



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

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

#### **The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly 14<sup>th</sup> SITTING – THIRD ASSEMBLY : FOURTH MEETING - FIRST SESSION**

**Thursday, 24 January 2013**

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber of Deputies National Assembly of Burundi.*

#### **PRAYER**

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

*(The Assembly was called to order)*

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#### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, just to let you know, the Minister for EAC Affairs from Uganda, the Rt. hon. Kategaya, is still in hospital, but he doing is well. This is just to reassure you. *(Applause)* Thank you very much.

#### **MOTION**

#### **TO SEEK LEAVE OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL**

**Ms Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda):** Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I beg to move 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 me to introduce a Private Members' Bill entitled, The East African Community Disaster Risk reduction and Management Bill, 2013. I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Secunder? Hon. Bazivamo, hon. Murunya. Proceed, hon. Patricia.

**Ms Hajabakiga:** Thank you once again, Rt. hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity and especially after yesterday's debate on the report in which the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural resources did in Mwanza in relation to the impact of climate change.

Equally, Article 112 on the management of the environment, which finds its root in Chapter 19, undertook for Partner States to cooperate in the management of the environment. And especially, they agreed to cooperate, and specifically on the issues of disaster where it reads, "Take necessary preparedness, management, protection and mitigation measures especially for the control of natural and man-made disasters. These include oil spills, bio hazards, floods, earthquakes, marine accidents, and drought and bush fires." It continues in different other articles to indicate issues such as the need to develop early warning mechanisms in order to stop or to control the adverse effect of disasters.

Madam Speaker, yesterday we adopted the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural resources and in that report, it shows that 80 percent of all disasters are environmentally related and especially those related to climate change.

Rt hon. Speaker, I am proposing that historically this Bill finds its root in the Manila call for action for parliamentarians in which two members of EALA namely hon. Mulengani and hon. Kabourou during the Second Assembly in 2008 attended a conference of parliamentarians who had to look at issues of disasters.

They tabled the report in the House and it was adopted and then forwarded to the committee to look at it. At the committee level, I was charged along with a colleague who did not return to EALA, hon. Nangale. We started working on it together but when he left, we did co-opt hon. Bernard Murunya to assist me so that we can move forward with the Bill.

Of recent we also received a lot of support from the Geneva based office and the Norwegian Refugee Services in the further drafting of the Bill.

As I present this Bill today, we have also discussed this matter with the department and project in charge of disaster management at the EAC level, and the drafter had an input in the Bill itself.

Therefore, Rt. hon. Speaker, I will not continue because my colleagues would want to support the Bill and to give more importance of this particular Bill. Thank you very much for allowing me to move the Bill.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Patricia for that very important introduction of this Bill and actually making it sound very important. Thank you very much. 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. Patricia Hajabakiga to introduce a Private Members' Bill entitled the East African Community Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill, 2013. Debate is open.

**Mr. Bernard Murunya (Tanzania):** Hon. Speaker, since this is my first time to speak, I also wish to take this opportunity to wish you and all members of this House a prosperous new year.

Hon. Speaker, I rise to support the motion simply because just yesterday during the Agriculture session and when we were discussing it, we discussed about the original draft policy document on disaster and risk management and we agreed that the EAC has already developed this document. It is still in draft form and we touched on the Manure Parliamentary Call, which calls for members of Parliament to be aware or increase awareness or increase their knowledge on the importance of disaster to our people.

It is indeed the responsibility of this House to provide a legal framework for the intervention and assistance the people of this region. For that matter, I rise to support the motion. Thank you.

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

**Mr. Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda):** Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. Yesterday the House adopted a resolution on climate change and that resolution calls all of us to work hand in hand as regional parliamentarians and national parliamentarians so that climate change mitigation and adaptation programs are well implemented.

Actually, we have recalled the need for sanitisation programs, the need of educating our citizens towards fighting against all mitigating climate change impacts.

We have recalled ourselves to play a big role as MPs not only at the regional level but also in our Partner States. We have urged the establishment of a regional forum on climate change so that measures can be taken in combating the different problems our Partner States are facing nowadays.

This Bill is a way to help in organising, harmonising, and implementing different programs towards mitigating different disasters, which can be caused by climate change. For that reason, and having in mind that this Bill is there to help Partner States not only in fighting but also in preventing disasters, I rise to support it and to call upon EALA members to support it also. Thank you.

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

**Ms Jacqueline Muhongayire (Rwanda):** Thank you, Madam Speaker for according me this opportunity to contribute to this motion. First of all, I wish to thank hon. Patricia Hajabakiga for moving the East African Community Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill.

Madam Speaker, the EAC region in particular is faced with a variety of challenges, which include lack of knowledge and skills in this sector. There is also inadequate information management and communication, training and research and lack of or inadequate involvement of citizens in disaster reduction.

Madam Speaker, in our Partner States we may have policies, plans or mechanisms on disaster preparedness and management policies but there is need for an adequate regional partnership, harmonisation and exchange of best practices.

Madam Speaker, a regional partnership is very imperative to reaching effective solutions to regional challenges such as climate change adaptation and disaster resilience.

Madam Speaker, there is need for effective investment in disaster risk reduction and this investment should include political knowledge, financial and human investments.

I can inform this august House that in May 2011 in Arusha, a consultative meeting for EALA members; particularly members of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and the General Purpose Committee was held with the support of the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Risk reduction. This consultative meeting was very informative, recommendations and strategies have been adopted, and I think those recommendations or strategies can help the Committee on Agriculture to move forward.

Madam Speaker, I think EALA should continue to strengthen this partnership with the United Nations as an international strategy for disaster risk reduction, through the coordination and support of the EAC Secretariat, in order to improve the knowledge, create awareness among EALA members who are better placed to give guidance and to sensitise East African citizens on this critical issue in matters of policy, procedures, training and guidelines.

Madam Speaker, I beg to support the motion and once again, I thank hon. Patricia for moving this Bill. Thank you, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Muhongayire for your submission.

**Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I too rise to support this motion moved by hon. Hajabakiga. It is very timely and necessary given what we are going through as a region and it deserves our support as an Assembly.

Rt. hon. Speaker, the East African Community is not short of disasters, they have manifested themselves in various ways in Partner States, it is indeed a reality, and we must have a response mechanism towards the disasters.

This Bill comes in handy and it is a good logical sequence of events that have happened prior to the moving of this Bill. Just yesterday, the committee did present a report on climate change in general, but the report also contained various aspects of disasters as they manifest themselves from the effects of climate change. This Assembly adopted that report overwhelmingly and therefore it lays very good basis for this Bill.

Secondly, same day yesterday, this House pronounced itself on a resolution moved by the same committee regarding the same subject area, taking the committee report to another level in terms of way forward. Just this afternoon, we are coming up with a Bill, which is the most logical thing to do. After a report and a resolution, the best-case scenario to attend to is a Bill. So, I definitely

do support this Bill because it gives us the best way forward in order to deal with the issues of disaster.

Madam Speaker, we need to appreciate that we have had disasters in our Partner States and in some cases, the response has been in an ad hoc manner, we therefore need to have an institutionalised way of engaging this problem both at Partner State level but more importantly at the East African level.

This therefore gives us a good opportunity to be more proactive because the approach has hitherto been reactive and in some cases, the reaction has not met the expectations of the areas that are affected in terms of timeliness, in terms of the depth of engagement and in terms of making good the situation that is created by disasters.

So if we then take a proactive approach, it means that we can invest in early warning which is a very important aspect in this regard. You will appreciate that disasters have taken place in various places of the World but the most important thing that has made the difference is the state of readiness to attend to the effects of these disasters.

In many cases like in the US like in Japan, the effects were quite impactful but it would have been much more disastrous if those countries were not prepared for some of these disasters. So in our case, this law will definitely among others implore the creation of an early warning and investment therein as a method of helping to deal with effects of disasters as and when the do take place.

Madam Speaker, this law is very necessary and it is important for the region to be able to keep the livelihood of our people in a very predictable manner. I support and I beg that we do all support it and allow processes to come up in earnest to have it adopted.

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

**Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda):** Rt. hon. Speaker, since it is also my first time to debate I would like to join others to wish you a happy new year and to the Assembly through you.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the government and the people of Burundi and the chapter of Burundi for the warm welcome and the hospitality accorded to us until this time.

Hon. Speaker, I am also supporting this motion on two accounts. One, it is a Bill that has taken care of all interest groups especially persons with disabilities and it is also a Bill that involves the Private Sector to play a part and play their role in management of disaster in our region.

Rt hon. Speaker, Private Sector is an important stakeholder and involving them is an indication that our integration is people centred and private sector led. It is important that as an Assembly, we make sure that all the Bills we pass and all the resolutions we pass take care of those fundamental areas.

Rt. hon. Speaker, I feel that once this Bill is operationalized, it will accord all East Africans their dignity, it will allow people to be treated in a more humble and humane way so that although we

cannot stop or prevent disasters, we have a responsibility to make sure that when they occur we all work together to safeguard lives of our people. Hon. Speaker, I support the motion.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Dr. Ndahiro.

**Mr. Pierre Celestin Rwigema (Rwanda):** Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. As it is my first time to take the floor, I join my colleagues to wish you a happy new year and to my colleagues. It is for me an opportunity also to thank the chapter of Burundi and the government and people of Burundi for the hospitality, which has been accorded us.

Rt. hon. Speaker, I stand to support this Bill, which is very important in our period and I presume that it was delayed to get a special kind of tool, which is very important for our regular life. The persons affected by disasters are entitled to respect. This is a Bill, which restores dignity to women. This is the reason why I want to thank hon. Hajabakiga for this wonderful job she has done.

This Bill, in our period, is one that visualizes everything in all aspects of our lives. You cannot understand how the people affected by disasters can miss the main essential elements of life like food, health, education, or basic needs for life. This is the reason why I stand to support it in all its elements. It is very important, very necessary and we need it for our region. Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much hon. Rwigema. 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. Patricia Hajabakiga to introduce a Private Members' Bill entitled, the East African Community Disaster Risk Reduction and management Bill, 2013. Hon. Members, I now put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**The Speaker:** Before they announce the next item, let me mention that this Bill should now be prepared for a proper presentation to the House accordingly.

## MOTION

### TO SEEK LEAVE OF THE ASSEMBLY FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF A PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILL

**Mr. Abubakar Zein Abubakar (Kenya):** Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. I rise to move the motion 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 me to introduce a Private Members' Bill entitled, the East African Community Public Holidays Bill, 2013.

**The Speaker:** Secunder? Did I see hon. Ogle, hon. Mwinyi, hon. Nyerere, hon. Taslima, hon. Nakawuki, hon. Kimbisa. Move, hon. Zein.

**Mr. Zein:** Thank you again, Madam Speaker. One of the challenges that faces the integration of the East African Community has been the participation of the citizens of the five nations and it is

incumbent upon us to invest in those things that would allow and establish a framework for citizens to participate meaningfully in this integration agenda.

This proposed Bill seeks to do three important things for our Community. First, it seeks to establish a legal framework for identifying and recognizing public holidays within the Community. Secondly, it seeks to identify and recognize what currently is considered the Community day but that has not been recognized in law, which is the 30th November of every year. Thirdly, it seeks to establish a framework that would allow us to establish awards and honours that will identify and celebrate East Africans who have contributed a great deal to the integration process but who are also champions for African renaissance and African unity.

Madam Speaker, when we talk about the Community day, we will be seeking to establish a day where it will be celebrated as a public holiday in all five countries where we will take opportunity to reflect on who we are and where we are coming from.

Hon. Ndarubagiye reminds this Chamber on the vision of the four bearers of our nations and calls upon us to be proud of being African and to develop an ethos that will allow our people to develop and have common understanding.

It is also important for us to start developing common solidarity and again we are reminded by those who work in the Community particularly those who work in the political affairs and regional affairs sectors in our Community that we need to develop a sense of East Africanness and this sense of East Africanness will be based on common aspirations and values but they have to be nurtured and this Bill seeks to nurture those processes that will allow us to seek the ultimate objective of our integration which is Political Federation.

When we establish symbols and celebrations that bring us together, we will invest in this common agenda of establishing a sense of East Africanness. I beg to move, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Zein for this very important motion and Bill. 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. Abubakar Zein to introduce a Private Members' Bill entitled the East African Community Public Holidays Bill, 2013. Debate is open.

*(Question proposed)*

**Ms Agnes Mumbi Ng'aru (Kenya):** Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support this Bill. One is for the little time I have been in the Assembly, I have wondered many times when this East Africanness is going to be owned by the ordinary East Africans across the five Partner States.

I have felt many times that it is us the Assembly that are closed in meetings and in our national assemblies and in our sittings that are trying to move this process without the rest of the citizens of the Partner States. I support the feeling by hon. Abubakar Zein that we need something, we need to drive the process to be owned by the rest of the East Africans.

Holidays could be one of them, the legal framework for the East Africans to honour their prominent personalities in awards and in speeches that can be driven in all the capital cities.

I ask that hon. Zein also talks about a dress that can be owned by the whole lot of us so that we own this process. Let the East Africanness in us be carried around from the villages to the markets in Kenya and in all the Partner States and it will be a good thing. I will ask him to go a bit further that even as we travel- I am ashamed as a Kenyan because here in Burundi I hear people speaking better Kiswahili than myself. I go to my country and I wonder why Burundi can communicate better in my own language. This sense of East Africanness can be achieved by these holidays when we are all encouraged to get out of our own country cocoons and probably for a whole week, we speak about how we are East Africans. How do we share what we have? How do we share ad face challenges together?

I stand and rise to support the motion and I hope that when the Bill is done, we can all have something to do with it. Thank you and I beg to support.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Mumbi.

**Ms Hajabakiga (Rwanda):** Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker and I would like to thank hon. Abubakar Zein for bringing this important motion in relation to the Bill on public holidays. I know that there did exist already days in which the EAC institutions and Organs would celebrate but it was not very clear and we did not know which ones. I am glad that having a legal instrument helps for sensitisation so that everyone in EAC would know which days and what the rights are as far as the public holidays are concerned.

I therefore wish to support the motion and look forward to support hon. Zein and his work to conclude his Bill. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Chris Opoka-Okumu (Uganda):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. This being my first time to speak in this great Chamber this year, I would like, like my colleagues have done before, to wish you and all the members of the Assembly a prosperous new year and as hon. Sebalu said yesterday, a year which is very productive.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support the motion. This Bill is very important and if we have to create awareness sin East Africa about our togetherness, this Bill should be passed without much ado.

Secondly, I would have gone even further to propose that all the independence day celebrations of all the East African countries should be observed by all East Africa so that when I am sitting in Uganda in a village there and you are celebrating the 12<sup>th</sup> December, and they are saying, what is this? Kenya's Independence Day!

When I am sitting at home and you are celebrating the independence day of Rwanda, people begin to know that this is the day that our people of East Africa of Rwanda origin were set free. They attained their independence!



So I would really like to thank hon. Zein for introducing this very important Bill but I will go further if he accepts, to amend it especially that independence days of East African countries should be observed all over the place.

Madam Speaker, with those few remarks, I support the Bill. Thank you.

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

**Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda):** I thank you very much; Madam Speaker and I want to thank hon. Zein for this wonderful motion.

Madam Speaker, I concur 100 percent with him that if we have this kind of a Bill in place, we shall be promoting solidarity among East Africans.

Madam Speaker, I remember last year in Uganda we celebrated 50 years of independence. However, on a sad note personally I was not able to attend the celebrations in Uganda. As East African Heads of State were flying into Kampala for the celebrations, the General Purpose Committee was heading Dar-es-Salaam for committee work. In fact, I felt so tormented that midway the committee work, I wanted to fly back at least for that one day to attend the celebrations.

On a sad note, I failed to get a flight. I even tried going to the airport to see if someone would cancel his or her flight but I failed to get a flight.

In the Ugandan Parliament, it was a big deal that most of the members of EALA were not able to attend the celebrations and yet we believe we owe allegiance to the East African Community where we serve.

Madam Speaker, I remember reading last year that November 30<sup>th</sup> would be the day for East Africa but I feel it is pertinent that as we are heading for a common visa for the East African Community,. We would also have those common public holidays, which we shall be able to harmonise, and where members of EALA, as a way of sensitisation attend such big functions.

Even when we were in Nairobi for netball, Kenya was celebrating its independence but for us we were busy with netball. So Madam Speaker, it is my humble request that we take this motion seriously and I beg to support the motion. I thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Nakawuki.

**Mr. Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi):** Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. I am very pleased to support this very important motion. A Chinese philosopher once said that a long journey starts with one step. So, for me, whatever step we take into the integration process with the aim of eventually reaching our goal, as a political federation is always a very important step for us.

So this motion proposed by hon. Zein is extremely important in making the people of East Africa aware of the process in which we are engaged, we are committed to, and we will definitely reach one day. I support the motion, thank you very much Rt. hon. Speaker.

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

**Ms Sarah Talaso Bonaya (Kenya):** Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would also want to support this motion and congratulate hon. Zein for coming up with this important Bill. This is actually a Bill that will legitimise a very important day, on which we have chosen to come together to reflect on our progress as the East African Community. I think we need to honour the sons and daughters of this region who have come up with this very important process. And if we have a day set aside- Maybe not even a day but a week that East Africans will come together and honour the important processes they have started and reflect on what they need to improve and where they want to head.

So, I would like to support the motion, thank you.

**Mr. Joseph Kiangoi Ombasa (Kenya):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I rise to support the leave that is sought by the hon. member to introduce a Bill because it is important as East Africans that we enhance the process of integration and to do so, we require certain activities that bring us together. To have a public holiday that is recognised by all East Africans will be going towards meeting that objective.

Perhaps we should not look at the draft, because when the Bill comes, it will be cleaned up so that it does not conflict with the national constitutions of our Partner States. But as of now, this is important, and particularly the setting aside of a period - a week or so - to create awareness amongst Partner States because the process of sensitisation has been lacking in various Partner States. I beg to support the motion.

**Ms Nancy Kabeyeka Lung'ahi Abisai (Kenya):** Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me the opportunity to support this. I think that this motion is being brought at a very important time when we are also looking at aspects of integration and the reason why I rise to support is one, Madam Speaker I am sure even if we had done a quick check on maybe how many people are aware of that date of 30<sup>th</sup> November. Quite a number of people may not know whether there exist such a date.

Two, because we have been here since we were sworn in last year and 30<sup>th</sup> November just passed by like any other day as if nothing was happening. So I think this is a very important motion.

Thirdly, the whole question of integration is in itself is such a challenge and it is such public days that would help us to sensitise and create awareness as has been ably stated by my colleagues. It would also create an opportunity just instead of having a public holiday; it will provide an opportunity to ensure that the EAC is able to engage in many aspects in terms of public holidays. So Madam Speaker, I beg to support.

**Ms Angella Charles Kizigha (Tanzania):** Thank you Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. Before I proceed, let me take this opportunity to wish you Happy New Year Madam Speaker and all EALA members without forgetting the EAC staff.

Madam Speaker, I would like to declare that I support the motion 100 percent. I also congratulate hon. Zein for bringing this motion of EAC holidays. This will enable us advertise the EAC to be

more visible than it is now. I would prefer that this day is celebrated alongside other activities that will enable people outside the integration to know that EAC is there for the benefit of our integration. I beg to support the Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Mukasa-Mbidde:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker for the opportunity. Just as my other colleagues have done, this is my first time this year. Permit me to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy new year and to you hon. members.

Madam Speaker, this also equally my first submission in the House as a married man - (*applause*) - and I would like to take this opportunity to thank this august House for the support you gave me into that direction. I am now giving my elderly submission.

Madam Speaker, I support the motion on a serious note. The motion is timely and it comes at a time when even the Secretary General of the community himself has been quoted to have projected better growth for this region this year especially if the Partner States continue to be persuaded to implement a Customs Union and a Common Market Protocol.

Madam Speaker, for purposes of learning in the area of tourism and financial transactions which are generally based on speculation, all the traders and tourists have to be guided by a consolidated instrument on public holidays and this creates the requirement for such a legislation for purposes of guidance of our region.

Integration does not have a commencement date. We can have dates for substantive activities but the commencement date of integration and federation will definitely depend on the activities undertaken uniformly by the citizenry of the Partner States. This is one of the guiding factors that will create harmony and cohesion that will guide us into the integration. I thank you Madam Speaker and would like to support the motion by this.

**The Speaker:** Honourable 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. Abubakar Zein to introduce a Private Members' Bill entitled the East African Community Public Holidays Bill, 2013. I know put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**The Speaker:** Let this bill also be prepared for first reading and subsequent proceedings in the House.

## MOTION

### FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO URGE THE EAC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO ADOPT A POLICY ON SOCIAL COHESION

**Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda):** Thank you Madam Speaker. I would like to move a motion that this House do resolve to urge the Council of Ministers to adopt a social cohesion policy. Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Seconder? Hon. Nyirahabineza, Hon. Ussi Yahya, hon. Ngenzebuhoro. Proceed, Dr. Ndahiro.

**Dr. Ndahiro:** Madam Speaker, with your indulgence, I would like to ask hon. Sebalu to read the resolution and the justification on my behalf.

**The Speaker:** Granted.

**Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda):** Thank you very much Madam Speaker for the opportunity and I would like to proceed as follows.

*WHEREAS the Partner States pursuant to Article 120 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community undertook to cooperate among themselves in the field of social welfare, and to bring the people of the East African Community together and to eradicate all forms of discrimination;*

*NOTING that the framework for social cohesion promotes friendship, cooperation, exchange of information and uplifts the wellbeing of the people in the Community;*

*NOTING FURTHER that the same framework fosters integration and confidence building between communities and institutions in the Partner States;*

*NOW THEREFORE THIS ASSEMBLY DO HEREBY RESOLVE AS FOLLOWS:*

- 1. The Council of Ministers should formulate a twinning policy, put in place its implementation programme, and submit it to this Assembly for adoption.*
- 2. The Secretary General should prepare set guidelines on how to operationalise the twinning policy, clearly indicating how the people shall be sensitized on the policy and the roles they are expected to play;*
- 3. The Partner States should enhance twinning coordination capacity in their Ministries having twinning programmes in their attributions;*
- 4. The Assembly and the Secretariat should work out a sensitisation strategy programme;*
- 5. The Council of Ministers should, within twelve months of the date of this Resolution, submit a progress report on the status of implementation of this Resolution.*

Madam Speaker, I beg to read the justifications for this resolution.

**The Speaker:** Thank you hon. Sebalu. Hon. Dr. Ndahiro, can you justify your motion.

**Dr. Ndahiro:** Madam Speaker, I have prepared the justifications and those are the ones that hon. Sebalu wanted to read for this august House.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is for a resolution of this Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to adopt a social cohesion policy.

*(Question proposed)*

**Ms Maryam Ussi Yahya (Tanzania):** Thank you Madam Speaker for the opportunity. First of all I would like to thank the government of Burundi for warmly accepting us in their country and also wishing this house and yourself a happy, prosperous new year.

Madam Speaker, I am standing here to support the motion on the resolution on the social cohesion policy in the EAC. Most times in most Partner States, these marginalised social groups are the ones who have been grouped in other groups not as they have been seeing themselves as vulnerable groups. Therefore, I am standing here briefly to support the motion for this resolution.

I thank you Speaker.

**Mr. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro (Burundi):** Thank you Madam Speaker. As it is my first time to take the floor in this Assembly, this year, I would like to wish you and to all hon. Members a prosperous and a happy new year 2013.

I would also like to appreciate that you are enjoying your stay here in Burundi and I would like to ask you that if there is any need don't hesitate, your sisters and brothers are available to assist in case you need their help.

Madam Speaker, I would like to support this motion, which is very important because it tackles an important issue of social welfare, which has been neglected in this region. I would like to congratulate hon. Ndahiro and thank him for bringing this resolution. Unfortunately, Article 120 of the Treaty has not been implemented enough. Madam Speaker, if a question would be put on what has been done for example like foster homes for the disadvantaged and elderly, I don't know what would be the answer. This resolution is a wakeup call for our region and reminds us that we have obligations towards disadvantaged and marginalised persons. I will not mention them but I can refer you to Article 120 of the Treaty as I said before.

Madam Speaker, for me, this resolution will allow east African citizens to learn from each other. This twinning policy will enhance solidarity and integration of this region. Madam Speaker, I would like to urge the Council of Ministers to implement Article 120 without discrimination and I personally hope that this policy will be quickly formulated and implemented as well.

I am sure that if this is done, this region will develop for the interest of people of the EAC. Once again, I would like to support the motion and I hope that the House will support this motion.

Thank you Madam Speaker.

**Ms Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda):** Thank you Madam Speaker and since this is my first time to take the floor this year, let me join my colleagues to wishing you and EALA members and of EAC a happy new year. Back to motion on the floor, I have to declare that I fully support the motion on the floor by Dr. Ndahiro in that it is in line with Article 120 of the Treaty as it has been alluded to by hon. Ngenzebuhoro.

Madam Speaker, one of my colleagues who spoke before me while commenting on the previous Bill moved by hon. Zein clearly stated that the integration is determined by the way people interrelate and this is brought forth by people visiting each other, study tours, some common approaches and programs elaborated and determined by local leaders. Partner States have the obligation to implement Article 120 of the Treaty by developing common approaches in employment in eradicating poverty and determine some specific programmes and better working conditions. Let us say if some people coming from border communities are interrelating, are visiting each other and having study tours. It is bringing a positive impact in them because whenever they cross borders to another Partner State they are going to learn how some projects are being developed in their favour and may be some cultural events are bringing them together and learn something positive which can help them have a positive impact as far as the integration process is concerned.

Madam Speaker, back to the marginalised group namely the people with disabilities, children, elderly and sometimes women. I am happy to declare that in some Partner States, women or those groups are determined to have those study tours while crossing the borders while for them to have an exchange of programmes. When we talk of financial empowerment of any of the groups, people go the other side to have the kind of programmes and whenever they come back, they can also implement those programmes and wherever they don't exist, they can start. This is very good and communities bordering borders can come up with programmes and if they are implemented, can uplift their standards of living.

Madam Speaker, I fully support this motion and thank Dr. Ndahiro for moving it.

I thank you.

**Mr. Straton Ndikuryayo (Rwanda):** I thank you Madam Speaker for the opportunity. I wish you and my honourable colleagues a happy new year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the President, H.E Pierre Nkurunziza, the Speaker of National Assembly of Burundi, the Burundi Chapter, and the people of Burundi for the hospitality they have accorded to us.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support the motion as moved by Dr. Ndahiro and as my colleagues have said social welfare for our citizens including those mentioned by my colleagues. I would like to talk about one issue, and you talked about it yesterday and that is the Inter-Parliamentary football tournament. This is one example of social cohesion even if it is between hon. Members, and I am saying this because I am one of the members of the team playing the stadium was empty. I would like to ask the Council of Ministers to make sure, whenever we are in any Partner State for football, they mobilise people, they come to support our people and then after the game, we can use number four of the motion to sensitise the people about the integration.

Madam Speaker, I fully support this motion because our people learn from each other, borrow best practices, and exchange good ideas. We visited Kenya last year; I think it was during the Second Assembly. They said they have a National Talent Academy. It can be used in several groups putting our category of our people together, know our innovations, technology and our different cultures. This is one example of bringing our people together. We can also use the cultural events especially the Burundi drummers, different songs from our Partner States. We can also use the

sports such as football, basketball and at the end of the match, we use the opportunity to mobilise our people and sensitise them about the integration process. Madam Speaker, I fully support the motion, but it is talking about adopting, but adopting is one thing and implementation is another.

Madam Speaker, I ask the members to support the motion so as we improve the awareness of activities and the social welfare of our citizens. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**Mr. Abubakar Zein Abubakar (Kenya):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I rise to support this important motion. One of the most impressive aspects of this motion is that it is seeking to establish a framework where there will be citizen to citizen engagement through communities but also institution to institution engagement that will allow for transfer of knowledge, comparing histories, ideas as well as what lessons we can learn from each other.

The people of East Africa, in some aspects, are ahead of us so there have been some ideas of people-to-people community engagement. A good example is the Maa-speaking people found in Kenya and Tanzania.

The Maa-speaking people in Kenya and Tanzania have joint festivals, both in Arusha as well as in Kenya, and the process of becoming in the Community for both men and women does not become complete until the ceremonies are carried out in Tanzania and in Kenya.

Our people are also ahead of each other in terms of trying to find local solutions and learning from each other. If we have a framework that will allow cities to learn from each other, I assure you, Madam Speaker that there are many cities in Kenya that would benefit a great deal by twinning with Kigali and understanding why Kigali is so clean and so beautiful.

It is also important to say that these exchanges would also allow for technical persons from Partner States to learn from each other. Tanzania, at the moment, is going through the constitution making process and we know that Uganda went through the constitution making process and Kenya did the same. If we had a framework like this, it would have facilitated those who are making the constitution in Tanzania to engage, for instance, with the constitutional implementation commission of Kenya and learning from us some of the difficulties of overhauling a whole constitution, phasing in that new constitution, and allowing the old one to die without kicking and screaming.

It is important because the challenges that we face can be lessons that allow them to side step potholes that will allow them to have a smoother journey. I assure you, Madam Speaker that Kenya learnt a great deal from Uganda and we invited a number of those who were involved in the constitution making process in Uganda to advise Kenyans on that important journey.

Allow me to say two things before I sit down, Madam Speaker. One of the challenges we have in terms of the integration process, apart from developing this sense of East Africanness, is the level of suspicion and distrust among our people and among Partner States. This motion will allow us to allow people to have a platform for engagement that will be able to demystify some of the stereotypes that people have about each other.

For example, Madam Speaker, many people think that Kenyans - and I am one of them - are very aggressive. (*Laughter*) However, let me give you an example of a unique East African Community; a small community in Kenya called Munyoyaya. Munyoyaya is the only community that is pacifist and completely peaceful in Kenya. Their totem is the tortoise and like the tortoise, when they feel threatened because they live in the marshes of the Tana River Delta, they get into their boats and get into the deeper side of the marshes until your threats disappear then they come back and engage in development. So, this community has a great lesson for Kenyans but also, I am sure, for East Africans.

Lastly Madam Speaker, let me give you another example of a culture of peace building within the Kenyan community. There is a black bearded clan among the Maa speaking people who from childhood are oriented as the clan responsible for peace building within the Maa speaking people. They wear the black beads and when they appear when there is a conflict, everybody puts their spears down because the peacemakers have arrived, and they are considered mediators and reconcilers in the community and they are initiated from childhood to be the peace builders within the community.

We have many other examples that we could share, I am sure from all the Partner States on how such interaction between communities and institutions will help further the integration process. I thank you and I support the motion.

**Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda):** Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I first want to thank hon. Ndahiro for having brought this motion. It means he has been thinking of the way of integration. As we all know, the ultimate goal of the Community is Political Federation and in thinking of federating our Partner States in one country, we need to understand how these people should or shall live together.

If they have to have the same policies and life, they should at least know each other and twinning is one of the aspects to fast track integration. We like pronouncing that slogan, one people, and one destiny but when you travel from Bujumbura for example and you go by road through Tanzania, you find many different people. It is very difficult to say we are one people. We have to facilitate this oneness in order to widen and deepen the integration process.

Since the persons are the centre of the community, it is people centred. Having such programs like twinning therefore should facilitate the development of the integration, which is well described in the Articles of the Treaty; 120, 121- We read it and understand integration is putting the people together but it is very difficult to envisage on how to put them together.

The twinning is not new in our practices. I think every country has such programs. I think of the twinning between many districts of Rwanda with districts in Germany; *evrenani palatina*. I have participated in such activities. When you bring people of Rwanda to their twins in Germany, they understand each other as if they were all from the same country and this is Rwanda, Africa, and Europe. That is very far away. How couldn't we have this policy and then allow people from our Partner States to feel together and to feel that they belong to one community and they work to develop themselves, borrowing good practices from each other?



Madam Speaker, again I thank hon. Ndahiro and support the motion. I would wish that it had been read because maybe we might add some corrections on the resolution like on the second paragraph where it is said, “The Secretary General should prepare set guidelines to operationalize the twinning policy”.

I think it should be ‘shall’ because if the policy has been put in place by the Council of Ministers as in the first paragraph then the secretary General shall as it is not conditional anymore.

I think this motion has to be supported, thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Dr Odette. I had wanted to invite hon. Ndahiro but I think let me invite the Secretary General to make his input.

**The Secretary General, EAC (Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera):** Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me the floor. I wish to thank hon. Ndahiro for working constantly and continuously towards the implementation of Article 120 of the Treaty.

Madam Speaker, I rise to seek clarification on a number of issues. Article 120 of the Treaty is about cooperation in social welfare and it reads, “*The Partner States undertake to closely cooperate among themselves in the field of social welfare with respect to (a) employment, poverty alleviation programs, and working conditions (b) Vocational training and the eradication of adult illiteracy in the Community. (c) the development and adoption of a common approach towards the disadvantaged and marginalised groups including children, the youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities through rehabilitation and provision of among others, foster homes, health care, education and training.*”

So, Madam Speaker, this Article talks about social welfare. The motion talks about a policy on social cohesion, and it is unclear to me what exactly this social cohesion would mean. I think we would benefit from further work on what exactly it is that the motion is talking about, and then the resolution, which is the justification.

Madam Speaker I have listened very carefully to the debate on the floor and the more the debate proceeds, the more I am not sure what it is that we are looking for because a number of members would like to see in this social cohesion policy issues to deal with the marginalised as under Article 120 (c). Other members are talking about cooperation citizen-to-citizen interaction and institution-to-institution interaction and so there is a mixture there which is not clear.

The draft resolution itself does not clear this one up. When you read the resolution, it now focuses on twinning; just a policy on twinning. Madam Speaker, twinning is a good thing but I am not sure that one advances social cohesion by twinning only. So the motion says the Council of Ministers should adopt a policy on social cohesion. The resolution says, do twinning and I am not sure what it is that the hon. Dr. Ndahiro would like to see.

Madam Speaker, there is nothing in the rules, in the policies or in the procedures that prevents Partner States from having institution to institution twinning right now. In fact, twinning is taking place across the Community. Having a policy for twinning would not be a problem but

this, in my understanding, would not be a policy on social cohesion for the East African Community.

Madam Speaker, the Council of Ministers has been asked to submit a progress report on the status of implementation of this resolution within twelve months of the date of this resolution. This is as it should be, but unless the House is extremely clear on what the Council of Ministers should do, then this report will come, the Council of Ministers will do something and we risk having this debate six months from now.

“The Secretary General shall prepare, as in Article 2, set guidelines on how to operationalise the twinning policy, clearly indicating that people shall be sensitise don the policy and the roles they are expected to play.” Again it is critical that this House pronounces itself as to whether we are looking for a policy for social cohesion or a policy on twinning and then just move on that understanding otherwise the Secretary General shall also be in difficulty to understand what guidelines he or she should produce.

Madam Speaker, I had hoped that these issues would be clarified during the general debate but the more the debate took place on the floor, the more unclear to me it became and I therefore seek for your indulgence for clarification on these matters.

If we had had the chance, Madam Speaker to see this before debate took place in the House, maybe we would have had the clarifications from the mover of the motion but we have not been able to.

Finally, Madam Speaker since I still have the floor, I wish to say that the people - *(Interruption)*-

**Mr. Zein:** Thank you, Madam Speaker, and I would also like to thank the graciousness of the Secretary General for allowing me to give information.

Madam Speaker, maybe some of us are privileged to have seen the detailed justification for this motion and I think at some point, hon. Sebalu was requesting to read them and I think he didn't get the opportunity. Maybe if we had had that opportunity where he read the extended paper that has been accompanying this resolution, maybe we would have been in a better-informed position – *(interruption)* -

**The Speaker:** At an appropriate time, I will invite the mover of the motion – *(Interjection)* -

**Ms Nakawuki:** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I am concerned if the SG does not see the pertinence of this matter. Unless we are going to find a dictionary meaning of social cohesion, as far as I am concerned this is a way of improving neighbourliness or improving relations among countries.

Madam Speaker, personally I really see this as pertinent because I remember a scenario where when we were in Nairobi for sports I saw members of parliament from our Partner States not wanting even to share the hands of members of parliament from another state and yet this was a friendly match.

I heard members of parliament from a Partner State singing insulting songs during the match. This is all because of lack of social cohesion.

Madam Speaker, I am now talking about members of parliament. If even members of Parliament do not – (*Interruption*) -

**The Speaker:** Giving information.

**Ms Nakawuki:** I am going to summarise as much as possible but if even members of parliament cannot understand this, how about the people down there. So Madam Speaker, I feel it is important that we consider this as a policy because it will be a way forward for the integration process. I thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. SG. I want to assure you that hon. Dr Ndahiro is going to come back and give answers. Actually, one of the reasons why I was giving him opportunity for justification as exactly that but he thought that what had been read was adequate. For that matter, that is how I moved to invite other members to debate. Hon. Secretary General, you will get the answers.

**Dr. Sezibera:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. First, I thank the members who have risen on points of information. I think some of the points of information were points of debate but let me just be clear. First of all, it is not that the Secretary General does not understand the importance of social cohesion, no. I think that needs to be clear.

Secondly, it is not that the Secretary General does not understand what twinning is. Both I understand. What I don't understand, Madam Speaker is the link between the motion that this House is going to take and the resolution, and I think there is a lacuna there, which needs to be clarified; the motion and the resolution. The two are not in sync.

Madam Speaker, in the justification if I had had the opportunity to see the detailed justification as some of the other hon. members have, maybe I would have understood it better but I still have not an di said I have listened to the debate and I still have not understood clearly what it is that the House wants to do.

I suspect I am not the only one because a number of other members of this House at least those seated next to me were also having some difficulty.

**The Speaker:** At an appropriate time, I will give them chance to seek clarification.

**Dr. Sezibera:** I suspect I am not the only one who is having this difficulty. So Madam Speaker, I think we need to clarify what it is that the House would like to see, then we need to agree on how to do it. It would have been best if we had seen some kind of concept note, some kind of detailed background justification because this is something as your accounting officer, this is something that also has an effect on the way you spend your monies so it is not- Madam Speaker, I would urge the hon. members to understand that the concerns and requests for clarification are meant to make sure that this House does what it is supposed to do in the right way. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Assistant Minister for EAC Cooperation, Tanzania (Dr. Abdalla Sadaalla):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand to support what hon. SG has said but also I stand to chip in some of my ideas on social cohesion.

Madam Speaker, as the hon. Secretary General said, within the resolutions here we see the Council being urged to have a twinning policy but within the order Paper it says, 'and social cohesion policy'. Being a person from social welfare, I can understand the concept behind this and I commend hon. Ndahiro for bringing forward this type of motion.

It is a type of motion, which abides and respects the human rights principles, which is guided by our constitutions. It is a type of motion, which supports efforts of the EAC on preparing a protocol on gender, youth, and people living with disabilities so it is a good concept behind it and I commend him so much.

Also, I have to chip in some few words because I believe that having this type of guidance or policy will support so much on principles of social welfare by removing disabilities or at least minimising the disabilities towards the debilitating conditions.

I know that and Madam Speaker, this also includes an inclusions policy or strategy and how the disabled are going to be incorporated within society. It does not end there but ends up to the economic empowerment aspect of it. All these are there within the cohesion policies.

So I would just request- I was waiting as SG said for justification and I was to put a sixth recommendation on that. At least we have a concept paper within which there will be justifications so that the Council can incorporate and know-how of the involved people so that we can move forward on preparing this policy.

Madam Speaker, the second thing is that as it is said here, there is a point of marginalised groups. It appears in Article 120 but has never been defined yet as to whom they are. I am sorry but sometimes you can say that homosexuals are amongst the marginalised group so are we including in them within this policy or not?

So Madam Speaker, I think once we have this justification paper and I beg you to allow the mover to read the justification at least so that the Council could know where to take off and move forward. Thank you so much for giving me this opportunity.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much. I want to invite hon. Ndahiro now to offer clarifications and give the justification, which perhaps inadvertently he did not give although he had the floor.

**Dr. Ndahiro:** Madam Speaker, I think this was a very good intellectual exercise because everybody is trying to understand what is before him or her.

Hon. Speaker, the questions that are being raised are in the justification which I had wanted to be read before this august House and the confusion that is being discussed here will actually clear.

Social cohesion policy for East Africa is necessary because this is not an inter-state or Partner State issue, it is a people-relations issue, and it is a people-to-people relationship. It is

communities and one of the ways, mechanisms, or policies to make sure that we have a cohesive community is through programs and one of them is the twinning program but the objectives and the purpose are in the justification.

What I want to say is that as a Community that is trying to integrate, we need to build confidence among our communities. We need to let people to go and explore best practises. We need people to go and visit each other, we need people to sit and develop projects together that will help them move or develop further using their own resources.

So the justifications, Madam Speaker are there, the objectives and even the process and how it is going to be done, the procedure and everything is available. I would just like to ask for your permission such that hon. Mike Sebalu can go through the justification. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, Dr Ndahiro. Actually, when I invited you then, that is what I thought you were going to request, that hon. Sebalu to read the justification but when you sat down, I thought you were convinced. Hon. Sebalu.

**Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda):** Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Actually, I was ready to do that at an appropriate time. Nonetheless, it is never too late. I hope that by going through they will clear some of the areas that members have raised clarification about especially the corner where the clarification has become contagious, capturing a whole corner.

Madam Speaker, I want to proceed based on members appreciating that I am using a delegated mandate and from the onset, I want to beg your indulgence that you allow me to read the entire justification so that we don't lose meaning out of summarising it. So, I just want to beg that indulgence.

Madam Speaker, pursuant to provisions of Article 120 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community, the Partner States undertook to cooperate among themselves in the fields of social welfare to bring the people of East African Community together into interaction, cooperation, and eradication of all forms of discrimination.

The framework of social cohesion promotes friendship, cooperation, exchange of information and uplifts the wellbeing of the people. It also fosters integration and confidence building between communities and institutions in the Partner States.

The concept of social cohesion was popularised in the 1990s and this was at a time when the effects of globalisation unsettled communities across the world. However, a concern within the stability and integration of communities and societies dates back to the advent of industrialisation and urbanisation and the disruptive effects of the closely bonded and well integrated local community life. In the context of the East African region, it may be said that a concern with social cohesion dates even further back to the advent of colonialism and its disruptive and destructive effects of dispossession and exclusion on local communities and societies as well as the social upheavals this system spun.

The issue of social cohesion was pertinent throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the wake of the urbanisation and forced removals. Social cohesion is defined as the degree of social integration

and inclusion in the communities and societies and the extent to which mutual solidarity finds expression of itself among individuals and communities.

The concept of social cohesion is a very complex and multi-faceted covering many different kinds of social phenomenon but for the purpose of this resolution, we shall analyse the concept of social cohesion in the context of Partner States, citizens and institutions working together for the attainment of shared goals, designed and agreed upon to improve the living conditions of all.

This special relation is based on training programs between members of the East African Community and institutions in ventures of mutual interest.

Madam Speaker, in order to promote the objectives of the Community provided for under Article 120 of the Treaty as indicated above, the Partner States should cooperate in the following areas: training programs, exchange of good practices, improvement of wellbeing of the people and integration and confidence building among the people of the Community.

The term twinning means bringing people together, enhance friendship and solidarity. Twinning is not a personal affair between Partner States or governments. It is an institutionalised relationship between the people of twinning entities, built and maintained by the people and for the benefit of the people of both parties.

For instance, Nyagatare district in Rwanda may twin with Ngora district in Tanzania on the same project. Both project partners may commit themselves to work towards commonly agreed results in a joint project implementation process. The community should indicate from the outset that twinning projects and parties should focus on limited and well-defined institutional targets. These mandatory results can be an intermediate benchmark, which will constitute a specific criterion in relation to administrative capacity as long as there is a jointly agreed target. The specified target must be measurable and precise.

Madam Speaker, the general objective is to enhance mutual understanding and respect, socialisation and partnership for lasting development among EAC people and between them and the rest of the World.

The specific objectives of twinning programs are:

1. To strengthen bonds of friendship between a city/district in a given Partner State and the twinned city/district in another Partner State
2. To promote exchange programs/visits of persons in the same field between cities/districts, exchange material and information regarding different aspects of civic administration and also in the fields of culture
3. To encourage the establishment of links between different bodies of the society and trade associations in the twinned cities
4. To promote cooperation, respect, partnership and collaboration in development

5. To streamline the functional and working relations between institutions in the Partner States

In the EAC, twinning will help the citizens in better understanding of the integration objectives especially the goal of Political Federation. It will also contribute an East African Community identity, which we need so much to build as our single identity.

Madam Speaker, the procedure of twinning. This emphasises partnership. Twinning is a work model that emphasises partnership and cooperation among citizens and it is not a one way delivery of programs. Partnerships and cooperation are important factors in the integration process because different actors choose to work with each other for a long time.

The Community, in close collaboration with the Partner states forms a twinning mission concerning a specific group or institutions that need to cooperate. As the coordinating entities, the EAC Secretariat and the Partner States should make sure that the twinning projects are well coordinated by focusing on the benefits that such programs could bring to the twinning partners.

The structures of the twinning project are decided before hand and the lead partner has the overreaching responsibility in project execution and implementation.

Principles of twinning:

(a) Culture and Social Acquaintance

Madam Speaker, in the African context and culture, friendship is generally associated with experience sharing, exchange of best practices among communities and solidarity in both good and challenging times. In this context, each party is therefore obliged to have thorough knowledge of the other. Practice twinning is meant to entrench and consolidate friendship and cooperation between the twinned communities and people in the East African Community, which is emphasised through mutual support in solving problems that affect the concerned parties.

Twinning cannot therefore be taken as a bi-lateral cooperation but rather friendship manifested through people of both different communities working together to accomplish joint projects and programs.

In a more general term, twinning does not substitute bi-lateral or multi-lateral relations but it is rather a complementary approach. Besides, twinning as leads to friendship as indicated above, it could also improve the cooperation between the different cities/districts in the Community. For example if people from a district in Burundi twin with a party in Kenya then improvement in cooperation will start as soon as the implementation of the project begins.

(b) Information Exchange between Partners

Madam Speaker, building a healthy relationship in the East African people requires frequent and regular exchange of programs focusing on the best practices and exchange of news and information, field visits, socialising and working together. Enhancing friendship necessitates a

good socio-economic knowledge of the other parties, which can only be accumulated through information exchange.

### (c) Mutual Help

Building twinning programs between different entities in the EAC would be like cultivating social solidarity among the people of the East African Community with a common cause and goals complementing each other's needs and capacities. Such help can be intellectual, moral, social, material, or technical.

#### Benefits of twinning

Madam Speaker, the potential benefit of twinning between two or three includes the following:

##### 1. Capacity building

Promoting twinning and partnerships can help strengthen cities/districts involved through sharing or transfer of skills and knowledge. This can - in turn - lead to renewed country or the respective city's strategic development and innovation.

##### 2. Identification of best practices

Twinning practices provides opportunities to identify ideas, approaches, techniques, and methods that seem to have worked well in one country and which can be shared across and serve as inspiration for new mutual initiatives and help in the concerned Partner States avoid reinventing the wheel.

##### 3. Added value

Where the twinning and partnerships involve collaboration on a specific activity or project, it usually results in added value, more quality, and effectiveness in the implementation of the said activity.

##### 4. Broadening of horizons

Twinning helps people involved to broaden their views and to be outward looking to break down barriers, to understand the cultures of others, learn about their problems and how they solve them.

##### 5. Relationship building.

Twinning can help build strong relationships between countries/people of different institutions from various parts of the region. These relationships are one of the most important preconditions for lasting contacts and collaboration (sustainable contacts) and they can be drawn upon when wither of the twinning partners have a need which their partner can assist with or when opportunities arise for working together for instance in social projects.

##### 6. Networking.



Twinning can contribute to greater networking. For example when one district in Rwanda is involved in collaboration with another one in Burundi, the twinning partners are exposed to each other's existing local and regional networks. Networking can have wide and important perspectives for example in relation to investment, trade, social activities, technology transfer as well as employment.

Policy for successful twinning programs

Madam Speaker, the East African Community Secretariat, together with the Partner States shall coordinate all activities of twinning projects and programs for the purposes of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, with those justifications, on behalf of the mover I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, hon. Sebalu. Hon. Dr. Ndahiro, is there anything you wish to add?

**Dr. Ndahiro:** Hon. Speaker, unless I am told that there are some areas that are not clear otherwise I feel the justification is informative and I feel that the twinning policy being mentioned and the social cohesion policy are inter linked in a sense that if you want to call a twinning policy a mechanism or you want to change it the other way, that we can debate but twinning is there to implement or operationalize a social cohesion policy which can even touch other areas that are not included in the twinning program. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much. At this juncture, I will invite the Secretary General since he had...Chair, Council of Ministers.

**Mr. Shem Bageine:** Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. First of all I would like to thank the mover of this resolution, and also to state that the Council of Ministers would like to see social cohesion effected within our Community because if we don't do this then contrary to the statement that has often been made to the effect that the Community is people centred, will not be achieved and it will remain leadership centred.

I would like to suggest therefore that when we talk of social cohesion and explanations, which are being given, are centred on twinning; we are not covering every aspect of the provisions under Article 120. We are singling out twinning and we emphasise the policy but it will not be comprehensive because it is not covering the other aspects as detailed under Article 120. Is that what we want to do? Shall we go for twinning and we formulate that and conclude it and then the other aspects can be left out and we see how far we go?

But I must emphasise that there is definitely need for all of us to move forward and get the people of East Africa on board to understand what this Community is about, to relate to each other, to get to know the diversity of our cultures and social behaviours so that we can move away from the barriers that have kept us apart and move together as one entity.

So, I would like to request the mover to review the format in which this resolution has been coached so that we are together and we know we are going for twinning and nothing else. I thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, Chair, Council. I know hon. Dr. Ndahiro that you may have an opportunity where you can interface again either with the SG and the Council of Ministers and make sure that we get a much more comprehensive resolution which will help us. I can take hon. Mbidde quickly because we want now to move in that direction; pointing into the fate of the resolution. I don't want to put the question when we can actually work or improve on it.

**Mr. Fred Mukasa Mbidde (Uganda):** Madam Speaker, I am supporting the motion with an amendment, which I think, is the cause of the problems that are coming up from the Council of Ministers.

Madam Speaker, when you look at Article 120 on which the twinning proposition is being based, of course it is an article to do with majorly Partner States, it is not an Article to do with communities undertaking to do certain activities.

So my proposal for amendment would be that hon. Ndahiro based the motion on Article 5 and particularly Article 5(1) and 3(b) which is one, that the objectives of the Community shall be to develop policies and programs aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among the Partner States in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology but particularly 3(d), strengthening and consolidation of long standing political, economic, social, cultural and traditional ties and associations between the peoples of the Partner States so as to promote a people centred mutual development.

Madam Speaker, I am proposing that we base the motion, which has been justified entirely on Article 5. We can include Article 6 and 7 of the Treaty, which create a supposition to do so and of course the other protocols to which the East African Community Partner States are party.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much. I will take hon. Kimbisa but eventually I am inviting hon. Dr. Ndahiro to give us his view on this.

**Mr. Adam Kimbisa (Tanzania):** Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the floor. I am talking out of experience. I have been the CEO for the Red Cross and twinning in the name and order of the day. I have been the Mayor for the City of Dar-es-Salaam whereby we sometimes call it sister cities or sister societies or sister Red Cross etc.

Madam Speaker, twinning in this continent has been one sided. It has always been the South twinning with the North year in, year out whether it be Red Cross or cities. It has been very difficult to see a city in Africa to twin with another city in Africa. It has been increasingly difficult to see a Red Cross twinning with another Red Cross society within and among Africans and the reasons are obvious.

One of the reasons is that because twinning for us from the South is looking for funds, period. You don't twin with another poor person. Why? Because it is considered that culture is the same, the level of development is the same, empty pockets are the same. So, it is increasingly difficult to twin with one who has almost the same characteristics as you have and this has not been good at all.

I think this motion to me is timely to break that lop-sided kind of thinking that the only institution to twin with has to come from the North. This is sickly and not fair. So, we should reconsider this. Do we always have to twin for money? There are other aspects like those, which have been mentioned.

Madam Speaker, when I heard this motion I was also excited, I support the motion with amendments but actually we have to look critically that it is high time we start twinning between and among ourselves, as there are things we can share and there are things we can learn from each other. Much as our pockets might be empty but there are many things, we can learn from each other. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Ndahiro, I want you to give us direction because I think this motion needs to be crystallised so that we can take a decision in which direction it takes.

**Dr. Ndahiro:** Thank you, hon. Speaker. I feel that indeed it is important for the Community to have a social cohesion policy because this policy will cater for all other areas. There are many social areas that are not taken care of under the twinning program but it is important that this twinning project find themselves under a social cohesion policy of the Community.

Technically, I would appreciate that there are other provisions of the Treaty probably that could be considered to make it clearer but the resolution itself is not contradicting any Article of the Treaty and it is perfectly in line with Article 120 in a more focused way and in a broader sense because social welfare can mean a lot of things.

Rt. hon. Speaker, we were together in the Second EALA when we visited Rwakitura in the Republic of Uganda and His Excellency President Museveni showed us around and how people have managed to settle down; people who used to move around in accordance with the climate of the day.

If for instance we had a program to bring people who are still moving round and about in Northern Kenya to come and see how other cattle keepers have settled down, don't you think that is a beneficial program?

Hon. Speaker, I still urge this House to pass this resolution but I accept friendly amendments that will make it clearer. Thank you, hon. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much Dr Ndahiro. I think you have been able to clarify. There were amendments, which came from hon. Mbidde, and I think we will now be in position to take a decision when we are much more informed.

Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that the Assembly do resolve to urge the East African Community Council of Ministers to adopt a policy on social cohesion in the East African Community. I wish to out the question.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

### QUESTIONS FOR WRITTEN ANSWERS

**The Speaker:** Hon. Mulengani, can you formally ask for written answers to your question?

**Mr. Bernard Mulengani (Uganda):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. May Council respond to my question reference EALA/PQ/WA/3/01/2012?

*The East African region is blessed with suitable climate for agriculture production which gives leverage to a bigger population of East Africans to engage in agriculture to better their lives. Some of the produce is oriented towards survival needs of East Africans and those with greater commercial value are exported in their raw form to generate revenue. It is however observed that in its raw form, the produce fetches less than if semi or fully processed. Therefore:-*

- (a) Can the chairperson of the council inform this August House what the Council is doing to create linkages between agriculture and industry so as to process our produce?*
- (b) Could he further inform this August House of the steps whether the council is considering the prohibition of exports of agriculture products and minerals in their raw form?*
- (c) Could he also inform this August House of the steps being taken by the EAC to promote the processing of raw materials whether semi or fully processed, prior to being exported;*
- (d) Could he also give stock of agro-based industries in the region and what they process?*

**Mr. Bageine:** Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. Madam Speaker, I received through the Secretary General Communication from the Clerk via his letter of 6<sup>th</sup> November 2012 in which he submitted to Council questions for oral and written answers. Of these set of questions, all the questions for oral answers were answered in the last session held in December in Arusha.

Madam Speaker, what was not answered were three questions namely question reference number EALA/PQ/WA/3/01/2012, EALA/PQ/WA/3/02/2012 and EALA/PQ/WA/3/03/2012 and asked by hon. Bernard Mulengani. He requested for written answers.

Madam Speaker, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 21(2) of the rules of this House, the answer to any question requiring written answer shall be put before the House and shall be published in the official journal of the House.

Madam Speaker, I now have the pleasure to put before the House the written answers to the questions of hon. Mulengani cited above.

**Written Answer by the Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Shem Bageine):** Madam Speaker, the East African Community has in place guidance policies and instruments to guide development of value addition and agro-processing of agricultural produce in the region and provide for linkages and synergies between the agriculture and industrial sectors; namely the EAC Agriculture and Rural Development Policy AND Strategy, The EAC Food Security Action Plan and The EAC industrialization Policy and Strategy. Pursuant to implementation of the

above mentioned policies and instruments, the secretariat has since September 2012 been implementing a program called “East African Agri-Enterprises and Agro-industries Development Program” (E3ADP) with support from FAO. The main objective of this program is to increase capacity, performance and competitiveness of agro-industries and agri-business in the EAC region leading to income generation and reduction.

Furthermore the EAC Industrialization Policy Has Prioritized the promotion and development of six strategic namely agro-processing; mineral processing and iron & steel; petrochemical & gas processing; pharmaceuticals; energy & bio-fuels; and lastly fertilizers & agro-chemicals industries. These industries are critical for transformation of economies in the region including ensuring employment generation, poverty reduction, export expansion, creation of linkages among the various sectors and enhance intra-regional trade and production complementarities. Of particular importance in ensuring synergies and linkages between agriculture and industry is fertilizer production as agrochemical production.

Madam Speaker, regarding the second part of the question, the East African Community does not have in place a prohibition of agricultural product and minerals in their raw form as of now. The Community being a member of the global community and having embraced multilateral trade liberalization agenda within the framework of the World Trade Organization does not envisage taking action to ban exportation of products from the region or importation of the same from other countries except in circumstances where public health, security and order is at risk. Such an action would attract retaliation from EAC trading Partners to the detriment of the export sector which continues to play a significant role in foreign exchange earnings as well as employment creation. However, there is a need to put in place mechanisms to ensure that the exports of agricultural and mineral products are undertaken in forms that bring maximum returns for the region while ensuring that exportation contributes to domestic employment creation and linkages with the rest of the economy. Towards this end, the Community is in the process of preparing an industrialization bill which will among other things; seek to provide for local value added targets for agricultural and mineral raw materials before exportation.

Madam Speaker, on the last two parts of the question, I wish to inform this august House in the EAC region agro-based industries are mainly categorized into secondary and tertiary agro-processing industries. Secondary agro-processing industries entails increasing value and preservation of a commodity. The physical form such as in transformation of grinding, pressing, ginning, milling, cutting and mixing such as in transformation of paddy to rice, oilseed to oil, fruit to juice, milk to cheese, wheat to flour, fibre to fabric. while tertiary agro-processing

industries involve transformation of agro- products into highly differentiated product include baking, ultra heat treatment (UHT) weaving and extraction resulting into products such as bread and biscuits, ketchup and garments.

During the year 2007-2009 agro- industries percentage contribution to value added in the total manufactured value added in the EAC region was recorded as foods, beverages and tobacco 40%; textiles, apparel and leather 20%; wood and wood products 15%; and pulp, paper and packaging 5% (UNIDO 2010).

Agriculture value added contributes more than 80% of the total manufacturing in the EAC Region. However, only about 28% of the agricultural produce in the region is processed. Food processing for 40% of the value added by agro- industries, and about 30% of the total manufacturing in the region.

**QUESTION: EALA/PQ/3/02/2012(By Hon. Bernard Mulengani)**

*Regular issuance of work permits is a prerequisite for creating a conducive work environment. As such, the EAC which is an international organization is expected to be facilitated by host governments to effectively operate in accordance with respective headquarters agreements in line with immunities and privileges accorded to it from time to time by respective Partner States. It however, noted with concern that, there is a variance on how staff are treated in the different Partner States on these matters.*

*Can the Chairperson of the council therefore inform this august House:-*

- (a) Whether the council is aware of this problem and its overall impact on staff morale;*
- (b) Whether work permits could be issued in harmony with the duration of an employee's contract;*
- (c) Whether the council is considering harmonizing all headquarters agreements and immunities and privileges for all EAC organs and Institution whether at the headquarters in Arusha or in the Partner States;*
- (d) Whether, in respect of other categories of work permits, the rates in the region could be standardized. Could he further give the various work permit rates per Partner States?*

**Written Answer by the Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Shem Bageine):**

Madam Speaker, Partner States as sovereign authorities have been dealing with the issue of permits for EAC staff and other person in the employment of the Community differently in line with their relevant policies and laws.

The council is aware of the problem where by EAC staff is treated differently in terms of permit insurance. This causes frustration and demoralization. This practice is at variance with the provisions of the treaty for the establishment of the East African Community. Article 138(2) of the treaty states in part “The secretary General shall conclude with the government of the Partner States in whose territory the headquarters or offices of the Community shall be situated, agreements relating to the privileges and immunities to the recognized granted in connection with the community”.

Madam Speaker, In accordance with the provision of the Treaty of the Partner States is required to “accord to the Community and its officers the privileges accorded to similar International Organizations in its territory”. The Secretariat has made attempts to discuss this issue with the Partner States. The Secretariat has consulted with Senior Officials of The United of Tanzania where the majority of EAC staff are based, but the answer the Secretariat has been getting is that they still reviewing the issue of permits.

Madam Speaker, Work/Residence Permit fees are usually issued by Partner States based on the prevailing national laws and the endorsement usually ranges from one year – two years (Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Burundi). The Republic of Rwanda issues according to the duration of the contact but this also depends on the validity of the passport held by the applicant.

Madam Speaker, the EAC Secretariat is in the process of working out modalities to standardize the work/Residence permits fees charged by the Partner States as required under the EAC Common Market Protocol Regulation 6(9) on free movement of workers and regulation 6(5) on the right of residence. Currently the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda issue Work/ Residence permits free of charge to East Africans. The process of standardization will therefore apply to the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

The following is the prevailing rates for work/Residence Permits in the Partner States:-

### **Republic of Rwanda**

Work/ Residence permit are applied at the Directorate General of immigration and Emigration. The processing time is 1 to 3 working days depending on the class of permit.

All Classes of work/ resident permit are issued to EAC members free of charge.

Resident permit has 2 categories of permits that are temporary resident permit which has 18 classes with sub classes and permanent resident permit which has 06 classes.

### **Republic of Uganda**

All foreign employees must apply for work/ residence permits while outside Uganda;( can be allowed entry after approval or payment of their permits); relevant pages of their travel document i.e. Bio data page; covering letter for sponsoring agency embassy or organization; Letter of good conduct from Interpol in home country; A refundable Security Bond; Fees are paid through Uganda Revenue Authority and banks.

The following table indicates the classes of work/ Residence Permits:-

Class	Description		Class	Description
A1	Government and diplomatic service		E	Manufactures
A2	Government Contractors		F	Professionals
B	Investment in Agriculture		G1	Volunteers, NGOs, Missionaries
C	Mining		G2	Employees
D	Business and trade			

### **Work Permits/ Residence Permit Fees**

Class	Fees(US \$)	Class	Fees(US \$)
A1	Gratis	E	1000
A2	250	F	750
B	500	G1	250



C	500	G2	600
D	1500	DP(Marriage)	200
CR(Life)	1000	DP(Child)	100
CR(AGE)	250	Student Pass	100
Appeal	500		

### Republic of Burundi

A work permit is offered by the orientation commission created by Ministerial Ordinance. It issued by the Director of labor inspection.

Work Permits are issued for a period of two years to foreigner with particular technical skills; for a period of five years to refugees and stateless individual officially recognized as such by competent officials and foreigners residing in Burundi for at least 20 years and permanently to foreigners born and living in Burundi, s well as those married to a Burundian national residing in Burundi having kept the National of the country of the country of origin.

Resident permits fees

Three categories of establishment visas currently exist:

Visa:	Validity:	Fees
per Year (US\$)		

Visa for establishment:	2years	500
Undetermined Visa:	Undetermined period	600
Permanent residence:	Undetermined period	1200

### Republic of Kenya

Work/ Residence Permits in Kenya are handled by the Department of Immigration which operates under the constitution of Kenya, Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act No. 12, 2011, Kenya Gazette supplement Notice No. 63 of 15<sup>th</sup> June 2012 on Immigration Regulations.

Work Permits are issued free – 100% gratis to applicant from the EAC Community member states citizens.

Kenya has classes of work/ residence permits.

**The United Republic of Tanzania**  
**Tanzania (Mainland)**

The united Republic of Tanzania four classes of work/Residence permit (A-D). Current Tanzania is charging US\$ 1,500 for a work permit for a period of two years.

**Zanzibar**

Under the Employment Act No II of 2005 the labour commission has the mandate to issue work permits for the foreign employees employed in Zanzibar.

There are two types of work permits:

- Long term works permits valid for between six to twelve months.
- Short term work permits valid for less than six months.

Fees for the 6-12 months are us\$ 145 and for less than six months is US\$ 75.

Madam Speaker, It is the intention of the council of Ministers to harmonize all headquarters agreements for purposes of ensuring:

- a) Uniformity and a common platform in the partner state' granting of such privileges and immunities as pertain to the East African Community; and
- b) That each partner state lives to this under the treaty to accord the community and its officers the same privileges and immunities as are accorded to similar international organizations in that Partner State's territory.

In Oder to realize this objective the council of Ministers has seen to the partner states negotiation of an EAC Protocol on Immunities and Privileges. This protocol which provides for immunities and privileges for persons in the service of the Community; Immunities and privileges for experts serving on community missions; tax exemptions; inviolability of the community, its property and assets, among other features was approved by the Summit of heads of State on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011. This protocol await signature by the Ministers Responsible for Foreign Affairs. Once signed and brought into force, this protocol will ensure a harmonized approach in the implementation of Article 138 of the Treaty. The Protocol will be the common basis for the conclusion of all headquarters agreements.

Madam Speaker, Once the protocol on Immunities and Privileges is approved by the council and ratified by the National Parliaments in Partner States, it is expected that its implementation will make it possible for partner States to harmonize their policies and laws governing Immunities and including permit issuance periods.

Madam Speaker, as is the case with Work permit period which is based on the different laws in Partner States, the permit rates charged also differ in the region. Standardization of these rates will depend on the harmonization of existing laws and policies among Partner States.

(III)

**EALA/PQ/WA/3/03/2012(By Hon. Bernard Mulengani)**

*The sharing of cost and benefits is crucial to the EAC integration process*

- a) *Could the Chairperson of the Council inform this August House whether there are well laid down procedures to ensure equitable distribution of costs and of the benefits of the community as stipulated in Article 6 (e) of the Treaty;*
- b) *What are criteria for sharing of the cost and benefits, if any;*
- c) *Have there been circumstances under which costs have arisen and how they have been shared;*
- d) *What is the current distribution of benefits by Sector, if already compiled?*

Madam Speaker, It is true the sharing of cost and benefits is crucial to the EAC integration process.

I wish to inform this august House that –

- a) As of now there are no laid down procedures to ensure equitable distribution of costs and benefits of the Community, and the same will be subject of an outcome of a study on cost and Benefits of EAC integration to be undertaken during the year 2013. The Terms of Reference for this study have been adopted by Council, funds to undertake the study have

been provided in the Budget of the financial year 2012/2013. The procurement of a consultant is ongoing;

- b) The criteria will be decided upon following outcome of the same study;
- c) In response to the question on circumstances under which cost have been arisen and how they have been shared, this is subject to the outcome of the study;
- d) On the current distribution of benefits by sector, no such comprehensive study has been undertaken. The outcome of the upcoming study in 2013 will provide light on the way forward with respect to distribution of benefits by sector.

Madam Speaker, even though responses to specific questions above await outcome of the study on sharing of Costs and Benefits, I wish to inform this august House that:

- (a) There are benefits from integration such as risks together at regional level and lowering costs of borrowing for regional project;
- (b) There are benefits from economies of scale arising out of a large market as well as promoting an efficient allocation of resources, Competition and quality of goods and services; and
- (c) In the short and medium term, imbalances are likely to occur when at the stage of joining; the Partner States are at different levels of industrialization. However, in the long term, there should be an equitable sharing of costs and benefits. It is during the short and medium run that a mechanism of equitable sharing of cost and be established.

Madam speaker, I wish to further inform this august House that at its 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2012, the Council of Ministers directed that save for self-accounting EAC Institutions, the East African Legislative Assembly, and the East African Court of Justice, statutory/ policy and technical meetings for Organs and Institutions of the EAC should rotate and be shared between Headquarters and Partner States on a ratio 50/50 basis; subject to further review and finalization of the study on Equitable sharing of the Costs AND Benefits of the Community.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much, Chairperson of Council. Certainly according to our rules, the Clerk will circulate these answers. We will first and foremost give them to the person who raised the questions and then circulate them to the members for both information and perhaps further actions if there are any.

Hon. Members, with that item number four on the Order Paper, we come to the end of business today. However before I adjourn, allow me to remind you of three very important activities which we are going to undertake and beg your indulgence that we take very serious participation in them.

The first is the dinner tonight by the R thon. Speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi and I invite you all to be present. The venue is Hotel Royal Palm Resort. The Sergeant-at-Arms will make the necessary preparations so that all of us are there. The time is 6.30 p.m.

The second one is the dinner hosted by the Minister of East African Community of the Republic of Burundi. The venue is Club de Luc, Tanganyika and the time is 7.00 p.m. tomorrow Friday. All of you are requested to grace this very important dinner by your presence.

The third one is very important. On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2013, we are going to join His Excellency the President to participate in communal work but also following on our resolution in this House. After the debate on the Committee of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Tourism, we agreed that we would also participate in tree planting. *(Applause)*

I wish to announce that these two activities are going to take place together on Saturday, 26 January 2013, and I want to invite you all to converge here at the Kigobe Palace - as it is named - at 7.45 a.m. for us to be able to depart by 8.00 a.m. to Bubanza Province and we are going to be joined by His Excellency the President where development works will be executed. After that, we shall begin our very first program of beginning of the tree planting activity.

So I want to invite you that Saturday all of us come in those clothes which can effectively do community work and we shall be able to support our brothers and citizenry of Burundi in that very important exercise. The Office of the Clerk will circulate the details of the program to you.

With those very few remarks but very important announcements, I wish to adjourn the House to Tuesday 2.30 p.m. in this plenary Chamber hall.

The House stands adjourned.

*(The House rose at 5:00 p. m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 29 January 2013 at 2.30 p.m.)*