



## 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 133<sup>RD</sup> SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: SIXTH MEETING – FOURTH SESSION

Wednesday, 25 May 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 Fred Kidega, in the Chair)*

*(The Assembly was called to order.)*

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#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

##### EALA LIBRARY DISPLAY

**The Speaker:** Good morning, hon. Members. As you may have noticed, there is a library display outside the Chamber. The aim of this display is to bring information services nearer to us as Members of EALA. I kindly request you to pass by and find some books to borrow while you are sitting here to enrich your knowledge level. Read and return the books to the library. We extend our appreciation to the library workers for doing this.

#### PAPERS

The following Papers were laid on the Table:-

(i) (by the Chairperson, Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (Mr. Fred Mbidde) (Uganda)

The Report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment on the EAC Customs Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016

(ii) (by Ms. Patricia Hajabagika (Rwanda)

The Report of the East African Legislative Assembly on the Sensitisation Activities conducted in Partner States

**BILL****SECOND READING****THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

**Mr. Twaha Issa Taslima (Tanzania):** Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to move --

*“THAT, East African Community Customs Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016”*

**The Speaker:** Where are the Seconders?

*(Two Members stood in their places to second the Motion)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Maryam and hon. Counsel to the Community.

Hon. Minister, you can go ahead and justify the Motion.

**Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio)** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the purpose of this Bill is to enable us to act in conformity with the agreement by the Partner States to the effect that there are provisions preserving agreements with COMESA and SADC. There is also a provision which provides for transitional arrangements while we conclude the agreements on the Free Trade Area within the SADC, COMESA and EAC. For these reasons, it is considered necessary and important that the Customs Act be amended to provide for these two positions. That is the justification.

**The Speaker:** Thank you hon. Chairperson Council of Ministers. I now invite the

Chairperson of the Committee to bring the Committee Report.

**The Chairperson, Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (Mr Fred Mukasa Mbidde) (Uganda):** Rt. Hon. Speaker, hon. Members, this is the Report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment on proposed amendments to the East African Community Customs Management Amendment Bill, 2016 presented today, 25 May, 2016 in this Parliament.

**Introduction**

The EAC Customs Union was established and became operational on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2005 in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. The Republics of Rwanda and Burundi joined the EAC Community in July 2007 and commenced to implement the EAC Customs Union effective 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2009. The pillars of a Customs Union include application of a common customs law, Elimination of Internal Tariff (EIT), application of a Common External Tariff (CET), and removal of Non-tariff Barriers (NTBs).

The law also provides for the role of Customs of Partner States as responsible for day to day operations of customs including: Revenue Collection; Enforcement of the Act; and Management of Customs Personnel.

During the negotiation of the Common External Tariff under the EAC Customs Union in 2004, the Partner States agreed to honour their obligations that existed before, and undertook to review the obligations to comply with WTO requirements. The obligations included the COMESA and SADC preferential tariff arrangements which the Partner States agreed to honour.

The Partner States therefore started implementing the Customs Union by

applying the common instruments. The EAC Directorate of Customs is responsible for initiating policy on customs and coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004.

In the course of carrying out the functions mentioned above, the Partner States and the EAC Directorate of Customs have been initiating modernisation and facilitation programmes and at the same time identifying areas in the law that need to be amended from time to time to make sure it serves the intended purpose.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is against this background that the EAC Council of Ministers introduced the East African Community Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 2016

The principal object of this Bill is to amend the East African Customs Management Act 2004, to facilitate smooth implementation of the Act, particularly on the implementation of the commitments made under the Protocol establishing the EAC Customs Union. More so, the Bill intends to provide for the application of the COMESA and SADC preferential tariff arrangements which the Partner States agreed to implement.

To this end, the EALA Standing Committee on Communications, Trade and Investments convened a meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2016 in Arusha, Tanzania to review the EAC Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

#### Methodology

The Committee met with the Council of Ministers, experts from the EAC Directorate of Customs and Trade and the Counsel to the Community to provide explanations and rationale for the amendment of the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004.

The Committee discussed in detail the provision in the Amendment Bill and agreed to the proposal with further amendments as stipulated in the Schedule herewith attached.

#### Observations

The Committee noted that there are ongoing negotiations for the preferential tariff treatment between COMESA, EAC and SADC and the roadmap adopted for the tripartite negotiations is still ongoing. The Committee appreciated that EAC is negotiating as a bloc in these negotiations and the focus is trade liberalisation for the three trading blocs.

The Committee further noted that the current provision on the application of Preferential Tariff Treatment between EAC and COMESA/SADC expired on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2015. This means that if the existing arrangement is not extended, goods imported into EAC from COMESA and SADC will attract full duties and vice versa, which will disrupt the current free trade arrangements among the blocs.

#### Recommendation

Basing on the above observations, the Committee found it imperative to recommend the amendment of the East African Customs Management Act, 2004 for the extension of the application of the preferential tariff treatment under COMESA and SADC from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019, to enable the EAC Partner States to continue applying the preferential tariff treatment.

#### Acknowledgements

The Members of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment

would like to appreciate and recognise the efforts made by the Council of Ministers, Counsel to the Community and Director of Customs and his team regarding the amendments of the EAC Customs Management Act, 2004 to facilitate the trade between EAC, COMESA and SADC.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Schedule of the Amendments is here and it includes clause 2(2) of the Bill which is amended by deleting the words the date to be determined by the Council and replacing it with the following words, 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.

I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Chairperson of the Committee. The Motion before us is:-

“THAT, the East African Community Customs Management Act, Amendment Bill, 2016 be read for a second time.”

*(Question proposed)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, debate is open on the report presented by the Chairperson of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investments. I hope Members have copies of the Report. You are at liberty to make comments generally on the Act.

**Mr. Twaha Issa Taslima (Tanzania):** Thank you hon. Speaker, Sir. I have a problem with my voice but I hope I will be heard. This reminds me of a long time wish in the African Continent. It will be remembered that in the early 1960s there were several meetings where our Heads of States debated on whether to have Africa as a Continent unite at once or have Africa unite using various economic and political blocs.

I remember that the late Nkurumah said that we had to have one Africa at once. However, the late Mwalimu Nyerere said that we should have this achieved through blocs. What is happening now is that the dream is almost coming true as we move towards the economic bloc. On my part, I congratulate everybody who has a hand in this exercise, the Committee and the Chairperson Council of Ministers for this step. I hope that all will be well and that the dream will come true for the whole of Africa.

**Ms. Dora Byamukama (Uganda):** Thank you Mr. Chairman for giving me this opportunity. I would like to congratulate hon. Mbidde, the Chairperson, for presenting this very clear and succinct Report. I have a few questions and observations, Mr. Chairman.

Number one, when you consider what we have done in this House as an Assembly, you will see that the East African Community Customs Management Act (Amendment), 2004 is one of the most amended laws that we have had over a period of 12 years. I would like to ask: Does this mean that what was intended then no longer holds? Let me be explicit. When you look the issue of the preferential tariff treatment which is mentioned here under COMESA and SADC from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2017, you will find out that in the initial Act, Partner States were given a specific period to exit from COMESA and SADC. However, we as an Assembly are tying this to a period of 2019. Therefore, even if this was to be revisited, that means that there should be another amendment just in case something happens in 2018 to enable the East Africa Community to operate as it should have done under the initial East African Customs Management Act.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will remember that in the second Assembly, we used to give yearly

extensions, just in case there was need for a review. But now here we are supporting or proposing some prospective amendments of the law. Therefore, I would like to ask: Is there no hope that what was intended initially will happen? I acknowledge that we have moved to the tripartite arrangement which is quite good. But I also want to quickly note that when you look at the recommendation on page 4, the whole idea or point is to enable the EAC Partner States and not the EAC as the Community to continue applying the preferential tariff treatment. So, in this case that means that when it comes to the application of the preferential tariff treatment, we are not working as a bloc or as the East African Community. What is the implication of this? Linked to this is the fact that we are now talking about the East Africa Community as a one-stop centre on issues of tourism. We are talking about issues of the E-Passport and internationalising it. We have the Joint Trade Negotiations Act of 2008. Here, in this particular law, we are going backwards to enable EAC Partner States to continue applying the preferential tariff treatment.

I understand and acknowledge that if you are a Member of COMESA, obviously, you will have a different tariff treatment from a country which is not. But I think this is something that we need to think through. Maybe the Committee Members and the Chairperson will help us understand and appreciate whether the tripartite proposal will eventually materialise and also address what we want to achieve as the East African Community. That is what I wanted to note.

I am really concerned. We keep on pushing this and I know that the next Assembly will come up with another adjustment of 2019 to probably 2030. Should we get rid of this totally or should we not? The Counsel to the Community should help us understand and

appreciate. Maybe we should get rid of this particular provision and move on.

I thank you, Sir.

**Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda):** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. I first of all want to congratulate the new Secretary General of the Community, Mr. Liberat Mfumukeko, and also extend my condolences to our friends and colleagues who lost their beloved ones last month.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, you were surprised that we did not get up as quickly as you would have wished to debate on this Motion. This is because we received the Report here during this plenary session and we were wondering what it was all about. The amended sections 112 and 252 of the East African Community Customs Management Act, (Amendment) Bill, 2016 are not here. I would like the staff to provide me with copies of the two sections so that I can understand the amendments.

The Council of Ministers had proposed to amend Section 112 saying that the preferential tariff treatment shall be applied to goods up to the date to be determined by the Council. This has now been changed by the Committee to align it to the period where the agreements will be expiring in 2019. I did not understand the reason for that. This may come back in 2019 for another amendment again. Just like the other Bills we have passed in this House, why can we not leave it as it was brought by the Council so that we say; the Council of Ministers will determine the date? Why was Section 252 repealed? I do not have a copy of that section to know the harm it was causing to the Act.

Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like the Committee to give more explanation regarding this section that we are amending.

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

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. First I would like to thank the Committee and the Chairperson of the Committee, hon. Mbidde, for the presentation of this Report. I would like to support hon. Odette's request. This is not only directed to the Committee but to all Committees. When you bring any law to be amended, it is only good practice that you bring a copy of the law itself and the proposed amendments. I support that.

Secondly, I would like to associate myself with the recommendations of the Committee and to say that I am persuaded. The Committee, having scrutinised what is at play, has good recommendations and I support them. But allow me, Sir, to speak to broader issues concerning this very important Committee of the House and limit myself to three issues. The first one has to do with the interface with the Council of Ministers. I think it is absolutely critical for the Council of Ministers to interface with our Committees early enough.

I am aware that the Committee had the desire to consider other proposed amendments from other stakeholders. However, owing to complications of how long that would take, I think we have to agree that there needs to be a better way of interacting with the Committee, the Council of Ministers and the Sectoral Committees with our Standing Committees.

Let me also talk to two other principals which are important. The first one has to do with the Free Trade Area, the tripartite, that brings together COMESA, SADC and the EAC. I think the Council of Ministers needs to interact with the Standing Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment to update Parliament on how far these negotiations have gone and some of the areas of consensus and areas that require further

negotiations and what time frames are involved. I am saying that because Parliament is left out in those discussions.

This Assembly is not aware and there is no record that this House was briefed. You should know that there are some Members who were talking about the same principle yesterday. Therefore, it is absolutely critical that we agree. The Council of Ministers will have a session with the Committee. It will brief the Committee first and the Committee will then organise a session for the whole Assembly to be taken through the steps of negotiations and areas of agreement and those that are yet to be agreed upon. This brings me to my third point which I have great concern.

I am aware that in pursuit of our dream for a Pan-African Continent that is united, our leaders – God bless their hearts – went ahead and agreed on a framework for a continental free trade area. My great concern is that this agreement on fast tracking for the establishment of a continental wide free trade area is taking us away from the path of the Abuja Agreement. The path of the agreement was that we would make the cornerstone of our unity the building blocks called the regional economic communities. Therefore, it was expected that certain crucial steps would be taken by these regional communities. Rightly, we are now dealing with the free trade area tripartite. After we have taken into account the differences, inequalities between regions and the fact that regions should be given capacity to build their own internal capacities in order to compete fairly across the continent, the free continental wide trade area conceptualisation is skipping all these steps. It is putting aside all that was agreed in Abuja and saying that we must fast track. I am very concerned about that. I am concerned because it undermines the logic of the Abuja Agreement. We, as a

Parliament, should have an opportunity to interrogate the very idea of fast tracking the continental World Free Trade Area.

What are some of the complications that may arise from the fast tracking? This may seek to unravel agreements between EAC Partner States. It may affect negatively what we are discussing in the tripartite. It may even affect the ones that I do not like very much called Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs).

I would not mind unravelling the EPAS because some of the poison is in those agreements particularly the ones that affect our farmers and workers. However, I am concerned that this may affect our agreements in the World Trade Organisation which I believe we need to renegotiate some aspects of it.

What am I proposing Sir? I am proposing two things. One, that the able hands of the Chairman, hon. Mbidde, be seized of the Continental Free Trade Area. That Committee must take this matter, examine it and seek to have an interaction with the Council of Ministers knowing very well that there is a deadline of July.

Secondly, this is just a plan "B" but not that I do not have confidence in my Chairman, hon. Mbidde. If the Committee is possessed with other very important issues and this matter is relegated in the backlight, some of us will seek to bring it to the Floor of the House.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**The Speaker:** Thank you hon. Zein.

**Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda):** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. I also would like to thank my Chairman. I have two issues which require clarification. One, the East African Community should be congratulated for the

good work it has done and the achievements in this area. We are the only economic bloc that currently runs a single customs territory. We have achieved this through the commitments and political will of our Partner States.

Hon. Speaker, it is in my understanding that a free trade area is only operationalised or implemented by a customs territory and not by a Partner State. It is also my understanding that the agreement within the East African Community is that we should join these free trade area as a bloc and not as Partner States. That is why the region is working towards a single customs territory. We have achieved it but there are still other issues left and right that need to be harmonised. The Pan African Free Trade Area is a dream which can only be realised by economic blocs. If we could, we would accomplish this tomorrow and it would be good for everybody. However, it would not take away our integration efforts.

The Customs Management Act is amended regularly as Members have put it and it is a necessary effort. This is simply because our Partner States, instead of becoming a customs territory, have other arrangements. As hon. Dora puts it, we are Members of SADC and COMESA too. If we deny the Partner States the membership now, they will reciprocate and we will be the losers. It is important that we extent that preferential treatment as we harmonise other areas. The speed to achieve that is not cost free.

I understand that Partner States should speak to this matter. We cannot wake up one day and say that we are walking away from COMESA. We need to know what we are replacing it with. Why are you walking away from COMESA and yet you cannot be self-sustainable? We have talked about industrialisation in this region. We are still not yet exporters of raw materials. We keep

on talking about value addition but we have not achieved that. Until we can add value to our raw materials and export finished products from this region so as to compete in the global market, we cannot risk walking away from these preferential agreements.

I understand the position of hon. Zein on EPAs. We have discussed these matters on the Floor of the House. I hear that there are efforts by others to also claim those agreements; for instance, the Chinese, Latin Americans and others. That means that we still cannot call ourselves self-sustaining. Let's look inwards and move away from those arrangements. I just want to indicate that Partner States here have reasons. We should not get tired of amending this Bill because it is in our interest. Giving it time frame is also good for this Assembly. The earlier proposal that we leave this to the Council of Ministers is an idea that we felt, at the Committee level, was taking away powers of this Parliament. We are giving them a time frame to keep them on their toes and to remind them that they have work to do. We need to finalise the Customs Union and to join these agreements as a bloc and not as Rwanda, Uganda and Tanzania. Therefore, we can belong to SADC, COMESA but as the East African Community.

**The Chairperson, Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (Mr. Fred Mukasa Mbidde) (Uganda):** Thank you very much Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir. I equally thank those who have contributed in support of the Report. Of course, I will recognise those who have spoken at the end of this submission.

I have a few remarks to make. The first one being a justification as to why an amendment of this nature needed to have its way to the Floor of the House. However, before I do that, I think there are elementary comments I

need to make so that Members can get comfortable with what we are doing. One, we are amending an existing law. So, the dreams of Members needed to be curtailed in such a way that they can only be met by probably other laws or protocols. An existing law is any other law that was enacted pursuant to protocols that occasioned the enactment of such a law. So, we are dealing with an existing law and the amendment seeks to establish an ingredient which already existed but had already expired. Therefore, we are sailing within the precincts of that particular provision that expired.

Copies of the Bill have been produced and given to Members of the House and the amendments sought by the Committee have been scheduled as part of the Report which has also been provided. Members, you only needed to peruse the copies that have been given to you so that you are as comfortable as possible.

The extraneous agreements that you have cited and quoted must be the ones that have already been captured under the Customs Union Protocol and occasioned as part of the legislation within the substantive Act that we are trying to amend in this Bill. Members, we needed to be within that ambit. We cannot act outside the purview of what is provided for.

It is also known that within the outside the East African Community, we have membership. Four Partner States have membership to COMESA and one has membership to SADC. The Customs Union protocol provides for this arrangement of preferential treatment accordingly. This expired on 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 and we are even lucky that it is before us here before any problems arose in courts of law. There has been a lacuna or a gap between the expiry date and the amendment that is being sought today. What has been taking place during that



period of time? It is now incumbent upon us to administer this amendment so that the East African Community can continue to sail through while following the law of the land.

I will welcome any updates that will be given to us by the Council regarding the tripartite negotiations. This was asked by Members and it is extremely important that this House gets to know about it. We may begin to refer to it and this may amount to political rodomonts. We would like to have particulars given to the House for our smooth running.

Hon. Ndahiro has made a submission on why the Committee sought to amend this law and why we did not think that preferential tariff treatment should be applied to goods referred to in sub section 1(a) up to a date to be determined by Council. This is a matter that has repeatedly intermittently found itself before the House for us to amend. The statement was made and we made it very clearly to the Ministers that we may be tired of amending the same. We have not retired and, therefore, the powers of the House cannot be ousted and given to Council. Therefore, we will continue to address our minds to it and that is why we maintained that the powers of the House have to be retained. This issue should be brought to our minds so that we take substantial decisions as we did. This will help Council to work within the ambit and framework of our legislative powers.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, those are the concerns that I would have wanted to answer to. In that vein, I would like to thank the following Members who contributed to the report; hon. Taslima, hon. Dora, hon. Odette, hon. Zein and hon. (Dr) Ndahiro. With those remarks, I beg to the House to adopt the report as given by the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investments.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, hon. Mbidde, Chairperson, Committee on Communication, Trade and Investments. I now invite the Minister to give his response.

**The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio)** Thank you Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank the Committee for the excellent report that they have presented to this House and the explanations that they have given as to why the Act should be amended.

There are two observations I would like to make. One is in response to what hon. Dora was concerned about; whether the process of amending the East African Community Customs Management Act will continue.

The explanation that has been given is that we agreed on that last year. The Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement was signed last year and various Members, 26 of them are now in the process of ratifying that agreement. The experience we have had is that it can take long for Partner States to ratify agreements, protocols and so on. An example is that the Kiswahili Commission Protocol and the Science and Technology Protocol were signed in 2008. It was not until 2013 when I was the Chairperson, Council of Ministers that I pushed for their ratification and, consequently, put in place the Commissions that are now functional. Owing to this, we thought and felt that rather than coming here every year to amend the law, we take three years. Obviously, if the Tripartite Free Trade Area Agreement is ratified by all the Partner States before three years have expired, the only amendments that will be brought here is to do away with existing provisions because they will have become irrelevant.

It is my hope that the Secretariat of the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) will work

tirelessly and expeditiously to ensure that we achieve first ratification of the TFTA Agreement.

Secondly, hon. Zein observed that this House should be informed of what goes on. It is important that this is done. I hope that Council will find time and prepare to meet with the Committee and give an update on the negotiations that led to the final agreement on the Tripartite Free Trade Area.

There were obviously other concerns. Although the agreement was reached, there are certain areas where members still feel that they might be losers rather than gainers because of the different levels of economic activities and industrialisation in particular. A few members may take advantage of flooding our markets with products from outside and our own industries suffer. But I hope that will not happen.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as I said, this is an area which is very important. Members of the Assembly, being political leaders of our region, ought to be in the know. This should be a policy in future. Those who will be in the Council should ensure that important negotiations of this magnitude and of this type bring on board members of the Assembly so that they can contribute meaningfully because they are the representatives of the people of the East African Community region. The message will be passed on the Council Chairperson so that it is done as quickly as possible.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, with those few remarks, I thank the Committee and the House for accepting these amendments. I hope, as I said, that we will soon get ratification by all members of the TFTA.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Chairperson, Council of Ministers. The Motion before this House is;

“THAT, the East African Community Customs Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016 be read for the Second Time.”

*(Question put and agreed to)*

*(Order for Committee of the Whole House Read)*

## **THE ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

*[The Chairperson (Mr. Daniel Kidega) in the Chair]*

### **BILLS COMMITTEE STAGE**

#### **THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

*Clause 1, agreed to.*

*Clause 2*

**Mr. Zein:** On a point of procedure, Mr. Chairman. I just need to be guided. This is an amendment of one section of the entire East African Customs Management (Amendment) Bill. We are seeking to amend one part. Are we going to go through all the clauses including the ones we are not amending?

**The Chairman:** Honourable Members, we are dealing with the amendment Bill and not the parent Bill.

*Clause 2(2)*

**Mr. Benard Mulengani (Uganda):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-

“THAT, clause 2(2) of the Bill be amended by deleting the words the date to be determined by Council and replacing with the following words 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2019.”

**The Chairman:** The Chairman of the Committee has moved an amendment. Will it be seconded?

*(Dr. Ndahiro, hon. Taslima among others seconded)*

*(Question proposed)*

**Mr. Mulengani:** Thank you Mr. Chairman, Sir. I just thought I could add my voice to what the Chairperson of the Committee said in response to why the Committee felt it was relevant to put a time frame to the amendments. One was to ensure that we do not put the Council in a situation of lullaby. We also wanted to ensure that Council is put to task and to be appraised as to whether the obligations they had put across were being addressed. If we left it and said; as Council would determine, they would go into comfort zone and say that they are already done with that issue. This puts as, as an Assembly, on check to the Council. Those who will be there will know that the Council committed itself by 2019 to review the issue regarding SADC and the COMESA membership of the East African Community Partner States. This is a good practice. As you have seen, we had a lot of concessions. We had proposed that this be amended until 2018 but they requested for a further date of up to 2019.

**The Chairman:** Thank you hon. Mulengani. I would like to find out from the Chairperson, Council of the Ministers whether he concedes to the amendment or not before I put a question.

**The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Council of Ministers has no objection.

**The Speaker:** I will now put the question to the amendment as put by the Chairperson so that the House adopts it before I put the question on the Clause as amended.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

*(Question, that the words to be left out put and agreed to)*

*(Question, that the words to be substituted in place therefore be substituted, put and agreed to)*

*(Clause 2(2) as amended agreed to)*

*Clause 3*

**Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had requested that the Office of the Clerk gives us copies of the Act so that we know how Section 252 will be repealed. The Chair Council should read that Section so that we know what we are repealing from the Act.

**The Chairman:** I will request the CTC to read the provisions of Section 252.

**The Counsel to the Community (Dr. Anthony Kafumbe) (Ex-Officio):** Thank you Mr. Chairperson.

That section is quite long. However, what it does is to preserve national laws and regulations that were in place during the negotiations of the Customs Union Protocol. We have one exemption regime under the Fifth Schedule. It is a contradiction to have national laws applying at time when Partner

States have agreed on exemptions and matters of that nature. So, the intention of repealing section 252 is to avoid those distortions. You have a community law on one hand and a provision of the same community law giving Partner States to apply their national regulations. If I were to read this, it would be quite a mouthful.

**The Chairman:** Thank you CTC. That explanation sheds enough light.

**Ms. Dora Byamukama (Uganda):** Hon. Chairman, with all due respect, I am not deferring. However, for the record, I hope this is not too much to ask. I think it would be good for us to have this read for the sake of our *Hansard*, if possible. I am pleading.

**The Chairman:** Thank you Hon. Dora. I think hon. Members, it is important for our records to know what we have repealed. The people who will read the *Hansard* reports should know exactly what we repealed. Go on CTC if it will not take too much time.

**The Counsel to the Community (Dr. Anthony Kafumbe) (Ex-Officio):** Mr. Chairperson, Sir, Section 252, which is titled “Savings and Transition Provisions”, reads as follows:  
Section 2.

The provisions of the Partner States customs laws in force at the commencement of this Act or regulations warrants and acts of the commissioners under the Partner States customs laws shall continue in force and apply to;

- a) The payment of duty payable before commencement of this Act.
- b) The Assessment of and payment of any duty assessed or payable before the commencement of this Act as if this Act had not been passed.

#### Section 252(2)

Where security was given for the doing of any Act or for the protection of revenue or for an obligation to pay duty, whether by bond or otherwise in the Partner States under the customs laws in force at the commencement of this Act, that security shall have effect as if undertaken or incurred under this Act may be enforced in respect to a default occurring at any time after the dates it was given notwithstanding that the date was prior to the commencement of this Act.

#### Section 252(3)

Where duty was due to be paid or refunded under the Partner States customs laws, whether before or after the commencement of this Act, and was not paid or refunded, shall be paid or refunded as if it were a sum due under this Act.

#### Section 252(4)

If under the Partner States customs laws are in force at the commencement of this Act, the Commissioner who was responsible for the performance of any functions not provided for under this Act shall continue to perform such functions until the enactment of appropriate national legislation providing for the performance of the functions under that legislation.

#### Section 252(5)

Any subsidiary legislation made under the Partner States customs laws in force at the commencement of this Act shall remain in force so far as it is not inconsistent with this Act until a new subsidiary legislation with respect to the same matter is made under this Act.

## Section 252(6)

If, at the commencement of this Act, a Tax Appeals Tribunal is yet to be established by Partner States as required by Section 231, appeals against decisions of Commissioner made under Section 229 shall write to the High Court of that Partner State.

## Section 252(7)

Unless a contrary intention appears, the commencement of this Act shall not -

- (a) revive anything that is not in force or existing at the time at which the commencement takes effect.
- (b) Affect the previous operation of the Partner States customs laws in force at the commencement or anything duly done or suffered under those laws.
- (c) Affect a right privilege, obligation or liability acquired, accrued or incurred under a written law of a Partner State in force at the commencement.
- (d) Affect a penalty, forfeiture, for punishment incurred irrespective of an offence committed against a written law or the Partner State in force at the commencement.
- (e) affect an investigation, legal proceeding or remedy in respect or a right, privilege, obligation, liability, penalty, forfeiture or punishment and any such investigation, legal proceeding or remedy may be instituted, continued or enforced and any such penalty forfeiture or punishment may be enforced as if this Act had not been passed.

(f) Affect the employment or appointment to the service of customs serving at the commencement of this Act.

(g) Affect any contract-undertaking, obligation entered into, made or assumed under a written law in force in a Partner State at the time of the commencement.

I beg to submit.

**The Chairman:** Thank you CTC. I am sure that hon. Odette and other Members have full understanding of the Section. We also wanted to take care of our records.

*Clause 3, agreed to*

*Title, agreed to.*

**The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, the House do resume and the Committee reports thereto. I beg to move. Where are the seconders?

The CTC: Seconded.

**The Chairman:** Hon. Members, I put the Question that the House do resume and Committee of the Whole House reports thereto.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

*(The Assembly resumed, the Speaker in the Chair.*

## BILL'S REPORT STAGE

**THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CUSTOMS  
MANAGEMENT ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL,  
2016**

**The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to report that the Committee of the Whole House has considered *the East African Community Customs Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016* and passed it with amendments.

**MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE**

**The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio):** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, the Report of the Committee of the Whole House be adopted.

*(Honourable Members stood at their places to second the Motion)*

*(Question on the Motion put and agreed to)*

**BILL'S  
THIRD READING**

**THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

**The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio)** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

“THAT, the *East African Community Customs Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016* be read a Third Time and do pass.

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

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**[THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CUSTOMS MANAGEMENT ACT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016 READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED]**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, I now declare that the *East African Community Customs Management Act (Amendment) Bill, 2016* has been duly passed by this Assembly. I congratulate the Chairperson, Council of Ministers for introducing this Bill and taking it to its logical conclusion. I also congratulate you, honourable Members, but more specifically the Chair and Committee of CTI.

**MOTION**

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

**Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda):** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. On your behalf and that of honourable Members, I beg to move:-

“THAT, the Report of the East African Legislative Assembly on the Sensitisation Activities conducted from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 in Partner States be adopted.”

**The Speaker:** Where are the seconders? Hon. Isabelle, hon. Dora, hon. Peter, hon. Mathuki, hon. Angela, hon. Straton, hon. Shy-Rose, hon. Maryam, hon. Bazivamo and all the Members standing.

Hon. Patricia, proceed with the Report.

**Ms. Hajabakiga:** Hon. Speaker, Sir, as I said while moving this Motion, this is a Report written on behalf of all Members because all the Members participated in the sensitisation programme in all the five Partner States. It is a compiled report to ease

presentation to the Assembly. Therefore, it contains summary reports from all the five countries. There are annexes which I hope will be provided to Members so that whoever wants to refer to the bigger report can refer to it.

Let me also request hon. Members that I skip the entire part one of the report because it talks about the background which we already know as an Assembly. This is just to save time. However, that section is important for our stakeholders who may be interested in reading the report.

I will, therefore, go straight to the second part on page 6.

#### Sensitisation Activity

One of the ways in which the Assembly has performed its functions, is the undertaking to perform an activity sensitisation in all EAC Partner States. The current sensitisation emanated from the policy guidance by the Summit and the decision of the Assembly's Commission to reach out to the people of East Africa as part of their representatives, which was also in accordance with its EALA Strategic Plan (2013-2018) that is based on a people-centred approach. The sensitisation was carried out from April 4<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> 2016 under the Theme: EAC Integration agenda: *Accessing the gains*.

#### Objectives

- (i) To sensitize the people of East Africa on the integration process;
- (ii) To promote liaison with EAC National Assemblies and Key Stakeholders;
- (iii) To create awareness among the people of East Africa on the gains and challenges of integration;

- (iv) To enhance mutual relationships and sustainable networking between EALA and the people of East Africa;
- (v) To inform the people of East Africa on the role of EALA in the integration process;
- (vi) To get the feedback and recommendations on the integration.

#### Methodology of the Sensitisation Activities

The Chapters employed the following approaches while undertaking the sensitisation activities:

- (i) Chapters held planning meetings to deliberate on the modalities of the how and where to conduct the sensitisation;
- (ii) Chapters held press conferences to inform the public on the objectives of the sensitisation;
- (iii) Chapters conducted Radio and Television Talk Shows on different media houses;
- (iv) Chapters distributed brochures on the EAC Integration process, and handed over various materials like EAC Flag and Anthem to the Stakeholders; thanks to the Ministries of EAC which provided us with the material;
- (v) Chapters conducted interactive sessions with the Parliamentarians, Civil Society Organisations, Private Sector among other stakeholders;
- (vi) Conducted sensitisation programmes in the Higher Learning Institutions;
- (vii) Chapters conducted field visits;
- (viii) Chapters made courtesy call different dignitaries and held roundtable meetings in various places.

#### Stakeholders of the Sensitisation

During the sensitisation programme, The EALA Country Chapters engaged the

following stakeholders: Media, Institutions of learning, Private Sector, Civil Society and Members of Parliament. Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs in all Partner States coordinated this activity to identify and access the target stakeholders.

#### Expected Outcomes

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

#### Findings

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I will go directly to the findings. As I indicated earlier, there is a bigger report which describes how each chapter conducted the sensitisation in respective chapters.

#### BURUNDI

The National Assembly of Burundi and Committee responsible for EAC Affairs and political affairs

After presentation of the achievements and the role of EALA in the integration process, honourable Members of the National Assembly expressed some concerns as follows:

- (i) The mode of electing Members of the EALA and the relationship between national laws and regional Acts;

- (ii) They also questioned the procedure of reporting to the National Assembly. EALA quoted article 65 of the Treaty on relations between the Assembly and the National Assemblies of the Partner States;
- (iii) There was a concern why French language cannot be introduced as it is a practice in other Regional Economic Communities like European Union (EU), African Union (AU), Pan African Parliament (PAP) among others. Members of EALA explained that the use of English is a requirement of the Treaty but the process of including French in EAC has been adopted by the summit.

#### Interactive session with the Media

The media raised the following issues:

- (i) Appreciation of the activity undertaken by EALA. According to them the integration is known by the elite and citizens are not much informed, therefore, more sensitisation on EAC integration is needed;
- (ii) The media does not have access to information on regional integration;
- (iii) Burundians are not represented in the EAC Media Summit since 2010;
- (iv) English language is perceived as a challenge even though there are efforts to learn it since it is the language of the Community;
- (v) EAC Ministry should produce a radio programme on EAC regional Integration;
- (vi) EAC Ministry should avail information to the media about requirements to start businesses in other EAC Partner States.
- (vii) There is need for harmonization of qualifications to give chance to



- Burundians to benefit from job opportunities available in EAC;
- (viii) There was a concern on whether there is a mechanism to resolve conflicts among Partner States-

Private Sector (Chamber of Commerce)

The leadership of the federal chamber of commerce commended the sensitization and the following issues emerged:

- (i) National laws related to trade are not harmonized with the Community laws and protocols especially the Investment Code;
- (ii) Participants expressed the concern about how political instability is affecting business and requested EALA to play a role in finding a lasting solution to the crisis;
- (iii) The Federal Chamber of Commerce and Industry urged Burundi to join One Network Area Initiative in order to cut the cost of communication;
- (iv) NTBs on the central corridor are still many compared to the Northern Corridor and should be reduced to facilitate trade;
- (v) Burundian citizens should be proactive and change their mindset as far as business is concerned;
- (vi) It is difficult to open business in Tanzania as well as export products from Burundi to Tanzania. Therefore they requested full implementation of the Common Market Protocol;
- (vii) The Chamber of Commerce and Industry agreed with EALA Members to regularly meet to discuss matters pertaining to intra-regional trade.

Interaction with Transporters, Clearing, and Forwarding Agencies

A number of concerns were raised as follows:

- (i) The Central corridor is lagging behind in terms of removal of Non-Tariff Barriers whereas the Northern Corridor is moving fast. There is, therefore, need to reduce the number of weighbridges which are now 7 from Dar es Salaam to Bujumbura;
- (ii) The need to harmonize taxation within EAC countries;
- (iii) The Customs Management Act should be reviewed because it gives too much power to the Director General of the Customs Union: importers should be given space and consulted on issues related to trade;
- (iv) Ministries in charge of EAC Affairs, Commerce and Finance should train business communities and sensitize them on the must to pay taxes because some remember to pay after they have been punished;
- (v) There is need to remove county fees in Kenya as these constitute Non-Tariff Barriers and hampers trade within EAC and affect land locked countries;
- (vi) Burundian transporters noted a lack of information on the vehicle load requirements in EAC;
- (vii) Harmonization of working hours in the context of One Stop Border Post was also raised by participants;
- (viii) Burundi was encouraged to adhere to one tourist visa.

Courtesy call on the Commissioner General of Burundi Revenue Authority

- (i) The Burundi Revenue Authority Commissioner acknowledged that after Burundi became a member of EAC, it has seen a positive impact on the revenue collections because of the intra-Regional trade;
- (ii) He assured members that it is his responsibility to insure business

- community are facilitated from the time they enter Burundi;
- (iii) To ensure that information reaches business communities, the Institution has created a communication Department which produces leaflets in French and in Kirundi and distributes them to business people. They have also created a call centre to deal with any enquiry;
  - (iv) Some customs agencies are involved in fraud by using wrong seals and this is punishable. Laws and Revenue Authority regulations should be respected;
  - (v) Business Communities should avoid high taxation by importing from Dubai or China or elsewhere directly instead of importing goods from Uganda or another EAC Partner State which have already been taxed;
  - (vi) Corruption has reduced a lot and Burundi Revenue Authority has put in place a strategy against internal corruption where they have a monitoring and evaluation system.

Ministry of Education and Scientific Research

Hon. Members interacted with two permanent secretaries of the ministry. They raised the following concerns:

- (i) The need to harmonize qualification and curricula to allow Burundians be competitive;
- (ii) The use of English language and Kiswahili : the country has made efforts to introduce them from primary school curricula; they noted an improvement but are of the view that efforts should be sustained as education is a continuous process;
- (iii) Many students are not aware of courses which could have more opportunities in terms of jobs.

Nevertheless the government has introduced new education programme to cater for that.

The leadership of the University of Burundi

The discussions with the leadership of University of Burundi, which has 13 thousand students in numbers, 600 professors focused on how much the students know about the integration agenda and what should be done in this area. They brought to Members' attention the following:

- (i) A lot has to be done to sensitize them on the integration process
- (ii) Job opportunities are not known;
- (iii) Harmonization of curricula and that of diplomas is not done yet done;
- (iv) The official language of the Community is a challenge for Burundians; therefore, French should be used as additional language of the Community;

University students and their Professors.

The audience had the following observations:

- (i) Stakeholders expressed a desire to see tangible gains resulting from the membership of Burundi in EAC with regards to education opportunities and employment;
- (ii) They questioned the importance of Burundi belonging to many international Organizations;
- (iii) Job opportunities should be largely communicated to them;
- (iv) Burundians should invest or/and sell their products in other EAC Partner States;
- (v) The EAC tourist visa should be effective to allow Burundians benefit from it as the country has much to offer;
- (vi) Lack of information on EAC integration : they appreciated

- Members of EALA because they did not know much about EAC integration before the sensitisation activity;
- (vii) There should be free movement of professors through professional Networks between Universities;
  - (viii) The EAC Ministry should work closely with the University of Burundi to allow Burundian students benefit or study in other EAC Countries;
  - (ix) The issue of work permit should be finalized to facilitate those who wish to work in EAC Partner States; especially where some countries are requesting for work permits. A legal mechanism should be put in place to address this challenge;
  - (x) Members of EALA should follow up on discrimination observed in school fees payment in Kenya;
  - (xi) There is a need to follow up on why exchange programmes between the University of Burundi and Makerere University of Uganda stopped.

#### The Minister of Home Affairs and Patriotism

- (i) The Minister assured Members that he understands the integration and fully supports it;
- (ii) The ministry is at an advanced stage of elaboration of the biometric Identity card;
- (iii) The ministry is working on some key laws for Migration and immigration and on harmonization of electoral law;
- (iv) There is a challenge of difference in working hours at the borders.

#### Ruhwa One Stop Border Post

- (i) Crossing without luggage takes 5 minutes only while it takes 30 minutes with luggage.
- (ii) The border does not operate 24 hours because there is not so much movement at the border.
- (iii) There is no common committee in charge of approving the needed budget for functioning of the one stop border post.
- (iv) It was observed that trucks delay at the border for 7 days occasioned by lengthy procedures in delivering exit note from the Rwandan side.

### KENYA

#### Civil Society Organisations

A meeting was held with the Akiba Uhaki Foundation, which is a grant making organization dedicated to advancing social justice in East Africa. Its mission is to promote, uphold and strengthen Human Rights and Social Justice in East Africa through innovative grant-making, influencing and accompanying relevant non-state actors.

It was observed that promotion and protection of human rights is one of the fundamental principles of the EAC as provided for in Article 6 (d) of the Treaty.

The following are recommendations by the Akiba Uhaki Foundation:

- (i) A clear framework of engagement between EALA and civil society organisations needs to be put in place;
- (ii) Identify areas of synergy; and,
- (iii) Identify mechanisms to operationalise issues brought forth by civil society organisations.

### Institutions of Higher Learning.

The EALA Kenya Chapter visited the Mount Kenya University in Thika, Kiambu County. An interactive session was also held with students from the Mount Kenya University. The following were some observations brought out during the meetings with the institutions of higher learning:

- (i) Students sought to understand what their role was in the EAC integration process;
- (ii) The role of the East African Youth Ambassadors was not clear;
- (iii) The infrastructure in some of the One Stop Border Posts were not friendly to people with disabilities; and,
- (iv) Some of the one stop border posts were not yet functional;

### Kenya Association of Manufacturers.

During a meeting with the Kenya Association of Manufacturers, the following recommendations were brought out:

- (i) Amendments to some of the Acts of the EAC; the EAC Competition Amendment Bill; the EAC Customs Management Act; and the EAC Industrialization Bill, 2015, among others;
- (ii) There is need to expedite the implementation of the Common Market Protocol by all Partner States and align the domestic laws. EAC should come up with an Act to implement the EAC Common Market Protocol;
- (iii) All Partner States should sign and ratify the double taxation agreement. It should be expedited to reduce the burden faced by investors in the EAC region;

- (iv) Expedite the tax harmonization exercise in the EAC region on VAT, Excise and Income Tax;
- (v) EALA to ensure Partner States implement and comply with the laid down EAC Rules and Procedures, and implement SCITFI Decisions made by the Council;
- (vi) Partner States should adhere to the principle of Mutual Recognition Agreement of each other notified mark as stipulated in Section 24 of the Standardisation, Quality Assurance, Metrology and Testing (SQMT) Act; and
- (vii) EALA should champion the implementation of Buy East Africa, Build East Africa policy to promote products manufactured in the EAC.

### Kenya Industrial Property Institute

The following observations were made:

- (i) There has been an upsurge in awareness in Intellectual Property Rights in Kenya and the larger East African Region;
- (ii) A challenge facing the EAC's intellectual property framework is the problem of counterfeiting of goods;
- (iii) The lack of an Intellectual Property Audit is brought about by lack of business data and data collection mechanisms;
- (iv) With a suitable intellectual property policy and strategy in place, the EAC can move into next frontier in ensuring a comprehensive framework concerning intellectual property in place in the region; and,
- (v) The EAC ought to organize for a retreat for Officers in a charge of Intellectual Property Rights to allow

them exchange information on progress and challenges they face and come up with a way forward.

#### **Micro and Small Enterprises Authority.**

The meeting came up with the following recommendations:

- (i) Partner States need to establish an institution dedicated for the Micro Small Enterprises Sector in the EAC;
- (ii) Establishment of a one stop shop/site where EAC products are showcased is of absolute necessity;
- (iii) Entrenching guidelines by the Common Market Protocol for standards for goods and services to facilitate the movement of goods;
- (iv) The EAC should promote apprenticeship training and a certification for artisans;
- (v) There is a need to introduce a policy to promote the Small and Medium Enterprise sector in East Africa; and
- (vi) Enhance the current EAC Jua Kali/Nguvu Kazi regional exhibitions budget to promote regional integration and cross border trade.

#### **Radio and TV Programmes.**

Members participated in Radio and TV Programmes and the following are the observations made:

- (i) Air time was expensive and therefore sufficient funding is required for more programmes on the EAC integration process to be aired. It was noted that radio stations that had a large number of listenership were not able to be approached due to the high cost of airtime;
- (ii) Media houses have to make a deliberate effort to put aside time to speak on the EAC integration process;

- (iii) A number of citizens still had not experienced the benefits of the EAC integration process;
- (iv) More needed to be done in creating awareness on the EAC integration process; and
- (v) EAC Partner States need to promote local content, Buy East Africa, Build East Africa

### **RWANDA**

#### **Planning Meeting**

The planning meeting held by the members of the chapter on 4th April 2016 preceded the sensitisation. At the meeting, members designed a program for the sensitisation and agreed on which places to visit and the stakeholders to engage. Members divided themselves into three groups so as to cover as many places as possible. Members observed and agreed to participate in the commemoration activities of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi since it coincided with the sensitisation program.

#### **Press Conference**

The press conference was held on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at the Ministry of East African Affairs in Kigali. The press statement was released by the Chapter and it highlighted on the objectives, methodology and expected outputs of the sensitisation.

Arising out of the press conference, the following issues were observed:-

- (i) Limited awareness about the opportunities provided by the EAC integration by most of the Rwandan private sector. That Rwandans are not aggressive to tap integration opportunities in other Partner States;
- (ii) The role of EALA and East African Community in general in addressing the political instability in Burundi;

- (iii) Members of press highlighted on the fact that EAC integration should minimize imports since it has great potential for producing imported goods locally;
- (iv) Strategies at a regional level to combat corruption tendencies in the Community;
- (v) The press members profoundly appreciated the EALA Members the support and solidarity shown towards the commemoration activities of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi.

#### **Visits to Media Houses**

- (i) Strong appreciation that this sensitisation was long overdue because EALA as representatives of people would have done it much earlier;
- (ii) Inadequate information on achievements so far made in the integration for example not aware that Rwandan citizens can move to other Partner States using National Identity Cards as the travel documents;
- (iii) It was frequently mentioned that media is not so much involved in the integration activities;
- (iv) Commodity prices are still high despite the steps taken in the EAC regional integration and NTBs elimination along the corridors;
- (v) The media houses discussions reiterated the private sector concerns which were presented to EALA for action and solutions.

#### **Participation in the Commemoration activities of 1994 genocide against Tutsi**

Members of the chapter participated in different commemoration activities in different places across the country including talk shows, discussions to local people and other selected audiences about the origin, planning, implementation and disastrous

effects of genocide against Tutsi and the fight against the genocide ideology.

This was to show EALA support and solidarity to the people of Rwanda during the difficult time of commemoration of the 1994 genocide against Tutsi. To this end, the Rwanda Chapter Members contributed some money to assist elderly widowed genocide survivors in Rwamagana, Eastern Province of Rwanda. The people of Rwanda profoundly appreciated EALA's solidarity with them in the difficult moments and requested that the solidarity should continue in the times to come.

#### **Interaction with Parliamentarians**

During the interaction of EALA Rwanda Chapter Members and the Members of the Committee that handles EAC affairs from the National Chamber of Deputies, the following observations came up:-

- (i) There are still unclear procedures on the linkage between the EALA and the National Parliaments;
- (ii) It came out clearly that sometimes the National Parliament faces limited time due to prioritization to consider reports from EALA;
- (iii) Members observed that political instability in Burundi and South Sudan are making the regional integration fragile;
- (iv) Members of the Chamber of Deputies observed with concern that a number of laws in Partner States are not yet harmonized to ease the implementation of the various protocols.

#### **Visits to Institutions of Higher Learning**

During the visits by Chapter Members in different institutions of higher learning; the following observations were made:-

- (i) Inter University Council for East Africa cannot harmonise primary and

secondary school systems in the region yet this is fundamentally necessary to streamline the basic foundation for higher learning;

- (ii) It was observed that vocational training institutions are not given due attention in the integration process;
- (iii) It was observed that some of the public institutions of higher learning are not aware of the harmonised systems in the education sector;

### TANZANIA

#### Press Conference

The press conference was attended by journalists from both national and international media. It was held at the Habari Maelezo hall managed by the ministry responsible for information. The following were the observations made during the press conference:

- (i) Sensitisation should be conducted annually for the purposes of ensuring that East Africans realizes the benefits of integration;
- (ii) East African Community in general and EALA in particular is not doing enough to solve the continuing political crises in Burundi;
- (iii) The existence of corruption in Partner States is one of the hindrance of integration; and,
- (iv) Kiswahili should be used as one of the official languages of the Community.

#### Meeting with the Committees of the National Assembly

The Team met with two Standing Committees of the National Assembly: the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security and the Committee on Trade, Industry and Environment. The following issues emerged during the meeting with the two Committees:

- (i) Sensitisation should be extended to all Members of the National

Assembly; (ii) Education and awareness on Customs Union and its procedures is more needed to traders and transporters;

- (ii) Activities of EALA are not known to some Members of the National Assembly;
- (iii) EAC and EALA should put more efforts to address the crises in Burundi and South Sudan; and (v) EAC should put more efforts to promote Kiswahili so that it is used in all Partner States.

#### Sensitisation to the Universities

The Team visited the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) and Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS). At UDSM the occasion was graced by Professor Florens D. A. M. Luoga (Deputy Vice Chancellor- Academic) while at MUHAS the sensitisation was graced by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Ephata Kaaya. The following are some of the emerged issues from both universities:

- (i) Harmonization of education and training curricular need to be fast tracked
- (ii) EAC should have strategies to ensure involvement of youth in the integration process;
- (iii) The number of EAC Youth Ambassadors per Partner States should be increased;
- (iv) EAC should have special program to sensitize the youth;
- (v) Ministry of EAC affairs should put more efforts to educate the youth and university students especially on the opportunities of EAC integration;
- (vi) Some wanted to know the procedures to be Members of EALA;
- (vii) National laws need to be amended to facilitate integration process especially those laws that are obstacles to youth;

- (viii) Kiswahili should be promoted and used as a second official language of the Community; and
- (ix) Protocols concluded by Partner States and laws enacted by EALA are not known to the common citizens.

### **Sensitisation to Markets**

The Team visited the Kariakoo Market and the Ferry International Fish Market, both located in Dar es Salaam. In both markets, the Team hold meetings with the administration and traders of those markets. The Committee managed to interact with traders, some of them engage in cross border business. The following were the observations from the traders:

- (i) Some traders were not aware of the certificates of origin and where to get them;
- (ii) There is a need to harmonize the standards of products in the region;
- (iii) Traders from Tanzania faces a lot of obstacles when exporting their products to other Partner States especially to Kenya; and,
- (iv) People are worried by the continued conflicts in some Partner States.

### **Visit to Media Houses**

Visit to Media Houses aimed at sensitizing the management and staff and to request them to take interests in the EAC affairs in general and EALA in particular. The following were the issues from the media:

- (i) The Management of the Guardian Newspaper promised to dedicate specific pages for EAC news in their newspapers;
- (ii) The Management of Azam TV promised to explore the possibilities of broadcasting EALA plenary sessions (live coverage);
- (iii) Many people are not aware of what is going on in the integration process;

- (iv) Media need to be engaged in the sensitisation programs on EAC integration;
- (v) The continued existence of NTBs hampers the regional trade;
- (vi) People are worried with the situation of good governance, rule of law and democratization process within our Partner States;
- (vii) People have concerns with the perceived division among the Partner States (Coalition of the Willing);
- (viii) Swahili language should be used as the second official language of the Community;
- (ix) Citizens of some Partner States are having strong tribalism to the extent that they do business with people from their own tribe, beyond that they are willing to engage with people of their nationalities. They cited this as another form of NTBs;
- (x) Harmonization of education and training curricular need to be fast tracked; and,
- (xi) Media from Tanzania are discriminated in some Partner States.

## **UGANDA**

### **National Leadership**

During the interactions between EALA Uganda Chapter and the National Leadership, the following observations were made:-

- (i) The Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga pledged Parliament's continued commitment to consolidating and further strengthening of its working relations with EALA in a bid to promote the EAC Integration Agenda;



- (ii) The Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda expressed the need to urgently explore modalities of directly and actively engaging National Assemblies in the EAC legislative process, Article 65 of the Treaty notwithstanding;
- (iii) The Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Ruhakana Rugunda urged the EAC Partner States, the EAC Secretariat and all Organs and Institutions of the EAC to be less bureaucratic to allow ease of access by the people and timely service delivery. He also re-echoed the unwavering support and commitment of the Government and people of Uganda to the EAC Integration;
- (v) The Uganda Ministry of EAC Affairs appealed to the leadership of EALA to inform them in advance about the second phase of sensitisation to enable the Ministry plan and jointly participate in this activity for greater impact.

### **The Media**

During the interactions with the media, the following observations were made:

- (i) They inquired about the role of the EAC in General and EALA in particular in resolving the Burundi political crisis;
- (ii) They expressed concern about the inadequate dissemination of information about the EAC integration process. They noted the need for the active engagement of all stakeholders at all stages of integration if the gains are to be sustained;
- (iii) They expressed concerns about the admission of the Republic of South Sudan to the EAC in view of her

historical internal problems and questionable human rights credentials;

- (iv) They raised concern about the Migingo Island crisis, which has remained unsolved. They noted that the Migingo Island question remains poses to the integration efforts.

### **Universities**

During the interactions with the institutions of higher learning, the following observations were made:

- i. University students appreciated the introduction of temporary travel documents to facilitate travel within the region, but were apprehensive about the alleged fee of UGX. 10,000= being charged to travellers using National Identity cards by immigration officers at Uganda's boarder points;
- ii. While the EAC Youth Ambassadors were appointed in some Universities and EAC associations formed, their impact and visibility remains minimal due limited funding and clear role definition;
- iii. Harmonization of Educational curricula, examinations and standards is yet to be done. Foreign university students and those from other Partner States are charged tuition fees differently from their counterparts in Uganda;
- iv. Students expressed reservations about the realization of the EAC political federation in view of the apparent contradicting political and governance systems among the EAC Partner States such as open versus presidential term limits.

### Professional Associations

When the Ugandan Chapter met the professional Associations, the following observations were made;

- (i) While Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRA) were signed by a number of Professional Associations like Engineers, Architects, Medical Practitioners and Accountants, and deposited with the EAC Secretariat in Arusha, they are yet to be operationalized;
- (ii) While Uganda freely issues work permits to none Ugandan professionals, other Partner States continue to make it difficult for Ugandan professionals to acquire these permits, even those who genuinely deserve;
- (iii) There is continued discrimination against and unfair treatment of Ugandan professional engineers in other Partner States in form of charging them a higher registration fee and requiring them to undertake additional qualification processes;
- (iv) Local engineers continue to be locked out of key infrastructural development projects in the region. No deliberate efforts have been made by the Partners States to make sure national engineers participate in all the infrastructure projects being undertaken in the region, for the purpose of transferring knowledge and capacity building;
- (v) Variation in tax regimes in the EAC continues to negatively affect the growth of the Insurance Industry in Uganda where the ratio of Tax to Premium is 60/40. Currently the penetration level in Uganda is less than 1per cent (0.85 per cent). Taxes like VAT, WHT and Stamp duty have driven up the cost of insurance by over 40per cent. The present taxation

environment is particularly prejudicial to Motor Third Party Insurance (compulsory cover for all vehicles), micro insurance products (for low income groups) as well as individuals that take out covers. With respect to corporates, VAT has an impact in terms of cash flow (even though VAT is refundable). This has consequently reduced the growth from an average of 18 per cent - 20 per cent over the past years (prior to new taxation regime) to an average of 16 per cent (over the past 3 years);

- (vi) There is growing need to recognize Insurance as a professional service. Insurance is only captured as a financial service under the Common Market Protocol. The component of it being a profession is not highlighted. Statutory recognition of insurance as a fully-fledged professional service under the Protocol will enable easy lobbying on issues under the free movement of workers, including execution of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs);
- (vii) The harmonization of municipals laws with the EAC is yet to be done which has impeded the implementation of various EAC Protocols.

### Private Sector/Business Community

During the interactions with the private sector, the following observations were made;

- (i) It was noted that Ugandan traders are faced with the challenge of NTBs imposed by the Republics of Kenya and Tanzania. For example there is discriminatory application of standards on Ugandan goods such as maize, sugar and beans yet there should be uniform application of the

- approved standards across the borders;
- (ii) Despite the establishment of a single customs territory the EAC Partner States are yet to develop a revenue sharing formula;
  - (iii) According to the Uganda Manufacturers Association the focus of the current EAC Integration drive seems to focus more promotion of trade in imported goods at the expense of promoting industrialization. There is need for deliberate policy and legislation to promote private sector growth;
  - (iv) According to Uganda Revenue Authority, while in 2015 the EAC developed and approved new Rules of Origin, no Partner State is currently using the New Rules of Origin. Instead the Old Certificates of Origin continue to be used;
  - (v) The differences in legal and regulatory frameworks within the Partner States still poses technical barriers to trade despite existing mechanism for harmonized standards to remove these barriers.
- (iii) There is urgent need for the EAC Kiswahili Commission to roll out its activities in all the EAC Partner States in a bid to promote the language;
  - (iv) It is recommended that the tax regimes are harmonized across the EAC region (noting disparity in Uganda, Rwanda & Tanzania) with the removal of VAT on Insurance premiums and retention of one specific tax to encourage uptake of insurance;
  - (v) There is need for statutory recognition of insurance as a fully-fledged professional service under the Protocol. This will enable easy lobbying on issues under the free movement of workers, including execution of Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs);
  - (vi) There is need for amendment of the Treaty to provide for a clear mechanism of engaging National Assemblies of the EAC Partner States in the EAC legislative process;
  - (vii) There should be deliberate efforts by the Partners States to make sure national engineers participate in all the infrastructure projects being undertaken in the region, for the purpose of transferring knowledge and capacity building. In the end savings will be realised in foreign exchange;
  - (viii) There is need for the EAC Partner States to use harmonised Certificates of Origin;
  - (ix) There is urgent need to update a Schedule of professionals and all Partners ensure uniform and fair treatment of professionals who deservingly apply for work permits.

### **Specific Recommendations**

The following recommendations were specifically made from stakeholders in Uganda;

- (i) The EAC Secretariat needs to create a forward and backward-linkage platform for regular sharing of information about the integration process and receiving views from stakeholders on the integration Agenda;
- (ii) The operationalization of the Mutual Recognition Agreements (MRAs) which were signed and deposited with the EAC Secretariat in Arusha need to be fast tracked;

### General Findings

It was observed that People are not aware of EAC, its programs, benefits and how to explore for the opportunities. For instance some traders are not aware about the existence of certificate of origin and where to get them;

- (i) More sensitisation programs are needed to increase the visibility of EAC;
- (ii) For integration to benefit citizens there is a need for them to be engaged in integration at all stages;
- (iii) Existence of un-harmonised education systems and requirements in the Partner States;
- (iv) Harmonisation of national laws is one of the critical steps required to facilitate regional integration. It is a process that has to go hand in hand with other undertakings of Partner States; otherwise, all agreed National laws might hamper programs and stages of integration;
- (v) Students from EAC Partner States still require student passes or visas to be able to study in another Partner State;
- (vi) The youth were not fully involved in the EAC integration process;
- (vi) Members observed the growing interest of the participants/stakeholders in embracing and learning the Kiswahili language. Besides promoting unity among the EAC populace, the Kiswahili language is a critical medium of communication that will further facilitate trade in the region.

### GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Recommendations from Stakeholders.

The stakeholders:

- (i) Urged the Partner States to do more sensitisation through Ministries of EAC Affairs on regional integration to allow citizens fully understand it and benefit from opportunities it offers
- (ii) Recommended the fast tracking of the harmonisation of education and training curricular need to be fast tracked by Partner States.
- (iii) Urge Partner States to facilitate the Private Sector to embrace Public-Private Partnerships to enable business people exploit businesses opportunities across EAC Partner States.
- (iv) Urged the Partner States to fully implement the Common Market Protocol which provides for free movement of people, capital and services among others, to allow citizens of East Africa to enjoy their rights.
- (v) Urged the Partner States to eliminate the NTBs, which affect negatively on intra-Regional trade activities.
- (vi) Urged Partner States to address issue of work permit to facilitate those who wish to work in EAC Partner States.

#### Recommendations from Assembly

The Assembly recommended that:

- (i) Sensitisation and awareness on the EAC integration process needs to be a continuous activity;
- (ii) EALA and EAC should allocate more funds for sensitisation targeting both urban and rural areas;
- (iii) Partner States through their relevant ministries should make extra efforts to educate the public on the EAC integration;
- (iv) National Parliaments need to be sensitized on the integration process and be involved as stakeholders during EALA activities like Public Hearings and Oversight;

- (v) Small scale traders should be involved in the integration process especially provision of information on what they can trade and how; and;
- (vi) Media department at EAC Secretariat should be more pro-active, especially to work closely with various national and regional media.

I beg to submit the Report, hon. Speaker, Sir.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much hon. Patricia who has moved this Report on behalf of all of us. We thank you for the eloquent presentation. Hon. Colleagues, this is a very serious subject which we must debate because it will inform the next sensitisation exercise we will carry out. You have been in the field out there. You came across challenges. We should come up with better strategies and ways of enhancing the process of sensitizing the EAC integration.

*(Question proposed)*

**Ms. Isabelle Ndahayo (Burundi):** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. Before I give my comments on this Report, I would like to say that I support it. I congratulate this Assembly for the successful achievement. This was an achievement because it was unique. Whoever we met asked us where we have been. Others told us that they had heard about EALA. Others confused EALA with the EAC. They have no idea what EALA is. Some of them even thought that we were the first Members of EALA. They were wondering where other Members of EALA were doing. People did not even know that we have already been here for four years. This was very interesting. When we asked some people what EAC is and where it is, they would tell us that the EAC is in Tanzania. Most people do not know what EAC is about. Most of this sensitisation took place in capital cities and towns. Imagine if people in town do not know

what EAC is about, what about those in rural areas? That means that it is very important for us to continue carrying out sensitisation. It is also very important for them to understand what it is about so that they get to know the benefits we get from integration.

After people have understood the benefits, it will be easy for us to have mutual relationships and networking between EAC citizens and EALA. This will help us to move forward the integration process. We are here as the ambassadors of East Africa. It is now time for us to debate so that next time when we go out there, we can respond to some of the issues that people raised.

I will now move to the findings of the sensitisation exercise. The big challenge regarding the integration is the harmonisation of laws in the EAC context. This delays the implementation of the Common Market Protocol. There are some opportunities surrounding people. However, our people cannot access these opportunities because of the pace at which laws are harmonised. The question is; who is responsible for this? We were told that the Law Reform Commission does not exist in Burundi. I have also heard that it does not exist in other Partner States.

The last time we looked at harmonisation of laws in the EAC Partner States we were told that the commission members at the EAC level keep on changing. I think the Council of Ministers should take this issue seriously. In addition, people are not informed about the few laws which have already been harmonised. This means that sensitisation and awareness is very important.

I can give an example of the people who operate trucks and who do not know the vehicle road regulations prevailing in the EAC. In most cases, people get to know about the axle loads after they have been arrested

for default. That is when they understand that the regulation exists. In the absence of harmonization of national laws into the EAC context, each Partner State uses its own laws. This creates injustice to EAC citizens. The example I can give here is in relation to time and conditions for a person who may be wanting to set up a business in Burundi. The time taken to issue a business permit is three days maximum. This applies to all East Africans who want to start businesses in Burundi. However, when Burundians want to open businesses outside Burundi, in the EAC, especially in Tanzania, it becomes very difficult or even impossible. This tells you how much we should harmonise our laws so that people can enjoy the benefits. Therefore, the Council of Ministers should come in and facilitate citizens.

During the sensitisation, Burundians had another concern on why Burundians are not benefiting from employment opportunities in the EAC as per the quota system. We have realised that one of the biggest reason is lack of information. Some people are not informed at all about the procedures. This reinforces the need for sensitisation and commitment of all. However, this does not only affect employment opportunities only. It also affects education opportunities in all EAC Partner States.

Finally, as you know, in order to reach our ultimate targets of the integration process, peace and security is very important. Burundians support the initiative of the region in resolving its conflict and is requesting that this initiative continues until they find lasting solution. However, they are aware that peace can only be found by Burundians themselves. They are requesting the region to put in place measures for good neighbourliness. The sensitisation activity was very good and it gave us an opportunity to understand people's needs in the East

Africa Community. I have very many things to say but probably I will use other opportunities like bringing Motions or ask questions regarding the issues that we learnt about from citizens.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much hon. Isabelle. In the interest of time, because I know that this report will be intensely debated, I will allocate five minutes per every Member who takes the Floor. If you can use less time, the better.

**Mr. Peter Mathuki (Kenya):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Let me start by congratulating the Secretary General of the East Africa Community, Mr. Liberat Mfumukeko, for being sworn in as the Secretary General of the Community. This is a new responsibility with a lot of challenges. He should know that we have high expectations on how he will deliver. This will not be an easy task because East Africans are watching. I wish he was here today to listen to this very important report. I can say that he has started on a very bad note.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Mathuki, the Secretary General came to my office this morning. He has a very serious condition on his back. He expressed his commitment to be around but he had to travel to Nairobi for thorough medical check up and I encouraged him to do so. Those who were here, will remember that Hon. Amb. Mapachu had a similar problem when he just took office as Secretary General. He had to be admitted in South Africa for almost six months. From that precedence I advised the Secretary General to seek proper medical attention preferably in Nairobi.

**Mr. Mathuki:** We wish him quick recovery. I was only emphasising the need for this very important assignment. We talked about the Ministers who are supposed to be here. Thanks to hon. Bageine. When we will be

writing history, hon. Bageine will stand out as one of the committed East Africans to integration. We have very many others who have been seen around but they cannot afford to sit in this Chamber. That is very unfortunate and yet we are discussing a report that will help them understand what East Africans are saying. That is important for record.

Going to the report, let me, first of all congratulate you and the Commission. In your wisdom, you thought it was important to get some time in the calendar of this Assembly to ensure that we have this very important activity. I know that this is one of the important things you will leave behind as a Speaker and as a Commission. Were it not for you and the Commission, possibly this activity would not have been in the planning of the activities. I would like to congratulate you and the Commission.

We interacted with East Africans on the EAC and found out that possibly 10 per cent understand what the EAC is all about. That is reality and it becomes a challenge. In fact, you are reading from the same page with the Heads of States or the Summit members. In his speech, our current Chairperson said that it is high time that we went to the people to create awareness on the East Africa Community. That is what we should do.

As we leave EALA that is one of the legacies we are likely to leave. This idea was very innovative; getting resources as an Assembly without an allocation from the Secretariat so that we could interact with citizens. Going forward, we need, as a community to build more resources into this activity.

The Community is not about buildings or having a very beautiful Secretariat and saying that we are located in Arusha. The Community is about making sure that people

are involved in what we are doing. It is people centred. This is in the Treaty and, therefore, we must move with the spirit of the Treaty to ensure that citizens are involved at every stage. This is important because otherwise, we will be coming here and talking to ourselves for two weeks or so. The Ministers will also be moving around in their comfortable cars without caring and yet we are here talking to ourselves. We must come out of our comfort zones and work for East Africans because that is what is expected of us.

Now that South Sudan is on board, the next activity should be to visit that country. They should start in the spirit of understanding their responsibilities as far as the Community is concerned. If that is not done, we will not have South Sudanese to blame but ourselves because we should take this upfront. I pass that to you and to your Commission so that you look for resources. You should ensure that Members of this Assembly host the next activity in South Sudan. I am sure that your Commission is competent and has the capacity to interact and raise resources to ensure this is done. Therefore, I do not want to belabour on that.

I want to thank our Kenyan Chapter the Chairperson who ably brought us together and brought leadership. Hon. Nancy ensured that we met as many stakeholders as possible. That was amazing and I want to thank her. At some point, we met a group of people from the private sector and they proposed that we need to come up with a Bill to regulate the informal sector. Some of us; hon. Pareno, hon. Kanae and myself committed to come to the House and see how we can ensure that a Bill to regulate the informal sector is introduced in this House. More than 70 per cent of the employment is in the formal sector. We cannot, therefore, ignore that important sector. Those are some of the

experiences that you get when we interact with citizens. I look forward to the sensitisation in June. I am wishing this started yesterday. That is where we are supposed to meet citizens and talking to them so that we understand the issues they are facing.

**Ms. Hafsa Mossi (Burundi):** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir for giving me the Floor. I am rising in support of the Motion. I want to thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, for allowing us to undertake this exercise which was long overdue. As other Members have said, people kept on asking why we were visiting them this time and not earlier.

Allow me to congratulate the new Secretary General, Amb. Liberet Mfumukeko. As others have said, the Community has high expectations especially now when it is facing some serious financial challenges. Knowing how he operates, I have no doubt that he will take this Community to greater heights.

Coming to the Motion, as I was saying before, the sensitisation programme allowed us not only to understand the level of understanding of our people with regard to EAC matters but also helped us to assess the status of implementation of some projects.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, some of the stakeholders we met did not even know how many projects are implemented. In Burundi, for instance, this information was lacking and yet we know there are very many projects in many areas. That means that there is lack of information. That is why I support the recommendation that sensitisation should be sustained so that we can collaborate with Ministries in charge of EAC Affairs in giving information to our people.

The reaction in Burundi was overwhelming. In the process, we received a request from the Ministry of Public Security that we should

assist them in dealing with corruption in the context of EAC. It is only fair that when we carry out sensitisation in June or July, we also incorporate that aspect. We were also overwhelmed by the response of the new parliament. As you know, all the Members are new and were elected one year ago. That helped us to create rapport with them. They were very enthusiastic about sensitisation that they proposed that next time we carry out the programme, we should do it jointly with them.

I was talking about lack of information which is causing lack of ownership by our people. Our people think that integration is centred to target the elite people and so they do not get involved. There was a lot of interrogation regarding what the Community is all about and how people are benefiting from it. We need to continue in this direction.

I will not dwell on what others have said. However, there was a challenging issue that was raised on lack of knowledge with regard to the achievements of EALA. People did not seem to know what EALA is doing. We need to do more regarding that especially with regard to the laws we enact in EALA. There is not so much information regarding that and we need to liaise more with the National Assemblies and the Ministries so that our people are aware of what we are doing.

I support the Motion.

**The Speaker:** Thank you hon. Hafsa Mossi. As I told you, I will give people who have not spoken first. However, everybody will get a chance. I will give hon. Tiperu and then hon. Kiangoi.

**Ms. Tiperu Nusura (Uganda):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Allow me to join my colleagues in support of the Motion of the report that is before us. First, I would like to



thank Hon. Patricia for ably reading the report on behalf of all Members. I also want to take this opportunity to congratulate you because it is during your term that we have had this sensitisation undertaken. (*Applause*)

It is the desire of every parliamentarian to ensure that what he or she does is known to the constituents. Through this sensitisation process, we interfaced with our constituents and the public at large.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I also want to take this opportunity, yet again, to thank all those Members who stood with me when I lost my brother. It is during such times that you know who your friends are. I also want to take this opportunity to join colleagues who have stood here to congratulate the new Secretary General. I saw him for the first time yesterday. I also want to use this chance to congratulate all the former Secretary Generals. When we talk about the Community growing to what it is today, I end up remembering hon. Amanywa Mushega, hon. Mwapachu, Dr. Sezibera and now the new Secretary General. Looking at his demeanour and character, I have no doubt that he will live to our expectations.

Allow me to also take this opportunity to congratulate the people of the two countries especially Tanzania and Uganda. I congratulate Tanzania because of the election of His Excellency President John Magufuli and Uganda because of the overwhelming election of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The election of President Museveni adds a lot of value to the Community especially in terms of institutional memory. His election will also allow Members of the Summit to achieve the things they had planned to achieve. East Africans are looking at this period as a time for the EAC to take off. We

look forward to working together with the Summit and the other organs to ensure that East Africans expectations are realized.

The sensitisation exercise was timely. It came at a time when Uganda was carrying out election for its Speaker to the Ugandan Parliament. I want to take this opportunity to congratulate Speaker Rebecca Kadaga who has been very supportive to this House and who has championed the integration process. I also want to congratulate her Deputy who was overwhelmingly elected. As a Parliament, we pledge support and we look forward to working with the respective Speakers of the different parliaments within the region.

The sensitisation exercise helped us to see the energies out there. I remember when we visited Makerere University. We were treated to a very good poem by one of the students there. We urged the clerk to our team to ensure that the poem is made available to all members. That was one of the best poems I listened to this year. I hope that this will be captured in the *Hansard* so that you all enjoy what we enjoyed when we visited Makerere University during the sensitisation process.

During the same period, we also got views from the population and key among which is the attitude of East Africans. Whereas we are talking about one people, we are seeing a possibility of countries feeling that East Africa is for all but our country is ours. I will clarify more by saying that East Africa is for all but Uganda is ours or East Africa is for us but Kenya is ours. That comes our clearly when people who are doing business speak out about the challenges they face when they move to different countries. It is increasingly getting difficult to set up business and I think this is an eye opener to the Council. We talk about movement of labour and people. Please, let us help them so that we facilitate

their movement and easiness to establish themselves and to benefit from what has already been spoken about.

In conclusion, I would like to say that the sensitisation process was good because it helped us to unpack what has been done in the region. A lot is being carried out. Parliament has grown in size and has passed a lot of legislation. Sectoral Committees are sitting, the Council of Ministers has been sitting and the Summit is making directives. The Council is also undertaking decisions. The people whom we are discussing these issues on behalf do not know what we are saying. The sensitisation exercise must be supported. I pray that the June sensitisation is on course. Considering the challenges we faced, I believe that the next process will be better than what we had.

With those few remarks, I want to conclude and wish my colleagues the best.

**Mr. Joseph Ombasa Kiangoi (Kenya):**

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir for the opportunity. To begin with, let me also congratulate the Secretary General and wish him well during his tenure in this Community. I know that many people want to talk about this subject. I will, therefore, be quick. The main functions of this Assembly are well defined. One of the functions is representation of the people. One wonders whether you can represent people without meeting them. You must meet the people you represent. You should not assume that you know what their needs are and, therefore, you will implement what they need even before you meet them. That is the question. That is what has been lacking. We have been representing people. I recall Article 49(2)(d) which provides that we discuss all matters related to the Community and then recommend to the Council for action which they deem fit.

The sensitisation exercise provided an opportunity to meet with the people. The good thing is that it was done all at once. This was some kind of mobilization exercise which was done simultaneously in all Partner States. We now have the needs of the people. People expressed themselves. We saw that people are aware of their needs. These people do not know the processes to follow. So, creating awareness to these people has created some linkage between us and them. Their needs are now being expressed to the people who matter. The necessary legal framework should be put in place so as to help the people of East Africa to grow economically and socially. The process of integration should be fast tracked and the objectives of the Community met. People expressed themselves in all fields ranging from harmonization of laws to trade, NTBs, education and all areas that affect them. These are the areas that affect people. These are the areas that matter and which we know about following our integration with the people.

What is expected of us? From now, we are expected to act. We should look at what people are saying so that we put in the necessary legal framework. Where people have expressed themselves regarding inadequacy of law and gaps in legislation that affects the flow of their business, we need to move very quickly and ensure that the gaps are bridged. From this report, Council can also act simultaneously with the Assembly or before the Assembly acts. This report is more like a research paper of the needs of the people. We have actually undertaken a research. The sensitisation exercise programme was very important. I support the report and thank hon. Patricia for presenting it very eloquently. The recommendations should be taken wholesome. In fact, we need to undertake sensitisation quarterly as a policy of this Assembly.

It is only through meeting the people that we will have the strength to act. Otherwise, we are now acting without instructions. In the law profession, if you act without instructions, then you are acting for nobody. You should have instructions to act for your client. Our clients in this matter are the people we represent. If this was held quarterly, the objectives of the Community would be met.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Kiangoi, before you take your seat, it seems as if the idea of quarterly sensitisation is being applauded by Members. Will you move a Motion to make an amendment to the recommendation of the report that will be adopted; that, sensitisation be done quarterly?

**Mr. Kiangoi:** Yes, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**The Speaker:** Help the system to do it in a formal way. Amend the recommendations.

**Mr. Kiangoi:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, taking into account the importance attached to sensitisation and the lessons we have learnt from the last programme, I beg to move an amendment:

“THAT, sensitisation is carried out quarterly by this Assembly instead of leaving it open-ended.”

I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much hon. Kiangoi. We will proceed normally the same way we deal with our reports. Hon. Patricia will pick up the amendments and recommendations and respond to them at the end of the debate.

**Ms. Judith Pareno (Kenya):** Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to first congratulate the hon. Hajabakiga for presenting this report on behalf of all of us. I support the report fully.

In the just concluded exercise, this is the best we could have done and we did it well. Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, we went out very excited about the exercise as Members of this Assembly. We made sure that we sent a message. We moved out, 45 of us; all at the same time, with the same message and with the same target group. This was really a message to East Africans that we were serious with this business. We set time aside as an Assembly to engage with them and to hear them. We went armed with the necessary documentation, message and informed them about the achievements that we wanted to pass on to the people. We came up with the 1999 – 2016 achievements in all the fields. The message was strong to all East Africans on the same platform. This is a good exercise which gives a reflection of who we are and what the EAC is all about.

Wherever we went, especially where I was, in each function, we gave out a flag and each of those institutions confirmed to us that they would ensure that the flag flew with their institutions flags. In each of the areas we visited and where we met crowds, we taught them the regional anthem. Some people did not even know that there was a regional anthem. This is something we are proud of. We carried out the exercise the best way we could.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, probably as we carry out the exercise quarterly or the way this Assembly will agree, we need to make a declaration way in advance. I remember you saying that we can declare this month a sensitisation month for the EAC. That kind of a declaration, way in advance, would inform East Africans that we will visit them so that they plan to listen and engage with us. In their minds, they will also plan ahead so as to engage with us. That is something we can also come up with. We should be making the

declarations way in advance as a way of giving notice to East Africans.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, if you look at this report, you will see that some East Africans, like the civil society and the private sector are asking for a framework to work with us. Those are the recommendations they are making. They want to approach us. Our mode of operation in parliaments, to the ordinary *mwananchi*, appears to be very technical. They even ask how they can approach parliament. They do not know that they can make a petition or approach us through questions. This is a bit technical for the common *mwananchi*. They are probably asking for an easier framework. This is one of the easiest frameworks which is about engaging, sitting with them, holding *barazas* and hearing from them.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, as my brother, hon. Mathuki said, when we engaged with *jua kali* artisans, they told us that they want a law. They volunteered to start doing ground work. It is at that moment that we picked hon. Nkanae, with the support of the rest of EALA Members, so that we start working on a Bill because people asked for it. I told them it was not the first time that people had requested for a Bill. Farmers came to the Assembly asking for the same. It is a people-driven law. We had people coming and giving us their concerns. They want a law that will govern their businesses but they do not know how to do it. This is one way in which we receive proposals. I am happy to day that in Kenya, we received a proposal to initiate a law that protects our local artisans.

We were also asked why the policy; buy East Africa, build East Africa. This is a good policy. However, is it being implemented? Are we buying East African and building East African? They even proceeded to give us a practical example. They told that it is very

shocking that we even buy toothpicks from China. It is very shocking, with all the timber that we have in this region, that all the seats we are using and our tables are from China. We have our local markets, timber markets and our by-products but we are not buying or building East Africa. We are busy buying China and building China. That was a challenge to us. They said that since we have a policy to buy and build East Africa, they would want to know where it is being applied practically.

The message to this Assembly is that we should realize this policy and effect it as East Africans. We should buy East Africa and sell East Africa. They gave us one very good example of our sister country Rwanda which we are very proud of. They said that they picked some *jua kali* artisans who are now permanent residents of Rwanda and are teaching their counter parts how to carry out *jua kali* business and the artisan work they used to do in Kenya. The artisans are permanently settled in Rwanda earning their allowances and they feel to be part of Rwanda. We said that is a good move. This is a sister country that came out to buy and build East Africa instead of buying from China and other countries.

The other issue they raised was on intellectual property rights. This is very serious. They asked for a policy that is supposed to guide us. This is a challenge to the Council of Ministers. Can you imagine a Kenyan developed a machine, still in the artisans industry, that can defeather chicken within seconds? Within seconds, you just deep the chicken in the machine and within seconds, the chicken is ready for slaughter. The feathers are removed within seconds. They reported that to us and after that took it to an exhibition. Within no time, China was producing the same and the poor Kenyan was left without patent for his defeathering

machine and at the end of the day that is our loss as East Africans. They are asking that we come up with a regional policy on how to protect our intellectual property in this region. That is really a concern. You can imagine how that artisan felt when his idea was stolen from an exhibition and was taken all the way to China.

**Hon. Dora Byamukama (Uganda):** On a point of information. I would like to say that we mooted in this Parliament, in the second Assembly that we should have an apex body to handle issue of intellectual property. This is, therefore, an issue we can pick up because we had conducted research on it at ESAMI.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Dora, take it up. But hon. Pareno, please help us pick it up and reintroduce it to this House.

**Ms. Pareno:** Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, you can actually see how serious our intellectual properties issue is going. It is in danger and we are tired of our ideas being siphoned out of everywhere else but not to benefit all of us.

The other issue is about recognition of our Jua Kali Nguvu Kazi artisans. The message we got and the presentations we got from the president of artisans in Kenya is that when the EAC calls for meetings with artisans or with businesspeople, they leave artisans out and yet this is where majority of East Africans are. Majority of East Africans are not in the big companies. We call them for meetings. The president of *jua kali* of that local artisan in the market making our *karais* and seats and all the very small things that matter are not called to the meetings. They say that they are represented by very big multinational companies. They come here and identify themselves as the private sector and yet they have left the small micro finance people behind. Their cry is that when we involve the private sector and business people, we should

remember the small and micro enterprise business people. They want recognition. In fact, they said that if they could have an establishment of an institution that takes care of the micro and small businesses at the EAC, they would be much happier because they have been left out. They feel left out because they form a majority part of East Africans.

Finally, there is a problem with the free movement of persons, labour and services. We keep on saying that the Customs Union and that the Common Market has been achieved. The president of the micro-enterprises and small businesses told us that when they carry out their East Africa exhibition, crossing from one country to another becomes a problem. Kenya was mentioned as a culprit. When they cross to Tanzania, their goods are confiscated. They are detained and yet they are coming for an East African exhibition. While crossing into Kenya, they have to call “people from above” so that they carry out their businesses peacefully. What are we doing to our small and micro enterprise businesses if we are restraining them from show-casing in an East Africa exhibition? They also said that they used to have, at the formation of this Community, a very big organized exhibition. However, every single day, it appears as if more and more NTBs are coming in and it’s like we do not want to hold this exhibition any more. It is time we rescued this situation by ensuring that they are recognized and that they have free movement.

In fact, we told them that next time they are detained, they should call us so that we know, as their representatives, so that we know who is detaining their goods and not allowing them to move freely. I support the report.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Hon. Pareno for those deep insights.

**Mr. Pierre Celestine Rwigema (Rwanda):**

Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir for giving me the Floor. It is my first time to speak during this Session. I want to congratulate the President of the Republic of Uganda, President Museveni for his re-election. President Museveni is not only liked by Ugandans. He is a pan-Africanist. We thank Ugandans for re-electing him.

I also want to congratulate the new Secretary General, Amb. Liberet Mfumukeko for his nomination and for being sworn-in. Ambassador, welcome to the Community. I also want to condole with the colleagues and some staff members who lost their loved. I would like to take this moment to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the support you have shown to us during the hard moments.

Coming back to this Motion, I want to congratulate hon. Patricia, not only for the way she read out the report but also for the way she coordinated and organized our sensitisation exercise in Rwanda. It was very successful. *(Applause)*

I would like to support the Motion. Yesterday, we were discussing the State of EAC Address by His Excellency John Magufuli. I remember that he focused on the inadequacies surrounding awareness and the benefits of sensitisation and integration.

This is the right time for us to act. Even if other Heads of States had talked about sensitisation, this is the right time for us to undertake the exercise. According to what I have seen, under the leadership of President Magufuli, we will achieve a lot.

The report on sensitisation talks about many issues. I will focus on two points only. I remember when I was in college, with Dr. Odette, it was very difficult to know how to interact with students because of language

barrier. We would asked them if they wanted us to discuss our work in English and they would say no. If we asked them if we could discuss in Kinyarwanda, they agreed. We ended up with a system of combining both languages. The Kiswahili language was not known at all to these students. This led me to ask myself why we should not organize a forum on our education system.

The Community has young people who are an asset. During one meeting of sensitisation, we had some youth ambassadors nominated to talk to us. However, that was not enough. Even if we spoke to representatives of the private sector and civil society, that would not be enough. We have seen that people do not really know what we do and why we are here. They have no idea what EALA is doing. I now come to the amendment by hon. Kiangoi. Surely, we must find a way of enhancing sensitisation. I agree with him and support him. We had another suggestion by hon. Pareno that we have a month of sensitisation. Why not? That could also be a way of enforcing sensitisation and reinforcing what we are doing.

Rt. hon. Speaker, Sir, during the next programme of sensitisation, we will need more material like flags and other items. We will need to conduct the exercise more aggressively.

Finally, I want to focus on the media. I asked some journalists in Rwanda why they do not visit EALA and they said that they did not means to come here. They said that they had no idea about what goes on at the EAC. I told them that the journalists from Tanzania visit us often and follow up on what we are doing. We have to try as an Assembly to see how we can invite journalists from the EAC countries so that the Community is well known.

The sensitisation programme was very good. There was very good response. I think that as we debate this matter here in the House, we will get enough provision in the next budget to make the sensitisation exercise an important tool for the Community. I support.

**Mr. Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir for giving me the Floor. I will start by congratulating the new Secretary General, EALA ex-officio Member, Liberet Mfumukeyo. I also congratulate the team that put together this sensitisation report. I will be very brief. I just want to talk about one issue. It seems as if the people of East Africa are looking more for economic gain in the region more than political gain. Among the five Partner States, there is nowhere that EAC citizens supported, enthusiastically political federation. They did not even ask questions regarding political federation. That is my worry. I think next time we should insist on this. I do not know whether this is because we did not sensitise them regarding political federation or because people are not interested. I think next time we will do a bit more so that we know.

The other issue I would like to talk about is on the issue of Chinese products which someone spoke about. She said that the seats we are using are from China and this is worrying. I will give you a short story of something that happened in Bujumbura Airport. As I was waiting for my luggage, I saw a suitcase which was torn on one side at the luggage collection area. I complained and said; how come our luggage is being mishandled? A white man standing next to me said, no, it is not Kenya Airways mishandling our luggage. These are Chinese products! (Applause)

With those remarks, I support the report.

**The Speaker:** Thank you hon. Leonce. Yes, hon. Chris.

**Mr. Chris Opoka-Okumu (Uganda):** Thank you very much Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. First of all, as the person who was in charge of the group that visited Uganda, I would like to put it on record that I thank Minister Shem Bageine, the Minister of State of Uganda. The Minister helped us very much in the sensitisation programme. There was provision for Members to have meetings at the Ministry headquarters and he assigned serious a senior staff of the Ministry to be with the sensitisation team every day. The person assigned availed us all the information regarding what the Ministry was doing in terms of sensitisation and other things that we, from EALA, may not have known. As I said yesterday, there are many things happening within the Secretariat which are communicated directly with the Ministries and yet we do not get to know about them. We got to learn about some of the things in Uganda.

The Minister helped us in fixing appointments and showed his commitment and full participation in helping the team to sensitise. We have all noted that the Minister has always been close and supported the Assembly to fulfil its mandate. I would like to thank hon. Bageine very much for that.

The second person I want to mention is hon. Sebalu who is, unfortunately, not here. He was our spokesperson and did a wonderful job. He arranged very many of the programmes we needed to undertake in order to fulfil our mission. He did a wonderful job that. I would also like to thank all the Members of our team for showing commitment during the sensitisation. I especially want to say that we had colleagues from Burundi whom because of their past made the sensitisation in Uganda very rich.

The people in Uganda were very appreciative that Burundi sent two former Vice Presidents to EALA. They were very appreciative and that heightened the team's image. Many programmes we were carrying out were being reported by the media. I would like to thank the media in Uganda which really took up this matter on a daily basis. Our issues were being reported.

I will be very brief because it is very clear, from the records that the people of East Africa were very enthusiastic; from Burundi, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and even Rwanda. When you read the report, you will see that people all over kept on asking us; "where have you been?" We need this and that. The Council of Ministers should take this in consideration. When we request for money for sensitisation, this issue should also be considered because we are working for the people of East Africa.

The Summit Chairperson, in his Address of the State of EAC in Dar es Salaam said; this Community is for the integration of people. The second issue which emanated from all the countries was about flow of information. There is a great need for flow of information and what is happening in the EAC. People need to be informed so that they can do what they want to do within the EAC. We say we are one people with a Common destiny. So, we really need to practice that. Flow of information is very important. The Speech of the Chairperson, Summit, which we debated yesterday talked about flow of information to people.

In Uganda, students were very eager to know more. This is right from St. Lawrence University, Makerere University, Kampala International University and Nkumba University. They were very enthusiastic about the integration process. These are the future leaders of East Africa. They have EAC

Clubs in universities. They are very enthusiastic. The only thing they cry about is that there is little money to carry out these activities. They are the ones who sensitise the people at the grassroots level. So, we need to think about this very seriously.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Chairperson of my Committee, hon. Patricia Hajabakiga for coordinating this report and delivering it very well to the Assembly. Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**Mr. Emmanuel Nengo (Burundi):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. First of all, I would like to congratulate the new Secretary General, Amb. Liberet Mfumukeko for his new post. I wish him all the best. Secondly, I would like to thank you and the Commission for the documentation you availed for this activity. Thirdly, I would like to thank my Chairperson, hon. Hafsa Mossi, for the activity well carried out especially in Burundi. It was not easy to work because we were only about four Members. We did our best to reach as many stakeholders as possible. I thank her because every morning she would wake up and remind us that we have a job to do. Therefore, I thank her. *(Applause)*

Coming to the report, it was very important to carry out this activity. When we started I had very many questions. We attended many plenary sessions in our Partner States. We have the Council of Ministers, the national parliaments, Committees and the media. However, on the ground, many people were asking us; where have you been? We really had no good response to that. We thought that we were always there. We had been there before for plenary sessions and to carry out oversight activities. However, many people and even leaders were asking us where we have been. That was very surprising.



Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, as I comment on this report, I have some issues to raise. When you read this report, you will see that the citizens from all Partner States claimed to lack information concerning the EAC. I first thought that this only affected Burundi. However, I discovered that in each Partner State, citizens claimed lack of information. This is a very important report. Since we have some findings and recommendations, I expect that we will have follow ups being done. When we go back for the next sensitisation activity, people whom we met will ask us about the response we got from this Assembly. I think we should also give this report to the Ministers in charge of EAC Affairs. However, we only one Minister sitting in this House right now. Probably we should send the report to them so that they also have a feel of the response we got. This report should also be circulated to the national assemblies of Partner States. It is important for them to get the report because, for instance, my Assembly said that at times they do not get documents from this House.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Nengo is raising a matter that is very pertinent and which touches on the offices of the Speaker, the Clerk and the Treaty. The issue is about clogging at the capitals. I will be categorical to you that the Office of the Clerk remits every Motion, report and Bill to the national assemblies. The Treaty requires the national assemblies, either through the Ministries of EAC Affairs or any other person responsible to table the reports on the Floor of the national parliaments. Some parliaments are doing it. In Kenya, the Speaker confirmed that they have been doing it. Rwanda also confirmed that they have been doing it. This was at the Speakers Bureau. So, what we need to do as hon. Members is to help unclog the pipe from the capital side. All our reports are remitted to the offices of the clerks of national parliaments. Proceed!

**Mr. Nengo:** Thank you Rt. hon. Speaker, Sir. I think it is also very important to see what strategy we can put in place to facilitate the media to publish the laws passed by EALA. Once the media is involved, information will reach many people.

**The Speaker:** Thank you hon. Nengo. I will give hon. Bazivamo and then I come back to this other side. My criteria is that I am giving a chance to those who have not had a chance to make a lot of contribution since this plenary session began on the principle of equity.

**Mr. Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda):** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity. Rt. hon. Speaker, Sir, let me thank you and the Commission for having organized this activity which is very important. Let me also thank hon. Patricia for the presentation she has made. I followed her presentation attentively and the discussions which have been held. There are three major elements I want to highlight. The first thing we observed in all Partner States there was general appreciation for the sensitisation activity in almost all the institutions that we visited. The second issue is that there was a general complaint regarding the challenges that citizens are facing with regard to integration. People would wish to have no challenges and NTBs so that they can benefit the best way possible from the integration process. There was a call for all responsible authorities including EALA to ensure that these challenges are somehow eradicated so that East African citizens can benefit the best way possible from the integration process. I went through this report after it was presented and found those issues being highlighted by the institutions that we met. That was a very important finding and I think we are on the right track.

Rt. Hon. Speaker Sir, this report is some kind of a request for enhanced sensitisation activity so that our citizens are always aware of what is happening so that they also play their role in integration. Before I conclude, let me highlight one issue. In future, during the next sensitisation programme which is planned to take place in June, I would like us to incorporate what was requested by the Kenya Association of Manufacturers (KAM). They requested EALA to champion the implementation of the policy; “buy East African build East Africa” by promoting products which are produced in our region. This has already been initiated by the Summit and is ongoing in our Partner States. On that note, I support the report.

**Mr. Abubakar A. Ogle (Kenya):** On a point of procedure, Mr. Speaker, Sir. You had earlier indicated that you would impose a time limit of five minutes. I would prefer that you go further and impose two minutes per Member so that we can all have an opportunity to contribute to this very important Motion.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much hon. Ogle. Hon. Ogle is being proactive in giving a chance to everybody taking cognisance of our Rules of Procedure on the cap of time so as to reduce the time from five minutes to about three.

**Mr. Straton Ndikuryayo (Rwanda):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Let me join my colleagues in congratulating the new Secretary General, Amb. (Dr.) Liberet Mfumukeko. I congratulate him for becoming the new Secretary General and a Member of this august House.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I will start with a point that I picked from hon. Leonce. I want to bring to the attention of this Assembly that today, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 1963, is the day where the 32 African

leaders met in Addis Ababa and fixed this date as the African Union day.

**The Speaker:** I do not mean to interfere with you. It is not like the Speaker had forgotten about that. I had, however, reserved it as an announcement at the end of the plenary so that I give the details of the theme and to inform you where the celebrations are being hosted in South Africa. Proceed!

**Mr. Ndikuryayo:** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. I raised this issue because hon. Leonce has always believed in integration. We also believe in pan Africanism. For us to have a united Africa, we have to start by integrating our union.

Coming back to this report, I want to thank the Chairperson who was the coordinator of this activity in the Rwandan chapter and the clerk who was with us. The activity was well planned and coordinated and as I have seen, all the liberations and recommendations by the chapter were well captured.

I want to talk about the cross-cutting challenges which are related to non-implementation of the Common Market protocol. When we visited many schools of higher learning, students raised the issue of knowledge transfer within the EAC, visa fees which are still being charged to our students within the region, harmonization of school fees, harmonisation of curricular, harmonization of the primary and secondary schools academic years. In the report, the IUCEA which deals with institutions of higher learning is also mentioned. The institutions are facing challenges because the institutions do not operate the same way. Some institutions start their programmes in June while others begin in September. Others begin in January and end their academic year in November. Therefore, if you want to join the university in Makerere or in Dar es

Salaam or another programme in a different Partner State, you may end up waiting for a whole year. I want to appeal to the Council of Ministers that there is need to implement the Common Market protocol which is a big challenge to us.

As we all know, the Common Market protocol involves harmonization of several laws in our Partner States. There is need to come up with a regional law or Act which can help our Partner States to implement the Common Market protocol. Secondly, is on the issue of the linkages between EALA and our national parliaments. The Committee in charge of East Africa in the Parliament of Rwanda told us that even if they received Bills and Motions from our House, there was no clear or regular linkage between Members. The suggestion was that if we can engage different committees to have a forum the same way we have the Nanyuki; for instance, if we can call all the committees which deal with the Budget to meet on an annual forum to exchange ideas, that would mentor our national parliamentarians because they are the ones who have time to meet our citizens in our different Partner States. The time we were in Rwanda, the Senate there was conducting a similar activity. They were carrying out site visits in Rwanda to hear what the Rwandese knew about the EAC.

As I conclude, I want to support the idea raised by hon. Chris Opoka-Okumu yesterday. He told us that he was in a workshop somewhere and for the first time, he got very good EAC policy strategies adopted and being operationalized. We could support his proposal to have an interaction with the Secretariat so that they inform us about all the new programmes. We should be empowered so that when we go for sensitisation, we go armed with documents. Sometimes, people raise technical issues

which require that we refer to documents which we may not have.

With those few remarks, I support the Motion.

**Mr. Abdullah Hassan Ally Mwinyi (Tanzania):** Thank you very much hon. Speaker for allowing me an opportunity to make my intervention on this very important topic. As per your instructions, I will be very brief. I will not go into the niceties other than to thank our chapter chairperson and the clerk for facilitating this activity in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, all Members of the EALA have five competing interests. What are they? First, we take oath in this august Assembly to protect the Community. Therefore, we represent, through that oath the entire population of East Africa. Our principle function is to protect the institution of the EAC as a whole. That is interest number one. Interest number two is that we were brought here by our Partner States and, therefore, we must have that interest in mind. Interest three, we are elected through our national parliaments. That is an interest we have to keep in mind. Interest four, in those national parliaments, there are political parties. That is an interest we must have in mind as well. Finally, all of us are diplomats. So, there is a diplomatic aspect to our role.

When it comes to sensitisation, we must carry it out with those five competing interests in mind. All those five aspects have a very strong role in us being here; some greater than others but we cannot avoid any of them. I will reinforce the intervention I made yesterday once again. There is a favourite Nyerere saying which goes; "*kupanga ni kuchagua.*" It is very simple. This means that planning is a question of choice. When you are engulfed with a lot of need, you must

target a specific area where you think you will get the most mileage. So, in those five competing areas, where do you think we have the most mileage as far as sensitisation is concerned? I will put it to you, hon. Speaker that the focus, in line with our austerity measures should be national parliaments. Why do I say so? Our national parliaments are the custodians of national Partner State legislation. Our biggest stumbling block in terms of the EAC integration is the Common Market Protocol.

The Common Market Protocol is driven by the Partner States. The Partner States are driven by the national parliaments. Therefore, I urge all Members – this is general contribution – that our sensitisation should be focused where we have the biggest mileage to remove our biggest stumbling block which is harmonization of laws through the Partner States parliaments to ensure that we go through this phase of the Common Market Protocol.

I beg to submit and to support.

**The Speaker:** I will give hon. Dora, hon. Valerie, hon. Talisman, hon. Kimbisa and then I come and conclude here. Please, let us keep our eyes on the clock.

**Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda):** On a point of clarification.

**The Speaker:** Dr. Ndahiro, there is no one on the Floor. Who are you seeking clarification from?

**Dr. Ndahiro:** On a point of procedure, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I was wondering when you say you will give this side and that side and then come and conclude here how I am supposed to know what side you are talking about. (Laughter)

**The Speaker:** Dr. Ndahiro, your concern is noted. The Speaker will mention names. Thank you.

**Ms. Dora Byamukama (Uganda):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir for the opportunity and for giving my side an opportunity. I thank hon. Ndahiro for making us see things his way. I just want to follow up on what hon. Mwinyi talked about concerning our national parliaments and where we should begin.

I would like to say that when we started this programme in Uganda, we wanted to interface with the Parliament of Uganda. However, as you know, they had just had an election and the new members had not been sworn in. There is the issue of high turnover during elections. I can confidently say that about 83 per cent of the Members of Ninth Parliament of Uganda did not make it back. That means that we have to begin afresh. Therefore, the work of this Assembly to sensitise Members of the national parliaments is continuous. That is why we need to have quarterly interventions and having innovating ways of interfacing. I could not agree with him more.

I also want to say that before the former Secretary General left, hon. (Dr.) Sezibera, when we talked about sensitisation in our committee, he made a very good proposal. He said that we could agree that where the word “citizen” appears, we interchange it with the words; “East African citizens.” What applies to the national applies to the East African citizen. This is very important because under international law, in the law of Treaties, when you talk about the most favoured national principle, that means that you must apply to me what you would apply to another nation because you have undertaken that obligation under the Treaty. Therefore, this is where we can begin. There are some other laws which may be complicated. For example, you may

need to go into details of other laws. But for starters, if you could start on that point, that would help us build an East African Community faster. I would like to see more of this in relation to what hon. Leonce talked about regarding political federation.

In Uganda, people are excited and extremely delighted by the progress that has been made by the Council of Ministers. We are at a level of discussing a co-federation. This is very important to us and especially when we get to understand the issue of numbers, the issue of being land locked and the issue of security, survival and prosperity for Africans. Basically, we are not shying away from the issue of political federation and I want to salute hon. Shem Bageine who has been representing Council for getting us that far. For us to get to point where we can talk about a co-federation, that is very important. That is how Canada is operating and that is how the United States of America began. Therefore, when we talk about bringing power to the centre we are talking about issues of defence which we have already dealt with and those dealing with foreign affairs. All these issues would be managed from a strong centre as we move towards confederation and political federation. I wanted to put the record straight that, that is very important.

We were told a very moving story when we were in the Prime Minister's Office, Rt.Hon. Rakana Rugunda. He reminded us that when Uganda had its own challenges in the mid 1980s and Katonga was blocked, and we could not get any goods, for instance, sugar, salt and others through the Western part of the country including sugar and salt because of the situation, we had to bank on the Republic of Burundi to help us access these goods. This was very heartening because it made our colleagues from the Republic of Burundi feel very much at home because no

country is an island. We need to work together. That story stays with me and I want to thank hon. Shem Bageine for making it possible for us to meet him in the shortest time possible. Within 24 hours, we as EALA, met him.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank your office for this arrangement. We worked as Committees and had other Members from other Partner States. Next time, I would like to work in Kenya or any other place although charity begins at home. The group which had mixed people was more appreciated. After all, you cannot be a prophet in your own home country. When we spoke, we were more credible and better understood. When we mentioned South Sudan, there was a lot of excitement. I thank you for that idea and hope that we can look out and join other groups so that we can enhance and enrich one another in the process.

There has been a mention of follow up. However, I would like to talk about the issue of legacy which somebody talked about. We need a compendium of the Acts of the Community. In the Second Assembly, we had a compendium on the Acts of the Community. Right now, we do not have a compendium on the Acts of the Community. So, making reference becomes very difficult. I know that my colleagues will appreciate this. For example, the Customs Management Act which has had over ten amendments as I said need to be captured so that when we go out, we have a compendium of this. We also need the *Hansard* because at times we need to show people that we are working. Actually, those of us who are leaving do not have a big problem. However, through the visibility we have so far created, the demand to come to EALA is unprecedented. I can almost say, with certainty that you will have over 50 candidates in Uganda vying to be Members of EALA. I do not know whether

we have worked ourselves out of a job but that is alright. The most important thing is that we have created visibility, interest, and there is a lot of yearning for information which is a good thing.

This may sound simple but while in Uganda, we worked in harmony based on the kind of background we had before. That enhanced us to work better at other levels under the leadership of hon. Chris Opoka-Okumu. *(Applause)*

That was the wise choice of the commission, I would like to add.

*(Mr. Chris Opoka laughed)*

I would like to say something small on the issue of tracking. I do not want this to just be like a Legal Rules and Privileges Committee activity. However, I would like to implore on you, Mr. Speaker, to take it to the level of your office and probably the Commission and where it has happened. We will look at all the recommendations and put a column of what has been done versus what has not been done. That way, we will track some of the questions and even answer them. Some of the questions are very technical in nature. For example, when we met the professionals that was my most interesting group.

The professionals had succinct ideas and suggestions. For example, yesterday, we talked about a certificate of EAC origin for goods. I would like to see, for instance, tea branded; *produced in East Africa* and below that, since we are confederating, Republic of Kenya. That would make a lot of sense. I would like to go on but I will conclude here by mentioning one issue; low hanging fruits. When you go for a radio interview to talk about a market, you will be asked: What are selling and who is buying? There is the issue of exports and imports.

There is the issue of concretizing on a few things like students school fees to be uniform. The requirements for visa are also not necessary. When students go to Kenya, they are given visa for six months but when you ask for a visa to America, you can get one for two years. What are we doing? There are some low hanging fruits. If I want to sell my sack of beans to someone in Gatuna and they start to check whether they have weevils that is not right. Do we really have different weevils from those in Gatuna? We need to set standards. That, I understand. But I know that we also need to facilitate our people to realise those standards gradually so that they are not used against our people.

## PROCEDURAL MOTION

### EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

**Hon. Shy-Rose Sadrudin Bhanji (Tanzania):** On a point of procedure.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise on a Procedural Motion to move:-

THAT, we can extend our sitting time because we are almost approaching 6.30 p.m. so as to allow debate on the issue being discussed.

**The Speaker:** Do we have a seconder?

*(Ms. Dora, Ms. Hafsa Mossi and Mr. Kimbisa seconded)*

*(Question proposed)*

I think this Motion does not need debate.

**Ms. Hajabakiga:** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, as much as we need to extend our sitting time, people need to also stretch a little it for five minutes before we continue.

Some of us cannot move from here because we are listening. We are human beings.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Patricia, I have seen people going in and out of the Chamber. As the Chairperson, delegate the person next to you to listen and to take record. When you come back, that person will brief you. The Chairperson of Legal, Rules and Privileges is right next to you.

Hon. Members, let us put a cap that we extend for only 40 minutes or less.

*(Question put and agreed to)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Kimbisa, you should know that we are operating under extended time now. Therefore, I will give every Member three minutes.

**Mr. Adam Omar Kimbisa (Tanzania):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. As I congratulate you, please, do not count the minutes. We really appreciate the concept of sensitisation for two reasons. One, when we are in EALA, as political animals, can increasingly become irrelevant in our Partner States. We can become irrelevant in our parliaments and among *wananchi*. Therefore, this sensitisation exercise gave us an opportunity to be seen and to be heard by our people. It was a timely exercise. Otherwise, by the time these five years are over, by the time you decide to go back, you would really be a nobody. Therefore, I really appreciate that. Thank you very much for that.

Our institutions; both EALA and the EAC secretariat are not known very much out there. I do not hear very much about them. However, this exercise gave everybody; as individuals, EALA and as EAC institutions to be heard and appreciated. However, we had some challenges. One of the challenges was expectations. We raised a lot of expectations

to our people. The first one was about employment. People were asking how they can access employment here and when. Some of these questions were very difficult to answer because we were not creating employment but awareness. These are the challenges we had to go through. There was also high expectations on business. They wanted to know how they can be sending their goods to South Sudan and how they can do it. We raised a lot of expectations.

With those few words, in respect of time, I support.

**Ms. Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda):** Thank you Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir for this opportunity. From the onset, let me congratulate you for your wisdom. I also congratulate the Commission and the Clerk's Office, first of all, for a wonderful concept note. The concept note was well elaborated. It was well developed and gave us insight and guidance as to how to conduct our business in as far as sensitisation activity was concerned. The concept note highlighted not only the EALA achievements but most importantly, the Community achievements starting from 1999 to date. Those achievements were highlighted under economic benefits, socio-cultural achievements, political, security, defence and institutional achievements. Challenges were also highlighted. This eased our work and our interaction with different stakeholders.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, we felt strong appreciation from different stakeholders that we met indicating that the sensitisation was long overdue. That is why I thank you so much for this idea. Some people we met told us that there is a universal principal that says; 'nothing for us without us'. That means that whenever we want to do things for our people, now that our Community is people-centred, we also have to consult them. Yes,

they appreciate the fact that we go to the Partner States for public hearings. However, whenever we go for public hearings, we single out an area or identify a group of people in an area where we intend to carry out our activity; be it a Bill or a report. Whenever we are interacting with these people, we miss out a big population of people which is not represented in public hearings or oversight. So, this was really an opportunity to meet with people and to interact with them. Specifically for us Members of the Rwanda chapter – that is why I congratulate my Chairperson, hon. Patricia and the group – you allowed us to convey or deliver a message of solidarity to our fellow Rwandans. These sensitisation exercises were undertaken during the mourning period in Rwanda when the country was commemorating the Genocide against the Tutsi, which was committed in 1994. Thank you so much for giving us this opportunity.

We happened to have copies of the Treaty. The Treaty spells out different areas of cooperation. We appreciate this concept note which is very well detailed. However, what are the achievements in the different areas of cooperation? This is something that can be explored before we go back for a second tour of sensitisation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, number three and my last point is that people were applauding you. They said that whenever we rotate in different Partner States; specifically in Rwanda where I was, you always call upon them to bring petitions, ask questions and to find time to interact with us. However, some people said; specifically the media, that now that they are informed about the key achievements of integration process, they would not raise petitions for the sake of it. However, whenever they see something that is not in tandem with the provision of the Treaty, they will call upon us and petition us.

So, our cry and call have been heard. It is on that note that I support the report and the initiative. I look forward to seeing another sensitisation programme.

**Mr. Twaha Issa Taslima (Tanzania):** Thank you very much hon. Speaker, Sir. I will use as few minutes as possible. First of all, I support the report. Secondly, I would like to remind the House that one of the main reasons that led to the collapse of the defunct EAC was that it seemed to belong mostly to leaders and the elite in East Africa. Sensitisation was carried out in a very minimal way when it came to the common *mwananchi* in East Africa.

One of the most effective vehicles of sensitisation is basically language. Let us look at it this way. If we were taking Members from Tanzania to go to Uganda and those from Kenya to go to Burundi to carry out the same sensitisation that we did, I am sure that the success would have been on the lower side. However because of using the right language and knowing the expectations of people, we were in a very good position to put across what we had and what they needed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of that, when you look at the report, page 25, there is a specific recommendation from Uganda which says that there is an urgent need for the East African Community Kiswahili Commission to roll out its activities in all the East African Partner States in a bid to promote the language. Secondly, on page 26, general finding number 8 says; “Members observed the growing interest of participants/stakeholders in embracing and learning the Kiswahili Language. Besides promoting unity among the EAC populace, the Kiswahili Language is a critical medium of communication that will facilitate trade in the region.”



I will also add that this will not only promote trade but all the interaction activities in the region. Owing to that, I would like to recommend an amendment on this report when it comes to recommendations from the Assembly that we add something to do with the Kiswahili Commission and promotion of the language. I am ready to scribble something that can be taken on board, if it is acceptable.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. You will forward it to the Mover.

**Dr. Kessy Perpetua Nderakindo (Tanzania):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Since it is my first time on this Floor, I would like to congratulate the new Secretary General for joining this House. I would also like to congratulate the Chairperson of the Committee that prepared this report. On the onset, I support the report.

I would like to share with this House my experience by saying that this is one of physically-tasking activity that we have ever carried out for the past four years. You can imagine moving in heavy traffic jammed City of Dar es Salaam, from one corner to the other, trying to accomplish what was on our programme. I would like that to go on record. This is a very important exercise. It may seem to be very easy but it is very tasking. If you feel that we did not accomplish much, you might also need to consider the heavy traffic jam of Dar es Salaam.

Secondly, apart from raising awareness to East Africans, I also want to raise awareness to this House that we, as the Third Assembly, have a jewel in this House with regard to integration. Our jewel in this House is no one but hon. Charles Makongoro Nyerere. We know that the founders of the First Community and the dreamers of the African Union were Messrs' Jomo Kenyatta, Milton

Obote and Mwalimu Nyerere. When we went out as a chapter, hon. Julius Nyerere who was our Chairperson, volunteered to be our lecturer to whoever we met. He is very blessed to imitate his father's voice. That reminded Tanzanians that Mwalimu Nyerere is still alive. They listened very keenly and felt that Mwalimu had resurrected. They took the talks very seriously. This is not only good for Tanzanians but for all of us East Africans.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, if we could use hon. Charles Makongoro to go round East Africa and talk to people, that would touch a lot of people. I know there might be some people in Kenya or in Uganda who were there during the advent of the first EAC. It would bring so much sense if we used those people. Tanzanians enjoyed listening to the history of the first EAC and learning why it broke. This was because of our own Charles Makongoro. He would stand for more than two hours giving the history and telling the importance of integration. I hope our clerk will give the pictures showing how our friend, Makongoro Nyerere, wore his father's shoes. He did this remembering his own father. He did it for us to remind us that we have to respect what our elders began.

Last, I would like to add that we may think that this exercise was organized by the Commission. However, there is a universal principle that says; "when the students are ready, the teacher appears." It is the people of East Africa who have the desire to know about integration. That is why God gave us the idea to go carry out sensitisation. For now, we are the teachers of integration. I ask you and implore upon you, Mr. Speaker, to continue putting in place programmes so that we accomplish our job and duty as teachers of integration for East Africans.

**Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda):** Thank you Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir. I will try to be

brief and talk about three issues. First of all, I will talk about Article 65 of the Treaty. Secondly, I will talk about the genocide commemoration in Rwanda and what the people there asked us to do. I will also talk about the issue of each chapter sensitizing in its own country.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I first of all want to thank our Chairperson, hon. Patricia who coordinated our team. I think we did a good job. I also want to thank her for this report which is very good.

Article 65 of the Treaty is very clear that whatever we decide in this Assembly should be tabled in the respective Partner States by the Ministers of EAC Affairs. Where we were, in Rwanda, this is not being done and has never been done.

**The Speaker:** Hon. (Dr.) Odette, you have a duty as a representative of this House to follow up with the Parliament of Rwanda because all the documents and Bills are in the Parliament of Rwanda.

**Dr. Odette:** Thank you Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir. We were very much shocked that Members of Parliament there do not know what we do. We had to explain what the Treaty is all about and the protocols that we keep on talking about. Many of them did not have a lot of information and that was a major concern. Members of Parliament who should be our best partners in the Partner States and who should be talking about EAC integration do not know what is enshrined in the Treaty. The National Assembly should also be sending to our Clerk copies of all relevant documents and records of debates. This is not being done, unless it is being done and I am not aware of it. As far as I am concerned, during my eight years here in EALA, I have not received any records from our parliaments in the Partner States. This is enshrined in Article

65(c) which is very clear. I will move some amendments to this Report to make sure that we abide by the Treaty.

Secondly, many places that we visited, especially in universities and other places where activities on the commemoration of the Genocide Against the Tutsi were being held, people asked us what we are doing in EAC to fight against genocide ideology. Of course, we said that we are doing a lot and have put in place a Select Committee to research on genocide ideologies. I just want to remind this Assembly that we must make sure that the activity takes place during the coming financial year.

The other issue that was raised is that we talk as East Africans. We even introduced ourselves many times as East Africans of Rwandan origin. They applauded that and laughed. They then asked us why we go visiting them on our own. They said that in our Assembly, the five Partner States are represented. They asked why they do not see Kenyans, Burundians, Ugandans and Tanzanians.

Therefore, allow me to make amendments to this Report. There is part 4(2) which is about recommendation from the Assembly. I hope hon. Patricia is listening because I am moving an amendment to the report. My first amendment is on point number two of the recommendations of EALA.

I beg to move an amendment to the report:-  
 “THAT, the EAC organs and institutions allocate more resources for sensitisation targeting all EAC citizens both in urban and rural areas and from all walks of life.”  
*(Applause)*

That is the first amendment I want to make on point number 4(2). The second amendment is that we should have point

number four being subdivided into three sections.

4(a) THAT, national parliaments should be regularly informed of EALA proceedings and decisions and be involved in EALA activities such as the public hearings and oversight and be sensitized on the status of the EAC integration process;

4(b) THAT, national assemblies should transmit to EALA copies of records of all relevant debates of their meetings as per Article 65 of the Treaty for information with regard to what is being done in terms of integration.

4(c) THAT, the EAC organs and institutions should be urged to produce and disseminate annual reports to main stakeholders such as national parliaments, Ministries, institutions of higher learning and business community.

The last recommendation which should come as point no.7 should appear as follows: For future sensitisation, EALA should ensure that Members represent all the five Partner States and not each chapter in its own country of origin to reflect the EAC as a whole.

I will pass on the amendments to the Chairperson.

**The Speaker:** Before hon. Shy-Rose takes on the Floor, Members must realize that in the communication from the Secretariat to you; you are not referred to as chapters but as working committees of the Assembly. The guideline was clear, that in the working committee of the Assembly, any Member can choose to go to any Partner State. Therefore, that choice was open.

**Ms. Shy-Rose Sadrudin Bhanji (Tanzania):** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to your office and the Commission

for accommodating the idea of EALA chapters undertaking the sensitisation activities in respective Partner States. The sensitisation activity was very unique in all Partner States even though the report says that lack of awareness featured prominently in all Partner States.

The sensitisation visits have proved right the fears I have always had that there is very little information given to our citizens and very little is known about the EAC developments. Everywhere we visited we were shocked to learn that many people did not have an idea of what the EAC is all about. However, they seemed to know what EALA is all about. That is very encouraging.

I call on the Ministry of EAC Affairs in all Partner States and particularly Tanzania to make sure that enough information and sensitisation is done so that majority of our people can take advantage of the EAC integration and the benefits. Today, 16 years down the line, people still do not know what the EAC is all about. Every year, all five Partner States including Tanzania, have to pay - *(interruption)* -

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, for the record, we have six Partner States now because South Sudan has already signed the accession Treaty.

**Ms. Sadrudin Bhanji:** Thank you Mr. Speaker for reminding me. I referred to the five Partner States because I wanted to talk about the annual contributions that every member is making every year. Therefore, hopefully, South Sudan will start paying the annual fees starting next year. *(Laughter)*

**Mr. Mathuki:** On a point of procedure. Hon. Speaker, Sir, you guided the honourable Member that the EAC comprises with five Partner States. She should have taken that

and proceeded with her debate as such and not to justify as to why she is making reference to five Partner States. Please, take note hon. Shy-Rose. (*Laughter*)

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose has taken note of that. Proceed.

**Ms. Sadrudin Bhanji:** Thank you *Mheshimiwa* Mathuki. I have taken note of that. As I was saying, every Partner State has a duty to pay annual contribution. Therefore, if being in this Community does not help our people and yet we keep on spending money every year to put in the daily operations of this Community, then we are misusing our taxpayers' money from our respective countries. That is why I call upon the Ministry of EAC in Tanzania to do its best to take up this challenge so that Tanzanians are fully aware of the benefits of the EAC integration.

Yesterday, I spoke about the Certificates of Origin. Many people did not know about certified goods which are produced locally are exempted from taxes. This is not good at all. I had put a summary of what transpired in yesterday's session in my *Facebook* page and many people were interested in the certificate of origin debate. Many concurred with me that the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness (TTCI) need to either go countrywide or more stakeholders be given the task of issuing Certificates of Origin. During our sensitisation activity, I realized that many people did not know, at all, what the certificate is all about and where to get it.

With regard to the Kiswahili Language, many people we spoke to wanted to see the language becoming one of the official languages of the EAC. They pointed out that the language is very popular and widely spoken in Tanzania and the whole of East

Africa. It is important that we include Kiswahili as one of the official languages.

The Burundi section of the report spoke about French becoming one of the official languages of the EAC. I would like to ask that we have Kiswahili being used along with English and French as the official languages of the EAC.

**Ms. Dora Byamukama (Uganda):** On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I am not opposed, at all, about Kiswahili being part of the official languages. As part of clarification, I would like to point out that Uganda will start teaching of Kiswahili in schools next year. (*Applause*)

All I want to say is that when you look at the Treaty, you will see that Kiswahili is already upgraded as the lingua franca. This means a language of operation. So, obviously, Kiswahili is already included and the action of implementing is what we need to emphasise like including it in the curriculum and progressively taking it on fully. I just wanted to get that clarification. Probably I got it wrong but I think Kiswahili is already mentioned in the Treaty and that is why we have the Kiswahili Commission.

**Dr. Odette:** On a further clarification, Mr. Speaker, Sir. While Kiswahili is already included in the Treaty and can be used in the EAC, I would like to seek a clarification from hon. Shy-Rose on why we should include French which is not in the Treaty. How do we justify it?

**The Speaker:** Hon. Colleagues, are you raising these clarifications to hon. Shy-Rose because she is the holder of the Floor?

**Ms. Ndahayo:** I would like to respond to the issue raised by hon. Odette. There is a

directive from the Summit which was given in November, 2013 that Kirundi be included.

*(Loud consultations)*

I wanted to talk about French and not Kirundi. However, if you look at the people who speak Kirundi and Kinyarwanda in this region, you will see that they are very many. We have these people in Uganda, Kenya, Rwanda and Burundi. Therefore, I am not wrong and I will bring it up next time.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, take back the Floor. Hon. Members, I extended the time for only 40 minutes. I have ten minutes left which includes the response from the Minister and the Mover of the Report. Therefore, the last person is hon. Kizhiga. Please, summarise now.

**Ms. Sadrudin Bhanji:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I was saying that given that many citizens in East Africa speak and write in Kiswahili, it is important that we include this language. We should not speak only in English and yet our people do not follow our debates. Some of us think in Kiswahili and translate what they want to say into English. That is also a problem and sometimes the exact meaning of what we want to say does not come out. I strongly urge the Council of Ministers to forward our proposal to the EAC Summit so that the Treaty of EAC can be amended to include Kiswahili and French.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, this matter has already been addressed by the Summit. That was in March at Ngurdoto. We do not have to belabour so much on it. The Summit gave a directive that Kiswahili be fast tracked as an official language and be used in the Community work. That was a directive of the Summit. So, this is a matter of us following up with the Council of Ministers and the Kiswahili Commission to make sure that

things are done. The directive from the Summit is already there. Proceed and conclude.

**Ms. Sadrudin Bhanji:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have been many directives by the Summit. However, there are also many pending issues that have not been implemented. I would like to specifically urge the Council of Ministers, with all due respect, to implement the directive by the Summit so that Kiswahili can be given its due consideration and importance in EALA debates and in the Community.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Shy-Rose, your time is up.

**Ms. Sadrudin Bhanji:** I am winding up, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Sensitisation has proved to be very beneficial to our people. We use our funds to conduct the sensitisation. This is just like doing voluntary work.

**Mr. Chris Opoka-Okumu (Uganda):** On a point of order, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir, is it in order for hon. Shy-Rose to continue debating when the Speaker has already ruled that her time is up?

**The Speaker:** It is, indeed, not in order. However, hon. Colleagues, you will see in one of the listed priorities in our budget, that this Chambers need a master control button for the Speaker to effect his allocation of time. We also need a timer. I invite you to look at this when you are looking at the Budget.

Hon. Shy-Rose, conclude in a second.

**Ms. Sadrudin Bhanji:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that in the Budget that will be read tomorrow, the Chairperson, Council will put enough allocation to enable us to carry out sensitisation activities more smoothly. As I

was saying the last activity we carried out was done voluntary basis because we contributed from our pockets.

**Ms. Maryam Ussi Yahya (Tanzania):** Thank you very much Rt. hon. Speaker, Sir. Today I have learnt the lesson of patience because I was the first one to stand and the last to speak. However, I am young and very willing to learn because naturally, I am very impatient.

Many things have already been said since I am the last person to speak. However, I will address two points very briefly. Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, the right purpose for sensitisation is to bring feedback and recommendations concerning the integration process. Many of the problems that occur in our five Partner States – I will talk about five states because they are the ones where we carried out sensitisation – are almost similar. I want to urge the Council of Ministers and even all of us as Members to take up the issues that have been said and address them. We cannot tackle the issues all at once since we have not carried out sensitisation for long. I would like to thank the Speaker because it is during his tenure that we have carried out this very important activity. For some of us, this was an eye opener. I remember being in the General Purpose Committee for four years and requesting to have sensitisation for our people. I am, therefore, very grateful that we finally have this opportunity.

I would like to mention three types of people we met during sensitisation in our Partner States. There are those who know about the EAC integration and are on board. Number two, there are those who know about integration but do not know where to start and number three, there are those who do not know anything about integration and yet we say that we are people-centred. We really need to up our game. This includes the

Council of Ministers, for us as Members and the Secretariat when they are planning their budget.

Lastly, the main implementers of the integration process are our Partner States through our Ministers. However, if you look around, you will only see one Minister from Uganda who has been very consistent in his attendance. I do not know what procedure to follow for them to know what we are talking about here but it would be extremely important for the Ministers who are not around to get this report. They are the implementers and should know what their people are saying. They are the heads of the Ministries. Today, they are ably represented by hon. Shem Bageine. I hope hon. Bageine will find a way of delivering this report to them. Together, we can make a better EAC. We have been talking amongst ourselves with only one Minister. I hope that the rest will get this information. That is why I felt I should stand and give my contribution.

**Ms. Angela Kizigha (Tanzania):** Thank you Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir. I will try to be as brief as I can. I would like to remind all of us about sensitisation. Sensitisation means to make people aware of what is going on in a community or society. Sensitisation is one of the powerful tools that you can use to empower people so that they can make development in the society. Sensitisation provides an opportunity to our people especially to the society to give their views and practical experience in the integration process. For us to make good use of sensitisation especially in both urban and rural areas, we should make good use of the local languages of people.

We are Members of the Assembly representing the EAC. If we are not visible to the people, how can we claim to be representing them? Secondly, how can we

represent people who do not know that we exist? Thirdly, how can they come to us when we put barriers or gaps? We should ask ourselves those questions. We should find a way of bridging the gaps. How can we hold Partner States in the EAC Secretariat accountable if we do not engage with the people? That is very important.

As I conclude, I would to remind Members that when we were in Dar es Salaam, one person stood to ask a very radical question. He asked whether we were there legally and how we were elected. That was not a very good question. If we had carried out sensitisation before, such a question would not have arisen. Hon. Dora stood to challenge this person but at the end of the day this was not a very good thing.

I would like to concur with hon. Mwinyi although he is not in, with regard to the issue of Partner States. It is important for EALA to liaise with Members of our Partner States National Assemblies. They all seemed to be asking the same questions. They kept on asking what we do at the EAC. They said that they do not get documents to show what we are doing at the Assembly although you told us that whatever we discuss here goes to the Partner States. I am requesting your good office to ensure that you relook at this issue so that every report from here goes to the national assemblies of the Partner States. This will cut down unnecessary questions. This is easy and can be done. I beg to support and concur with honourable Members that the sensitisation exercise should be a continuous activity.

**The Speaker:** Thank you hon. Kizigha. I have made a directive to the Office of the Clerk that I need written acknowledgement of receipt from National Parliaments to show that that they received what we have already

sent to them so far. That will put that matter to rest.

Hon. Patricia, before I invite you, let me invite the Minister to say a few things then I will invite you to summarise.

**The Third Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Dr. Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex-Officio):** Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. I would like to thank the Chairperson of this Committee, hon. Hajabakiga for the report that she presented to this House concerning the recent sensitisation workshops and activities carried out by Members of this House in their respective Partner States.

Rt. hon. Speaker, Sir, I received the report and I have listened keenly to views from Members of this House. This report and these views come at a time when my country, Uganda, is in the process of forming a new Cabinet. If it were not for the procedure adopted that the current Cabinet continues to hold office until the President forms a new Cabinet, I probably would not be sitting here. However, I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to listen and to receive this report. I would like to promise this House that while my tour of duty is coming to an end, I will undertake to sit with whoever is appointed as Minister in charge of East African Community Affairs and impart upon him or her the importance of sensitisation and this House getting fully involved in sensitising the people of East Africa whom they represent in this august House. *(Applause)*

With your permission, I have enjoyed working with my fellow colleagues in this House. I will go away with sweet memories of the support that Members gave me while I was the Chairperson, Council of Ministers and also a Member of the Council. I know

that the President of Uganda has not officially named his Cabinet. However, I requested that I do not continue. That is why I said that this may be my last time to speak in this House. I want to assure you that even outside Cabinet, I will continue to sensitise the people of East Africa about EAC because I believe that is a sure way that will lead us to prosperity as the people of this region. Many points raised by Members have been tackled one way or another by the Council of Ministers. However, what I find important and what should be done is to improve the communication between the Council of Ministers, the Secretariat, the Summit and this House. There are many decisions that have also been taken through the Sectoral Councils, Council of Ministers and the Summit including negotiations of various protocols and so on.

Apparently, information does not seem to flow to this House. Now that you are participating in sensitisation and interacting with people, they are bound to ask you questions to which you may not have answers. Therefore, it is important that you work closely with the Secretariat and the Council of Ministers so that you are at par on everything that is decided upon. Indeed, your contributions should be taken very strongly because you are the political leaders. You know better than the technical people we have in the offices and the Secretariat and even in the Ministries of the EAC. Therefore, I will take it upon myself to prepare something for the incoming Minister. I will also ensure that this particular report is passed on to the Ministers who will continue with this work. I will keep in touch with them so that together we can build a successful and prosperous EAC.

I am not worried at all. There are some areas where we have made very strong strides in the integration process. The Kiswahili

Language is an example where we have all agreed on bringing it on board. Indeed, the Commission is in operation. This is something we have already budgeted for. We are also busy setting up the National Kiswahili Councils. As hon. Dora said, in Uganda, we are in the process of teaching Kiswahili in our primary schools as a compulsory subject. That should also apply elsewhere. *(Applause)*

We have already put it in our Constitution that Kiswahili is our second national language. Therefore, as we move on, our people will use this language as an instrument that signifies the unity of East Africans.

I am sure that Members of this House know that we have already advanced in the process of using the new generation East African passport for all those people who will be travelling outside East Africa. We are now in the process of phasing out existing East African passport and also national passports from 1<sup>st</sup> January, next year. Beginning January, 2019, no one will travel outside East Africa without using an East African E-Passport. This will signify who you are because you will be travelling as an East African. We are in the process of implementing the East Africa Monetary Union.

As I speak, two Bills are being drafted by the East African Monetary Institute that will lead to the formation of the East Africa Central Bank. The other central banks will become branches of that central bank. We have also prepared a draft on the East African Statistics Bureau that will deal with collection, collation and dissemination of data in a standardized manner and from an independent view. These two Bills will soon be presented to this House for debate and passage.



The other two Bills on the management of the East African Monetary Union, namely; surveillance, compliance and enforcement commission will deal with macro-economic criteria that we have all agreed upon that will determine who becomes a member of a single currency area. The fourth Bill on the East African Financial Services Commission will deal with capital markets, insurances and pensions and their portabilities within the region will also come up for debate and passage by this House so that the Third Pillar of our integration is finalized once we give it the necessary legal framework.

We will then proceed with the political federation. We are now in the process of setting up terms of reference for a drafting committee that will come up with a draft constitution for the East African federation. Once we agree on the mode of structure which I can say, with confidence, has been agreed upon as a confederation as a beginning. By the end of this year, the draft should be made by that committee.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a lot and I cannot go through it all. However, let me, once again say that I will continue with my commitment as an East African. I will ask honourable Members of this House to continue thinking, acting and legislating as East Africans. Let us rise above national trivialities and be open. Let us open up our minds as East Africans, talk and act as East Africans. That way, we will consolidate the integration of East Africa for the betterment of the people we represent in this House.

Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir, once again, I thank you for giving me this opportunity and wish you all success in whatever you do particularly in the integration of East Africans. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**Mr. Mathuki:** On a point of procedure, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

**The Speaker:** Just before you put across your point of procedure, hon. Shem Bageine, Chairperson Council of Ministers sitting in, this Assembly has applauded you and is deeply indebted to you as a person for the commitment – *(Appaluse)* – you have shown to the integration process but most important the respect you have bestowed upon this House as the Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Commission shall sit and find a way of recognizing and appreciating the most important thing you have done for the integration process which is to give credence to the Assembly. *(Applause)*

We will do this and it will be presented to him as a way of recognition and appreciation for his duty and we will probably have a Motion to that effect. We need to sit as a Commission and agree upon that. I take this very seriously because it will also be a statement to the rest of the Ministers. The Commission will deliberate on this matter and advise Members on how we will proceed. We will not conclude it just like that.

**Mr. Mathuki:** Thank you Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir. You have pre-empted what I wanted to say. I wanted to take advantage of Rule 40 of our Rules of Procedure. Hon. Bageine is not just an ordinary Member of this House. It would have been important for us to find space, in the Order Paper, in one of the fine days, we had slated an opportunity for him to come and bid farewell to us. Therefore, give us an opportunity, purposely for record to appreciate what he has walked us through. I know that the Commission will do something to appreciate him. If you allow, in line with Rule 40, we will contribute to what he has done. He has been very consistent. He is the

only Minister of the EAC who is seated here. That will be important for the sake of record. We do not want to have Ministers who are here for the sake of it. We want to have Ministers who are committed like Rt. Hon. Shem Bageine.

**The Speaker:** Thank you Mr. Mathuki, Chairperson, Legal, Rules and Privileges. Part of the package that the Commission will design will include a special Motion in which you will express your appreciation to him. Let us discuss that in a more organized manner and see how to present it.

I thank you, hon. Minister for your input.

Hon. Patricia, in the interest of time, you may not have to read out all the names, because the whole House has spoken.

**Ms. Hajabakiga:** Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir, trust me I will not read out all the names. I have 22 Members who has supported and spoken about the Motion. Finally, we had hon. Shem Bageine who was standing in as the Chairperson, Council of Ministers. Almost everybody spoke and I do not think it is critical for me to mention the names. I will only look at the amendments which were raised. I will go through them one by one and try to respond. As I said, this is not my report. It is a report of all of us. We were working in a subcommittee which helped us to agree on a number of issues. I will try my best to try and do justice. The first amendment which I received was from hon. Kiangoi who moved and amendment for us to hold sensitisation activities quarterly.

I would like to request my friend and hon. Kiangoi that we should leave this as it is. When we use the words “continuous activities” this does not limit us to quarterly, half yearly or whatever else but gives room for the administration of EALA and

governance to look into a possibility. Let me explain something.

There are many dimensions related to these proposal. There is the issue of availability of resources if we were to carry it out quarterly considering other EALA statutory activities. Therefore, we would like to request that we do it as it is. As we plan the last one, we assure you that we will try our best as a subcommittee to try and see how we can increase the number of sensitisation activities using the means and time available. Otherwise, if we commit ourselves to do it quarterly and probably that will not happen, that will be very difficult. That is the only problem I have.

**Ms. Byamukama:** On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker, Sir. We were talking about quarterly because we did not want to be vague. When you talk about sensitisation another group may come and do it after every six months. Hon. Patricia’s concerns may be addressed on the mode of sensitisation. We could carry out sensitisation in a certain quarter where we only meet with media houses. That is a form of sensitisation. In another quarter, we could go somewhere physically as Members of EALA. In another quarter, we could meet Members of the Local Government to impart them knowledge on the same. I understand what she is saying but using the word “quarterly” will ensure that this process is tracked and not lost in the maze of the word “sensitisation”. If it is understood that way, then the *modus operandi* will be determined, obviously, by the funds available. I just thought that if we understand it that way, whoever reads the *Hansard* will understand that there are different modes of carrying the exercise out rather than us going out there and making it very expensive. I beg that you understand it that way.

**Mr. Kiangoi:** Hon. Speaker, Sir, even in terms of budgeting, we need to be specific and not just general.

**The Speaker:** Thank you very much. I am sure that hon. Patricia has heard your plea, fully aware that our financial year is structured in quarters.

**Ms. Hajabakiga:** Thank you hon. Speaker for your guidance and the clarifications from my colleagues. I was not refusing this issue. However, I thought it would have been wise to see the practicability of this whole issue instead of allowing it immediately and making a commitment which may be difficult to honour. That was my biggest problem. I will accept your contribution but as a person, I think we should not conclude on this. We may want to come back to the issue later instead of concluding it now.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Patricia, any matter passed by this House can still be reviewed by this House.

**Ms. Hajabakiga:** If it is a recommendation, let us keep it as such. The other recommendation was moved by hon. Taslima. I agree with him because this has already been discussed. He put it very well because he was urging that we fast track the directives of the Summit the same way the Speaker explained. Hon. Shem Bageine also spoke about it.

There are a number of good amendments from hon. Odette. The first one is about the EAC organs amending the recommendations which talk about allocation of more funds for the sensitisation exercise targeting both urban and rural areas. I think she meant that we target all EAC citizens both in urban and rural areas. She went ahead to add the words, “all walks of life.” I thought when you talk about all East African citizens, this is all inclusive.

I picked the statement; “to all East African citizens in both urban and rural areas” and stopped there.

The next one is that national assemblies should be regularly informed about EALA proceedings and decisions and be involved in our activities such as public hearings, oversight and be sensitized on the status of EAC integration.

While I agree with that, it is important that we make this an observation. When we say that they be involved in our public hearings and oversight activities, who will be paying for it? Maybe this is something that should be taken to the Speakers’ Forum so that we see how it can be organized. It is a good idea but I am not sure that it is practical. I recommend that we put this under the observations since it was raised by some Partner States. This is already in the report. Putting it as a recommendation which we cannot honour will be very difficult. We should agree for it to be an observation and take it up with the Speakers’ Forum so that we see how best we can engage with Partner States parliaments and how they can collaborate more with EALA.

**Dr. Odette:** On a point of information. Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, what hon. Patricia has said is true. It may be difficult for the Members to access funding. However, if we put that as a recommendation, the national parliaments could also pay for this. I think if we put it down as a recommendation that would be a good thing.

**Ms. Byamukama:** I think we also need to look at the past. In the past, we had recommended to establish EAC Committees. Some Partner States have EAC Committees. If the EAC Committees are given information or interface along with the Ministers to present the information in

parliaments, that would help. In addition to that, we could also explore the Nanyuki series. There are several avenues which we can use. I do not know whether that would help in progressing on this point but we need to be proactive. We should use the Speakers' Bureau as another avenue. We should see how we can innovatively work on this; especially by using the EAC Committees.

**The Speaker:** We could modify that by saying that we recommend the national parliaments to facilitate their members to participate in the activities of EALA which include oversight among others. We should be explicit. The Speakers Bureau should then take it from there. There has to be a recommendation from the House that national assemblies should facilitate Members to engage in our activities.

Hon. Patricia, proceed.

**Mr. Hajabakiga:** Thank you. I hope the clerks-at-the-Table have captured the amendment to the amendment of hon. Odette on this regard. There was a recommendation that EALA transmits copies of its reports to national assemblies. I think this is a Treaty matter and, therefore, it should be a reminder. We are already doing it anyway. The problem we experience, especially in Rwanda, is not that they do not receive them. They receive the documents but they do not use them. The documents are piled up somewhere and Members do not discuss them. What we need to do is to remind the Ministers of EAC to table the same to parliament. They receive the records but they do not use them. There were two points. One point is that we should be sending the reports. The other one is that they should be bringing the reports. I agree that national parliaments should transmit any matters discussed on integration.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the issue of participation in sensitisation in any Partner State that is something that you already clarified. However, I also wanted to raise an issue with regard to that. The reason why sensitisation took the form it did, was because of inadequate resources. If we went to different Partner States, that would have involved tickets and would have been more costly than what we spend. Hon. Shy-Rose said that we were volunteers. If you remember, as we travelled to go to different parts, that was not covered. Members were pulling from their own pockets. That is why it was organized the way it was. Once we get more resources, we could do what you are asking.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. On a final note, if you agree, I would like to thank everybody who contributed. I would like to thank hon. Shem Bageine. It is not easy to hear farewell from such a dear friend, a very good Minister. I want you people – (*Interjection*) -

**Mr. Mathuki:** Which people? We are honourable Members.

**Ms. Hajabakiga:** When we move that Motion, we should also transmit it to His Excellency President Museveni so that he knows that he sent to us a Minister who befitted his duties.

Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker and all of you. (Laughter)

**The Speaker:** Thank you hon. Patricia. Hon. Colleagues, the Motion before the House is:

“THAT, the Report of the East African Legislative Assembly on the sensitisation activities conducted from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 2016 in Partner States be adopted as amended.”

(*Question put and agreed to*)

*(The Report was passed and adopted)*

Honourable colleagues, I would like to congratulate you upon passing this report. I deliberately gave this report long time for debate because it will shape the future of our sensitisation. It is part of the legacy we will leave behind as the Third Assembly. The exercise will be continued even when we are way long gone. I will give the commitment of the Office of the Speaker and the Commission to this activity.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Speaker:** Before I adjourn, I would like to make the following announcements. Today, 25<sup>th</sup> May is the African Day. This is the day that has been set aside for the African states and national to remember the formation of the institutions that fought for the Independence of the African countries. The Organisation of African Union (OAU) led to the formation of the African Union. More importantly is to remind ourselves about our commitment to the democratization process of the continent, socio-transformation and economic devolvement of our nations. This year's has been celebrated by the Republic of South Africa that hosted the day.

We would like to join His Excellency President Zuma, the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa and the entire populace of the African Continent in celebrating this day. Long live Africa.

Hon. Colleagues, there is another announcement. This weekend we will start practicing our various sporting items to prepare for the Inter-Parliamentary Games.

Finally, on a lighter and happier note, the Commission is discussing on how to declare EALA a paperless institution. We have been

churning out a lot of documents and paper that maintaining, holding and carrying is becoming a burden leave along the cost of churning out the documents. The Commission is working very hard to make sure that we replenish hon. Members with very functional I-pads where all reports shall be remitted directly to you. We have already amended our rules of procedure to allow those gadgets into the Chambers. From that point, we will have very few papers for the traditional tabling on the Floor. However, the rest of the reports will be sent to your gadgets so that we minimize on costs and improve efficiency.

I thank you so much.

**Mr. Mulengani;** Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to seek clarification from your Communication. You are aware of the manner in which we operate. At times we are in our capitals. Will there be provision for internet?

**The Speaker:** Honourable colleagues, the Commission will work to ensure that the intention of the I-Pad is effected. Thank you so much.

### ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker:** With those few remarks, I adjourn the House to tomorrow Thursday, 26 May 2016 at 2.30 p.m. The House stands adjourned.

*The House rose and at 6.30 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday,, 26 May 2016 at 2.30 p.m.*