



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly 107TH SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: FIRST MEETING – FOURTH SESSION

Thursday, 27 August 2015

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.00 p.m. in the Chamber of the Parliament of Uganda, Kampala

PRAYER

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

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable members, the only communication I have is attaining to the Order Paper. We will keep Order 2 to allow the persons involved to get ready. Thank you.

PAPERS

The following Papers were laid on the Table: -

(by Mr Christophe Bazivamo) (Rwanda):

The Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on Regional Parliamentarian Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Gender

(by Jeremie Ngendakumana) (Burundi):

The Report of the EALA delegation to the 56 ordinary sessions of the African Commission on human and people's rights held in Zambia.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE REGIONAL PARLIAMENTARIAN'S POLICY DIALOGUE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND GENDER

The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Mr Christophe Bazivamo) (Rwanda): Mr Speaker and honourable members, I beg to

move that the Report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on regional Parliamentary Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Gender be adopted.

The Speaker: Is there a seconder? We have hon. Susan, hon. Isabelle, Dr Odette, Dr Ndahiro, hon. Leonce, hon. Rwigema, hon. Murunya, hon. Frederic and all the members standing.

Mr Bazivamo: Mr Speaker, the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on Regional Parliamentary Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Gender is as follows;

This workshop on Climate Change and Gender was held from the 27th -28th March 2015 in Bujumbura, Burundi in accordance with the EAC and EALA Calendars of Activities for the period January-June 2015. The aim of the workshop was to deliberate on policy issues related to climate change and gender in the context of sustainable development in the EAC region.

The workshop was attended by Members of the East Africa Legislative Assembly including Members of the EALA Women's Forum, Members of the Committee of Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee, Members of the General Purpose Committee, EALA staff, EAC and COMESA Secretariats, and Regional Climate Change and Gender Experts.

The workshop was chaired by me. I was with hon. Zein, representing the Chair of the General Purpose Committee. Participants discussed among others; existing international and regional policies, strategies and regulatory instruments and frameworks on climate change and gender, the critical linkages between climate change and gender and the role of Parliamentarians in implementation of Gender Sensitive Climate Change Policies and Practical measures.

Rationale of the Workshop

It was in accordance with our activity and as part of enhancing the legislative, oversight and representation roles of Parliamentarians in the critical sector of environment and natural resources.

The EAC Secretariat has been engaging with EALA through the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources. Several Reports and Resolutions on Climate Change, Climate Change and Forestry, have since been prepared and presented to the Assembly for debate and adoption.

In the past, EALA has passed several environmental Bills including the Trans-boundary Ecosystems Management Bill (2010), the EAC Polythene Material Control Bill and the EAC Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill, 2014 which is undergoing the process of consultation. The work has also begun to establish the Climate Change Fund and fortunately the EAC Climate Change Bill.

As representatives of the citizens of the East African Region, the Members of East African Legislative Assembly Women's Forum had a keen interest in the regional environmental threats that pose a challenge to environmental management and sustainable development.

The Parliamentary Forum therefore sought for technical understanding on the matter with a view of enhancing the role of Parliamentarians in legislation as part of contributing to finding a lasting solution.

The EALA Women Forum sought to gain better understanding on the subject of climate change and gender within the context of the on-going climate change international policy negotiations and also from a programming perspective.

The Regional Parliamentarian's Policy workshop on Climate Change and Gender has therefore been jointly convened by the EAC Secretariat and the EALA Women Forum. The policy dialogue took place at a very critical point in time when Climate Change is a global problem with disproportionate effects on people and economies with serious socio-economic implications.

There is therefore need for all stakeholders to engage in finding lasting policy and practical solutions including consideration of gender implications and mainstreaming of Climate Change and gender in sustainable development planning.

The 20th Conference of Parties (COP20) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), also serving as the 10th Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP10) held from 1st-12th December 2014 in Lima, Peru established the Lima Work Programme on Gender. Parties are expected to implement the programme of work and further expected to make submissions on climate change and gender. The contribution of regional parliamentarians is therefore welcomed towards the implementation of the above decisions.

Objectives of the Workshop

The overall aim of the workshop was to deliberate on the threats of climate change in the context of gender with a view of integrating climate change and gender dimensions in the sustainable development of the EAC region. The specific objectives include:

- (i) Create awareness amongst Members of EALA on the critical cross-cutting subjects of climate change and gender;
- (ii) Consideration of existing international and regional policies, strategies and regulatory instruments and frameworks on climate change and gender; and
- (iii) Identify the role of Parliamentarians in implementation of Gender Sensitive Climate Change Policies and Practical measures.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop was carried out in a participative manner. It entailed technical presentations by experts in the subject matter, introduced by welcome and opening remarks, followed by interactive sessions and ended by closing remarks.

OPENING REMARKS

Welcome Remarks by the EAC Secretariat

The Principal Environment and Natural Resources Officer, Ms Wivine Ntamubano, on behalf of the Deputy Secretary General for Productive and Social Sectors, Hon. Jessica Eriyo, noted that the region is endowed with a variety of natural resources: Water resources, biodiversity and Forestry resources, mineral resources, land, etc. in both terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems some of which being trans-boundary in nature. Management of Environment and Natural Resources is provided for under chapter 19 of the EAC Treaty where Partner States recognize that a healthy and clean environment is a pre-requisite for sustainable development and agreed to foster cooperation in the management of shared resources.

She appreciated the support by EALA in the Environment and Natural Resources Sectors in several occasions including;

i) The Trans- boundary ecosystem legislation; ii) Pollution and chemical controls; iii) Bill on polyethylene materials; iv) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management legislation, making the region, the first to legislate on Disaster Risk Reduction Management Matters; iv) The initiation of the Forestry Bill and the EALA Resolution on Climate Change which was the basis of the development of the EAC Climate Change (EACCC) Bill recently initiated.

She regretted that the EAC Climate Change Fund despite being established, there were no funds and one relied on Donor budget to undertake Climate Change activities with many limitations like e for instance f the EACCC Policy and Food Security which is one of the global priorities for EAC but with only 2% of the total budget.

Remarks by Chair of the EALA Women Forum

Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza, Chairperson of the EALA Women Forum emphasized the need for all stakeholders to engage in finding lasting policy and practical solutions including consideration of gender implications and mainstreaming of climate change and gender in sustainable development planning.

There is a need to identify key entry points engagement on Climate Change and Gender at the national, regional and international level as well as ensuring proper understanding of the concept of Gender.

Everyone has a great role to play in addressing climate change issues with regard to Gender at community, national, regional and international levels and there is a need to understand the political dynamics associated with these issues at these levels and a need to be assisted with up-to date and accurate information on the types of interventions for climate change and gender so as to enhance representation, and oversight roles in this area.

Climate change impacts on women is an area of focus and there is a need for EALA to play in its representation role keeping in mind the fact that women are the most vulnerable to the adverse effects of climatic changes and climate change.

She noted that our Community and governments are sometimes constrained in their efforts in these areas due to lack of experiences in methodology for assessing the physical and economic impact of climate change at local and regional levels and for developing appropriate responses.

Information exchange is also a problem. Further, she stated that, the EAC Treaty offers a conducive environment for gender mainstreaming into regional policies and programmes; overall, providing in some of its articles, an enabling environment for promoting gender equality principles in the integration process.

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE, DISASTERS AND GENDER

The following technical presentations were made to the audience as part of knowledge empowerment and sharing:

Climate Change, Disaster and Gender

Climate variability and change is the biggest threat to sustainable development and poverty reduction in the 21st Century as it continues to have disproportionately negative impacts in Africa due to the continent's high vulnerability and volatile adaptive capacities (political, institutional, technical and financial).

The Impacts are largely evidenced in the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme events (climatic disasters) often leading to massive damage to both public and private investments including loss of lives with women and children most affected while retarding and reversing development gains with the average cost of Climate Change on African economies estimated at 1.5 -3 per cent of GDP by 2030 and projected to rise.

With these natural disasters, over 70 per cent are climatic in nature and are of development concern with huge social and economic costs with potential to stunt and reverse development gains (MDGs).

It was noted that there are close similarities and differences between climate change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), both seeking to build resilience of communities and economies to hazards in the context of sustainable development and both intending to reduce people's risk to climatic disasters before, during and after such disasters.

Gender and Natural Disasters

Women have a great role to play in addressing Climate Change issues at national, regional and international levels, given that primarily they constitute the majority of the world's poor and are more dependent for their livelihood on natural resources that are threatened by climate change.

Furthermore, they face social, economic and political barriers that limit their coping capacity and particularly in the rural areas where they are more vulnerable by virtue of being highly dependent on local natural resources for their livelihood and yet they own less than 2 per cent of land.

However, women play critical roles in responding to Climate change disasters, among them:

- Responding to disasters:
 - Building houses; digging wells and ditches; hauling water and building shelters, considered as "male" tasks
 - Forming groups and networks which is essential in disaster preparedness and mitigation;
- Playing critical decision-making roles on disaster issues, and young girls playing an important role in their families and communities such as in health, education and childcare.

Thus, to ensure women's full participation in Climate Change initiatives, there is a need to look at climate change from a gender perspective through;

- Ensuring women's access to policy-making, information and knowledge on

Disaster reduction;

- Responding to women's needs and concerns;
- Increasing efforts in promoting gender equalities;
- Acknowledging women's vulnerable status;
- Strengthening the dialogue within and between communities and the national Government as well as capacity-building;
- Assuring women's access to relief resources.

Climate Change and Gender: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Perspectives

It is necessary to have specific interventions to redefine gender. The definition of climate change and gender was the first thing by UNFCCC to the countries. From 2013 to date, gender and climate change progress was based on that redefinition.

There was therefore need for a concrete action to redefine gender and Climate Change through documented research on issues within the African context to inform on specific interventions.

It was further pointed out that even though there are facilitated case studies in Malawi and Kenya on issues of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA), sustainable land use, etc., there is still need to commission continental case studies to redefine that further.

Framework for Gender and Climate Change for Africa

Women are very vulnerable and disproportionately affected by the adverse impacts of Climate Change. By virtue of their traditional roles as the primary users & managers of natural resources mean they are involved in and dependent on livelihoods & resources that are put most at risk by climate change.

However, they lack rights & access to resources and information vital to overcoming the challenges posed by Climate Change which imposes them further to the impacts on climate change.

Further, there are innumerable global mandates calling for integrating a gender perspective that apply to climate change including; instruments that deal with humans, gender equality, sustainable development and environment, and disaster risk reduction.

The first adopted decision of the 2001 COP 7 in Marrakesh was recognition of gender equality at the UNFCCC, particularly women's participation as needed to achieve progress on mitigating and adapting to climate change at all levels, with gender equality also introduced as National Adaptation Plan of Action guidelines.

The Decision 23/Conference of Parties 18 further intensified the Promotion of gender balance and improvement of participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol".

Further, the 20th Conference of Parties at the Lima Climate Change Conference provided a platform and opportunity to critically examine the implications of the post-2015 climate

change agreement for the continent and how to enhance the involvement of women and youth in climate change adaptation.

Climate Change, Gender and Sustainable Development

Climate change impacts vary between different places, gender, age and class. Africa, though being the least contributors to the global climate change emissions, is the most vulnerable to climate change impacts due to poverty, high dependency to rain fed agriculture, deforestation, weak governance systems, technological and poor infrastructural development, population growth, environmental degradation, persistent conflicts and more importantly weak adaptive capacities to the impacts of climate change.

East Africa is one of the most volatile regions in the continent with a total population of over 327 million, which is about 5.15 per cent of the global population.

Further, the effects of climate change are not equally felt across the populations and studies have shown that they disproportionately affect women.

Emerging issues from discussions and General Observations

The following general observations were made by the Members

- Efforts to adapt to the changing climate are intricately linked to the broader challenges of sustainable livelihoods, disaster risk reduction and natural resources management.
- Domestication of international frameworks (UNFCCC and others) must be implemented at national and local levels.
- All stakeholders must participate in addressing the challenge posed by climate change and natural disasters;
- Risk Reduction provides excellent opportunities for building community resilience and building adaptive capacity to Climate Change, and it can be considered as the first line of defence while building long-term adaptation strategies.

The main emerging issues include the following:

- Members of Parliament have a role in reducing impacts of climate change and its closely linked disasters in the region which have been a cause of most problems, this can be done through advocacy and awareness creation.
- Sustainable development must recognize specific gender role in mitigating climate change and reducing its effects.
- Information available is not disseminated and women are not adequately empowered, thus the need for building more capacity for women and men to be able to deal with the effects of climate change and to build resilience.
- In order to ensure sustainable development, Partner States should target both women and men.

- EAC should develop policies and strategies with a gender perspective in mind that will help in cushioning the effects of climate variability and change. Climate change policies made should be on women's own interests first.
- It was noted that the Disaster Risk Reduction Bill had not been reintroduced back to the House despite the Commitment by Council of Ministers and despite a further Directive from the Summit of EAC Heads of States. The Assembly has a duty of making sure that the bill goes through to the Summit.
- There is need to collect and regularly update data on Climate Change and to strengthen institutions to prevent and avert disasters.
- The cross cutting nature of climate change demands for a comprehensive and integrated approach. Therefore, there is also a need to sensitize the whole House to be involved in the whole process.
- Need for the development of climate change responses (adaptive and mitigation) which are gender responsive as well as inclusion of human rights perspective on climate change to not only address gender mainstreaming but also include urban slums where women and children are the major culprits of climate change disasters as well as address the underline courses of gender disparity.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends the House to urge:

1. Partner States to invest in eliminating the underlying causes of disasters to address marginalization and social exclusion.
2. Partner States to promote pro-active approaches through preparedness such as early warning systems, flood and drought management.
3. Partner States and the Community to advocate for strong institutional and governance structures.
4. The EAC secretariat to Co-ordinate efforts across different stakeholders.
5. Partner States and the Community to mainstream Climate Change Advocacy and Disaster Risk Reduction into development.
6. The EAC Secretariat to invest in climate/disaster focused research and tools- Participatory Capacity and vulnerability analysis (PCVA).
7. Partner States to target both women and men in order to ensure sustainable development.
8. The East African Community secretariat to advocate for international financing and budgetary allocation for Climate Change.
9. Partner States to enforce sensitization programmes for the Communities in order to reduce their vulnerability.
10. Partner States to identify, develop and implement gender-sensitive strategies to respond to the environmental and humanitarian crisis caused by Climate Change.
11. Parliamentarians to play their roles in ensuring that their governments implement gender-sensitive climate change policies and practical measures including galvanising political will on the on-going climate change negotiations with due consideration of gender related issues.
12. The House to build capacities for all EALA Members on Climate Change and its effects is paramount.
13. Partner States and the EAC Council of Ministers to ensure that Funding for Climate Change do not depend only on donors as development Partners have their own priorities.

14. The Council of Ministers to fast track the process to reintroduce the Disaster Risks Reduction Bill, 2014

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Committee thanks the Rt. Hon. Speaker for granting time to the Committee to enable it discharge its mandate.

It further appreciates the office of the Clerk for facilitating this activity.

The Committee thanks the EAC Secretariat, Department of Environment and Natural Resources for their usual support and sharing of knowledge with the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on issues which are under its docket.

The Committee appreciates all the experts who made presentations on the Climate Change and Gender and all participants for actively being involved in the discussions.

Finally, the Committee thanks all the people involved in the activity for its success.

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

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Christophe Bazivamo Chairperson on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources. Honourable members, the motion before the House is that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the Regional Parliamentarian's Policy Dialogue on Climate and Gender be adopted. Debate is open.

Dr Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support this motion. I am a member of the committee. I only read and participated in the committee for the report, but I did not participate in the work shop. During that time, I was not yet a member.

I think every member of this Assembly would have loved to participate in the same work shop. When you read all the documentation that was presented, you understand better the risk we are in talking of disasters in the region.

Why was it related to gender? I do not know the reasons. Maybe some members might explain better, but we hear that at least people working on the land are women. They are around 70 to 80 per cent in the East African Community. Men are probably doing some different work, but women are like the machines working on this land.

Aside from that, we talk about cooking. Who is cooking? Who is looking for firewood? It is the women. To find firewood, they have to cut forests in order to have dried products to prepare meals.

As representatives of the people, we should try to improve the way these women live. We should start by finding ways to lighten or make lighter the hard work of cooking by finding any other sources of energy for example bio-gas, neutral gas or any other means. We need to make sure that their work is made less difficult and also we are not causing disaster in the region by cutting the wood to find some ways of cooking.

We also talk about disasters and every day we see disasters happening in our region. Prevention does not go the pace we would wish it to go. This was a dry season in the region. We are now going to the rainy season. It would be understandable that every citizen of East Africa plants at least one tree between September and November. If we could be able to

sensitise the people to do so, I think we would have helped in protecting our environment. Thank you very much. I support.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Dr Odette for your appeal for us to plant trees. EALA has just been planting trees in Northern Uganda.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I Want To Thank the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources for presenting this very important report. I also want to thank this Assembly for inviting the EALA Women's Forum of which I am a member to attend this activity.

Mr Speaker, I hope this will be the tradition. This is because we as women benefited a lot-
(*Interruption*)

Ms Valerie Nyirahabineza: Thank you, Mr Speaker and my sister hon. Dora for giving way. The information I want to give is that solidarity in this Assembly has always been very effective.

This workshop was an initiative of the EALA Women's Forum. Due to the fact that it is an informal group, the report ought to have been presented by a standing committee. In this case, climate change is a matter which is handled by the Agriculture Committee.

Ms Byamukama: Thank you very much, hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza. She is the Chairperson of the EALA Women's Forum. I was actually going to thank you in person for chairing the EALA Women's Forum in a very proactive manner. I know it is not the only function you have been able to pull off. There was another meeting for women which I think was held in Kigali. I would like to applaud you. I hope the EALA Women's Forum will be revised to take its rightful place in this House with the Speaker at its patron.

Having said that, I would like to make a few comments on the report; the first one is on the recommendation. Partner States invest in eliminating underlying causes of disaster to address marginalisation and social exclusion.

I think what we wanted to also say was that some of these causes are manmade for example the issue of deforestation which hon. Odette has already alluded to. There was also the issue which was discussed in the workshop. This was to do with the issue of planning and resource allocation.

In all the EAC Partner States, at one time or the other, we have animals and our own people dying because of drought. Every time there is drought, we fake surprise and yet we know that drought is a cycle of climate change and what we experience in the environment,

What we discussed, Mr Speaker was that we should put in place mechanisms to ensure water harvesting so that we can have irrigation to mitigate the drought seasons. In this way, we will be able to mitigate the impact of climate change in a more practical manner.

The second issue is that Partner States should promote proactive approaches through preparedness such as early warning mechanisms, floods and drought management. I think this recommendation should also be targeted at the EAC. At EAC, we have an EAC situation room. This situation room seems to be solely engaged with issues of security.

We would like to plead that the EAC situation room be equipped with more resources, human, physical and financial to be able to encompass other aspects such as food security.

The other aspect I would like to high light is on the issue of targeting both women and men in order to ensure sustainable development. This particular workshop which we attended had very experienced knowledgeable presenters. I remember that in one of the pictures was a woman who had her head wrapped and was standing on an island. It looked practically impossible for this lady to be able to go to the water. What was highlighted was that much as disasters affect men and women equally, when it comes to the consequences, the women and the girls suffer more and they usually make up a big number of victims. In essence what we are saying is that much as disasters affect the population, when it comes to women and girls, the way they are affected is different may be partly because of the attitude of the women and girls or may be because of the way they are dressed or because of the way that society treats them. I think it is very important that we looked at the gender perspective of climate change in order to reach out to the most vulnerable of the vulnerable.

I would like to plead that we continue to explore this issue of gender in all aspects and we also take into account the demographic aspect which brings into the fore young people. With these few comments, I fully support the report and commend the committee for an excellent piece of work as well as the EALA women's forum for its innovativeness. I thank you sir.

Mr Abdullah Mwinyi (Tanzania): Thank you, very much Mr Speaker. First of all I would like to commend the agricultural committee for bringing in a very timely report.

This report on climate change is exceedingly pervasive. It touches upon every aspect of our life but I would like to talk about three issues which I think are of critical importance in our community.

First I will talk about governance, then the conflict between farmers and cattle keepers and third the impact of this report on peace and security. Issues of climate change are also issues of security, not about food security but there are major sources of conflict. On my first point on governance, I had hoped that more would come out on this in this particular report.

Mr Speaker, any matter that involves peace, any that is man-made and climate is exceedingly man made, at its root lies governance. Anything that is man-made is about polices. We have policies in every partner state that tells you about what to do and what not to do and their impact on climate change. We all know we should not exhaust our water sources, cut our trees and forests and various factors in relation to the impact on the environment yet the policing of which is meaningless.

I believe governance is at the root of climate change in East Africa. I believe also that the recommendation of institution at its roots should be about governance. How do we police, monitor, enforce becomes a critical factor.

Second, my honourable friend mentioned that land is predominantly cultivated by women like machines and it is the truth but also cattle keepers are predominantly men and the inter play between farmers and cattle keepers is all pervasive in East Africa and a major source of conflict and source of damage to environment. How are we going to deal with it? East Africa combined perhaps has the highest concentration of livestock on the continent. Tanzania alone is third in Africa, if you combine that with Kenya and Uganda and Rwanda and Burundi, I am sure we have more livestock than any part of our continent. What policies do we have? _
(Interruption)

Ms Hajabakiga: Mr Speaker, the information I want to give is that sad part of it is that while we have more livestock which are on bigger area, we produce less from livestock compared to the other places where they use little land with minimum heads of livestock but they get more out of it.

Mr Mwinyi: Thank you very much for the pertinent information to where I am heading. We have a lot of livestock; it predominantly causes most of our conflicts in the region, intra country and within the partner states. Yet we do not have a clear policy in how to manage live stock in our region. Why I am I mentioning this? It is because it touches upon climate change, governance and conflict; hugely pervasive. As my honourable friend gave information, we have a lot of land, isn't it high time that we demarcate areas exclusively for planting fodder so as to ensure that cattle keepers can have enough fodder so as to prevent this conflict between farmers and cattle keepers. It all goes down to a sustainable management of our land. Keep dams, harvest water, plant fodder and demarcate specific areas for cattle keepers so as to get enough fodder for their cattle.

Mr Speaker, this is not rocket science. It is not that complicated, what it requires a unitary policy to ensure that we do such activities throughout the East African Community because this is not a partner state issue. It is an East African issue. I had hoped that we might have a recommendation to that effect from this report.

Such a recommendation would not only deal with climate change and its effects. It would not only deal with gender perspective. As my friend highlighted, farmers are predominately women; cattle keepers and those who deal with cattle are predominately men as well as conflict within the countries and the East African Community.

I had proposed a further recommendation. I will put it in writing and hopefully the committee might be able to adopt it so as to touch upon these areas that I just spoke about.

Mr Speaker, I fully support this report. It is timely and I urge all members to do likewise. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Mwinyi. Honourable members, allow me to recognise and welcome the future of East Africa the pupils from Rima Primary School in Lira District. They have visited us. They are in the gallery with their teachers. You are most welcome. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, I request that we limit our debate to four minutes. We have a long Order Paper. Today being our last day, we need to accomplish the Order Paper as presented. Technology will be in to place.

Ms Agnes Mumbi (Kenya): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I will take less than four minutes I assure you that. I am a member of the committee and I also participated in the workshop. From that workshop, I came out as an empowered Member of Parliament. If we had all been able to get the information that we got, it would have been very good.

Our able Chair read the report. I hope it pricked the conscious of the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat through the Office of the honourable Secretary General. The report says that we have effects of climate change that are manmade. We also have natural events that all contribute to climate change.

What we are seeing now is what is in the Risk Disaster Management Bill that has been pending introduction in to this this House by way of a Private Members Bill through hon. Patricia. At some point, the Chair Council of Ministers asked that they take up this Bill.

I remember the Chair submitted then to President Uhuru Kenyatta asking the Chair Council to bring that Bill in a period of about six months so that we act on it. This is because it has all the information and the preparation of dealing with climate change.

Mr Speaker, it is almost a year now since that directive was given- (*Interruption*)

Ms Patricia Hajabakiga: It is not one year. It is two years from August 2013 to August 2015.

Ms Mumbi: Thank you, hon. Patricia. I thought I was being generous to the Council so that they feel the need to bring this Bill on board. (*Laughter*)

Hon. Valerie, thank you for being innovative and bringing this issue through the Committee of Agriculture. This is in order for it to be debated again to prick the Council for them to wake up. (*Applause*)

About a week ago, it was in the papers that we are going to have an El Nino in the coming rains. As we are trying to think about the causes of El Nino, climate change becomes one of the biggest factors affecting us. We are at it now, maybe in a few weeks and still we do not have this Bill in place.

When it happens, you will see this lady who was in that photograph that hon. Dora was talking about. She was screaming for help because it is- (*Member timed out.*) Please wake up and bring this Bill to us so that we fast track it.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Than you, Mr Speaker. I just want to remind the time keeper that I am borrowing one minute from hon. Valerie who is speaking after me so that I can have five minutes-

The Speaker: The Speaker has given four minutes to anybody who takes the Floor.

Ms Nakawuki: Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all allow me on the onset to declare that I am a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources. I want to appreciate your office and the Office of the Clerk for the opportunity we were given to have this workshop. It was so informative to all of us.

Indeed it is true that we left energised in a bid to protect our environment. I believe if we took this kind of workshop out there and we did that sensitisation as has been recommended by the committee, we would go very far.

Apparently with all the pressure on our forests, many people are not even aware that there are so many alternative sources of fuel. Take an example of the fact that our people depend on firewood for their cooking, but they are not so sure whether there is any other cheaper alternative source of fuel yet we have others like bio-gas and coal which can be used.

Even when you go to our homes, you would find people have adapted- I do not know if it is a style of pavers other than planting the grass and the trees people opt for pavers which is not so good for our environment. I bet it would be good for us to encourage people through sensitisation to grow trees.

Mr Speaker, allow me appreciate the City Council of Arusha. When you go to Arusha, the city is so green. Long grown trees which would be very good for timber have been preserved because of the environment. We see so many younger trees growing all over the city which is a good way forward. I wish we could all borrow that leaf, Mr Speaker.

Currently there is a challenge of the rising sea level. Mr Speaker, I remember recently, there was some kind of friction over our dear Migingo Island between Uganda and Kenya. To me, that implied that this Island is so dear to all of us. Now that we are East Africans who have an equal stake, we do not want to lose this island just because of the global warming and the fact that we have not paid attention to protecting our environment.

It is feared that even many small islands within the lake will sometime be submerged because of the increase in the sea-level.

Mr Speaker, allow me to also say something about the EAC climate change Fund. We have had this fund for some good years but not a single penny has ever been allocated to this fund. In fact the members who attended this workshop were proposing that we become donors to the community and put some money in the fund.

Therefore I would like to call upon the Secretariat if we are paying attention to this fund because today we are seeing landslides for example in Bududa; people around the Mt. Elgon area, people are dying because of land slides. And the issue is that they have cut the trees and they end up dying every rainy season. Therefore I call upon Council to help and put something in this fund so that we take care of our environment.

Finally, it is about issue of staffing in this department at EAC, the department to with climate change issues. This department is so understaffed. They have always had a plea, come up with their budget which always includes staffing. However, their budget is always sliced-
(Member timed out)

Ms Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First of all I would like to thank you sincerely and your office for having allowed the women forum to be part of this training. As I said before it was an initiative of our forum and then we got funding from the Secretariat.

I would like to emphasise something that was touched upon by hon. Nakawuki regarding the fund which is established within the East African Community Secretariat. I chose to speak about this because members and all those who took part in that workshop have shown interest. They were even ready to contribute. Of course we were only three committees but the whole Assembly should be concerned about this and I thank member for being sensitive about this matter.

The objectives of the works were three but one of them was to create awareness among members of EALA on the critical crosscutting subject of climate change and gender. Some of us were not really conversant in this area but through the presentations that were made, the lessons that we had, we all felt very sensitive and energised and strengthened for us to do something very tangible which can be attributed to this very assembly. I think one of the things I want to urge my colleagues to support is to be the pioneers or champions of that EAC Fund; just to give something which is symbolic but for EALA to be seen as champions. I know the initiative lies with the Council of Minister and I thank the Secretariat and Council for having established that fund but as of now it is not funded at all.

It would be better if this Assembly came up with a small contribution very symbolic it can be. Thank you. (*Interruption*)

Ms Byamukama: Very quickly Mr Speaker sir, when the Goodwill Mission went to Kigoma in respect to Republic of Burundi refugees, one of the things that we felt we had not done was to at least take something to the refugees especially the children even if it was in form balls or something to eat or clothes. So this fund is very important and I would like to support the proposal.

Ms Nyirahabineza: Thank you, Mr Speaker. My last point is in with regard to information. As my brother hon. Mwinyi alluded to it, we were not short of laws. Even good strategies are there. Those little persons who came from COMESA, EAC told us about so many instruments that already exist and that have been adopted internationally, nationally and even regionally. However, I do not know and not very sure that we as East Africans know what climate change is all about and specifically this concept of climate change and gender. That is why I am imploring your good office Mr speaker and the Secretariat so that this kind of workshop can also be organised in favour of all members of the Assembly. Not all one committee. I really beg for your indulgence so that such training be organised in our favour.

The Speaker: Thank you so much hon. Valerie. Members, if you resolve on being the first donors to the fund, the office of the Speaker will do the necessary arrangements to make sure that the necessary office is informed.

Ms Sarah Bonaya (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me time to contribute to this important report. Climate change is ready with us and I think most of the issue have already been raised and one issue that I wanted to raise is one of multinationals that we bring into our region as through investors. Most of these companies may be in their own countries have been banned because of the gas emissions involved in their production. Therefore they find it an easy source in Africa where they come and they generate their products and take their clean good back home but we remain with all the pollution.

In that we need to be very careful when we are inviting investors over. We should not act desperate but be able to look and see that it does not have other major impacts on our environment and the climate.

In most of our East African states, green energy is the way to go and we need to promote it.

The other thing like in Nairobi when we had the last heavy rains, there was some unusual over flooding and I thought this may be could be attributed to the new infrastructural development where the drainage system maybe were not appropriate so as we plan as a region we need to put in our minds that climate change is there with us and whatever we plan it has to be appropriate and then have the capacity to accommodate very huge floods because all over Nairobi Der er salaam, there was a major problem.

Since I have a lot of passion with cattle keeping, I want to emphasise on the recommendation by hon. Mwinyi that the EAC should come up with an EAC wide policy on sustainable use of land to deal with the conflict between the cattle keepers and the farmers. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support the report.

The Speaker: Thank you so much hon. Sarah. One minute to hon. Ndahiro he has an amendment he wants to present to the recommendations.

Dr James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have two amendments and they are friendly ones. One, is that this House should request the Council of Ministers to table a status report in our next sitting on the climate change strategy in this region because we have adopted the strategy. They should be able to tell us how far we have gone.

Secondly, EALA should liaise with the national parliaments to create a permanent inter parliamentary forum on climate change. That was discussed and agreed. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Ndahiro. I now invite the chairperson of the committee to respond to the members specifically pay attention to the amendments as moved by hon. Ndahiro and hon. Mwinyi.

Mr Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable members. First of all I would like to thank everyone who has contributed. I really appreciate all the support on behalf of the committee. I am happy that everyone has supported the report meaning that I expect also people who have not contributed to support the report.

I would like to thank the following who have given their comments; Dr Odette, hon. Dora Byamukama, hon. Mwinyi, hon. Mumbi, hon. Susan Nakawuki, hon. Nyirahabineza, hon. Sarah Bonaya and Dr Ndahiro.

I have heard the additional recommendation from hon. Mwinyi. I agree with its civil committee to allow this and we take it as a favour recommendation. I am still waiting for recommendations from hon. Ndahiro; finally I have them.

I think honourable members of the committee; it is valid if we support it to include this. Thank you. EALA has to lease with National Parliaments. This has also been discussed in our meeting. I think it is also valid. The few recommendations have been taken and will be added in the other recommendations.

Mr Speaker, I want to comment on few issues; first of all I want to highlight that climate change is real. Its impact is there and it is a very big problem. Measures for mitigation and adaptation are also known. What we request is for partner states, Council of Ministers to take measures and make sure climate change mitigation measures and adaptation are implemented. This is vital for everyone.

One of the mitigation measures is tree planting. I once again congratulate you, Mr Speaker, for keeping in mind this decision from the House to plant trees everywhere we go. We have also said that the committee on agriculture, tourism and natural resources should find ways to follow up this activity. This is in order for us to make sure that trees planted are still there and if not, we find what to do so that this activity is sustained.

I also want to say that trees play a very important role. When we plant trees, we target many things; the economical side of trees-

The Speaker: Honourable Chair, in the interest of time, please summarise.

Mr Bazivamo: The second one is cleaning air. I want to give information here that trees are planted in cities. Sometimes people think it is only momenta, but the main role of this tree alongside roads and in cities is to clean the air we breathe. This is a very important for our environment.

The last thing I would like to comment on is livestock as highlighted. It is very important. I want to give information that West African Community Secretariat has already developed livestock policy. We have also had a seminar on that especially looking in to which kind of strategy can be developed to implement this policy.

Land is also an issue. You have heard in the report that even if we request many things from women, they own only 2 per cent of land. This is very critical. I propose we look in to this to try and find out how land can be owned by women here and there for example Rwanda when women have every way to 2 per cent of what we have as land in the country.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, I think what I wanted to raise has been said by hon. Mumbi. This East African Community Disaster and Risk Reduction Bill is very important in the process of mitigation of climate change. If it is adopted and assented to, it will help efficiently in this process of adaptation and mitigation.

I therefore request the Council of Ministers to think about it and help so that our citizens can be protected from many impacts of climate change.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, I thank you and once again I wish you support this report.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Chairperson. Honourable members, before I put the question, I think it is important to clarify that the disaster risk reduction bill was not taken over by the Council. The council only asked for time. This House has a position and this Bill shall be on the order paper in our next meeting. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, the motion before the House is that the report of the committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the Regional Parliamentarian's Policy Dialogue on Climate Change and Gender be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Report adopted)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Speaker: Honourable members, you recall that hon. Wilbert Kaahwa's tenure of service ended in August 2014. This created a vacancy that the council needed to fill through the appointment of a substantive council to the community.

As a result, the Council of Ministers during its second meeting held from 10th to 14th August 2015 in Arusha Tanzania appointed Dr Anthony Kafumbe as the council to the community who as per the Article 48 (b) (iii) of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community is set to become an ex-officio member of this Assembly.

However, in accordance with Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of this Assembly he cannot sit or participate in the proceedings of this House until he takes the oath of affirmation of allegiance to the Treaty as a member of the Assembly.

Rule 5 (5) specifically states that, when a member first attends to take his or her seat other than at the first sitting of a new House, he or she shall be brought to the Table by two members and presented by them to the Speaker, who shall then administer the oath of affirmation of allegiance to him or her.

I therefore request any two members of the House who know the new ex-officio member to present him to the Speaker to enable him take the oath. May the two members bring the new ex-officio member to the Speaker for him to take his oath?

The Oath was administered to:

Dr Anthony Kafumbe (PhD)

The Speaker: May the two members show the new member where to sit. Honourable members, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Dr Anthony Kafumbe for joining this August House. On your behalf, I wish him well in his duty as Council to the Community and also as member of this Assembly.

It is also important members that we register our profound appreciation to the outgoing Council to the Community (*Applause*). Hon. Wilbert Kaahwa was a great man while serving us. He gave his best to the Community and we congratulate him and wish him well wherever he will be serving in the region. We thank him so much for his service.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO CONGRATULATE THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA UPON ACQUIRING THIRD GENERATION MACHINE READABLE NATIONAL ID AND ENCOURAGE PARTNER STATES WHICH ARE STILL IN THE PROCESS TO FINALISING THEM ON TIME.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do resolve to congratulate the Republic of Uganda upon acquiring a third generation machine readable national identity card and encourage the partner states which are still in the process to finalise on time. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconder? Hon. Dr Ndahiro, hon. Mumbi, hon. Ngoga, hon. Nengo, hon. Ussi, hon. Christophe. Thank you, hon. Susan go ahead and present your motion.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Mr Speaker:

“WHEREAS Article 49 (d) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community vest into the Assembly the authority to discuss all matter pertaining to the Community and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers as it may deem necessary for the implementation of the Treaty;

AND WHEREAS Article 8 of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community common market requires partner state to establish a common standard system of issuing national identification documents to their nationals which shall be the basis for identifying the citizens of the partner state within the community;

AND WHEREAS all EAC partner states have embarked on the process of issuing third generation IDs including the Republic of Kenya which pioneered national Id systems and is now embarking on the upgrade from second generation to third generation IDs;

APPRECIATING that national identification documents particularly national IDs are very important in realising the free movement of persons within the Community as envisioned under Article 7 of the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Common Market;

AND FURTHER APPRECIATING that in compliance with Article 8 of the Common Market Protocol, the Republic of Uganda like other EAC partner states has come a long way in process of issuing national identity documents to its nationals;

AWARE THAT national identity will facilitate the delivery of national development based on reliable and verifiable data, enable Government plan properly and provide easy access to good social facilities and services like the health system and school capitation grants based on variable identities and data at the local level, facilitate more transparent and trust worthy business transactions, help keep the crime low in the community with quick and reliable identification of criminals and terrorists thus improving on our security, facilitate regional travel and integration based on verifiable and reliable data and support regional integration and conform to international obligation;

FURTHER AWARE that national identity cards help associate a lot of information with a particular person, for example an ID might carry information such as health risks that the individual holds, this card can be scanned and searched on a national data base when the individual has a medical emergency and suddenly has to go to a hospital. If the patient is difficult to identify, such as when the patient is badly hurt or unconscious. The only way that the patient can be identified is through the ID;

NOTING THAT; some EAC Partner States are yet to meet the requirement of Article 8 of the Protocol on the establishment of the East African Community Common Market to issue National Identification documents to nations;

NOW THEREFORE be it resolved by this Assembly that we jointly congratulate the Republic of Uganda on complying with Article 8 of the protocol on the establishment of the East African Community Common Market by issuing National Identity Cards to its nationals;

Secondly, congratulate the Republic of Rwanda which had machine readable IDs way before the Common Market Protocol;

Thirdly, commend the United Republic of Tanzania for commencing the actual exercise of issuing machine readable IDs;

We jointly encourage the Partner States that are yet to comply with the requirements of Article 8 of the protocol on the establishment of the East African Community Common Market by issuing National Identity Cards to its nationals and to do so in order to facilitate the cardinal pillars of the protocol and satisfy the spirit of Article 76 and Article 104 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community;

Lastly, urge council of ministers to ensure that the National IDs are used in all the Five EAC Partner States for travel, but not piloted in a few countries.”

I beg to move, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Susan Nakawuki. Debate is open on the motion.

Dr James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me begin by thanking the mover of this motion hon. Susan Nakawuki. This is a timely motion. This is because we are in the final stages of the implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

To be precise, the road map for the implementation ended in December 2014. Those who are probably aware and have the information can inform the House whether we have developed a new road map or on what happened in between.

My point is to convince my honourable friends. I would like them to agree that I move a friendly amendment on this resolution which I am going to draft and send to hon. Susan

requesting or requiring Partner States to protect individual data. It can be used, but they should put measures in place to protect individual data. That can only be done on consent. I support the motion.

Ms Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. Let me also thank my sister hon. Susan Nakawuki for bringing this very important motion. Like my brother, Dr Ndahiro alluded; this is in line with the implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

Being a member of the Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee gave me an opportunity while over sighting the implementation of the common market protocol. We were told as a group that there is a slow pace of implementation and yet like it has been highlighted, a road map was clearly given and ought to have been followed.

Unfortunately, and I think I came back to this issue in the last Arusha Sitting; where by you can see that Partner States are implementing the Common Market Protocol the way they want. We were even told that some countries have come up with implementation plans of the Common Market Protocol. That is why Uganda is coming up with this very important initiative. In some other countries, this initiative is already in existence.

I like one of the resolutions she alluded to where she is calling upon all the Partner States to go in line with this. My humble plea to all of us is to call upon the Council of Ministers to sensitise people and tell Partner States to implement this agreement they are signatory to.

I support this motion. It is very timely and I hope it is going to serve as an eye opener for all the different Partner States, which have not yet come up with such infrastructure. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. Before I give chance to hon. Hafsa Mossi, I would like to recognise the presence of members from the Parliamentary Service Commission from the Parliament of Kenya. They have visited us and they are in the gallery. You are most welcome. You are our partners and we wish you well. (*Applause*)

I now invite hon. Hafsa Mossi and then hon. Dora. Kindly just brief us in the interest of time.

Ms Hafsa Mossi (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand here to support the motion on the Floor. As others have said, it is in line with the implementation of the provisions of free movement of people.

I salute Uganda under the able leadership of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, a true East African and a Pan Africanist. (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, as others have alluded to, if we want sustainable development, we need to have accurate data. I think in coming up with the state regeneration ID card, we will be able to achieve that aim. This is so that the well-being of our people can be taken care of.

Mr Speaker, free movement of people services capitals and what it entails in the Common Market Protocol; it also means free movement of criminals. If we are not very careful, we will end up being the hub of criminals if we do not use this state generation ID card.

That is why I commend and fully support Partner States which have come on board. I also urge all other Partner States which have not done so to immediately do so. This is in order for us to avoid this free movement of criminals.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): I support the motion moved by my sister hon. Nakawuki for the Assembly to congratulate the Republic of Uganda upon acquiring National IDs and encouraging Partner States to finalise on time.

The reasons have been made clear. However, I would like to add on three points; the first one is on recommendation number 5 which states, “to urge Council to ensure that the IDs are used in all EAC Partner States for travel.”

This is a very important point in that right now when you are travelling through the East African Community, you still have to fill in forms and use passports. Therefore, there is no distinction between what was happening before and what is happening now.

I would like to applaud the EAC partner States which have facilitated travel using IDs. These include; the republic of Kenya, the republic of Rwanda and the republic of Uganda. I look forward to a time when we shall have paperless travel within the East African community.

Mr Speaker, on a personal note, this is when it would register in most people’s minds that we are one people. This is a very important aspect. I hope that Council will take it on very seriously and speedily ensure that the ID cards that we have as Ugandans and Kenyans can be used for East African purposes.

Secondly, is the issue of free movement of persons and this has been alluded to in recommendation 4 to facilitate the cardinal pillars of the Protocol and also of the Treaty. I would like to say that right now, most of us in this Assembly and even in other parts of the region have students studying either in the Republic Kenya, others in Uganda. However, you will find that when you want to get a visa for a student for example studying in Kenya you still have to go through a lot of processing and in one particular instance, I have a young adult who is studying in Kenya, she came to me and said can you imagine I am a Ugandan but they were referring to me as an alien. These are young people, for them in their mind when they say East Africa, they want to see an East Africa desk and a person who is called an East African.

I think it is very important that we start with the young people because it registers in young people’s minds then we will have less work to do. Therefore this issue of student visa, the issue of referring to East Africans as aliens becomes a little bit tricky when you are talking about the East African spirit.

I always have a problem when they talk about smuggling on the border of Katuna and Gatuna. When a person takes a sack of potatoes and sells them across Rwanda from Katuna it does not make sense to me to call that person a smuggler. I have problem with that. I know we are not yet one country one East African Federation but in my mind I do not understand it because we should actually have these kinds of markets at the borders where the East Africans can be able to trade easily these are low hanging fruits which we can boast of as being East Africans. I look forward to this particular aspect.

Finally, the point has been alluded to by my sister hon. Hafsa very eloquently. But I want to recap the words H.E Kaguta Museveni the President of the Republic of Uganda. He talks about two issues; prosperity and security. There is no way we can attain a more prosperous East Africa unless we are able to take note of the human resource that we have in the East African Community. We need to know how many we are, plan for this resource and we need to be able to utilise it optimally.

On the issue of security, we need to know who is an East African whether it is in reference to the issue of Ebola, terrorism, we need to know where the East African is and to be able to track them for example in case they are trafficked. It is very important to know for example that east African number 0002 has been trafficked to Saudi and that East African should go to the embassy of Burundi and get relief. This is very important at a personal level, regional level and I would like to congratulate hon. Nakawuki for coming up with tis brilliant motion. I thank you.

Mr Abdullah Mwinyi (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this very important opportunity to comment on this timely motion by my honourable friend Susan Nakawuki.

It is always a challenge contributing after hon. Dora Byamukama. Her keen mind usually captures most of the issues that one would want to talk about (*Laughter*). However, I subscribe to most of her comments but I would like to touch upon something that she briefly touched and exemplified.

The matters of free movement of persons within the Common Market Protocol have been adequately covered. But I want to take a step to the very essence of our integration process. As President Museveni very eloquently told us a few days ago, the integration is about development and security. One cannot have development of our families in East Africa without having reliable data. Data is extremely important. National IDs are not just about moving freely but fundamental to getting all the right data to enable us to improve the people of East Africa. If governments or the international community or the East Africa Community do not know their own people how can they systematically assess the poorest and the most marginalised in our society; the very people that we wish to target systematically and to bring them out of poverty.

I will urge members not to think of data just simply about measures. Reliable data can facilitate and catalyse change. Our duty is to target the poor systematically so as to lift them out of poverty. Even the most efficient governments, those governments who are willing and able to remove people out of poverty will not be able to do so unless they know who these people are, where they live and what they need. All that information can only be obtained wit reliable data. Even with all our funds let us assume to day east Africa get all its funds that it needs, how do we know how to direct those funds unless we now where these most marginal people are, what their issues are, how can we take them out of their situation.

Therefore the national ID, the way I see it, I see it as a bigger picture, not just to facilitate free movement of persons but it is a critical factor in the very development itself of our people of east Africa. (*Applause*) It goes even beyond it.

First I will congratulate my sister for her foresight but I will also urge all the partner states to do what they can to ensure that we know the people of East Africa, where they are, what are their challenges and how best we can help them. We can only do that through national ID. Mr Speaker sir, I thank you and I support the motion most sincerely.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Mwinyi, I now invite hon. Susan to respond.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank all the honourable members for that overwhelming support to the motion and in particular allow me to thank hon. Dr James Ndahiro, hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza, hon. Hafsa Mossi, hon. Dora Byamukama Kanabahita, hon. Abdullah Mwinyi and even those ones who supported in their

hearts (*Laughter*) plus the Council of Minister much as they did not say anything but I could see them nodding in approval.

Mr Speaker, allow me first of all to appreciate a few individuals in Uganda. I will be very brief. I would like to appreciate H.E Yoweri Kaguta Museveni because if it was not for his firm stand, we would not be having these national IDs and please allow me to show it to the Assembly. We have the most beautiful IDs in the region, and I am proud to be called Ugandan.

The Speaker: I hope the member is not laying it on the Table? (*Laughter*)

Ms Nakawuki: Of course not because this is for my own identification purposes, but I thought the - (*Interjection*) - Honourable Minister from Tanzania, I already inspected the Tanzanian ID and I am sure it is not more beautiful than the Ugandan one - (*Laughter*). But, it was also a job well done. I decided to appreciate the President because he decided to act like a typical *Ssabalwany* (Bush war fighter) when this process was beginning. He said we have tried over years to have a National ID, but we failed. So now I have to take a decision as a President. It came to pass.

Allow me to also appreciate my very own Ambassador John Chrysostom Alintuma Nsambu who fought so hard in the initial stages when he was a Minister for ICT. It was not easy, but he put up a spirited fight. That is my very own, but I can give the details a little bit later or hon. Dora can explain more after here.

There is also one able Ugandan called Mr Selubwajji Godfrey Mey. That gentleman used to come to Parliament here to lobby Members of Parliament to make sure that we get the National IDs. I would not go without mentioning.

The Ugandan Parliament also played a vital role; there were some heavy forces complaining that some of the procedures for procurement were not followed. Parliament took a firm stand and said it is time for Uganda to have the National ID. This is because we have to comply with the Common Market Protocol. I really appreciate them.

Finally the ministry of internal affairs of Uganda; they have really fought hard and that is why we have the national id.

Dr James Ndahiro proposed an amendment which I happily accept. I would like it to be added as resolution 6 and it reads as follows; "Partner States should take necessary measures to establish data protection policies and strategies in line with individual rights and such data should only be released on consent."

I cannot agree more. Hon. Dora raised a lot of issues and I perfectly agree with them; hon. Mwinyi, hon. Arthur, hon. Valerie I cannot agree more. I really appreciate all the support towards this motion. I also appreciate you, Mr Speaker for allowing it to come on the Order Paper.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Susan. Honourable members, the motion before the Assembly is that the Assembly do resolve to congratulate the Republic of Uganda upon acquiring third generation machine readable National Identity Cards and encourage the Partner States which are still in the process to finalise on time. I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO SUPPORT EAST AFRICAN ATHLETES FROM THE REPUBLIC OF KENYA AND TO CONGRATULATE THEM FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE IN THE ON-GOING WORLD ATHLETICS' CHAMPIONSHIPS IN BEIJING CHINA

Mr Martin Ngoga (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move that this assembly do resolve to support East African athletes from the republic of Kenya and to congratulate them for their exemplary performance in the on-going World Athletics' Championships in Beijing China

The Speaker: Is it seconded? It is seconded by hon. Mumbi, hon. Bucumi Emerence, hon. Leonce, hon. Eve, hon. Sarah and all the members standing. Hon. Martin Ngoga, please go ahead and present your motion.

Mr Ngoga: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

“WHEREAS Article 119 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community obliges to the Partner States to promote close cooperation amongst themselves in culture and sports;

- a) With respect to the promotion and enhancement of diversity of sports activities*
- b) The development of mass media programs on matters that will promote the development of culture and sports within the community;*

WHEREAS the Partner States have shared historical cattle and sports experience that need to be reaffirmed and reclaimed for our cattle and sporting identity recognising the role that culture and sports play in the existence and survival of our communities particularly for social cohesion, solidarity, stability and identity;

AND NOTING the importance of culture and sports in promoting unity and economic development as tools for effective sustainable development, maintenance of peace, security and healthy societies;

REAFFIRMING the principles enshrined in the uni-score universal declaration on cultural diversity and the need to promote diverse cultural and sports expressions within the context of globalisation;

ACKNOWLEDGING the need to reinforce appropriate support and enabling environment for the promotion of sports and enjoyment and support of athletes of the West African community;

APPRECIATING that East Africans of Kenyan origin are so far the leading athletes who have scored six gold medals, three silver medals, two bronzes making a total of 11 medals in Beijing China;

NOW THEREFORE, in recognition of East African community talent and richness of contemporary sports and the need to preserve, promote and celebrate our endowed athletes

TAKING COGNISANCE of our Treaty undertaking, this assembly do resolve that;

- 1) *The East Africans of Kenyan origin be commended for their exemplary performance to uplift the name of Kenya in particular and the EAC region in general in World Athletics' Championships in Beijing China;*
- 2) *The EAC Council of Ministers implores Partner States to provide more funding and establish the state of the art facility to enable EAC athletes enhance their skills and dominance at the world stage;*
- 3) *The EAC protects its sports personalities especially the females who are prone to different forms of abuse while undergoing training."*

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable, you can go ahead and add a few justifications to your motion.

Mr Ngoga: Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all this motion is in line with our Treaty obligations as I already stated. We should all collectively take pride when one of us excels. Kenyans are exceling. It is not new. They have been doing it, but there is an additional excitement this year because of the level of success they are registering.

Once the former President of Kenya, His Excellency Moi said, "While Kenya is not comparatively very big in terms of size and population, but each medal they win is out of their sweat." They win medals for which they have to sweat. Those who are deemed to be big in terms of economies, size, population and everything earn their medals by just swimming. He was not ridiculing swimmers, but he wanted to show the pros and powers of the East African region. This is what Kenya is doing in Beijing.

I think those who are participating in Beijing are inspiring the young generation. This week only we were talking about how to inspire our young people to identify their talents and to help them on how to make maximum potential out of them. This is exactly what is happening.

With those few remarks, Mr Speaker, I hope members will support this motion. I note that most of the colleagues from Kenya are not here. This is because they move very fast in everything. They have taken off.

Dr James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker and hon. Martin. When you said that the motion is in line with the Treaty, I almost intervened to say that it is also in line with the Bills that were passed in this House yesterday on Cultural and EAC Industries. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, you can see what this means. In future if we could get more information about their contribution, the lawyers will advise whether we shall be going into personal affairs but if we demanded even to know their contribution in terms of taxes to Kenyan economy that would add value and actually it would stimulate other stakeholders to provide necessary infrastructure you requested, provide resources in different forms.

Therefore talent is a resource and it is a precious one. You have seen that prices of oil yesterday I think it was at around \$41 a barrel from \$ 100 just three months ago. Therefore you can not only rely on oil, individual talents of human beings now days cost and price more.

Mr Speaker, we have talent in all our partner states and actually it is high time that we walk the talk. I remember in this House we requested the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat to come up with a training programme, this programme was going to enable East Africans to

share best practices and share those talents. We could have children from Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda travelling to those countries e.g. Mt Kenya to train and maybe interface_ (*Interjection*) And Kabale (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, I totally support the motion request that as a Community we should do more, we should implement whatever we resolve because we have resolved, recommended, requested, I do not know what we are remaining to do so that the Council of Ministers can act. Thank you, Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

Mr Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor. In Kenya, they used to call Kenya airways the pride of Africa though it is a pride of Kenya but accurately it is the pride of Africa.

In Kenya, they make us all very proud (*Applause*). When you travel around they will always ask you if you say a country like Burundi and they do not know where it is they may ask you how far is it from Kenya. Therefore I always say that it is very near. When something wrong is done by an African they just say are you from that country? I remember this happened to me in Denmark, a Ghanaian slapped his Swedish wife on the street then all the ladies were asking me are you from Ghana (*Laughter*) I said no.

Therefore what the Kenyans are doing make us very proud and I fully support this motion. Thank you very much.

Ms Agnes Mumbi Ng'aru (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker and my brother Martin Ngoga. I rise to support this motion and for sure this is integration at its best.

The motion is done by my brother from the Republic of Rwanda and he is proud about the Kenya's performance in Beijing. I am aware Mr Speaker that we had armed forces sports in Uganda just may be a week ago, again integration-

The Speaker: Honourable it is actually this week not last week

Ms Mumbi: Thank you. Integration again at its best using sports. Hon. Martin Ngoga has given me an opportunity as a Kenyan to proudly say that congratulation to the team that won the medals, congratulation to East Africans for applauding the medallists and all other participants even those that did not get the medals. It is a proud moment for East Africa and also probably urge the_ (*Interruption*)

Mr Sezibera: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just wanted to inform my sister that the countries that won medals in the military games were many but one sign of integration which I saw which may be this House should be informed of is that at the finals of the football tournament it was between Kenya and Uganda but Rwanda took the gold in football and everybody was happy that those two countries got to the finals and then another partner state took gold (*Laughter*). Therefore this cultural integration and sports is extremely good.

Ms Mumbi: Thank you hon. Secretary General. That is integration at its best. My only concern is that EALA was not represented even to cheer the teams. May be the two Uganda teams would have won and nobody passing in between them. Congratulation to all teams, to Kenyans and to all East Africans I support the motion.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I really appreciate hon. Martin Ngoga for this very good motion. However, allow me to say that he forgot to add

something on the motion of congratulating the She Cranes of Uganda for that able performance in Australia during the Netball world cup.

Mr Speaker I propose that we add a resolution to congratulate the She Cranes because they were not representing Uganda alone but East Africa. Right now we can proudly say that East Africa is ranking number 8 in the world when it comes to netball. (*Interruption*)

Ms Byamukama: I would like to inform my sister - and thank you for giving way - that the *She Cranes* actually **topped the world in 2014 when they won the world cup (when they qualified for world cup)**. So it is a little bit belated, but none the less I support you.

Ms Nakawuki: Thank you. Mr Speaker, allow me also to add that after Kenya, Uganda is also a force to reckon with when it comes to athletics because still in china, a Ugandan called Solomon Mutai won a bronze medal for Uganda. Therefore we also have a reason to be proud. We have had Kiprotich winning in the London Olympics therefore they should also be recognised.

Mr Speaker, allow me to also add that I think it is high time that our governments put some money in sports because we have always had people who have talents out there but they are not able to represent us on the international scene just for lack of funding. The She Cranes had to even call upon Ugandans to start fundraising on their behalf because they did not have enough money to take them to Australia where they were supposed to play. Therefore I call upon our partner states to look at sports with a critical eye and add funding to that docket.

Finally, in the field of sports, there are also the bad sports; there are scenarios where these sports men or women have used drugs in order to out shine others.

Therefore, I would like to propose another resolution there under that the EAC Partner States establish rigorous anti-doping measures and infrastructure to promote clean sports. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. I hope you draft it and pass it on to the mover.

Mr Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I join the rest of my colleagues in supporting a motion of a resolution moved by hon. Martin Ngoga paying tribute to our brother and sisters; the East Africans of Kenyan origin for the level of achievement that they have made, not only for Kenya as a country, but for the region at large.

Sports is quite interesting. When it gets to the level of a goal, you are definitely an undisputed winner. There is nothing like points or anything.

That reminds me of one of the former elders of this country; General Iddi Amin. Whenever people would say that the referee was cheating, he would say if you are in boxing, give him a knock out. Then you will see how the referee will pick the person from down and raise him as the winner.

That is the same for the goal. You score a goal, you are undisputed. Therefore, those six goals give us an advantaged position in the world of sports which is highly competitive. The level of visibility of East Africa via Kenya is quite high. We must really appreciate what they are doing.

My dimension to this is in regard to how best we can acknowledge, appreciate and recognise East African high achievers. I am drawing the attention of the Secretary General. As EAC

how do we get to associate with East African high achievers? It could be a very well done certificate of EAC acknowledging, recognising and appreciating an East African who has achieved at global scale. In that way, we are able to recruit.

If you are to make good way, you need to associate with standard bearers. There is another terminology which has disappeared. I am talking about the popular personalities. Somebody help me with good English - (*Interjection*) - celebrities or icons. You went to school. (*Laughter*)

Bwana SG, if it cannot be done by EALA, I really appreciate it can be done by EAC. If EAC is not forthcoming, then EALA can take that lead where we come up with a memento associating with high achievers in all walks of life.

Once you recruit those kinds of personalities, you create more visibility for the region. If a team like the Republic of Tanzania won a gold medal in a global continent in cricket or swimming or any other sport, as a region we are associated. It could even be a simple certificate. It can go a long way in enhancing our visibility, but also recruiting people with mass following to be behind the EAC agenda.

I saw the SG nodding. I assume that it is in the affirmative. On that note, I beg to support the motion.

Ms Sarah Bonaya (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to start by saying that I support the mover of the motion hon. Martin Ngoga.

I also want to thank and congratulate these young people who made us proud globally. They have actually acted as our ambassadors because they are not only representing Kenya, they also representing the East African Community. We are therefore proud of them.

One reason as to why Kenya does so well in the field of sports is because we have invested quite a bit of resources in supporting these talents. We also have so many sports academies and mentorship programs designed for the young people. That is probably one thing that the other Partner States in the region can borrow. (*Applause*) These great names you hear globally of these sports men can also be invited to Partner States to mentor younger people so that they are appreciated and honoured.

I also wanted to congratulate our Head of State President Uhuru Kenyatta because he is very passionate about sports. You have seen the first lady of our Republic Margaret Kenyatta who is doing great things even on the global platform. We all remember when she participated in the London Marathon to run for the safe motherhood initiative.

I also still remember our EALA games. Most of the times, we get organisational challenges. I think this time round, due to the many good examples we have from our region, we should be able to pick up pace. We should be able to do something that will make us come together and not leave each other unappreciated.

Mr Abdullah Mwinyi (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me an opportunity to support the motion by my right honourable friend. I always pride myself as being East African. I tend to become even more East African during the Olympics and the World Championships.

That is the best time and perhaps some may say the only time when you see Tanzanians cheering on our cousins from across the border. (*Laughter*) We suddenly all become East African with no bracketed or land issues.

On any matter, I would like to talk about the development at the grassroots of such talent. I would like to urge the Partner States to re-introduce or to introduce those who have to put more resources in sports and athletics at primary school level.

I think it is of critical importance if you brought in the base. We have 150 million people. When you bring in the base of talent and opportunity at the very lowest level, it is only logical that you have greater talents at the top. I would therefore like to urge all the Partner States to do so.

Perhaps the East African community under our Secretary General may think about having a further competition. I commend them with having an East African essay competition. We could perhaps have an athletics competition. At the grassroots, all the best kids can meet at the East African level and compete. This will enable us find the young athlete who tops the list at the East African level.

We may have to be patient with the Kenyans topping all the lists. Eventually in time, I am sure other Partner States will pick up.

Finally, I would like to mention an outstanding East African of Kenyan origin by the name of Julius Yego. For those who may not recognise the name; and I am sure a lot even Kenyans would not, he is the gentleman who just secured a gold medal in Beijing Olympics in javelin.

We have an East African who won gold in javelin in Beijing. He threw 92.72m just five metres short of a world record and when he was interviewed, the entire world was shocked. Javelin in Kenya? We are all used to outstanding middle and distance runners from Kenya. Where did this man come from? How did he develop this talent? His response was telling. Since Kenyans are only good at athletics and running, there are no teachers for him to learn his interest in javelin. He learnt it from you tube videos. He trained himself, competed and won gold. This is a devastating example of technology allied by determination. Therefore athletics, technology in East Africa can produce many more Julius Yego and make us proud at a world stage.

Finally, I would like to thank again my honourable friend for bringing this very important motion and to urge East Africans and our dear Secretary General to think about having an athletics or sports event that is East African.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity and I thank the mover of the motion. If I had seen this motion and not seen the name I would have argued that it cannot be because I know hon. Ngoga for an excellent legal mind but as the adage goes a health body a health mind. Now I know where the mind comes from.

I would like to say three points. First and foremost is on resolution 1 the East Africans of Kenyan origin be commended for exemplary performance. I really support this. I just want to retaliate the words of President Uhuru Kenyatta when he was here. He said that when they heard that someone by the names of Kiprotich had won the gold medal, they automatically thought he was a Kenyan. This show clearly because of the people who span across the boarders like the Mt. Elgon, Maasai, these names and people are actually East African in the real sense. This particular victory for Kenya in world athletics championships in Beijing China is indeed our very own victory as East Africa.

I would like to move on to recommendation 2 where he says that we should provide more funding and establish state of art facilities. I would like to add on; and professional trainers/coaches to enable EAC athletes enhance their skills. This is very important because for example, when you look at the schools we have these days, you will find that most of them do not have play fields. Our education policy has changed in that you can have schools in the middle of the city and I cannot understand how you can have a school facility which does not have sports field. I think we need to revisit our policies especially to do with education because if a student does not have a health mind or body they cannot have a health mind.

I think at the EAC level we should insist and instil the spirit of having a play field or may be a swimming pool or any other sports facility as part of our education.

I would like to go to what makes it important in my view but let me first go to state of art facilities. We have highlands for example in Uganda and I would like to congratulate the Republic of Uganda for starting development of state of the art facilities in the area of Kapchorwa, I hope they will do the same in Kabale because these high lands are very important in the training of athletes.

Let me link this to the fact that was raised by hon. Ssebalu where we have had sports personalities in Uganda for example Akii Bua in the early 70s Peter Rwamuhanda who was my paternal uncle and you find that in these cases some of these people died destitute. This is very sad because we are happy with them when they have won. They bring glory to us but when they leave the stage we forget them and they die destitute. I think it is important for partner states to ensure that these personalities are supported throughout.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, the point that touches my heart in on recommendation 3. That EAC partner states protect sports personalities especially the female who are prone to different forms of abuse while undergoing training. I would like to say that the females do not only undergo abuse in training, they even undergo abuse even when they are being nurtured. If you are a young girl and you are a very good runner, you will have family members and other putting you down and telling you that girls should walk slowly that they should not run and yet you find that some of the best athletes and those who get scholarships are the boys who run very fast and very good athletes. Therefore in most case the women miss out on scholarships associated with sports.

It is very important that this House takes this issue very seriously on the issue of nurturing the girl child. The girl child needs to be given equal opportunities with the boy child because we are missing out at a talent in the girl child just because girls are expected to behave in certain manner or they are not supposed to have muscles. If you do not have muscles how can you be the best javelin thrower? You simply cannot. What I am trying to say is that we need to look into this and find ways of supporting the girl child and actually providing affirmative action where possible to ensure that the girl child gets equal opportunities_ (*Interruption*)

Dr Ndahiro: I wanted to inform my honourable colleague that it is not only women, but also individual athletes with disabilities were forgotten in that resolution (*Applause*) Therefore they combine both. Thank you.

Ms Byamukama: I could not agree more because we are both disadvantaged and therefore we support each other.

I want to go to the issue women footballers. The woman footballer of the year is an Africa lady West Africa. When I saw her playing, it really warmed my heart. I would like to emphasise on this issue and also see how we can have more coaches, professional trainers for women to reduce this issue of women being abused while undergoing training because your coach or trainer and your teacher have such authority over you that it become very difficult for example for a poor young girl to be able to withstand this kind of pressure. With these few comments I would like to thank hon. Ngoga for coming up with this very novel motion.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Dora for your passionate plea for the female athletes particular the female athletes to be allowed to develop muscles. (*Laughter*)

Mr Martin Ngoga (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. First of all I want to thank mostly sincerely all the members who have contributed. I may not mention their names in the interest of time but thank you. When we were travelling to Gulu in a bus, we had a very good and long conversation on this subject and we uncovered that one of our hon. Nkanayi participated in the Montreal Olympics sometimes back in the 70s (*Applause*) For me it was a bit challenging. I tried to flashback and imagine hon. Nkanayi on the tracks (*Laughter*).

Mr Speaker, I accept the amendment proposed by hon. Susan and hon. Ndahiro. I do not think we could have ended our session in a better way than discussing this very exciting subject.

We are being defined for what we are; East Africa is being defined for who we are and not the usual stereotypes. We are defined as a source of talent, a source of people with different capacities and not for what we are used to seeing Africans being defined for. Thanks to our talents in the region.

Many important contributions have been made that go beyond what this motion intended to achieve. That will be very useful in informing policy makers on what needs to be done to support our young people and support their different talents.

A few names have been mentioned, but we could identify more; your own Inzikuru who emerged very first and disappeared very fast. Those are the consequences of policy failures in terms of how these people must be supported. It is a challenge for policy makers to look in to this subject more seriously.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Martin Ngoga for your summary. Honourable members-

Mr Ngoga: Mr Speaker, I am sorry. This has now put me in the right mood for November when we shall have an opportunity to display our own talents. I believe they are here in abundance.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. Hon. Martin Ngoga has set the mood for the Inter-Parliamentary Games which are going to be hosted by the Republic of Rwanda this year.

Honourable members, the motion before the House is that this Assembly do resolve to support the East African athletes from the Republic of Kenya and congratulate them for their exemplary performance in the on-going World Athletics' Championships in Beijing China. I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: I congratulate hon. Martin Ngoga for giving us the chance to summarise our official business in a celebratory mood.

Honourable members, we are coming to the end of this meeting. I would like to take this opportunity sincerely to congratulate you for work and a job well done.

Since our arrival in Kampala, we have received and considered six reports, passed three very important resolutions, considered and passed one Bill, have considered and differed the conclusion of another Bill. Most importantly, we have administered oath of allegiance to the CTC. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, this is a great job done. We deserve a pat on our back. I thank you so much. I wish the best of journeys back to your capitals. Until when we meet again, I now adjourn the House sine die.

(The House rose at 4.42 p.m. and adjourned sine die)