



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

THIRD ASSEMBLY: FOURTH MEETING - SECOND SESSION

Tuesday, 28th January 2014

(The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber of the Parliament of Uganda, Kampala, Uganda.)

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Ms Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I want to welcome you to today's sitting. As a way of communication, allow me to welcome you back from Mayuge which was the venue for the 28th NRM celebrations. I want to add my voice to yours to congratulate the NRM government, the President of the Republic of Uganda and the people of Uganda upon that land mark in the history of their country.

Secondly, I also want to thank you for participating in a very important workshop yesterday which was on Peace and Security Protocol. I know very well that this is one of the ways we are able to undertake our oversight functions. We are aware now that the Protocol was concluded and we also know the contents. I want to congratulate the Chair of the Committee on regional Affairs and the members for that important achievement.

Three, just for your information, hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro has a very sick child. I request you to join him in prayers so that the child can get better. He is in hospital in Burundi. So I want us to pray for him and his family in this trying time.

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I)

The Acting Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Mr. Shem Bageine): Madam Speaker, in accordance with Articles 132 and 133 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community and Rules 73, 75 and 76 of the Rules of Procedure, I beg to lay on the table:

1. The financial statement for the supplementary budget for the Financial Year 2013-2014.
2. The estimates of expenditure for the supplementary budget for the Financial Year 2013-2014.

Madam Speaker, I beg to lay.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Shem Bageine representing the Chair, Council. The financial statements and the estimates of the expenditure are committed to the Committee of General Purpose for scrutiny and report to the House. Dr Nduwimana, kindly take note.

(II)

Ms Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I beg to lay on the table the report of the delegation to the Pan African Parliament Annual 2013 Women's Conference. I beg to lay.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Valerie. That is a very important report which took place in South Africa. The Women's' caucus and the Committee on General Purpose can have an opportunity to look at it on the recommendations which were made.

(III)

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Dr. Martin Nduwimana): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I beg to lay on table the report of the meeting of the East African Inter Parliamentary Forum on Health, Population and development. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Dr Nduwimana. That is also a very important forum. We are members as East African Legislative Assembly. Again the Committee on general Purpose should take off time to look at it particularly the recommendations which were made and also be able to integrate them in some of the proposals you have for the forthcoming improvement of our work.

QUESTIONS FOR ORAL ANSWER

(I)

QUESTION EALA/PQ/OA/3/35/2013 TO THE CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Mr. Yves Nsabimana (Burundi): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I wish the Chairperson, Council of Ministers to respond to my question EALA/PQ/OA/3/35/2013: *The EAC Common Market Protocol was signed on 20th November, 2009, and its implementation date was assigned to 1st July 2010. Among its important provisions is part D and specifically Article 10 which grants free movement of labour for workers within the EAC region. For the Article to be enforced the EAC Common Market protocol provides for regulations specified in its Annex II and specifically, Regulation 15 which extensively covers matters related to the free movement of labour. It also specifies dates within which Partner States were expected to implement the provisions. Notably, all of them were expected to do so in 2010 and some exceptions were granted to the United Republic of Tanzania to extend the period to 2015 for specific categories.*

As a result of the foregoing, is the Chairperson of the Council:-

- (a) *Aware that most East Africans who had high expectations about the free movement of labour are now losing hope about the provision.*
- (b) *Is he also aware that the matter is causing confusion and misunderstanding since the implementation process of the protocol is extremely very slow?*
- (c) *Can he inform this August House the extent of implementation of the protocol in respect of the free movement of labour in each Partner State (include the level of implementation).*

- (d) *Can he also inform this House about the challenges being faced in the implementation of the protocol in each Partner State, if any?*
- (e) *Aware that we are behind schedule in implementing the Protocol, can he inform the House of strategies the Council will put in place to expedite its implementation so that East Africans are re-assured of the EAC integration process in respect of labour movements.*

The Acting Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Mr. Shem Bageine): Madam Speaker, I wish to inform this august House that the EAC Secretariat and the Partner States have been implementing the provisions of the EAC Common Market Protocol and also monitoring its overall implementation. Article 10 (1) of the Protocol provides that the *Partner States hereby guarantee the free movement of workers, who are citizens of the other Partner States, within their territories.*

The Implementation of Article 10 has been slow due to a number of reasons in each Partner State, but the most challenging has been the slow process by the Partner States in the review of their employment policies and labor laws/codes in line with the requirements of the Common Market Protocol provisions.

Madam Speaker, despite the slow progress some achievements have been recorded by the Partner States and I wish to bring to the attention of this august House the reported status as at October 2013.

Republic of Kenya

There are no laws discriminating against employment of citizens of other Partner States. Section 5 of the Kenya Employment Act, No.11 of 2007, clearly outlaws discrimination against all migrants in employment. The following laws also allow free movement of East African Citizens moving to Kenya as workers without discrimination:

- The Employment Act No. 11 of 2007;
- The Labor Relations Act No. 14 of 2007;
- The Labor Institutions Act No. 12 of 2007;
- The Occupational Safety and Health Act No. 15 of 2007;
- Work Injury Benefits Act, 2007;
- The Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act No. 12 of 2011; and
- The Kenya Citizens and Foreign Nationals Management Act No.31 of 2011

The Kenya Constitution 2010 and Industrial Courts Act No. 20 of 2011 are among the new laws that enhance free movement of East African Citizens to Kenya as workers. Kenya is a signatory

to the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention 100 which outlaws discrimination in employment and Convention 111 which advocates for equal pay for work of equal value. In addition, the 2010 Constitution has a provision that automatically makes all international conventions signed and ratified by Kenya part of Kenyan laws.

Kenya recorded a total of 2,755 and 581 work permits applied for and issued to workers from other Partner States in 2011 and as at June 2012 respectively.

The number of Private Agencies registered by relevant authority involved in collection and dissemination of information on job vacancies were 132 in 2012.

Republic of Rwanda

Rwanda reported that Citizens from other Partner States who secure employment are being issued with resident/work permit of 2 years renewable upon application. Those with a lesser period are issued with a special pass in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol. All these documents are issued to the Citizens of each Partner State free of charge. A total of 37,960 workers and 120 dependants from EAC Partner States have been admitted into Rwanda labour market and issued with resident permits and dependant passes respectively. Citizens of other Partner States are treated as national in all areas of employment and remuneration.

Republic of Uganda

Uganda reported that the laws discriminating against citizens of other Partner State in relation to employment, remuneration and other conditions of work and employment were identified to be The Contract Acts, The Sale of Goods, The Employment Act, The Uganda Citizenship and Immigration Control Act, Cap.66. The Companies Act. The Workers Compensation Act, The Labour Unions Act, The Arbitration and Settlement Act 2006, The Minimum Wages Advisory Board and Wages Council Act, The National Social Security Act, The Equal Opportunities Commission Act, The Insolvency Act, The Hire Purchase Act and The Partnership Act.

The Republic of Uganda is in the process to of amending the cited laws.

A total of 455 and 549 work permit applications from other EAC nationals were received and considered in the FY 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 respectively. Dependants of workers also employed in Uganda during the financial year 2011/12 were as follows: Burundians 7; Kenyans: 76; Rwandan: 10 and Tanzanians 23.

55 private agencies have been registered and are involved in the collection and dissemination of information on job vacancies.

The United Republic of Tanzania

United Republic of Tanzania has identified and is in the process of reviewing the following laws to conform to the Common Market Protocol: The Tanzania Employment Promotion Services Act of 1999; The Employment and Labour Relations Act 2004; The Labour Institutions Act of 2004; The Zanzibar Employment Act No. 11 of 2005; and The Zanzibar Labour Relations Act.

A total of 1626 work permits were issued in 2011, to citizens from other Partner States – Rwanda 137, Burundi 80, Kenya 1031, and Uganda 378. Between January – December 2012, 590 work permits were issued to citizens from other Partner States – Kenya 527, Burundi 3, Rwanda 3 and Uganda 57.

Tanzania has also embarked on data collection exercise in areas of issuance of work permits, employment and exchange programmes and has registered 100 private agencies dealing with collection and dissemination of information on job vacancies.

Republic of Burundi

Burundi reported that there are no discriminatory employment laws. However the Labor Code review is underway to amend the Ministerial Ordinance No. 660/08/92 of 17th February 1992 regulating foreigners working in Burundi –to pay 3% of their annual revenue in Tax. The Social Security Act has been amended and adopted.

Burundi issued 35 Work Permits but noted that there is lack of proper monitoring system and data collection in this sector.

Madam Speaker, the Council has already put in place several measures to monitor the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol. Current strategies under implementation include the establishment of the National and Regional Implementation Committees of the Common Market Protocol which are chaired by the Ministries Responsible for EAC Affairs. The National Implementation Committees meet quarterly, while the regional Implementation Committee meets twice in a year. A comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation framework for the Common Market Protocol has been designed to collect data on the status of each Protocol commitment and is under implementation by Partner States and the EAC Secretariat. The Sectoral Council of Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs and Planning meets twice a year (June & Early November) to review the progress of the implementation of the Common Market Protocol and to give guidance on the way forward for each commitment made by the Partner States. The Free movement of Labour is therefore being guided by the Sectoral Council directives in terms of the way forward.

Madam Speaker, overall, Partner States implementation of the Common Market is generally lagging behind in all areas save for the free movement of goods. The main challenge lies in the slow process in the amendment/review of national laws to conform to the Protocol provisions and the lack of adequate resources by the relevant Ministries/Agencies/Departments expected to spearhead the implementation of the Protocol.

I thank you, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Chair Council.

Dr. Nsabimana: Yes I have one supplementary question. Are the 1,636 work permits issued by Tanzania in 2011 and the 590 in 2012 issued free of charge? I want to know if they were free of charge.

Mr. Bageine: Madam Speaker, the United Republic of Tanzania has not abolished payment of work permit fees so these work permits which were issued were paid for. I thank you.

Mr. Abubakar Ogle (Kenya): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I appreciate the hon. minister's comprehensive answer on this nagging issue but would he appreciate that one of the restrictive barriers to the free movement of people is how a vehicle registered in one Partner country cannot easily cross to another country because of the bureaucratic requirements? In fact is the minister aware that even vehicles registered under EAC and they are supposed to be credited diplomats are supposed to pay about US\$ 50 every three months? That is one way that the movement of people and goods cannot be allowed. Thank you.

The Speaker: Chair Council, although I think that should come as a substantive question, it is a very important question which should be a stand-alone and I think it would be good that all East Africans are informed about this status but if Chair you can, it would be okay.

Mr. Bageine: Madam Speaker, I concur with your observation. I think this is a very serious matter which should be looked into so that we can find a way forward because we do not do things and then shoot ourselves in the foot. Thank you.

The Speaker: So hon. Ogle, prepare a substantive question so that the Chair, Council could give this answer to East Africans.

(II)

QUESTION EALA/PQ/OA/3/36/2013 TO THE CHAIRPERSON, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Mr. Zein Abubakar (Kenya): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I beg to ask the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers the question reference EALA/PQ/OA/3/36/2013: *Given that the Treaty establishing the East African Community envisages the development of Kiswahili as the Lingua Franca of the Community under Article 119, could the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers*

give this August House an update on the progress made on the establishment of the Kiswahili Commission including;

- (i) How many Partner States have signed the instrument that will establish the Commission*
- (ii) The dates that each Partner State signed the instrument. If a Partner State or States have not signed the instrument, what grounds for declining to sign have been given and/or what time frame is allowed for the concerned Partner State within which to give such grounds*
- (iii) What impediments exist that delays the establishment of the Commission and what measures the Council of Ministers have undertaken and/or will undertake to allow for the fast tracking of the establishment of the Commission*
- (iv) Could the Chairperson, Council of Ministers, give a firm commitment that this important Commission? Will the Council of Ministers consider a supplementary budget for purposes of expediting the set up of the Commission?*
- (v) What resources have been or will be set aside to set up the Commission and if the Council of Ministers will consider including the necessary budgetary provision, required to set up the Commission, through a supplementary budgetary bill*

The Acting Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Mr. Shem Bageine): Madam Speaker, I wish to inform this august House that the establishment of the East African Swahili Commission was approved by the Council of Ministers in 2007 and was ready to be hosted in accordance with the criteria of sitting EAC Organs and institutions.

However, its operationalization delayed due to the delay by some Partner States to ratify the Protocol. This matter was brought to the attention of the sectoral Council for Education, Science and technology, Culture and Sports which intervened as appropriate.

I am pleased to inform this august House that by 30th September 2013, all the three original EAC Partner States namely the Republic of Kenya, the republic of Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania had ratified the Protocol on the establishment of East African Kiswahili Commission and have since deposited the instruments of ratification with the EAC Secretary General as required.

Hon. Members may wish to note that the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Burundi were not required to ratify this protocol since in acceding to the Treaty on the establishment of the East African Community, the two new Partner States acceded to all pre-existing protocols and other annexes to the Treaty.

Madam Speaker, in regard to the dates of ratification, I wish to inform the hon. Members that the Republic of Kenya ratified the Protocol for the establishment of the East African Kiswahili Commission on the 19th day of July 2010. The United Republic of Tanzania ratified it on the 14th day of August 2013 while the Republic of Uganda did the same on the 12th day of September 2013.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform this august House that as directed by the 11th sectoral Council on education, Science and Technology, Culture and Sports, the Secretariat has concluded negotiations of the headquarters agreement between the EAC and the United Republic of Tanzania for the hosting of the East African Kiswahili Commission in Zanzibar. The agreement is ready for signing.

In addition, job descriptions for the approved 20 staff positions to kick start the operationalization of the Kiswahili Commission were developed.

Madam Speaker, in light of the above development, it is envisaged that the operationalization of the EN Kiswahili Commission will commence with effect from July 2014. To ensure that this happens as planned, the Council of Ministers at its 28th Meeting earmarked some funds to facilitate the initial costs for the operationalization of the Commission.

The Council has also directed the Secretariat to ensure that the corresponding budget estimates are reflected in the EAC budget proposal for the Financial Year 2014-2015.

Madam Speaker, I also wish to inform this august House that the above measures notwithstanding, the commencement of the East African Kiswahili Commission will be boosted by the passing by this august House of the Bill for the establishment of the Commission.

The Council remains committed to introduce Bills for the establishment of the East African Kiswahili Commission, the East African Science and Technology Commission and East African Health research Commission.

Madam Speaker, the introduction of Bills based on the establishment of institutions is a matter that was long agreed by the Council of Ministers. Madam Speaker, I thank you.

The Speaker: thank you Chair. Supplementary question, hon. Zein.

Mr. Zein: Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. First I would like to thank Chair, Council for this very good answer and I am sure it creates big joy in the hearts of many of those who are passionate about Kiswahili. I promise him that I will be hawk eyed on this US\$ 2,09,041 in the coming budget. I would like to ask a simple follow up question on the last part of this answer which is that this will be enhanced by passing a Bill in this august House.

I would kindly ask the Chair Council to say when this Bill will come.

Mr. Bageine: Madam Speaker, I want to assure the hon. Member and all members of this august House that the Council of Ministers is committed to introducing Bills for deliberation and passage by this House in order to enhance the integration process of the East African Community.

In this regard, I want to state that latest by August this year, this law should be in place; the Bill should have been introduced. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY

Ms Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I beg to move that this Assembly do resolve to accord special thanks to hon. Shem Bageine, Minister of State for EAC Affairs of the Republic of Uganda for his extra ordinary performance as Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconder? Hon. Nengo, hon. Mumbi, hon. Dora, hon. Angela Kizigha, hon. Ussi, hon. Kimbisa, hon. Taslima, hon. Hafsa Mossi, hon. Makongoro, hon. Shy-Rose. Proceed, hon. Valerie.

Ms Nyirahabineza: Thank you again, Rt hon. Speaker.

“WHEREAS the Partner States have all appointed ministers responsible for EAC Affairs and each of them assumes office of Chairperson on yearly rotational basis and

WHEREAS hon. Shem Bageine is the Minister of State for EAC Affairs of Uganda and is part of the EAC Council of Ministers and has recently concluded his tenure as Chair of the Council of Ministers

NOTING THAT the EAC Council of Ministers is the policy organ of the Community for purposes of reinforcing the implementation of the programs of the Community and to ensure the proper functioning and development of the Community in accordance with the Treaty

AWAFRE THAT hon. Shem Bageine by virtue of his position as minister is an ex-officio member of the East African legislative Assembly

ACKNOWLEDGING his personal commitment to the activities of the Assembly and his organisational and leadership abilities to continue to steer the East African Community to further development

NOTING WITH APPRECIATION that he has represented his people and the people of East Africa in the last one year with maximum dedication and commitment

COGNISANT of his invaluable contribution to the advancement of the EAC integration as the Chairperson of Council of Ministers and his positive and productive contribution to the Council of Ministers during his tenure of office

APPRECIATING his outstanding contributions as the Chairperson of EAC Council of Ministers on EAC major projects including the fight against non-tariff barriers and assignment of specific tasks to ministers in the integration process for them to spend more time at Arusha for purposes of supervision and coordination

RECOGNISING the incredible efforts he put in place to allow for continuity after the tragic loss of the late Rt hon. Eriya Kategaya

FURTHER APPRECIATING his role in the EAC Monetary Union negotiations by inspiring members of the high level task force to fast track the negotiations on the Protocol and his personal commitment to finalise the Protocol as directed by the Summit of Heads of State ready for its signing in November 2013 and meeting the set deadline of November 2013

COMMENDING hon. Shem Bageine for competently steering the business of Council of Ministers of Council business within the Assembly by answering questions put to the Council, introducing Council, presenting the EAC budget 2013-2014, debating important motions and assisting in the passage of Bills before the Assembly

NOW THEREFORE this House do resolve as follows:

- 1. To collectively recognise the well deserving faith placed in hon. Shem Bageine as Minister of State for EAC Affairs of the Republic of Uganda by His excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda*
- 2. To convey our sincere thanks and gratitude to hon. Shem Bageine for performing his duties as Chair, Council of Ministers with diligence and remarkable distinction*
- 3. Express our gratitude and appreciation to hon. Shem Bageine for his remarkable achievements in pushing the integration agenda*
- 4. Recognise hon. Shem Bageine's commitment to enhance regional integration and his leadership style that has helped to hasten the process of regional integration*
- 5. Mandate the Speaker of EALA to transmit this resolution to His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda."*

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Valerie. We are happy that this motion is being moved when the person to which it is attributed is in the Chamber. So proceed to give your justification.

Ms Nyirahabineza: Thank you so much, Rt hon. Speaker. Facts speak for themselves. It goes without saying that what we are saying regarding hon. Shem Bageine is true and this is clearly demonstrated by the way this motion has been overwhelmingly supported because I have seen so many people seconding it.

Madam Speaker, Uganda took over the chairmanship of the EAC Summit and Council of Ministers from November 2012 to November 2013 and this was done following the spirit of rotational leadership as provided for under Article 12 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community.

It is in this regard that His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni placed faith in hon. Shem Bageine as state Minister of EAC Affairs Uganda and then Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers.

Madam Speaker, under hon. Shem Bageine's remarkable leadership, he was able to steer the East African Community with zeal and efficiency. We recognise his priceless contribution to the advancement of the EAC integration as a Chair, Council and so far, he has registered positive and productive contributions to the Council of Ministers during the one year period.

We have noticed that hon. Shem Bageine is heart-warming, simple and humble without forgetting wise.

Since he assumed the reins of power as Chair Council, he has tremendously transformed things including our method of work and now I think we have six sittings instead of five but also the method of work in the Council of Ministers. One can say that wherever he was, it was only for the sake of others.

Hon. Shem Bageine has been a man of change and he has changed so many things. He has always stood by the truth. He did not want to see us doing business as usual and when he saw that things were not possible, he could tell us the truth but also undertake, if need be, to advocate on many issues and come back to the Assembly with positive answers.

I will not forget that hon. Shem Bageine has always been available and committed to the work of the Assembly. Hon. members, you know that he has never missed any single meeting of the sittings of the Assembly.

(Applause)

He was there from day one up to the time he handed over the chairmanship to hon. Phyllis Kandie. During that period, he undertook to follow up on so many issues and many times he came either to committees or even here in plenary to give us feedback. We can say that there has not been any disconnect between what he kept on promising and what he was doing.

It is true to say that he has been truthful and has even respected the oath administered to him as one of the ex-officio members of the Assembly.

I can mention a few of his achievements because they are so many. During his tenure, we can quote the passing of important Bills such as the One Stop Border Post Bill but also the East African Axle Load Control Bill. Before he handed over the chairmanship to Phyllis Kandie, we witnessed the signing of the Monetary Union Protocol which is the third pillar of the integration process.

Hon. Shem Bageine has also provided answers to questions put to the Council but he has also presented the EAC Budget 2012-2013 and debated important motions and assisted in the passage of Bills before the Assembly.

Madam Speaker, I think I would be wrong if I did not say that he has offered leadership to the Council of Ministers in that he introduced new working methods for the Council of Ministers which requires that Ministers of EAC Affairs of the respective Partner States sit in Arusha to review the progress and fulfil their mandate of overseeing the developments and implementation of Community affairs.

Again, he has competently been able to convert the Council of Ministers into an excellent group that shares responsibility which had hereto been solely the responsibility of the chairperson. I remember when he put forward a wish to see ministers being given specific portfolios so that whenever we are in plenary, each and every one is able to respond to different questions raised by the members in different sectors of the East African Community.

Of course we are yet to see the fruits but at least this proposal came from him.

Hon. Shem has also overseen the implementation of a series of Council decisions and directives so Madam Speaker given the above attributes, I am convinced that hon. Shem Bageine, the son of East Africa has shown exemplary performance in his duties as Chair, Council of Ministers which has enabled us to achieve significant milestones.

We therefore congratulate and thank him for his very able leadership. I can go on and on but now that the motion has been seconded by many members, they will tell us more. Thank you so much.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Valerie. Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to accord special thanks to hon. Shem Bageine, Minister of State for EAC Affairs of the Republic of Uganda for his extraordinary performance as Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers. Debate is open.

Mr. Emmanuel Nengo (Burundi): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker for giving me the floor to speak about this motion, which I am privileged to second.

First of all, as it is my first time to take the floor in this session and this year, let me wish you, your family and all members a happy and prosperous new year 2014.

Madam Speaker, I also take this opportunity to join my voice to those who thanked His excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for having addressed this House at the opening of its Fourth Meeting Second Session.

I also congratulate Ugandans for their 28th anniversary since victory day when NRM under His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni captured state power.

I thank also the people of Uganda for their traditional hospitality they give us when we are here in Uganda. My special thanks go to Uganda chapter for the warm welcome they give us when we are here in Uganda. May God bless them and the people of Uganda.

Coming back to the motion, I do not know how to express it because the mover has said too much. I support fully this motion because it is very important and timely. Let me congratulate and commend the mover, hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza for bringing this motion in this House.

Madam Speaker and hon. Members, to accord thanks and congratulate hon. Shem Bageine, chairperson emeritus of the Council of Ministers for his work well done is very timely and relevant. The outgoing Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Shem Bageine played a great role in enhancing the EAC integration process through his responsibility and commitment as Chairman of the Council of Ministers.

I thank him for his excellent leadership of the Council of Ministers, his dynamism, his availability, transparency and his cooperation during his tenure. I recognise also his parliamentary participation in EALA sessions, his clear, comprehensive and positive answers, guidance on questions and other matters when they were raised by the members on issues of the integration process.

I also applaud the outcomes of the November Summit 2013 of the Heads of State where the Monetary Union Protocol was signed by Heads of State. We remember the atmosphere which was around some months ago before the signature. I also recall the issue of welfare of members which was discussed and well addressed.

I totally believe and agree that the work and role of ministers especially the Chairperson emeritus hon. Shem Bageine were very significant and efficient. We are very proud to be with him in this House and the Assembly is blessed to still have this great man with it.

I still hope and believe that EAC needs this kind of citizens who believe that commitment, dialogue, cooperation and democracy will enhance the full integration of our region.

Madam Speaker, before ending my contribution, I welcome through the Chairperson emeritus, the new Chairperson of the Council of Ministers hon. Phyllis Kandie. We know that there are

many challenges impacting the full integration process but I am sure that the whole House will give her all the support needed to move forward the integration process to another step as done by her predecessor.

Madam Speaker, with these few words, I beg to support this motion.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Nengo.

Ms Agnes Mumbi (Kenya): Thank you so much, Rt hon. Speaker. Since it is my first time in this year and in this sitting to speak, I want to thank the people of Uganda, the government of Uganda, His Excellency the president of Uganda on his address, the Speaker of the Assembly of Uganda and the warmth of the people of Uganda through the leadership of the Ugandan chapter. Thank you very much. It is our third week here and for us it is like home. Were it not for the hospitality of Uganda, we would feel very uncomfortable as three weeks is a long time but through your office, the Office of the Clerk, we have managed to feel comfortable.

I stand to support this motion and I want to thank hon. Valerie because she belongs to that school of thought where I am a member that let the person be thanked when they are alive instead of speaking when the person is gone and telling them and they cannot hear how good they are.

Today we are talking about thanking the Cahir Council emeritus and we are happy because he is in the House. We want to appreciate you. I personally want to appreciate your leadership and management skills. You have done us proud. Managing members of Parliament is not easy. sometimes with due respect we seem to lose way and in your leadership skills, in your professionalism, you brought soberness in the House that you were actually a kind of oil that brought sense even when the House was hot.

I remember you took over from the late Prime Minister and so we could say that you really did not have anybody to hand over the House to you because I remember very well the late Prime Minister was unwell and he was hospitalised and you came in and fitted like you were in the House throughout. You took time with a lot of professionalism to understand the intrigue, the politics, the management of EALA and EAC as a whole. Maybe because of your years, you had experience and we have benefitted from it. Maybe because of your years, you had wisdom and maturity that made us even when we sometimes behaved like children, you sat us down and managed to calm some very stormy situations.

I want to appreciate your humility. Very many times people who occupy that position that you occupy would walk like an elephant. Little did you show it. You mixed with us and it was very humbling that in your address you would name the members who are unwell by name. I had not seen that. It is humility at its best and it is professionalism at its best, that you knew every member, where they were, whether they have received and are now back in the House and those that are not back you wished them well. I want to appreciate your commitment.

I know in a House like EALA sometimes you committed. Little did you know probably that politics has its own intrigues and sometimes you were embarrassed because your commitment did not come to the floor of the House. In your own wisdom, leadership and management skills, you would still be able to hold yourself together and think on your feet. Very few of us are able to think on our feet and you would come and give hope to EAAL, to the members to a point that you would rise and give hope to integration.

Waziri, it is good to appreciate your leadership skills and now that you are Chair Council emeritus, I believe like the rest of my members that you are going to hold the new chairperson hon. Phyllis Kandie by the hand. Your shoe is probably too big for anyone to fill but I am sure if you hold her by hand, and pull her shoe to her size and guide her because you are still a member of the Council of Ministers, you will push the integration agenda to higher and greater heights.

I want to appreciate that you have support from the whole House and that you are even acting in her absence. Your commitment to hard work- If I were the one, probably I would say I have done my bit and I should be left to rest. But here you are again with us holding her by the hand and moving the Assembly to greater heights. Thank you *Waziri* for the commitment, thank you for your humility and style of leadership. I support, thank you.

The Speaker: If we can use three minutes or so, it will allow all of us to put our voice on the *Hansard*.

Mr. Joseph Ombasa (Kenya): Thank you so much, Madam Speaker for affording me this opportunity to also say a word or two about a very able man whom we are privileged to have in this House. I first heard about Bageine then I did not know whether he would be a minister in Kenya some time ago from the firm of Bageine Karanja.... It was a firm of property managers. It was a very organised firm and I knew at the back of my head that an organised firm as it was must have some people who are also very organised and able.

When I met the person himself, I confirmed what I had already thought of. He had the qualities of good leadership, he was able to listen to other people, he has the intellectual capacity to handle matters of the Assembly, he has the bravery to approach issues without fear or favour, he has the respect for members. Therefore, we found a man who was able to deliver on his portfolio.

Furthermore, he never acted like he was a minister for Uganda. He is a true East African who handles matters of East Africa without regard to the country of origin.

Madam Speaker, I have also noticed that he is a team player. Even amongst the Council of Ministers, we see him consulting amongst them and we know these are the abilities and good qualities of a team player.

I would say we have been privileged in this House to have hon. Bageine and we wish him well. We also wish the incoming minister who is Chair of the Council of Ministers, hon. Kandie also fruitful deliberations in the future and guidance of this House. I thank you.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. I would like to add my voice to those who have expressed appreciation to your office for maintaining this culture of appreciating people when we still have them and in particular, giving credit where it is due. We thank you.

I would like to say three things about hon. Shem Bageine. In Latin which is also part of the legal language, we say *res ipsa loquitur*; the fact speaks for itself. Right now what we are saying is practical in that as has been said by my sister, hon. Bageine is still holding the fort on behalf of hon. Kandie and this clearly shows his commitment and the fact that he is focused on what he has set out to do.

Secondly, I would like to also add to what hon. Kiangoi has said. Hon. Bageine is not only an East African in practice he is also an East African at heart and I know for a fact that within his household members, there are others who actually come from other Partner States in particular the Republic of Kenya.

Thirdly, I would like to add my voice to those who have thanked the President for his excellent choice. He could not have appointed a better person. Again in practice, we witnessed the President asking hon. Bageine to give facts and figures of certain questions he had and he had these facts and figures on his fingertips especially as regarded the Northern and Central corridor. This is evident of a person who has won the confidence of the President and I believe that in his short time, he has also won the confidence of this Assembly.

Finally Madam Speaker, I have been listening carefully. It seems that hon. Bageine has gotten a new title which is chairperson emeritus. Maybe the motion can be amended to accord him this excellent title.

We will not shy away from the fact that he has accomplished much and in particular the issue of portfolios for ministers. We could like you, hon. Bageine through the Rt hon. Speaker, to pursue this issue so that when we put questions, the questions are not only for the Chair of Council of Ministers but the questions are put to the various ministers holding the different portfolio. In this way, we will be able to get more in-depth analysis and more focused attention even at committee level. So we humbly ask you to pursue this.

Finally, we shall not shy away from the fact that your commitment to bettering our terms and condition of service may not have been possible without your intervention. You are committed, you are focused and I would like to quote the words of the late Nelson Mandela who says that it seems impossible until it is done. You have shown us that it is possible once we are focused and

committed. You are an inspiration and you make us proud. We wish you the best and we shall support you. Thank you.

Mr. Adam Omar Kimbisa (Tanzania): Madam Speaker, sorry I am short so I was trying to struggle with the gadget.

Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me the floor. I rise here not only with a lot of confidence but also with a lot of energy. Where did I get all this energy and confidence?

Madam Speaker, it came from the product we are talking about. I am sorry I specialised in MBA so I will talk about commodities rather than things. It came from the product we are talking about. The product in the market is selling itself. For some products, in order to sell them, you need to polish them, to brand them, put an attractive cover around it, market it and advertise it intensively before putting it in the market.

Even then, you may have problems of selling it. In Swahili, there is a saying, *bitha inagiiza yenyewe*; a product which sells by itself.

Hon. Shem Bageine for the past one year has demonstrated that he is the product which sells by itself. To be honest, I am not sure whether he was a Chair of the Council for one year or six months. This is because time went very fast and that is exactly what happens with good people. With bad people, one year can easily be six months. You die wanting to go out but with our colleague, it was quite different.

Why are we saying he is a good man? One, honesty and sincerity. Madam Speaker, you can take his word for a million dollar check and you will not go wrong. There are people who suffer from the following situations. People whose heart and mouth are in constant struggle and constant battle because inside the heart, there is some truth but always some people's mouths say something else. But with our colleague, what was in his heart was exactly what he would say.

Therefore, our friend was not suffering in such a situation whereby the heart says something else or thinks something else but the mouth pronounces something else.

Two, maturity. I am not talking of age. There are people who are old but the child in them is so high. I am talking of political maturity; a person who would weigh what to say, how to say it and when to say it and sometimes under humility.

Three, he did his work without fear or favour. He did not fear his country, he did not favour his country, he did not fear or favour anyone. He respected issues.

Lastly, he was firm but fair. There are people who are very firm but unreasonable. This guy was firm but fair and because of that, I for one and my colleagues respected him for that. Therefore, I beg to support the motion, thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you very much.

Ms Nancy Abisai (Kenya): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I stand here to also add my voice to my colleagues but before I do that because this is the first time I am taking the floor in this beautiful country the pearl of Africa, I want to thank the people of Uganda, you Rt hon. Speaker, the Uganda chapter for welcoming us in this beautiful country and also to wish all of you a happy and productive 2014.

Having said that, my colleagues have mentioned a lot of good attributes to the former Chair Council but I would like to say this. For those of you who are students or who admired the works of Julius Caesar, he says the evil in a man is buried with him but the goodness of a man stays in his bones and I think that is what your good works will do, hon. Bageine.

I want to acknowledge the qualities and exemplary leadership that he showed during his tenure. I also want to say that the goodness of a person or the way that he is able to handle issues is seen in times of crisis. During this Assembly, I know in the past year there have been a lot of issues that needed to be handled and I think because of the belief of teamwork, the belief that you need to understand to be understood and that is what the Chair Council did, listening to us but at the same time remaining firm and also just being able to withstand the pressure without necessarily making it take you out of control. I think those are qualities that we cannot forget.

I know Madam Speaker I might even belabour the point because he has good attributes. I know some people might think that maybe members are appreciating the former Chair because of obvious reasons which I will not mention but there are other very important attributes that we as an Assembly stand for and we appreciate; being able to take on questions on spot and being able to give a satisfactory answer on spot, being there at all times when you were needed. I think those are qualities that demonstrate commitment and good leadership and they need to be appreciated.

Madam Speaker, having said that, I want to say that we have seen that concentration and listening to others many times results into success. That is what we saw in the year that he chaired the Council and also not having in your mind the vocabulary or cannot do or cannot happen.

For those of you who are Christians, the Bible says that everything is possible, there are no impossibilities, it just depends on how you believe in it and how you want to go with it and he showed us that you can actually believe in something, push for it and with energy, consultation and commitment, be able to achieve your goals.

Finally Madam Speaker, I would like to say that I am reminded as my colleagues were speaking of an analogy that I could use. When it is wet, the water hits the rock and the rock still stands. When it is flooding, the water goes over the rock and the rock still stands but when it is in the dry season, the water is swallowed by the sands but the rock stands.

To you, hon. Bageine *hongera*. Thank you very much.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker. Allow me to add my voice in wishing my colleagues a happy new year especially hon. Shem Bageine.

I would like to also appreciate hon. Valerie for having moved this motion. In fact it has been long overdue it should have come on Tuesday last week but nonetheless better late than never.

I would like to commend hon. Shem Bageine Bajura for his efforts to the Community and his relentless determination to take East African Community to the next level. Hon. Shem Bageine was simply the best person to be partnered with such a big and challenging task of steering the East African Community ahead.

Madam Speaker, I remember the President of the Republic of Uganda had been appointing hon. Shem Bageine as a minister in Uganda but on several occasions, he declined the appointment. In fact last year when he was appointed, I remember we were having a pre-budget conference in Arusha and then I read hon. Shem Bageine having been appointed as a Minister for EAC for Uganda. I just waited for the news to say that he has still declined the appointment but then when I heard that he had not declined but instead accepted to take on the appointment, I said this is *volenti non fit injuria* like the Latin say, that he had voluntarily assumed the risk which risk I though first of all he was going to lose his sight because issues of EAC is about reading and researching and being up to date all the time.

Secondly I knew that by that time he finishes his term as Chair Council, he would have grey hair all over his head. At the same time, I also thought he would have to buy a number of pairs of glasses because I knew at one point he would lose his glasses but I realised that he would always come with two pairs just in case.

Hon. Shem Bageine has performed beyond the expectation of each and every one of us. I know hon. Shem Bageine as a businessman. I sued to red about his company Bageine and Company Limited which is a firm of highly qualified real estate investment consultants with vast experience in East Africa for quite some time.

I am also aware that hon. Shem Bageine has been a member of Parliament in Uganda from around 1989 until 2001 when he voluntarily retired without having to lose an election. So I am very sure, like all my colleagues will agree, that he is a very experienced person when it comes to issues of leadership, when it comes to issues of politics and among others. In fact I take him as a consultant when it comes to issues of East African Community because he is a true East African. I know very well that he lived in Kenya for quite some time during those turbulent days in Uganda.

Madam Speaker, allow me to appreciate hon. Shem Bageine for his selfless service to the East African Community. Allow me to also appreciate him for being there for the members of Parliament, members of EALA. The issue of welfare was crucial as has been said before but he made sure that he delivered for the members and we all appreciate.

Madam Speaker, a lot of questions for oral answer have been put to hon. Shem Bageine and he has always belaboured to provide answers. I remember even during the budget he was there every single day. We had a lot of questions, he provided answers to all and he could even afford a sorry regularly where he felt there was a fault on the part of the Council of Ministers which is very rare.

I also want to appreciate hon. Shem Bageine like my colleagues have said. He has always been there in all plenary sittings, all gatherings in Uganda regarding EAC, all the functions organised by EALA. He has always been available for us. I want to thank you so much, hon. Shem Bageine.

Finally Madam Speaker, allow me to mention that with his able leadership, EAC is more visible in Uganda than before. I have seen him on TV putting up a case for East African Community. I have read in the papers him putting up a case for EAC and we cannot be grateful enough.

As I conclude, I would re-echo it once again. Thank you, hon. Shem Bageine for the job well done. I would also like to appreciate the members of the Council of Ministers for working together with hon. Shem Bageine to ensure that he completes his term as Chair, Council of Ministers successfully. I want to thank you.

Mr. Twaha Taslima (Tanzania): I thank you, Madam Speaker. I would like to start with thanks to God and wish every one of us here a very good and prosperous happy new year.

Madam Speaker, as others have said about our reception here in Uganda, I would like to add a word that we are comfortable in Uganda. We would like to come back to Uganda and thanks to all Ugandans; everybody starting from the President to everyone on the street.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to thank hon. Valerie for coming up with this motion because indeed we appreciate very much the work done by hon. Bageine.

A lot has been said about his values and all other things that he has. I would like to add on two only. First of them is the elaborate answers that he has been giving when he comes to answer questions put by the members. He does it in excellent language with enormous skill of choice of words.

Secondly, I will remember him as an exemplary social being in and outside the House. When he is outside the business of the House, there is also another Bageine who everybody enjoys to be around. We remember the way he puts his weight to the tunes of almost every tune that is put at that time. He is there and he can do it and in an excellent way.

These are the attributes that I can add on what has been said by the rest of us and I thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Abubakar Ogle (Kenya): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to be very candid. The one reason why members are so excited about Minister Shem Bageine is because of his contribution to what we call the noble mayor principle. I do not want to go into the details about that but related to that-

The Speaker: Hon. Ogle, I think it is fair that you speak for yourself first and then you will speak for all the other members.

Mr. Ogle: Madam Speaker, I am saying related to that particular aspect about this welfare and emolument issue, I want to first and foremost respond to a very misleading article that appeared in the East African newspaper yesterday to the effect that we were one of the second most highly paid members of Parliament in the African continent. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In fact, I had opportunity to speak to the reporter of that story, one Christabel Ligami and I told her very clearly that there were only two aspects of truth in that story. One, which was a public element was that the Summit meeting in November increased our emoluments by US\$ 1,206. That was a fact and it was public information.

Secondly, the other information that was true about that report was her by line, nothing less. That the story was written by one Christabel Ligami, nothing else. The rest of the story was concocted, cooked up and I think it is very important that this Assembly and in fact through Madam Speaker we make that protestation very clear to the Nation newspaper. We are not- I am certainly not paid US\$15,000 a month.

Having said that Madam Speaker, Minister Shem Bageine. Two things stand out clearly. One, he was very loyal, very dedicated and available 24 hours. Ever since he was appointed a minister, whether it is a commission meeting, whether it is at any other meeting, he was always available. You know politicians these days, you do not get that kind of commitment and dedication and on that score I think he has created a very high threshold that our ministers of East Africa should aspire to. He has always been there.

Secondly Madam Speaker, I remember at the general Purpose Committee meeting, a pre-budget meeting, we raised the issue of a monster called Finance and Administration and I remember one of those guys speaking and claiming that he was considered F & A to be an organ of the Community. Mr Shem Bageine was present at that meeting and he responded instinctively. He told him, listen as far as we are concerned, unless you are creating your own things, F and A is not- he was very clear and categorical- and was not an Organ of the Community and you should never take matters into your own hands as you have done in the past.

True to that, I think he has taken a lot of things by the horns and in that perspective, I think he was a man of a different stature and for that I really thank him.

Madam Speaker, what is more important to me is that somehow from your office you are able to clarify that misleading report which appeared in the current issue of the East African. It is compromising our search for further and better emoluments and terms in the future. Thank you.

Ms Judith Pareno (Kenya): Rt hon. Speaker, I rise to support this motion and before I go into my two or so points. I wanted to add on to what my learned friend hon. Kimbisa said. He said *bitha inajiuza* and I wanted to give a better term for that in Swahili which is *kizuri chajiuza kibaya cyajitembeza* meaning that good thing sells itself while that bad one has to be taken round. You have to advertise it but that which is good just speaks and sells itself.

Madam Speaker, I do not think we have the best or most excellent word to use when it comes to the attributes of hon. Shem Bageine but I want to say that when I looked at hon. Bageine personally, I would look at him and what I see is just wisdom. I look at him and see a lot of contentment in himself, confidence and sometimes I just wondered, how good was he when he was a young man? (*Laughter*)

I would just imagine those younger days. If he is this fast, committed, sharp at this age- You are still a very young man looking at the age that we have in East Africa but it really impressed me that even at this age and – (*Interruption*)

Mr. Sebalu: Thank you very much for giving way. I just want to give information that I met hon. Shem Bageine when I had just joined politics and I was a youth representative in the Constituent Assembly and I can assure you he is very fast and sharp. You cannot be ashamed of him. He is fast and sharp.

Ms Byamukama: I also wanted to add further information because I must confess i hail from the same region that he does. He is one of the top ten most handsome and most intelligent and wealthy man in the region.

Ms Pareno: Thank you so much for that information and you can tell that I was actually right that there was so much in him when he was much younger and we are still seeing so much of him even at this age.

Madam Speaker, i think we have seen the role model that we would want to see in East Africa or even in this Hosue. We have seen it in you, hon. Shem Bageine. I was asking myself as we were contributing, what do we say about these attributes? Why all these attributes? I think the best I can say of this is because we have no other way to express ourselves.

Why this motion? You know it is not enough to come quietly and tell you, hon. Shem Bageine thank you so much for what you have been. I think it speaks a lot when as this House we speak it out to the region and to this House by way of a motion. I think a motion weighs more. It shows more appreciation than each one of us telling you because we have told him that we really have appreciated what you have done and that is why we have this motion today because it is the best

way that we can express ourselves. It is actually our best way to tell you thank you for what you have been to us as a House.

Also I again said then what? The other thing is we also have to show to our presidents and especially His Excellency Yoweri Museveni that thank you so much because you have been able to get the best. In this way, we are able to also thank the nation and the President that you have given us the best of the best and that means he has shown that the issue of integration of East Africa is really in his heart and that is why he picked from the best.

Madam Speaker, another thing is, if we do not say thank you, if we do not pass such a motion to such an excellent performer then we will not be motivating those who are with us; the rest of the Council of Ministers so to me this is another way to motivate, another way to tell them that this is not a thankless lot. We are a lot that can appreciate your good work, we are a lot that can work with you, we are a group that can actually be able to appreciate and say thank you when we see that you deserve to be told thank you.

So that is another way or another reason why such a motion would be so important to pass. If we did it individually or probably in another way, maybe it would not have had the effect it has today. So to me, it is a way to say thank you, it is a way to motivate all of us and it is a way to appreciate that we are doing good work. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Chris Opoka-Okumu (Uganda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. Since it is the first time for me to speak this year in this Assembly, I would like to first of all warmly welcome my colleagues to Uganda and wish everybody in the Assembly a happy new year and good health.

Madam Speaker, I did not know the hon. Shem Bageine before largely because I lived outside for a long time. But as soon as hon. Shem Bageine was appointed minister, and he assumed the position, he hit the ground running. He straight away became the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and it was such an admirable performance for a person who had just assumed office.

He was and is such a simple person, easy to approach. He is one of the only ministers in Uganda I have seen that you can call on phone and he will pick his phone. If he is busy, he is going to send you a message to call you back and he will call you back.

I found that characteristic very admirable in Shem Bageine. When he was Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, he exuded such confidence in whatever he was doing and as my sister and hon. Judith Pareno said, it is inspiring to see a person who is so committed.

The other aspect of Shem Bageine that I notice is his social interaction. Hon. Shem Bageine was such an excellent dancer. I have watched him and it is good that hon. Pareno is wondering. You look at him and you think he is an 18 year old when he is on the dance floor. So that is the part of Shem Bageine that he has shown us; how to interact with colleagues, how to relate with

colleagues, how to work as a team because we are all working as a team to implement the vision of the founders of the integration process of East Africa.

Hon. Shem Bageine, speaking for myself, I wish you very well in the coming years and continue with your hard work. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Zein Abubakar (Kenya): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker for your service to the Community and your leadership and stewardship. Our Community was safe, our Community did what it could to enhance the integration process. Every time a man seeks to transform a situation, they are always confronted by one, you must be articulate with your vision. So maybe I should start by saying first you must have a vision. Then you must be able to articulate that vision. But also you must have the courage to work on that vision and you must also have the propensity to influence others to buy into your vision.

So many things have been said about hon. Shem Bageine but I would like to say that the Community got a bargain in Shem Bageine and that part of this bargain was trying to move institutions that either had forgotten what needed to be done to push them to work because one time a friend of mine asked me, why do you thank people when they do their work? We thank people when they do their work because of the courage of doing that work, the panache of doing that work but more importantly the foresightedness of walking with others.

So Madam Speaker, I will refrain and commit myself to only two issues that I saw facets about hon. Shem Bageine. He had to do with budgetary process last year. We as the Budget Committee of this august House were determined to be difficult for good reasons. We were determined to negotiate hard with the Chair Council and the Secretary General. Every time we were given information, we asked for more information and we asked more questions because those questions were important to be asked.

Finally, what allowed us to agree to do away with the constraints of the committee to advise Parliament to pass the budget was when he came to us and humbly said, of these things you are saying, I admit them. That was the first time I heard admission from the executive side. That of these things I admit one, two, three.

Let me mention a number of those things he admitted. He said, I admit that the social sector over years has been underfunded and sometimes not funded at all. He also said, I give you my word that when we have another opportunity to come before you, we shall rectify this problem of underfunding if we have resources. And I would like to remind the Secretary General that he is before this committee again and we shall remind him of these good words from hon. Shem Bageine. I am looking forward to tomorrow morning.

The second thing that hon. Shem Bageine did was to say that the envelope is always the same; it does not grow as much as we want and there are conflicting interests. Having said that, he said let us sit down and negotiate and he negotiated in good faith. I should not be saying this but I

will be saying it anyway. That after that meeting when he went out, I heard one of the officials running after him and telling him,. Where would we get the money for what you have just committed yourselves to? He said, we shall find it.

So like others have said, I appreciate that his word was his bond. If he gave you his word, he kept it.

Allow me to finish, Madam Speaker by saying this. The other example I would like to give is one which some members have already spoken about which is how to transform the Council of Ministers. Do not forget that being a Chair of the Council of Ministers is nothing but first among equals. So walking around together with others to agree that they shall set aside their busy schedules to be in Arusha and listen to the Secretariat and the challenges and pain and suffering of walking with this integration project, I am sure the Secretary General will appreciate but we members of this august House appreciated more.

So what can we do to repay and recognise and pay tribute to the legacy of this great bargain that we got from Shem Bageine? It is that we must become Bageines. We must also look forward to saying, my word will be my bond. If I give you my word, you can take it to the bank. When that happens,.. we would have built trust and understanding in this Chamber and in the Community and I believe that that will allow us to push this agenda for integration and we would have paid proper homage to this great son of- not Uganda, not East Africa but a pan Africanist per excellence. I thank you, Madam Speaker

The Speaker: I will take hon. Shy-Rose. Let us take it three minutes so that as many members can have the opportunity.

Ms Shy-Rose Bhanji (Tanzania): Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me the opportunity but I have noted that the first speaker took seven minutes, the second one took eight minutes- Madam Speaker, I recorded because it is not fair. Those who speak in the beginning get ten minutes and those of us who get an opportunity to speak at the end get only three or two minutes. It is not fair, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. Shy-Rose, when a member is seconding a motion and kindly sit down, he is worth getting extra minutes. Parliamentary practice normally dictates that we are all members and we all agree. If you speak at the tail end, many of the points have been said so you just substantiate. So you may not need as much time as those who spoke first. But I am not just saying that you should not say what you have to say. At least the Speaker gives that time accordingly and you remember I warned the members to be within three to five minutes so that as many members can speak. So I know the Speaker should not be reminded of how much time was given to so and so because I know. So proceed, at east use three to five minutes so that others can also take the opportunity.

Ms Bhanji: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Allow me to also express my sincere gratitude to His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, the president of the republic of Uganda for his wise decision in appointing *mheshimiwa* Shem Bageine as the Minister of State for EAC Affairs.

During his term as Chair, Council, *mheshimiwa* Bageine demonstrated a very high level of dedication, passion, commitment and diplomatic maturity.

Madam Speaker, you will agree with me that in his style of executing his tasks, we all felt that he was being like a manager managing us as his children.

Madam Speaker, his style is unique in the manner, humility and managerial ability to tackle various issues related to East African Community members' wellbeing and other issues.

In all cases, *mheshimiwa* Bageine is a man of his words. I know many have talked about this but please allow me to also say that *mheshimiwa* Bageine was sincere in every word and he as true to himself. Many leaders, when they tell you something, they usually do not mean it. So we members of EALA have a good opportunity to learn from *mheshimiwa* Bageine. Like *mheshimiwa* Zein has pointed out, let us all become Bageines.

Madam Speaker, *mheshimiwa* Bageine has left a very high standard in performing his duties. I was not in previous EALAs and I do not know whether other ministers also had the same standard like Bageine or if this House normally has a culture of commending various ministers when they perform their duties. So it is my hope that from now onwards, when ministers perform their duties well, we should pass a motion to commend them and if there are ministers who are not going to fit in the shoes of *mheshimiwa* Bageine, it is also our duty to pass a motion and also condemn. *(Laughter)*

Madam Speaker, before I conclude, I also wish to congratulate the current Chair *mheshimiwa* Phyllis Kandie for taking over as the Chair, Council. It is my prayer that *mheshimiwa* Kandie will do her level best to tread in the foot prints of *mheshimiwa* Bageine.

I pray and wish *mheshimiwa* Bageine long life, good health and prosperity. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Mr. Charles Nyerere (Tanzania): Madam Speaker, thank you. First and briefly, I would like to congratulate my brothers and sisters of NRM, the ruling party of this country for commemorating their 28th anniversary which was held in climax at a district of I think Mayuge, thank you colleague, of which the President His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, my brother was the guest of honour.

May I also briefly use this opportunity to appreciate the President of the Republic of Uganda and thank him, my brother Yoweri Kaguta Museveni on his speech. Although most of it was correctly in native language which I could not understand, in those parts that I did understand, I appreciate the consistency of President Museveni that whenever he gets a chance, he speaks very

positively in favour of the East African Community and the integration process. I thank him very much.

Now back to business; hon. Bageine the man. Madam Speaker, I stand here to support this motion one hundred percent. I wish there was 120 or 130 but 100 percent.

I would like to agree with my fellow colleagues that hon. Bageine showed a degree of commitment to his job and the cause of his work like no other I know. I am new in EALA and he is the only one I know. There was another minister but he was there briefly; a Chair fo Council from Kenya. He was there briefly and I was still new.

Almost as we were getting started and warmer, we were with our brother Bagiene. I appreciate his cool, his ability to handle with care those things and situations that were at times I must say very delicate materials and issues to handle.

I would like to define myself that his time was quite turbulent at some times along the way and he was very cool and consistent. He was very skilled in steering away from a tsunami. The best way to steer away from a tsunami is to stay on high ground and he always took us together with him to high ground because if you stay on low ground, the tsunami will take you further inland but will also take you back to the sea with it.

I would like to conclude by giving another saying of Kiswahili, Madam Speaker if you will allow me and then I will translate. The saying goes *nyonge nyongeni lakini akiyaye mpenu*. It loosely translates as follows; you can hang a man because he is weak but do not deny him his right and justice.

What we are doing today is that if there is a hangman somewhere planning to hang our brother hon. Bageine, just please allow us to give him his rights and justice in accordance with the way he served us as a Chair, Council.

I would remember hon. Bageine on a few things but these very few things I would like to go onto the *Hansard* because it is possible.

I remember last year when we were in Kampala. Hon. Bageine hosted a dinner for EALA members at Imperial Royale. He did a lot of good things over there but I would like to appreciate that he did define the process of integration to the dot. He put the dots over the I's and hon. Bageine put the slashes over the t's as follows.

Madam Speaker, I always remember that integration was about to widen and to deepen then come in big brother hon. Bageine. He goes, the best way to do integration is to widen. And then he goes on, to deepen. But with hon. Bageine he does not stop there. He says after you deepen it, you tighten. These are one of the few things I am going to remember hon. Bageine on very well.

I have seen this in publications; widen and deepen but as far as hon. Bageine is concerned, you do not just widen and deepen. No, you widen, you deepen and then you tighten.

Madam Speaker, in this one year you yourself and hon. Bageine have been very good ambassadors of promoting the cause of EALA and East African Community around. Do not feel so lonely because he is still around with us.

May I also congratulate hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza. What I have learnt in this one year is that the surnames of a country called the republic of Rwanda- It is nice that you are not hungry, you have had a lot of rest to pronounce some of the surnames from your country honourable and I did my best.

A good example was when hon. Phyllis Kandie was pronouncing the name of my colleague Patricia Hajabakiga. She said Patricia Hajabakiga which in Kiswahili also translates Patricia has not yet been violated. Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this time.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I will have hon. Tiperu. Let it be three minutes.

Ms Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I wish to join my colleagues in thanking the mover of this motion who is non other than the chairperson of the EALA women Parliamentary Caucus, hon. Valerie who we are very proud of. No wonder this motion had to be moved by a woman.

Madam Speaker, the women of EALA have been very proud of hon. Shem Bageine and I must say that he has been very gender sensitive in all his interactions.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the President for giving me and others the opportunity to serve with hon. Shem Bageine for the second time. I served with this noble gentleman in this very Parliament; the sixth Parliament a Parliament that was operating under the Movement System. We talked about being broad based, it had interest groups, it did not believe in people being taken on the basis of religion, among others and Shem enjoyed that system. I am sure when Uganda adopted the multi-party system. Shem was among those who was not really happy.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate and thank the Ugandan Parliament for overwhelmingly approving hon. Shem when he was nominated. For us as a Parliament, it only took us a year to interact with him and get to know him in detail. While serving with hon. Shem in the Committee of General Purpose, I must confess that every time he came, we felt warm, we felt happy. He was ready with answers for every question that we gave him and as a Ugandan I was very proud.

Something about Shem. It has become a culture that today for example if you are arrested for sureties, people would hide because often times you may not know who you are really standing for. But Shem is the kind of person for whom you would be very proud to stand surety for and I can believe you that he will always live the test of time.

I am not surprised that this motion has been moved at a time when NRM is celebrating. He was a former historical member of the NRM party and I must thank hon. Valerie and all colleagues for this motion because those who are Shem's friends in Uganda today, as they listen to us talk, are very proud; people like hon. Rukikaire, hon. Ruhakana Rugunda, people like the President himself; friends of Shem wherever they are are proud and happy that a historical member of the National Resistance Movement was assigned a duty and not only are Ugandans proud of him but East Africans in totality have enjoyed each and every single day working with this gallant son of the region.

I have known hon. Shem as a person who has always wished good for everyone. He has always wanted to make Uganda a better place for us all and he has worked tirelessly in ensuring that the region is a better place for us all.

I must admit that when I joined Parliament, we had the famous F&A and we did not know how to go around this F&A but when he came in, he said we will change the manner in which we do business. He demystified the myth around F&A and as we speak today, I think the wings of the F&A have been shortened a little bit. We are grateful to you, hon. minister.

The hon. minister came at a time when it seemed like when you are Chair Council, you would have to be in Parliament throughout. You would have to answer everything and the rest of the ministers would sit there and just listen. Hon. Shem said that there were ministers with different capabilities and he wished that every time any of them got an opportunity, they would stand in for one another and I am proud to say today that whereas the current Chair, Council is absent, hon. Leontine has led this House as the acting Chair, Council, a duty she has done ably. This is an indication that the Shem culture has continued.

Madam Speaker, I would like to conclude by saying that Shem, a father, an East African, a honourable colleague with whom I am very proud to associate myself with, is a very special man. In Uganda we say he is a true Mukiga. He is very honest, very transparent, dedicated and he has been a good friend of the youth and women of this country and I hope- he has not only been a friend of the youth and women of Uganda but the entire East Africa.

His time has been enjoyed by the Private Sector because when he joined, those in business celebrated because as a businessman, he knew the challenges that the business people face in this region and I believe he has ensured that their issues are put on the regional agenda.

I wish to conclude by thanking all of you. Shem I hope we continue in the same spirit. *Asanteni sana.*

The Speaker: I will take hon. Peter Mathuki. I can see hon. Hafsa Mossi who served on this bench for a while and I will give you two minutes and then I call hon. Valerie.

Mr. Peter Mathuki (Kenya): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. Being my first time to make contribution on this sitting, let me wish all of us a very prosperous 2014. Happy new year to all of us.

Madam Speaker, I must confess that last week, a few things disturbed my emotions so I could not be myself but later they were corrected administratively, thanks to you and to the Chair chapters so I am back to myself. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I wondered in the beginning why we are actually appreciating Shem Bageine. I wondered why we are appreciating him for doing his work; the Chair emeritus but Madam Speaker, I quickly realised that not all of us are given an opportunity or an office as he was given and served to the expectations as hon. Bageine did.

Therefore, it is only fair that we appreciate him at this time and I realised that *mheshimiwa* Bageine and I come from the same school of thought. We believe that we do not appreciate efforts but we appreciate results. I am happy that he was able to deliver, he gave results to the Assembly and he gave results to the Community.

So hon. Shem Bageine, I salute you and indeed expect that you proceed to do the same and to guide all of us in office so that we continue serving with enthusiasm, with zeal as expected.

You demonstrated capacity to negotiate, to interact some of us and personally I have learnt a lot from you. All the time you became my teaching in guiding in some of the issues that I felt were very difficult and you made them very simple. You also made me understand and look at things differently so I must, at a very personal level, appreciate you.

Madam Speaker, I do not have much to say and in the interest of time. But I would like to appreciate Bageine and tell him that when the High Court of history will sit down to make judgement, you shall be judged correctly and fairly and therefore you must keep the fire burning in the region, in East Africa. Do not say that you have finished your work. Continue to guide all of us and continue to guide the Chairpersons that will be coming so that they can serve and expect to give results in the manner that we expect.

I thank you very much, Madam Speaker and wish hon. Bageine prosperity in his life. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: I will take hon. Hafsa Mossi and then hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza.

Ms Hafsa Mossi (Burundi): Thank you, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I am standing to support the motion on the floor. I am not going to give so many reasons because a lot has been said and this is why I am standing at this particular time.

When the late Kategaya passed away, we were wondering who this person is who is going to step into his shoes. But in the end we were not disappointed. Shem Bageine delivered very well,

he was up to the task and I would like to thank His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for having appointed him.

For that Madam Speaker, with the permission of the mover, I would like to move an amendment to the motion especially on resolution number five. Notwithstanding the judgement and the wisdom of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, in view of the exemplary service rendered by minister Shem Bageine, to consider elevating him to the substantive position of Minister of East African Community Affairs. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Valerie, that is an amendment. As you wind up, you can pronounce yourself on whether you accept the amendment so that we are able to see how to conclude on this motion. So proceed to wind up debate.

Ms Nyirahabineza: Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker. Let me thank you again very sincerely for allowing me to bring this very important motion. I think at this point in time my task is very simple. I just want to thank everybody who has contributed and supported this motion. As I said when I was giving the justification, facts or acts speak for themselves and this is proven by the way this motion has been overwhelmingly supported.

At this juncture, I would like to thank hon. Nengo who seconded, hon. Mumbi, hon. Kiangoi, hon. Dora, hon. Kimbisa, hon. Nancy, hon. Nakawuki, hon. Taslima, hon. Ogle, hon. Judith Pareno, hon. Opoka, hon. Zein, hon. Shy-Rose, hon. Nyerere, hon. Tiperu, hon. Mathuki and hon. Hafsa Mossi.

As I conclude, I would like to say that it is not so easy to find words to express our gratitude to hon. Shem Bageine for the way he has always handled the business of the Community. He has done it with professionalism, commitment, focus and he has done everything without fear or favour. He was honest and very sincere.

I thank you first of all for your availability and I do wish that you will continue to do so. I also hope that we shall continue to benefit from your wisdom and counsel and God willing, we shall see tenure of yours and we wish that His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who has nominated you as Minister of State also continues to support you.

I cannot conclude without assuring you that you have our unwavering and unequivocal support as you continue to lead the integration process forward. This is what I have to say.

Regarding the amendment from hon. Hafsa Mossi, having been a politician and even for the time being I am still a politician, if we happen to move this very important motion and asked you, Rt hon. Speaker to submit this motion to His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, I think that he is going to use his wisdom and give hon. Shem Bageine the right he deserves. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Valerie. I also want to add my voice to the members on this very important motion. I want to say salutations to hon. Shem Bageine. During your tenure we have six sittings as opposed to five. Thank you very much as an Assembly.

Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to accord special thanks to hon. Shem Bageine, Minister of State for East African Community Affairs of the Republic of Uganda for his extraordinary performance as Chairperson of the East African Community Council of Ministers.

I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, we have come to the end of our deliberations today. I want to thank you for the dedication and commitment. Before we wind up, allow me during my communication I omitted mentioning and appreciating Quality Chemicals Limited for the sumptuous dinner which was given to us as members of EALA during this opportunity when we are sitting in Kampala.

I have recognized and noted that members of EALA of the male gender have received beautiful neck ties and I think it is worthwhile to appreciate on the microphone. When the Speaker sees that, you will also be able to add but I want to appreciate that gesture of private-public relations and private EALA collaboration. Thank you very much, quality Chemicals.

As we wind up, I want to make another announcement. I have been requested by the Chairperson of the EALA Women's Caucus that the caucus meeting which was scheduled for tomorrow will be held today after the plenary. So I want to take the opportunity to ask members of the EALA women's' caucus to remain behind as we conclude our plenary sitting.

With those announcements, House stands adjourned until tomorrow Wednesday 2.30 p.m. House stands adjourned.

(The House rose at 16:57 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday 29 January 2014 at 2.30 p.m.)