



## EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

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

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

142<sup>nd</sup> Sitting – Third Assembly: First Meeting – Fifth Session

Thursday, 25 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)*

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#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members –  
*(Interjection) -*

**The Minister in the Office of the President for East African Community Affairs, Burundi (Ms Leontine Nzeyimana) (Ex-Officio):** On a point of Information, Mr Speaker., in line with Rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure, I am standing to raise a matter of public concern.

Mr Speaker, first of all, I wish to thank you very much for the able manner in which you are steering the House. We the members of the Council of Ministers are happy with you, and we appreciate the cordial relationship we share – *(Interruption) –*

**Mr Mathuki:** Mr Speaker, I thank you and the honourable Minister, but I thought if she is invoking Rule 40, which is for personal information, then she should have allowed you to pronounce yourself on her motion before proceeding with her submission.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Peter Mathuki, Chair of Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee. I had given the honourable Minister a chance to hear from her. I was going to give her a chance to speak and then guide her to move formally under that Rule, but I kindly beg for her indulgence to allow me to communicate a few things. Immediately after my communication, I will give her a chance to speak under the provided rule. Thank you so much.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR****(i) FOOTBAL MATCH WITH WAZEE CLUB**

**The Speaker:** Honourable members, as you may be aware, we are preparing for the Inter Parliamentary Games due in November-December in the Republic of Kenya. The EALA soccer team has arranged a friendly match with the *Wazee* Club. I am seeing many members looking at hon. Leonce, but the *Wazee* Club is a football club, well established in Arusha here. It comprises of senior citizens of Africa who live in Arusha. Hon. Leonce confirms that he is a member of the club.

This match will be held on Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup> at the General Tyre grounds at 4.30 p.m. The Office of the Clerk will arrange transport for the players, and the fans to go and support our team as a way of building our capacity to be competitive. You may want to appreciate that we are the champions of the region and we must defend our trophy.

In the same vein, I would like to say that all captains and managers of the different teams – practice is on every day in the morning before 9.30 a.m. so please report to the games grounds every day. The Office of the Clerk must arrange transport for the same.

**(II) VISITORS IN THE GALLERY**

We have in the gallery our good friends the youth of the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform led by Mr James Tayebwa. We salute you, we welcome you and we appreciate the work you are doing in promoting the integration agenda in the region. Thank you.

Honourable colleagues, I will eventually have dinner with these youth people and

engage with them on your behalf on Monday.

Honourable members, you recall very vividly yesterday that the Rt hon. Deputy Prime Minister and also sitting in for the Chair, Council of Ministers vividly urged this House to read and be informed to provide leadership. He has walked the talk and he has written two books: “The Sapoba legacy, a story of ideals and idealism in Ugandan politics and family life” by Mr Kirunda Kivejinja, Bidandi Ssali and Kintu Musoke. These are icons in the politics of Uganda. The second book is, “Uganda, the crisis of confidence” written solely by Mr Kirunda Kivejinja.

These books are available here. The Right honourable minister gracefully agreed to give us a package of the two books at \$80. Let us promote our intellectual rights and literature by making this book available to our personal shelves and the shelves of the Assembly. You can buy cash or contact the Office of the Speaker and then you will have these books available to you. We thank you.

We urge our senior citizens who have information they are holding to, to pen them down for posterity and future generations. We recognise your ability, sir and we are very grateful.

Honourable members, on a sad note, the government and people of Italy have succumbed to – about 184 people have died because of natural disaster of an earthquake. Since we are part of the global community, this House would like to condole with the government and people of Italy on this unfortunate event. May we rise and observe a moment of silence?

*(The members rose and observed a moment of silence.)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, honourable members. I now provide the floor to the honourable minister who has a matter of public interest.

**Ms Nzeyimana:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Maybe I did not introduce my statement well. I stand on rule 40 of the Rules of Procedure on a personal explanation to express a matter of public importance.

Mr Speaker, if I may continue, this House on 21 July 2016, during its session, passed a resolution condemning the killing of our dear sister, hon. Hafsa Mossi.

Mr Speaker, the people of Burundi appreciated the solidarity and sentiments expressed by all members of this House.

Mr Speaker, whereas the people of Burundi appreciate the resolutions, as the government of Burundi, we are concerned with about two clauses of the resolutions, in particular clause 2 and clause 6 of the resolution – *(Interruption)* -

**The Speaker:** Hon. Bucumi, first wait for the minister to finish. Do you want to give her information before she finishes?

**Ms Bucumi:** Yes, I want to give information. I thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me way. I would like to give information on what resolution number two is saying. Resolution number two reads as follows: “Acknowledge that there are serious human rights violations in Burundi.” Resolution number six read as follows: “Call upon the EAC Council of Ministers to invoke chapter seven of the Charter of the United Nations so that the UN Security Council commences investigations on what is happening in Burundi.” Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Proceed, honourable minister. The member is just refreshing your argument by reading the resolutions.

**Ms Ndahayo:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I was present during that session from the beginning up to the end and I really do not recall any member revoking such resolutions.

Mr Speaker, even if it were so, looking at the details of what entailed in chapter seven of the UN Charter, I do not think that members would support such a resolution, considering their implications.

Mr Speaker, if you could allow me or any other member to read what chapter seven of the UN Charter is all about – *(Interruption)* -

**The Speaker:** Honourable minister, will you take information from hon. Ndahayo?

**Ms Ndahayo:** Mr Speaker, I would like to read this chapter seven of the UN Charter. Article 39: “*The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace, breach of the peace or act of aggression and shall make recommendations or decide what measures shall be taken in accordance with Article 41 and 42 to maintain or restore international peace and security.*”

Article 41 reads, “*In order to prevent an aggravation of the situation, the UN Security Council may, before making the recommendation or deciding upon the measures provided for in Article 39, call upon the parties concerned to comply with such provisions measures as it deems necessary or desirable. Such provisions or measures shall be without prejudice to the right, claim or position of the parties concerned. The Security Council shall duly take account of failure to comply with such provisions or measures.*”

Article 41: *“The Security Council may decide what measures not involving the use of armed forces to be employed to give effect to its decisions and it may call upon the members of the United Nations to apply such measures. These may include complete or partial interruption of economic relations and raid, sea, air, postal, telegraphic, radio and other means of communication and the severance of diplomatic relations.”*

Article 42: *“Should the Security Council consider those measures provided for in Article 41 would be inadequate or have proven to be inadequate, it may take such actions by air, sea or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security. Such an action may include demonstration, blockade and other operations by air, sea or land forces of members of the United Nations.”*

Mr Speaker, I would like to mention these four out of more than 10 Articles of this chapter. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Ndahayo for the information to the minister and the House. Hon. Leonce, your microphone is off. Can I have it on?

**Mr Ndarubagiye:** I have information about the discrepancy between the original resolution sent by the Chairperson of Legal Affairs and the final resolution where we did not discuss the two matters about chapter seven and about a serious breach of human rights in Burundi. They were never discussed. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Honourable minister, the information is given to you and the House. Can you proceed?

**Ms Nzeyimana:** Mr Speaker, based on those concerns, I believe that the inclusion of these clauses that were not discussed in the debate must have been out of a technical

error by the Office of the Clerk. Therefore, I kindly request that the Clerk comes up with the right resolutions that were passed by this House for your onward transmission to the Partner States. Otherwise, Mr Speaker – *(Interruption)* -

**Mr Mukasa Mbidde:** Mr Speaker, I am still perusing the rules to find out whether debate is particularly allowed on a statement of this nature and I am finding that it is not. In the event that an allegation is made when I personally provided the information to the effect of chapter seven, how does a member now come to defend that position? I did it and I can own up to it.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Mukasa Mbidde. I am being extremely careful to the letter of our Rules of Procedure allowing the minister to make her case then I will give guidance to the House. I do not want to preempt the honourable minister. Let her make her case then I will come to that. Thank you.

**Ms Nzeyimana:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for protecting me.

I was saying that I believe that the inclusion of these clauses, which were never discussed in this House, must have been out of a technical error by the Office of the Clerk and, therefore, I humbly request that the Clerk comes up with the right resolutions that were passed by this House for your onward transmission to the Partner States as it was done before. Otherwise, Mr Speaker, the resolutions of this House, as they are currently, is questionable and I believe, Mr Speaker, that you will use your good office and wise counsel to correct this misnomer. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr. Ogle:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. If my memory serves me right, when that debate on the late Hafsa Mossi ensued in this Assembly, I remember that there were various recommendations made by this

House and if I remember well, there were instructions that the Committees of Legal and Regional Affairs meet at some point to harmonise the various and many recommendations that were made before this House.

Now I am not sure whether that has been done but nonetheless, I do not understand – Under that particular rule 40, a member is only supposed to stand up and make a personal statement without any debate so if the honourable minister is asking for a deletion or an amendment; I do not think it really suffices in the circumstances.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Ogle. I was going to guide on that very matter as raised by you on the rules provoked by the honourable minister without watering down the content of her statement.

She could have best moved under rule 13 but still, with due respect to what has been raised, I think let us put the record clear that this is a matter of public importance and we have a way we deal with it as a House. I would like to state the following: a motion was moved in this House to pay special tribute to our late colleague and friend, hon. Hafsa Mossi. The mover read the original text of the motion and after the motion was fully seconded, debate ensued.

In the process of the debate, members of this august House did an amendment to the original motion. As expected, the mover of the motion accepted amendments to his original text and as expected, the clerk at Table and the Office of the Clerk finalised.

Even before that, the vote that was taken by this House was on the motion as amended. The vote that was taken on the motion was as amended. The Hansard captures the records of the debate and the people who

sponsored amendments to the original text – (*Interruption*) -

**Ms Ndahayo:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I remember when we were adopting this motion and it is recorded on the *Hansard* that we call upon the Committees in charge of Regional Affairs and Legal to sit and make a final resolution. I am wondering whether what has been read is included in the resolution. Who sat to bring out the last version because it is recorded, as you said?

**Mr. Mukasa Mbidde:** Mr Speaker, is it in order where a directive is made, for the member to insinuate that by way of a private member's speech, the minister has delivered a final document? Is it in order for such assertions to be before this august House that have the inclination to imply probably that we do not have a final resolution so made yet we know we did? Is it in order, Mr Speaker?

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Mbidde. Honourable members, this House is governed by the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community and our Rules of Procedure on how things are handled and how business is done.

We cannot and we shall not circumvent the rules of the House and the Treaty and other laws. I was giving guidance and the chronology of events. When the motion was tabled and debated, amendments were submitted in the course of the debate. The mover of the motion did not object to the amendments, which were moved on the original text.

Two, the question was put by the Speaker on the motion, as amended and the mover and the prayers of the motion as amended carried the day by a vote of 'aye' as put by the Speaker.

There is no single committee or any other arrangement of the House that can review or look with any intention of changing what the Assembly has pronounced itself on neither can it be the Committees of Legal and Regional Affairs or any other members of the committee that can change what the House has resolved.

If there is a query that what is on the resolution is not what the House debated and amended the text, that is a different question and that matter can be ascertained through the following procedure. We have *Hansard* of this debate; we have people who have debated on this motion and the amendments, which were undertaken. Hon Zein, go ahead.

**Mr Zein:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity. I am standing on a point of procedure and I would like to first of all affirm and say that what you have said is true in all traditions of all parliaments.

Having said that, I would like to say two other things. There is a way of changing what a decision of the House has been arrived at and that way is known by the rules that you can come through the rules again to seek to change the decision that has already been made by the House. However, there is a separate route to do that.

Secondly, and it is very important for us to understand each other, if you seek to raise matters under (40) then you tie your hands because there is no debate. The minister could have chosen to use other routes that would allow for raising of procedure and privilege - You can actually use privilege to raise because even the record of this House is governed by privilege.

Therefore, I am saying that I affirm what you have said but just to clarify that there are ways of even changing the decisions that have been made by a House and those are

known through our own rules. Thank you, Sir for your indulgence.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Zein. That is why I have not allowed any debate on the matter. I have only allowed procedural points, points of order and points of clarification. So, I urge members to desist from circumventing the rules and using those other entry points like points of procedure to debate this matter. This matter is not debatable. The Speaker is only offering guidance and a ruling on the matter.

Therefore, what I am saying is that the text was amended. It is not the original text that was presented and that carried the day. There were amendments. If there are any queries - as per the statement from the Minister - that there were inclusions in the text that did not come on the floor as amendments to the original text, then the Office of the Speaker will review the records of the debate and see if there were any inclusions, which were not part of what the House resolved.

If it is a case of a typo, it will be corrected, but if it is proved that it is the true record of the House, I will come back and pronounce myself on the matter that it is the true record of the House, and I will request the Minister to accept it and not to give a contrary view on the matter because this is a grave matter of precedence where what is issued is said not to be the true record of the House. My office and the Office of the Clerk will ascertain that and get back to this House on Tuesday in my communication. I thank you so much - (*Applause*).

## PAPERS

**Mr. Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable members. I beg to lay on the Table the report of the oversight activity on hotel

classification and preparedness for a single tourist visa. I beg to lay.

**BILL'S**

**FIRST READING**

**The East African Community Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Bill, 2016**

**The Speaker:** Is the honourable member in the House? I will use my prerogative to adjust the paper and skip that order.

**BILL'S**

**FIRST READING**

**The East African Community Retirement Benefits for the Specified EAC Heads of Organs Bill, 2015**

**Mr Frederic Ngenzebuhoro (Burundi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the East African Community Retirement Benefits for Specific Heads of Organs Bill, 2015 be read for the First Time. I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Seconder? Hon. Ngenzebuhoro has moved a motion and I am asking for seconders for the motion.

*(Several Members stood up to second the Motion)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Dr Martin, hon. Tiperu.

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR SPECIFIED HEADS OF ORGANS BILL, 2015 BE READ FOR THE FIRST TIME

**The Speaker:** The Bill is referred to the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges.

**MOTION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON HOTEL CLASSIFICATION AND PREPAREDNESS FOR A SINGLE TOURIST VISA**

**The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Mr Christophe Bazivamo):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to present the report of the oversight activity on hotel classification and preparedness for a single tourist visa, an activity done between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2016.

**Introduction**

Mr Speaker and honourable members, Article 115 of the Treaty establishing the East African Community – *(Interruption)* -

**The Speaker:** Hon. Bazivamo, under order five, you are moving by way of motion. You moved a motion, let it be seconded and then debate will ensue after your presentation. Please can you move the motion?

**Mr Bazivamo:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the oversight activity on hotel classification and preparedness for a single tourist visa be adopted.

**The Speaker:** Seconders to the motion?

*(Several Members stood up to second the Motion)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Dr Odette, hon. Shy-Rose, hon. Ole Nkanae, hon. Rwigema, hon. Chris Opoka, hon. Mumbi, hon. Sarah Bonaya, hon. Kalinda, hon. Nderakindo, hon. Kimbisa and all the members standing. Proceed to present the report.

**Mr Bazivamo:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Article 115 of the Treaty establishing the East African Community... Article 115 of the Treaty Establishing the East African Community states that in order to promote the achievement of the objectives of the Community as set in Article 5 of the Treaty, the Partner States shall undertake to develop a collective and coordinated approach to the

promotion and marketing of quality tourism into and within the Community. To this end, the Partner States shall coordinate their policies in the tourism industry and undertake to establish a framework of cooperation in the sector that will ensure equitable distribution of benefits.

The Treaty further states that Partner States shall establish a common code of private and public tour and Travel Operators standardize hotel classifications, harmonise the professional standards of agents in the tourism, and travel industry within the Community.

The Partner States are also obligated to develop a regional strategy for tourism promotion whereby individual efforts are reinforced by regional action.

In line with the above, and as a follow-up to a previous activity in the Tourism Sector, the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources carried out a spot assessment of selected Hotels in EAC Partner States and thereafter, a workshop was held to get information from Partner States representatives on the Tourism sector with a view of identifying progress made, existing gaps, challenges and charting a way forward in this respect in order to ensure sustainable development of the sector.

### 1.1 Objectives

The overall goal of this exercise was to develop a collective and coordinated approach to the promotion and marketing of quality tourism into and within the East African Community.

The specific objectives were the following:

- i. To take stock of the progress so far made in implementing EAC projects and programmes within the context

of the EAC Tourism and Wildlife Marketing plan and strategy.

- ii. To Interface with hoteliers and other stakeholders in the Tourism industry; and
- iii. To suggest recommendations for improvements in the tourism sector for the benefit of citizens of East Africa.

### 1.2 Stakeholders

The committee interacted with hoteliers in all EAC Partner States capitals and outside capital in Kenya. Presenters came from Ministries responsible for East African Community and from Tourist Boards of Partner States.

## 2.0. METHODOLOGY

The following methodologies were used during the entire activity:

- i. Courtesy calls to government offices to identify with focal persons hotels to be physically assessed;
- ii. visits to various hotels to assess their classification and services offered;
- iii. Workshop with Partner States representatives to inform Members on the progress so far registered in the tourism sector and encountered challenges;
- iv. Opening speech by the Committee Chairperson; and
- v. Committee meeting to harmonize views and findings from both field visits and workshop.



### 3.0. FINDINGS OF THE ACTIVITY

#### 3.1. REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

##### 3.1.1 Status of Tourism

The Government of Burundi is committed to the implementation of the EAC integration agenda in general, and agreed upon projects and programmes in particular, including sustainable tourism development.

Tourism can through its value chains contribute to poverty reduction and for Burundi in particular, the tourism sector plays an important role in the consolidation of peace through development and job opportunities that can be availed across the board.

The Government of Burundi considers the Tourism Industry as one of the major economic sectors, which can help boost economic development in the country. Henceforth, tourism activities in Burundi enjoy incentives granted by the National Investment Code.

The National Investment Code offers a number of facilities both to local and foreign Investors, especially exemption of Income Taxes to persons or companies that are involved in the sectors of hotel, restaurants and other tourist accommodation facilities. Furthermore, the initial equipment imported is duty free.

For this reason, many hotels are under construction nowadays in Bujumbura and in provinces. For example in 2010 Burundi had 87 hotels, while in 2016 Burundi has 370 hotels, 568 Rooms in 2010 while in 2016 Burundi has 5960 rooms.

A National Strategy for Sustainable Development of Tourism in Burundi has been put in place since 2011 and effective implementation is now due.

In 2012, a Decree regulating tourism in Burundi was signed and adopted as part of the National Sustainable Development Strategy in the sector. In June 2013, the Action Plan for the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Strategy was adopted. This framework governs national reconstruction and rehabilitation of tourism in Burundi.

The Policy on Tourism is also very encouraging as far as it classifies tourism among the main drivers of economic growth in the Strategic Framework for the Fight against Poverty - Cadre Strategique de Lutte contre la Pauvrete (CSLP II 2010-2020).

The tourism sector in Burundi occupies the third place among the five top export niches and it is expected to generate foreign currency and create jobs.

##### 3.1.2. Tourism Products

Burundi claims a number of tourist attractions, including mountain chimpanzees, national parks, museums, lakes, cultural attractions and wonderful sceneries.

The Government of Burundi is also encouraging the development of the local tourism industry. Both local and international operators service the tourism industry in Burundi. The capital city is served by international airlines.

The Government of Burundi has provided for a Facility to upgrade existing infrastructure, especially the road network within the country (The Road Fund) and the new investments in the hospitality sector.

The hospitality sector in Burundi contributes in the employment creation in the country and continues to show signs of strong growth.

Other Burundi tourist products include the following:

- i. Burundi is a country well known for its legendary hospitality;
- ii. Lake Tanganyika is known as a provider of fresh water and suitable for water sports (skiing, sailing, swimming and fishing (ndagala, mukeke, etc.) ;
- iii. Resort beaches can be found along the shores of Lake Tanganyika;
- iv. Natural and cultural monuments (Livingstone Monument, Karera Water Falls, Water Springs, Nyakazu Falls);
- v. Investment opportunities in the hotel sector along the Lake Tanganyika and capital city Bujumbura;
- vi. Beautiful landscape and a rich and varied flora and fauna.
- vii. Most of hotels have international class standards and restaurants;
- viii. From the shores of Lake Tanganyika, the deepest lake in Africa, the land rises abrupt to create dramatic rock formations, gorges with waterfalls and hot springs.
- ix. For animal lovers, the cloud forest in the northwest is a haven for primates, while the Rusizi Delta is an oasis of tranquillity and a paradise for birdwatchers, hippos, crocodiles, etc.;
- x. Burundi cultural heritage is distinctive and boasts not only a diversity of traditional dances and music but also the world famous drummers; and
- xi. The country has long been known for its handicrafts, which include painting, basket weaving and woodcarving,

making it difficult for tourists to choose which souvenirs to buy.

### 3.1.3. Challenges encountered by Burundi Tourism Sector

- i. Focus has been put on investing in the capital city Bujumbura, while there are other touristic sites that need infrastructure to receive and host foreign visitors;
- ii. Many people are unaware of the importance of tourism and there is need to involve the Private Sector in tourism industry;
- iii. Inadequate qualification for tourism personnel;
- iv. Little funding for tourism marketing and promotion;
- v. Limited Air Accessibility (Few Air Companies operate in Burundi: 4 in total; but there are about 13 tour operators);
- vi. Hotels and Restaurants are not yet classified in Burundi which makes it hard for tour operators to offer the exact hotel product level;
- vii. The National Sustainable Tourism Strategy is not fully implemented.

### 3.1.4. Implementation of Regional Projects and Programmes on Tourism

- i. The National Office of Tourism is dealing with the identification and classification of Hotels and Restaurants according to EAC standards, in order to facilitate tourists' choices for quality in their accommodation.

- ii. The Law pertaining to immigration has already been reviewed in order to facilitate tourist visa issuance.
- iii. Hotel classification has not started yet but it is going to start in the near future.

### 3.1.5. Preparedness to implementation of the Single Tourist Visa

The Sixth Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management, held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2015, urged the Republic of Burundi to commence classification by 2016.

To date, Burundi has undertaken many activities in order to conduct classification exercise for hotels, lodges and Restaurants and other touristic sites.

### 3.1.6. The computerization of immigration services

The General Office of Immigration has a complete infrastructure of production of travel documents (passport, Laisser-passes and visa);

The production of these documents is networked with a central server, which records of personal data, bank payment on the spot, taking biometric data, the approval by appropriate authorities.

The internet is via optical fibre cable (under COMGOV project);

With financial support of the African Development Bank (ADB), the project of the construction of the One Stop Border Posts (OSBP) of RUHWA and NEMBA-GASENYI is complete. The African Development Bank has agreed to finance the computerization of those posts, interconnect Bujumbura International Airport and the general office of Immigration by July 2016.

### 3.1.7. Members' Observations on Hotels Assessment and Presentation

Members physically assessed the following hotels:

- (1) Tulipe Hotel;
- (2) Roca Golf Hotel; and,
- (3) Hotel Du Lac Tanganyika.

Members met hotel owners and they were informed on hoteliers' expectations and challenges they encounter in the industry.

Members observed that Hotel classification is not yet done but it was going to kick-start before end of 2016.

Members noted that hoteliers were informed on hotel classification standards criteria and that there is an available team of people trained for that exercise, which will make it easy.

### 3.1.8. Recommendations

- i. The Government of Burundi, in close collaboration with the Burundi Tourism Chamber, should disseminate the EAC criteria for the standardization of hotels, restaurants and other tourist accommodation facilities.
- ii. The Republic of Burundi should sensitize economic operators to invest in tourism as this sector brings a lot of money.
- iii. The Government of Burundi should allocate sufficient budget in the tourism sector to improve it.

## 3.2. THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

### 3.2.1. Policy on Tourism

The National Tourism Policy of 2010 is the one guiding Kenya's tourism. The goal of

the Policy is to achieve sustainable tourism that contributes to a better quality of life for all people. The objectives of the policy are the following:

- i. To provide a framework for integration of tourism sector considerations into the various sectoral policies and national development planning as well as decision-making processes.
- ii. Strengthen the legal and institutional framework for effective coordination and management of the tourism sector.
- iii. Ensure adoption of sustainable tourism that enhances economic development, environmental sustainability and social justice.
- iv. Promote and support the provision of incentives and other economic instruments that enhance investment in the sector; and
- v. Promote and enhance collaboration, cooperation, synergy, partnerships and participation in the tourism sector by all the stakeholders.

### 3.2.2. Status of Tourism Sector

Tourism is a key economic sector in Kenya. It contributes to about 10 percent to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and it earned the country KSh 84.6 billion in 2015. It accounts for 20% to foreign exchange earnings. It employs about 250,000 people in the modern wage sector and about 500,000 in the informal sector accounting for about 9% of total employment. Tourism also has a huge multiplier effect and stimulates growth in other sectors such as agriculture, handicraft and construction due to its dependence on those other sectors.

### 3.2.3. Tourism Products

The following are the tourism products found in Kenya:

- i. Wildlife and nature based tourism;
- ii. Beach tourism;
- iii. Cultural tourism;
- iv. Historical and heritage tourism;
- v. Meeting Incentives ,Conferences and Events (MICE);
- vi. Agro tourism;
- vii. Sports tourism;
- viii. Medical and wellness tourism; and
- ix. Adventure tourism
- x. Museums

### 3.2.4. Preparedness to implementation of regional projects and programmes on Tourism

Kenya is implementing the EAC tourism Marketing Strategy. This includes collaboration in marketing fairs abroad and involving other EAC countries in Magical Kenya Expo and participation in other Member States events like Kwita Izina in Rwanda and Pearl of Africa Expo in Uganda.

### 3.2.5. Preparedness for implementation of the Single Tourist Visa

- i. Kenya together with Rwanda and Uganda are already implementing the East Africa Tourist Visa. Residents of Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda only require their national identification documents or even student identification cards to enter either country. They do not have to possess passports. Foreigners living

- with Resident Permits issued by any of the three countries also just need those permits to travel across the three countries.
- ii. Kenya charges uniform fees to all EAC citizens for entry to all its attraction sites like national parks and museums without exception.
  - iii. Kenyan hotels have been sensitized to charge uniform rates for all EAC citizens and they are co-operating.
  - iv. Kenya together with Rwanda and Uganda are currently building the East African Tourism Portal, which aims to popularize the region as a single tourist destination.
  - v. Kenya together with Rwanda and Uganda are undertaking uniform EAC destination branding at the key entry points.
  - vi. Kenya together with Rwanda and Uganda have been conducting joint trainings for tourism personnel and joint stakeholder forums. This is meant to sensitise them on the EAC single destination and educate them on their roles in that initiative.
  - vii. The East African Tourist Visa can now be applied for online. Awareness on the visa and free movement of citizens has been created through Kenya's missions abroad and through media.
  - viii. However, Kenya registers some challenges in implementation of the single tourist visa namely the following: Some tourists are not yet aware of the existence of the common visa. Moreover, the non-inclusion of the Republic of Tanzania is also a challenge for

Kenya since most tourists combining Kenya and other East African countries will have Tanzania as the second destination.

### 3.2.6. Challenges faced by the Tourism Sector

Among other challenges, Kenya faces seasonality; decline in arrivals when the source markets experience economic, political or other shocks, planning challenges and over development in some areas and global problem of terrorism. There is also Negative publicity due to exaggerated or misplaced reporting by local and international media, insufficient financing of tourism public and private sectors. There is also lack of access to proper tourist infrastructure.

### 3.2.7 Recommendations to improve the Tourism Sector

Kenya is revising the National Tourism Policy, amending the Tourism Act 2011 and formulating a National Tourism Strategy 2030. Kenya should fast track these processes.

### 3.2.8 Specific observations by Members

- i. The EAC Classification Standards criteria are respected as if they are laws (have force of Law) in Kenya.
- ii. The classification process is ongoing, from coastal side to western part of Kenya.
- iii. The hotel classification is very costly.
- iv. Hotels have rates for East Africans and other rates for other tourists.
- v. In order to boost tourism, all Partner States should implement the Single Tourist Visa.

- vi. Hotels assessed were fully booked at the time of the visit owing to the Maasai –Mara Wildebeest Migration.
- vii. Visited hotels had an environmentally friendly policy that enhance service delivery through incinerator, recycling of water and waste
- viii. There is delay in implementation of the Council Directive of 2010 on the EAC Single Tourist visa.

### 3.3. REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

#### 3.3.1. Policy on Tourism

The Republic of Rwanda has a policy for which Mission is “To conserve the rich biodiversity of the Protected Areas and to develop, sustainable tourism in collaboration with stakeholders for the benefit of all the Rwandan People and the region at large”.

Its goals are among others to:

- i. Increase Tourism receipts in a sustainable manner;
- ii. Increase participation of the private sector in driving the tourism growth; and
- iii. Conserve the biodiversity inside the protected areas for the benefits of future generations

The Republic of Rwanda approved tourism and conservation laws to improve the sector and these include the Concession policy, the Compensation law, the Wildlife Policy and the Tourism law. Other tourism and conservation agreement approved is a partnership with the Akagera African Parks Networks for the management of the Akagera National Park.

#### 3.3.2. Status of Tourism in Rwanda

Tourism is one of the drivers of economic growth in Rwanda. In only 4 years, the revenue from tourism has doubled. Revenues from Tourism increased from US \$201.7 in 2010 to US\$ 318.8 in 2015 and Tourism remains the leading foreign exchange earner for Rwanda; it contributes 9.2% to the national GDP.

Moreover, the sector has been attracting Foreign Direct Investments and major international brand hotels such as Marriott, Radisson Blue, and Zinc Hotel to name few;

Kigali is served by international airlines such as SN Brussels, KLM, Qatar Airways, Turkish airline, Ethiopian airline, Kenya Airways, FlyDubai, plus the National carrier Rwandair that is greatly expanding.

#### 3.3.3. Status of Hotel Classification

Rwanda’s Tourism has attracted an influx of big and international brands of hotels and domestic huge investments.

Hospitality establishments have registered a sharp increase and improvement in number, quality of service and standards.

In a bit to harmonize hotel standards in the EAC, Rwanda has embarked on implementing hotel classification exercise accordingly.

The total number of Classifiable hotels in Rwanda totalled to 90 hotels in 2013. Among those, 75 have been classified excluding the new international brands.

Rwanda had two five star classified hotels. However, with the emerging of new international brands, the number rose to five. It also has four star (15), three star (32) two star (17) and one star (1).

A new list of classifiable hotels produced indicates a huge increase in the number of classifiable establishments from 90 to 136.

#### 3.3.4. New Tourism Products

New Tourism Products have been developed out of the protected areas in addition to the Mountain Gorillas and National Parks: These include: -

- i. Congo Nile Trail developed and operational;
- ii. Faith tourism in Kibeho;
- iii. Cave tourism developed and operational in Musanze;
- iv. Meeting Incentives Conferences and Events (MICE) Tourism launched;
- v. Coffee and tea tours have been introduced along the Kivu Belt;
- vi. Watersport developed in the Lake Kivu (Kayaking and houseboat);
- vii. Bird watching has been developed in Bugesera, Nyabihu and Musanze ;
- viii. Canopy walkway has been developed in Nyungwe and is operational; and,
- ix. Cable Car and Kigali Cultural Village – the construction contracts are in process.

Rwanda has currently four National Parks, namely:

- i. Akagera National Park
- ii. National Volcanoes Park
- iii. Nyungwe National Park
- iv. Gishwati Mukura National Park

The National Parks are protected; for the Akagera National Park, 110 km electrical fence has been completed. Rwanda Development Board has initiated Tourism Revenue Sharing Policy as a strategy of empowering the communities around the National Parks. Two hundred and sixty five community projects worth USD 2.5 million have been funded. Trans-boundary collaboration has been one of the strategies to conserve the national parks. Currently in collaboration with Uganda and DRC, Gorilla census/survey is ongoing.

#### 3.3.5. Implementation of the EAC Single Tourist Visa

- In January 2014, Rwanda, Uganda and Kenya initiated the East Africa Single Tourist Visa that supports the development of Tourism in the region.
- In the last two years the Single Tourism Visa has marked a remarkable change and increase in tourism revenues to the member states as it is seen in the increase of the number of international tourists in Rwanda.
- Rwanda through private sector (Tour operators, travel agencies and other tourism players) have enhanced awareness campaigns on the use of the STV
- The current figures (2015-16) however not tallied to accuracy show a range from 6,500 to 7,000 issued visas both by air and road (main boarders), this figure is subject to change after consolidation of all the data by Immigration Authority.
- Rwanda through the Northern Corridor Integration Projects and the Joint Team Management Committee highlighted a need to enforce awareness of the Single Tourist Visa and established a joint budget to facilitate this exercise through

a number of projects including Radio, TV Adverts, brochures, banners and others.

### 3.3.6. Challenges

- i. Low quality of service delivery;
- ii. Limited direct flight from key tourism markets e.g. no direct flight to USA, UK, China and India (Rwandair plans to fly to China by 2017).
- iii. Limited infrastructures for tourism sector.
- iv. Limited managerial experience by local private operators to manage bigger facilities such as hotels
- v. External challenges such as instability and terrorism in the region
- vi. High cost of funds from banks by investors (interest rates)

### 3.3.7. Members' specific observations/Findings of hotel physical assessment

Members observed that it is not easy to classify hotels under 2 star criteria. They also observed that there are 3 new big hotels not yet classified but they may be 5 stars; these are Marriot, Radisson Blue and Zinc hotels and these have boosted tourism in the country. As an example, Rwanda hosted more than 2000 delegates during the recent African Union Summit. It was however observed that there is a big gap between five star hotels because you cannot compare Serena with Radisson Blue for instance as it is also observed in other categories of hotels.

- i. They observed that the single tourist visa boost tourism indeed.

- ii. Members observed that it is not clear yet to monitor the use of one single tourist visa.

- iii. All Partner States need to implement the single tourist visa to help the region boost Tourism.

- iv. Members from Rwanda highlighted the need for promotion of intra-East African tourism for sustainability of the sector. They also observed that there is need to empower women to be involved in the tourism industry.

## 3.4. THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

### 3.4.1. Uganda's Policy on Tourism

Uganda has undertaken to market and to promote itself as an attractive and sustainable tourist destination, locally, regionally and internationally; to encourage sustainable environmental safety and sustainability and to develop infrastructure; to encourage investment, job creation, income generation in the tourism sector; to support, strengthen and build capacity to private players and entities; to enforce, and monitor standards in the tourism sector, through inspection, registration, licensing and classification of tourist facilities and services.

### 3.4.2 Status of Tourism

Uganda has a lot of diversity in the country and a very rich culture.

Tourism brings in almost 10 per cent of the GDP. Tourism has emerged as the top foreign exchange earner with growth rates that propel the service sector, jobs and employment where people are employed as drivers, guides, secretaries, accountants, construction of hotels, restaurants, tourist facilities and leisure sports, boosted the inter-linkages between other sectors.



- i. Contribution of over US\$1billion to the economy representing 26% of exports.
- ii. In 2013, Tourism directly supported 500,000 jobs and indirectly supported 400,000 jobs.
- iii. Tourism Investment represents 5% of total investment.
- iv. Connectivity by air, road, water. Entebbe is connected by 22 airlines. Domestic air travel registered large increase from Entebbe and Kajansi.
- v. There is in place a Tourism Master plan and a destination marketing and branding tools.

#### 3.4.3. Uganda's Tourism Products

- i. Wildlife, which is unique and untouched.
- ii. Nature with a rich Biodiversity.
- iii. Geography Gifted by Nature.
- iv. Culture- Most Culturally diverse.
- v. Heritage – Rich diversity, Faiths.
- vi. Rich history –existence of Kingdoms while in a Republic.
- vii. Weather 27 degrees average.
- viii. Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Events (MICE) destination – Accessible and great facilities.
- ix. Business & Investment – Favourable and great Return on Investment (ROI).

On top of these, Uganda has stunning attractions such as pristine marine attractions.

With its prime location in the African Great Lakes Region, Uganda has Four of East Africa's great lakes: Lake Victoria, which is the world's second largest fresh-water lake of 68,000 sq. km, Lake Kyoga, Lake Albert and Lake Edward that are popular spots for tourism. Lake Bunyonyi, second deepest lake in Africa (900m). Uganda home to the source of the world's longest river, the Nile measuring 6695 kilometres (4184 miles). White water rafting and kayaking are popular activities on the rapids near the source of the Nile at Jinja. Some of the best waterfalls in the world are found across the country like Murchison, Karuma, Sipi, Kalagala, Sezibwa and Itanda. Twelve (12) wetlands of international importance are designated under the Ramsar Convention (RAMSAR sites).

Moreover, Uganda is an adventure destination with scenic landscape and mountains, which are:

- i. Kigezi referred to as 'Switzerland of Africa' because of its scenic landscape & weather;
- ii. Mt. Ruwenzori (5,109 m) which is permanently snow-capped, a rare condition in equatorial Africa which was voted among top hiking places in the world;
- iii. Virunga volcanoes in south-western Uganda which were voted 'A must see place for 2012' in one's life time; and
- iv. Eastern Uganda Mt. Elgon (Africa's 17<sup>th</sup> highest mountain), Mt. Mgahinga & Mt. Muhabura (SW) and Mt. Moroto (NE), to name a few.

Uganda is also a World's Premier Primate Country

- i. Uganda has the largest mountain gorilla population in the world.

- ii. There are over 5,000 chimpanzees found in Uganda (Kibale Forest alone holds a population of more than 1,000 chimpanzees).
- iii. Home to world's largest number of monkeys, baboons, apes, rare colobus, nocturnal Bush babies and Pottos found in pristine eco-environment.

#### Uganda as a Top Birding Destination

Uganda has more than 1,000 bird species. Home to over 50% of the entire bird population in Africa and 10% of the world. Queen Elizabeth National Park has over 605 species, the largest of any protected area in Africa. Bwindi Impenetrable National Park was voted Africa's number one birding site (2012) by the African Bird club.

#### Cultural Diversity and Heritage

Uganda is endowed with 56 tribes and languages each with a distinct

Cultural, heritage, History, Language, Food, Dance, Dressing, Beliefs, Customs Folklore

#### Faith Based Destination

All faiths are represented in Uganda.

- i. Bahai Temple and the only one of its kind in Africa.
- ii. The Uganda Martyrs Shrine Namugongo. The king of Buganda, Kabaka (King) Mwanga in 1886, killed about 50 Faithful men.
- iii. Gaddafi Mosque in Kampala, second largest mosque in Africa.

#### 3.4.4. Challenges

Uganda is not clearly yet realizing its full potential as a tourism destination due to Limited Sector Funding: the Sector cannot fund its development budget. The allocation

is 0.11 % of the national budget, Low Product Quality and Range; limited world class developed facilities. Lack of a decentralized public sector planning and management, Limited Tourism Regulation. Unable to Produce Enough High-Quality Tourism and Hospitality Workers thus creating Uncompetitive skills gaps. Tourism Promotion is still limited.

#### 3.4.5. Hotel Classification/Specific Findings

Uganda has 63 classified – Hotels in the entire country apart from those in the national parks.

#### 3.4.6. Challenges of Hotel Classification

- i. Review of existing Classification Criteria should be a continuous process but it is very costly;
- ii. Harmonization of the Assessment Report is a studious exercise;
- iii. Benchmarking/ Familiarization Programme for Hotels Assessors in the region is costly
- iv. Hotel Assessors Refresher Courses need to be undertaken but are costly;
- v. Training of Trainers of Hotel Assessors should be a continuous process and it is not yet the case;
- vi. Training of Additional Assessors is needed;
- vii. Representation of Assessors for Member States;
- viii. Facilitation of Assessors and Trainers;
- ix. Release of Assessors by Employers;
- x. Assessors' work, not clear if it is Voluntary or Compulsory;

- xi. Stakeholder sensitizations' needed;
- xii. There should be continuous monitoring of Quality Standards;
- xiii. Hotels refurbishing after classification not timely captured;
- xiv. Policy Issues on Assessment Tools should be reviewed continuously.

#### 3.4.7. Preparedness for implementation of Regional Projects

- i. Free movement within EAC.
- ii. EAC marketing initiatives. Joint marketing initiatives. EAC days and events at shows and expositions at home and abroad.
- iii. Revised EAC entry park rates.
- iv. Border posts presence branding.
- v. Hotel Classification according to EAC accepted standards.

#### 3.4.8. Recommendations

The following should be enhanced to develop the tourism sector:

- i. Government funding ;
- ii. Destination marketing, promotion, branding, awareness;
- iii. Private sector development and support.
- iv. Business support and job creation;
- v. Domestic tourism;
- vi. Product development and innovation;
- vii. Need to have own National Carrier;
- viii. Infrastructure development;

- ix. The Joint Team Management Committee of the EAC Northern Corridor should be enhanced;

- x. Research should be continuous.

#### 3.4.9 Members' Specific Observations/Findings

During the assessment exercise, Members of the Committee did not see any "One star" hotel during the assessment. The exercise was quite interesting and hoteliers reserved them a very warm welcome and appreciated their activity.

Members therefore recommended that classification be a continuous process because hotels keep on improving standards to get highest star. Regular field tours are to be focused on.

Hotels welcomed the idea of being classified because it helps to market themselves.

### 3.5. THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

#### 3.5.1. Policy on Tourism

The first National Tourism Policy of Tanzania was adopted in 1991.

The 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and Agenda 21 for the Travel and Tourism Industry have led to the revision of the 1991 Policy.

The revised Tourism Policy formulated current Tourism Policy of 1999 which is currently also under review.

The general objective of the policy is to assist in efforts to promote the economy and livelihood of the people, to alleviate poverty through encouraging the development of sustainable and quality tourism that is culturally and socially acceptable, ecological

friendly tourism, environmentally sustainable and economically viable.

The strategies on which this policy is based are mainly Tourism product development and marketing; Eco-tourism; Cultural aspect of tourism;

Domestic tourism; International and regional co-operation;

Land for tourism; Infrastructure development; Employment and human resources development; Community participation;

Investment, financing, institutional participation and environmental protection.

### 3.5.2. Status of Tourism

Tourism contributed to more than 17% of the total GDP; (Hotels and Restaurants together contributed 2.3% in the period of 2009 – 2014). It contributed to more than 25% of the total exports (tourism together with transportation sector contributed 80% in the period of 2010/2011). It is the Second to attract the number of investments after the industrial sector (attracted 209 investments in 2012), supported 11% of the total employment (*1,196,000 jobs*) and increased the number of registered tourism related businesses (*from 4 in 1962 to 1,089 in June 2015*). It increased the number of international visitor arrivals (*from 582,807 in 2004 to 1,137,182 in 2015*) and the total earnings from tourist activities (*from USD 746.2 million in 2004 to USD 1,901.10 million in 2015*).

### 3.5.3. Tourism Products

The major Tourism Products in Tanzania are Wildlife (16 National Parks, 28 Game Reserves, 44 Game Controlled areas, one Conservation area, (Ngorongoro Crater), and two Marine parks; Mountains (The famous Kilimanjaro, Meru, Rungwe). The Eastern

Arch Ranges of Usambara and Udzungwa; Adventure tourism; Water bodies Beaches, Water skiing, scientific marine researches, and Cultural tourism – Stone Town in Zanzibar, Bagamoyo, etc.

### 3.5.4. Challenges in the Tourism Sector

- i. Low level of involvement of the local Communities; Pollution of national parks due to tourist activities; Competition in the use of natural resources between the tourist parks and the indigenous population surrounding the parks;
- ii. Low level of domestic tourist; poaching and encroachment of protected areas (tourism product base); and inadequate infrastructure e.g. roads, airports, water; Slow pace on restaurants and accommodation establishments;
- iii. Insufficient land bank for tourism investments; poor quality services;
- iv. Threats of climate change; global conflicts, terrorism and crime; and
- v. Health threats e.g. Ebola outbreak, etc.

### 3.5.5. Implementation of regional Projects and Programmes

Since November 2008, the East Africa Community has been marketed as a single tourist destination and the United Republic of Tanzania has been participating in International Tourism Fairs including World Tourism Market in the UK, Internationale Tourismus-Börse Berlin (or International Tourism Fair) in Germany and Casa Africa Investour in Spain.

The country applies uniform rates for touring the tourist attractions for East Africans.

Classification of Restaurants and Accommodation Establishments is ongoing; and the country participates in the Annual Regional Tourism Wildlife Conference within the EAC Partner States.

### 3.5.6. Status of Hotel Classification

#### Grading Results in Manyara Region

In Manyara region, 26 accommodation establishments were visited to find out if they could be classified. Out of 26 accommodation establishments visited, 20 qualified to be classified and graded. After the exercise, the 17 accommodation establishments were graded from star 1 to star 5 and awarded a plaque and certificate.

#### Grading Results in Dar es Salaam and the Coast Regions

In Dar es Salaam and in the Coast Region, 99 accommodation establishments were visited to find out if they could be classified. Out of 99 establishments visited, 77 qualified to be classified and graded. After the exercise, the 66 accommodation establishments were graded from one star to five star, and they were each awarded a plaque and certificate.

The United Republic of Tanzania has not begun the implementation of the EAC Single Tourist Visa due to un-implementation of the Recommendations of the Study as directed by the Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management.

### 3.5.8. Specific recommendations of the EAC Single Tourist Visa

The United Republic of Tanzania recommends the EAC Secretariat to adhere to the Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management (SCTWM) Directives and coordinate the implementation of the Recommendations from the Study as

directed by the SCTWM in their various meetings on timely manner.

### 3.5.9. Members' specific observations/findings on the field

Members made it clear that hoteliers interacted with complained that tourists know Arusha as the only tourist destination as Ngorongoro and Serengeti National Parks can be accessed from there, ignoring that Dar es Salaam has also attractive destinations. They observed that tourists fear the transport traffic in Dar es Salaam where it is not easy to move. However, Arusha Hotels are not classified to the advantage of Dar es Salaam and coast hotels.

Members also observed that the assessment was very important. However, they found that hoteliers do not have appropriate knowledge of standards and criteria for classification. They therefore recommended the EAC Secretariat to help hoteliers to know guidelines and criteria of classification. Their views were that the EAC Secretariat has a big role to play in training assessors, as 15 only for the entire country are not enough.

Members concluded that such activities should be intensified.

### 3.6. EAC SECRETARIAT PRESENTATION

In his presentation the EAC Officer informed the Committee, that the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the

Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management (SCTWM) met on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2008, and made decisions regarding the Single Tourist Visa (STV), which, among others, directed the Secretariat to undertake a Study to harmonize tourism policies and laws and to recommend how a Single Tourism Visa

could be introduced and that in the context of the Common Market Protocol implementation.

The Study was conducted in 2010 and findings revealed that:

- i. Partner States have different Visa regimes;
- ii. Visa issuance in two Partner States is manual while in other three it is partially computerized;
- iii. Partner States have different views in regard to issues related to visa revenue that is, visa fee; mode of payment/collection; sharing of visa revenue, administration costs and creation of various accounting options on remittances;

The study therefore recommended that:

- i. There is need for harmonization of the Visa Laws and Regulations in order to implement the proposed EAC Single Tourist Visa;
- ii. There is a need to have Visa issuance systems computerized; and
- iii. There is a need to harmonise Visa revenue collection systems and sharing procedures.

The study therefore concluded that it is imperative that Partner States need to harmonize their laws and regulations related to visa issuance, visa fees and collection/payments to achieve the intended objective; That Partner States need to develop a mechanism for sharing the visa revenue collected and the cost of administering the EAC Single Tourist Visa.

In 2013, the Fifth Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management decided that introduction of the EAC Single Tourist

Visa should be fast-tracked by 2014. It therefore established a multi-sectoral task force composed of technical experts drawn from the Immigration, Tourism, Finance, Foreign Affairs, ICT/Infrastructure, Security, Legal and EAC Affairs to develop a roadmap and any other assignments leading to the Introduction of an EAC Single Tourist Visa. The Multi-Sectoral meeting of Ministers responsible has not been able to consider the report of the multi-sectoral task force in order to provide guidance on the introduction of an EAC Single Tourist Visa.

Meanwhile, the three Partner States, namely Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda, using the Principle of variable geometry, decided to start implementing the Single Tourist Visa.

In addition, he informed Members that the EAC has agreed standards and criteria that have been developed by East African Community Secretariat in collaboration with EAC Partner States. These have been elaborated with reference to internationally agreed upon standards. He recognized that all Partner States have started classification of hotels except the Republic of Burundi.

He finally highlighted that one of their biggest challenge is underfunding which makes the department unable to execute its mandate.

#### 3.6.1. Emerging issues

- i. Hoteliers/hotels should contribute in funding the hotel classification program as it facilitates them in marketing their businesses.
- ii. EAC restaurants should also be included in the classification exercise.
- iii. The EAC Department on tourism should defend their priorities in the EAC pre-Budget Conference in line

- with the matters of priority to the Community. The EAC Secretary General should also address funding issues to the Summit in order to allow the Tourism sector to develop.
- iv. The Secretariat should train personnel to execute classification of hotels in a given country. There should be a motion or a law to put in place such a pool of professional staff to deal with hotel classification.
  - v. Criteria for hotel classification in East African Partner States have to be benchmarked with reference to internationally agreed upon standards.
  - vi. Criteria for hotel classification should be continually updated to address new developments.
  - vii. Classification of restaurants should also kick-start and EAC Secretariat should be pro-active to introduce new criteria.
  - viii. The Secretariat needs to form an EAC pool of assessors to assess hotels in all EAC Partner States rather than local assessors to work at local level. The outcome would be more credible. Qualified assessors should be part of this regional pool.
  - ix. Internal and external examiners should review criteria in Partner States.
  - x. EAC Secretariat should consider the tourism sector as it boosts the EAC economies.
- 3.6.2. Specific recommendations from representatives of Partner States
- i. Need for Partner States to avail classification criteria to be mandatory for investors in hotel industry.
  - ii. It is important to follow the Directives of the Council in order to improve the implementation of the East African Single Tourist visa.
- 3.6.3. Specific recommendations from Committee Members
- i. Hotel Classification should be a continuous process ;
  - ii. Training should be a continuous process;
  - iii. Department of tourism should be empowered with funds and human resources;
  - iv. On the issue of one single tourist visa, the United Republic of Tanzania is willing to follow the required procedure but challenges identified in the study, which was carried out in 2010, should be sorted out first. Tanzania also wants to learn from Partner States, which have started the process.
- 4.0. GENERAL OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
- 4.1. OBSERVATIONS
- i. Presentations were very well prepared for the workshop. They depicted clearly what is happening in Partner States in the tourism industry.
  - ii. Visiting hotels was a very good exercise and very interesting.
  - iii. From the visit, the following issues were highlighted:

- Regulations governing the tourism industry should be harmonized;
  - Investors in hotels should be guided and informed about the regulations on hotel classification before they start construction;
- iv. Members observed that there is a need to update the hotel classification criteria regularly since standards change from time to time.
  - v. There is a challenge to invest in hotel industry because of the high interest rates and short time financing.
  - vi. Classification should be a continuous process, which has to be reviewed regularly.
  - vii. There is a need to improve institutions to provide adequate training in the tourism and hospitality industry.
  - viii. Members observed that there is a need to fast-track the implementation of the One Single Tourist Visa in all the five EAC Partner States
  - ix. The Members noted that the tourism department in the EAC Secretariat is underfunded.
  - x. The Members observed that the numbers of hotel assessors are few.

#### 4.2 RECOMMENDATIONS

From the field visits undertaken by Members, presentations of the workshop and emerging issues, the committee recommends the following: it

- i. Urge the Council to increase the budget of the Tourism Department in

order to allow it to execute its mandate.

- ii. Urge the Council to establish a mechanism whereby funds can be generated for hotel classification.
- iii. Urge EAC Secretariat to continue trainings more hotels assessors.
- iv. Urge Partner States to establish and improve institutions of learning and build capacity in the tourism and hospitality industry.
- v. Urge the Council of Ministers to fast track and complete the study about the implementation of the EAC One Single Tourist Visa as decided upon by the Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management in 2013 with the deadline of 2014.
- vi. Urges EALA to recommend the EAC Council to fast-track ratification of the Protocol on Tourism and Wildlife Management to facilitate implementation of an inclusive Single Tourist Visa.
- vii. Urges the Council of Ministers to put in place an appropriate funding for interconnectivity, which allows Partner States to track movements of tourists and revenues from tourism.

#### 5.0. CONCLUSION

Notwithstanding the challenges and shortfalls in implementing hotel classification, the Committee noted that the other EAC Partner States have started this process and it urges the Republic of Burundi to follow the footsteps of other Partner States.

The Committee concludes that the activity was successful and that such Committee activities should be encouraged in order to fast track the integration agenda.



On the One Single Tourist Visa, it is evident that it will facilitate to market EAC as one single tourist destination.

The Committee finally recommends that this August House do adopt this report with all its specific and general recommendations and that copies of the adopted report be sent to Partner States and all stakeholders for follow up and ensure that appropriate actions are taken.

#### 6.0. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Committee wishes to thank all the stakeholders who provided information to Members. These include hoteliers and officials from Partner States Governments, namely officials from the Ministries East African Community Affairs from the five Partner States, for the coordination at local level, mobilization of hoteliers, warm welcome and all courtesies accorded to Members of the East African Legislative Assembly during the on-spot assessment exercise in relation to Hotel Classification. They also include representatives of Partner States from Tourism Boards.

Specifically, the Committee commends the Rt. Honourable Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly and the Clerk for having made the exercise possible. The Committee also expresses its appreciation to East African Community Secretariat for availing an officer to brief Members on regional policy and the progress so far on hotel classification project.

The Committee further appreciates all presenters for their insightful presentations and for mobilising the various stakeholders that the Members interacted with.

The Committee further extends its gratitude to Hotel Managers in the Partner States for their warm hospitality and availing information to Members.

Finally, the Committee would like to extend its appreciation to offices of the Clerk for having ably facilitated the Committee in different ways.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move – *(Applause)*.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Christophe, Chair, Committee on agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources. Honourable members, the motion before the House is that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural resources on the oversight activity on hotel classification and preparedness for a single tourist visa be adopted. Debate is open.

I am going to allow limited debate on this subject in the interest of time. Please do not take more than five minutes if you are given a chance.

**Mr Adam Kimbisa (Tanzania):** Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the floor. I am a member of that committee, I will speak on two issues, and one is on the hotels.

Mr Speaker, what we discovered in the process of hotel classification is that our people, especially local hotels- sometimes we found bigger and beautiful hotel and also with good services but unfortunately they are not classified either as one star, two star, three star, five star or 10 star. The reasons, which come up, are that when people start building the hotel, they do not know what kind of hotel they want to build.

They start building and sometimes expanding brick after brick and therefore, it becomes very difficult to classify them. Even they do not have any idea on the stars.

Secondly, you find a beautiful hotel built in a slum for example in Manzese in Tanzania, in Kibira in Nairobi- beautiful hotels but because they are in the wrong place, it

becomes very complicated because they are in an unplanned and un-serviced area so the classification becomes very complicated.

With the international hotels, the Mariotts, the Intercontinental, the Sheratons, the Hiltons and name it, they know from the beginning what kinds of hotels and most of them are five star hotels. They want to go to either Kigali, Dar es Salaam or Nairobi or Kampala. They know exactly where to build and they know that it is a five star hotel. For them, there are no problems because they are international brands.

These are the areas, which we found complicated and therefore, our people are still struggling to make sure that where there is a hotel, a restaurant, a guest house- nobody really knows what it is and therefore they have lost a lot. Of course, they have their own local market.

The second issue is the single tourist visa. Mr Speaker, it goes without saying that many of the tourist attractions are in Tanzania. They are many and big. There is only one Mt Kilimanjaro in Africa and we have a game reserve called Selu, which is as big, plus or minus the country of Uganda. This is true.

There was a study conducted, which the Council of Ministers directed the Secretariat to do and that study came up with very interesting findings that the Secretariat has to establish interconnectivity for revenue collection. Now with a country with such big variances, we would like to know if a tourist comes to the Kenyan Embassy in Rome for example and would like to visit not only Kenya but Tanzania, Uganda and Burundi, there is no way of checking how much money this tourist has paid. There is no interconnectivity whatsoever so some countries are concerned that they want to know. He has paid in Rome at the embassy of Kenya, Rwanda or Tanzania but he is

going to three or four countries and those other countries do not know what amount of money was paid at that material place.

Secondly, the findings were that the cyber security system; the tracking. How are people going to track all these things? It does not elaborate. The Secretariat was ordered to ensure that at least cyber security systems are there. With this world of terrorism, you need to do these things. With this world of money laundering, you need to have a cyber-security system.

Third, the mechanism for revenue sharing. How are the Partner States going to share the revenues? You cannot just pay and say, we shall see later. When? People should know from the beginning how much money, who is going to get what, when, how much, how. This is not yet done.

Fourth and last, the inter face system at the embassies for tourist entries. This is similar to the first one. Once these things are done, it will be easy to access countries like Tanzania, which has not yet signed in because they will know for sure. Unless and until these things are done, it can be very difficult for any country and that is why it has been comfortable with the situation for others to go ahead while these things are being worked out. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Kimbisa.

**Ms Nusura Tiperu (Uganda):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I wish to thank the committee for its report and I want to thank the Rt. hon. Prime Minister for the books that you highlighted to us. Thank you for using your office to tell us clearly, what he has done. We will emulate our elder.

Mr Speaker, I am glad that the committee and this House has taken the issue of tourism very seriously. Over the years, we

have always talked about marketing East Africa as a single tourist destination. This seemed to have just remained in words but with the single tourist visa for the three countries, I can now see a move towards the realisation of that dream.

Mr Speaker, if you look at the period especially when most of the foreign countries are going into seasons like winter, you find that there is a big number especially of the elderly at the embassies looking for visas to come to East Africa and it has always been hard for them. You go to the Ugandan embassy looking for a visa, turn to Tanzania, Kenya so with this in place, it has been a little bit easy.

Indeed, East Africa is a destination of wonders... people want to come to East Africa for many reasons, some of which have been highlighted. Uganda, my motherland in particular, is a country that is considered intact and rich in many animal species. The cultures, the foods, among others and I will not highlight them because the chairman ably highlighted them so people would want to go and enjoy a bit of what is in Uganda, go and get what is in Tanzania, move to Rwanda and see what they can get and finally go back.

Indeed if the tourism sector is developed, we will see our airports being very busy. It is sad to see our airports with a very limited number of travellers in seasons when you should be expecting people moving from each of the Partner States, trying to see where they would want to spend their money. People want to spend money but they do not have information, they do not have data on where the best facilities are.

With this report in place, I hope the Secretariat will do its best in financing the tourist department. This is the only way we can see visible benefits of the integration process. The tour operators are suffering

because whereas they would want to benefit from what is happening in the neighbouring countries, they do not have a central place where they can get information on the tourist facilities so I am looking for that time when our tourist department is fully financed with proper staff and information, marketing our tourist facilities.

I would like to go to Amsterdam and get something about East Africa on the billboards and the only people who can do that is the Secretariat.

Mr Speaker, we are battling with issues of financing. If the tour area is properly organised, I believe a mechanism can be put in place on how these hotels can contribute towards the running of the Secretariat and more organisation of the tourism department.

In view of the fact that we do not have time, I just want to say that the committee has done a good job and we pray that ultimately, we have a single tourist visa for all the five Partner States because it seems to be the only way to go. It seems to be the only way through which we can actualise the objectives that are set in the Treaty.

Many people are anxious to benefit like the taxi and tour operators among others. If that sector is left untapped then we have a problem. I am glad that all our presidents and governments are committed in seeing that there is a change in this particular area. What is required is this regional body coming up to give direction and leadership. *Ahsanteni sana.*

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Tiperu.

**Ms Shy-Rose Sadrudin Bhanji (Tanzania):** Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the floor. I would like to begin by congratulating the Chair of our Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural

Resources for presenting the report on the floor ably and eloquently.

Mr Speaker, the hotel classification exercise is an important exercise and very key and pivotal to the economic development of our region.

Mr Speaker, classification of hotel exercise is an important public relations and marketing strategy for EAC tourism because it will boost revenue to the investors but at the same time contribute to the taxes to our governments in EAC.

Mr Speaker, however for this classification exercise to be successful, there needs to be a pool of professional experts to conduct this exercise. For example, one of the challenges facing the United Republic of Tanzania is that there are only 15 assessors which are not enough considering the geography of Tanzania.

Likewise, Mr Speaker, we need to have a proactive policy, which is very explicit, and very well laid to for our investors who are interested in building hotels. It is important that our would-be investors in the hotel industry fully understand what are the criteria of full standardisation of hotels are. So far, this standardisation is reactive in the sense that the exercise is done to hotels when these hotels are operational.

Mr Speaker, I do agree with all the recommendations, especially on the criteria of hotel classification to be continuously updated. At the moment, the classification is old fashioned and does not match with international standards.

At the moment, in classification of international standards, you find hotels having gyms, spas and other recreational and health facilities.

I recommend, with our Chair's permission, to add one more recommendation that all the hotels classified under EAC standards should have a signage so that any tourist or even ourselves when we are visiting our Partner States we would easily locate these hotels - *(Interruption)* -

**Mr Sebalu:** I would like to give information that actually the signage are there. All the hotels that have been classified do have it at the front office and it is a requirement for it to be displayed in such a manner.

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. These days I have become very lenient in accepting information because information is power. Thank you, hon. Sebalu.

Mr Speaker, one of the challenges that we faced in Tanzania during this oversight activity to visit hotels was that the time allocated was very short. As I said, because of the geographical locations of the hotels in Tanzania in terms of distance, more time was required for us to conduct this exercise fully and meaningfully.

In my view, one day per town would at least give room for visiting two hotels. Son Mr Speaker and the acting Chair of Council, we would really appreciate it if you could consider giving this committee more time to undertake these activities.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to recommend that this oversight activity be undertaken in all the five Partner States, and that all the Members should visit all the five Partner States. The last oversight activity that we did, the locating was in our respective countries, which in a way is not very right because I would expect at least members from Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda and Kenya to be in Tanzania also. And likewise, we members from Tanzania would visit and assess hotels in other EAC Partner States.

Lastly Mr Speaker, this report is highly commendable and a move in the right direction for improvements to be made.

On the single tourist visa, in principle this is a very healthy practice if and only when the recommendations from the study as directed by the sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management in a timely manner. It is very important to over emphasise that Tanzania has not delayed to join the single tourist visa but wishes to see EAC Secretariat adhere and coordinate the implementation of the recommendation from the study conducted since 2010.

We did query the officer in charge from the Secretariat as to why it has taken six years to sort out the challenges on the implementation of the single tourist visa. The answer that was provided is that there is no money.

Mr Speaker, every project and idea in EAC, the answer is, we do not have money. Until when? I would have appreciated if the Secretary General of EAC would have been here to listen to our plea on this very important issue on single tourist visa.

That is all, Mr Speaker and I submit.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I will begin by thanking my sister hon. Shy-Rose for being lenient to my information. - (*Laughter*) - I was holding my breath so I thank her for that.

Mr Speaker, this exercise was timely, very important, necessary and desirable and I once again would like to thank the leadership of Parliament, under your stewardship for allowing these activities to be undertaken. We do not take it for granted when we have such activities undertaken

because they could be planned but for one reason or the other, they may never see the light of day. The fact that it was undertaken is something to write home about.

The Chair has put the issues very well. This was an eye opener on a number of issues regarding the hospitality industry. You will really find quite interesting scenarios. You look at hotels and resorts, motels, inns, guesthouses, homesteads and a wide range of classifications.

However, practically you get some of them mixed up. It is not uncommon to see a three bedroomed something called a resort with quite interesting naming which does not tally with the proper – You see someone talking about a motel which is deep inside and yet this should be somewhere close. These are all interesting outcomes of such an exercise.

Allow me to make about three comments of general nature. I happen to have been in Uganda but my discussion is regional. I am not going to discuss it based on my home country because then I will not be regional in nature.

The hotel classification should be an ongoing exercise because what comes out is that hotel owners, once they go through certain processes, they put right certain things and upgrade but you find that they still go by the star that was given.

I want to give an example of a hotel that would be classified without a health facility and then a year down the road they fix that. That should allow it to be upgraded to another level but then they remain on the star that was given even before they expand their facilities. That then denies them the opportunity to enjoy the rightful star and yet they have invested to upgrade into such a star. That is cross cutting in all the five Partner States because the investors in the

hotel industry keep upgrading their facilities. Therefore, the process should be able to allow them to upgrade with the investments that they make to be able to benefit from the rates and from the collections regarding the classification.

This calls for money and definitely, it is something that we need to look at if we are to motivate our East Africans to benefit from this exercise.

We would be in position also to establish the exact capacity, not of Partner States because we need to get to a level where we appreciate the capacity within the region.

Mr Speaker, I just want to give you an example that an East African by the names of Sam Awori has been elected to be the President of Rotary International and whenever such a thing happens, you get what we call Rotary International Convention. This is a convention that brings about 40,000-50,000 people in a capital and in a region.

What is happening is that the East African capacity is not yet known so what is going to happen when this gentleman assumes office is that this convention which is coming to Africa for the first time will be hosted in South Africa because the capacity here is not known and it cannot be ascertained because the people who come want to know how many five stars, and four stars we have so that they can book. Being an East African, this convention could have taken place within this region if the capacity and facilities were known and classified.

It is not uncommon for people to reside in the five Partner States and then fly into the venue of the convention. That is done elsewhere but because the statistics are not clear in terms of total capacity, the organisers could not give this option but given that they know the capacity in South

Africa and they wanted the convention to be on African soil, it is going to be taken to a place which is not the home area of the President and yet ordinarily he should choose the venue and priority is always given to a home region.

That is the kind of disadvantage that we get. We need to get to a level where we know the total capacity of East Africa, where you say Tanzania has this, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi have this, in the different categories and we know the maximum that we can host as a region. This is something that can only be done if we reach out to all the hotels available and we are in position to have them classified.

Mr Speaker, regarding the issue of the assessors, the number is insufficient and it has created a problem that people are assessing hotels in their home countries, which is raising issues. Some people are even complaining that it is because you cannot rule out the fact that people can be compromised.

Ordinarily, the best-case scenario would have been EAC to deploy a team of assessors constituted of members from all the Partner States and their outcome would be more credible and appreciated because then it brings in the external element. We have external examiners for purposes of quality control. A similar arrangement would be very useful for the hotel classification not a situation where you get Ugandans to classify Ugandan hotels, Tanzanians, Kenyans, Rwandans and Burundians the same.

It would be good if they went as a team of East African assessors. The outcome then becomes more credible, the standardisation is better appreciated and the outcome is more acceptable.

This will require the region to train an optimal number and create a pool available for deployment. That would definitely be the best arrangement.

In the interest of time, Mr Speaker, I want to leave it at that but I want to thank the Chair and the stakeholders as they gave us very good information. We were able to appreciate that something is being done in this area and the hoteliers, especially those hotels that have been classified gave good evidence that the classification has given them better standing because they are getting a lot of inquiries globally given that they are appreciated globally and the business is coming in, in a more predictable manner, especially from those that book ahead of time, something that was not common before they were classified.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Sebalu.

**Ms Isabelle Ndahayo (Burundi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is somehow difficult to speak after hon. Sebalu because he is very eloquent. He has said exactly what I wanted to say, especially at the end.

I would like to ask the Chair of the committee to take the recommendation as it came out when we were debating this report. We need an EAC assessing team, which can help us to conduct this exercise in a harmonised way. It will also help in objectivity. As we have said, Partner States are doing this exercise internally or hoteliers are doing it themselves. It is just for self-esteem so there is need of having a regional assessing team.

Mr Speaker, I will not take long because whatever I wanted to say has been said but I would like to tell this Assembly that they could not imagine how we felt when we were doing this activity. It was a very

interesting activity. You cannot imagine –  
(*Interruption*)

**Ms Byamukama:** Thank you, Mr Speaker and thank you, my sister for giving way. I think this clarification actually goes to the whole committee on the EAC assessors. I am just wondering how this team would be able to go around all the Partner States and in what period.

I was just reminded of my experience of staying in the United States of America where each individual is given some very clear guidelines on how to assess himself or herself in terms of the tax they are supposed to pay. This becomes easy because once you have the guidelines, you are able to assess yourself, and almost 99 per cent of the time you are right, on the kind of taxation you must pay.

So maybe the proposal should also be that there should be clear guidelines set out on how a hotel is classified and then from there we will have mechanisms at different levels to be able to affirm and ascertain that what is stated is correct. I am just seeking clarification on the practicality of that but it is not only for you but also maybe for us to think about.

**Ms Ndahayo:** Thank you, hon. Dora. We have discussed all those issues that you have just raised. We have observed that the EAC has already trained a team of assessors and they are in all Partner States. They already exist but the way it is done is we have seen that it has some constraints because it is being done within a Partner State.

It can be easy because the training is there, the standard and criteria of classification are known and what we have found as a potential problem is the funds and we have said if the economic operators are involved, it can be easy because they can even pay for that exercise. This can be done in a given

period and regularly. When they are involved, they can contribute to that exercise.

Mr Speaker, I would like to speak quickly on another recommendation I wanted to give which is not captured in our report. In order to continue improving our tourism sector, there is need of ensuring security in our region. Good neighbourliness is also very important. Without security, if we are talking about terrorism or internal conflicts and so on, the tourism sector will go back so I think there is need of adding this recommendation among the others.

Mr Speaker, I think I can say that I support the report.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much. The point hon. Isabelle is very important. No visitors want to go to an unsecure area. May I invite the Chair, Council of Ministers to say a few things?

**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. I would join my colleagues in thanking the committee for this elaborate and exact report, which is another way of how a group of East Africans are discovering their own countries. All these things have been around but because there has not been a sizeable number of leaders who actually go to see these things, it has become difficult to even frame- because the next thing is always to go to the law.

When we make the law, we have a complaint that it is not being implemented because you cannot implement something you do not understand. This is a wakeup call that we need to know more about our areas, the economic activities that will make the region rich and then we come here.

I would like to emphasise the point by hon. Dora that we in this Assembly should not imagine that we would be able to go and do the jobs thoroughly. Even if we are given an entire year, you will find that we cannot do it.

Therefore, I think we only need to draw lessons that one, as the country develops, we will have to train people to do certain jobs. This is an area where we have identified that there are only, for example 15 assessors in the whole of Tanzania. I do not think you are going to fill the vacuum but I think it brings out the idea that here is an area that as a Secretariat we should be able to frame so that we can train young people to do this job. That is also another form of finding employment for our people.

In the olden days, people thought that the people they educated would finish the jobs but in Europe where almost everybody is given enough enlightenment, is where you find maximum employment. Therefore, where employment is coming up these areas.

Therefore let us emphasise in one of our recommendation that as a result of the findings, the Secretariat should find a way of advising schools to be set up to train the technicians that can drive the industry.

For example in Uganda, almost 80 per cent of our people working in hotels are from Utali, which means that they had a school and we do not have it. Since good service is always taken from one who knows, we will find that if we identify the critical areas that need to be attended to. We will only come, scratch, and give ourselves the chance so that we are able to initiate such programmes. However, let us not have the illusion to imagine that even if we get the money, we can finally be able to give members half a year to go and look at all the hotels in this region. If members do that, they will not be able to finish and we shall have inefficiency.



As I said, whatever report we produce, we must have a system whereby actionable recommendations are extracted and given to the relevant sectors of our Community to act upon and follow up. That is our only way forward, thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, honourable minister. Your lea has been taken that action points be taken and the Office of the Clerk shall remind the relevant authorities on the various recommendations.

Chair, can you please, in a very short time, summarise?

**Mr Bazivamo:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I will begin by thanking the House because I have seen that members have appreciated the report, there is no one who contested it. Actually, I confirm, as I said in the beginning, that this activity was very important and should actually have been done yesterday. In addition, the recommendations to have continuous assessments are very important.

I would like to thank honourable members who have held the floor but not ignoring everyone who is in support, even in silence. I thank hon. Kimbisa and agree with what he has said because these are things that we discussed in the committee.

I thank hon. Tiperu, hon. Shy-Rose, hon. Sebalu, hon. Isabelle and the Chair, Council of Ministers for the very useful comments he has made.

I do not have a lot to comment on because everyone has actually supported and what was highlighted was actually to support what we have done and to highlight the importance of this activity and to see it clearly and continuously done in the future. This is the wish of everybody and towards improving the sector.

On the issue of having a group of assessors at the level of the Community, I think we have made a recommendation to the East African Community Secretariat to keep on continuously making sure that assessors are trained but having them at the level of the Community to be deployed - I think this will not be easy.

What is to be seen in the recommendations, which were there is to see the East African Community as the coordinator to organise these things to happen and to make sure that assessors exist here and there and in coordination to make sure that assessment is not only done by local people because there are two levels.

If we want to have a continuous process as a recommendation that has been accepted; to have the process of classification continuous, we should find a mechanism of having assessors available locally and internally and by regional coordination, to do external classifications or audits to make sure that what was planned is done.

Therefore, we see coordination at the East African Community level and/or making sure that external assessment is done to confirm or to make sure that what is done locally is well done in respect to standards.

Mr Speaker, the issue of ratification of the East African Protocol on Tourism, this is already in the report. We recommend in the report to urge EALA to recommend that East African Community Council of Ministers fast track the ratification of the Protocol on Tourism and Wildlife Management to facilitate the implementation of an inclusive single tourist visa.

We think that this is what is required, but I think that perhaps we should improve this recommendation. As I have said, the third one: "Urge East African Community Secretariat to continue trainings for more

hotel assessors and then coordinate and organise hotel classification at regional level.” I think this will be better instead of putting in place a structure, which will not be operational when we are complaining of funds and all these things.

Otherwise Mr Speaker, I thank everyone who has said a word of support and I thank members who have silently supported. As I have said, I thank you for having put in place such a programme to make sure that this tourism sector which we were not able to include in our programme from the beginning. It is now possible and we are glad for that. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, Chair, Committee on Agriculture.

Honourable members, the motion on the floor is that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural resources on the oversight activity on hotel classification and prepared for a single tourism visa, as amended, be adopted. I put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Chair. We can go to order four, which we adjourned.

## BILL'S

### FIRST READING

#### **The East African Community Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Bill, 2016**

**Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda):** Mr Speaker and honourable members, I would like to thank you for your indulgence. I would like to move a motion that the East African Community Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Bill, 2016 be read for the first time. I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Dora. Seconders?

*(Several Members stood up to second the Motion)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Leonce, hon. Dr Martin, hon. Chris, hon. Bazivamo, hon. Dr Odette, hon. Ussi, hon. Taslima, hon. Kessy, hon. Kizigha and all the members standing.

#### THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY PROHIBITION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION BILL, 2016 READ FOR THE FIRST TIME

**The Speaker:** The Bill stands referred to the General Purpose Committee.

#### MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO URGE THE SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE TO AMEND THE TREATY TO MAKE SWAHILI A FORMAL LANGUAGE FOR THE COMMUNITY

**The Speaker:** Before hon. Zein takes the floor to move his motion, this is a very popular motion and in the Office of the Speaker, I had received two motions but as we are guided by our rules, there is a way in which we always prioritise these motions and try to merge them.

When hon. Zein produced the motion, hon. Shy-Rose had also produced a similar motion. Hon. Zein's motion has three prayers, which includes the motion by hon. Shy-Rose. Therefore, in the spirit of pushing a common agenda, we support this motion and I thank the two members. Hon. Zein, move your motion.

**Mr Abubakar Zein (Kenya):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to move the motion with a slight change of amendment in order to conform to the language of the Treaty. I move that this Assembly do resolve to urge the EAC Summit to amend the Treaty to make Kiswahili an official language of the Community. I move.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Seconders?

*(Several Members stood up to second the motion)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, hon. Ussi, hon. Leonce, hon. Dr Martin, hon. Chris Opoka, hon. Sebalu, hon. Taslima, hon. Martin, hon. Kessy, hon. Kizigha, hon. Dora, hon. Kimbisa, hon. Mwinyi and all the members standing.

Hon. Zein, please proceed, read your motion and justify.

**Mr Zein:** Thank you, sir.

*“RECALLING that the East African Community Treaty establishes the aspiration of making Kiswahili the lingua franca of the Community under Article 137(2);*

*AWARE that Kiswahili is the most widely spoken African language in the East African region;*

*COGNISANT that the Community has established the Kiswahili Commission as an institution of the Community with the noble objective of promoting this East African language;*

*ACKNOWLEDGING that language is one of the most important aspects of human life including by being a vessel of human philosophy, values, attitudes, identity and meaning of life;*

*APPRECIATING that the African Union has made Kiswahili one of its official working languages;*

*CONSIDERING that Kiswahili is the fastest spreading African language across the globe;*

*CONVINCED that making Kiswahili one of the official languages of the Community will widen and deepen the integration process;*

*FURTHER CONVINCED that such action will increase the participation of the people of East Africa in the affairs of the Community as well as promote African culture;*

*DESIROUS of promoting these noble aspirations, this House therefore do resolve as follows:*

- 1. To urge the Summit of the EAC to amend the Treaty for the establishment of the Community to provide that Kiswahili is one of the official languages of the Community.*
- 2. To urge the Council of Ministers to support this noble quest by the Assembly.*
- 3. To further urge the Council of Ministers to allocate adequate resources to the EAC Kiswahili Commission to carry out its mandate effectively.*
- 4. To urge the Partner States to give legal status to Kiswahili as an official language.*
- 5. To further urge the Partner States to promote and allow the use of Kiswahili in official domains.”*

Mr Speaker, I can stand before this House and say that this is a red-letter day for me and for many members of this House. If you allow me, I will echo your gracious words before moving this motion that I should pay very special dedication to hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji for working together in harmony with me and many others to bring this noble cause, which is very popular with many of the members who are seated in this honourable, distinguished, august House. I hope history will remember this House with kindness for many other things but for also this one little thing.

I would also like to pay special dedication and appreciation to two very honourable members of this House who also happen to be sons of two former presidents of this republic.

When I came to this House, I was gratified to meet them, not because they were sons of residents but because their fathers were great Swahili scholars. *Mwalimu* Julius Kambarage Nyerere was a Swahili scholar, and everybody knows that he could articulate and speak and you would listen to the music coming from his mouth and you would embrace the ideas coming into your mind because of his articulation.

What people do not know is that *Mzee* Ali Hassan Mwinyi was the same, but even today, among Swahili scholars, one of the leading Swahili scholars is *Mwalimu* Ali Hassan Mwinyi. I hope and pray that one day this House will have the great privilege and pleasure to listen to *Mzee* in Kiswahili and not in English.

Also let me pay tribute to all the members, majority of whom when they heard that this is coming, they waited with abated breaths during the last sitting but we had so much work. The day before yesterday, they waited for a second time but another day went by. Yesterday they waited for a third time and another day gone but I would like to pray and urge my brothers and sisters in this House and say, good things come to those who are willing to wait. So we were waiting and our time has come and I would like not to spend so much time to talk about what is self-evident, what is demanded by history and what is articulated by our culture and what is said by our philosophies but also what is asked of us linguistically.

We should give this noble language, one that no major media house in the world has no programming for - all of them have programming in Kiswahili: The BBC, Radio

Deutsche Welle, Radio India, Radio China, Radio Korea, Radio Saudi Arabia and I can go on and on. We, the owners of this language, must carry this baby to the world before the world has snatched it from our hands and say to them that we are proud of our language.

The African Union has started beating the drums by declaring this language an official language and President Chissano went to the African Union and spoke the sweetness of our mother tongue and lo and behold, that forum of heads of states was quiet and listening.

Let it be so that it can be done even in this Chamber. Allow me to finish with a call of our Chair of Summit sitting here in Arusha, His Excellency President Magufuli, and the Chair of Summit. He looked at his brothers who were seated with him and he said, "Why are we not proud of this noble language that is ours?"

I call you my brothers, let us make that easy decision so this House will be helping the Chair by reminding him sitting with his brothers when they meet in November, if we can do it quickly, and send it to them and say, go ahead and do this great thing for our continent and our region.

Because I know that many want to speak, let me stop there so that others can articulate what is in their hearts and minds. I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Zein. Honourable members, you know that this is a very popular motion, it has been debated by proxy in many of our order items that have been considered and many people want to speak to this motion so be as brief as you can. I will start with hon. Shy-Rose.

**Ms Shy-Rose Sadrudin Bhanji (Tanzania):** Thank you, Mr Speaker for

giving me the floor so that I can also add my voice to this very important motion.

Mr Speaker, I feel honoured and very privileged to second and support this important motion to legalise Kiswahili to become one of the official languages in the East African Community.

I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and commend my brother, hon. Abubakar Zein for bringing and tabling this motion and we had an opportunity to work together and reach a very good compromise on this very important motion to this Assembly and the East African Community as a whole.

Mr Speaker, this is a very important motion because the history of East Africans is intertwined with the linguistic culture of Kiswahili and Kiswahili communication is very central to the integration agenda, be it political, trade or any other thing you mention.

Mr Speaker, Kiswahili language is a home to every East African, even before the East African Community was born. And if there is anything that deals with integration among East Africans then it is the Kiswahili language.

Kiswahili is very rich in vocabulary from the Bantu languages covering up to 60 per cent and therefore, this makes it very core to integrating East Africans whose ethnic origin is mostly Bantu.

Mr Speaker, just for your information, among 120 tribes in Tanzania, the Bantu are the dominant. The colonial government did not lose sight of this fact of the importance of the Kiswahili language and so did the missionaries and the business community from very early years in our respective countries.

Whereas Kiswahili played an important role in uniting the people and in making it easy to rule them, at the same time, it became an important language in facilitating trade between the Arabs and Indians, out of which I am a product as well as others. Mr Speaker, for those who did not know, I am half-Indian and half African, Tanzanian and now East African.

Empirical evidence by Dr Ludwig Kraft, who was a German explorer and a missionary in East Africa and who compiled the first Kiswahili grammar back in 1848 in Rabbai Mpya in Mombasa, shows how important and strategic Kiswahili was and at the same time, this language became very significant for social development.

Mr Speaker, with independence, our countries capitalised on Kiswahili. Some of our countries legalised Kiswahili as the national language: in Kenya in 2010 and I stand to be corrected, in Uganda in 2005, and we are happy to note that now in Rwanda, over 50 per cent of Rwandans speak good Swahili and over 70 per cent in Burundi.

Mr Speaker, to sustain this growth and development, various countries have institutionalised certain organs so that Kiswahili is given priority and I would like to cite a few examples. In Tanzania, there is Bakita Baraza la Kiswahili, Tanzania that is Kiswahili Council of Tanzania.

There is Bakiza in Zanzibar, which is the Kiswahili Council of Zanzibar, Baraza la Kiswahili la Zanzibar. There is Chakchita in Kenya, Chama Kya Kiswahili Kenya, which is Kenya Kiswahili Council. There is Tataki Tasisi ya taluuma za Kiswahili, Tanzania which stands for Tanzania Professional Institute of Kiswahili and now we happily have EAKC which stands for East African Kiswahili Commission. Mr Speaker, we can all see that not all is in vain.

Aware of these developments and glorious benefits, media houses - like my brother cited examples of - media houses of international calibre like the BBC, VOA, Radio Japan, Deutsche Welle, China, Russia and others have jumped on the bandwagon to use Kiswahili in their daily programmes, reaching many audiences in over 17 countries in East, Central and Southern Africa from Somali to Zambia to Zimbabwe and beyond.

Mr Speaker, these involvements and efforts in the use of Swahili language by private and public sectors have caught the attention of the academic institutions to teach Kiswahili language in the universities like in the USA, the UK, in Europe, Russia, China, Japan and South Africa for the very good reasons.

If we look around under the roof of EAC, we have many radio stations, many television stations, newspapers, publications and industries that are more than ready to accelerate and consolidate the popular use of Kiswahili as an integration agenda with much ease and success.

Mr Speaker, I would like to cite an example of two Kenyan musicians by names of Fazili William and Fundikonde, both of who were cultural giants of East Africa during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. They left behind a robust legacy of love songs of world acclaim, which goes by the name of '*malaika, nakupenda malaika*'.

Mr Speaker, even the modern musician known as Bongo flavour are now singing songs in Kiswahili. Just to mention a few, we have musicians in Uganda for example Chameleon Juliana Kanyomozi, we have Kidumu from Burundi, Nazizi from Kenya and Waire...and I am sure there are also other musicians so I will request - (*loud consultations*) -

**The Speaker:** Proceed; other members will mention them in their debate.

**Ms Bhanji:** Thank you. That is what I wanted to request so that I do not exclude Rwanda.

Mr Speaker, all this is to show to the world that our artistic richness that knows no boundaries we have placed very big importance to officialising Kiswahili in the EAC.

If we officialise the Kiswahili language then it will be an icing on the cake in the quest of integration awareness to spread much quicker.

As I wind up. I would like to say that English has dominated the business in EAC, has dominated the English language in EALA and this is an impediment to other stakeholders and prevents them from participating, making follow up and hence contradicting what is contained in the Treaty that this integration has to be people centred and market driven integration.

On the ground, Kiswahili is used widely across East Africa. Therefore, the popular use of Kiswahili in EAC avenues and EALA, alongside English will enhance common understanding by the people on EAC integration.

Finally, Kiswahili not being one of the official languages, we are committing an act of negligence because it is one of the key tools in EAC integration. Even in our countries, majority of our people who live in rural areas have their medium of communication as Kiswahili. They would be more receptive to hear, monitor and make a follow up of EALA debates in Kiswahili and English. Our people would be more attentive.

Therefore, the EAC Summit, which has already made some pronouncements on the use of Kiswahili in our Community, also has to understand that the use of Kiswahili is very important. Therefore, I would like to call upon our Heads of State to start the ball rolling with this clarion call to endorse Kiswahili as one of our official languages in East Africa. *Naomba kuwasilisha*. I beg to submit.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much. Honourable members, you can see that we are many who want to contribute. Can I kindly request that you do not go beyond four minutes. I am actually requesting for modernisation of our PA system such that when I say four, when four minutes clock, it will switch off. I am giving priority to those who have not spoken since we began on Tuesday.

**Mr Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the floor. There is no need to talk too much about the importance of Kiswahili, as everyone is aware that it is not only important but also vital for our Community. Kiswahili is the way of integrating our Community. Kiswahili is the way of creating a nation state like the one they have done here in Tanzania; *Mwalimu Nyerere* who I congratulate very much.

Kiswahili is the way of having culture and social cohesion to empower the future Political Federation. Kiswahili is the pride of a black man and for Africans to spread all over the world a new language that while we were learning theirs, they should start learning ours. That is why it is wonderful that from East to West political divide, they are all broadcasting in Kiswahili.

I will be very brief but say this: the way Kiswahili could help create a nation state and get the African out of humiliation of speaking in a language that is spoken 80,000

kilometres away. It is the only way we can...Let me give you one example then I will sit. In West Africa, even in the same country, people cannot communicate in an African language. They have to resort to the language spoken in Paris. It is an embarrassment. It is time we started speaking our own language especially this one. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Leonce.

**Ms. Angela Charles Kizigha (Tanzania):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the floor, but before I proceed, allow me to thank hon. Zein for bringing this very important motion which I think at the end of the day will be the legacy of this Assembly, if at all it is assented to by the Summit but we hope so by the grace of God.

Mr Speaker, over 100 million people in Africa speak Swahili. It will be quite hard to ignore a language, which is spoken by a majority within Africa and the region. To me, Swahili has all the reasons and grounds to become an official language within our society, especially within East Africa.

As hon. Zein has mentioned, Swahili is recognised by giant foreign organisations like BBC, Voice of America and many others that have already been mentioned so if international organisations recognise the Swahili language, why not ourselves, the ones who own this language? It is high time for us to make sure that Swahili is on board.

Mr Speaker, African Union recently in this week's meeting agreed to propose Swahili as an official language to their Summit, they have also agreed to put the documents, and literature so that they can make sure that Swahili is on board during the African Union when they are proceeding with their activities.

Mr Speaker, every one of us here is very familiar with the name Ngugi wa Thiongo who is from Kenya. He is the one who wrote various books and he is renowned internationally as a writer. Ezekiel Nkelele from South Africa has urged all to use Swahili so that it can be a language to unite Africans.

Mr Speaker, within East and Central Africa, more than 50 million people are speaking Swahili particularly in Tanzania, Zanzibar, Kenya and Ugandans are also speaking Swahili, Zambia, Malawi, Zimbabwe, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, South Sudan, Somalia - All these speak Swahili as a first or second language as a way of communicating.

In addition, His Excellency Joachim Chissano, a former President of Mozambique and outgoing chairperson of African Union has addressed the Summit using the Swahili language and urged the delegates and their countries to learn and speak Swahili. He said, Swahili is unique and contains cultural dignity, which cannot be found anywhere else apart from Africa.

Mr Speaker, Swahili is the primary mode of not only cultural transmission but also inter cultural and generational communication. Culture is also transmitted through language and thus, the promotion of Swahili will act to subdue the phenomenon of cultural dominance. I beg to submit and I support 100 per cent the motion of Swahili in this House. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Dr Perpetua Kessy Nderakindo (Tanzania):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Before I forget, I would like to thank the mover of the motion and I support it.

Mr Speaker, we do have a programme for our students in schools in this subject of science and the basis of most of the science subjects is mathematics.

I would like to bring information to this House that teaching mathematics at the basic level is easier when taught in Kiswahili rather than English. Therefore, making Swahili to be an official language will bring more confidence in the teachers in teaching Kiswahili at the lower levels, especially in mathematics.

Let me give you an example. If you teach students how to count one to 20, which is all you need in arithmetic, you do not need more than 20, you will find that it is easier to do it in Kiswahili than in English. When you count one to 10, after 10 in English you go to another word 11; but in Kiswahili, you use the same words which you have already spoken; *kumi na moja*. Twelve is a new word but in Kiswahili, it will be ten and two.

Therefore, it is easier to teach kindergarten students maths in Kiswahili rather than English and therefore, building confidence in mathematics at that level. It brings confidence in the students because we all know how we think mathematics is so fundamental in studies and once our kids in kindergarten are not doing well in arithmetic, we start to have a negative language on then and therefore Kiswahili will build confidence in our students particularly in mathematics.

Language is a means of transporting concepts from one person to another. We clearly know that concepts are discoveries of human beings of what is in the universe or we can say, what is in our environment. Our environment changes from one place to another and therefore, what we develop as concepts are different from different environments so why do we have to translate our concepts, which are born out of our languages in Kiswahili, and we translate it in English? That is what we are doing exactly in this Parliament.



When we receive concerns or issues from our citizens, they normally give them in Kiswahili but when we come to this Parliament, we present them in English. There is definitely something that we are losing and therefore, I think that when we have two languages, we can say you can speak either in English or in Kiswahili. This will be freedom, which is part of our governance, and therefore, we can see here that we will bring more concepts in our discussions because we will have two languages of debate.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, we know that as we evolve in our politics, nowadays it is politically correct to use the word inclusiveness. If you do not use the word inclusiveness, you seem to be out of date. Inclusiveness means that in our Parliaments we will include those who want to be members of this Parliament but cannot speak English.

Therefore, we are losing many able people who could move this Parliament because we have discriminated against them. We know that in Tanzania in particular, our politics are very hot when debated in Kiswahili but those who are very good in Kiswahili in politics are not allowed, so far, to be in this Parliament and hence with that word 'or' - English or Kiswahili - it brings freedom to this Assembly.

Therefore, I support this motion and it will increase the development in our politics in this region and in particular this Assembly.

As I wind up, many of the parliaments in our region speak more than one language and in the world, the regional parliaments speak more than one language so it is time to update our Assembly to be at the regional and international level in terms of the operations of Parliament. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Kessy.

**Mr Martin Ngoga (Rwanda):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. If rules were permitting, we probably would have had this debate in Kiswahili so that we can from the beginning test our skills.

Mr Speaker, I want to commend the members; hon. Zein and hon. Shy-Rose who thought about this and the way they made their case is such that it is deep and close to their hearts.

You know this language is very contagious. No one who has been close to it can afford to divorce from it.

Mr Speaker, I support this idea first because we have chosen to be the Community that is people centred and here we are denying ourselves a very important tool of integration. We have examples of success stories of how languages have brought people together and Kiswahili is one of those languages that is associated with those success stories. Therefore, we are living in denial. In fact, East Africans are already speaking Swahili. Even those countries where it is perceived to be spoken at a certain smaller percentage, the fact is, most young people speak Swahili. It is very unlikely that you will find four Rwandan young people speaking any other language other than Swahili.

I believe it is the situation across East Africa so by going this route, we are just being realistic. Kiswahili is spoken anyway. We just need to make a decision to be less elitist. Our processes are elitist. We are making efforts to distance ourselves from our people for no reason and we are not downplaying the importance of these foreign languages. They have their important space in this world of globalisation but the case here is to promote our own so that it can play its own role without prejudice to those others.

We are not saying we should not speak French or English because we need those languages but Swahili is equally important in its own context. Therefore, I think it is a very important idea in that it is already a reality. We just need to adjust ourselves; we are the ones who are behind. East Africans are already speaking Swahili, we just need to accept that and stop living in denial.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, let me share this very short story. One day when I was still a prosecutor back home, we had a conference in Mozambique and we had an opportunity to meet the President then, His Excellency Guebuza. When we were shaking hands with him, in front of me was Judge Pheleshi who then was DPP of Tanzania. Mr Pheleshi said, "Good evening, Mr President?" The President asked where he was from because we were saying where we came from. He answered, "I am from Tanzania." The President said, "*Ongea na mimi Kiswahili. Ni salimie kwa Kiswahili.*" It was a bit of an embarrassment.

Therefore, this language is already popular. Those who are not as close to it as we are, are already embracing it so we just need to make this decision. It is not a difficult decision to make and for that reason, I support the motion. I commend the members who brought it; we should have done this yesterday. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Martin.

**Mr Joseph Kiangoi Ombasa (Kenya):** Thank you, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. This is a very important motion and I fully support it. I thank hon. Zein and my sister, hon. Shy-Rose, for working on this motion and bringing it before this House.

Mr Speaker, language can be said to be a very important tool of development. It can also be used to imprison you to other

people's culture so that you do not think straight in your language but you tend to begin thinking that other cultures are more superior to your culture. Therefore, language will release you from this cultural prison.

Mr Speaker, if you note the countries in Europe for example, people are very proud of their languages. The French will speak French and even if he understands English, he will not bother to speak in English. He will persist in speaking in French because he knows that he is proud of his culture.

Therefore, this Kiswahili is our culture and we should be proud that the culture that has been developed as others have said in the East and central Africa and is spreading faster in the African continent is developed. We should embrace that in this Community.

Mr Speaker, way back in Kenya, the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education, and Kiswahili is a compulsory subject. You will not pass with an 'A' if you fail in Kiswahili. Those are the rules there and I am sure that in Tanzania it has been more embraced because I think they teach Kiswahili even in the universities. In the Parliament of Kenya, you can speak either in Kiswahili or in English.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, we are not doing things that are out of the ordinary. This is the way East Africa is going and in short so that the others can also have an opportunity to speak, let us support this motion, which is important, and which will liberate us from cultural harassment, as my brother there has said. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Kiangoi.

**Ms Dora Kanabahita Byamukama (Uganda):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the opportunity and I will be brief. I just want to go to the motion and with due

respect, I would like to thank hon. Zein and my sister, hon. Shy-Rose for the motion.

Going to the title, for the record, we should put the title right: Motion for a resolution of the Assembly urging EAC Summit to amend the Treaty to make Kiswahili an official language of the Community. He corrected it, and I think that is good. I think it flows with the end. I did not hear it.

My second point is ‘recalling that’. Maybe we could go to the specific Article 137 of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC so that whoever is reading this anywhere else will be able to understand.

Let me go to my substantive discussion and I would like to thank hon. Zein for including the fact and very carefully constructing under resolution number one that Kiswahili is one of the official languages of the Community because I think in saying so, he is including the fact that English is already an official language.

I am saying this because I want to be practical. I come from the Republic of Uganda, and I know that most East Africans do not speak Kiswahili. Much as I really support the motion, from a practical level, I think it is important that we maintain the status quo for the time being because when you look at Article 137(2) of the Treaty, it says, “*Kiswahili shall be developed as the lingua franca of the Community.*”

When I googled the word *lingua franca*, it means a language that is adopted as a common language between speakers whose native languages are different. Now the question is, if this was the intention: ‘shall be developed’ and it is now almost 16 years ago because in 1999 the Treaty was adopted, what has been done? I think that is the big question because there was an intention to develop but what happened and what was done to develop? Therefore, I hope that

maybe as part of our discussion here, we shall also look at practical ways of developing it.

I would like to speak a little for Uganda. I think in 2018, Kiswahili will be formally introduced as part of the education and the Right honourable Prime Minister may confirm this but we are a little bit late so I want to go back to the word ‘developed’. Even when we have the Swahili Council, I think we need to be very systematic and to design ways of developing Kiswahili as an official language because it is one thing to say and propose and it is another thing to also look at what happened before so that we can rectify this.

I have just been reminded by my sister, hon. Kessy that our President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni usually talks about Kiswahili as a rich language and she gave an example of the word ‘*kukeketa*’ which is the same word for female genital mutilation. It is just one word in Kiswahili and yet in the English language you have to use three words.

With this, I would like to thank hon. Zein and support the motion. I thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much. Everyone is going to speak but I may need some flexibility because I may adjourn in another 14 minutes unless something is done. Thank you.

**Mr Frederic Ngenzebuhoro (Burundi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the mover of this motion, which I properly and fully support. I support this motion for three reasons. The first one is Kiswahili is a uniting tool.

Mr Speaker, I remember very ably in the 1960s as we used to take the family cattle to the other side of River Muhagarazi, especially during the dry season so that they could graze there. At that time, in the Buha

region, very few could speak Swahili. They all speak Giha. Lately in 2000, I went back there when I was campaigning to be in the Parliament in Burundi and I was surprised to see that all the Buha people understand and speak Kiswahili.

I was also surprised to see that in that region, the newspapers were in Kiswahili. I understood that all Tanzania is now united because of this language so it is very important and I would like to thank His Excellency *Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere for what he has done in making this language a uniting language.

My second reason is that this language is an integrating tool. Mr Speaker, the first time I came to this town of Arusha was 31 years ago in 1985. I was attending an ACP/EU Parliamentary Assembly. At that time there were only two hotels; Saba Saba and Mt Meru, but in another shape, not what we see now. It was very different.

At that time, everybody could speak Swahili. We would go to the market and we had to pay five times the normal price because they considered that we were foreigners.

Let me say that it is the same even today. If you go to the market here and speak English, I can assure you that you will pay a lot of money. That is why you should be interested to learn some Kiswahili so that you can negotiate with them otherwise, it will be very difficult for you.

My third reason is I am a man and I am very happy to see for example that Radio Kachi in Burundi now broadcasts in Kiswahili and another radio from Terano Radio and I am convinced that Kiswahili can boost East African identity. Kiswahili will help us to get an East African spirit so let us pray that this motion is accepted very quickly and the heads of states can amend the Treaty so that

tomorrow we can be united over this language, which will integrate us and will help us to get an East African identity. Thank you.

**Mr Abdullah Mwinyi (Tanzania):** Mr Speaker, before I proceed, can I stand on a procedural motion to request that we extend the time of this session until the conclusion of this debate. Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Seconders? Hon. Maryam, hon. Kessy and all the members standing.

Honourable members, the motion is that we extend the time beyond 6.30p.m. I put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**The Speaker:** I will look at the appropriate time to adjourn. I am not taking you until midnight but let us not cap it yet as we watch the momentum.

**Mr Mwinyi:** Mr Speaker, thank you very much. It is very difficult for me today to debate this motion in a language that is not Swahili. I still think in Swahili and when I sleep, I dream in Kiswahili so when I speak English, as my Right honourable friend pointed out, I convert from Kiswahili into English and all this mention of Kiswahili has put my mind in a mode of debating in Kiswahili but I will try my best to touch upon those aspects that my colleagues had not touched upon.

In my opinion, I believe that a common language is perhaps the most critical element of any successful integration process. A prototype of that is the United Republic of Tanzania. Many people do not seem to realise the diversity within our country.

In 1961 at our independence, we had over 120 different languages and cultures with very few of them having a dominant space. Maybe you could say the Wanyamwezi and

Sukuma combined are about a third of the country but you have more than 120 different tribes and cultures.

The most critical factor for the then President was to create a unity in diversity and an important tool in that project was the language of Kiswahili and Radio Tanzania. It created unity in diversity and communication is vitally important when you have a number of different or diverse groups and you want to mobilise that group into a unitary goal. That is the very definition of integration.

We have the vast majority of East Africans conversing in Kiswahili. In terms of numbers in East Africa and beyond, there are many Swahili speakers so it is an absolute shame that it has actually taken us 16 years from the inception of the second integration process to bring this motion before this House. This should have been brought yesterday.

Mr Speaker, knowing that time is of the essence. I just wanted to quote a small piece before I allow my other colleagues to sit and debate in this very important subject. I have in my hand a report of the second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture, which took place in 1976 in Nigeria. Renown African scholars, Professors Wole Soyinka and Mr Muhammed Abdulaziz, within that context and threw their support for the Kiswahili language to be Africa's lingua franca and they gave five reasons. I beg your indulgence to point out those five reasons.

They argue and support that, one, it has proved its unifying ability by enabling effective communication between East Africans who speak English and their French-speaking neighbours of Central Africa. That is one reason.

Two, it has more speakers than all the other languages that have been suggested as an African lingua franca.

Three, it is a language that has a long writing history with many publications on culture and literature.

Four, Kiswahili is a Bantu language that can be easily acquired in Africa as approximately half of Africa's population is made up of Bantu whose languages are very closely related so it is easy to pick up.

Five, Kiswahili has proved to be flexible in its lexicon expansion. A number of Kiswahili words are from foreign languages. Our number system: *sita, saba, tisa, mia, laki, milioni, bilioni, and triloni* – all of these numbers are adopted from foreign languages. Other things will be mentioned by other people. It is a very flexible language with a very flexible lexicon.

Mr Speaker, with all these important characteristics of the language, it is high time that we adopt it and make it our second language of the East African Community.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Mwinyi.

**Dr Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I first want to thank my dear colleague and friend, hon. Zein for bringing this motion.

The reason why I want to speak about this Kiswahili is I am one of the most suffering persons because I do not speak Kiswahili and I remember the first year I joined EALA in 2008, we were in Nairobi and after I was sworn in, His Excellency Mwai Kibaki received us. We arrived there and sat waiting for him. When he arrived, he started speaking in Kiswahili. We tried to say, can you speak in English but he did not want to speak in English. Every time I looked to my

colleagues to ask what he was saying, why are you laughing, they would say, "Wait."

I really suffered that day and not only that day. We tried to go to Zanzibar and learn Kiswahili but what we could learn – Of course, when I go to the market, as hon. Frederic was saying, I can negotiate but if somebody is on the high table speaking Kiswahili, I will not get anything.

Therefore, I want to support the motion and put an amendment, if the mover allows it. The amendment I would like to put, which might be number four, would be that this House do resolve to urge the Council of Ministers to direct the Secretariat, together with the EAC Commission on Kiswahili to put in place a Kiswahili teaching centre at EAC headquarters.

It is not understandable that we can stay here- of course I know my friend hon. Zein will say it is because of age but even younger ones like hon. Nakawuki who is not here – It is not understandable that we can stay here for eight to 10 years without being able to speak Kiswahili. We have the will to learn and if there was a centre here in Arusha at EAC headquarters, I am sure I would be very fluent in Kiswahili.

Hon. Zein, I hope that you will accept my amendments. When we were in the planning meeting at the pre-budget conference, I even suggested to the Kiswahili Commission representative that they should add that and we would try as EALA members to push to put a budget in that centre so that all staff working for EA can be able to speak Swahili. All members, even the ministers coming here, could go in the evening when we finish our business and sit in that Kiswahili teaching centre so that within two or three years, everybody is able to speak Kiswahili fluently. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much. Excuse me; I have a special appeal from hon. Kimbisa in writing. He has a patient that he has to attend to in about 20 minutes. Therefore, he has requested to speak.

**Mr Adam Kimbisa (Tanzania):** Mr Speaker, thank you very much for giving me way. I really thank hon. Zein and hon. Shy-Rose for bringing the motion.

Mr Speaker, language as a means of communication is a privilege given to us by God and that is why we differ fundamentally with animals and insects. God has also been generous enough to give East Africans a language to communicate.

Mr Speaker, no matter how perfect, how beautiful, how eloquent one can speak a foreign language, that person does not own that language. Why? Because a language has some cultural ingredients in it so even if I speak English perfectly, the culture in me is quite different.

Do you know that when I come here and start speaking, first I think in my mother language, which is Kirangi as a tribal language, and then I translate into Swahili but with pain and difficulty I translate it into English so that I can speak. That is really pushing and I am sorry to use a vulgar language and I apologise but that is pushing shit.

Mr Speaker, over 60 per cent of Swahili words, as my colleagues have said, come from African tribes so it is an African language. It is our baby and we own it. It is part of our culture but like any other growing language, Swahili has also borrowed especially professional and technical words. Things like *shule* is a German word, which means school. *Meza* a Portuguese word that means table. *Salaam* is an Arabic word, which means greetings.

Therefore, Swahili is a language of civilisation, a modern language, is a language of love and a language of technology. Unfortunately, in Africa we are still suffering from a terrible disease called tribalism. This disease called tribalism is eating and killing Africa. No wonder *Mwalimu* Nyerere knew it from the beginning that until Tanzanians with more than 100 tribes, languages and dialects have a common denominator called Swahili, there is no way you can unite these people and that is what he did to unite us.

Mr Speaker, in East Africa we are talking about people centred integration, people built integration but how do we meaningfully integrate while our people are still balkanised into tribes, languages and because the languages are so many and so small, we resorted to foreign languages so that we could have a common denominator to communicate.

Those two languages of English and French are unfortunately spoken by intellectuals and people like us here. How many people in the rural areas, including Uganda and Kenya who may think they own or are near ownership of English, but how many people in Gulu speak English. Very few but if we introduce Swahili, they will be comfortable to learn Swahili than English or French.

**The Speaker:** Actually, people in Gulu speak more Kiswahili than English.

**Mr Kimbisa:** Thank you very much. Therefore, let us integrate using Swahili as a means to an end rather than an end in itself. Swahili being a means and integration being an end. Let us integrate with a common agenda, a common destiny, a common denominator, a common language and that language is Swahili. Thank you very much.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Kimbisa.

**Mr Jeremie Ngendakumana (Burundi):** Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute about the importance of having Kiswahili as an official language in East African Community.

Mr Speaker, Kiswahili is our language; it is an East African language. In my culture, there is a saying and I will try to translate it, which says, even if you do not speak Kiswahili, you even know *ndiyo*. It means that everybody may understand you if you speak in Kiswahili.

The second observation I got is last time in this last sensitisation activity, I was in Kenya and I was more comfortable to express myself before the audience when using Kiswahili than English. The members I was with in Kenya may tell you exactly about this. I was even more understandable while using Kiswahili than English. This means that Kiswahili was the tool of communication between the Kenyan citizens and myself.

Mr Speaker, we are a Parliament and what we are doing, all our debate is in the interest and benefit of our citizens. Now we can ask ourselves, how many of our citizens are following our debate as it is done in English. It should have been done in Kiswahili then at least 80 or 90 per cent of our citizens of East Africa would have been able to follow our debate and appreciate properly the work we are doing as a Parliament.

Mr Speaker, we have an example. When I was attending my secondary school in Bujumbura, one could be able to play football very well but if they did not speak Kiswahili, he was not allowed to be a member of the team. Those from Bujumbura know this. You could be one playing football very well but to be a member of the team, he should be a Kiswahili speaker. If

not, you are not allowed to be part of the team.

I think that the Secretary General now can talk about this. I know this and we were obliged to learn quickly and speak Kiswahili.

Mr Speaker, when the white man came to Africa, they came with their language, their religion, with their culture and with their clothes. Now we are independent yet we are using their language even when we have ours. How come that having our own language that we are proud of and we all understand, we go and borrow a language from thousands of kilometres to express ourselves or to address our people?

I think that hon. Leonce put it well. We need to be proud of our language, we need to promote our own culture, and we need to be proud of ourselves as Africans.

With those few comments, Mr Speaker, I support this motion and I thank the movers because it is something that we really need, first as a Parliament to be able to communicate properly with our people and also as a tool of communication in East Africa.

I thank you so much and I support the motion.

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

**Mr Mike Sebalu (Uganda):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I will pick a link from where my brother, hon. Jeremie has left it. I now know why hon. Ngenzebuhoro started playing football when he came to EALA.

Mr Speaker, if you have a record, you have a basis to stand and speak in support of what you believe in. I have a good record in supporting Kiswahili. I simply want to say that if this gets to pass then I will be in an

enviable position of having been part of a process that saw Kiswahili being adopted in two regional parliaments.

I am on record under the great leadership of our President, the first President of the Pan African Parliament, Gertrude Mongela for initiating a process that got Kiswahili adopted as a working language of PAP and eventually the African Union. I was part of that team, we campaigned for this language, and it was out of emotions because we were there and they are telling you that Portuguese is a working language, French and all these other languages and there was no proximity at all.

So those of us from the East African region who had even campaigned for Ambassador Gertrude Mongela to be the initial president wanted to create a mark on the African Union and the Pan African Parliament to take there something East African. We agreed and this plotting was done somewhere in Nairobi where we said that we must take something East African and make impact so that the pioneering President leaves a legacy.

Indeed Madam Gertrude Mongella left a legacy because that language was adopted and if anyone ever comes across - I was a serious campaigner for her. I was younger than I am now, full of energy and I used that energy to get Kiswahili on the list of official languages. So when I get this debate here when we are bringing it home because that was a little distant as well but when we get it home, and in Arusha, a capital of a country that has nurtured and developed this language to a level unprecedented, I feel very honoured to be part of this discussion.

That is why I said that if you have a record, you have a basis and I indeed have a basis to put my name on this debate.



I also stand by my submissions yesterday. I was like an Englishman or a white. When you dance, it is interesting when the whites are dancing. They are always out of step and they are dancing to the beat of the next song so yesterday I could have bene out of step as I was dancing to the tune of today.

Mr Speaker, the East Africanness of the East Africans can only be concluded or achieved by putting in place an all embracing and inclusive medium of communication where each one of us feels part of it. Right now, we do many good things but they cannot be appreciated first hand going through an intermediary. It creates serious challenges to our people and we really need to move out of that.

Finally, Mr Speaker I just want to say that trendy things can be easily captured in the way the move. Swahili music is becoming very trendy across the region and those musicians within our region who have taken it upon themselves to compose and sing in Kiswahili are becoming universal. Chameleon can go to Bujumbura and he gets a full audience. He can go to Nairobi and he gets a full audience.

None of our regional singers who are English oriented gets that kind of crowd because the days are gone when we danced to Congolese music without understanding it. People now want to follow the lyrics, the message and the beat. Therefore, when you play *mambo bado*, it cuts across and it is trendy now.

Those are clear indications that Kiswahili is becoming increasingly popular across classes, across divides and across religions. If you are in an audience and the Chameleon song is good or there is a Tanzanian singer, whether you are Muslim or Catholic, you will see someone tapping with his *ntarabusi* on the head and the song will capture

everyone. That is where we need to go if we are to make the integration popular.

Finally, can you imagine that I am also admired in my Kiswahili? In Uganda there are audiences where I throw a bit of Kiswahili, I am also admired, and yet when I come to Arusha, I even admire kids when they are doing their thing. That is how important this language is getting.

Mr Speaker, this motion should have come yesterday but today is never too late. Let us give it the support and if there is anything like a master key, believe me, this motion is going to be the master key to opening the amendment of the Treaty. This is a master key and it is going to open that process of amending the Treaty.

With that, I wish to thank my brother for this well thought out motion and I support it with all the vigour, energy and enthusiasm. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Sebalu. I can now see that you are admired because of your little Kiswahili. Rt. hon. Prime Minister, please take the floor before I give it to the mover.

**The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Affairs, Uganda (Al Hajji Ali Kirunda Kivejinja):** Mr Speaker, I just want to move away from the motion because this takes up everybody and then the whole body reacts.

It is always belter to believe in something and have a strong base to act. You are all aware that ancient tigers like Malaysia and South Korea were not at the same level of development at independence as we are but now, they are miles apart. How did I come to appreciate that?

I had a young girl, when Kagame took over in Rwanda who we took to go and teach

English. After some time, they found that Kagame was taking many young people outside and they said, my future is not here. She came to me and said, “I want to do a Masters’ degree.” She added, “Do not mind about your money because I have saved mine. I want to do a Masters.” When she was there, she was a literature student, she came on the topic of lexicography, and the topic she took was the compilation of a monolingual dictionary in Lusoga, a local language.

I told her, “What is this going to do? Are you going up or down?” She outwitted me by producing a UNESCO report on why Africa has ... as Malaysia is because we lost our language. If this is the case, we shall have to go back to understanding our languages and begin to have conceptions in our languages for us to make meaningful and holistic development.

She ended up with that. You know Ugandans were taught by the best English teachers from Oxford and Cambridge and they speak perfect English; the Queen’s English but there is a saying that all children, including those in the belly - they want to teach them English.

For example, a number of Africans considered ideas of development; LOME one, LOME II were talking about producing technicians and scientists in the population but it was never done. He says, “If you do not speak your own language and you do not conceive the ideas of development which are transmitted from consultants to us, by the time they reach you, to translate them and be able to send them over to Dodoma for implementation and application, they have undergone 100 distortions.” Therefore, 100 problems are created instead of the one problem that they wanted to solve.

That is why we have not moved any further. It is because we have failed to conceive our

ideas. We conceive them in different languages, and by the time you translate them, you are only creating more messes.

I think we must agree that this is an African language, which is not owned by anybody. It is progressive because it absorbs whatever is convenient. If we had adopted that method, we would have been a long way away. The teacher has told us that if you get a small child and begin teaching her in the local language, you will find that she will comprehend the world better than those who studied in English. In Uganda, it has been agreed that all lower classes must be taught in the local languages.

I also wanted to know why it is that Swahili was not very popular in Uganda. We were colonised by the same people in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, but in Uganda, why? You need to know that so that you appreciate and then you assist us out of the problem.

The problem is the history because the Arabs entered Uganda much earlier than the Europeans did - 30 years before - and of course, the language of communication was Swahili. It was a culture because Islam was a culture, which liberated us from bark cloths, taught people hygiene and everybody took it up. That is why you find that the kings of Uganda were all in nice Arab garbs with turbans.

When the British came, they had a long programme of how to capture and send that system away and they are patient until approximately 30 years when the kings that had a lot of influence had died. During that time, they recruited cadres and caused the bitterest wars, which ultimately ended up throwing the Islamic factions out of power and distorting society because they overthrew the kings that they did not believe in. They then brought a child of 14 months to be a king with a number of collaborators.

We therefore ended up with an artificial situation and the missionaries who were at the base made sure that Swahili is not introduced in Uganda. Their argument was that if at all it were introduced, it would give more credence to Islam. That is why you will find that in Uganda there was every effort to kill the language. I wanted you to know that.

When my daughter says that in Uganda we have a problem, yes, we do, and it is because of vested interests. Those who were distorted and we the gainers and collaborators are the ones who have produced the ruling clique.

Fortunately, some of us were liberated earlier through exposure to different surroundings. By history and by our first Prime Minister, I ended up in Nairobi because Nairobi was the centre of everything. It was the same with Museveni who also came from the bush and was in Dar es Salaam for his intellectual grounding and liberation theology. Therefore, he understands. I am sure some of you have seen his passion for federation. It is actually a product of Nyerere. Therefore, you should see it in that light. I expect that everyone understands that.

We are now coming back to the main reasons why we need to change. I have given you the background so that when you adopt this, you know that you have the basis on which – It is not a question of demotion. It is a real factor in our development to transform our society.

We established a Swahili centre in Zanzibar but when you do not want to take decisions, you set up committees and committees will also have bureaucracy that we may not be able to see the results of the Swahili Commission at least in our lifetime.

What we need is, along with this, practical steps. Tanzania is teaching Swahili and their teachers are producing teachers so I think Kenya and Tanzania – this is an opportunity. Why don't you cultivate and produce more Swahili teachers and offer them to these other countries so that they go and teach in these countries instead of thinking that by passing a resolution here, we are also doing something. No, we must be practical.

How many teachers? If we start with Kindergarten, within five and six years, you will find a complete and new generation so we must not only be emotional about things but we must also be practical of how we can advance our emotional basis. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. Honourable members, I have seen hon. Valerie, hon. Taslima, hon. Rwigema and all of you who want to contribute. I plead with you that we allow the mover to move so that I conclude because I am supposed to travel to Nairobi by road for an official engagement very early tomorrow morning so kindly, hon. Zein in the shortest time you can.

**Mr Abubakar Zein Abubakar (Kenya):**

Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Allow me to be brief but allow me to also – It will be a great injustice for this debate to be concluded without a few Swahili words being spoken, like hon. Mwinyi was doing. So, allow me to end and I will translate according to our Rules.

*Nami nambe Kama waambao.* Let me speak like those who have spoken before me. *Niufumbe.* Let me make it into a puzzle. *Wafumbue wajuao.* Let them unravel the puzzle, those who know how to do it. *Niupambe.* Let me make it beautiful. *Ufuraisha wa semao.* So that it can please those who speak this language.

Allow me to quote something that we were discussing with hon. Mwinyi on *Mwalimu Nyerere* since many people have spoken about *Mwalimu Nyerere* fondly. We remember him fondly. Let me remember him fondly.

Once he was confronted with a huge press and they were asking him, “*Mwalimu*, why did you translate Shakespeare?” You know, he translated two major Shakespeare works: *Mabepari wa Venasi* - The Merchant of Venice, and *Julius Kaizari* - Julius Caesar. His answer was profound. He said, “I did not translate Shakespeare into Kiswahili because I love Shakespeare but because I love Kiswahili more. Therefore, it will be missing on my part if I do not mention a few elders who are no longer with us, who have made immense contributions to Kiswahili.

I know the list can be very long but I will restrict myself to only six names. I will give you reasons why I am invoking these six great names of Swahili speakers and contributors: Muyaka bin Haji al-Ghassany, the most glorified poet and published poet in our region.

Once he scolded mischievous politicians through a poem whose refrain went like this, “*Viwi mwaviramba vyombo, vyema mungevikulaje?*” He says bad things you eat until you lick the plates but if you were given good things, how would you eat them? He was talking about politicians.

Allow me to invoke the same of Sherbet Robert, a great *Mzee* from Tanga, a poet, philosopher, novelist, but to me when I was growing up, the first Mswahili to write science fiction entitled *kusadikika, kufikirika*. For those who can read those books, please do.

Allow me to mention two names, one Kenyan, one Tanzanians who came together to write about the history of Kiswahili. Mathias Mnyampala and Shibabdin Chiraghdin.

Also allow me to mention two last names and since we are looking forward to go to Zanzibar where the Kiswahili Commission is located, it will be a miss for me not to mention the first police investigator novelist and spy novelist in Kiswahili. Some people know him as *Mzee* Musa, Muhammed Said Abdullah.

Let me finish with an East African who many of you know and cherish, who is both a Kenyan and Tanzanian at heart because when he was jailed for his political views in Kenya, he wrote an anthology of Swahili poetry called *Sauti ya Thiki*, the voice of agony. *Mzee* Kenyatta’s administration is the one that put him in jail. When he came out, he won the Jomo Kenyatta prize for literature.

When he finished his jail term, he came and lived in Tanzania and worked at University of Dar es Salaam, researching Kiswahili. He was one of the eminent members in the panel that made the *Kiswahili Sanifu* dictionary. Abdul Latif Abdullah who is my

wife's uncle - and I am not trying to be parochial.

Let me now go through the list of thanking people and let me turn the order backwards. Let me start with the Speaker. The Speaker has provided amazing leadership on this matter because there was tension between Kenya and Tanzania and you know in Kiswahili language *sisi watani*. We always debate as to where Kiswahili was born. We Kenyans say it was born in Northern Kenya, in Lamu and the surrounding areas and they say, no, it was born in Zanzibar and Pemba. We always exchange ideas about this. And it was so when it came to who would move the motion on the floor of the House.

Makongoro Nyerere, Abdullah Mwinyi, Shy-Rose Bhanji... Now, you know how my sister can be persuasive, and you know that I can be persistent. However, it was the wisdom of the Speaker - and you see, Solomonic... you remember the story of the child when two mothers were fighting over the child. Solomonic wisdom came to play and the Speaker said the end is we are seeking to give a gift to the people of East Africa that they have been demanding. Can we agree to merge these proposals?

Here we are and we have had common ground. So, Mr Speaker, thank you so much for your leadership and wisdom and bringing us together on this matter.

Let me now go to the Chair, Council. I cannot say enough that your philosophy, your history and your practical aspects are important for us that you are asking us to be practical. It is for that reason that I will go to my sister hon. Odette and persuade her, please let us not allow this amendment, which is important, to be part of what goes to the Summit. You and I should work together when we go to Zanzibar. We should sit down with the Chief Executive of the Kiswahili Commission and the Chair of

Council because it has financial implications and it has operational implications. We will sit down with the Secretary General as well and agree.

There is a need to have our Commission have a teaching centre. Let us negotiate on where we will locate it. How we fund it, let us negotiate because it might be desirous to locate it in Zanzibar where the Commission is located but I am saying that these are details. We can even go to Uganda and locate it there so that we can teach Kiswahili in Kampala. Therefore, it is something that we can negotiate. We can agree on the principle. So, my sister, I really beg you, let us leave it for now so that we can go and negotiate what is the best interest and my heart is saying Kampala but we will discuss this.

Let me go back to the two seconders of this motion; hon. Hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji and hon. Mwinyi. I thank them very much. I thank hon. Leonce, hon. Kizigha - I do not hear the drums so I am going to start again.

Hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji, hon. Mwinyi, hon. Leonce, hon. Kizigha, hon. Kessy, hon. Ngoga, hon. Kiangoi, hon. Dora, hon. Frederic, hon. Odette, hon. Kimbisa, hon. Jeremie, hon. Sebalu - but I must say something special about this man. Today he was in his element, and everybody could see that he was in his full element. Now when he is in his full element, his eloquence is incomparable.

I had told him before we came here that I am going to limit myself because you made the case yesterday. I do not need to make the case again so for yesterday, for today and for whatever good work you did with Mama Mongela, I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Allow me to finish with the following prayers; that I would like us to give the

biggest appreciation to those who stood but did not get a chance to speak or those who wanted to speak and did not stand because they gave up but for all of us, if we know, like hon. Ndahiro.

Secondly, this is to Council of Ministers and to the Office of the Speaker and the Clerk. If we can work hard on this motion and prepare it in a fashion and instrument that can go to the Summit, as early as possible so that they can pronounce themselves as quickly as possible, we pray let it be by November. The Summit in September is an Extra Ordinary Summit and there can only be one item for which the meeting is called. This needs to go to the ordinary Summit which is in November so if we can do it earlier, I pray.

Last but not least, to all of us members of this august House and our staff. One day it will be recorded that it was the Third EALA that took the bold decision to seek the pleasure of the Summit by making prayers to that Summit to do the right thing by East Africans and declare Kiswahili an official language together with English. I thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Zein for the good summary you have offered us by your conclusion we are privileged that we have the Secretary General in attendance as a member of this House who has a big role in setting the agenda of Summit. I will work with him and the Council to lobby the Summit in the fastest opportunity.

It is my interest that before we retire as a Third Assembly, we should debate in Kiswahili. I am very confident of the support of the Chair, Summit now on this matter and in the shortest possible time, I will relay this motion to the Chair of Summit. Thank you so much.

Honourable members, the motion before the House is that this Assembly do resolve to

urge the EAC Summit to amend the Treaty to make Kiswahili the official language of the Community. I put the question.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Zein, hon. Shy-Rose and all the members for this motion. Honourable colleagues, I have a few announcements before I adjourn.

Tomorrow we shall be having a briefing workshop on Economic Partnership Agreement that has been initiated between the East African Community and the European Union. The Secretariat's technical staff will brief us on where we stand and they will have other technical people who will help them in the briefing. This is a very important meeting. The Second EALA has been following this matter and I think we need to continue with it. You are invited to come back tomorrow at 9.00 in these Chambers to do that activity. I kindly plead with members to attend. I have delegated hon. Chris Opoka to take charge of that briefing tomorrow. I thank you so much.

**Ms Byamukama:** Mr Speaker, I draw to your attention, and thank you for your indulgence, the fact that the Bill on Prohibition of FGM is a Bill, which was premised on Article 6(d); good governance and respect to the African Charter on human and peoples' rights especially the Maputo Protocol on the rights of women.

In my original drafting, I had put this but in the final print, I found that they premised it on Article 121, which has some discrepancy. They also missed out the Peace and Security Protocol, which I mentioned as well as Article 7 of the Treaty. Therefore, on this basis, the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges have been working on this. It has also put aside time in October so when it was referred to the Committee on General

Purpose, I think it may be a misnomer and I would like this to be put right. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Dora. Two things: one, I had your concern on the matter of the original text and what has been printed and I have already conferred with the Office of the CTC on the matter and the Office of the Clerk. That will be put right.

Two, on the issue of referring the matter to the Legal Committee, I have already been advised by the technical desk as well. All your prayers will be done so it should not be a difficult matter to handle.

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker:** Based on that, I now adjourn the House to next week Tuesday at 2.30 p.m. House stands adjourned.

*(The House rose at 5:36 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 30 August 2016 at 2.30 p.m.)*