



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

THIRD ASSEMBLY: SECOND MEETING - SECOND SESSION

Wednesday, 23rd October 2013

*(The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Burundi National Assembly,
Bujumbura, Burundi.)*

PRAYER

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

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I wish to welcome you to today's sitting. I want to thank you for successfully welcoming the Head of this State, President Pierre Nkuruziza at the official opening of this session.

(Applause)

In a special way, I wish to welcome hon. Maryam Ussi from here maternity leave. *(Applause)* We are happy to see you back and we pray that you are able to proceed with your responsibilities in this Assembly. We are also happy to have Baby Jamal with us.

Hon. Members, four of our Members are not well; hon. Patricia Hajabakiga got a twisted arm on Monday but she is received the necessary medical care and she is recovering steadily. I am happy to see her in the Chamber. *(Applause)* We pray for you to recover soon.

Hon. Murunya was also admitted yesterday with a condition of high blood pressure. He is still in hospital under observation. We pray for him.

Hon. Nusura Tiperu is hospitalized; she was due for an operation yesterday in Nairobi Hospital. We continue to pray for her.

Hon. Chris Opoka underwent an eye operation. We also keep him in our prayers.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Uganda on its 51st Independence Anniversary, which was held on 9th October, 2013. *(Applause)* We congratulate all Ugandans for this maturity in self-rule.

The 129th IPU General Assembly was successfully held in Geneva from 5th to 10th October, 2013. Key among the resolution was the support for the UN Resolution 1540 regarding the Arms Trade Treaty.

Parliaments were urged to ratify that treaty to curtail the proliferation of arms including the threat of nuclear war arms.

The Speaker and some of the Members of EALA represented EALA at this very important conference and a full report will be tabled before this august House.

The International of Democracy was celebrated on 15th September and since EALA was on recess, the motion in honor of this day will be moved to day. Let us support this motion to stand counted as advocates for democracy.

I also want to inform you that as the Speaker, I was invited to participate in the official opening of the ECOWAS Parliament in Abuja. I wish to bring you greetings from our colleagues of the ECOWAS Parliament.

Kenya and indeed East Africa was shuttered by the acts of terrorism which were imparted on the Westgate Mall. Over 60 lives were lost and an undisclosed amount of business was destroyed. We condemn that heinous act of terrorism and we stand with our brothers and sisters of Kenya as they come to terms with the gruesome act. We support all the government measures to curtail these atrocities.

Last week, the EAC lost one of its very instrumental officers, the Director of Trade, Dr Musonda. Our hearts go to the family and all her immediate colleagues whom she has been working with since 2005 when she joined the EAC. We pray for her soul to rest in eternal peace.

We also learnt that hon. Mwinyi lost his nephew. We pray that God comforts the family.

I also want to notify you that as the dates for the inter-parliamentary games draw near, I call upon Members to start preparing for these games, which will be held in Kampala from 7th December, 2013. The team captains of football and netball are urged to mobilize the Members to start training. Remember that we are the silver and bronze medalists of the inter-parliamentary games and we need to keep up our appearances. So, take note and get in motion. Thank you very much.

PAPERS

The Speaker: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Shem Bageine): Madam Speaker and hon. Members, in accordance with the provisions of the Article 134(3) of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community, I beg to lay on table the following audited financial statements of the Community for the financial year ended 30th June, 2012, namely:

- (1) The audited consolidated financial statements of the EAC organs;
- (2) The audited consolidated and financial statements of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission;
- (3) The audited financial statements of Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency;
- (4) The audited financial statements of the Interuniversity Council of East Africa; and
- (5) The audited financial statements of Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay.

The Speaker: Thank you, Chair Council of Ministers. Let these very important accounts be taken over by the Committee on Accounts. Chairperson Committee of Accounts, kindly, take responsibility. Thank you.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS

MOTION

The Speaker: Hon. Dora Byamukama.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Madam Speaker and hon. Members, I beg to move a motion that this Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Article 59 of the Treaty and rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, do grant leave to introduce a Private Member's Bill entitled: "The East African Community Cross Border Legal Practice Bill, 2013," I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconded by hon. Ussi, hon. Valerie, hon. Nakawuki, hon. Frederic and hon. Bazivamo; proceed.

Ms Byamukama: Madam Speaker, thank you for giving space to this very important Bill. I also want to thank all the Members who have seconded the Bill.

Permit me, Madam Speaker and hon. Members to give some background to this Bill, and hopefully, this will persuade you to grant leave so that we can formally go into the procedure of moving the Bill and enact it into law.

From the offset, I would like to say that moving of this motion is in accordance with rule 64 of the EALA Rules of Procedure.

I would also like to say that the justification for this Bill is found in the memorandum and permit me to read it verbatim. It states that: "*The object of this Bill is to provide for the conduct and regulation of cross border legal practice in the East African Community and to make general provisions for the purposes connected to the legal profession.*"

This Bill is premised on Article 126 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community, which inter alia required Partner States to take steps to harmonize legal training and certification and encourages standardization in the judgments of courts within the Community.

The Bill also operationalizes Article 76 of the Treaty, which provides for free movement of labor, goods, services, capital and the right of establishment. It takes into account provisions of the Protocol on the establishment of the East African Community Common Market, in particular Article 10 on free movement of workers and Article 11 on harmonization and mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications.

Madam Speaker, the object gives more clarity and the object of the Bill is to promote cross border legal practice within the Community; to promote harmonization of legal training and certification; to provide common standards and rules to regulate cross border legal practice within the community; and to facilitate free movement of legal professional services.

Madam Speaker, we believe as a committee, that this Bill will pave the way for also other professions to be able to benefit from the Protocol on the Common Market as well as the integration process, which is ongoing. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Byamukama. Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that this Assembly pursuant to the provisions of Article 59 (1) of the Treaty and rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly do grant leave to hon. Byamukama to introduce a Private Members' Bill entitled: "The East African Community Cross Border Legal Practice Bill, 2013."

I now put the question that this House pursuant to the provisions of Article 59 (1) of the Treaty and rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly grant leave to hon. Byamukama to introduce the Private Members' Bill.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: So, hon. Byamukama, in your right as the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal and Rules and in your own right as the mover of this Bill, you are assigned to take over this Bill and go ahead with the process of making into law. Thank you.

REPORT OF THE INTER PARLIAMENTARY RELATIONS SEMINAR, NANYUKI VII
UNDER THE THEME "PROMOTING A PEOPLE CENTRED AND MARKET DRIVEN
EAST AFRICA-THE MISSING LINK IN THE EAC INTEGRATION"

MOTION

The Speaker: Hon. Zein.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs (Mr Zein Abubakar): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker. I request your indulgence, Madam Speaker for the Chair emeritus of this committee who had introduced this in Arusha to continue with the business under this item on the Order Paper. With your kind permission, hon. Abdul Karim Harelimana, please.

The Speaker: Hon. Abdu Karim Harelimana.

The Chairperson (emeritus) of the Committee on Regional Affairs. (Mr. Abdul Karim Harelimana): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I beg to move that on behalf of the Committee on Regional Affairs that the report of the Inter Parliamentary Relations Seminar, Nanyuki VII under the theme "*Promoting a People Centered and Market Driven East Africa-The Missing Link in the EAC Integration,*" be adopted. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconded by hon. Sebalu, hon. Bonaya, hon. Isabella, hon. Taslma, hon. Rwigema; proceed.

Mr. Harelimana: The report of the committee is very long; it is 45 pages but we were able to summarise it. And I beg your indulgence; Madam Speaker to allow me read the summarized report. Otherwise, we shall take the whole day on only one report.

The Speaker: Hon. Harelimana. The report I have is about 14 pages. Is that the report you are referring to?

Mr Harelimana: Yes, Madam Speaker; it is the one.

The Speaker: Okay, proceed and make it as representative as possible.

Mr. Harelimana: Madame Speaker, the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution met from August 27th – 28th, 2013 in Arusha, Tanzania to consider the Report on Nanyuki VII Seminar whose theme was: “*Promoting a People-Centre and Market Driven East Africa – The Missing Link in the EAC Integration*”

BACKGROUND & INTRODUCTION

Madame Speaker, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) conducted a two-day Nanyuki VII Seminar from June in Entebbe, Uganda conceived in 2003, the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki) is one of the avenues through which EALA and the National Assemblies of the EAC Partner states interact as per the requirements of Article 49(2) of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC. The nature of the Nanyuki meetings is rotational with venues in respective partner states. The first was held in Nanyuki, Kenya in June of 2004. Subsequent meetings were held in Kampala, Uganda in January 2005; Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania in August 2006; Kigali, Rwanda in October 2008; Bujumbura, Burundi in January 2010 and November 2011 respectively. Six meetings have so far been held under the title, “Nanyuki Series”, so named after the venue for the first one held in June 2004. The Nanyuki VII is the latest in the series and was held in Entebbe, Uganda, June 2013.

Madame Speaker, the overall objective of the Nanyuki series is to strengthen the functional relationships between EALA and the National Assemblies and to widen and deepen knowledge of EAC integration process among its various stakeholders. Specifically, Nanyuki VII was designed as an opportunity to discuss the people centered and market driven cooperation as the missing link in the EAC integration agenda.

In light of the EAC treaty mandate, EALA in conjunction with its partner, AWEPA, has made annual provisions to enable EALA members exchange information and policy ideas with their counter parts in the National Assemblies in the EAC partner states and other institutions both at regional and international levels on the EAC project. The Nanyuki VII is therefore in essence aimed at trying to address the issue of perceptions especially, against the background that the implementation of the various stages of integration has been slow and with little involvement of stakeholders.

Article 7(a) of the Treaty emphasizes the people centered and market driven cooperation, and is one of the operational principles of the Community that should govern the practical achievements of the objectives of the Community. Despite all attempts by EAC to involve stakeholders, perceptions still exist that not enough has been done in this respect and if not well

addressed may have a negative impact on an otherwise well meaning agenda. It is therefore relevant to bring on board these stakeholders to illustrate to MPs and other stakeholders exactly what the missing link is in the EAC integration agenda from other respective perspectives.

Madame Speaker, participants for the seminar were drawn from relevant National Assemblies of Partner States, Members of EALA, the EAC Ambassadors in the respective countries, the EAC Secretariat Staff led by the Secretary General, EAC Ministers and Ministry officials in the respective partner states, selected EU Ambassadors, the Private Sector representatives, the local government representatives, Civil Society, youth, academicians, policy experts in respective countries and other prominent citizens of East Africa.

1. OPENING

Madame Speaker, the welcoming remarks were made by you; whereas the opening statements were read by Hon. Shem Bageine, Chairperson, Council Of Ministers, and Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda.

Madame Speaker, the Official Statement session was graced by H.E. President Yoweri Museveni of the Republic of Uganda and Chair of the Summit Heads of State

The President was particularly happy with the theme of the workshop which emphasized a people centred and market driven East Africa. He noted that the topic was not only excellent and timely but also necessary for the realization of the East African integration process. He further noted that the people of East Africa are already linked especially historically through culture but that the leadership is yet to internalize this. He emphasized that the people of the region were one but were only divided by the colonialists.

He therefore called on leaders to not “remain frozen in the historic fridge” but rather as a matter of urgency and necessity embrace pan Africanist spectacles to unify the people. He observed that our ancestors had kept for us an ancient and unique heritage such language, knowledge in production (such as making of banana juice which is not known to some other groupings) and that these need to be exploited to our advantage. Citing the example of Swahili, he noted that the language was evolved by our ancestors and is an asset ready to be used for the benefit of the people as opposed to tribes and countries which are only beneficial to the political opportunists.

He observed that tribal tensions hurt the interests of the producers, farmers, traders and business generally comes to a halt. He further observed that the main challenge of the integration process is consciousness of business opportunities.

He enumerated the advantages of the expanded East African market to include: a large market (140 million people), ability to attract business investments, and rights offered by a big market.

President Museveni noted that the engine for the integration of Europe were primarily market driven initiatives. Citing the example of Germany, the President further noted that up to 1870, Germany was not united but rather comprised 39 kingdoms (e.g. Prussia, Bavaria, Saxony, etc) and as a result it suffered politically, economically and socially. He observed that it was under the instigation of Germany land owners who were interested in a united big market for their products that Germany unification process was accomplished. He also cited the case of the Italian unification in 1861 by the coming together of the various kingdoms at the time e.g. Rome, Piedmont, Sicily, etc.

The President also outlined economic bottlenecks that have hampered the growth of the region. Among the bottlenecks are ideological disorientation, attacks on the private sector, an underdeveloped human resource, inadequate infrastructure, lack of industries and an underdeveloped agricultural sector, among others.

He called on all partner states to fully implement the treaty by removing all the non-tariff barriers as the Community heads for integration. He further expressed happiness at EALA for taking a leading role in the integration process citing the series of legislation which call for harmonization of trade in the partner states, proposals to eliminate work permits and ease the free movement of labour in all partner states by the Assembly. He urged EALA to spearhead preaching the gospel of EAC integration and to sensitize East Africans to push for the integration of the EAC.

President Museveni challenged EALA and national parliaments spearhead the use of Swahili and work to eliminate those specific market requirements that make importation or exportation of products difficult and or costly.

In conclusion, he reiterated that for the EAC integration process to become a reality, the future is in the big markets.

2.5 Statements by leaders of Delegation

Madame Speaker, the Seminar also received statements from the following leaders of delegation who reaffirmed their commitments to the EAC integration process:

- Sweden – Ms. Karen Andersen, Swedish Head of delegation;
- Kenya
- Burundi
- United Republic of Tanzania
- Rwanda

Madame Speaker, State of the EAC and Timelines for the next Pillars of Integration & Challenges Envisaged presentation was made by Dr. Rotich the representative of the Secretary General (SG). He observed that the EAC is a strong and vibrant regional integration that has been growing from strength to strength with each passing year. He attributed this to the commitment of the East African political leadership, EALA and members of the partner states.

Dr. Rotich rated EAC as the most important integration in Africa, ahead of that South and West Africa. He also said that the participation and integration of EALA is critical for the success of the EAC integration process.

He enumerated the pillars of the EAC as the following:

- i. Deepening economic cooperation
- ii. Infrastructural development
- iii. Cooperation in production and social sectors
- iv. Deepening and widening political cooperation, as well as cooperation in judicial and legal affairs.

Dr. Rotich outlined the achievements and challenges facing the EAC as being:

- A. Achievement of the Customs Union
- B. The Monetary Union,
- C. Harmonization of statistical information to inform the planning and monitoring the priorities and targets of the EAC agenda.
- D. Regional Financial Sector

On political federation, Dr. Rotich observed that the Community continues to implement strategies towards laying a foundation for political integration and political federation. Key among the strategies is finalization of the protocol on good governance. He further observed that a model for political federation has already been developed by the Council.

He also noted that work has been going on under policy coordination, under the peace and security sector, where our defense forces are working very closely with the interstate security by sharing information.

2. PERSPECTIVES ON THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC) INTEGRATION

Session One;

i. Audit of Previous Nanyuki Recommendations

Madame Speaker, During Session One on Audit of the Previous Nanyuki Recommendations, Hon. Sebalu in his submission observed that EALA has been at the forefront of the EAC streamlining and integration process. He noted that so far six Nanyuki's have been implemented. He further observed that all the previous Nanyuki seminars had themes and had come up with recommendations. He therefore noted that it was important to make follow-up and address the issue of implementation deficit of the seminar resolutions and recommendations.

It was on this note that he called for collective efforts amongst all the stakeholders to work out modalities of how to ensure that past recommendations are implemented.

He also called for proactive engagements between EALA, EAC and the national parliaments of partner states especially on the issue of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTB). He further called for the building of synergies on a joint and complementary level of integration with national parliaments. He reiterated the need to bring on board the people so as to enable them own, understand and champion the integration process.

Hon Sebalu observed that to comprehensively audit the progress achieved so far, attempts ought to be made by answering the following:

- How far have the actors at various levels (regional, secretariat, national, community, etc.) gone in achieving the objective of the Nanyuki Series?
- Does the Nanyuki series fulfill the objective for which it was set up?
- Are series targeting the right audience?
- Do we see a point in time the series inviting the chairpersons of committees in national parliaments to enhance the EAC - national integration work plans?
- Are the representatives in the Nanyukis' selected out of choice or conviction?
- Are we getting more informed national parliaments as a result of the Nanyuki Series?
- What is that is working well in the series and what is it that is not working well?
- Which recommendations have been implemented by your organization?
- What implementation challenges are faced at various levels?
- Due to high turnover of national parliaments, what measures are necessary to maintain institutional memory?
- Do we have a trickle-down effect on the population as a result of the Nanyuki Series?

Hon. Sebalu in conclusion observed that clear answers to the above will lead to a reduction of the implementation deficit on the balance sheet of recommendations. He further observed that his presentation was aimed at stimulating debate than providing answers.

ii. Panel Discussion I - Political Parties, National Assemblies and Local Authorities

Madame Speaker, Under Panel Discussion I –on Political Parties, National Assemblies and Local Authorities, the Seminar had an opportunity to listen to the following presentations:

- *The role of Political Parties in Promoting the Principle of People Centered and Market Driven Cooperation in the EAC Integration* by Nicholas Opiyo:.
- *Regional Perspectives on the role of National Parliaments in Promoting the Principle of People Centered and Market-Driven Cooperation in the EAC Integration* by Hon. Mukhisa Kituyi:
- *The role of Local Government authorities in Promoting a People Centered and Market Driven Cooperation in the EAC Integration*, Dr. Patrick Mwesigwa Isingoma - Executive Secretary, East African Local Government Authorities (EALGA):

iii. Panel Discussion II - Academia, Media & Civil Society Organizations

Madame Speaker, Under Panel Discussion II on *Academia, Media & Civil Society Organizations* the Seminar participants listened to presentations by:

- Dr. Patrick Mwesigwa Isingoma - Executive Secretary, East African Local Government Authorities (EALGA):
- Prof. Murindwa Rutanga – Makerere University: *Academia's Perspective on the EAC Integration Agenda.*
- Mr. Robert Kabushenga – Vision Media Group: *Media's perspective on the EAC Integration Agenda.*
- Mr. Sebahizi Prudence: *Civil Society Organizations' (CSO's) Perspective on the EAC Integration Agenda*

Session Two

i. Panel Discussion III - Private Sector, Gender & Youth

Madame Speaker, the Seminar participants also had an opportunity under panel Discussion III – Private Sector, Gender and Youth to interact with the following experts:

- Mr. Andrew Luzze Kaggwa – East African Business Council: *Private Sectors Perspective on the EAC Integration Agenda*
- Ms. Mukami Kowino – Forum SYD: *Youth Perspectives on the EAC Integration Agenda*

ii. General Emerging Issues

Madame Speaker, based on the above presentations and discussions, the seminar captured the following general emerging issues:

- The East African community will only be sustainable when it is built on the contributions and good will ideas of all the stakeholders. This means that there is need for a harmonious relationship among all the organs and institutions of the Community.
- In building a people-centered East Africa, it is important to reflect whether we have mechanisms for reaching out to the population. Does the Community have advocacy programs that reach out to the general populations, (the people on the islands and in small communities, etc). How are we reaching them? Have we reached out to the people at the borders like in Namanga and Katuna/Gatuna to let them know what we are doing?
- If we have publications and advocacy programs, are they in the language they understand, are they user friendly?
- How are we involving the children who are the future of this Community? Is it in the school curriculum?
- If we are moving towards involving social interest groups, how do we plan to involve the rural population?
- Have we drafted programs to reach out to the East Africans who move in buses, so that they get to know what the EAC is all about and what they would want us to do?
- Given our tax regime, are we promoting import substitution even when it is not seen in our national strategies? The current tax regime is extremely prohibitive and oppressive to investors.
- If we are to have a market driven integration, we should also look at Black people as serious investors. As we give incentives to White investors, the same incentives should apply to our people (Black people)
- There should be a uniform political system among all the East African partner states in order to facilitate smooth integration as this will remove suspicions among partner states.
- Local governments and authorities in liaison with the EAC Secretariat should come up with a program to sensitize communities in the EAC integration process.
The EAC in conjunction with partner states should come up with a comprehensive status of the recommendations of the Nanyuki series, work out modalities to ensure that past recommendations are incorporated.
- Develop standards for reporting where the Speaker can communicate to all partner states the recommendations and progress of the EALA.

3. PLENARY DISCUSSION AND RESPONSES

Madame Speaker, Plenary discussions were held after the Panel discussions. The following highlights ranging from proposals to required strategies to challenges and fears on the realization of the integration were raised:

- i. In any journey, it is important to ask if one is on the right path. There is need therefore to assess and monitor what has been the success and failures of EALA in the last 10 years?
 - Set up an adhoc committee to fast track the political federation.
 - Learn from China how it has managed amidst the challenges to keep on track.
- ii. Need to push for the domestication of the Bills passed by EALA and the harmonization of laws in the partner states. However, each partner state has passed some legislation on various aspects of integration and what is required is go further and deepen the socialization engagements' with a view to changing people's mindsets.
- iii. Partner states should undertake cooperation on security and human rights issues.
- iv. Need to harmonize the education curriculum in the community and university fees as an avenue for promoting the integration process. The Community should also promote youth exchange programmes in schools.
- v. Engaging the private sector to attract investment and youth empowerment through provision of employment opportunities is the only way otherwise current youth training without employment is dangerous and risky to the integration process.
- vi. Need to form and have a functional youth desk. The Deputy Secretary General in charge of Political Federation noted that the youth desk is in place but that the only problem is insufficient capacity as a result of budgetary challenges e.g. currently, the youth desk is manned by only 2 staff. It was suggested that there is need to refocus the programmes and other empowerment packages targeting the youth. It was also suggested that some regular interface be organized in liaison with national parliaments.
- vii. Partner states are not implementing what has been agreed e.g. there is already Council decision to remove NTB but partner states are not implementing the agreed positions.
- viii. The EAC is one of the progressive communities because it recognizes and promotes several avenues for interactions e.g. The Secretary General's forum; Speakers' Forum; Nanyuki series; etc. It is recommended that the Nanyuki Series be synchronized with the Secretary General's forums so that the two can reinforce each other. Also there should be put in place a Speakers' Forum with the Business Community.
- ix. Fast track the operationalization of the Customs Union Protocols.
- x. The Speaker of EALA should communicate to all Speakers in the partner states about the Nanyuki recommendations and the need to have them adopted.
- xi. Next year's Nanyuki must come up with reports highlighting implementation status of the recommendations and these reports be used to evaluate progress.

- xii. As a way of promoting awareness, EALA meetings ought to be televised and not held in camera.
- xiii. Promote use of Swahili as an integration tool.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS & SEMINAR RESOLUTIONS

Madame Speaker, at the end of the Nanyuki (VII) seminar, the following recommendations were made:

1. Political Parties, National Assemblies and Local Authorities

- a) The EAC should build strong institutions for sustainability and for the continuity of the Community.
- b) EALA and National Parliaments are urged to establish a mechanism to review the Nanyuki Series participation and audit the implementation of its recommendations for better performance.
- c) EALA and National Parliaments are urged to establish standardised reporting and information dissemination mechanism for the Nanyuki Series to respective parliaments.
- d) The Council of Ministers should promote Kiswahili language as a lingua franca of the Community as per Article 137 Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC to uphold among others the East Africanness as an identity.
- e) The Council of Ministers should establish a mechanism of reaching out to the people of East Africa as well as espouse and promote the fundamental principles of the Treaty in Article 7.
- f) The Council of Ministers is urged to establish a mechanism to create linkages between political parties of similar ideological leanings in the region.
- g) The Council of Ministers is urged to develop an elaborate and detailed policy platforms around regional integration issues
- h) The Council of Ministers is urged to mobilize and influence both political will and commitment as facilitators of integration.
- i) The Council of Ministers is urged to prioritize the issues of peace and security in the region at forefront by expediting institutionalization of conflict prevention, reconstruction and management mechanisms.
- j) The Council of Ministers is urged to explore mechanisms to strengthen the EAC integration matters through the Local governments/Authorities EALA should team up with the East African Local Government Association to organize the Nanyuki Series at

local levels with Councillors to facilitate integration message reach out the majority East Africans at that level

2. Academia, Media and Civil Society

- a) The Council of Ministers is urged to initiate national dialogue platforms between Civil Society Organizations, EALA and Ministries of East African Community Affairs in the partner states.
- b) The Council of Ministers is urged to carry out all encompassing, comprehensive and deeper sensitization programmes to the East African populace on the EAC integration agenda;
- c) The Council of Ministers is urged to establish a standardized, consolidated, harmonized and integrated reporting mechanism to advance the EAC integration agenda.
- d) The Council of Ministers is urged to empower the media in terms of enhancing human resources and promote the unit to a directorate level.
- e) EALA should make funds available to the media to facilitate them participate in sensitization and popularizing of the EAC integration agenda.
- f) The Civil Society Organizations are urged to organize themselves regionally by forming an apex body in order to seek for observer status within the EAC structures.
- g) Consultation should be made between Civil Society Organizations and the Partner States, EAC Secretariat and EALA to improve on how the various stakeholders can engage each other to enhance the integration agenda.
- h) The Council of Ministers is urged to set up think tanks for all domains including political, economic, social, intellectual and ideological and ensure their implementation.
- i) The Council of Ministers is urged to set up research institutions and give them programmes/agenda and time frame in all the fields for universities and institutions of higher learning and research.
- j) The Council of Ministers is urged to expedite the harmonization of educational systems and curricula from nursery to university level with a focus on regional and continental issues and interests.
- k) The Council of Ministers is urged to draw viable development projects to harness the regional resources for regional benefits through Public-Private-Partnerships (PPP) e.g. oil and gas mining, refining and marketing; manufacturing, industrialization and human

resources employment; internal cohesion, security, larger economic opportunities and social services.

- l) The Council of Ministers is urged to take due attention the political federation to provide political direction with strong voice, internal cohesion, security, larger economic opportunities and social services.

3. Private Sector, Gender & Youth

- a) The EAC Secretariat and EALA are urged to implement the recommendations of the Council of Ministers, create an East African Youth Council and also ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities into the social development programs of the EAC.
- b) The Council of Ministers should urge the EAC partner states which have not ratified the African Youth Charter, to do so.
- c) The Council of Ministers is urged to develop employment creation and productivity enhancement strategies for the youth within the EAC regional Social Development Framework.
- d) The Council of Ministers is urged to establish and develop regional youth centers, exchange programme, skills and entrepreneurship to promote the youth agenda in the region.
- e) The Council of Ministers is urged to initiate the process of harmonizing fees, forms and procedures with regard to the issuance of work permits in the region.
- f) The EAC Secretariat and EALA are urged to facilitate the women gender caucus to facilitate perform its work on the integration agenda more efficiently and effectively
- g) EALA should organize a forum between the Rt. Hon. Speaker – EALA and the East African Business Council to enable the two interface on matters of EAC integration.

Madam Speaker, I submit the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on NANYUKI VII held from 27th to 28th August, 2013 in Arusha, Tanzania for deliberations and adoption.

Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Harelimana for that detailed report and I would like to thank the members of the Committee of Regional Affairs for putting in a lot of effort to make sure that you synthesize the ideas and the views that came out of Nanyuki.

Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that the report of the Inter Parliamentary Relations Seminar, Nanyuki VII under the theme “*Promoting a People Centered and Market Driven East Africa-The Missing Link in the EAC Integration,*” be adopted. Debate is open.

Mr Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Since this is my first time to get an opportunity to make a submission to this august House, allow me, Madam Speaker to pay tribute to H.E. the President of the Republic of Burundi, the government, the Parliament and the people of Burundi and more so, our colleagues, the Burundi Chapter for the warm welcome they have continued to give us whenever we are in town. They have always done it that way and always gets better and better each other time we come. *(Applause)* I want to assure them that with that kind of hospitality be sure we shall come again.

Madam Speaker, allow me also to thank your good office for the role you played; the guidance you gave and the full participation and engagement at the Nanyuki VII. You really engaged the process well and you guided the preparation and organization of the seminar. So, the outcome of this report cannot be appreciated without noting your personal involvement and contribution to the success of this meeting.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, this time round, we picked on a topic that be considered critical to the integration agenda. This topic is also the foundation of our strategic plan. So, there was a convergence of thoughts and mind in terms of giving a good foundation to our strategic plan by engaging the Nanyuki Series from this perspective.

This topic of “*Promoting a People Centered and Market Driven East Africa – The Missing Link in the Integration,*” is, therefore, very timely in this regard and it gave us a good basis of engagement.

The Nanyuki VII was unique in as far as it brought on board all the major actors, both State and non-State actors. We have had a problem with the integration agenda, specifically being dominated by the political actors.

The political actors have a good role to play but for us to appreciate the totality of the integration because we are not simply integrating countries but we are also integrating people. And people have different clusters under which they undertake their personal ways of life. So, this Nanyuki was specifically important in terms of tapping the potential of the different actors that included the political parties, the National Parliaments, the local governments, the academia, the media, civil society organizations, the private sector and gender and youth.

To a large extent, that was a reflection of what east Africa is all about in terms of the different clusters of people. And, therefore, the recommendations that come out of this meeting need to be followed both in spirit and letter to ensure that by the time we get to the eighth Nanyuki Series,

we have a progressive report of how far we have been able to implement the recommendations of Nanyuki VII.

We need to explain why we have not been able to implement what has not been implemented. And where we have got challenges, we need to share with the members that will take part. That way, the relevance of Nanyuki will be more appreciated by those that participate in the same.

Madam Speaker, the different perspectives that were brought on board by experts representing the different clusters that were invited were indeed value addition to this process because we were able to identify the benefits of integration from different perspectives.

The academia had their issues which we need to look at seriously. The idea of harmonizing the curriculum right from primary up to university is indeed essential if we are going to produce a human resource that is trained and molded to serve the EAC. Then we shall have to properly streamline that within our educational systems.

And at this point, I would like to salute hon. Dora Byamukama because she is already going ahead in terms of implementing some of these recommendations. The idea of having a Cross Border Legal Practice Bill is in the spirit that we are talking about. (*Applause*) If we are training lawyers, why can't we train lawyers that are going to assist all East Africans regardless of where they are found if they need legal representation?

If I am in Tanzania or I am in Uganda and I have picked a good lawyer in Tanzania and I have worked with that person, why can't that person come and represent me in the courts of Uganda? I think we are moving and hon. Byamukama that is a step in the right direction. We must move and support that Bill so that when we get to present in the Nanyuki VIII, we are able to put tangible results on the table in as far as implementation of the recommendations is concerned.

Madam Speaker, we were also very privileged to have the President of Uganda address this Nanyuki Series and all those that were in attendance will appreciate that he gave us quite an in depth analysis of why we should believe in the notion of togetherness because we are essentially the same people.

He emphasized the issue of our linguistic connectivity and put a lot of emphasis on Kiswahili. Madam Speaker, I think that by the time we get to Nanyuki VIII, we should have something on the table in terms of how far we have gone in rolling out Kiswahili especially in our schools. We need to get schools especially where I come from, Uganda; we need affirmative action in this regard.

Let us get teachers cross borders freely; let us get Kiswahili teachers from Tanzania without any restriction to come and teach Kiswahili in Ugandan schools. (*Applause*) That way, we shall be promoting the free movement of labor. Let them come and usher in Kiswahili at a level that has

never been witnessed before. So, we really need to move in that direction and the Secretariat and all of us need to have something out in this regard.

Finally Madam Speaker, I just want to say that we really have a big challenge and a duty to ensure that the recommendations of the Seventh Nanyuki Series are implemented. We need do an audit in terms of how far or what we have already done and the report has highlighted it clearly. If need be, we could have a working committee to follow up and advise on how best we could have these implemented. But the precedent that we set with the way the previous Nanyuki was organized needs to be enhanced by ensuring that the next one should be result oriented emanating from the recommendations of the previous one. Madam Speaker, I beg to support this report.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you, Madam Speaker, I want to from the beginning say that I support this particular report and I would like to congratulate the committee for coming up with this very good report.

Madam Speaker, I in haste did not recognize what was done and what has been done by the Republic of Burundi. Permit me to add my voice to that of hon. Sebalu and to say that indeed when we are here, we feel at home.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, I would like to move on to the issues at hand and to in particular refer to the issue on page 13, "Private Sector, Gender and Youth." I would like to say that sometimes when we say, "gender," we assume that it is synonymous with women.

But our Treaty is very clear under Chapter 22 whereby it provides for enhancing the role of women in social economic development and in particular lays out what should be done. In line with this I remember, because I did not miss a single session of this very important Nanyuki Seminar, that we did discuss the issue of cross border issues and in particular some issues were highlighted and I remember the issue of female genital mutilation was highlighted as such an issue which needs to be tackled because it impacts on the role of women and youth.

So, I would like to propose, if it is acceptable, that we should put in a clause or some recommendation to the effect that EAC, the Secretariat and EALA are urged to give more attention to the development and monitoring and harmonization of policies, laws and mechanisms to address cross border issues such as female genital mutilation, trafficking in persons as well as the implementation of Chapter 22 of the Treaty so that we do not leave out women as a group.

As you can see, from page 13, A is on the East African Youth Council; B is on the African Youth Charter; C is strategies for youth; D is regional youth Centers; E is on the harmonization

of fees which is a private sector issue to a large extent. Finally, you come to F which is talking about facilitating, and I believe it was the EALA Women's Forum because here you say, "*To facilitate the women gender caucus.*" I think we were very specific and we talked about the EALA Women's Forum, which is already in place and operational. So, maybe that amendment can also be made. Finally G is on the Business Council.

So, the issue of gender although it does encompass both men and women, the fact is that the people who are marginalized most and are suffering most are the women and, therefore, I would like to crave for the indulgence of the House that we are more specific on this issue. If that is done, Madam Speaker, I believe the report will be more wholesome.

But I would like to also add on what hon. Sebalu has said on the issue of Kiswahili; and thank you for the precious comments on Cross Border Legal Practice Bill. Thank you once again, Madam Speaker for giving us space.

I would like to add that maybe your good office could prepare for another training course in Kiswahili in Zanzibar - (*Applause*) - so that we have a refresher course and we don't forget what we had captured because some of us are in the advanced class whereas others like hon. Nakawuki is in the beginner's class. (*Laughter*) So, Madam Speaker, I beg to support the report. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Byamukama. What I can say is kindly draft that amendment or addition to the report and give it to hon. Abdu Karim so that as he winds up, he is able to include it so that it becomes part of the report.

Ms Maryam Ussi Yahya (Tanzania): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. First of all I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, Madam Speaker for your cooperation, your love, your prayers and for all of you Members, thank you very much for the huge card which you all signed. Amidst all the chaos, you managed to show me a lot of love and I was very touched to the extent of tearing. Thank you very much. Me and my family plus Baby Jamal are saying, *asanteni saana.* (*Applause*)

Coming to the issue Madam Speaker, I really support this report and though I didn't attend, I managed to get the insight of what happened. I just want to quickly contribute on the general emerging issues, especially on pages 8 and 9 in building a people's center in East Africa. The implementation of these issues especially reaching the people at the borders, publications and advocacy programs reaching out to East Africans in the buses, changing of the curriculum, all these need funds.

We are fighting for sensitization funds but there are no funds for sensitization from the Community. Whenever it comes to sensitization issues it is a cat and mouse game between the Secretariat and the Ministry of East African Affairs in the Partner States. So, there is need to be a clear mandate, I should say, for getting funds for sensitization because all of these things cannot

be done without sensitization. We cannot put banners in buses when people don't even know what the banners are all about. Thank you, Madam Speaker. I support the good report and I thank you all. *(Applause)*

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to add my voice to appreciate the President of the Republic of Burundi for accepting to launch the EALA Strategic Plan and to open up this session.

I would also love to appreciate the committee for the job well done. Rt hon. Speaker, allow me also appreciate our partners like AWEPA who have always been there to support EALA in conducting the Nanyuki Series.

I would also love to appreciate your office, Madam Speaker and the office of the Clerk for getting the youth involved in the Nanyuki Series. *(Applause)* It made me really proud when the youth had to showcase why they should be involved. But we are all aware the future of the Community lies in the young people of East Africa who constitute the biggest number when it comes to the population.

I would also like to appreciate EALA generally for choosing this this given topic which is enshrined under Article 7 (1) A of the Treaty- a people centered and market driven East Africa. I know among all the provisions in the Treaty this one is still pausing the biggest challenge when it comes to the integration process.

Madam Speaker, we know very well that much as this is still the challenge, the people centered East Africa is the only way we can create a sustainable East African Community hence improving self-reliance, social justice and participatory decision making.

Allow me to also acknowledge the fact that EALA has done well in fulfilling its mandate enshrined under Article 49(2) A of the Treaty of liaising with the National Assemblies.

But I would also love to note the fact that usually Nanyuki Series are not very well attended by members of Parliament in the given partner State. And I would like to request through you, Madam Speaker - I saw a recommendation for the Speakers Forum in East Africa- for you to help other Speakers to encourage Members to attend because there is really an information deficit when it comes to Parliaments of the Partner States.

In fact I would like to appreciate also Trade Mark East Africa who held a sensitization workshop in Entebbe for Members of Parliament and the Members of Parliament seemed so uninformed about the integration agenda. If our members of Parliament are not informed, then the question arises, how about our people at the grassroots? This means that the problem is worse.

Madam Speaker, there is need to give our people greater control over their own lives and the communities in general. Allow me to quote the Manila Declaration of the people's participation and sustainable development of 1989 where it was stated that: "*People centered development is*

the only way to achieve sustainable communities.” And I am sure this is the way forward for the EAC.

But at the same time, I feel it is very hard for us to talk about the peoples centered and market driven East Africa without talking about gender equality, as my colleagues have said because we know very well that unless you have people that are equally responsible while playing equal roles, then we cannot achieve much.

We cannot go without talking about the democratic processes in our Partner States, Government accountability for people to be able to hold their governments accountable when it comes to public funds and then access to information because that way, rational decisions can be taken by the people of East Africa.

Madam Speaker, allow me also add my voice to that of previous contributors when it comes to the issue of Kiswahili Commission. I remember very well this became a hot issue when we were in Entebbe. We all very well know, much as we can easily get excited about it that is still a problem in some of our countries.

In Uganda there is a big stereotype about Kiswahili as a language. It has been tried before. President Idi Amin tried to make Kiswahili a national language in the 1970s and there was public uprising. Recently when we were in Kampala when the President of the Republic of Uganda was addressing us and talked about us adopting Kiswahili as the lingua franca as provided for in the Treaty, there was a media outrage. In fact personally I was confronted outside with people claiming that the President is using EALA to kill the Luganda language.

That is something we cannot shy away from but we have to confront. We had to go out there are confront – we have already completed a quarter in this financial year. The president talked about money for sensitization; I think it has not yet come but we are still waiting because there is a lot of work that we have to do.

Recently, like a month ago, in the Ugandan Parliament, this issue came up in the Committee of Social Services and Education and Members of Parliament objected to it. They literally put up a fight against it, saying it is impossible, “We have our own local languages that we can promote.” So, if Parliament can also fight it, then it shows we are lagging behind.

Madam Speaker, as hon. Dora pointed out; probably I am doing worst when it comes to issues of Kiswahili. But at least when it comes to my name, you know I have changed it. I am now called “Honey” because of issues of Kiswahili. We know very well that there is always on job training but I have been in EALA for 1¹/₂ years; I was told there were going to be lessons in Kiswahili but up to today, I don’t see any lessons. When I try to learn on my own it is trouble because I learn the wrong words.

So, Madam Speaker, really I will need your help plus Council of Ministers. Why can't you find money for these lessons? (*Applause*) In fact I also have a request that if we can't find money for the Kiswahili lessons, let us put the Kiswahili Commission in Kampala so that at least we get attracted. It is one way of motivating Ugandans to learn Kiswahili because I believe it is for the betterment of the people of East Africa.

Finally, Madam Speaker, I will also add my voice to request that when we come up with these good and nice looking, appetizing recommendations, we go ahead have them implemented and follow them up. Madam Speaker, I beg to support. I thank you. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Nakawuki. I think the Chair, Council has really appreciated these concerns. Actually the follow up on hon. Ussi's call of funds and of course now the Kiswahili training course for Members of EALA themselves would demand that our budget is looked at positively because you can see the inadequacy, which the Members are expressing. I will take hon. Isabelle Ndahayo.

Ms Isabelle Ndahayo (Burundi): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since it is my first time to take the floor, during this session, I would like to welcome all of you here, in Burundi. (*Applause*) Feel at home.

I would like to appreciate this work. It is work well done since the preparations for the seminar, especially through choosing the theme: "...*people centered and market driven East Africa.*" Madam Speaker, if you look at the speech made by H.E. President Museveni at the opening session, he mentioned the bottlenecks that have hampered the growth of the region.

Among others he mentioned was an under developed agricultural sector but when you look at the recommendations in this report, we shall need to add one recommendation to deal with this bottleneck. Madam Speaker, I would like to request that we add this recommendation in this report in regards to National Assemblies, local authorities and EALA to give priority to the agricultural sector. (*Applause*)

We would like to call for the respect of the Maputo Declaration where 10 percent of a national budget should be allocated to agricultural sector. This will help to develop this sector, which will lead to the development of rural areas and thus the whole Community. I beg to support the report.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Ndahayo. I also request that you draft out this recommendation and pass it on to the Chair of the committee so that he is able to contextualize it and see how to respond to it. I will take hon. Dr Odette.

Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo (Tanzania): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to also contribute. But before that, I would like to first of all thank and congratulate H.E. the President of the Republic of Burundi for gracing the opening ceremony of this session.

(Applause) And also for inviting us to go and participate in the development of East Africans while working with the Burundians in his home area slated for next Saturday.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to thank the Members from Burundi for their warm welcome and for having taken their time to look for us the best hotels in this town and also negotiating for a reduction in the rates. We thank you most sincerely.

(Applause)

Rt hon. Speaker, I was not in Entebbe for this Nanyuki Seminar due to my situation of disability at that time but I have read the report and I would like to support the report and congratulate the committee because this report is really very well written. I think it is what was said during the seminar.

I would like to bring some amendments; I think while reporting on the opening ceremony, we should start with what was said by H.E. the President of Uganda so that if somebody wants to see what was said at the opening ceremony, they first see – maybe after a paragraph of introduction – what H.E. said rather than being the fourth among the people who talked even if it was structured in that way. But for the report, I would think that it is good to start that way.

Secondly, on page 33, in general emerging issues, they talk of Black and White. I think that is not something to be put in a parliamentary report because we don't want to seem to be racist. I think we should replace it – it is the last fourth bullet. It written as: *“If we are to have a market driven integration, we should also look at Black people as serious as we give incentives to White investors.”* We should replace that “Black” with Africans or East Africans maybe but not “Black and White.” Indigenous is a bit- I think Africans might be okay because we can't discriminate against my sister, Maama Jamal who is looking White while I am looking Black- (Laughter)- but we are both Africans. I have written already written these amendments. Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I think the chairperson has taken note of that. I will take hon. Shy-Rose.

Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania): Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me the floor so that I can also make my contribution. I would like to begin by thanking the Government of Burundi and my colleagues from Burundi for the very warm welcome and good hospitality since our arrival here in Bujumbura.

May I take this occasion to congratulate H.E. the President of Burundi, Pierre Nkurunziza for his kind and wise words in his remarks during the opening of this sitting here in Bujumbura yesterday.

All I know, Bujumbura in the context of EAC is the focal point of all the natural resources one can find in this region of the Great Lakes. We can find two types of fish, one is called *migebuka*

and also small types of fish called sardines, which we call *dagaha* in Tanzania. When you cook them with *ugali* it becomes very delicious food.

Madam Speaker this type of fish can also be found in Tanzania in the regions of Kigoma as well as Rukwa. So, when we visit these two regions during our sensitization programs, we also have the opportunity to try *migebuka* as well as *dagaha* with *ugali*. But while we are here, in Bujumbura I would urge my colleagues to try *migebuka* fish and *dagaha* to see how delicious it can be.

Madam Speaker, our coming to Bujumbura would not have been possible if it were not because of peace prevailing in this country. (*Applause*) For this we thank the Commander-in-Chief, President Pierre Nkurunziza.

Lastly, close to Burundi is Rwanda, which has recently gone through an electoral process, which elections were conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. (*Applause*) I would like to congratulate Rwanda, which has done quite well because women have excelled during the just concluded elections. (*Applause*) Rwandan women won 51 out of 80 seats, which makes it 64 percent. This is very commendable, Madam Speaker.

Let me also commend Rwanda because for the second time in a row, they are having a woman Speaker of Parliament. So, this is very good.

Having said all that, Madam Speaker, let me now go straight to the Nanyuki Report, which I also support because it is carrying a lot of good ideas which now only need funding for implementation.

A lot of things have already been said and the report is very thorough, let me just add my voice on the Kiswahili as a lingua franca of the Community as per Article 137 of the Treaty of the establishment of the EAC.

Madam Speaker, Kiswahili, in my view has transcended beyond East Africa as a region. Kiswahili is now almost universal. This is the time for all of us to embrace the use of Kiswahili and promote this language so that we can reach more to the people so that we can be more people centered integration.

Kiswahili is the official language of the African Union alongside English, French, Arabic and Portuguese with simultaneous translations. And already Kiswahili is already thriving in Libya, Comoros, Mozambique, Oman, Rwanda Somalia, UAE, here in Burundi – I want to sympathize with hon. Nakawuki (Honey) – we have a lot to do in Uganda. But I am glad that hon. Mulengani, Madam Speaker, you and other colleagues from Uganda are already making an effort to learn Kiswahili. We should, however, make it a point- the Chair, Council is listening- we should make a special course for Members in Kiswahili.

Madam Speaker, at the global level Kiswahili has grown very fast. It is now spoken by between 120 and 150 million people across the world. Therefore, Kiswahili as a major communication channel which is spreading very fast. So, who are we in East Africa not to promote this language?

Lastly, Madam Speaker, institutions with leading broadcasting houses like the BBC, Voice of America, DW Voice of Russia and what have you, are all using Kiswahili as a medium for their programs. Kiswahili, like I said, is spreading very fast so please I urge all the Members to start learning at least one Kiswahili word every day. The rest will follow. Having said that, I fully support this Nanyuki Report. *Asanteni saana.*

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I will take hon. Valerie and hon. Taslma and hon Leonec will end this debate.

Ms Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important motion. From the outset, let me thank you sincerely, R thon. Speaker and congratulate you upon a successful opening ceremony that was held in this very Chamber yesterday. I would also like to thank and congratulate H.E. Pierre Nkuruziza for accepting to officially open this session and launch the EALA Strategic Plan.

I also take this opportunity to thank our colleagues in the EALA Burundi Chapter for the warm welcome and hospitality. Here we feel at home and indeed we are sisters and brothers.

Back to the motion, I would like to thank all those people who contributed in one way or another in developing and fine tuning this report which, in my view, is very thorough- well detailed and informative.

I will take off a few points which I need to highlight. During the plenary discussions and responses given to the different questions that were raised, people came up with an idea related to the push for domestication of the Bills passed by EALA and the harmonization of laws in the Partner States. They even went further and said that each Partner State has passed some legislation on various aspects of integration and what is required is to go further and deepen the socialization engagement with a view of changing people's mindsets.

I want to emphasize this point simply because this aspect of domestication of the Bills passed by EALA is not necessarily effective or fruitful in our Partner States. And the problem of harmonization of laws in the Partner States is not also necessarily effective. But I thank the leadership of the Secretariat, in the name of, H.E the Secretary General because he is a member of the General Purpose Committee during the last pre-budget conference that was held in Arusha, we came back to this issue in that laws are being harmonized differently.

Each Partner State is having its own program and laws are not harmonized at the same time neither in the same way. The Secretary General promised that they were going to develop a road

map, which is eventually likely to help each Partner State to harmonize the laws so that the Common Market Protocol is fully implemented.

Also with regard to domestication of the Bills passed EALA, I think emphasis should be put on the operationalization of Article 65 of the Treaty in that whenever the Clerk of the Assembly transmits all Bills passed by EALA to National Parliaments we don't exactly know what is next. We don't know whether those Bills are really domesticated or not. Of course the domestication aspect of it....

(Inaudible)

The Speaker: I put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWERS

(i)

Mr Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. As it is my first time I have the floor, I think it is very important that I really thank H.E. Pierre Nkuruziza for his very informative speech during the opening. I also take this opportunity to thank the Government of Burundi and our colleagues from EALA for the hospitality they have extended to us.

(Applause)

Rt hon. Speaker, I beg to ask the Chair, Council of Ministers to give an answer to my question ref: EALA/PQ/OA/3/02/ 2013:

The Council of Ministers in 2005 directed the Secretariat to work out modalities to internationalize the east African passport. The immigration experts, mandated by the EAC Secretariat, designed a new generation EAC international passport which was adopted by the Council in 2006 with enhanced security features. This design was reviewed in 2012 in consideration of the accession of the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi into the Community, and the launching of the above new generation passport was scheduled for March 2012.

Research by the EAC Secretariat towards securing international recognition of the East African passport has shown that there are no legal requirements to internationalize the East African passport, apart from Partner States to notify the international community through their various embassies/missions abroad about the introduction of the EAC Passport and its design and usage by their nationals.

Can the Chair of the Council inform this House;

- 1) *Why the launch of the new generation East African Passport has been delayed until today.*
- 2) *Which is the new schedule for the launching of the EAC Passport*
- 3) *How will the passport be distributed and what will be required of the citizens in order to access the new generation EAC passports.*
- 4) *What will be the relationship between the new EAC passports and the existing respective national passports?*

Thank you.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Shem Bageine): Madam Speaker, In January 2012, Immigration Experts met and updated the 2005 proposed new generation East African Passport design in order to enhance its security features and to conform to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) specifications.

In March 2012, the updated design was endorsed by the Chiefs of Immigration at a meeting held in Moshi, Tanzania. The updated passport design was presented to the 17th Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers Responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning held on 9th November 2012 in Kampala, Uganda for consideration. The Sectoral Council directed the Secretariat to –

- a. prepare a background paper on the internationalization of the EAC Passport for consideration by the 18th Meeting of the Sectoral Council;
- b. adopt a Multi —Sectoral approach .i addressing the issue of the internationalization of the EAC Passport;
- c. Invite the Chiefs of Immigration to e a presentation on the internationalization of the passport dui the 18th Meeting of Sectoral Council of Ministers Responsible for EAC d Planning.

The EAC Secretariat convened a meeting of lie Chiefs of Immigration in March 2013, in Bujumbura, Burundi to discuss and address the issues contained in the directives of the Sectoral Council. A report was prepared based on the directives and was presented to the 18th Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers Responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning held from 18th 21st June 2013.

The Chiefs of Immigration made the presentation during the Sectoral Council Meeting.

The Sectoral Council;

- (a) Adopted the developed minimum basic technical specifications of the new generation EA passport.
- (b) Directed the Secretariat to prepare a computer generated graphic design of the new generation EA passport and circulate it to Partner States by 31st July, 2013 for comments.
- (c) Took note of the roadmap towards implementation of the new generation EA passport and directed the Secretariat to convene a multi-sectoral meeting of experts on the

internationalization of the EA passport to finalize the roadmap and present it to the 19th Meeting of the Sectoral Council of Ministers Responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning.

Madam Speaker, It is important to note that the launching schedule for the new generation East African Passport can only be done after the Council of Ministers has considered and adopted the proposed design of the MC Passport and further pronounced itself on the way forward.

Madam Speaker, each Partner State will be expected to place an order of the number of passports required for issuance to her nationals at her cost. Printing of the Passports can be done centrally facilitated by a Council decision directing the EAC Secretariat to procure a vendor to print the passport.

Partner States Passport Issuing Authorities will be required to inform the international community of States, on the coming into use of the new generation East African Passport. They will provide detailed information on the security features of the passport and at least a specimen copy to all foreign nations. They shall also be obligated to provide a phase out program for the old generation of national passports.

The laid down procedures for acquiring a passport at national level will apply to the issuance of the EAC passport and there will not be a recall of national passports. The agreed upon Phase-out program of the national passports will provide a time frame for mopping up national passports and the issuance of the new generation e-passport.

The relationship between the new EAC Passport and the existing national passports will be outlined in the phase out programme. Each Partner State will have the obligation of informing the international community of States on the commencement of the usage by her nationals of the new EAC Passport and provide a phase out program of the old generation national passports.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Chair, Council of Ministers. Is there any supplementary question, hon. Bazivamo?

Mr. Bazivamo: Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. There is no supplementary question but I just have a comment. The process is very long; from 2005 to 2013 and now to 2015, one could find a way of fast tracking. Thank you.

The Speaker: Chair, council, I think that is a pertinent concern, which is worth noting. But I don't know whether you have any other comment on it.

Mr. Bageine: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I do take note of the hon. Member's comment on the delayed finalization of internationalization of the East African Passport. However, I hasten to add that, yes it has taken a bit of time but so are other processes. But I am glad to say that at least now we have a focused program as to when this passport should become internationalized. Thank you.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Thank you very much.

(ii)

Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania): Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I now call upon the Chair, Council of Ministers to answer my questions with ref: EALA/PQ/OA/3/14/2013?

- (a) Sensitization is very crucial for the EAC integration process. What strategy is there to involve EALA Members to participate in EAC sensitization activities?
- (b) How effective has the EAC communication strategy been? Can the Assembly be told what exactly was planned and has so far been achieved?
- (c) How much funds were allocated towards the implementation of the EAC Communication strategy? How was the distribution done?

Thank you.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Shem Bageine): Madam Speaker, Sensitisation is both a crucial and fundamental aspect in getting the citizens of East Africa to be informed and to enjoy the benefits that integration has to offer.

I want to laud the contribution of EALA Members who are already undertaking sensitization activities within their respective Partner States individually and collectively. On several occasions we have seen and read articles by Hon. Members in the print media educating the citizens on integration issues. We have also seen and read about Hon. Members taking part in various outreach activities of the Community.

EAC plans to further engage with EALA Members in undertaking sensitization activities at least once every quarter across the border points.

The Community continues to undertake Outreach Programmes in the region by engaging with various groups including the Civil Society, Private Sector, youth and women among others, It is anticipated that EALA Members shall be involved in all programmes thereby not only giving leverage to the Assembly and raising its profile but also enabling Members to engage with the various groups who are in essence their constituents.

Members of this August House have a big role to play in expounding on the integration pillars of the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols, the Monetary Union and the Political Federation to the ordinary citizens of this region. It is also anticipated that EALA Members shall be engaged in media programmes to enable further interface with the public. The Secretariat has already

commenced on the initiative by rolling out radio programmes. We envisage that we shall see more Legislators engaged with the media during this Financial Year.

Madam Speaker, regarding the Communication Strategy, I wish to inform this August House that the Council of Ministers at its 23rd Meeting held in September 2011 approved the EAC Communication Policy and Strategy, which gives general direction for the Information, Education and Communication activities that should be pursued by the East African Community in accordance with Article 71 of the Treaty which mandates the Secretariat to promote and disseminate information on the Community to stakeholders, the general public and the international community.

The Policy provides the necessary guidelines for the overall direction of the Information, Education and Communication, while the Strategy spells out specific activities that the Community will undertake to promote awareness and foster broad participation by the various stakeholders in the integration process.

At its 25th Meeting held in August 2012, the Council of Ministers approved the Operational Plan for the EAC Communication Policy and Strategy which prioritizes and phases activities to be implemented within a period of five years i.e. 2012/2013 - 2016/2017 with effect from July 2013.

The Council directed the Secretariat to mobilize resources from the Private Sector and Development Partners to implement the operational plan.

The Secretariat is in the process of implementing key components of the Communications Strategy that include; Media Relations, New Social Media platforms, Branding, Outreach activities and Monitoring and Evaluation.

Madam Speaker, On effectiveness of the Communication Strategy, I wish to inform the August House that –

- a) Running of EAC Radio and Television Programmes using both the Private and Public Media Houses for education of the public in the Partner States is on-going;
- b) Coverage by the Media has been enhanced. The EAC and the Media have a platform to engage and exchange ideas. The annual EAC/EABC Media Summit enables both media and the regional bloc to discuss relevant issues and priorities.
- c) A Forum bringing together key implementers of the Policy and Strategy has been instituted which has seen Communication Officers from the Partner States' Ministries of EAC Affairs, EAC Organs and institutions and affiliated Organizations coming together to consider key priority interventions and messages for the EAC communication and sensitization campaigns for the financial year 2013/14.

The expected output of this Forum is a robust cooperation and participatory planning, organization and implementation of joint and harmonized communication and sensitization activities among the Organs, Institutions and the Ministries of EAC Affairs of the Partner States leading to increased public awareness and popular participation of

all stakeholders in the integration process. The Forum meets twice a year to take stock of progress.

- d) Some Partner States have also developed National Policies and Communication Strategies on the EAC integration and are mainstreaming the integration agenda into their annual work plans.
- e) Organizing Annual EAC Day/Week observance/celebrations and branding campaigns by the Partner States;
- f) Conducting Joint Cross Border consultations and sensitization activities for the border communities on EAC regional integration between some Partner States.
- g) Partner States are popularizing the East African Community symbols (Flag, Anthem, Tagline of One People One Destiny) and holding Public Rallies and putting up billboards. In the Republics of Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, and Kenya it is a government directive to fly the EAC Flag alongside the National flag. The EAC Anthem is played at government and major functions.
- h) A major cultural event, the East African Arts and Culture Festival (JAMAFEST) was held in Kigali, Rwanda in February 2013 and attended by many people. This event truly enhanced cohesion and the spirit of East Africans. We are planning for a major sports tournament this financial year to further deepen the cohesion among our ordinary people.
- i) There is increased knowledge by the public on the integration process — partially attributed to the rollout of the tenets of the Communications Strategy.

Despite the progress noted above, the EAC has also faced a number of challenges including; financial and human resources constraints which hamper full operationalisation of the Strategy.

Madam Speaker, the indicative cost for implementing the operational plan in the next five years is approximately US\$ 15,460,560 which translates into approximately US\$ 3,092,113 per Financial Year.

During the Financial Year 2012/2013, the Council allocated US\$1,488,890 out of which Partner States contribution was US\$175,400 and US\$1,313,490 from the Development Partners. In the current Financial Year, the Council has allocated US\$832,750 out of which the Partner States will contribute US\$91,400 and the US\$741,350 from the Development Partners.

Most of the funds go to printing vital integration documents as well as Hi Information, Education and Communication materials; sensitization activities enhancing the EAC media relations; and engaging short term staff to undertake the communication related activities.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Chair, Council of Ministers. Is there any supplementary question, hon. Bhanji?

Ms Bhanji: Thank you, Madam Speaker. No, I have no supplementary question but I want to thank the Chair, Council for his assurance that EALA Members will now be engaged in undertaking sensitization activities at least once in every quarter across the borders alongside other activities. I think this will be very good if it will be implemented soon.

But I just wanted to commend the very good answers by the Cahir, Council in regards to the communication strategy of the EAC. Much as I commend all the efforts that are being undertaken at the moment, I would urge or advise that there is still a need to reach out to more people. Publicity wise I still think that we need to push more so that the people can get sufficient information from the Secretariat and the activities therein involved. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you hon. Shy-Rose. Yes, hon. Byamukama; supplementary question – briefly.

Ms Byamukama: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be very brief. I would like to refer to page 6 of the questions and in particular on the issue of funding. He says, “*The Council allocated \$1, 488, 890 out of which Partner States will contribute \$175, 400 and \$1, 313, 480 from development Partners.*” Then he says again that: “*In the current financial year \$ 832, 750 has been allocated, out of which \$ 914, 000 will come from the Partner States and then 741, 350 from Development Partners.*”

Madam Speaker and hon. Members, the ratio is glaring. When you look at the first ratio, for each dollar from the Partner States, the Development Partners are contributing ten times as much; in the second instance, it is almost the same ratio. When will we change this ratio because it says that: “*He who pays the piper calls the tune.*” Are we sure that the tune that is being called is that of the EAC or the Development Partners?

(Applause)

Mr Bageine: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I thank hon. Byamukama for raising that issue because it is a matter of concern to the Council of Ministers. The contributions by the Partner States are so meager that to a certain extent could be construed to reflect on seriousness of the Partner States in matters of sensitization of the population and, therefore, achieving integration of East Africa that is people based.

In this regard, therefore, my Council is going to sit and ask Partner States to consider increasing their contribution to the integration process-(Applause)- without necessarily letting go of the donor funds because we need much more money than what the donors are giving us and what the Partner States can give us.

Once again, Madam Speaker, it is a matter of concern and we will find ways of addressing order to ensure that our Partner States pay more. But also let me allay the fears on my sister that the Development Partners are not calling the tune; we are still calling the tune as East Africans. I thank you.

Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania): Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I now call upon the Chair, Council of Ministers to answer my questions with ref: EALA/PQ/OA/3/15/2013;

- (a) What is the status of the EAC trade statistics in all Partner States for the year 2011-2012?
- (b) Could the Chair of the Council elaborate on the fast moving goods/products from Tanzania to Member countries of the EAC?
- (c) What is the status of the special list of goods that are exempted of the tax regime by each Partner States? Does it still exist?

Thank you.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Shem Bageine): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, the volume of intra-EAC trade grew by 22.0 percent to US\$ 5,472.9 million in 2012 compared to US\$ 4,485.9 million recorded in 2011. The development was driven by the increase of both imports and exports that went up by 20.7 percent and 23.0 percent, respectively. Tanzania and Rwanda recorded increases in their shares to total intro EAC trade while that of Kenya, Uganda and Burundi declined. Despite the decline of the share, Kenya continued to dominate, accounting for about 36 percent of total intra-EAC trade.

Since launch of the Customs Union, and subsequently the Common Market, intra-EAC trade has increased from about US\$2 Billion in 2005 to US\$5.8 Billion in 2012.

The total intro-regional exports increased from around US\$500 million in 2000 to US\$3.2 billion in 2012, an increase of over 600%.

The East African Community's total intra-regional trade increased from a total of US\$4.6 billion in 2011 to US\$5.8 billion in 2012, an increase of 26 percent, while the total intra-regional exports increased from US\$2.6 billion to US\$3.2 billion during the same period, an increase of 23 percent.

Kenya and Uganda accounted for an average of 37 and 24 percent of the total intro-regional trade during 2011 and 2012.

During the same period, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi accounted for an average of 20, 12 and 8 percent, respectively. This intra regional trade is made up mainly of manufactured products and services.

Madam Speaker, the fast moving goods/products from Tanzania to EAC Partner States are:

- (a) Oil-cake and other solid residues of sunflower seeds,

- (b) Maize,
- (c) Oranges,
- (d) Portland cement,
- (e) Carboys, bottles, flasks, jars, pots, phials, ampoules.
- (1) Thermometers/pyrometers,
- (g) Black tea fermented/partly fermented, flavoured or not,
- (h) Mosquito nets
- (i) Liquefied Natural gas,
- (j) Groats and maize meal (corn)
- (k) Potatoes seed
- (I) Maize seed
- (m) Salt
- (n) Unbleached kraft liner,
- (o) Petroleum jelly
- (p) Mineral or chemical fertilizers,
- (q) Sacks and bags,
- (r) Petroleum gases and other gaseous hydrocarbons,
- (s) Cane or beet sugar,
- (t) Unbleached sack kraft paper,
- (u) Oil-cake and other solid residues of coconut or copra
- (v) Knitted or crocheted rubberized textile fabrics,
- (w) Seamless iron/steel casing used in oil/gas drilling.

Madam Speaker, the total exports from Tanzania in 2011 and 2012 amounted to US\$ 411 and US\$ 614 Million respectively, while the total imports from the region for the same period amounted to US\$ 376 and US\$ 678 Million respectively.

Madam Speaker, the East African Community Secretariat has developed an application for the EAC trade statistics database which is a help desk that can be accessed on the EAC website on the link <http://tradehelpdesk.eac.int/> and has all the statistics on trade flows. It is updated quarterly.

I take this opportunity to invite all Honourable Members of this August House and the general public to use this important site for updates on trade statistics.

Madam Speaker, the exemption list of goods was harmonized under the EAC Customs Management Act and the exemptions regime is uniformly applicable in all Partner States. In this regard Partner States do not have separate exemption regimes. However, the Customs Union Protocol envisaged that some Partner States may experience peculiar negative effects by their manufacturing sector particularly the nascent industries that were enjoying incentives before the Customs Union came into force. The lists of raw materials and industrial inputs were allowed under the Articles 12, 19 and 36 of the Protocol. They are managed under the duty remission scheme to ensure control. In order not to cause distortion in the EAC market, the Council instituted measures such that finished goods of these manufactures are subject to full duties when sold in other Partner States.

I wish to report that the Uganda list of raw materials which was under this arrangement expired in June 2013 and goods hitherto on the list now attract full duties upon importation. Rwanda and Burundi have lists of raw materials and industrial inputs which will also expire in June 2014. This is because the two Partner States joined the Customs Union in 2009 and this measure was allowed to cushion their industrial base that would have been vulnerable to the established competitive firms of other Partner States. The gazetted manufactures are controlled under the conditions earlier on stated.

The Speaker: Thank you for the website. Is there any supplementary question, hon. Bhanji?

Ms Bhanji: Yes, Madam Speaker. Thank you very much for giving me the chance to ask a supplementary question. Hon. Byamukama was asking me why I was only asking questions about Tanzania. And I fully agree with here, this is where my supplementary question will cat across all the five Partner States.

Chair, Council, in my view, the business people doing business across the region are probably the same people doing business every day because they are aware of these trading opportunities. Now, I would like to know how many small scale traders, men and the youth, have contributed to

the growth of the volume of the intra EAC trade? I would like to have this breakdown, please. Thank you.

Mr. Bageine: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to observe that that is a new question - *(Applause)* - and I wouldn't be expected to be carrying these figures in my head. *(Laughter)* But certainly, I have taken note of this and that information will be researched and made available.

But let me also add that the policy we are pursuing is indeed to promote the small and medium firms in our business development in the Community. They are the majority and as my hon. Colleague, Minister is prompting me, we are emphasizing the role of women in this business.

(Applause)

So, we shall get this information though we would like to emphasize the need for our people to wake up and begin doing serious business. One observation I have made and I can make it here, is that our people have concentrated on importation of goods, some of which are below standards. And they think by so doing, they are doing. This will not help growth of our economies because in continuing to import, we are supporting industries that are located in the countries from where we import.

We need to change our approach to business, add value to those goods which we can produce locally and export them so that we can change the trend of the balance of trade in our Community. I thank you.

(Applause)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING THE EAC PARTNER STATES TO INSTITUTIONALISE 15TH SEPTEMBER AS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF DEMOCRACY

MOTION

The Speaker: Hon. Susan Nakawuki to represent hon. Hafsa Mossi.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Thank you, Madam Speaker for this opportunity. I beg to move that this Assembly do resolve to urge the EAC Partner States to institutionalize 15th September as the International Day of Democracy. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconded by hon. Leonce, hon. Bonaya, hon. Mathuki, hon. Zein, hon. Shy-Rose; proceed.

Ms Nakawuki: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

"This Assembly

COGNIZANT of the 2007 UN Resolution No. A/62/7/2007, which stipulates that each year 15th September should be observed as an international day of democracy and encouraged governments to strengthen national programs devoted to that promotion and consolidation of democracy;

MINDFUL of provisions of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community in particular Articles 6 and 7 on fundamental and operational principles including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, gender equality, as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of human and people's rights in accordance with the provisions of the Africa Charter on Human and People's Rights;

RECOGNIZING that promotion of democracy is necessary and desirable for the efficient implementation of the provisions of the Treaty in accordance with Article 131;

COMMITTED to upholding the fundamental principles that guide the implementation of the objectives of the EAC as provided for in Article 6 of the Treaty;

NOTING that the Inter Parliamentary Union to which EALA belongs has encouraged its entire member Parliaments to annually mark the 15th day of September as the international day of democracy;

FURTHER NOTING the need to raise awareness among citizens of the principles of democracy as an ideal to be pursued and a mode of government;

RECOGNIZING the importance of highlighting ways in which citizens can get information about the work of Parliament and interact with the institution in promoting political participation;

REAFFIRMING our commitment to making every effort to contribute towards making democracy understood by the citizens;

ACKNOWLEDGING that national and regional Parliaments have a crucial role to play in fostering democracy and awareness creation among the population;

NOW THEREFORE do resolve as follows:

- (i) To mark the 15th of September of every year as the international day of democracy;*
- (ii) To urge the EAC Partner States to institutionalize the 15th September as the international day of democracy;*
- (iii) To urge Partner States national Parliaments to commit themselves to awareness creation on how people can make their voices more heard in the process of legislation and decision making;*

(iv) To urge the EAC Secretariat and Partner States to enhance public awareness , education and training on democracy on the occasion of the international day of democracy;

(v) To urge the EAC Secretariat and Partner States to promote joint actions in the celebration of the international day of democracy; and

(vi) To commit ourselves to enhance our role in awareness creation on democracy and the international day of democracy.”

Madam Speaker, I would wish to add a quotation from the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban-Ki- Moon, I would like to quote him verbatim.

The Speaker: After, moving your resolution, you are going to justify why you are moving it. So, that is when you may bring that quotation.

Hon. Members, hon. Nakawuki has moved that very important resolution and she has been supported. Can you go ahead to justify your resolution?

Ms Nakawuki: Thank you, Madam Speaker. In justifying this motion, I would like to first of all quote the Secretary General of the United Nations, Ban-Ki- Moon, “On this International Day of Democracy, I call on leaders to hear, respect and respond appropriately to the voices of the people whether expressed directly or through elected representatives.” And I am among those elected representatives, Madam Speaker.

So, I would request hon. Members present to support this motion as it strengthens the voices of democracy. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to urge the EAC Partner States to institutionalize 15th September as the International Day of Democracy. Debate is open.

Ms Byamukama: Madam Speaker, I crave for your indulgence by way of procedure. But if my memory serves me correct - and I believe Members of this Assembly will bear me witness. This resolution was passed by the Second Assembly and if I remember correctly, it was in this very Chambers of Burundi.

Even the wording - I actually remember when we were urging Partner States to do so. And I believe even some of the Members of Council of Ministers – at least two of those who have joined were there.

So, I would believe would maybe be appropriate would be to put to task the Council of Ministers to tell us whether the Partner States have institutionalized or implemented that particular resolution because it was a resolution of the Assembly. I thank you.

The Speaker: Okay. I think that will come in as we interrogate. But since 15th of September arose, we needed to sound ourselves on this very important day.

Mr. Zein Abubakar (Kenya): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker. In standing up in support of this motion, I would first like to thank the Government and the people of Burundi for the warm welcome that we always receive. And I would like to remind hon. Shy-Rose that they also have *mukeke* here. *(Applause)* She only mentioned two types of fish. So, I will also invite here to sample *mukeke* and her experience will be even be more enhanced.

I particularly like coming back to Bujumbura because the weather here is like that of my home town in Mombasa. *(Applause)* So, I feel particularly at home when I come to Bujumbura. And I am sure those who come from Dar es Salaam would also appreciate the heat and the beautiful beaches next to a great lake that is to be found in this beautiful city.

So, in supporting this motion, Madam Speaker, I know the motion makes reference to Article 6 of the Treaty and if you allow me to make reference to that Article, particularly (d) which says, *“Among the fundamental principles of the Community that shall govern the achievement of the objectives of the Community by the Partner States shall include; good governance including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, gender equality as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of humans and people’s rights in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on human and people’s rights.”*

These profound words are beckoning all of us in trying to establish a governance system within our region that is based on the will of the people but is also based on consent of the people in whatever major things that we do.

It is also important to say that we in Africa and in our region do not lack beautiful instruments and beautiful documents that call us to high ideals. I think the challenge is always, Madam Speaker, with respect, the implementation of those beautiful documents. The challenge always is the practice of those principles that we quote in the name of democracy.

The challenge always is that motions are passed in the honorable House like this but we don’t get feedback as to how we have translated the prayers that are being sought through resolutions in relation to making a difference in the lives of men and women of this region.

(Applause)

I would like, therefore, to appeal, with humility, Madam Speaker, that when we look at prayer No. VI: *“To commit ourselves to enhance our role in awareness creation on democracy and the international day of democracy,”* so that we may not have problems of people asking us if we have done anything in the future. Let us start with EALA so that every year on the 15th of

September when we are developing our calendar of activities and programs, takes a sense of pride in our programming.

And that the office of the Speaker that is occupied by you, Right Honorable, is able to issue a statement before that date every year focusing in different aspects of democratic practices and principles and raising issues that we needed to maybe improve on so that every year there will be a communication on behalf of EALA through your good offices.

But also every year, even when we are not meeting on that particular day, we shall look at the calendar and say, one closest to it, either before or after; we will spend time in this Chamber to reflect on the status of democratic practice, not only in our region but in Africa and the world. And every time we have good ideas to bring before this august House, we will be happy to say, I am supporting this particular motion because it is talking about institutions

.....(*Inaudible*).....

Ms Nyirahabineza: Can be monitored and streamlined so that things are being done in line with Article 65 of the Treaty.

Ms Byamukama: Madam Speaker, thank you and I thank hon. Valerie for giving way. I think we should desist from use of the word “domesticate” lest we are misunderstood. I am saying this because domestication happens in cases of international treaties. But in this particular Treaty of the East African Community, it is very clear that we say that under Article 8, which is on General Undertaking as to Implementation – 8(4): “*Community organs, institutions and laws shall take precedence over similar national ones on matters pertaining to the implementation of this Treaty.*”

I would like to say that when you look at the EAC Act, which was enacted in Uganda, this very principle of precedence is again captured in that particular law. So, when we talk about domestication it implies that something else needs to be done before these very laws which we have enacted are implemented, which is not the case. So, I would like to propose that we talk about implementation, like hon. Valerie has said; operationalization and we desist from domestication, which gives the wrong implication because by virtue of the Treaty and our laws, the laws of the EAC are laws of Partner States and they take precedence. I beg to give that clarification.

Ms Nyirahabineza: Thank you so very much, Rt hon. Speaker and I thank my sister hon. Dora for the information she has given. Indeed that expression of domestication is bringing confusion and I think implementation would rather replace this one. But I strongly recommend that Article 65 of the Treaty be fully operationalized and things be monitored as to whether this Article is really being implemented.

My second submission is in line with one of the recommendations that appear on page 37 of the report under private sector, gender and youth. It said, *“The EAC Secretariat and EALA are urged to implement the recommendations of the Council of Ministers, create an East African Youth Council and also ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities into the social development programs of the EAC.”* This is perfectly correct but I do recall that during the plenary in that very meeting of Nanyuki Series, I personally intervened and I thank the R thon. Speaker for the emphasis she has put on the gender aspect, which was also alluded to by my sister, hon. Dora.

The point I would like to raise is that we showed a kind of road map, which can lead to the creation of an East African Women Council. And Madam Speaker, as a member of the General Purpose Committee, I am happy to report that even my colleagues know that when we were passing the budget we strongly recommended that an East African Women Council be created and some money was set aside for that very process to begin. So, I urge my colleagues, if they can kindly take my recommendation or my amendment in that the creation of an East African Youth Council should go parallel with East African Women Council. I beg to submit and I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. You could write that recommendation and send it to hon. Abdu Karim so that he is able to see how to integrate it in the recommendations.

Mr. Issa Taslima (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker. I also would like to join hands with my colleagues to thank very much H.E. Pierre Nkuruziza the President of the Republic of Burundi and also thank the people of Burundi and through them, our colleagues of the Burundi Chapter. *(Applause)* We are at home and I have been informed that yet much more in store as we stay here. *(Laughter)* So, good things are coming and we are very expectant.

Madam Speaker, most of the good things have been said but I would like to point out at page 22 of the bigger report where you find the perspective of the EAC integration. Now, we had Roman I written, *“Audit of previous Nanyuki recommendations,”* one reading this audit report would have thought that there is a list of things that have been done and a list of things that have been done and, therefore, reasons of what things that have been done and then you get to know where we are in terms of implementation of what we have decided.

Now, what has happened is that the audit of the previous Nanyuki recommendations was kindly tendered by hon. Sebalu but when you go to the 23rd page, hon. Sebalu is on record saying that: *“He further observed that his presentation was aimed at stimulating debate than providing answers.”* When we are at the level of auditing the previous Nanyuki recommendations, we should not be stimulating each other. That is the time when we should be looking back to see what we decided, what was recommended and what we did about it.

Now, Madam Speaker, in view of that I have a recommendation that in the next Nanyuki we should have a matter arising item on our agenda so that we have a report on what was

recommended and resolved, which will show what was done on those recommendations and resolutions.

Secondly, we shall be able to see that the recommendations and resolutions that we make after so much deliberations that we hold reach a certain stage. If we had 50 recommendations, for example, at the end there are recommendations and resolutions, all these if there is no one to talk about them and indeed to be talked about at the beginning of that particular meeting, then it will be like playing around without a focus on what we have decided. And that will not be good for our development.

Therefore, I recommend very strongly that we have matters arising item on our agenda and that will enumerate on which things were done, which things were not done, reasons for those things that were not done and from there we shall be able to move forward. I thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I want to invite hon. Leonce.

Mr. Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker. I join my voice to that of hon. Isabelle to welcome you all to Burundi. You are very welcome and please, feel at home as you have already said.

(Applause)

Rt hon. Speaker, mine will be as very brief remark because all has been said by my colleagues and I agree with them. The front page of the original report stated this; *“The missing link in the EAC integration.”* I am one ardent believer that infrastructure is essential for our integration. I mean especially the railway network.

We read here and there in the newspapers that there may be a program in the projects to develop a railway from Mombasa to Nairobi to Kampala and Kigali and logically to Bujumbura, I presume – this is the right forum to talk about it. Not between two or three Partner States. We should talk about it in this forum.

I believe that reviving of the railway from Dar es Salaam to Isaka to Kitega and then to Kigali should also be taken into consideration since it has already been mentioned before.

Madam Speaker, when we talk about a market driven integration, market id provided by production and transport. In long distances between Mombasa and Bujumbura, for example, or Dar-es- Salaam and Bujumbura, we definitely need to mention the importance of railway transport. We say it in a kind of whispering that we should be very vocal on this issue of infrastructure especially railway network. Thank you very much. I support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Leonce for that observation. Actually during Dr Rotich’s presentation, infrastructural development was actually key although we needed to

capture it a little more in our report. I wish to invite hon. Abdu Karim for – hon. Sebalu, any clarification?

Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I do appreciate the intervention of my colleague, hon. Taslma but I just wanted him to appreciate the perspective under which we were proceeding in this. We looked at the processes as they were done in terms of engagement and if he looked at page 6 in terms of those questions we put for which we then get comprehensive answers in terms of way forward.

We looked at what has been and we were asking ourselves whether we were targeting the right audience. You could look at – in terms of actors, in terms of Parliament, we had issue with the level of invitation; are we inviting the right committees, is it something that trickles down to the entire Parliament? So, we were looking at the processes that are being used so that in future – because even if you have recommendations and you are targeting the wrong audience, you are likely to have an implementation deficit. So, the audit was mainly in terms of the processes and not the specifics and that is why we recommended that for the coming one, we are going to go into the specifics having addressed all the other structural and processes that are involved.

The Speaker: Thank you. I think still hon. Taslma's recommendation stands because I think it is important to audit what recommendations were done right from Nanyuki I, what have been implemented and what are still outstanding. I think still his recommendation still stands.

Mr. Abdul Karim Harelimana (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity again to make some comments about what my colleagues have contributed to this report. I first of all thank all of them for the good contributions they have made, which showed me that they were very attentive as I was reading this very long report.

But Madam Speaker, before I commend them, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank H.E. the President of the Republic of Burundi, Pierre Nkuruziza for his guiding speech yesterday. It was an opening speech but guiding because there was a lot of wisdom and clear direction of where the East African Community is going. I also thank our colleagues, the Burundi Chapter for the reception they have accorded to us and also in general the Parliament, the Senate and the people of Burundi.

Madam Speaker, before I come to the recommendations and other comments which were made, I want to thank individually Members who have contributed to this report beginning with the hon. Mike Sebalu, hon. Dora Byamukama, hon. Ussi Maryam, hon. Nakawuki, hon. Isabelle, hon. Odette., hon. Shy-Rose, hon. Valerie, hon. Taslma and hon. Leonce.

(Applause)

There are things which I also noted in the report especially where the list of attendance was concerned, there are some names of our Members which are missing. I didn't see the name of hon. Mumbi and that of hon. Angella Kizigha. So, we shall add them as we clean up the report.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the committee, I take the recommendation and amendment by hon. Dora Byamukama. We shall say, "EALA Women's Forum" instead of "Women Gender Caucus." I think it is clearer than the caucus which looks something small.

Then we take the recommendation also as she wrote it: *"The EAC Secretariat, Council of Ministers and EALA are urged to promote and monitor the development and harmonization of policies, laws and mechanisms to address cross border issues, such as Female Genital mutilation, trafficking in persons and the role of women in social economic development and business pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Treaty."* So, we shall take it.

Madam Speaker, we got another amendment from hon. Nyiramilimo that bring forth the President's speech in the report; I think this will be an issue of editing the report. It is not the first time that a President is addressing us. But I think that for the report to be well understood, we need to follow the chronology of the events. So, we are not taking it.

But she had another problem with Black and White people where she proposed that we use the word "Africans" though in Africa we also have Whites in Northern Africa; the Egyptians, Tunisians, Moroccans etcetera. Even here in East Africa, so we are all African be it White or Black. But I think what she meant here was about the local investors. So I think you could use the word "local investors" instead of Black and White.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, another amendment proposal came from hon. Valerie that we include where we are talking about having the East African Youth Council, we also have a Women Council especially that there is some kind of budget which was mentioned somewhere in a meeting. I don't see any harm in that. We need to have that council for women so that men and women go together for the development of the East African Community integration.

Madam Speaker, lastly but not least, I think the idea from hon. Taslma about having the recommendations which were made before being implemented to put in place something to be followed up and that of hon. Leonce, about the infrastructure in general, which we need to emphasize especially the railways is unavoidable. I think we need to take it.

Hon. Members, I think Kiswahili shouldn't be an issue for discussion now. I think it is our role as EALA and East Africa to take it to the people because it is a Treaty matter. We should begin with ourselves as it has been recommended. You see even yesterday, H.E. the President in his speech when he reached where things were very serious, he asserted them in Kiswahili.

(Applause) So, I think let us go that way. Madam Speaker, I beg to move and I thank you very much.

The Speaker: The Chair, Council has pleaded that he needs to add his voice to this report. So, let me give him some two minutes.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Shem Bageine): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I should have come on the floor before the chairperson made his concluding remarks.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the chairperson and members of the committee for this very comprehensive report. I have listened to the recommendations which are comprehensive and cover the whole spectrum of the Community. If these recommendations are implemented, then indeed the Community will have been brought to a different level that will be concluding the integration process.

Madam Speaker, these recommendations come at an opportune time when the Council of Ministers has decided to step up its work culture in order to fulfill its mandate of directing the affairs of the EAC.

Madam Speaker, the previous operations of the Council have been rather bureaucratic with very little time to spare to look at issues critically and come up with direction. In order to change this trend, the Council of Ministers will begin sitting at Arusha every quarter - *(Applause)* - in order to look at various issues that need its attention so that we can move forward.

Further to this, Madam Speaker, the Council of Ministers has also resolved that they share the responsibilities of the various sectors so that each minister has a role to play in the implementation process.

(Applause)

We will, therefore, in this regard have time to look at these recommendations, pick out what is already being implemented.....*(Inaudible)*

(The Assembly rose at ... p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 24th October at 2.30 p.m.)