to Tuesday 2 o’ clock

The EAC Anthem

The Uganda Anthem

(The House rose at 2. 32 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday 24 August, 2015.)