



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

THIRD ASSEMBLY: THIRD MEETING – SECOND SESSION

Tuesday, 26th November, 2013

The East African Legislative Assembly held a Special Sitting at ... a.m. in the Chamber of the Kenya National Assembly, Parliament Buildings, Nairobi, Kenya

Kenyan National Anthem

EAC Anthem

PRAYER

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

The Assembly was called to order.

PROCLAMATION BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker: Hon. Members, amidst us today is H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya. *(Applause)* I have in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty invited him to address this Assembly. I would now like to make the following proclamation to welcome the presence in the Assembly of the President of the Republic of Kenya.

(Applause)

“WHEREAS clause 1 of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that ‘the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to attend the Assembly notwithstanding that he or she is a Member of the Assembly if in his or her opinion the business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable;’

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of H.E. the President of the Republic of Kenya is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE it is with great pleasure and honor on your behalf, hon. Members to welcome in this Assembly the presence of the President of the Republic of Kenya.” (Applause)

ADDRESS BY H.E. UHURU KENYATTA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER OF EALA TO WELCOME THE SPEAKER OF THE KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

The Speaker: Your Excellency, Uhuru Mwigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, Rt hon. Justin Muturi, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Rt hon. Ekwe Ethuro, the Speaker of Senate, hon. Shem Bageine, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of the East African Community, hon. Ministers and members of the Council of Ministers, the Secretary General of the EAC, hon. Members of EALA, hon. Members of the Kenya National Assembly, the Governor of Nairobi, Distinguished Guests, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen. I wish to first thank Rt hon. Justin Muturi, the Kenya National Assembly Speaker and indeed the entire Government of the Republic of Kenya for accepting to host EALA, all of us here, at the Parliament once again.

(Applause)

This being my first official engagement with the Rt hon. Muturi, as he is fondly known by those initials of JB, I wish to congratulate him upon his successful election in March this year. *(Applause)* And I would like to assure him of my personal support and the support of this august House.

(Applause)

In the Commonwealth countries, Parliamentary Speakers play a very crucial role. In order to ensure the orderly flow of business, the National Assembly observes parliamentary rules,

procedures and traditions both written and unwritten. The die is cast, I must say, to Rt hon. Speaker, JB, you must play the role of the parliamentary referee over the next five years.

I further welcome him to the folds of the East African Community Speakers Forum. This is a very important political bureau – club of Speakers - and it sits regularly to deliberate on the progress of the integration process. At the moment, Kenya chairs the Speakers’ Bureau. And I am sure the Rt hon. Muturi shall make invaluable contribution to the forum.

(Applause)

Let me also take this opportunity to welcome Rt hon. Ekwe Ethuro, the Speaker of the Senate to the Speakers’ Forum.

(Applause)

The relations between the National Assembly of Kenya and EALA are cordial and at all time, they are always very high. I am proud that both Assemblies continue to collectively learn from each other and they continue to build ties of the Community.

Rt hon. Muturi has offered us the use of parliamentary facilities over the last ten days and I would like to graciously thank him because we have been hosted in a very beautiful chamber of the County Hall, newly refurbished and I want to salute him for this gracious act and all the hon. Members.

(Applause)

I know Kenya National Assembly has also been sitting but the facilities have been made so comfortable that we have not been able to feel anything amiss. I want to say that sharing is caring and I can now see it has been ably testified in the act of the Rt hon. Speaker. We are truly grateful for his warm gesture and magnanimity. I thank the Rt hon. Speaker for exhibiting this sign of true friendship and commitment to the integration process.

Rt hon. Muturi takes over the mantle of leadership at the time when the legislature is playing a fundamental role in enacting legislation aimed at anchoring the new Constitution of Kenya. He is the first Speaker to serve following the re-establishment of a bi-cameral parliament as mandated by the Constitution. I am sure that he shall offer the much needed guidance in the process.

I have also noted that the Rt hon. Muturi is keen to carry on with the reforms of his predecessor. The Speaker has encouraged the use of technology in this House when debating on the floor and the House - or through electronic voting - has everybody on board- all the Members are on board through electronic voting. We congratulate you. *(Applause)* I can just add that this is a good measure during this era of digitalization.

Despite the official persona and make of Rt hon. Muturi, his radiant personality and heartwarming simplicity speaks volumes. He is well grounded as a person in the public sector having served in the Judiciary before and also as a Chairperson of the Centre for Multi-party Democracy, a civil society group that deals with democracy issues in the multi-party politics. I want to say *asante sana* to my brother, Rt hon. Speaker. And you ably said, we shall always come back to our home in Nairobi and review. We shall always be grateful for every opportunity

that happens to us. So, thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker and we shall continue to enjoy our stay in Nairobi and in Kenya. Thank you very much.

At this juncture, allow me invite my brother, Rt hon. Justin Muturi to address us in the Assembly. You are welcome, Rt hon. Speaker, Sir.

(Applause)

The Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya (Mr. Justin Muturi): Your Excellency, hon. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in- Chief of the Kenyan Defence Forces, the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Rt hon. Margaret Zziwa, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Cabinet Secretaries and Ministers from the East African Community present, hon. Members from the East African Legislative Assembly, hon. Members from the Parliament of Kenya both in the National Assembly and the Senate, here present. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is my pleasure, honor and singular privilege to welcome you yet again to Kenya, particularly to the Kenya Parliament on this auspicious occasion where our President, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta has graciously agreed to address you.

From the onset, I wish on my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the Parliament of Kenya to thank H.E the President for allocating time out of his busy schedule to come and interact with all of us. *(Applause)* I am sure that from his address, we shall get encouragement, hope and directions on the way we need to move and conduct our business for the greater good of all the Member States.

Your Excellency, on the 19th of this month, I promised the East African Legislative Assembly Members that I was going to put in place measures that would ensure that they would be able to conduct their legislative duties successfully. To keep my word, I have allocated the County Hall Chamber to their disposal and they will use it exclusively until they conclude their business later today.

(Applause)

I have also allocated offices for the East African Legislative Assembly Speaker, the R thon. Margaret Zziwa and I trust that all other Members have been assisted in all possible ways to enable them do their work successfully.

Earlier I had reminded the hon. Members that their work calls for dedication because EALA has legislative functions as well as oversight over all EAC matters. We all know that the East African Community commitment to promotion of good governance as envisaged in Article 6 (e) together with Articles 73 (d) and 7 (2) of the Treaty for the establishment of the Community. This requires all Partner States to uphold good governance through adherence to the principles of democracy, rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities and gender equality. These are coupled with recognition, promotion and protection of human and people's rights in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human People's Rights.

I follow with keen interest the business that the East African Legislative Assembly conducts and I feel that at the end of the day it will benefit all Members Countries.

Finally, Your Excellency I wish to confirm to you and the hon. Members that the Kenyan Parliament will remain steadfast in its support for the East African Legislative Assembly. *(Applause)* This in turn should enable the Members to actualize and realize the dream and mandate to of brining East Africans finally together as one people with one destiny- the dream of creating the East African Federation as in words. And I would like to appeal to our President to influence his counterparts so that this dream may be realized sooner than later. *(Applause)* I thank you, Your Excellency.

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER OF EALA TO WELCOME H.E. UHURU
KENYATTA TO ADDRESS THE ASSEMBLY

The Speaker: Your Excellency, Uhuru Mwigai Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya, Rt hon. Justin Muturi, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Rt hon. Ekwe Ethuro, the Speaker of Senate, hon. Shem Bageine, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of the East African Community, hon. Ministers and members of the East African Council of Ministers, the Secretary General of the EAC, hon. Members of EALA, hon. Members of the Kenya National Assembly and hon. Members of the Senate, the Governor of Nairobi, Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

From the very on set, Your Excellency permit me to congratulate you, although a little bit lately, upon your successful election as the Fourth President of the Republic of Kenya. *(Applause)* your election in March this year was a sign of confidence that the people of this great Republic of Kenya bestowed in you. Your Excellency, congratulations once again.

I am honored to address you for the very first time as the Head of State of the Republic of Kenya knowing that Kenya is one of the founding members of the East African Community and it remains very committed to the attainment of the goals and objectives of the Community.

My Members and I take exceptional opportunity to wish you good fortunes in this office and in all your endeavors as you take Kenya forward. *(Applause)* We assure you of our unwavering and unequivocal support as you lead the Republic of Kenya and the Community to greater heights.

EALA has enjoyed a cordial relationship with your predecessors and we are confident that with you and the pinnacle of the country's leadership, we shall even deepen our cooperation.

We are pleased to note that your record of development over the last 200 days in the context of the East African Community region speaks for itself. The Republic of Kenya has moved with haste to demolish the existing non-tariff barriers. *(Applause)* This is evident along the northern corridor and the port of Mombasa. This has been seen in the improvement in the congestion which has been a problem since 2000 all the way up to 2012. This has paved way to improve business and indeed the business community in all over East Africa is already recording improvement in their businesses. I congratulate you, Your Excellency.

(Applause)

Just to report what one of the business people reported to the committee members that today it takes just about a week to transfer cargo from Mombasa to Kigali and Bujumbura via Kampala. *(Applause)* That is very commendable, Your Excellency.

At that same time, we also salute and up laud the directive you gave to the Revenue and Customs Department to relocate to the Port City of Mombasa. This has reduced the time it takes to clear cargo consignments. Both moves are hailed as one of those which are geared towards establishing a single customs territory which is our dream as EAC.

Your Excellency, since you assumed the reins of power, you have maintained Kenya's stance to combat the scourges of terrorism thus restoring peace in the neighboring Somalia and other parts of Africa.

Let me take this opportunity to extend our sympathies upon the loss of the lives during the September attack on the Westgate Mall. This cowardice act must be condemned in the strongest terms. *(Applause)* It led to the loss of innocent lives maimed the peace loving citizens and destroying properties worth millions. Whilst we continue to commiserate with you, the Government and the People of Kenya over this barbaric act, we are comforted that the attack did not scare you and did not lead you and neither the Kenyans to despair. It instead strengthened your stance in standing guard to ensure that peace reigns throughout Kenya and in other nations of East Africa. This is commendable and we shall stand with you in search for peace and stability in the region.

(Applause)

With the commitments you have shown so far, I am confident that your contribution as the Head of State will add impetus to the important process of the integration process of the East African Community. I am certain that you will strive to ensure that East Africa continues to engage and continues to be the engine of momentum for Africa's potential and growth.

Your Excellency, allow me to report on the 3rd EALA which is before you today. The 3rd EALA was inaugurated in June, 2012 and we have just completed a year in office. Let me just go through some of the work we have been able to do.

We have so far been able to enact seven pieces of legislation - I can run through them – amongst them is EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2012, the EAC Vehicle Load Control Bill, 2012, EAC Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2013, the East African Community Customs Management (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2012 and the EAC Public Holidays Bill, 2013.

I am pleased to note that Your Excellency, you have already assented to four of those very important Bills which have been brought before you.

(Applause)

We have also passed 23 Resolutions on the floor of this House. In fact allow me to mention that one of them was presented to you this morning and I would like to report to the hon. Members that His Excellency was very appreciative for that important Resolution.

(Applause)

Allow me also to report that during the last sitting in Bujumbura, your colleague and brother, H.E, Pierre Nkurunziza launched the EALA Strategic Plan 2013-2018. This plan amongst other

things takes care of and seeks to see EALA enhance its administrative autonomy boost in the area of sensitization of the peoples of East Africa about the interest and objectives of the EAC.

It also envisages to improve the corporate image of the EAC and EALA itself and it also strives to support the negotiations of the EAC pillars of integration and I am sure that as we come to the next pillar, which you will be about to assent to in terms of the Protocol, we shall have another yet role of ensuring that we effectively monitor and evaluate what we have achieved under the circumstances.

We call on you, Your Excellency to give us support in terms of improving our budget because we want to reach to the East Africans.

(Applause)

Allow me also to report what we have been able to achieve during the last ten days when we have been here in Nairobi. I am pleased to report that we have been able to receive and adopt four reports from the various committees of the Assembly. For instance, the Committee of General Purpose was able to present the Report on the Harmonization of Education in the East African Region. It is a very important report.

The Committee on Agriculture was also bale to present a report on land grabbing, which is one of the threats Africa is experiencing.

The Committee on ICT was also able to present the differing tariffs within the communication sector and this is a very key hindrance to doing business in the EAC.

We have taken care of the necessary support which these key reports deserve and have sent our recommendations to the Council of Ministers. We also request for your support so that we are able to improve on the welfare of the peoples of East Africa.

As an Assembly, we have also posed a number of questions to the Chair of the Council of Ministers and we have received satisfactory answers - I wish to report.

The Assembly has also debated key motions and has also passed three important Resolutions. I want to report that tomorrow we shall embark on our on site visit as part of our over sight function. We are going to Kisumu to visit the Lake Victoria Basin Commission. This is one of the seven institutions of the EAC.

Later on we should be able to visit Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation in Jinja; we should be able to visit the East African Development Bank in Kampla; and we should also be able to visit CASSOA, which is in Entebbe and the Soroti Flying School.

Of course, Your Excellency many of our institutions are grappling with various challenges but when the Members visit, it will give us the opportunity to internalize some of these challenges and we shall be able to share them with the Council of Ministers and the Summit at an appropriate time.

Your Excellency, the region's future depends on the ability to trade, that is, not the question of just lowering tariffs but also improving fiscal capacity and the linkages between Partner States. This brings to the fore the need to push forward the major infrastructure projects such as the

boats, waterways, railway network, roads and energy as part of the wider regional partnership rather than just individual States.

I want to say that the previous infrastructural summit which was held here in Nairobi was very important in terms of paving way to those immediate areas which require urgent attention in the area of infrastructure. We commend the Republic of Kenya for its lead in modernizing its infrastructure.

(Applause)

Allow me, Your Excellency to quickly highlight some of the significant milestones we have so far registered in the implementation of the integration pillars. The Customs Union, which is the first pillar, has led to significant increase in intra-regional trade. In 2011, intra-trade in the region rose to 23 percent of the total value of exported goods, according to the Doing Business Report of 2012. This is by far the highest increase in all other African economic blocs. We take pleasure that this is happening in our bloc and we congratulate ourselves; we can pat ourselves on the back.

Of course we must sit back to say all is done because our ultimate goal in this area is to achieve a Single Customs Union Territory and we want to say that we support all your efforts Your Excellencies in making sure that we achieve the Single Customs Union Territory.

It is also important that the Community take full recognition that the realization of the Common Market Protocol must also be a reality. We must act and act decisively to enable the citizens enjoy the benefits. In our view and indeed it is the view of EALA, if we are to fully implement the Common Market today. I believe we shall have realized well over 75 percent of the integration process. This is due to the fact that the Protocol envisages the merger and integration of the five countries into one single market where the factors of production will move freely and the people will also be free to move and we also envisage the right of establishment amongst other factors.

I am pleased to note that in the quest of complying with the Common Market, the Republic of Kenya has repealed the following laws, which were inhibiting in terms of free movement of persons. And I want to congratulate you, Your Excellency, Sir: The Immigration Act, Cap. 172 was repealed; The Alien Restriction Act, Cap 173 has been repealed; and the Visa Restrictions have also been removed. I want to salute you because my members reported that when they came in, they actually immigrated paperlessly - they came in without filling that form.

(Applause)

These laws have been replaced by new laws which are actually more accommodating and more progressive towards integration. The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act (Number 12), 2011 is very progressive and the Kenya Citizens and Foreign Nationals Management Act (Number 31), 2011 is also a very progressive law. We salute you, Your Excellency.

I am excited by the plan to sign off the Monetary Union Protocol in the next two weeks by the Summit of the EAC Heads of State. I, like many other East Africans and EALA inclusive, finally hope that a single currency in the name of the East African shilling will be able to be in our

pockets and our forefathers will also be happy that we have been able to see the same light they were able to see.

We also hope that we shall have harmonized fiscal and monetary policies and we also hope that this will lead to bigger business amongst the business community.

Your Excellency, this year, 2013 Kenya turns 50 years since it broke the chains of Colonialism. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate you on this year's Golden Jubilee of the Republic of Kenya. (*Applause*) We wish you all the best as you celebrate 50 years of Independence and we know that this period is going to give you an opportunity to reflect on the past and turn over a new leaf and chapter for the country. The country is destined for greater things as demonstrated by some of the recent developments, which we have also been able to witness.

I for one, I am keenly following – I was personally present and I keenly followed the speech you gave at the Kasarani International Stadium. I think you saw the woman with a dress that points up. I was there and I would like to salute all the reforms which you proposed, Your Excellency. I look forward to seeing them implemented, like many other Kenyans and like many other East Africans.

This promised a bright future for Kenyans by focusing on even Vision 2030, a free maternal care, the dedication of services to all and maybe three months later, during the Madaraka Day Celebrations when you announced the free maternal care in all public health facilities. (*Applause*) This move was saluted by many Kenyans and East Africans alike. So, through the recently launched Uwezo Fund, Kenya is today incubating enterprises catalyzing innovation, promoting industry, employing the youth and growing its economy. I wish you well as you set off an industrial revolution to power your ambition of becoming a middle income country by 2030.

I wish to point out what I consider a unique strength in you; indeed Mr President, Sir as you join us today, and as you sit here, you are amongst the list of the serving Presidents on the continent. In this age of ICT, it is important to be able to use social media to communicate directly with the population. Your innovative way of using the social media to reach out to the Kenyans is commendable. (*Applause*) I am sure that this will continue because at times we as politicians have a problem of retrogressing after elections. Let it continue because that is the way how all of us will reach you, Sir.

I recall a couple of years as the Minister of Finance; you invited Kenyans to tweet their budget viewing. This was when you were citing Article 10 of the Kenyan Constitution, which recognizes inclusiveness as part of the national values and principles of governance. Within a few hours, the responses were overwhelming and gesture was well received.

Mr President, Sir let me end by re-affirming our support to you and your Government. We are also confident that you will equally provide us with the necessary support that we shall require in our legislative role. EALA reiterates its commitment to work closely with the Summit, the Council of Ministers and other organs and institutions of the Community for the faster realization of the objectives and goals of our region.

Finally, Your Excellency it is with great pleasure and honor that I execute my humble duty to welcome you to address this august Assembly today, Tuesday, 26th November, 2013. *Karibu mheshiwa Rais.*

(Applause)

The President of the Republic of Kenya (H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly and hon. Members, indeed it gives me great pleasure to be with all of you this morning and indeed I am glad to see every one assembled in this chamber for such an important occasion.

Madam Speaker, let me begin by taking this opportunity to thank you and all the Members for your Resolution in congratulating me and the people of the Republic of Kenya for successful polling during elections and we thank you.

Madam Speaker, we consider this occasion important for all the people of East Africa and indeed as a special honor for Kenya to have you and all Members of the Assembly who have been sitting here in Nairobi. I thank you for visiting us and on behalf of my Government, and indeed on behalf all the people of Kenya, I extend a warm welcome to all of you. *Karibuni Nairobi, karibuni Kenya.*

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, the rotational meetings of your esteemed Assembly in Members States are indeed an admirable innovation in integrating consultation - *(Applause)* - and interaction to enrich legislative deliberations. The people of East Africa are thereby afforded an opportunity to witness at close quarters the workings of the Assembly. In turn, they get a good understanding of the organs of the EAC, on your part, the chance to receive contributions directly from the people which enhances both quality of legislative output plus strengthening and promoting the integration process.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, my Government will only support when the Assembly is working towards what we have committed towards. We have committed to facilitate your tour of our country.

(Applause)

If the East African integration is to be truly people centered, then the Assembly must be able to fully discharge its responsibilities of sensitizing the Community's citizens. I encourage you to make the best of this opportunity and do an excellent job.

Our integration should be accompanied with the most intensive and interactive civic education exercise spear headed by this very Assembly.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, your Assembly's role is critical to the wellbeing of our Community. Ever since the inauguration of the East African Legislative Assembly, expectations over its role in the affairs of the Community and potential to accelerate integration have been rightly high. These expectations have kept growing year after year. Today, the Community stands at the door of the great promise; of peace, security and economic development as well as a better standard of life from our peoples.

The Assembly holds the key to this door. This session in particular is expected to chart the course for an efficient and better functioning Community to deliver the integration agenda. This expectation should inform your deliberations on the various Bills before you.

Additionally, it is vital for the Assembly to find innovative and purposeful means of eradicating the weaknesses and deficiencies in the Community's statutes and protocols that affect the pace of the integration. *(Applause)* The laws enacted by this Assembly are intended to enhance and compliment national laws and ease integration. It would be useful for the Assembly to enhance collaboration with National Parliaments so that the Community can benefit from exchanges and experiences from various domestic mechanisms.

Madam Speaker, East African integration is firmly on course. Over time, we have mustered such unstoppable momentum that we are now assured of realizing it not too far in the future. *(Applause)* The people of East Africa are interacting at such a rising rate and exchanging information, goods and services in such growing volumes that our borders have become mere formalities for the growing benefits of interactions across our various borders have catalyzed East Africans desire for integration.

This popular desire makes integration inevitable in due course, however, the pace of integration has not been even. A particular obstacle has been Non- Tariff Barriers which continue to plague the competitiveness our region by raising the cost of doing business. These barriers have hindered the exploitation of market opportunities otherwise available to East African businesses. More certainly, Non-Tariff Barriers significantly erode mutual competitive advantage expected from integration.

Kenya, Madam Speaker, is cognizant of this set back and is fully committed to the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers. *(Applause)* In the recent past, Madam Speaker, we have demonstrated this commitment by taking several administrative measures to significantly reduce the time taken between offloading cargo at the port of Mombasa and reaching the Malaba border crossing.

We have also removed all roadblocks and reduced way bridges to only two and I hope that you will establish that - *(Applause)* – on your trip to Kisumu and on to Kampala.

The security along the northern transport corridor is now greatly enhanced with more highway police patrols ensuring the safety of cargo and crew. In this way, we have made tremendous progress in availing the gateway to East Africa for easier movement of cargo to the business community in our region.

(Applause)

Progress has also been made in significantly easing the movement of people within the Community. We hope that this progress will be sustained to realize the full potential of integration.

Madam Speaker, as Partner States find political means of boosting integration, it is important for the Community's Legislature to assist in devising complimentary mechanisms. In particular, I urge the Assembly to keep its eye on implementation of the Common Market provisions whose achievements will increase the benefits of integration and promote progress to subsequent phases in integration.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, as you are aware, the establishment of the East African Community Customs Union and Common Market led to negotiations towards the creation of a Monetary Union. I am indeed happy and very excited that at the end of this month the East African Community Monetary Union Protocol will be signed.

(Applause)

In many ways, the Monetary Union is the logical culmination of integration efforts. All the things we seek in integration will be multiplied in the Monetary Union. We expect under the Union strengthening of competition in respective domestic markets as well as the efficiencies arising out of greater economies of scale. Moreover, the cost of transacting in different currencies and the risks associated with advanced exchange rate movements in respect to intra Community trade would be eliminated.

Besides, widening trade opportunities within the Community, the regional market will offer a stepping stone for local producers to access global markets.

Globally, Madam Speaker, the East African Monetary Union will send a strong statement of our long term commitment to deepen regional investment. Such a statement will assure investors that East Africa is a genuine single market and an attractive place for business.

Politically, the Monetary Union is a statement of our Partner States commitment to a shared destiny as East Africans and not just a group of neighboring States.

(Applause)

Madam Speaker, without doubt, it is our common duty to institute mechanisms for the effective implementation of the Monetary Union. As legislators, you have a critical role to enact robust enabling laws and exercise diligent oversight.

The role of oversight is a critical function. It is central to the satisfactory functioning of the Community. Please, enable the Community maximize the benefits of a stronger bargaining position. Afford it to buy the Monetary Union.

As I conclude, Madam Speaker, I urge this Assembly to do all it can to keep the integration process truly people centered *-(Applause)-* to facilitate the full and thorough participation of our peoples and to maintain our unique shared identity.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, I encourage you to I urge you to encourage a wide spread use of Kiswahili by East African citizens. *(Applause)* God has given us a voice that can unite all the people of East Africa and we should deploy it through various media to actualize integration.

Madam Speaker, I wish once again to take this opportunity to give you my personal commitment as well as that of my Government to ensuring the smooth working relations between my Government and your Assembly as well as our commitment to the integration process and ultimately a federated East Africa.

(Applause)

I wish this Assembly fruitful deliberations and successful work during this session and I look forward to working with you as we pursue our integration agenda.

I thank you very much, Madam Speaker for this opportunity and may God bless all of you. Thank you.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Your Excellency, we have been honored; we have been encouraged; and we have been shown the way. Thank you very much for your words of encouragement; for your words of wisdom; and most of all, thank you for your commitment to stand with us, by us and for us. Thank you very much, Your Excellency.

Allow me to invite hon. Adam Kimbisa to express our gratitude to you by moving a vote of thanks.

Mr Adam Omar Kimbisa (Tanzania): Your Excellency, Uhuru Mwigai Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya, Rt hon. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, Speaker of EALA, Rt hon. Justin Muturi, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, Rt hon. Ekwe Ethuro, the Speaker of Senate, hon. Shem Bageine, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers of the East African Community, hon. Ministers and members of the East African Council of Ministers, the Secretary General of the EAC, hon. Members of EALA, hon. Members of the Kenya National Assembly and hon. Members of the Senate, the Governor of Nairobi County, Dr Evans Kidero, my good friend hon. Duale, the House Majority Leader, Your Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Madam Speaker, allow me move a vote of thanks in appreciation for the good, inspirational and warm speech given by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we are very much honored and grateful to you for availing your precious time to come and address this august Assembly.

(Applause)

Your Excellency, allow me on behalf of my colleagues to express our profound and sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and gracious hospitality accorded to us since our arrival in this lovely city of Nairobi. *(Applause)* As it is always said, Nairobi is a city in the sun and at peace

with itself. Indeed those words are correct and surprisingly, we found ourselves at home away from home.

(Applause)

On a lighter touch, Mr President, a few months ago, we were talking in Arusha trying to see whether we can be stationed in Arusha permanently or not. There was a push and pull but we eventually agreed with each other. Now, I went to a colleague of mine and asked him, “My friend why are you insisting that we have to rotate, do you have any special reason whether political or economic?” By the way, this friend of mine is not from Kenya. He said, “My friend, I can’t do without Nairobi.”

(Laughter)

I just said, can you elaborate and he said, “You are asking too many questions.” And he said, “My reasons are not political; my reasons are not economical but they are social.” *(Laughter)* For the first time I realized this is our home away from home. *(Applause)* He further said, “If we are to rotate, we have to rotate to Nairobi if this is the end of our rotation.” *(Laughter)*

Kwaneno ya Raisi musitafu amuwa tauat Rais Mwai Kibaki akakuja siku moja aka tuambia karibuni Kenya; karibuni Nairobi namu kiwe Nairobi naomba mu gi enjoy *(Laughter)* nakusema kweli Mheshimiwa Raisi tuna gi enjoy sana apa leo.

We also take this opportunity to congratulate you for being elected by the people of the Republic of Kenya. Therefore, we welcome you as a member of the Summit.

(Applause)

Your Excellency, by virtue of the votes you got, your life has fundamentally changed. Changed like your first name says, changed from Uhuru to Utumwa. For information, I was talking to two Members of the Assembly who for I don’t know what reasons, they are also sons of Presidents like you. *(Laughter)* We have you, Mr President, we have hon. Makongoro Nyerere the son of Mwalimu Nyerere and hon. Abdullah, the son of President Mwinyi.

(Applause)

With that said, this is also to you, Mr President, the reason I said is from Uhuru to Utumwa is that State House can sometimes turn into a maximum security jail. *(Laughter)* What do I mean? Mr President used to go anywhere at any time - to *nyama choma* but now you can’t. *(Laughter)* Your life was free but now your life is programed like a computer, from sunrise to sunset, you have no time for yourself. But I strongly believe that if you are a mtumwa to Satan it is an insult to the human race. But if you are mtumwa to your people, it is an honor; it is a blessing and God will always protect you and also reward you justly.

Your Excellency, on behalf of my colleagues, I also congratulate the people of Kenya for the peaceful way and exemplary manner in which they conducted themselves during the recent elections. But now for the people of Kenya, the elections are over and now it is time for nation building and let us give support to those in office but not those in power -I hate the words “in power”- those in office and those in service, let us work together as Kenyans irrespective of

tribe, religion, ethnicity, political affiliation, gender of otherwise. And this is in the promise of our President since he started this new job.

(Applause)

The unfortunate part in Africa, Mr President is – this is very sad in the whole of Africa – we do politics for elections; we do politics during elections; we do politics after elections and sometimes I wonder. Maybe that is why we are poor because we keep on politicking year in year out. I think it is time to give the current leadership time to do the job for all of us.

(Applause)

Your Excellency, within a very short time East Africa in particular and Africa in general should see your total commitment to integration. *(Applause)* Not only through your policies, not only through your statements but also from your actions - committed to the idea of one people one destiny.

Your Excellency, in Kenya within a short time you need a personal intervention to know the cause on transportation like you said, and we have also been told in the northern corridor. Like you said the reduction in the number of days that the lorries are commuting from Mombasa to the border but also you have streamlined the efficiency of Mombasa port.

You realize that for integration to be meaningful, infrastructure is of paramount importance and now you are fast tracking the railway system to be of standard gauge. *(Applause)* I am told this railway is going to Kampala and then from Kampala to Kigali and Juba. This is true integration.

(Applause)

Your Excellency, creation of Uwezo Fund, which will help empower women and youth to start their own small and medium enterprises. The beauty about this fund is that it doesn't attract interest. All banks - we have so many banks in East Africa, more than 100 banks but unfortunately, these banks are enemies of the poor and they are friends to the rich. Because they do charge high interest rates but also the conditionalities attached are almost impossible for a poor person to fulfill.

(Applause)

I am told for the first time in the history of Kenya, you will be starting an irrigation project of about 1 million acres. This will help address the issue of food security. Who knows tomorrow Kenya may be the food basket of East Africa.

(Applause)

I have also learnt that in three years Kenya will increase its power capacity from 1,700 megawatts to 5,000 megawatts. This will also help rural electrification and it will act as a kick start for rural development.

(Applause)

Now the famous issue of the laptop project - (*Laughter*) - all primary school going children in Kenya will have access to the laptop. ICT education program will be done under your leadership. Now, Your Excellency, there are so many countries in Africa to date which haven't managed to offer even a book and a pen to millions of children in their countries -one book and one pen-many countries of this part of the world cannot manage but here you are gone digital. (*Applause*)The list of the success stories is very long – I can only say of what you have achieved and what you are planning to do within the shortest possible time.

The only thing I can say, Mr President, the speed of the leader is the speed of the team. If the leader wants to go one kilometer per hour with a Mercedes Benz, the team will do so and the country will do so. If the leader would like to move several kilometers or at a supersonic speed, the team will also do so and the country will also move so.

Your Excellency, allow me also to speak about two regrettable incidents which happened this year, namely the Jomo Kenyatta Airport fire and the Westgate Mall attack. Mr President, our memories are still fresh as two events are painful to all of us. We in EALA and East Africa as a whole consider an attack on Kenya as an attack on East Africa. (*Applause*) And to this we say, *pole sana kwako Mshemewa Raisi, pole kwa ndugu walipo tezeya na wenzi wao, na pole kwa Wanainchi wa Kenya*. For sure this was a barbaric and ugly incidence especially the one which happened at Westgate Mall which claimed so many innocent lives and left many injured.

During that time, Mr President, we all witnessed and saw the unity and solidarity among the people of Kenya as they rallied in unison to the theme of your national anthem, “We Are One.” I saw some people contributing money, food clothes and more importantly blood.

Mr President, it was equally moving to hear you saying, “*I am deeply moved and proud to be your President for the unity you have shown in the last few days.*” (*Applause*) And for all of us East Africans, the only thing I can say is, united we stand, divided we fall.

Lastly but not least, Mr President we as EALA we made our humble contribution by passing a resolution in Bujumbura in support of the AU position on the issue of ICC. (*Applause*) For sure, and we all know that, this organization called ICC purges Africa and Africans but Mr President, I can assure you that we were with you, we are with you and we shall continue to be with you. (*Applause*)

Lastly, our colleagues from EALA- the Kenyan Chapter came to see you, Mr President, and brief you about what we do in EALA. We really appreciate the good contribution you made towards all of us for sensitization. Many people in East Africa don't know what East Africa is, they don't know what integration is and whenever we try to inform them, it is heard but sometimes we are limited by this or that.

However, they also told you the challenges they face as Members of EALA. Mr President, those challenges – *hile maneno madogo madogo wali kwambiya hile- [MEMBER: “Ni makubwa”] - ni makubwa hile mambo me kwambiya kina hon. Ogle –(Laughter) – rathani ota kuwa musada saana hasu kuwonana na ma Raisi wenzi yako ota wambiya awo nini wale vijana wawezi kukyanganusha - (Laughter)*

Mr President that digital approach should also be applied to East African Community in general and to EALA in particular. Like I said, the speed of the leader is the speed of the team. We are

also part of your team. Train us, coach us, empower us and we are ready not only to play but also to score.

Your Excellency, *tunakushikuru sana*. God bless you; God bless Kenya; God bless EALA; God bless EAC and God bless Africa. *Asante sana*. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Kimbisa. Indeed Your Excellency, empower us, coach us and we shall be your team that will move with you.

Hon. Members, we are coming to the end of our business today but just before we adjourn, allow me, Your Excellency to just introduce to you the Members. I know we may not have a lot of time but let me invite hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly to kindly stand up.

(Members of EALA stood for recognition)

The Speaker: That is the team of the East African Legislative Assembly. (*Applause*) May I invite the Chair, Council of Ministers and hon. Ministers to kindly remain standing.

(The Chair, Council of Ministers and hon. Ministers of the EAC remained standing.)

The Speaker: That is the team of the Council of Ministers. And we are proud of them including hon. Phyllis Kandie (*Applause*) May I kindly invite the Secretary General to stand up?

(The Secretary General stood up for recognition.)

The Speaker: That is our Secretary General - (*Applause*) - and the Counsel to the Community.

(The Counsel to the Community stood up for recognition.)

The Speaker: That is our Counsel to the Community, hon. Kaahwa. I wouldn't have finished the assignment if I didn't invite and humbly requested hon. Members of Kenya National Assembly to stand up so that we see you. (*Applause*) Thank you for joining us today. These are your constituents, the many men and women you elected to go to Arusha. Here we are, we are happy to be back with you and before you as we transact our business. So, thank you very much.

I want to thank the Rt hon. Speaker - (*Applause*) - for according is this beautiful chamber as you can see. The front two benches were the EALA and then the back benches was the gallery by his declaration. We are happy that this has gone very well.

Hon. Members, as we conclude our sitting, I want to invite you for a group photograph which will take place where the Sergeant-at-Arms will direct us. Also allow me to invite you for this opportunity of a lunch with H.E. the President. I mean we are Africans and once you go without a meal then you are not in Africa. So, I want to invite all of you for this very important opportunity.

With those very many announcements, I wish to adjourn the House sine die.

(The House rose at and adjourned sine die.)