



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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141ST SITTING – THIRD ASSEMBLY: FIRST MEETING– FIFTH SESSION

Wednesday, 24 August 2016

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:30 p.m. in the Chamber of the Assembly, EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

PRAYER

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

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable members, as a point of reminder, you will remember that last evening I announced that there would be a meeting of captains and managers of the different sports disciplines this evening after plenary.

Because of that, I intend not to take the plenary sitting of today to very late. I intend to adjourn at about 5.30 p.m. to give an hour or two for the sports teams to meet. I thank you so much.

PAPERS

Ms Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay on the Table the report of EALA committees on the sensitisation activities in EAC Partner States

with the theme, “EAC integration agenda: assessing the gains”. I beg to lay.

REPORT OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON THE SECOND SENSITISATION ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN THE PARTNER STATES

MOTION

Ms Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move that the report of the East African Legislative Assembly on the second sensitisation activities conducted from 9-28 June 2016 in Partner States be adopted. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconders? I will pick hon. Pareno and hon. Maryam and all the members of this Assembly because this is your report. Proceed, hon. Patricia. Procedure?

Mr Ogle: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Going by the previous report on this sensitisation and having had a very quick scan on this particular one, what emerges out of this so-called sensitisation reports are an emphasis on very parochial national issues and we are supposed to be representative of East Africa.

What has been happening amongst the respective chapters is that they go to their organisations and talk about the interests of their own countries and I think it is not weaving and tying the whole idea of East Africanness.

In that regard, I think there is need for this report not to be read at all until we sort out those issues. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Ogle. Honourable members, hon. Ogle is putting the cart before the horse. He started to debate the report before it is tabled so his procedural point is not well procedurally put. Hon. Patricia, proceed.

Ms Hajabakiga: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to comment on what hon. Ogle said because I hope he will raise it and we can debate it at an appropriate time.

Mr Speaker, if you look at the report, I am not going to go through part one because it is a repetition of what we did in the first phase. It is just a background and the background is the same. I will go straight away to the findings, which are found on page six under 2.4.

The Republic of Burundi. In Burundi, the following members participated in –
(*Interruption*) -

The Speaker: Hon. Patricia, unless the clerk helps us, I think it is important for our records

that particularly the objectives of this sensitisation are properly enumerated that formed the basis of the activities and therefore the findings.

Therefore, I beg for your indulgence that you may have to begin from (2). Thank you.

Ms Hajabakiga: Thank you, I am obliged, Mr Speaker. I will start from 2.1 on the objectives of the sensitisation.

2.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE SENSITIZATION

- (i) To sensitize the people of East Africa on the integration process;
- (ii) To create awareness among the people of East Africa on the gains and challenges of integration;
- (iii) To Enhance mutual relationships and sustainable networking between EALA and the people of East Africa;
- (iv) To promote liaison with EAC National Assemblies and Key Stakeholders;
- (v) To inform the people of East Africa on the role of EALA in the integration process;
- (vi) To get the feedback and recommendations on the integration.

2.2 METHODOLOGY OF THE SENSITISATION

The EALA delegations employed the following approaches while undertaking the sensitization activities;

- (i) Held planning meetings to deliberate on the modalities of the how and where to conduct the sensitization;

- (ii) Held press conferences to inform the public on the objectives of the sensitization;
- (iii) Held discussion with different media houses on the EAC Integration;
- (iv) Distributed brochures on the EAC Integration process, and handed over various materials like EAC Flag and Anthem to the Stakeholders;
- (v) Conducted interactive sessions with the Parliamentarians, Local Government Authorities, Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector, Youth and Women Councils, Persons with Disabilities among other stakeholders;
- (vi) Conducted sensitisation programs in the Higher Learning Institutions;
- (vii) Conducted field visits;
- (viii) Made courtesy call different dignitaries and held roundtable meetings.

2.2.1 Stakeholders of the Sensitization

During the sensitization program, The EALA Country Chapters engaged the following stakeholders: Media, Local Government Authorities, Institutions of learning, Private Sector, Women and Youth Councils, Civil Society, Members of Parliament, Embassies, Border Communities, Government Institutions, High Level dignitaries in Government, Ministries including Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs in all Partner States coordinated this activity to identify and access the target stakeholders.

2.3 EXPECTED OUTCOMES OF THE SENSITIZATION

- (i) Sensitization of EAC people on the overall integration process;

- (ii) Promotion of liaison with EAC National Assemblies and Key Stakeholders;
- (iii) Creation of awareness among the people of East Africa on the gains and challenges of integration;
- (iv) Enhancement of mutual relationships and sustainable networking between EALA and the people of East Africa;
- (v) Informed people of EAC on the role of EALA in the integration process.

2.4 FINDINGS OF THE SENSITIZATION

2.4.1 BURUNDI

In Burundi, the following Members participated in the sensitization activities:

Late Hon. Hafsa Mossi -Leader of Delegation, Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo, Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye, Hon. Emerence Bucumi, Hon. Nengo Emmanuel, and Ms. Beatrice Ndayizeye - Secretary to the Delegation.

(a) Courtesy call on the Rt. Hon. President of the Burundi Senate

The Rt. Hon Speaker of the Burundi Senate appreciated the visit and Members congratulated him on his recent election. They briefed him on EALA activities in general and in particular the sensitization program. During the interaction, the Hon. Speaker of the senate raised three main points:

- (i) The need to fast-track negotiations on Monetary Union;
- (ii) The need for Burundians to change their mind-set and look for opportunities in EAC; and,

(iii) Encouragement of sports activities between EAC Partner States.

(b) Courtesy call on the Minister at the president's office in charge of EAC Affairs

Members reported on issues raised by stakeholders to the Minister in charge of EAC Affairs, and she expressed gratitude to EALA Members for the continuous sensitization program. The Minister further acknowledged that there is tremendous improvement on information sharing on EAC integration with the media, business communities and other stakeholders.

(c) Courtesy call on the Minister of Justice

The Minister appreciated the visit by EALA delegation to get information on the progress on the integration process especially with regard to harmonization of laws. At the meeting, the following are issues raised:

- (i) Lack of a harmonization Commission in the ministry;
- (ii) The need to receive from EALA a compendium of all EAC enacted laws;
- (i) The need for capacity-building on harmonization for all technical teams going for negotiations in EAC and those in charge of harmonization;
- (ii) The need for EAC teams from all ministries to be held accountable whenever they are nominated to attend EAC meetings, and they should report to other stakeholders;
- (iii) The urgent need to harmonize laws not to hamper EAC integration process.

(d) Interactive session with the Media

A press statement preceded this interaction by the chair of the EALA delegation. The following media houses were present: Burundi National Radio and Television, National Radio, Nderagakura Radio, Radio culture, Isanganiro Radio, Burundian Press Agency, Renouveau newspaper, Studio Ijambo, Ubumwe newspaper, Radio REMA FM, Voice of America, IWACU newspaper, Burundi Echo, ABP Info Newspaper, and CCIB FM+

Members focused on the role of media in the integration process; they also briefed them on the works of EALA during the May session, 2016 as a response to their request during the previous phase of sensitization. They also exchanged views on access to information.

(e) Courtesy call on the Minister of Youth, Sports and Culture

After a presentation by Members on the gains of integration on the youth sector like employment opportunities gained through the free movements offered by the Common Market Protocol and EAC Projects and Programs, the following observations came out:

- (i) There are diverse cultures that need to be preserved by the people to market the EAC;
- (ii) Youth sensitization program on integration should be undertaken;
- (iii) The need for youth to open-up and change mind-set to reap the benefits of integration;
- (iv) The need for youth to put more efforts in learning the English language to be competitive at regional level.

(f) Courtesy calls on EAC Ambassadors in Burundi

i. Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya

EALA Members paid a courtesy call on the Ambassador to encourage him to enhance their Forum to support the regional integration.

The Ambassador commended the work of EALA Members and thanked them for associating him to the integration. He raised the following issues:

- (i) Due to EAC Common Market Protocol implementation, cross border investments and movement of people, services and capital have been realised among the EAC Partner States. For example, a number of Kenyan business people have invested in Burundi, while Burundi students are studying in Kenya. Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB) is one of the investors in Burundi and it employs more than 150 Burundians;
- (ii) The ambassador urged Burundians to do more efforts in learning the English language to integrate well in the EAC region;
- (iii) He recommended Burundians to open-up and start exporting their products in EAC countries; these are among others, palm oil and fruits;
- (iv) He commended security recovery in Burundi and condemned some media which continue to portray on the country negatively; media should market their country and report it positively;
- (v) He promised to report back to his government complaints raised by

transporters through EALA Members on fees paid in counties;

- (vi) He further said that in the spirit of integration, he invited EALA Members to the second round of a competition termed "run for peace" scheduled for August 2016 in which MPs from Kenya and Burundi together with other stakeholders will participate

ii. Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania

EALA Members paid a courtesy call on Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania in Burundi to inform him on the sensitization being undertaken and to inform him on some challenges raised by Burundian stakeholders with regard to the regional integration. In this regard, the following were discussed:

- (i) Enhancement the EAC Ambassadors' Forum;
- (ii) A follow-up on challenges faced by Burundians who use the Central Corridor;
- (iii) A reduction of weighbridges on the Central Corridor to only three;
- (iv) The Ambassador committed to follow-up to ensure Non-tariff barriers are removed;
- (v) The Ambassador appreciated the current security situation in Burundi and assured those who need to do business to come and invest.
- (g) Interaction with the National Women 's Forum

The National Women's Forum is a National women's Platform made of women from different backgrounds for purposes of empowerment.

EALA Members met with the National Committee of the forum and the interaction focused on the gains of integration particularly those offered by the Common market and Customs Union Protocols in order to promote EAC intra-trade and good neighbourliness. The following issues were raised:

- (i) Little knowledge about regional integration and its gains;
 - (ii) Little knowledge of laws facilitating doing business across borders;
 - (iii) Need to start interacting with other Women's Fora from EAC Partner States to learn from each other;
 - (iv) There is a need for the girl child education so that they can participate in EAC integration;
 - (v) The Forum noted that children's adoption in EAC is a serious issue that needs attention.
- (h) Interactive session with university students and Lecturers.**

The interaction brought together more than 600 participants including Academicians, Students, and staff members.

After a presentation by the Members, the audience made the following observations:

- (i) They wish to see tangible gains resulting from the membership of Burundi in EAC with regards to education opportunities and employment;

- (ii) They needed more clarification on harmonization of school fees and asked if Burundians are treated as nationals of EAC Partner States;

- (iii) Their questions were related to seeking clarification on how regional laws take precedence over national laws, to knowing if the interconnectivity between Partner States will be free, the concern around the monetary union, knowing what is done to facilitate the youth's initiatives (projects) to start being competitive;

- (iv) The EAC tourist visa should be effective to allow Burundians benefit from it as the country has much to offer;

- (v) Stakeholders appreciated Members of EALA because they did not know much about EAC integration before the sensitization activity;

- (vi) The leadership of the university requested to be given all available information/documentation on EAC to relay it to the students;

- (vii) Students needed to know how the Community handles disputes between EAC Partner States, how the Community fights against pollution and how creativity is protected in the region;

- (viii) There should be free movement of academicians through professional Networks between Universities in the region.

- (i) Field Visit to Rumonge Port and Manyovu Border post between Burundi and Tanzania**

- i. Field visit to Rumonge Port

Rumonge port is port on Lake Tanganyika, which facilitates small traders from Burundi, Tanzania and the Democratic Republic of Congo to do business. The exchange with traders focused on how they are benefiting in the context of the Common Market. While interacting with the small business communities found at the port, the following came out:

- (i) Burundi exports beer, forest products like timber and fruits to these Countries;
- (ii) Burundi imports from Tanzania salt, fish, maize, onions and beans;
- (iii) Traders are facilitated to cross the border;
- (iv) Traders portrayed ignorance of regional laws while transacting their businesses.

(j) Field visit in Mabanda/Manyovu border post

EALA Members undertook a field visit in Mabanda to assess the movement of people and to assess how they are facilitated when crossing the border to Tanzania.

Burundians who were travelling to Tanzania appreciate good neighbourliness between the two countries whereby they use identity cards to cross the border.

The only challenge raised was the time zone challenge, which does not facilitate travellers from both sides.

2.4.2 Specific Observations

From the interactive sessions with stakeholders, the Members of EALA observed the following:

- (i) Burundians need to open – up, change their mind-set and start to travel in EAC Partner States to assess opportunities and start engaging in entrepreneurship;
- (ii) Students are very enthusiastic about being part of a big Community and want the EAC Passport to be operational as soon as possible;
- (iii) There is need for a regular update by Ministry in charge of EAC Affairs to the Ministry of Justice on laws being enacted at regional level.

2.4.3 Specific Recommendations

- (i) The East African Legislative Assembly should follow up on discrimination done towards Burundian travellers when they are crossing borders and requested to pay in foreign currency;
- (ii) EAC should avail to the Ministry of Justice a compendium of all EAC Acts;
- (iii) Burundi should adhere to one tourist visa;
- (iv) EALA Chapter should regularly update the Ministry of Justice on EAC Laws;
- (v) Urge the government of Burundi to do more sensitization on regional integration to allow citizens fully understand it and benefit from opportunities it offers;
- (vi) Urge the Government of Burundi to harmonize laws related to implementation of the Common Market Protocol;
- (vii) Urge the EAC Partner States to fully implement the Common Market Protocol;

(viii) Urge the Council of Ministers to fast-track the decision of Summit to consider French as one of the official language of the Community;

(ix) Recommend the media and schools to teach the EAC anthem to citizens of Burundi.

2.4.2 KENYA

The EALA Sensitization activity was undertaken by a delegation which comprised of the following Members; Hon. Nancy Abisai- Leader of Delegation, Hon. AbuBakr Ogle, Hon. Abubakar Zein Abubakar, Hon. Judith Pareno, Hon. Sara T. Bonaya, Hon. Mumbi Ng'aru, Hon. Saoli Ole Nkanae, Hon. Peter M. Mathuki, Hon. Joseph O. Kiangoi, Hon. Jeremie Ngendakumana, Hon Yves Nsabimana, and Ms. Elizabeth Gitonga – Secretary to the Delegation. This delegation engaged various stakeholders where observations and recommendations emerged:

(a) BIDCO Africa

Members visited and interacted with BIDCO Africa about the EAC integration and its benefits. BIDCO Africa is a multinational manufacturing company of consumer goods based Kenya with subsidiaries and distributorships across 16 countries in East Africa, Central Africa, and Southern Africa, and it employs over 6,000 employees in Kenya and approximately 10,000 within the region. During the interaction, the following issues were highlighted:

1) It was observed that 25% import duty is imposed by the EAC Partner States because of lack of understanding, or misinterpretation of the application of the Rules of Origin. The EAC Rule of Origin 2015 states that only material sourced locally will be deemed as origin status.

However Partner States fail to appreciate that BIDCO Africa procures oil seeds (soya beans, sunflower seeds and maize germ) which are under different tariff headings.

Recommendations:

In light of equitable fair play and the spirit of East African Community, BIDCO recommends:

(i) *EAC should consider amending the Rules of Origin to include Sub-headings (the first six digits of Tariff classification), and include more than 30% local value addition to qualify for preferential trade treatment within the EAC Partner States; and,*

(ii) *There should be a proper cross verification by local revenue authorities to confirm origination and should be accepted as evidence and proof to gain a preferential Trade treatment. The certificate of origin issued by a Partner State should be sufficient for preferential treatment.*

2) The EAC Region operates under a Customs Union Protocol yet each Country has deployed its own IT infrastructure to manage imports and exports into their Country as follows: Kenya uses the Simba system, Tanzania is operating on Tancis whereas Uganda and Rwanda are using the Asycuda system. These different systems lead to delays in the clearing of goods and turnaround time. Further logistics are disrupted and demurrages cost incurred by the business communities.

Recommendation:

The EAC should implement a single system across the Partner States such that communication between the systems and procedures are unified and harmonized.

- 3) Weak administration due to inadequate staff to process documents.

Recommendations:

- (i) EAC Partner States should ensure their revenue authorities work as one team and are able to undertake cross verifications.*
- (ii) The EAC Single Customs Territory (SCT) should automate the entire process thereby eliminating any delays through human discretion.*
- (iii) Harmonization of rules and regulations between the Partner States;*
- (iv) Removal of any other statutory licenses, fees, Levies or other charges imposed by Partner States;*
- (v) Commit Partner States to ensure cargo is released within 24 hours of documents presented for export;*
- (vi) Single window service for all documents (certificate of origin, import/export entry, release order, exit note and cargo manifest); and*
- (vii) Simplify endorsement of export/import entries at the border points and ports.*
- (i) Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Services (KEPHIS)**

Members of EALA visited and interacted with the Kenya Plant Health Inspectorate Service (KEPHIS), and highlighted the EAC integration process and its benefits to the people of EAC. KEPHIS is a government

parastatal whose responsibility is to assure the quality of agricultural inputs and produce to prevent adverse impact on the economy, the environment and human health.

It was observed that KEPHIS plays the following roles; Prevents introduction of harmful foreign pests and diseases from affecting plants; Grades and inspects agricultural products to ensure that they conform to the law; Seed certification and sensitisation of farmers to ensure that they get more produce from seeds; Offer advisory service; imported plants are quarantined and risk assessment is carried out; and surveillance for plant diseases.

It was also observed on the other hand that KEPHIS faces the following challenges;-

- (i) Insufficient number of staff at border and entry points;
- (ii) Lack of a method to relay information on confiscated items;
- (iii) Non-regulated informal trade/traders;
- (iv) Non designated entry points;
- (v) Different country border regulations on operations;
- (vi) Differences in the level of enforcement and application of the EAC Sanitary and Phyto-Sanitary measures
- (vii) Insufficient budgetary allocation;
- (viii) Insecurity; and
- (ix) Insufficient staff/inspectors.

(j) Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS)

Members held interactive session with KEBS where they were informed that it started its operations on 12th July 1975, and is mandated for Standardization Services, Conformity Assessment Services, Metrology, Training, and Education. Members were further informed that standards are used to facilitate trade, protect consumers from harmful and poor quality goods and to protect the environment.

During the interactions, Members noted that KEBS faces various challenges as follows;

- (i) Inadequate in-house testing capacity and capability;
- (ii) Non application of East African Standards (EAS) where they exist by other Partner states thus denying Kenya goods certified against EAS market access;
- (iii) Lack of Harmonized East African Standards (EAS) for some products e.g. Motor vehicles (Mainly imports);
- (iv) Slow pace of harmonization and regular review of East African Standards (EAS);
- (v) Some Partner States introducing additional requirements for example TFDA sometimes not recognizing the quality mark;
- (vi) Surveillance testing of products in the market and sharing the outcome;
- (vii) System integration for clearing of goods at the borders; and
- (viii) Lack of a common platform for sharing certification data.
- (ix) Slow pace of harmonization of Standards within the EAC.

EAC Standards Management Committee (SMC), under support from TMEA has developed a draft-revised procedure for harmonization and the East African Standards Committee will present this for approval within the first quarter of 2016/17.

Section 24(2) of the EAC SQMT ACT requires that Partner States shall recognise quality marks issued by partner states as equal to their own. The requirement in section 24(2) is meant to facilitate free movement of goods and envisages no retesting of certified products except for post market surveillance purposes.

Members were informed that United Republic of Tanzania is subjecting certified products from the community to pre-marketing surveillance contrary to the provisions of Section 24(2) of the EAC SQMT ACT. This action has been admitted as an NTB and listed in the EAC time-bound program for NTBs.

EAC Sectoral Council on Trade, Industry, Finance and Investment (SCTIFI) Meeting of May 2016 directed United Republic of Tanzania (URT) to consult on the requirement by Tanzania Food and Drug Authority (TFDA) requiring companies exporting to URT to register, re-label, and re-testing of certified products from EAC partner states and report in the next meeting of SCTIFI in November 2016.

SCTIFI also directed EAC Partner States to initiate bilateral resolution mechanism and KEBS has in this regard requested for meeting with TFDA in July 2016.

It further emerged that funding of harmonization meetings is still a challenge for Partner States. However it was recommended that;-

- (i) EALA is requested to use its global networks to attract development partners to fund standards harmonization activities.
- (ii) The East African Standards Committee (EASC) has urged EAC Partner States to have a budget line for harmonization activities.

(k) KENYA CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY

Members carried out the sensitization session with the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority on the EAC integration and benefits, at the same time members were briefed about:

- (i) The mandate of the Kenya Civil Aviation Authority as to promote development of a safe, secure and sustainable aviation industry in the Country and Region as a whole.
- (ii) Compliance Audits, where Partner States audited for safety and aviation security by ICAO for compliance, and how the Audits establish the effectiveness of the regulatory oversight provided by KCAA.

On the other hand, members were informed about the challenges that are faced by KCAA as follows;

- (i) High cost of attracting and retaining qualified flight safety inspectors;
- (ii) Restrictive employment conditions based on Public Service pay structure;
- (iii) High cost of training safety inspectors;
- (iv) Incompatible land uses around aerodromes; and

- (v) Common framework for air transport liberalization within the EAC.

(l) CAPITAL MARKETS AUTHORITY

Members engaged with Kenya Capital Markets Authority where they highlighted the EAC Pillars of integration, achievements made so far, benefits of integration, as well as challenges involved, together with future expectations:

On the other hand, Members were also briefed on the mandate of the capital markets in the EAC integration process as follows:

It was noted that the Customs Union improves the competitiveness of the industrial sector so as to enhance the expansion of trade in industrial goods within the Community through increased financing options within the capital markets fostering the overall socio-economic development in the Partner States;

It was further noted that the Common Market Protocol facilitates cross border trading systems and harmonizing regulatory requirements to increase regional liquidity;

It was observed that the Monetary Union would ensure that a single currency would facilitate retail and institutional movement and trading of securities at reduced cost;

It was further observed that the Political Federation, through collaborative capital markets efforts economies of scale and scope and increased synergies at all levels.

Highlights of EAC Treaty on Capital Markets.

It was pointed out that Article 80 of the Treaty provides for:

- (i) harmonisation of capital market policies;
- (ii) harmonisation regional legal frameworks;
- (iii) co-operation of three exchanges;
- (iv) promotion cross border listings, trading; and
- (v) Development of a regional rating system.

Article 85 as well provides for implementation of Capital Market Development Program and creation of conducive environment for the movement of capital within the Community. While Article 86 provides for development, harmonization and integration of financial systems.

It was further observed that, in terms of market capitalization in East Africa for the second quarter, Kenya has the highest market capitalization with USD 20.43 billion. It is followed by Tanzania with a market capitalization of USD 9.98 billion. Finally, Uganda comes in third with a market capitalization of USD 7.05 billion. Rwanda's end period market capitalization is at USD 3.62 billion as at June 2016.

Expected Benefits of Capital Markets Integration in the EAC

Members were also informed about the expected benefits of Capital Markets Integration as follows:

- (i) Lower prices for all financial services;
- (ii) More efficient, more liquid, and broader securities markets;
- (iii) Innovative Financial Products and Services;

- (iv) An industrial transformation of all sectors of the capital markets industry;
- (v) Cheaper financing for companies, given lower transaction costs;
- (vi) More efficient allocation of Capital;
- (vii) Higher returns on investments given lower transaction costs; and,
- (viii) Enhanced risk-return frontiers for investors who previously faced restricted opportunities, but who can diversify their investments to a greater extent.

2.4.3 RWANDA

The sensitization activity in Rwanda was carried out by the delegation, which comprised of the following members: Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga - Leader of Delegation, Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, Hon. Dr. James Ndahiro, Hon. Xavier Francois Kalinda, Hon. Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo, Hon. Pierre Celestin Rwigema, Hon. Martin Ngoga, Hon. Straton Ndikuryayo, Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza, and Mr. Enock Musiime Secretary to the delegation.

In a bid to undertake the sensitization successfully, the delegation performed various activities and engaged various stakeholders where observations and recommendations emerged:

- (a) Press Release.

The EALA Rwandan Delegation released a press statement on 10th June 2016 at the Ministry of East African Affairs in Kigali. The statement notified the press of its presence in Rwanda for the resumption of its outreach and sensitization programme about the EAC integration. Arising out of the press conference, the following issues were observed:

- (i) Limited awareness about the opportunities provided by the EAC integration by most of the Rwandan private sector. That Rwandans are not aggressive to tap integration opportunities in other Partner States;
- (ii) The role of EALA and East African Community in general in addressing the political instability in Burundi;
- (iii) Members of press highlighted on the fact that EAC integration should minimize imports since it has great potential for producing imported goods locally;
- (iv) Strategies at a regional level to combat corruption tendencies in the Community;
- (v) The press members profoundly appreciated the EALA Members the support and solidarity shown towards the commemoration activities of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi.
- (vi) Interaction with the National Council of the Persons with Disabilities

EALA held meeting with the National Council of Persons with Disabilities (NCPD), in attendance was Honourable State Minister of Local government, Members of Parliament representing the PWDs in the Chamber of Deputies, the Secretary General of the national council of persons with disabilities and all representatives from district to cell level in charge of disability desks.

At the meeting, EALA highlighted on the four pillars of EAC integration process notably, Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and ultimately Political Federation.

Members further informed the meeting that the Assembly passed the East African

Community Persons with Disability Bill 2015 in May 2016, and the bill is undergoing accent process by the Heads of State. It was noted that the regional law has taken into account all the principles of natural justice, non-discrimination, human rights, education, gender, equity, children and equality with regard to PWDs in the EAC.

(d) Private Sector Federation

During the interactions between EALA and the Members of the private sector notably; transporters, tourism operators, Hoteliers and staff of the private sector federation Rwanda, the following observations were made:

- (i) It was noted that Rwanda banned plastic materials while other EAC Partner States are still using them despite their disastrous impact on the environment;
- (ii) It was noted that non-tariff barriers in terms of roadblocks and weighbridges are still rampant on the northern corridor; for example, there are 4 weighbridges between Busia to Katuna alone. Moreover, corruption cases on these weighbridges are common as well. This causes the route to be expensive as it has led to most of the petroleum traders to shift their source from Eldoret to Dar es Salaam;
- (iii) It was mentioned and noted that the central corridor has reduced the weighbridges to only 3 from Dar es Salaam to Rusumo. This has reduced the cost of doing business along the this route;
- (iv) It was also mentioned that Rwandan clearing agents who are based in Dar-es-Salaam cannot access their

- containers in port as well as Tanzanian System (Tancis), while Tanzania clearing agents can access Rwandan system (Asycuda World);
- (v) Work and resident permits are still charged at a cost of \$3,150 per 2 years in Tanzania;
- (vi) It was also mentioned that tourist vehicles are required to pay \$150 USD in Tanzania which is a challenge to tourist operators;
- (vii) Tourist operators applauded on the fact that the EAC Single tourist visa is working well in the East Africa.
- (e) Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA)
- When EALA Members interacted with representatives of the Rwanda Association of Local Government Authorities, the following observations were made:
- (i) RALGA raised a concern that the political situation in Burundi may affect the EAC integration if it is not addressed as soon as possible;
- (ii) Local Government representatives also raised an issue that there are cases where Rwandan citizens get harassed in some of EAC Partner States yet EAC Common Market protocol is operational;
- (iii) It was observed that there is need to harmonise health insurance systems at a regional level, to allow people crossing borders to access medical services in Partner States;
- (iv) It was further observed that about 70% of EAC budget is externally funded which is not sustainable;
- (v) It was observed and mentioned that the local people have limited awareness on most of the EAC initiatives and operations;
- (vi) It was underscored that trafficking in persons is on a rise and has become a major threat to the EAC region.
- (f) Interaction with the National Youth Councils
- During the interactions with the National Youth Councils, the following observations were made:
- (i) It was observed that EAC Member states have different cultures, economic levels and laws and therefore their harmonisation and compatibility may be a challenge;
- (ii) It was noted that some youth abuse principle of free of movement of labour, whereby they cross borders within the EAC partner states to do indecent jobs that put their lives at risk;
- (iii) It was also alleged that Uganda Christian University charges more fees to non-Ugandans compared to nationals yet there should be uniformity in tuition fees;
- (iv) Corruption tendencies in some EAC Partner States are still rampant;
- (v) The youth at the meeting decried of limited awareness among the Rwandans on taxation policy and tax exemptions in East Africa;
- (vi) It also came out that there is need to organize and conduct youth study tours to Partner States for learning and experience sharing;

- (vii) Cross border crime prevention mechanisms at the EAC level regarding handling of criminals who commit crimes in their Partner States and go to hide in others;
- (viii) There is a need to develop and implement the EAC youth policy which could advance youth initiatives and opportunities in East Africa.
- (g) Women Councils, Cooperative Societies and Civil Society

When the EALA delegation interacted with women councils and the civil society representatives, the following observations and recommendations were made: -

- (i) Stakeholders expressed concern to preserve specific national cultures despite the regional integration;
- (ii) The meeting observed a need to train small scales traders on the differences between tariffs and Taxes to facilitate effectively and efficiently their business transactions;
- (iii) The meeting observed a need for the Ministry responsible for EAC Affairs to distribute sensitization materials such as flags, booklets and magazines about East Africa levels local authorities;
- (iv) It was observed that Gender Based Violence crimes on an increase in the region therefor there is a need to develop regional laws that protect victims from such crimes;
- (v) Women representatives requested for facilitation to have study tours to learn best practices in other EAC Partner States;
- (vi) The women representatives also asked if the EAC Secretariat to support them engage in regional women forums;
- (vii) Women in cross border trade requested for advocacy to reduce taxes on the goods because high taxes drive them out of business;
- (viii) Women representatives noted that they have limited access to loans from banks due to lack of collaterals to expand their business;
- (ix) Most Rwandans with French background experience language barriers while transacting business with people Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania;
- (x) There is need for women to be funded to attend study tours in partner states to learn from other businesswomen. This will provide Rwandan women with ideas to help them establish and develop projects;
- (xi) There should be a way to identify moneychangers at borders to avoid counterfeit money and other insecurity problems;
- (xii) EALA members requested Ministry for EAC Affairs to provide sensitization materials to the women council representatives;
- (xiii) It was recommended that the National Women Council should be represented during the regional women forums;
- (xiv) Efforts should be expedited to establish the women council at regional level;
- (xv) Women were advised to put more efforts in learning English and Swahili

through their associations to ease communication with their counterparts;

- (xvi) It was observed that women capacity building to take advantage of regional opportunities available for them.

(h) Border Communities

EALA Members held interactions with people at borders to sensitize them about EAC integration, and the following observations were made:-

(1) Cyanika One Stop Border Post (OSBP)

Cyanika is a border between Rwanda and Uganda. At the meeting on this border, the following transpired:

- (i) Traders at the borders pointed out that working hours are limited at Cyanika OSBP and requested that working hours be extended;
- (ii) It was observed that some people crossing the border are not aware that Yellow Fever Card is a requirement to enter into EAC Partner States;
- (iii) It was observed that due to porous nature of Cyanika border, the border community use illegal points for entry and exit instead of using one official and gazetted point of entry and exit;
- (iv) Residents of Cyanika also informed EALA members that the Rwandan police reject driving licenses obtained from Uganda. However the Rwandan Police authorities clarified some of those driving permits are fraudulently secured and therefore put to scrutiny by Rwanda traffic to avoid fake permits;

- (v) Cyanika border community requested for harmonization of health insurance policies to enable them to use their health insurance in other EAC Partner States;

- (vi) Women in cross border trade requested to be facilitated to cross the border with their children without any hindrance. However, the police responded that it would facilitate child trafficking which is already a challenge;

- (vii) All people crossing to other Partner States should the legal and gazetted borders for immigration purposes.

Specific Recommendations

- (i) Border management should engage bilaterally through cross border meetings to address payment cases for simplified certificates of origin which are free of charge;
- (ii) Small scale traders should be involved in the integration process especially provision of information on what they can trade and how;
- (iii) Swahili language should be taught from primary to higher learning institutions. And creation of Swahili clubs down from the village levels for easy communication in the region;
- (iv) Responsible organs such as Revenue Authority should engage small-scale traders to sensitize on duties, taxes and Tariffs on charged and how and applicable.

(2) Ruhwa One Stop Border Post

The following are the observations and recommendations made from the discussions held between EALA Members and the Border community at Ruhwa;

- (i) The border officials informed EALA Members that Ruhwa OSBP project was funded by African Development Bank;
- (ii) It was mentioned and observed that Burundian conflict has caused disastrous impact on the economic activities and movement of people and goods at the border;
- (iii) Rwanda officials raised an issue that sometimes they are being disturbed by the abrupt visits of Burundi armed personnel at the border. This creates fear among the travellers and limits free movement of people;
- (iv) Border managers informed Members that unlike on other borders, Ruhwa lacks a Joint committee, which is responsible for the day-to-day running of the border. Therefor the absence of a joint committee is affecting negatively the operations of Ruhwa OSBP;
- (v) Members were further also informed that all invoices for used water and power are not yet paid due to nonexistence of a joint committee responsible for budget allocations to cater for maintenance among others;
- (vi) The border managers also highlighted on the issue of insufficient water and power supply at the border. It was revealed that when the power goes off, the clearing activities are suspended until the power is back;
- (vii) The EALA Members observed and noted that a number of facilities are not provided at the border such as banks, forex bureaus, and health facilities to mention but a few;
- (viii) It was also observed at Ruhwa border that yellow fever cards are not a requirement. However EALA members informed the border officials that having a yellow fever card was previously considered as an NTB in the EAC, but nowadays it is a mandatory requirement as it was recommended by World Health Organisation;
- (ix) It was observed that Ruhwa OSBP operates from 6:00am to 6:00pm, and Border managers of both sides raised the concern that working hours should be extended;
- (x) EALA Members were informed that cross border traders have limited awareness about the EAC Integration. For example most of cross border traders operate under EAC Simplified Trade Regime without information about the regime;
- (xi) EALA Members noted with concern the absence of some institutions that are required to operate at the border. These include Ministries responsible for Agriculture, health, bureaus of standards. This creates a vacuum in handling of some responsibilities at the border.

Specific Recommendations

- (i) *The EALA Members noted that there is a need to put in place a joint committee to handle all issues related to the implementation of OSBP;*
- (ii) *There is need for all Partner States encourage people crossing the EAC Borders to have yellow fever card as it is a mandatory requirement by World Health Organisation;*

(iii) *Facilities such as banks, health centres and forex bureaux should be established at Ruhwa OSBP;*

(iv) *Working hours at the border post should be extended from 6:00pm to at least 8:00pm.*

(3) Kagitumba One Stop Border Post (OSBP)

While touring the border and meeting the border communities of Kagitumba, the following observations were made:

- (i) Members were informed that the border operates 14 hours only;
- (ii) It was observed that the OSBP does not have facilities for toxic goods and quarantine area for imported animals;
- (iii) The border is operating as fully fledged OSBP, using Immigration and Customs officers of the two countries on both sides of the border;
- (iv) The EAC OSBP Act is not yet implemented, however the border operates on a bilateral agreement signed between Rwanda and Uganda;
- (v) It was further observed that the people at the border are not aware about the existence of the EAC OSBP law;
- (vi) Transporters expressed the need to introduce weighbridges in Rwanda to reduce road damages caused by overloaded vehicles;
- (vii) The border community expressed need for a physical market near Kagitumba to facilitate cross border trade between Uganda and Rwanda;

(viii) The border officials wished to see an information desk established at the border to provide EAC related information and educate the border community about the rights and opportunities provided by EAC to its citizens;

(ix) Stakeholders informed Members with concern that a charge of 60,000 UGX is levied on the simplified certificates of origin in Uganda, yet these certificates should be cost free.

Specific Recommendations

The following was agreed upon as way forward/ recommendations:

- (i) Policy framework should be put in place to facilitate establishment and construction of physical markets on the border posts in EAC;
- (ii) It was recommended that information desks about East African Community should be established at the border posts for purposes of awareness and information dissemination;
- (iii) All complaints about corruption tendencies including the arbitrary and illegal fees charged at the borders should be reported to National Monitoring Committees on NTBs for further reporting to the regional NTBs monitoring team.

(i) Participation in the Commemoration activities of 1994 genocide against Tutsi

EALA Members delivered cows that they had previously offered to the elderly widowed genocide survivors in Rwamagana, Eastern Province of Rwanda. The people of Rwanda profoundly appreciated EALA's solidarity with them in the difficult moments

and requested that the solidarity should continue in the times to come.

2.4.4 UNITED REPUBLIC TANZANIA

In the United Republic of Tanzania the activity was conducted in Dodoma, Morogoro and Zanzibar from 9th to 28th June, 2016 by the EALA with the following Members: Hon. Charles Makongoro Nyerere - Leader of Delegation, Hon. Twaha Taslima, Hon. Nderakindo Kessy, Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi, Hon. Adam Kimbisa, Hon. Shyrose Bhanji, Hon. Maryam Ussi Yahya, Hon. Bernard Murunya, Hon. Angela Kizigha, and Mr. Charles N. Kadonya Secretary to the Delegation.

(a) Methodology

In carrying out the outreach and sensitization activity, the EALA delegation employed various methods and different stakeholders as follows below:

- (i) conducted planning meeting in Dodoma;
- (ii) circulated letters to the targeted organs, institutions and corporations;
- (iii) shared a uniform presentation that was used during the outreach and sensitization programme;
- (iv) conducted press conference;
- (v) held sensitization workshop with all Members of Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania;
- (vi) Paid courtesy call to H.E. Samia Hassan Suluhu, the Vice President of the United Republic of Tanzania at State House in Morogoro;
- (vii) held sensitization workshop with the Speaker and Deputy Speaker as well as

selected few Members of the House of Representatives of Zanzibar;

- (viii) conducted outreach and sensitization workshop to four higher learning institutions: College of Business Education (CBE), Dodoma University, Sokoine University of Agriculture, Mzumbe University and State University of Zanzibar;
- (ix) visited association of grapes growers in Chamwino in the outskirts of Dodoma;
- (x) visited two major Media Houses located in Zanzibar for sensitization purposes;
- (xi) participated in several live and recorded radio and TV programs;
- (xii) visited Majengo Market in Dodoma Municipality; and
- (xiii) Responded to questions and issues raised by the public through question and answer sessions, social media, emails and phone calls.

(b) Observations

During the interaction with stakeholders, the following critical issues and concerns were raised:

1. Small and Medium Scale Traders

- (i) It was observed that there is apparent lack of information on the Program for Elimination of Internal Tariffs (EIT) including the categorization of taxable and non-taxable goods. The applicable rates for dutiable goods are not generally known by the small and medium scale traders in Dodoma and Morogoro who

felt that they are at the mercy of customs and municipal councils' officials;

- (ii) Traders expressed concern that without harmonization of some taxes, the EAC Customs Union cannot operate smoothly. It was pointed out that EAC Partner States still have different domestic tax rates and structures especially excise duty and Value Added Tax VAT. These differences have resulted into market distortions leading to such problems like smuggling and other industry malpractices that have witnessed a rise in some "artificial" exports. The most affected commodities are second hand clothes, cigarettes, spirits and petroleum products;
- (iii) Traders visited expressed a general fear that their businesses are likely to collapse due to the stiff competition particularly from the "stronger and more aggressive Kenyan and Rwanda counterparts." As a result, there was a general recommendation that the process needs to be slowed down or at least the principle of asymmetry is built into to ensure that the small and weak do not unduly lose out to the big and strong;
- (iv) A challenge posed by lack of a harmonized form of National identification especially in view of free movement of persons and other transactions. This hinders transactions and may cause security and other challenges. An example given was that Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda use national Identification Cards (ID's), Tanzania is not part of the equation.

2. Academia

- (i) There was also the fear about loss of employment opportunities due to

differences in the competitiveness of the labour force. Stakeholders expressed the concern that free movement of labour will result into an influx of qualified Kenyans and Ugandans as well as Rwandans and Burundians with their multi-lingual advantage into Tanzania thus out competing Tanzanians in the labour market. There may be need for affirmative action or phased opening up to allay some of these fears. The competition, the anti-monopoly and mergers and acquisitions acts should be useful in this regard;

- (ii) However, land is neither a Treaty matter nor among the fourteen areas of cooperation. Stakeholders raised concerns about differences in the land tenure systems of Partner States and loss of land due to free movement and right of establishment within the EAC Partner States. The fear of loss of land arises out of varied population densities of the Partner States and within countries where weak land management systems continue to disadvantage some sections of the population. Similarly, increased competition and unfair accessibility poses a human security issue for those whose livelihood depends on land and yet they do not have security of tenure;
- (iii) Article 7(1) (a) of the Treaty provides that the EAC will be people-centred. In the same breath, it also provides that the EAC will be market driven. Stakeholders were of the opinion that this conception is structurally contradictory. Markets are not normally people-centred. Hence, their pursuits will rarely deliver on popular expectations. It can already be discerned that from the two stages of integration so far undertaken, free market forces have not only been in the forefront, but also

been the primary beneficiaries of integration. The people are neither adequately informed nor playing any active role; obviously they are not at the centre. As a result, the ultimate purpose of political federation, which is development, is not being pursued in a manner that leads to tangible development outcomes for the people of East Africa. No roads, no schools, no hospitals, and no water supplies;

3. Tanzania National Parliament and House of Representatives-Zanzibar

- (i) Members of Parliament raised concerns about differences in the land tenure systems of Partner States and loss of land due to free movement and right of establishment within the EAC Partner States. The fear of loss of land arises out of varied population densities of the Partner States and within countries where weak land management systems continue to disadvantage some sections of the population;
- (ii) Regarding Political Federation, the primary concerns raised by stakeholders are about militarization of politics, peaceful political transition, and electoral violence among others.

It was apparent that the majority of stakeholders the Chapter interacted with from parliamentarians, government officials, students, academicians, media, small scale and medium business people lacked sufficient knowledge on the operations of the EAC integration pillars and agenda. Among their main concern was with the non-removal of barriers tariff and non-tariff at customs borders contrary to what they thought the Customs Union and Common Market sought to eliminate.

There was a general outcry that Kiswahili should be promoted to an official language of the Community.

Specific Recommendations:

- (i) While it can be argued that great realizations have been completed in a number of areas, there is a lack of popular ownership of the process of the EAC integration and its pillars (Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation) across the region. Ownership through involvement of the ordinary citizens is fundamental for political integration. There is need for strategies, measures and mechanisms that transform the EAC into a Community of citizens with common values and identity, in a manner that inculcates the East African spirit;
- (ii) The overriding complaints about lack of information about the EAC integration should inform the type of communication strategy to be adopted and the nature of information to be disseminated. Outreach programmes need to be recognized as part and parcel of the overall plan in transiting towards the EAC Political Federation. EALA MPs as the representatives of the people of East Africa should take the centre stage on this process;
- (iii) Economic related fears and concerns raised by stakeholders mainly arise out of inadequate implementation of the Customs Union and the Common Market. This has affected the realization of benefits of integration. Realizing benefits will necessitate strong regional institutions to implement fully the Customs Union and the Common Market as a foundation for a stable and

sustainable monetary and fiscal integration;

- (iv) Stakeholders in Tanzania are concerned over loss of employment opportunities through increased labour mobility and competition. Deliberate programs should be developed to tap the benefits of labour mobility, for instance through exchange programs of language teachers across the region. In addition, the region should also focus on building productivity and competitiveness of the human resource;
- (v) The people of East Africa should be sensitized to appreciate that EAC political federation involves ceding some sovereignty, and that its benefits should be highlighted and disseminated. In addition, the EAC should implement fully the stages of integration preceding the political federation to realize tangible benefits to build confidence in the federation.

2.4.5 UGANDA

The EALA delegation that undertook sensitization in Uganda comprised of the following members; Hon. Nusura Tiperu - Leader of Delegation, Hon. Opoka Chris, Hon. Dora Byamukama, Hon. Mike Sebalu, Hon. Bernard Mulengani, Hon. Margaret Zziwa, Hon. Fred Mukasa Mbidde, Hon. Frederic Ngezebuhoro, Hon. Dr. Martin Nduwimana, and Mr. Manzi Victor - Secretary to the delegation.

In carrying out this activity, Members engaged various stakeholders and made a number of observations and recommendations:

(a) MEETING WITH THE SPEAKER

- (i) The Committee held a meeting with the Rt. Hon Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga who pledged Parliament's continued commitment to consolidating and further strengthening of its working relations with EALA in a bid to promote the EAC Integration agenda;
- (ii) The Speaker observed that the East African Community Anthem was not being played by some Partner states at public functions yet this a Council directive to have it played as a medium of popularizing the integration. She said this was against the spirit of uniting the people of East Africa;
- (iii) She further observed that there is a need for improvement and coordination in the mode of transmission of Council decisions into Government departments and Ministries such that implementation of these decisions is effective and integrated in Government policies;
- (iv) She expressed the need to urgently explore modalities of institutionalizing directly and actively engaging National Assemblies in the EAC legislative process, as enshrined under Article 65 of the Treaty establishing the East African Community.

(b) MEETING WITH H.E THE VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

- (i) The Committee interacted with H.E the vice President of the Republic of Uganda Hon. Edward Ssekandi. During the meeting, he urged the EAC Partner States to institutionalize the process of regular feedback and briefing of Government institutions and other Stakeholders on the integration process. He informed the

meeting that he was going to instruct his staff to put the meetings with EALA on the Vice Presidents calendar. He also re-echoed the unwavering support and commitment of the Government and people of Uganda to the EAC Integration;

- (ii) He urged Member States and EALA members to enhance sensitization that will strengthen synergies and efforts to ensure that the East African citizenry is aware of the East African Community integration agenda;
- (iii) He urged members that in order to promote and enhance an East African culture, Partner States should promote both vertical and horizontal integration strategies such as promotion of joint military exercises in their armed forces and popularization of the East African anthem in academic institutions, public gatherings and at Government-held functions;
- (iv) He urged Members to enact necessary legislation that is geared towards promoting development across the communities of East Africa and to remove the existing barriers that are hindering trade and investment in the region such as non-tariff barriers.

(c) MEETING WITH THE FIRST DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER FOR EAC AFFAIRS OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

The Committee interacted with the Rt. Hon First Deputy Prime Minister and this meeting, he commended the Members and administration of the East African Legislative Assembly on undertaking the sensitization drive since majority of the population of East Africa was ignorant about East African

Community matters. During the discussion, the following issues were raised:

- (i) It was noted that the Ministry in its current form has one director and four departments. This structure is weak, lean and cannot allow the Ministry to play its coordination role effectively. It also does not match with the structures of other Partner States which are more robust in terms of size and staffing;
- (ii) It was noted that the total budget allocation to the Ministry of East African Community Affairs (MEACA) for the Financial Year 2015/16 was only UGX 24.410 billion out of which UGX 0.750 billion is for recurrent wages, UGX 23.081 billion for non-recurrent wages, UGX 0.538 billion for Government of Uganda development and UGX 0.040 billion for arrears. This size of allocation has ensured that the Ministry continues accumulating arrears which in turn affect the Ministry in making its remittances to the East African Community and in carrying out sensitization and mobilization;
- (iii) It was noted that sensitization programs help create public awareness and enhance public participation in EAC regional processes. EAC integration being a key driver of economic prosperity for Uganda, as envisioned in the NDP and Vision 2040, there is need for the citizens to be aware of the opportunities EAC integration provides so that they are able to participate and take advantage of them. However the Committee was informed of a funding gap amounting to UGX 500 million required for this purpose in the 2015/16 FY;

(iv) Failure to implement Council decisions and recommendations let alone their reflection in the Ministerial Policy Statements and MTEF reports. The EALA delegation was informed that this has contributed to lack of fulfilment of commitments towards the East African Integration efforts.

(d) MEETINGS WITH MINISTRIES OF TRADE, FINANCE, JUSTICE AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS

EALA delegation held meetings with the Ministries of Trade, Finance, Justice and Constitutional Affairs and the following transpired:

- (i) It was noted that most of the East African Community Partner States also belong to other regional blocks like COMESA and SADC. This belonging to multiple regional arrangements impacts on the resources of Partner States and reduces their total commitment towards EAC affairs. Multiplicity of membership raises the problem of coordination and commitment for an individual Country in terms of adequacy and efficiency of human and financial resources;
- (ii) It was further noted that in 2015, the East African Community Council of Ministers adopted the East African Community Competition (Amendment) Bill which provided for the establishment of the East African Community (EAC) Competition Authority (EACCA). The competition authority has jurisdiction over all five member states of the EAC; the mandate of the authority is to regulate company activities across borders, while the EAC Competition

Authority will have jurisdiction over all mergers and enforcement matters with cross-border competition effects. However questions were raised on when it's going to be put in place and whether Uganda is ready to participate in this initiative;

- (iii) There is need for the Judicial Affairs Committee to review the Treaty to make the Community a more effective organization in the face of new challenges and new expectations that have emerged and the expanding mandate of the regional organization;
- (iv) Initiate continuous robust sensitization programs especially in rural areas so as to interface with communities in order to harmonize issues pertaining to the community and be able to plan for strategic interests;
- (v) According to Uganda Revenue Authority, while in 2015 the EAC developed and approved new Rules of Origin, no Partner State is currently using the New Rules of Origin. Instead the Old Certificates of Origin continue to be used;
- (vi) There is need to promote Uganda products like sugar that are being produced in excess and review the sensitive list of products to include products which were originally excluded. The time frame in which the sensitive list is going to be reduced is also unclear;
- (vii) The differences in legal and regulatory frameworks within the Partner States still poses technical

barriers to trade despite existing mechanism for harmonized standards to remove these barriers;

- (viii) The stakeholders noted that the EAC Common Market Protocol is weak and requires urgent revision and amendment;
- (ix) Harmonization and review of the compilation regional statistics data;
- (x) There is need to develop alternative allocation of funding mechanisms to fund the East African Community and to channel development finance of projects through the East African Development Bank for sustainability purposes;
- (xi) Need to develop a structured format to capture Council decisions such that they are reflected in the Ministerial Policy Statements and the Budget;
- (xii) The Assembly should spearhead the campaign of political federation of East African Community with specific time lines.
- (e) **TRADERS, TRANSPORTERS ASSOCIATION, CLEARING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION AGENTS, AND SHIPPERS ASSOCIATION.**

The EALA delegation interacted with representatives of the above mentioned organizations and during the meetings the following issues were raised.

- (i) Transporters further complained about the troubles they have to go through at all fixed weighbridges at the following locations: Mariakani, Gilgil, Athi River near Nairobi, and Webuye including two mobile ones after Nakuru and Eldoret

which according to the weighbridge officials are occasionally placed there for official reasons that they do not disclose;

- (ii) It was pointed out that Uganda weighbridges are not well calibrated as they penalize transit trucks for overloading, yet the trucks come from port of Mombasa sealed under the Cargo Tracking System. When the drivers ask for the trucks to be re-weighed, they are told that the system will recognize the truck after 12 hours;
- (iii) Furthermore, they reported that Kenya charges a fine equivalent to Kenya Shillings 30,000 for trucks that are imported and driven along the Kenya high ways without mud flaps. The German Trucks that are imported through Kenya destined to Uganda are manufactured without mud flaps and such charge is seen as unfair treatment that leads to increased costs and delays. It was also observed that the transport cost is the highest within East African;
- (iv) Lack of coordination among the numerous institutions and bodies involved in testing goods. Lack of this coordination affects the clearing process of the goods and this is further complicated by the delays at the border by the customs officials who are few and cannot handle the larger volumes of goods crossing the border points whereby it takes 2 to 3 days to clear a container. They request the staff operating the one stop boarder points to be beefed up to ease the process of clearing the cargo;
- (v) Lack of recognition of the COMESA insurance by the Ugandan insurance companies. Although a transporter must have COMESA insurance in order to

- travel within East Africa, in case one gets an accident, the Uganda insurance Companies do not recognize it. There is need to develop the East African Community Regulatory Authority to regulate the insurance sector in the Community;
- (vi) Instant implementation of new regulations before they are not communicated appropriately and timely among the key stakeholders. Besides the stakeholders are never consulted for their input;
- (vii) Lack of a harmonized policy on the charges of the user fees in the different Partner States. This is exemplified by double payments of Certificate of goods in transit since traders are forced to pay a double fee of 400 dollars which increases the cost of doing business;
- (viii) It was noted that a number of OSBPs have been completed and handed over by TMEA to the Government of Uganda the latest of these being Mutukula that was handed over in February 2016, but not all Gov't institutions mandated to work from there operate for the same number of hours or days while there;
- (ix) Uganda authorities require trucks to pay double the certificate of transit goods: it means instead of paying 200 USD, transporters have to pay 400 USD which is for truck and trailer separately;
- (x) Uganda charges a road user fee of 150,000 shillings (5,000 per day) for interstate buses even though these buses do not travel every day to Uganda. The fee should be applied daily & not a flat fee imposed every month;
- (xi) Lack of a harmonized policy and guidelines in the usage and importation of plastics in the East African Partner States. For instance, Kenya allows plastics with 10 micros whereas Uganda allows those with 30 micros. Rwanda has a complete ban on plastics;
- (xii) Lack of harmonization of travel documents across the different partner States of East Africa. Different Countries require usage of different travel documents which brings about confusion among the different travellers;
- (xiii) Stakeholders urged EALA to enact a Consumer Protection Act such that shall protect customers within East Africa against the infiltration of fake goods into the East African Community and to avoid the dumping of hazardous materials;
- (xiv) Returning vehicles/trucks are not allowed to carry cargo yet they could use the return to mitigate costs;
- (xv) Coffee representatives complained about coffee stolen along the way to Mombasa whereby it reaches Mombasa when it is no longer in its original quantities.

(f) PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA

The Committee interacted and addressed the members of the Ugandan Parliament who were undergoing induction program being undertaken by the Ugandan Parliament and during the discussion, the following issues emerged:

- (i) Whether EALA has enforcement and implementation mechanisms to enforce some of the recommendations contained in the Protocols, laws, regulations which

have been signed but not being respected by some partner states;

- (ii) Development, promotion and usage of Kiswahili as an East African Community Language. It was observed that in order to have a unified East Africa, it is necessary that Kiswahili is developed as a communicating/unifying language of East Africans;
- (iii) It was observed that there is a need to fast track political federation for East Africa.

(g) THE MEDIA

- (i) They inquired about the role of the EAC in general and EALA in particular, in resolving the Burundi political crisis;
- (ii) They expressed concern about the inadequate dissemination of information about the EAC integration process. They noted the need for the active engagement of all stakeholders at all stages of integration if the gains were to be sustained;
- (iii) They expressed concerns about the admission of the Republic of South Sudan to the EAC in view of her historical internal problems and questionable human rights credentials;
- (iv) Different education systems affecting the integration process of the East African Community.
- (v) How the decisions of the East African Courts of Justice are enforced;
- (vi) While the East Africa region has a vibrant media fraternity, many of the media

companies operate within Partner States and not as regional players. There is need for a strong partnership with the media such that the programs and activities of EALA and EAC can easily be disseminated and placed at the centre stage of the national media channels of the EAC communication;

- (vii) It was observed that the issue of Migingo Island on Lake Victoria between Uganda and Kenya should be fast-tracked;
- (viii) It was further noted that one of the biggest challenges has been timely remittances by Member States to the East African Community. This is likely to affect the implementation of programmes and delay the integration process.

(h) ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY IN UGANDA

The Committee interacted and addressed the students of the Islamic University in Uganda. During the discussion, the following issues emerged:

- (i) Development of a leadership training/attachment program at EALA Offices in Arusha to foster and help students in East Africa advance career trainings and harmonization of education standards within East Africa;
- (ii) It was observed that enacting legislation to fight corruption like the Whistle Blowers Act which can supplement the existing laws on corruption so as to make East Africa Community corrupt free.

(i) DISTRICT LEADERS OF LYATONDE, RAKAI, SEMBABULE

The Members interacted and addressed the District Leaders of Lyatonde, Rakai, and Sembabule at Lyantode District Headquarters. During the discussions, the following issues emerged:

- (i) Language-Kiswahili: The efforts being undertaken to popularize and fast track the usage of Kiswahili in schools, colleges;
- (ii) Political instabilities in some Partner States which have led to displacement of people turning them into refugees;
- (iii) Restrictions of immigration procedures of Ugandans crossing into Tanzania;
- (iv) Measures being undertaken to further deepen integration so as to enhance/intensify integration in Communities and the practical ways to ensure that it is feasible;
- (v) Payment for provisional entry permits at Mutukula boarder yet the Common Market Protocol envisages free movements of persons and the right of establishment;
- (vi) The measures to harmonise the different political systems cross the different East African Countries in order to achieve the political integration;
- (vii) Promotion of affirmative action for specific interest groups like the disabled.

Specific Observations.

- (i) Members observed that the youth Ambassadors in each of the Partner States are supposed to act as promoters of integration in the East African

Community. However most of them are not properly organized and facilitated to carry out their activities;

- (ii) Establishing the East African Development Bank as the financing arm of the East African Community. The African Development Bank is financing most of the development projects in Africa and specifically East Africa. Due to its location in Tunis and excessive bureaucracy accessing finances in a timely manner has been a challenge;
- (iii) The Committee observed that although efforts and interventions have been undertaken to eliminate non-tariff barriers, they continue to prevail hence making the business environment uncondusive for the traders and businesspersons.
- (iv) The Committee observed that although Judicial Affairs Committee was mandated to review the Treaty to make the Community a more effective organization in the face of new challenges and new expectations that have emerged and an expanding mandate of the regional organization. The Committee further notes that the implementation of the Treaty has raised a number of new challenges, which the Partner States have noted in the quest of deepening and widening the integration. This Committee has not held a meeting for two years and there is hardly any work that has been carried out on the review of the Treaty.

Specific Recommendations

- (i) The Committee recommends that arrangements could be explored by the

Partner states to have the funds for development finance channelled through East African Development Bank;

- (ii) The Committee recommends that Partner States should explore and engage their respective institutions involved in handling the business sector such that the NTBS are minimized;
- (iii) The Committee recommends that the Council of ministers should take this matter seriously and ensure that the Judicial Affairs Committee resumes the meetings to review the treaty;

3.0 GENERAL FINDINGS OF THE SENSITIZATION PROGRAM

- (i) It was observed that there is limited awareness among the people on EAC integration, its programs and benefits, and how to explore for the opportunities;
- (ii) Existence of non-harmonised education curriculum in the Partner States;
- (iii) Harmonisation of national laws is one of the critical steps required to facilitate regional integration. It is a process that has to go hand in hand with other undertakings of Partner States; otherwise, all agreed programs and stages of integration may be hampered by National laws;
- (iv) Students from EAC Partner States still require student passes or visas to be able to study in another Partner State;
- (v) It was observed that the interest groups such as youth, women, civil and cooperative societies among others were not fully involved in the EAC integration process;

(vi) Members observed the growing interest of the participants/stakeholders in embracing and learning the Kiswahili language. Besides promoting unity among the EAC populace, the Kiswahili language is a critical medium of communication that will further facilitate trade in the region.

(vii) It was observed that political crisis in Burundi hinders the EAC integration process.

4.0 GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The Assembly recommended that:

- (i) Sensitisation and awareness on the EAC integration process be institutionalised to be a continuous activity;
- (ii) Media department at EAC Secretariat should be more pro-active, especially to work closely with various national and regional media;
- (iii) The political federation of East Africa should be fast tracked;
- (iv) Recommended the fast tracking of the harmonization of education and training curricular need to be fast tracked by Partner States;
- (v) Urged the Partner States to fully implement the Common Market Protocol which provides for free movement of people, capital and services among others, to allow citizens of East Africa to enjoy their rights;
- (vi) Urged the Partner States to eliminate the NTBs which impact negatively on intra-Regional trade activities;

- (vii) Partner States to address the issue of work permit to facilitate those who wish to work in EAC Partner States;
- (viii) It was further recommended that integration efforts should move beyond trade. Partner states should identify a common ground for the different national ideologies, value systems and cultures to promote integration;
- (ix) The business community called upon the Ministry of East African Community Affairs to establish a mechanism to handle grievances arising out of cross-border trade;
- (x) The issue of Certificates of Rules of Origin should be addressed to facilitate cross border trade;
- (xi) The political solution for the Burundi crisis should be fast tracked;
- (xii) The EAC Anthem and flag should always go hand in hand with respective national ones at all times;
- (xiii) There should be harmonization of regulations governing plastic materials in the EAC Partner States.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

Ms Hajabakiga: With that long report, I beg to move. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Hajabakiga Patricia for the very deep expose from the various sub committees of the Assembly that went to various Partner States and moving it very eloquently on behalf of the Commission. I thank you so much.

Honourable members, the motion on the floor is that the report of the East African Legislative Assembly on the second

sensitisation activities conducted from 9-28 June 2016 in Partner States be adopted. Debate is open.

Honourable colleagues, before we kick off with the debate, hon. Ogle raised a procedural matter earlier on. I want to allay the fears of our members and our people who are following this debate that this activity is a core function of the Assembly. It is well grounded in Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community on functions of the Assembly, in more specific terms, our representation and oversight roles.

Therefore, this was well done but conceptually structured in such a way that we do it at Partner State level and tie up the outcome through this debate when the report is brought to this Assembly. Debate is open.

Ms Maryam Ussi (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First of all, let me congratulate the Chair of the commission, hon. Patricia for ably – Sorry, the presenter of the report, hon. Patricia, for ably and eloquently representing the Commission and all of us because we all participated.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, let me thank you personally because through your leadership, the sensitisation programme has been spearheaded so we thank you very much.

Mr Speaker, I put my point before hon. Patricia finished her report and then I realised that what I want to say was the first recommendation from the Republic of Uganda which is number one, sensitisation and awareness of EAC integration process be institutionalised to be a continuous activity.

Mr Speaker, sensitisation is a very important activity but was very amazed when we were conducting the pre-budget conference and

looking at EALA and sensitisation was not in the EALA priority for the year 2017/2018 and I believe that this is a very good practice. As you say Mr Speaker, it is coming from the Treaty so I was expecting that it would be continuous in the future EALA parliament.

I urge us to revisit this and for the EALA offices – *(Interruption)* -

Ms Byamukama: Thank you, hon. Maryam for giving way. I just wanted to make clarification that EALA did not have a representative in that pre-budget conference in that as an organ, at least at the Commission, we did not commission anybody to go there with our EALA priorities and I believe that EALA priorities will be communicated in due course. This as an anomaly and therefore I believe and trust that sensitisation will be one of those priorities.

Dr. Nyiramilimo: Mr Speaker, thank you and thank you, hon. Maryam. Actually, EALA was well represented because the Deputy Clerk ably presented the priorities of EALA. And to give more clarification to hon. Maryam, because at that time she asked if sensitisation should be mentioned as a priority, I said that it was understood because the priorities were expressed in terms of objectives to be achieved. so each activity could not be mentioned in the list of priorities in the pre-budget conference. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Odette. Hon. Maryam, before you take the floor, maybe this needs to be put in proper perspective. The Budget Conference is a very important kick off for the budgeting process in the Community. Stakeholders are convened by the Secretariat and we should know that the integration process is a work in progress and as we go on, we keep encountering new challenges and new developments.

Organs are invited and organs and institutions set their priorities that are eventually taken to the Budget Conference. The Budget Conference from the Assembly – The General Purpose Committee attends the Budget Conference in their own right as a committee responsible for budgeting for the entire Community.

EALA, as an organ, has its own right to send its representative with its priority developed and well-articulated by the organ responsible for administration of EALA and that is the Commission.

The Clerk indeed did attend the pre-budget conference but his attendance did not have a strong connect with the Commission position and on priorities and these anomalies are being corrected administratively and sensitisation indeed is central in the priorities of the Assembly. I thought that this needed to be put clearly. Thank you so much. Hon. Ussi, continue.

Ms Ussi: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for that clarification – *(Interruption)*. I accept the clarification.

Mr Ogle: Thank you, hon. Maryam. I just wanted to seek clarification on the communication made by the Speaker regarding pre-budget. Does it mean, Mr Speaker that in future – You are saying this thing will be harmonised. Are you suggesting that in future pre-budget will be attended on behalf of this Assembly by the Commission?

The Speaker: The matter under debate is not the administrative function of the Assembly. How the budget conferences are handled will be handled at administrative level and with the necessary budgeting committee like General Purpose and the Commission. I think let us focus on the debate and move forward. Thank you.

Ms Ussi: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I was saying that sensitisation is a very important way of having to go on the ground and get all the important information from our people and from our communities so that we access whether they are benefitting or not.

In the same vein, I would like to urge Council of Ministers to make sure that they increase the budget in the Partner States so that sensitisation can be done at Partner State level.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, I have a plea from the Zanzibar House of Representatives of Zanzibar. They are humbly pleading with you, Mr Speaker and honourable members, to sit at least once in Zanzibar because they did not see you for the whole and we know that this is the last year of our EALA and you will not be able to sit in Zanzibar.

I represent them, and we humbly ask you to consider coming to sit in the House of Representatives of Zanzibar. We have a saying that, '*Zanzibar ninjema atakae aje*' meaning Zanzibar is beautiful, you are all invited. So Please, Mr Speaker, consider the Zanzibar House of Representatives plea. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Ussi.

Mr Chris Opoka Okumu (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. As you look at the report of the sensitisation, we can see that across the board, in all the Partner States, there has been excitement by the leaders and the ordinary persons. They are so excited about the sensitisation and so this sensitisation is extremely important.

Mr Speaker, in Uganda there were various issues that were raised by the top leaders in the country. For example, the Speaker of

Parliament, the Rt hon. Rebecca Kadaga has pledged commitment to consolidating and further strengthening the working relationship between EALA and the EAC integration agenda to promote this EAC integration agenda. The Speaker takes this very seriously because she also observed that there is need to improve coordination in transmission of Council decisions to the different departments of Government.

This goes to Council that the people, the governments and the different departments are complaining that they do not know some of the decisions that are taken by Council so Council needs to improve its mode of transmission of decisions when they meet.

You can see that the Vice President of Uganda was very excited, and he wants these EALA meetings to be put on his agenda and he instructed his office to do so. This shows how the leadership attaches very great importance to this sensitisation.

When you look at what the Ministry of Trade in Uganda stated, again it becomes very important for the treasuries in East Africa to be helped especially on the implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

They raised a very important issue of the countries belonging to multiple organisations like COMESA, SADC and so forth. This takes away resources because when you belong to various organisations like IGAD and so forth, you also commit resources to those organisations and therefore it takes away resources that could actually be committed towards the integration process and to the East African Community programmes.

I think this is a very important issue that Council should take seriously and governments in East Africa have to take

seriously whether or not it is necessary now to belong to several organisations and spread resources across the board.

They also raised the issue of sensitisation of the rural areas. In the next sensitisation programme of EALA, we should begin to focus more on the rural areas because these are the people who matter. Those people are central to the integration process. Article 7 talks of a people-centred organisation. The Chair of the Summit recently said, it is the integration of people and not any other thing so those people need to be sensitised.

Mr Speaker, I know that there are many colleagues who would like to contribute to this very important sensitisation programme and I would like to re-echo what Hon. Ussi has already stated which has also been stated in the report. The issue of commitment of resources of EAC towards the sensitisation programme. When the Vice President of Uganda says that this should be institutionalised, we agree that it should be institutionalised so that our people know what is happening.

Mr Speaker, last time when we met, I also re-echoed the fact that the EAC Secretariat, before EALA plenary, should at least let EALA know what is happening and what the Secretariat is doing towards the implementation of this agenda. It is very important as we move towards the Political Federation that our people know step by step what is being done by EAC.

Mr Speaker, with those few remarks, I beg to support this very good report read by hon. Patricia Hajabakiga. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Chris.

Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I beg to be excused;

I have a bad voice due to a bout of cough and flu. Nonetheless, take note of the issues not the voice.

Mr Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking the Commission, under your chairmanship, for continuously looking around and ensuring that this exercise is undertaken because I do consider it to be very critical in terms of giving visibility to the integration agenda, and also in terms of redefining our relevance as a representative body, to give us an opportunity to fulfil all our three specific mandates.

Through this exercise, it has come out quite handy that out of this interaction, we are able to get legislative gaps; areas where maybe legislation is needed, areas of concern from the stakeholders that could do with serious legislation, we are able to use this exercise to identify legislative gaps.

Secondly, we are also given an opportunity to play the representative role of reaching out to stakeholders, having interactive engagement with them and then be able to get feedback from them as well as stakeholders. That allows us to bring out the representative role very well.

Thirdly, we also are able, through this exercise to do oversight because in all our Partner States, there are programmes, projects and undertakings that have been made that we would then use this opportunity to verify the status of performance and how things are being implemented. So, again, this very exercise allows us to play the oversight role effectively with evidence. So, it brings out the totality of what we are, what we are supposed to do and how we are supposed to do it.

It also touches on aspects of budgeting because it has come out handy in terms of our

engagement with different stakeholder areas of needs from a budgetary perspective so it is very critical and important and it is the best thing that has happened during our tenure of duty.

Mr Speaker, I simply want to say that in the Ugandan case, for purposes of putting a little detail, maybe it has not been captured but we had a very successful planning meeting to be able to undertake that exercise.

Secondly, we had a press conference, which was very well attended, very interactive and informative and it gave good visibility, even prior to our visits to the respective stakeholders. It was very well covered in the media both electronic, print as well as social media. I thought that that is a detail that is also important for members to appreciate.

Mr Speaker, our integrating is people centred so any opportunity that we get to interact with the people is in fulfilment of that paradigm shift. It is no longer a leader-led undertaking; it is people-centred and the centrality of the people in all aspects of our engagement, as we move to integrate is a very important aspect.

Allow me to have a comment on objective number five of the sensitisation, which is to do with informing the people of East Africa on the role of EALA in the integration process. My considered opinion is that we could expand this so that we do not appear to be so selfish as to inform the people on only our own. We could expand that to include the role of the different organs so that it is all embracing otherwise if it is about us, what about the other institutions? What about the Summit? Is the Summit going to have its own sensitisation to tell people about what they do?

I think as representatives, let us represent all the organs as we go out and this objective should reflect that when we go out there, we are the ones that represent everyone so that we inform the people on all the organs and institutions.

With the permission of the mover, maybe for the next we could have it considered so that we speak for everyone and we inform the stakeholders about what everyone does because we have that mandate of representing the people and the people we represent would like to be informed about all the other undertakings and organs.

That is an observation that I think we could give some thought to – *(Interruption)*

Ms Byamukama: Thank you, hon. Sebalu for giving way. I totally agree with you and I think that in practice, we were actually representing all the organs. However, in view of the fact that we are going to go deeper into all the organs, could you also propose for more days?

Mr Sebalu: Of course, that goes without saying. You see, someone reading this report may only read about the objectives to get the totality of what you are undertaking and one may get an impression that you are doing your thing and I am not in the habit of just doing our thing. I am in the habit of doing things for everyone.

Regarding the working, definitely these days are too few. This exercise does great work, and the days and the depth and the scope really is a function of enough time. Where funds allow, that should be explored so that we give good feedback to the people both in scope, in depth and in content.

Mr Speaker, from the presentation, there are a number of things that I have taken note of

here. In the Republic of Burundi, I think there is something they did that is unique and I have found it very interesting. This whole idea of meeting ambassadors from the EAC accredited to the country is a best practice because that is a level of synergy that we can undertake and I really found it a good practice.

These ambassadors are critical, you are also giving them an opportunity to participate in their mission of deployment, and yet they are East Africans like when the Kenyan High Commissioner as engaging, you could see that he brought on board practical realities because it also helps them in managing the bi-laterals and taking them to another level.

I think those innovative and creative ways of managing this process should be looked at and where we get best practices from different Partner States, we could adopt them and make good use of them so that after the exercise, assuming in each Partner State the ambassadors accredited have been consulted...do you know that there is a serious critical mass that you build across the region even at that diplomatic level?

So I really find it a best practice and there are many best practices so what we need to do is to appreciate and customise some of these when we go for the next round of sensitisation.

The next issue that I want to comment on is to do with French. I am looking at French and Kiswahili because we need to be strategic. The European Union is suffering a lot from the translations. They are spending quite a big chunk of their money getting documents translated and the rest.

The issue of French is good but is it sustainable at this point in time because we are already – (*Interruption*) -

Mr. Ngenzebuhoro: I just wish to inform hon. Sebalu that the former Secretary General had promised that he has undertaken a study on that. We are still waiting for that study so that we can conclude on that matter. Thank you.

Mr Zein: I thank my brother, hon. Mike Sebalu but I would really like to persuade him on this one, to leave it alone for the time being and I will give him a very good reason. There is a directive of the Summit- not Secretary General, not Council but the Summit – meeting as heads of states representing five Partner States of the East African Community, in their wisdom directed the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat to cause to be undertaken a study on the possibility and ramifications of using French in the Community.

Lastly, I was present in the pre-Budget conference and it is a suggestion of the Secretariat that in the Financial Year 2017/2018, funds have been set aside for such a study to be carried out. Therefore, I would really like to beg my brother that until that study is carried out, let us not pre-judge the issue and we wait for that study to come before us so that we can interact. I submit.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Mike Sebalu, you can proceed but you know, parliamentary practice gives leverage to members to give expressions of opinion.

Mr Sebalu: Yes, and in parliamentary debate, you do not engage in speculative debate. You engage as is. A study will come and that will be another debate. Before it is another debate, so definitely I am quite grounded in parliamentary decorum, debate, and I know what I am talking about.

The issue I was bringing, if only my colleagues had waited – Because you now

have Kiswahili and French, I am looking at priorities. I am weighing the priorities because my own assessment is that Kiswahili is 100 per cent in Tanzania, you could put it at 90 per cent in Kenya, you can put it over 50 per cent- I think in Burundi, it is around 70 per cent, which is very good. In Rwanda, it is over 50 per cent. In Uganda we are very fast going over the 50 per cent mark and soon we will be there –

The Speaker: Hon. Mike Sebalu, you just stated in your own debate a few seconds ago that you do not want to indulge in speculation so I do not know how well researched your statistics are.

Mr Sebalu: No, this is not speculation and that is why I am putting – Okay, someone would tell me whether in Tanzania it is less than 100 per cent, if I am not correct. Therefore, I am very correct in my assessment and that is an assessment.

What I am saying is that in a situation like that, we have a very good motion by my brother to do with Kiswahili and the beauty of Kiswahili now is that it is not only for the elite. Like French for instance, it is only for the elite who will come to Arusha but Kiswahili is for everyone so if you are to put emphasis, put it on where you are going to get more mileage and that is my argument, which I think is very credible.

So when we are looking at this because we are dealing with sensitisation, how many people are you going to sensitise in French or even English? I am looking at a situation where sensitisation makes meaning, where we go and we do not talk to our people through interpreters.

I am making my submission in conformity to the subject under debate. It is sensitisation. It is not the medium of communication at

Arusha and that is where I defer with my brothers and sisters because I am talking about sensitisation. I am looking at a situation where members of EALA will go to Mtwara and all colleagues from the five Partner States are communicating with the residents of Mtwara.

I am looking at a situation where a similar mission will go to Gulu and it is in a language where the people feel compatible with their leaders, with their representatives and appreciate. When you talk of owning, some of these terminologies have to get to a language where people understand them. When you talk of a Common Market, people understand a big market constructed somewhere but if you are saying it in Kiswahili, people will understand it in perspective and in context. So do I still get people doubting my argument? I believe not.

The Speaker: Honourable, as you summarise.

Mr Sebalu: That is the issue that I wanted to bring out that let us do first things first. Let us do things that will give impact - Impactful trickle-down effect - so that what we are doing is relevant, is understood, is appreciated, is owned, and is championed by the ordinary people.

Going back to the people-centred, a language that allows the people to participate meaningfully and effectively is not English or any other language outside the horizon.

The other thing that I have seen in this report is that there are certain issues, which are broad but which are not specific. So, it would be of interest for us to know which, where and how. There is the issue of discrimination against Burundians at some borders and being told to pay in dollars. Could we get

which borders so that as we debate, we can also engage?

There are those general statements that are made and they are cutting across. Let us qualify them so that then out of this debate, we are able to do correctional or ramifications so that such things are not done again.

We need to appreciate which borders and how much is being paid in dollars and why so that when we engage Council of Ministers, they should be able to come clean on those practices that do not champion integration.

Another observation is that we are doing the sensitisation the way we are doing it because of funding constraints but the best-case scenario would be to have delegations that are representative and that give the regional character of our integration arrangement.

I want to give an example in the Ugandan experience where we have had the benefit of going with hon. Nduwimana and hon. Ngenzebuhoro. They have made our work so easy because of the response from the people. When they get to hear that there are other East Africans, even the concentration, the interest gets higher. We know we have challenges but the best-case scenario would be where people are seeing a Kenyan, a Tanzanian, a Rwandese, a Burundian, a Ugandan and then you talk to them. Your team in its own constitution presents an integrated outfit and they pick good lessons out of it.

Therefore, it is an observation that the funding is definitely a challenge but the best-case scenario would be to have that reflection of the regional character of our integration.

Finally, Mr Speaker is the issue of leadership. In all our engagement, you hear leaders are

saying this and that. I believe that leaders at all levels should embrace because it becomes disturbing when you go to Parliament and the parliamentarians are feigning ignorance about integration.

This is a strategic issue. Before we even bring in the people, we need to appreciate it from a conceptual level so that then we make the people appreciate the strategic nature of integration and be able to bring them on board so that we move together. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Sebalu. I am prioritising people who have not spoken much but we will all speak.

Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity so that I can also contribute to this report on sensitisation in our respective five Partner States.

Mr Speaker, I wish to begin by expressing our sincere appreciation to you for endorsing phase two of sensitisation strategy in our Partner States. The continuation of this exercise in our case in the capital city of Dodoma, Zanzibar and Morogoro was a great success because this was an eye opener to those who were not aware of the benefits and advantage of different opportunities in the integration of EAC.

Mr Speaker, personally I was very grateful for this rare opportunity because for the first time, we were able to give an overview presentation to the members of Parliament in Tanzania as well as in the House of Representatives. I was very grateful for this exercise.

This kind of interaction revealed a lot of interest amongst our parliamentarians and appreciation about the updates that we gave

of EAC and EALA developments. By coincidence, we also fulfilled EAC Treaty requirement, which stipulates the need to interact with our members of Parliament.

Our visit to Dodoma University and College of Business Education in Dodoma was a great success because we got a very good reception and the academic community at the college is now very well informed about EAC integration and the benefits.

However, we had very limited time because we were not able to answer all the questions that were raised by the academic community. I fully concur with hon. Sebalu and hon. Dora that we should give more time because the two weeks allocated is not enough at all.

Mr Speaker, we also paid a visit to a group of vineyard farmers at Chinangali village, Chamwino district in Dodoma region but we noted with concern the lack of market for their produce.

The Speaker: What do they produce, hon. Shy-Rose?

Ms Bhanji: Grapes. They have large vineyards but unfortunately, they have no clue that there is an opportunity in the other Partner States, including South Sudan to sell their produce.

Like I said, most farmers did not seem to be aware that there is integration of EAC in the first place so this was not very good news from our side. However, we took the opportunity to give them EAC integration education, what opportunities exist and how they can market their produce.

We also visited central market in Dodoma, which had been attended by various stakeholders, and this was a good opportunity because hon. Kimbisa who is our party

chairperson in Dodoma did a very good job there. Thanks to hon. Kimbisa because we received a number of people who also wanted to talk to him-

The Speaker: I can see hon. Taslima expects a similar comment on him when you go to Zanzibar.

Ms Bhanji: Mr Speaker, when we were in Zanzibar, we had to call a press conference and it was widely attended by various media houses. We were led by hon. Abdullah Mwinyi who was our host in Zanzibar and he did a very good job. We were very well received in Zanzibar.

We visited various media houses including Zench TV and Zench Radio where we had an opportunity to do a live interview and other recorded programmes regarding our visit on sensitisation.

We also went to Zanzibar State University. Again, the students and lecturers showed great interest in the East African integration and they wanted to know more about the opportunities involved in the East African Community.

What we emphasised is the importance of our Swahili teachers for example. They can take the opportunity to go and teach Kiswahili subjects in Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan. This is a very good opportunity for Tanzania Kiswahili teachers to explore this market. I wish that the Chair of the Council were here because I want to make a special plea that United Republic of Tanzania should take the Kiswahili profession very seriously and explore the market opportunities for our teachers in other parts of East Africa.

Just to recap our visit in Zanzibar, we also visited many places like the Zanzibar

Chamber of Commerce, where I was personally a bit concerned because it looks like they also lack some information from EAC. So, I would like to call upon the responsible departments at EAC Secretariat to make sure that they avail information from our head office to Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce and in addition, to the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce because exchange of information is very key in our integration process.

Other than that, Mr Speaker, I once again commend you and the Commission for endorsing this sensitisation phase two strategy. I hope that in the future, more days will be allocated. I support the report.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. Honourable members, in the interest of time, this debate is important and many members want to contribute. Use at most five minutes for us to have many more members contribute.

Mr. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I bear in mind that you said that at 5.30 p.m., you will adjourn and there are only 20 minutes remaining. So, I do not think it will be possible. In any case, I will not come back to the importance of this activity. I just want to thank you and the Office of the Speaker and the Commission for this initiative, which is very important for all East African citizens. Now they feel that they are on board.

I just want to come back to two issues. The report has highlighted the issue of NTBs. I am aware that all Partner States are making many efforts to remove NTBs. I am also aware that while removing some NTBs, others are created so we do not see how possible it will be to remove all NTBs totally.

For me there are NTBs, which can be removed very quickly. The report has talked about ... Let me tell this House that two days ago, I was travelling from Nairobi to Arusha. Arrived somewhere and I was arrested by the Kenyan Police who asked for my papers. They stopped me –

The Speaker: That is better. I was worried that you were arrested.

Mr. Ngenzebuhoro: It was nearly the same but fortunately, I escaped. We gave all the papers we had and our insurance was from Jubilee but in Tanzania. They told us we were without insurance here in Kenya. The insurance of Jubilee in Tanzania does not function in Kenya and I did recall that when we were in a sensitisation activity in Uganda, they told us that the insurance of COMESA from Kenya does not function in Uganda.

I was seriously worried. I tried to explain to them that Jubilee is in the five Partner States but they said no, what they recognise here is COMESA insurance only. I am wondering how the issue of insurance can be very high in this region. I am suggesting that the Council of Ministers helps us to establish an EAC insurance. Just like we have COMESA insurance, let us have EAC insurance and that is my suggestion so that we can circulate in the region.

The second thing I would like to raise is the issue of this general outcry of Kiswahili as a regional language. Mr Speaker, we all understand the urgency of that but there is an issue of Kiswahili teachers. When we say that in Burundi we are teaching Kiswahili, how many teachers are able to teach Kiswahili? My suggestion is exactly what hon. Shy-Rise has suggested. Why, as said in this report, don't we encourage the exchange of Kiswahili teachers so that we can have some

Tanzanians who are able to teach Kiswahili to come to Bujumbura or other countries to teach Kiswahili at low cost?

We could probably provide accommodation and a small stipend so that it can be a regional effort. Some Burundians could also go and teach French where the French language is needed. Why not? Therefore, for me it is very important that we see this issue at the regional level. Thank you, I do not want to go further than this.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Frederic. Procedure from hon. Patricia.

Ms Hajabakiga: Mr Speaker, I would wish that those who are making further recommendations to the report to put them in writing otherwise it would be very difficult for me to capture.

The Speaker: Honourable members, you know it is a requirement of our Rules of Procedure that if you want to amend the recommendations of a report, which is under debate, you put it in writing to the mover and copy it to the Speaker so please do that.

Mr. Joseph Kiangoi (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I also want to appreciate this Assembly and thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity so that we, as representatives of the people of East Africa, would go out there and try to get to the people and inform them about East Africa.

Mr Speaker, one may ask why we need sensitisation. It is important for us that people are informed. Mr Speaker, this Third Assembly is about to come to an end come next year but the objectives of integration of the peoples of East Africa have not really been achieved as was intended. I do not think that it was meant to move at this rate.

This is because East Africa has a history and that is why sometimes I think that because of that background history, maybe we are over ambitious. You will recall that at one time we had East Africa operating almost as one country. We had the East African Railways and Harbours, the East African Airways, the East African Monetary Unit which was the East African shilling, we had the East African Court of Appeal so when we find that we are struggling at this moment to try and harmonise laws, to try and remove NTBs so that East Africans can be properly integrated, we feel frustrated.

That is why it was important that we went out there so that we can get in touch with the people. The integration of East Africa as enshrined in the Treaty now is supposed to be people-centred but sometimes I wonder also, how can it be people-centred when the people themselves do not know about it?

The people have been informed about East Africa. The Assembly is doing its part, we have had the second sensitisation, and we need more because it will appear that the other organs of the Community are working on their own. They do not want to involve the people but the moment you remove the people, then it will not be people-centred and therefore, the makers of the Treaty, whatever they intended will not be achieved.

We need more, particularly from the other organs. I can see the recommendations that we urge Partner States to remove NTBs, to fast track this and that. These Partner States are also represented in this Community in the other organs. We need to see various Ministries of Trade, Immigration, Internal Security working in unison to ensure that the integration of peoples of East Africa is realised at a faster rate than what is going on

and that is why it was important for us that we went out and talked to the people.

With our interaction with the people, I am sure that things will begin rolling out because even if you work for the people as much as is being done but they do not know what you are doing for them, eventually you are working for yourself and nobody appreciates what your effort is all about.

So, Mr Speaker, as we go forward, I would urge all other organs to ensure that the people are informed, and that they carry the people along in this integration process so that we can achieve what we are looking for in a shorter period than it would ordinarily take because there is no purpose of taking 100 years to integrate the people of East Africa and in the end you do not achieve that goal.

We are coming from a common history and it is easier for us – It is not like the countries that never had common dealings. Because of our common history, we can achieve this integration process faster than other countries. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Kiangoi. Honourable colleagues, what is clear here is that this Assembly represents the totality of the Community. We are doing this sensitisation, not sensitising the people of East Africa about EALA, about the totality of the East African Community, inclusive of all the organs and institutions. I think that the case being brought here is the integration of the human and financial resources into this process.

Mr. Abdullah Mwinyi (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First and foremost, I would like to thank yourself and the Commission for instituting an extremely important activity; a Treaty activity in relation to this sensitisation process. This

process should have been in place since the first East African Legislative Assembly was in place but due to many challenges, I think we must thank you most sincerely and the Commission for coming up with a programme and funds to ensure that the people of East Africa are sensitised.

This being our final year in EALA three, I think we need to focus our minds in terms of legacies that we wish to put in place and wish to be remembered by. Mr Speaker, this is definitely one of those legacies that should be enhanced and continued for all the other assemblies that will come after us.

Mr Speaker, I will restate again that the core functions of any parliament are representative, legislative and oversight. Sensitisation sits very squarely with the representative function. This being an Assembly that is elected indirectly through electoral colleges, it is even more critical for us to have such activities that go deep into the grassroots to inform them about what is happening in the East African Community.

The information is not one-way. We let them know and they inform us of the challenges that they see. Therefore, one of my challenges in relation to this report is I thought that a better format of reporting it would be through individual Partner States' chapters that went into each country. Why am I saying so? Because there is a lot of information that we received, information that can be truly understood in the context of those that were actually sitting there to know that it is also very important for each Partner State...

There are individual or maybe unique issues that are important to them. They may not be necessarily important in other Partner States. It is very important that we bring those

concerns out; that we understand them and then find ways to deal with them.

Some of the challenges that may be seen may, for example, not be deemed important to us but any challenge, whether perceived or real, has to be addressed squarely. I feel that by joining all these reports, we have diluted a number of the messages that we received from each individual Partner State.

I am talking in the context of Tanzania. I know that in our initial report, there were a number of issues that came up, but unfortunately, they have been diluted because of compounding them all into one big report.

The Speaker: Hon. Mwinyi, that is a very important point you are getting to because honourable colleagues, I want to give you the assurance that before we conclude the Third Assembly, we are going to undertake two more sensitisations and these functional recommendations are very important.

Maybe the House needs to know that the various sub-committees of the Assembly which hon. Mwinyi is referring to as chapters, do the sensitisation with a clerk attached to them and compile the report of their sensitisation and then these reports are consolidated into one without omission. If there is a gap of some issues missing in the report then it is the clerk and the leadership of that sub-committee who should have paid attention to the sub report before it is consolidated. That is very important. Hon. Mwinyi, proceed.

Mr Mwinyi: Thank you very much - *(Interruption)* -

Ms Hajabakiga: Mr Speaker, I am glad you raised it. We did not dilute any report. The way we received the report- the only thing we

did is to harmonise the structure, to deal with typos. We never changed anything, which came from the report from the chapters. It is presented as was. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Mwinyi, the floor is yours.

Mr Mwinyi: Thank you very much. I said that statement in relation to my awareness of our initial report, there are a number of gaps that I can pinpoint, and I will proceed with that.

As a holistic argument before we go to the specific areas where I feel there are gaps, it is the outcome of the report that would eventually produce the recommendation. Again, that would also present a challenge because there could be different outcomes in each Partner State in terms of challenges and when you do a holistic recommendation, it may not be relevant for one Partner State or another.

There are a number of recommendations here which I am sure would not be relevant to individual Partner States so I am not in any way trying to find a way to make this report less East African but the point of sensitisation, the point of our entire activity is not only to inform but also to get feedback from those who are concerned about specific issues. I think it would be much more effective if they were reported in a manner in which the activity was undertaken.

For instance, in the Tanzanian report, in Zanzibar, one of the biggest factor that we had almost everywhere we went was the question, why shouldn't Zanzibar be represented as an individual state within the East African Community?

That being said, it does not mean that we agree with that point but it is a clear concern

from every stakeholder we went to in Zanzibar on that particular point. That does not appear in this report although in the initial report it was there.

If you look at recommendation three, if I may read, "The Political Federation of East Africa should be fast tracked as a recommendation." As hon. Leonce is clapping and agreeing with that, I do not see anything from the report itself that lends itself to that recommendation.

Therefore, unless the reports are done individually and recommendations or aspects of that report are dealt with from state to state, it becomes very difficult to put conclusive recommendations, which may be irrelevant from one part of the country to another. Those are just examples-

The Speaker: Hon. Mwinyi, you are raising issues, which pertain to methodology, and issues of content. Issues of methodology are easy to address. Issues of content where content is lost along the way are a matter of not necessarily consolidation but how the team leader and the clerk of that group submitted for consolidation.

I think that what we need to address very critically here is that, one, there is an agreed methodology of how every sub-committee presents its report in terms of the specifics of who they met, the specific recommendations from that group or Partner State, and then the general recommendations, which will appear at the end is a consolidation of the various recommendations. It may not necessarily be that one recommendation applies to all, but it may be a gap that has been identified in one Partner State.

I think the issue here is we have to streamline the work being done by the various committees that go to Partner States and the clerk to contain the true records of what has

obtained in that Partner State. That is the most important thing because I am wondering whether you are suggesting that we have five people reporting differently on this floor.

This is an activity of the House, and the House through the Commission must report it. What we need to streamline is the consolidation, the clarity and the details as picked from Partner States. Proceed, honourable.

Mr Mwinyi: Thank you. What I am touching is both the content and the format and as you clearly ruled, I think it is important that even when a report is consolidated, there has to be individual recommendation from each Partner State and then at the end we have general recommendations. If you do not do that, it distorts the content of the report.

That being said, I will beg to end there and to commend my colleagues. Do not get me wrong, I think a lot of work that has been done has been done extremely well and I thank them for their efforts. I just wanted to highlight the gaps, which may cause confusion, and perhaps we can do better in the future. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. There are two avenues to solve this matter. You can include amendments to recommendations on the floor but we shall also pay attention to that.

Mr. Abubakar Zein (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will be very brief. In the recently held referendum seeking the consent or the decision of the people of Great Britain to either stay or choose to leave its membership of the European Union, one of the critical issues that came out was lack of knowledge.

There are some people who wet and voted in that referendum and then the following day admitted that they did not know what they were doing ...

...can be the consequence of our Political Federation project if we do not walk with our people by giving them critical information, knowledge, skills and values about this Community. It is critical for us to pay attention to sensitisation as a matter of necessity. In the case of the Republic of Kenya, our Constitution demands that if we have to donate part of our sovereignty, we have to go and seek the consent of the people and the people must say yes, we want to be part of this.

I want this sensitisation to be consolidated expanded and improved and I agree with my brother, hon. Mwinyi that when we seek to improve it, we should be happy that the people are asking for improvements.

In fact, this matter is so critical because now we have entered the negotiation stage for the fourth pillar of our integration, our aspiration to establish a Political Federation. It is in that line that I would like to beg and plead with hon. Hajabakiga, my sister who I have a lot of respect for, to consider, for the time being, removing recommendation number three.

I am a Pan Africanist at heart, but I want us to remove the recommendation that says that the Political Federation of East Africa should be fast tracked. I beg for your indulgence, for your ears and kind attention. I ask us to suspend putting this here for the following reasons: one, it will be contradicting and it will work against recommendations already made by this very House but being one who would like to have a memory like an elephant, I would like to remind hon. Dora Byamukama who as then the Chair of Legal

and I may submit on my own behalf because at that time I was chairing the Committee on Regional Affairs.

These two committees said in this very House that we as a House are concerned that the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat, when they are discussing matters of Political Federation, do not involve this House. We then went further and said, these two committees have a regional interest because of being given the mandate of politics, the political principle and mandate and legal because they have an interest in constitution making as well.

We said the following things as a House. One, that we want to be involved in the discussions and reflections on the question of the Political Federation pillar. Two, that we seek to engage with the Council of Ministers on how we can engage and reflect on that pillar. Three, we said that pillar is so important and our people need to know the implications and the imperative and the reasons why we seek to have a Political Federation and that it is important for us to be part of that and that we, as representatives of the people, need to have a linkage with the people and to walk with them together.

There is also a report on fast tracking of Political Federation and this House said that we wanted to engage with that report.

Thirdly, we wanted to carry out an opinion poll survey to know what are the levels of awareness on issues relating to the EAC among the people of East Africa so that then we can use that as the baseline. When we start working hard on sensitisation, when we do another survey, maybe one or two years later, we will need to know whether we are making progress or not.

I am appealing to the scientists in the House so that we have evidence-based approaches that can do that. If we leave this recommendation the way it is, we would have already decided on the matter and it will not need any reflection. Therefore, it will be contrary to what we were saying. We need to participate and reflect but if we leave it like this, it means we as a House would have made a determination.

I am therefore torn between my personal affection for Pan Africanism and for wanting unity and another for crude parliamentary practice for not pre-judging and pre-empting issues that are going to appear before the House.

Therefore, my reason in this particular instance has overridden my heart and I would like us to consider this very carefully. I would not cry if it is left there but it might come back and haunt us if we left it there. I submit.

The Speaker: Hon. Zein has more or less left the floor, but I was of the opinion that the Chair, Council of Ministers gives a concise response to this matter.

Hon. Dora, you are the next to take the floor so take the floor substantively on your submission.

I want to invite members to look at specific recommendations from the different Partner States. These must have come from some group that was met, and that must be the genesis. We can proceed from there.

Mr Zein: Chair, let me make a clarification, as this is too important to be left. I know it might have come from the people but now you are asking us to make this a recommendation of the House. There is a difference.

The Speaker: Yes, I understand and I am just tracing the genesis such that this House can make a very informed decision whether to leave it as a recommendation like that or to fashion it. That is what I was tracing.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I would also like to add my voice to those who have thanked hon. Patricia for presenting this report eloquently as always and taking her time because this was quite a long report. We thank her.

Mr Speaker, I have three points, and I would like to go by your guidance. However, permit me to say something very small since my name was mentioned.

I would like to say clearly that what hon. Zein has said is true, but I also want to implore him to look at it from a different direction. When we say that Political Federation should be fast tracked, it also includes what he is saying in that it should be people-centred and has to take into account all the other areas he has mentioned.

Therefore, I do not see any harm if we include it because I believe that we can only do it with the people. Why am I saying it? There is a Summit decision on this and even the earlier referendum, which was done, said that in principle, all East Africans support Political Federation so really I would like to implore him to look at it from this dimension and to be able to embrace it.

Mr Speaker, let me go to my substantive points. One, the issue of amendments of the Treaty. This is a very important point and I would like to look at it in two dimensions. In the first dimension -and this House has presented a report on this. When you look at Article 143 -and we keep on talking about this Article on sanctions, "*A Partner State*

which defaults in meeting its financial and other obligations under this Treaty shall be subject to such action as the Summit, may on the recommendation of the Council, determine.”

We have argued over and over again that this particular Article cannot be implemented in its form. Therefore, I think this is one of the Articles, which compel us to make a very good argument for the amendment of the Treaty because at the end of the day, we may all be committed but when you have an Article, which talks about sanctions – I am not saying that people should be compelled. People should be willing but in case some people need to be whipped, you need to use both the carrot and the stick.

Therefore, for me this Article needs to be carried and our report on proposed amendments, which was done, I think under hon. Mwinyi should be re-tabled and submitted to the Summit with urgency.

The other issue, which I wanted to mention, is on the issue of the political federation. It is as if hon. Zein and I were thinking along the same lines, as we usually do. When you look for example at the issue of the Treaty, you will find that there are some principles in the Treaty like Article 51(1) and permit me to quickly go to it, which I think is undemocratic because when you look at this Article, it is on tenure of office of elected members. It says, *“Subject to this Article, an elected member of the Assembly shall hold office for five years and be eligible for re-election for a further term of five years.”*

I think this is not democratic. The Court may have made its own interpretation and I really abide by the Court’s decision but I think it is high time that we actually push for

amendment of this particular Article of the Treaty – *(Interruption)* -

Mr Mwinyi: Thank you, hon. Dora. To inform hon. Dora further, an amendment would be desirable and correct because if you look at the language of the Treaty in terms of limiting terms, it is very different. The Treaty, under Articles 67 and 68 and if I may read Article 67, *“The term of office of the Secretary General. The Secretary General shall serve a fixed term of five years. The term of office for the deputy secretary general. The deputy secretaries general shall each serve a three year term, renewable once.”*

The language of the Treaty is very clear. If any office can only be renewed once, this is the language that will be used ‘renewable once’. There is a clear error in the term of office of a Member of Parliament and the error is the word ‘a’. Therefore, I concur with hon. Dora and I think this matter needs to be sent back before the Summit for clarification. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Dora is holding the floor and hon. Zein has asked for another clarification.

Mr Zein: The clarification that I am seeking from hon. Dora, who is an eminent legal thinker, is in your opinion do you think that the construction in that section in relation to an elective office is compatible with the values of Article 6(d) in relation to democratic principles?

The Speaker: Honourable members, the holder of the floor has declined to take any clarification unless you are rising on a procedural or other mandatory point. Have you given the floor to – *(Interruption)* -?

Ms Byamukama: Mr Speaker, I am a democrat, and information is power. So let it be.

The Speaker: My ruling was based on her body language that she was proceeding. Since she has given way to hon. Ogle – *(Interruption)* -

Mr. Ogle: I honestly appreciate hon. Dora's acceptance. I just wanted to understand. Much as this matter is so close to the heart of so many of our outgoing members, is it not a question of double standards to be demanding of a term limit of the Summit members of this Community and then to ask for further clarification on the term of members of EALA?

The Speaker: Honourable members, before hon. Dora takes the floor, if you remember very well what hon. Dora has stated because I think this must be put clearly on record for us to not be misunderstood out there.

She has put a case that the language of the Treaty needs to be improved and I think she was going ahead with her debate. She is not disagreeing with what is in place and she says she agrees and respects the provision of the EACJ because it has a ruling to this effect. Hon. Dora, proceed.

Ms Byamukama: Thank you, Mr Speaker for your wise guidance. I want to thank hon. Mwinyi and hon. Zein for understanding me and hon. Ogle for bringing up what he brought up. Let me be more succinct. This issue of a further term needs to be looked at in the context of Article 6(d) which hon. Zein talked about. The issue of democracy is very different from the issue of an appointee.

We are talking about elected members and therefore, if you only talk about a further term and the person is not eligible to stand again,

it means that you are denying the constituency a choice in that person and therefore it is not democratic.

I would like to say very clearly – *(Interruption)* -

Ms Tiperu: Mr Speaker, when I look at the agenda for the year, I see that we are supposed to have people representing us at the CPA and IPU meetings. If EALA is proud to be associated with the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, the practice in all Commonwealth Parliaments is that there are no term limits in Parliament.

Therefore Mr Speaker, I just want members to know that the Community is growing; we want to work in tandem with other practices so I see no reason in what hon. Dora is proposing.

The Speaker: Honourable members, let us not lose the focus of our debate, which is on the sensitisation report. I am fully aware that the people we sensitised and have been talking about have not said anything to raise debate on the issue of term limits for Members of EALA. In fact, hon. Dora brought this as a case for streamlining the issue of the Treaty amendments, a process that is ongoing. That is not our substantive debate this evening.

Hon. Dora, move and debate.

Ms Byamukama: Mr Speaker, I would like to conclude on this but let me also say very clearly that when you consider the kind of experience we have garnered even in just sensitisation and the kind of brains that we have, I think it would do East Africa well.

However, let me just conclude and say that most members of the Summit, our very Presidents are actually surprised when they

get to know that we have term limits. I do not want to mention the names but I know that you have met your Presidents and they ask what is happening. When you say that you will not be able to go back, they say, “Why not?”

Therefore, obviously, this is something that slipped their minds. I would like to say in connection to the issue of Political Federation – (*Interjection*) - I beg to be protected.

The Speaker: Honourable members, our rules are very clear that when debate is ongoing and a member is holding the floor, a member must be heard in silence. I do not want to provoke other provisions, let us stick to that.

Ms Byamukama: Thank you. I also want to say very clearly and I want to be clear on this. Hon. Ogle is purporting that it is in self-interest, it is not. I was in the second EALA and we actually crafted the Election of EALA Members Act. It became an Act, which was crafted and drafted by hon. Akhaabi, hon. Mwinyi and me, and now it is an Act of the Community.

Even at that time, we could have attempted to push for removal of term limits but we did not but we streamline das to hoe members are elected, in what period they are elected and this has helped because there was a lot of controversy. Therefore, I am saying this for the future. I may be alive or not but I believe in the principle of democracy. Therefore, I bring it in this spirit.

I also would like to bring it in light of Political Federation. Mr Speaker, we are now talking about coming up with a Constitution for a confederation. Who is best placed to come up with this Constitution or even to consult on this constitution? You know very well that for example, most parliaments are

converted or turned into constituent assemblies for this purpose so I really see no reason why, for example, EALA cannot be constituted into a constituent assembly to look at the East African Community constitution.

This is where I am coming from and this is where I am going. So I would like to be clearly understood – (*Interruption*)-

Ms Tiperu: I would like to give information to the fact that Tanzania converted its parliament into a constituent assembly to handle the issue of the constitution. Thank you.

Ms Byamukama: Thank you very much for that information. I would like to add very quickly that if you took your time and looked at the EALA Elections Act, you would find that we are the people who talked about the principle of continuity. Continuity may happen or not but obviously, it is very important for us to have people who understand the Community as we do after spending a decade of service in this Community.

It is in this spirit that I am proposing this idea, which I think, is a noble idea, given the facts that I have raised. I hope that this will be discussed further.

Secondly, I would like to move ion to my other point, which is the issue of implementation of what we have made as our recommendations. I heard my brother, hon. Mwinyi talk about the first report and this is the second report. I do not think that what we captured in the first report is lost. If anything, I believe that the two reports and whatever recommendations we shall come up with in future should all be combined and we should have a way of tracking and seeing as to

whether these have been implemented or responded to.

I also want to thank you for bringing up the issue of gaps. I believe that when we debate on the floor of the House, we are in a position to fill in the gaps. I do not necessarily agree with him on the issue of cocooning into our Partner States as chapters because when it comes to accountability, we do not have such a structure. Therefore, when we work as a committee and we have others, I think it is very interesting. It is also very important that we from the other parts of the East African region hear and listen to the issues that pertain to particular Partner States.

On that aspect, I would like to go to the fact that we need to look at the way we are going to implement and follow up so that we do not have compiled recommendations and promise stakeholders and our people things and at the same time when we go back, we regurgitate the same things. So, Mr Speaker, I would like us to take some time to be able to respond concretely to what has been raised.

Finally, I would like to move very quickly to the issue of Article 8(4) and I wanted to bring the point on implementation last but let me just bring up Article 8(4) of the Treaty which says, *“Community organs, institutions and laws shall take precedence over similar national ones on matters pertaining to the implementation of this Treaty.”*

In most of the Partner States, I think there is a misconception when we read out this particular Article. However, I would like to say that this Article is tied to Article 8(2) of the Treaty, which states,

“Each Partner State shall, within 12 months from the date of signing this Treaty, secure the enactment and the effective

implementation of such legislation as is necessary to give effect to this Treaty, and in particular: -

- (a) *to confer upon the Community the legal capacity and personality required for the performance of its function and*
- (b) *to confer upon the legislation, regulations and directives of the Community and its institutions as provided in this Treaty, the force of law within its territory.”*

I know for a fact that the Republic of Uganda has an East African Community Act and therefore no Partner State, which have this law, should question the issue of our laws taking precedence. In effect, we have more work to do in order to be able to be understood on this particular issue.

Mr Speaker, one particular aspect I would like to bring to the floor of the House, which was very clear is the fact that when you look at the Customs Union, it has the Customs Management Act of 2004 and therefore, there was a plea that we should have, for example, a law for the establishment of the Common Market Act because when you look at Article 76(4), it talks about a protocol. A protocol is not an Act and therefore, this is one particular aspect - *(Interruption)*

Mr Mwinyi: I know we have tied you with numerous information but in relation to the Common Market Protocol, it stipulates that implementing authorities are the Partner States so in order to change that, the implementing authority of the Common Market Protocol should also be the East African Community in the same manner with the Customs Union Protocol to bring it into the centre. Thank you.

Ms Byamukama: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not think I could have said it any better so I would like to implore the committee in charge of trade or any other person because as you said, we have limited time. We need to come up with this particular law for the implementation of the Common Market so that we are able to achieve what was leveraged under the Treaty.

With these remarks, Mr Speaker, I hope that my proposals will be met with due consideration and support. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. Honourable colleagues, we are pressed by time but I will give three minutes to hon. Mathuki and to Dr Mathuki and then invite the minister and the mover to summarise.

Before hon. Mathuki takes the floor, on the conclusion by hon. Dora and the information from hon. Mwinyi, I think that Council may need to take note. To say when I was meeting with my clerk, we found out that there is not a single Bill from the Council of Ministers, which is under the process of this House. All the Bills, which are under the process of this House, are private members' Bills and therefore, the Council is delaying the implementation of the common Market Protocol. They must take note of that, thank you.

Mr Peter Mathuki (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. I thought it would be very unfair to have concluded without making my proposals on this particular – *(Interruption)*

Mr Ogle: Mr Speaker, is he honourable member in order to accuse the honourable Speaker of improper motive by calling him unfair?

The Speaker: Thank you very much. as you may know, the Office of the Speaker has been the fairest office but it is only conscious of our provision of the rules of when we conclude our debate and it is 10 minutes after 6.00 p.m. Honourable, proceed.

Mr Mathuki: Thank you very much. I appreciate that English is not our language and maybe you did not understand the implications of that. Possibly the reason why we should have Kiswahili is so that when members stand to speak, others will understand what they want to mean.

Mr Speaker, without much ado, let me go straight to the debate. I wanted to say right from the onset that I think this is remarkable on your part and on the part of this Third Assembly. In fact, it is so innovative that we should have started this the first day we came into this Assembly in terms of interacting with the citizens of East Africa through this awareness. This was the best, unfortunately coming a bit late in the day but I can assure you that based on what we have been experiencing by interacting with the citizens, this is the best.

I was reading through and it is live covered. Therefore even these citizens of Kenya from Machakos County were asking, why am I not trying to present the issues which are well put in the recommendations and one of them is the issue of Political Federation.

Mr Speaker, there is no way we can have a successful Community going forward if we do not have an ultimate Political Federation. Political Federation will be the final authority to ensure that other pillars of integration are a success and without Political Federation, there is no ultimate integration.

Therefore, let us not fail to present the issues by the citizens as they said. These

recommendations are not by ourselves, they were coming from the citizens of East Africa when we went to the field to listen to what they were saying and therefore they are asking, if one of us maybe, it could be yourselves, would be the first President of the East African Community.

Therefore, by pretending – (*Interruption*) -

Ms Tiperu: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. During our movement, especially in Uganda, we met the Chairman of the Global Pan African Movement, hon. Otafiire and he told us that this is the right House to begin discussing issues of Political Federation. People at Partner States may be shy and he told us to take this matter boldly, re-start the discussions because some of the challenges that we see today could be addressed if we had a Political Federation. Thank you.

Mr Mathuki: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and I appreciate that observation. These are the true regional integration thinkers and that is the way to go. Let us not pretend here that it cannot be this or we are looking for this. The only way going forward is Political Federation and I cannot belabour the point more than that.

Therefore, to think of deleting this is belittling the wishes of the citizens of East Africa. I do not think that is the way to go. We should have it placed as such because that is what they are saying.

Mr Speaker, clearly the reason why we have problems, even when you go to the Partner States and some people not understanding what the East African Community and the East African Legislative Assembly are, it is because even the members of national assemblies do not understand the EALA business. I think it is high time we had more sensitisation programmes, not only to

ordinary citizens but also even to those in leadership at the national level like members of Parliament and those in government.

Some of the leaders that we visited appreciated that they do not seem to understand much of what we are doing and therefore some of these recommendations, including the issue of media presence are very important. We need to increase our budget on how we can ensure that we spend more time with the citizens in terms of awareness and the issue of the media.

Let us have a budget for most of the activities. Whenever we have committee activities, let us have a budget on media to ensure that others can see and appreciate what we do and we make media to be a key stakeholder in this process.

Mr Speaker, I fully in totality, support the recommendations and I pray and hope for those who will come in the Fourth EALA that they will carry this forward in a more vibrant manner. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Mathuki.

Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will not take much of your time, I have two amendments and I will donate the rest of my time to hon. Zein and hon. Mwinyi to present those amendments.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr Zein: Thank you. EAC and EALA should ensure future sensitisation efforts including the development of information, education and communication materials for the needs of persons with disabilities. This amendment was forwarded to hon. Hajabakiga, the Speaker and the Clerk.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. I indeed received it.

Mr Mwinyi: It is proposed that in all border points in the East African Community, physical markets, not Common Market, be constructed for the benefits of the citizens and the people within the border communities to do their trade.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. I think those are very clear recommendations. May I invite the Chair, Council of Ministers to give his views and respond to some of the issues that came through the debate?

The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs, Uganda (Al Hajji Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and I would also like to commend the exercise and a well presented report.

The only thing I wanted to raise has been disposed of in terms of number three because somebody cannot say ... because honesty says you must report as you received it. Therefore, we can have our views but this is the report and all these views were views that were presented.

We must understand that we are working in an interim situation whereby we do not have political authority to back as a counter part for this organisation. The master must be the Executive, which must be a political leadership so that there is a liaison. For anything, the executive must bring the way it wants to run the Community and then you make laws, just as it is done in the sovereign states.

However, here we have a group that was put here in an ad hoc manner because it was by Electoral College. So, let us not assume that we can do many things. Even the Chair itself, the Council of Ministers must be urged as to what you have already seen. For example if you find that the protocol on which the people

have been talking – You pass something, it is better that you extract all those things, which the Council of Ministers need and you forward it as your views.

Even in our Cabinet in our local sovereign states, when the paper is brought and the prayers are asked and granted, there are Cabinet extracts which go to the different departments that are required to take action in accordance with that resolution so instead of passing this general one, you may have to decipher the different decisions, which go where and what action you want to be taken. Then you will be able to be in tandem.

Otherwise, let us not imagine that we are a sovereign parliament here without a sovereign authority, which can work with this legislation so that it advances a sovereign will. Those are the things that I wanted to bring up.

These recommendations are good and in the absence of the Council of Ministers initiating legislature, you should go into the protocols and be able to bring up the issues on which you want to enact laws. That would be a very good working relationship and a practical one instead of assuming that we can be able to stay here and question this and the other. We cannot do everything.

That is what I wanted as guidance, to know exactly where we should point. Hon. Dora, you should understand that you are elected by an electoral college, so let us work. When this legislature is elected directly by the people, it will then have sovereign authority. However, presently, we want something – *(Interruption)* -

Dr Nyiramilimo: I would like to seek clarification from the honourable Minister on when he thinks that members of EALA will

be elected in such a way. After the political federation or when?

The Speaker: Maybe the honourable Minister will wait and answer all of them at once.

Ms Byamukama: Mr Speaker, my clarification is very simple. I know that the honourable minister was a member of the Constituent Assembly of Uganda and that initially the women and the youth and the army and workers were all elected through electoral colleges. This did not, in any way, hamper them from representing the interests of Ugandans. Therefore, I think this is an argument that we have been in ever since I entered EALA.

Mr Sebalu: Thank you very much. I would like to volunteer useful information that actually in the Constituent Assembly of Uganda, I was a member elected by electoral college and I effectively worked in tandem with the Right honourable to enact a Constitution that is leading the country. It never stopped me from doing a good job at that.

Ms Byamukama: I would like to seek clarification that this did not inhibit them from representing Ugandans. This is a form of election and this is the current form of election under the Treaty. Even the President of the United States of America- some of these are not elected directly so when you talk about direct adult suffrage, the questions are very many. First of all you need to have a structure in place and secondly, if someone is elected by all East Africans, will a person have to go to Tanga and then Yambiyo because South Sudan is now part of it and from there to Kigoma?

This is all semantics. I think the point we are raising here is, we are the representatives of

the East Africans, we have the mandate right now, we have made laws, and we are making proposals. Therefore, I do not think we should shoot ourselves in the foot by saying that because an electoral college elects us, we are otherwise...Mr Speaker this is why I wanted to clarify. I hope the Right honourable Minister will take it in this spirit because we have really fought to be understood as such. I thank you.

The Speaker: Just before the honourable minister clarifies, if I got the honourable Chair, Council of Ministers right, he said we are in a transitory state. He has not questioned the legitimacy of this House and the right of representation of the East African people by these members elected by the parliaments of our national governments.

Mr Zein: Mr Speaker, I would like the Right honourable Minister, who is sitting here in the capacity of the acting Chair of the Council to understand the weight of the words he speaks before he pronounces them. When he says "electoral college", I have tried to go through the Treaty and there is no word like "electoral college". Therefore, I think it is only fair that before he gives guidance on that, he could possibly consult with the Counsel to the Community on the interpretation of some of these things so that he does not mislead the House that we are an electoral college that makes this. We are elected directly by members of national assemblies on behalf of the citizens of East Africa. Thank you.

The Speaker: I think the clarification from the Chair was clear but the minister can still go and affirm or disagree.

Mr Kivejinja: Mr Speaker, what I am trying to say and clarify is that there was the urge to form an East African Federation and the three

presidents met, agreed and made a Treaty on our behalf. In between, they said the ultimate pillar will be the Political Federation because then you will have absolute authority, which will talk for each and every one.

Meanwhile, there may be laws that need to be done so you cannot put the laws you are discussing here to a regional parochial institution of a Partner State. So we said, let this be an interim arrangement so that if we agree on certain lines, they make the laws which affect all of us so that they are properly enforced.

This is what I was trying to bring out. I am saying that these recommendations are good in the sense that this time you followed up this question of sensitisation and the people are saying, it was done too late but everything has its maturity period. If you have a baby and it does not come out after nine months, you get something else. It was at this time that we were able to move to the next stage and we should be able to say that this is a starting point and we should not imagine that we are the only fellows who are going to fulfil the ambitions of the Treaty and of East Africa.

We do our part so that if we happen to be around, okay we shall continue. If others come and take over, let us leave clear steps on which to add on until our aspirations are realised.

I am happy that first of all – (*Interruption*) -

The Speaker: Mr Minister and Chair of Council, as you may know, I have five minutes as per the rules and the mover has to conclude.

Mr Kivejinja: I would like to conclude by thanking all the people who have participated in the debate. I commend the efforts. Find a gap so that it becomes a permanent

programme to be financed because without the people knowing where they are going, whatever law you make will be superficial and it will not be effective. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Chair, Council of Ministers. Honourable members, the Chair, Council of Ministers has made great commitments accepting the institutionalisation and committing further funding for this exercise. We shall take it from there. Hon. Patricia, in about five minutes, in the interest of time, please summarise.

Ms Hajabakiga: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank everybody starting with my younger sister or my daughter, hon. Maryam Ussi, hon. Opoka, hon. Sebalu, hon. Shy-Rose, hon. Frederic, hon. Kiangoi, hon. Mwinyi, hon. Zein, hon. Dora, hon. Ndahiro and my friend, Rt. hon. Minister standing in for the Chair, Council.

Mr Speaker, I have a number of submissions of recommendations, which, if you look at them, most of them are already in the specific recommendations from Partner States, which we put under the sections of Partner States. However, since members want them to reappear in the general recommendations, we have no problem of bringing them back in to the general recommendations.

Mr Speaker, I have only two issues, which I want to raise. One is what was raised by hon. Mwinyi regarding some of the recommendations, which were omitted by the sub-committee and I want to confess that the one on Zanzibar joining East Africa as an independent state- we did a long deliberation as to whether it should remain in the report or not.

We said that the issue of Zanzibar joining as an independent state is a matter of the Constitution of both the United Republic of Tanzania and union government and the matters, which we are dealing with, are the matters, which are below the Constitution – *(Interruption)* -

Mr Mwinyi: I am sorry I have to interject and I beg to defer with my honourable sister. The question is whether that subject matter as raised and actually recorded as such. It does not matter whether we agree with it and the point I was raising is that there are some rural issues and some perceived issues but the general point is that right across the board, it has been raised again and again.

If we do not acknowledge it – I personally do not agree with it but it is an issue, it was raised and I think it has to be recorded.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Patricia, before you take over, I will guide that we will pick the issues as raised by the citizens and stakeholders but we shall guide them according to our rules and procedures and mandate as a Parliament. We take note of that. Hon. Patricia, proceed.

Ms Hajabakiga: Thank you, Mr Speaker. He cut me short before I finished. As we were deliberating, we said, as an Assembly, let us take everything, which the citizens are telling us as we move into the Partner States. At the same time, let us look at them and bring those which are supposed to come to EAC to EAC and those which have to be dealt with by Partner States directly, they be taken to the Partner States directly.

What I am saying is we are still representatives of East Africans. We are representing our constituencies and our own national assemblies have elected us. We must be concerned with issues of national nature.

Even when we were in Rwanda, there were so many issues raised which pertained to issues, which are supposed to be dealt with by Rwanda as a country or Burundi as a country. We thought that if we bring everything in this report, not everybody who will read this report would understand where we are coming from.

Moreover, this report is going to be an open one, which will go to anybody in the world. We thought it would be very difficult to compromise this Assembly and come up with issues that I think are of constitutional nature. Moreover, we are not with any ability to question a Constitution of any country. That is why, as a sub-committee we thought we could not bring some of those matters in this report.

Mr Speaker, the other thing that was raised by hon. Zein – *(Interruption)* -

The Speaker: Hon. Patricia is the mover of the motion and the holder of the floor. Hon. Shy-Rose is rising on a point of information. Honourable Members, we should know that I am now infringing on our Rules almost.

Ms Hajabakiga: Mr Speaker, I am constrained because I ...

Ms Bhanji: Mr Speaker, when we were in Dodoma, when the stakeholders who had come to talk to our chapter saw hon. Kimbisa - because he is the chairperson of our party in Dodoma - they brought all these issues that were supposed to be addressed by our parliamentarians in Dodoma. Just because they saw hon. Kimbisa, they brought all sorts of problems in Dodoma.

Therefore, I agree with hon. Patricia that we have to sort out these issues out. Those that are related to our countries locally, we should forward them to the relevant authorities.

Hon. Mwinyi is right in one sense that we have to forward the issues that had cropped up to maybe the ministries concerned. We should not just leave them.

The Speaker: Thank you.

Mr Mwinyi: Mr Speaker, again at the danger of belabouring this particular point, the procedure is simple. When a matter is not relevant but is widely reported, do we capture it or do we make a decision not to capture it because it is not relevant?

The key thing is this is a public record and those who gave us this information may have access to it. It will seem as though we did not bring this matter to this House so my particular point is, if something is reported, it has to be captured as reported and then explained away on a point that constitutionally, this is not our matter but it has to be reported. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, the point is taken. Our mandate is defined in the Treaty here that issues, which are picked during subsequent sensitisation programmes, which in your own leadership judgement should be taken to national governments, please do it there and then because you represent the people and you come from all these governments. I think that is the best approach to take.

Hon. Patricia, move as we proceed. We are constrained by infrastructural deficiencies.

Ms Hajabakiga: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The only thing, which was remaining, was the one on removing the third recommendation on fast tracking the Political Federation. I think it is something that came out in the report and from different stakeholders requesting for fast tracking the Political Federation. Whether we remove it or keep it, it is still there because the Summit has

already directed so. It is still in the work, which is being done.

By fast tracking, it does not mean we are doing Political Federation today or tomorrow. It will have to go through the procedure or the process. It is just that people are still asking and this Assembly is still asking that we should fast track the Political Federation unless we decide to review the Treaty and remove it but as long as it remains in the Treaty, people are questioning why we are not fast tracking.

Therefore, for me, since there are people who think that it should remain, I think it should remain in the recommendations.

Mr Speaker, I forgot to mention my son, hon. Mathuki here that he participated and ably supported this motion. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable members, the motion before the House – There are issues that came from hon. Maryam Ussi on a plea to this Third Assembly not to conclude its tenure before going to Zanzibar. This is a matter that has been picked up and the Commission will deliberate on it. I thank you.

Honourable Members, the motion before the House is

THAT The report of the East African Legislative Assembly on the second sensitisation activities conducted from 9-28 June 2016 in Partner States be adopted.

I put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, as a reminder, the coordinators of sports would like to have a short meeting with the

managers and the captains of the different sports disciplines that we are preparing for.

I thank you so much. The House is adjourned to tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 6:36 p.m. and adjourned to Thursday, 25 August 2016 at 2.30 p.m.)