



BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EALA

ISSUE 02

NOVEMBER 2011



CELEBRATING A DECADE OF EXCELLENCE

REPRESENTATIVE

POLITICAL FEDERATION
VARIABLE

LEGISLATIVE

LAWS ENACTED BY
EALA

OVERSIGHT/BUDGET

COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL
AFFAIRS MAKES ITS MARK

INSTITUTIONAL

LINKAGES:
THE LIFE AND TIMES
OF THE FIRST ASSEMBLY



CONTENTS

Desk of the Speaker.....	3
Office of the Clerk.....	4
Political Federation Viable.....	5
Free at last as South Sudan gains independence.....	7
President Kiir & Rt. Hon Abdi hold talks in Juba.....	8
Briefs from the National Assemblies.....	10
Regional Parliaments should own the integration process.....	12
EALA launches Green Bunge Project.....	13
EALA goes green in Kamonyi District in Rwanda.....	14
Bunge La Afrika Mashariki Newsletter launched.....	16
EALA praises Amb. Juma Mwapachu.....	17
Dr Sezibera sworn in as EALA member.....	17
We set up a unified Assembly - Rt. Hon. Kinana.....	18
EALA Stronger today as a People's Assembly.....	19
Burundi's entry in to the EAC timely and a homecoming.....	21
Stabilising Somalia calls for joint efforts by all.....	22
Halt Trafficking.....	24
Does the EAC need to negotiate another Treaty?.....	26
Let EALA and GPH focus on human settlement.....	28
Good-bye Nyakatsi.....	30
Energy Security challenge in East Africa- a call for implementation of Policies and Initiatives.....	32
Know the Law making process at EALA.....	36
Matrix of the Assembly's enacted Laws- 2001-2011.....	38
Amend the treaty to create a Supra-National EAC Audit Commission.....	42
Region aiming for TECH-SAVVY kids.....	44
Time is ripe for an East African Guarantee fund.....	46
EALA sets pace in the enactment of regional legislation.....	47
House Business Committee moves the Assembly's agenda forward.....	49
Committee on Regional Affairs makes its mark.....	50
CTI envisages a future of bliss for the region.....	52
Committee on General Purpose makes remarkable strides.....	54
Checking your Shillings and Cents.....	56
Committed to a green environment and food security.....	57
The Treaty: Be our Shield and Defender.....	60
The EALA pictorial.....	62
The life and times of the First Assembly.....	64
East African Legislative Assembly Sitting Members 2011.....	66
East African Legislative Assembly Staff Members.....	68
Appreciation.....	70

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ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY

SPEAKER'S CHAMBER

DESK OF THE HON. SPEAKER

November 29th is not just an ordinary day to look forward to - but one that bears great significance in EALA's history. On this day, EALA often commemorates its inauguration. This year around, it goes that extra mile as the EALA fraternity congregates in Bujumbura, Burundi, to mark a decade of existence since inception.

Allow me to wish EALA and East Africans a happy 10th Anniversary. It has been 10 years of togetherness, 10 years of happiness, 10 years of making dreams come true, 10 solid beautiful years of sharing and ultimately of building trust in each other. We now act, talk and decide as one family.

This edition of the *Bunge La Afrika* magazine is thus dedicated in whole to the celebrations and is a unique bumper edition venerating ten years of great service to East Africans.

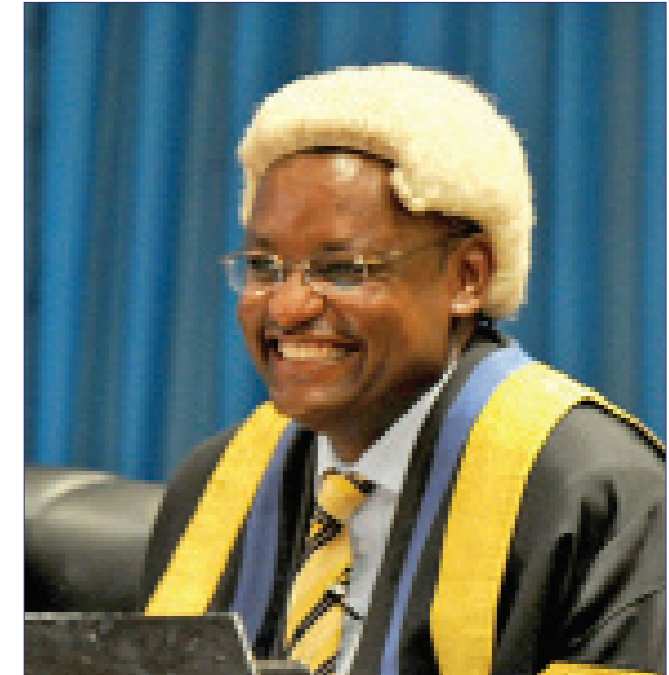
This issue is also special since it is the second publication under the EALA belt. You will recall that the inaugural edition was launched on April 5, 2011 in Kigali, Rwanda, by the Chairperson of the Summit, His Excellency President Pierre Nkurunziza.

In addition, the publication highlights noble activities we carried out during the year including tree-planting and the EALA 10th Anniversary Symposium as curtain raisers to the climax of the celebrations. I encourage you to flip the pages for in- depth analysis in order to find out and know what your Assembly has done over the years.

EALA has dedicatedly undertaken its mandate as underlined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. From humble beginnings –consisting of 27 Members, and a lean team of staff, EALA is today a power-house with 52 Members, a strengthened staff outlay and expanse roles.

The *raison d'être* of EALA is to enact legislation pertaining to the EAC, provide oversight to the Community as well as in representing the interests of the people of East Africa.

The Assembly has realised significant progress and registered tremendous achievements despite the inevitable challenges. We have created space as the legislative Organ of the Community while upholding the principle of separation of powers on issues brought



RT. HON ABDIRAHIN ABDI

before the House for debate and approval. This is a significant achievement making a critical difference to the success of law making. The Assembly remains dynamic as witnessed by the quality of engagement and debate in the House along the way.

I am upbeat about the on-going progress being recorded at the East African Community and the zeal with which the integration path is taking.

Beyond our East African borders, we continue to strengthen, maintain and build relations with other parliaments in the continent and beyond.

Analysts, historians, parliamentarians – and others, often denote that the past lays the foundation on which the future is built. Since, we are in a commemorative mood, it is deemed okay to observe that the future of the region in terms of anticipated gains and benefits of regional integration is bright. As the region progresses towards a Political Federation, the main theme of our several months of celebrations, EALA shall continue to collaborate and close ranks with all stakeholders to fulfill the dreams of all East Africans.

I hope you shall capture the knowledge with enthusiasm as we revisit our history and analyse how far we have come from and where we are going. I cannot end without thanking East Africans for whom we as an Assembly are beholden to.

Finally, since the clock is winding down fast with the Year coming to an end in the next few weeks, let me take this opportunity to wish you all a festive season and a prosperous 2012.



MR. KENNETH NAMBOGA MADETE

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

It is evident that EALA has over the years shown high levels of vibrancy and enthusiasm in its efforts towards enhancing a wider and deeper oversight scope of the Community. This is clearly testified by the high number of Laws, Motions and Resolutions enacted/adopted so far by both the first and second Assemblies respectively in such a record time.

While a decade of service to East Africans may be seen as a long time in nomenclature, it is in fact a very short time in matters of institutional building. One could say the race has just began. However, the achievements registered in the last ten years are worth celebrating. The Assembly must continue to support and spearhead the integration process with dedication, zeal and vigour. It must consolidate gains and continue enacting relevant legislation that support the course of regional integration.

In today's global economy, there is need to ensure a strong economic bloc – and one that can withstand a turbulent environment. Relevant laws play this key role in the dispensation.

We as an Assembly remain hopeful that the next decade shall see the region's prospects of growth and development remain solid and that East Africa shall continue to progress and possibly set the standards to be emulated by other regional blocs.

The Assembly shall continue to liaise and work together with the other Organs of the Community, the Private Sector, Civil Society and other stakeholders. This is in fulfillment of the operational principle of the Community to be people centred. The Assembly should continue to be truly a people's Assembly that exists to serve the populace of the region and one that is driven by the desire to see a unified region.

May I take this opportunity to thank all the contributors, colleagues and the Editorial Board who volunteered to compile these articles. *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki* is your publication as well. We welcome short articles on relevant themes and topics of interest and on regional integration. We welcome your suggestions and undertake to integrate the same to make the publication even better and a must read for all East Africans.

I am pleased to pen down some thoughts with you in this special edition of *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki* magazine.

This edition specifically highlights and brings to fore the successes (and challenges) of the Assembly over the past decade. We pride in the gallant steps as already denoted by the Rt. Hon Speaker in his Foreword.

Increasingly, the Assembly's role in strengthening the integration process is becoming respected and recognized. The Assembly has continued to build on this strong and distinctive focus a decade later.

Given the fact that EAC is deepening and widening integration, the role of the Assembly remains fundamental and is crucially hinged on provision of legislative services – all aimed towards implementation of the integrative pillars.

Generally, the EAC is at a defining moment having reached an interesting period in its quest for integration. The Customs Union which became fully-fledged on January 1, 2010, has seen a phenomenal rise in intra-EAC trade. The Common Market is on course.

Negotiations on the Monetary Union, the third tier of the four-step integration process have commenced in earnest while the Political Federation is not too far off in the horizon.

Such is the speed with which integration is moving. The Assembly remains committed as a major stakeholder in ensuring the region realises the objectives and integrative pillars as set out by the Treaty.

POLITICAL FEDERATION VIABLE

...but key issues need to be addressed to accelerate process

By Bobi Odiko

The EALA Symposium themed: "A Decade of Service towards a Political Federation" was held in Arusha on June 30, 2011 to July 2, 2011. The invited delegates came in numbers (over 200 hundred to be precise), deliberated in style and arrived at far reaching recommendations on the whole important subject of Political Federation.

In attendance were the forefathers of the EAC, their Excellencies Daniel Arap Moi, Ali Hassan Mwinyi and President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni (who was represented by the Prime Minister of Uganda, the Rt. Hon. Amama Mbabazi).

EALA Speaker Rt. Hon. Abdirahin H. Abdi set the ball rolling by urging the region to ensure the integration process was steadfast and remained on track right through to the Political Federation. "in retrospect, the collapse of the Community in 1977 was a sad and catastrophic affair, a great loss in opportunities and a setback for the region. But today, I stand here convinced that the steps we have taken as a Community since its re-establishment are fundamentally underpinned on the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. As such, the Treaty remains the guiding principle and there is no need for fear whatsoever of a second collapse" noted the Speaker.

In his remarks, H.E. Daniel Arap Moi urged the region to shun fears that are bound to come with the process of integrating and to accelerate the formation of the Political Federation.



EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Abdirahin Abdi (centre) receives retired President of Kenya H.E. Daniel Arap Moi. On left is the (former) Regional Commissioner of Arusha Hon Isidore Shirima

H.E. Moi said the move towards formation of a united East African nation, complete with the integrative pillars had reached a point of no return and urged the Partner States to fast track

The dream of those who pioneered the East African Federation should not be slowed.

the process. He noted the dream of those who pioneered the East African Federation should not be slowed, warning that leaders who go against the spirit of a united region would be judged harshly by the region's citizens. "Do not fear to imagine a nation called East Africa with a Parliament, Judiciary, President and Commander-in-Chief. It is only after you start

entertaining the idea that you realise it is possible," said Mr. Moi.

H.E. Ali Hajj Hassan Ali Mwinyi called for greater consolidation and enhancement of the process "The EAC integration calls for vibrant efforts from all to make our region prosperous and developed," he stressed. President Museveni cautioned that the much talked about East African integration needed the political will of the leaders if it were to be realised in entirety. "Economic integration, without political integration, is slow", he said

Presenters make a case for 'righting the wrong'

The Symposium also witnessed the presentation of interesting papers. Prof Mahmood Mamdani, director at the Makerere Institute of Research highlighted the need for land reforms, a failure of which, he noted, was a recipe contributing to the slow-uptake of the integration process and



A section of delegates at the 10th Anniversary Symposium

realisation of the envisaged Political Federation. Prof Mamdani gave a comprehensive historical synopsis of what led to the collapse of the first EAC; which started in 1967 and collapsed in 1977.

He urged Partner States to address issues that led to the collapse of the first EAC, which he termed *inter alia* as ethnicity and tribalism and the widening gap between the poor and the rich. The answer, he said lay in land reforms, strong political

democracy that would “counteract market fundamentalism, balance social inequality, social injustices, rule of law and involvement of non-state actors and equitable distribution of resources.”

Other papers were presented by the former Secretary General of the EAC, Hon Amany Mushega and the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Rt. Hon Anna Makinda, Speaker of Parliament of Tanzania, Rt. Hon Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of the

Parliament of Rwanda (Chamber of Deputies) and Rt. Hon Pie Ntavyohanyuma, Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly. Hon Amany Mushega urged the citizens of the region to cultivate and strengthen ethos and values as East Africans. “*When the old Community broke up, the feeling and spirit of the region suffered a huge setback. We need an East Africa that is strong and one that shall survive and prosper*”, Hon Mushega noted.

The papers were interspersed with panel discussions bringing together key panelists and contributors including former EAC Secretaries General, Amb. Francis Muthaura, Amb Juma Mwapachu and the current EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera. Others were Hon. Martha Karua, MP and Chairperson of NARC-Kenya and the CEO of the New Vision Group, Robert Kabushenga.

The full report of the Symposium is available on the EALA website: www.eala.org

WHAT DID PARTICIPANTS TAKE HOME?

The three day Symposium recommended the strengthening of EAC institutions to enable the Community drive the integration process forward. Towards this end, the amendment of the EAC Treaty and ceding of power by Partner States as well as enhanced resources for the Community were deemed vital and necessary. EALA was urged to proactively take advantage of its powers under the Treaty to influence the sprouting of the Political Federation as well as to oversee and hold Partner States more accountable in the implementation of the

commitments. “*The Secretariat and EALA need more administrative and political monitoring of the implementation process of decisions made within the Community*”, delegates affirmed.

The Symposium further called for increased involvement through citizens’ participation by engaging the civil society organisations, media, Private Sector, youth, men and women in a move aimed at ensuring meaningful engagement and adequate sensitization.

Overcoming perceptions and fears is of absolute necessity in the quest towards a Political Federation. This, participants felt

could be achieved by developing deliberate and sustainable measures to address fears and by developing common citizenship ownership for East Africans and improving internal governance challenges.

The increased role of national Parliaments in the integration dispensation was also noted as instrumental in enabling the region realize the ultimate prize of a Political Federation. Such initiatives, the Symposium concluded, were realizable by improving linkages between EALA and the National Assemblies.

FREE AT LAST AS SOUTH SUDAN GAINS INDEPENDENCE

...President Salva Kiir hails EALA for standing by his country

Africa recently welcomed a new State. South Sudan was declared independent on Saturday, July 9, 2011, at a ceremony in the new capital, Juba. The momentous ceremony took place before tens of thousands of citizens and numerous foreign leaders, bringing to an end close to five decades of restlessness and war.

The independence of South Sudan ushers in the 54th nation in the continent. EALA was in Juba to witness the ceremony. EALA Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi led a delegation of 5 members in attending the inauguration of the new Republic.

EALA was elated by the developments. “*On behalf of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) and on my own behalf, I wish to congratulate His Excellency, Gen. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan and the citizens of the country following the attainment of independence of South Sudan. EALA applauds President Salva Kiir as he leads the people of South Sudan on the new yet historical journey of nationhood. His swearing in as the new Head of State is further reminiscent of the faith the people of the Republic of South Sudan have in his leadership and a vote of confidence as he begins the hard work of building and re-building the nation*”, the Rt. Hon Speaker stated in his congratulatory message to H.E. General Salva Kiir.

A day later, President Salva Kiir met with the EALA delegation at State House, Juba where he affirmed his country’s desire to join the EAC.



President Salva Kiir addresses a delegation of EALA in Juba

He hailed EAC for supporting South Sudan and the Sudan during the period of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. “*I note with gratification the Assembly’s efforts in ensuring that peace in South Sudan prevailed*,” he noted. *The Assembly visited South Sudan to assess the state of preparedness during the period leading to the Referendum and also sent an observer team during the referendum*”, the President said. President Kiir stated that the Parliament of South Sudan stood to benefit from the enriching experience of EALA.

EALA is proud to be associated with the new Republic at its moment of pride. As a regional Assembly, EALA has watched with admiration over the years from the time the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed, as the vision of the forefathers of South Sudan became transplanted in the people of this new and great nation. The outcome of

the referendum at which EALA (and the EAC) sent an observer team, also exemplified the will of the people of South Sudan. The political will that enabled the two sides to negotiate, sign, and implement the CPA and conduct the referendum still exists. It guarantees that they can agree on the outstanding issues as well as the post-referendum ones.

The Republic of South Sudan meanwhile became the newest member of United Nations, as it joined the world’s top club amid pledges from the UN to help the State take its first steps.

“*I declare South Sudan a Member of the United Nations*,” said Joseph Deiss, President of the UN General Assembly, after a vote by acclamation admitted the country as the UN’s 193rd member. That aside, South Sudan is itching to become a Partner State at the EAC. President Kiir himself has declared that the country’s official application is expected soon.

PRESIDENT KIIR & RT. HON ABDI HOLD TALKS IN JUBA

EALA Speaker presents Resolution on South Sudan to the President



EALA Speaker presents the EALA Resolution congratulating South Sudan to President Salva Kiir in Juba

The Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon. Abdirahin H. Abdi, held talks with His Excellency General Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of South Sudan at the President's Office in Juba, South Sudan.

The meeting took place on October 5, 2011. In his remarks, H.E President Salva Kiir Mayardit, informed the EALA Speaker that his country had kick-started the application process to the EAC bloc. "We want to join the EAC; we are not dragging our feet, we are coming", he remarked.

The President hailed the EAC for supporting both South Sudan and the Sudan during the period of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). "Whenever Khartoum isolated Juba we used to either run to the Democratic Republic of Congo, Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Burundi or Rwanda for shelter

and assistance for our struggle; the EAC is thus at the centre of our hearts", he emphasized. President Salva Kiir hailed the existing and warm relations between EALA and his government adding that the Parliament of South Sudan also stood to benefit from the enriching experience of EALA. "I note with gratification the Assembly's efforts in ensuring that peace in South Sudan prevailed," he stated.

The Assembly also sent an observer team during the Referendum and was represented during the Independence celebrations on July 9th, 2011.

The EALA Speaker notified President Salva Kiir that at its 122nd Sitting held on September 14th, 2011 in Kigali, Rwanda, the Assembly adopted a Resolution congratulating the Government and people of South Sudan upon her landmark Independence on

July 9th, 2011. The Resolution brought to the floor of the House by Hon Dan Kidega, received overwhelming and unanimous support from Members.

The Resolution further urged the EAC Partner States through the Council of Ministers to develop regional infrastructure that links up to borders with South Sudan to enable the EAC and South Sudan unlock the vast economic potential of the region.

"The Resolution has been widely circulated to all the media houses in the region for publication", the Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi further noted.

Rt Hon Abdi had earlier on participated in the Session in the South Sudan Legislative Assembly where he also addressed the House.

Bunge La Afrika Mashariki is proud to share with you the Resolution verbatim.



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

RESOLUTION OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY TO CONGRATULATE THE GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE OF SOUTH SUDAN UPON THE LANDMARK INDEPENDENCE OF SOUTH SUDAN ON 9TH JULY, 2011

Moved by Hon. Dan Kidega and adopted by the Assembly on Wednesday, 14th September, 2011

WHEREAS South Sudan became an independent Country on 9th July, 2011 making it the newest Member State of the African Union and the United Nations;

AND WHEREAS the clamour for her independence was a long standing issue arising out of the perceived repressive measures by the Central authority in Sudan against the people of South Sudan which culminated into sporadic fighting particularly from the time when the South Sudan People's Liberation Movement was established in 1983;

CONSIDERING that the peoples of South Sudan endeared themselves to the pursuit of justice, peace, prosperity and inherent freedoms to counter the repressive measures against them by the ruling government of the time;

FURTHER CONSIDERING that their struggles were of regional, continental and international concern which, resulted into a negotiated Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 to guide the future relations between the South and North Sudan;

AWARE that the quest for freedoms and independence were galvanised by the desire of South Sudan to tread the path of political, social and economic prosperity;

FURTHER AWARE that South Sudan looked upon the neighbouring states and the international community for political, social and economic frontiers thereby, striving to maintain good neighbourliness with them especially with countries of the EAC region;

ALSO AWARE of the strong economic ties between some of the EAC Partner States and the South Sudan which all parties are expected to reap from, owing to the independence of South Sudan;

ALSO AWARE of the strong and cordial relationship between the political leaders of the EAC Partner States and those of South Sudan which, stands to intensify following the independence of South Sudan; and also **NOTING** the sustained and intensified relationship between EALA and its Speaker on one side and the Parliament of South Sudan and its Speaker on the other side;



NOW THEREFORE, this Assembly do resolve to:


- (1) Unreservedly congratulate the Government and the Citizens of South Sudan upon the landmark achievement of independence;
- (2) Unreservedly congratulate the Governments and People of the EAC region upon the independence of South Sudan;
- (3) Urge the EAC Partner States through the Council to develop regional infrastructure that links up to our borders with South Sudan to enable the EAC and South Sudan to unlock the vast economic potential of the region;
- (4) Urge the EAC Partner States through the Council to pursue a sustained and increased trade, political and social co-operation with South Sudan;
- (5) Work closely with EAC Council, the Summit and the Government and Parliament of South Sudan to strengthen ties between the East African Community and the Republic of South Sudan.

Empower the Speaker of the Assembly to transmit this Resolution to the President, and the Speaker of Parliament of South Sudan.

CERTIFIED BY:

DATE: 19 September 2011

Alex Obatre - For: CLERK

 **BURUNDI**

Burundi National Assembly readies for EALA



Burundi National Assembly is the venue of the EALA Plenary which takes place from November 15th to November 30, 2011. This is

the Second Meeting of the Fifth Session of the Second Assembly. According to the Chief Protocol Officer of the Burundi National Assembly, Pascal Ntirampeba, all plans are in place to ensure a successful plenary.

“We are planning accordingly and we welcome once again our Honorable Members, brothers and sisters of EALA to Bujumbura where all roads lead to” Ntirampeba told the Editorial Leader of **Bunge La Afrika Mashariki**. Various activi-

ties are planned culminating in the climax as well of the 10th Anniversary celebrations of EALA. The meetings and activities include the inter-Parliamentary soccer tournament pitting football teams from the Partner States and EALA/EAC, the Council of Ministers and the Lake Tanganyika Investments Conference. The EAC shall also hold the 3rd joint EAC/GIZ media training and the Summit of the Heads of State in Bujumbura.

 **RWANDA**

Rwanda Senate gets new President

The Senate of Rwanda Parliament recently elected Dr. Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo (pictured) as the President of the Senate. The Senate also elected Hon. Bernard Makuza, the immediate former Prime Minister of Rwanda and Hon Jeanne d’Arc Gakuba to both serve as Vice Presidents of the Senate. EALA congratulated the new Senate President. EALA Speaker Rt. Hon Abdi hailed the in-coming

President of the Senate and wished him well. *“I wish to congratulate Dr. Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo following his election as the President of the Senate in the Republic of Rwanda. The victory of Dr. Ntawukuriryayo is a sign that the Senate has full confidence in his leadership abilities. I am certain that Dr. Ntawukuriryayo, who he previously served as the Deputy Speaker of Parliament of Rwanda, has the credentials and the necessary experience to steer the Senate forward. EALA*



assures Dr. Ntawukuriryayo of its full support. EALA is confident that with such rich vitae and experience, the Senate President shall deliver the responsibilities of the new docket with impetus and vigour.

 **TANZANIA**

Committees meet as Parliament convenes



All Parliamentary Standing Committees are convening in Dar es Salaam for two weeks from 24th October to 4th November,

2011 to deliberate on the agenda for the 5th Parliamentary session which begins on 8th November 2011. Parliament has over ten Committees. The Committees’ meetings which are procedural, will deliberate on matters assigned to them by the Speaker and other business as stipulated by Parliamentary Standing Orders.

The Committees expected to meet are Finance and Economic Affairs, Public Accounts, Social

Services, Social Welfare & Community Development and Constitutional, Legal and Public Administration. Other Committees include Energy and Minerals, Infrastructure, Public Corporation Accounts, Miscellaneous Amendments, Agriculture, Livestock and Water, Foreign Affairs, Defence and Security, Industries and Trade and lastly, the Local Government Accounts.

 **UGANDA**

Speaker calls for East African Conflict Resolution Mechanism

The Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament has called for the establishment of a conflict resolution mechanism to handle conflicts that may derail the East African integration process.

Addressing Ugandan and East African Legislative Assembly MPs at an orientation workshop for the ninth Parliament on September 30, 2011 in Kampala, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga (pictured) expressed concern that the dispute over the ownership of Misingo Island and the political elections in the Partner States highlighted the urgent need for this mechanism.

“These two occurrences have pointed to the fact that we need to establish a conflict resolution mechanism in order to

handle conflicts, lest they derail the integration process,” she said.

The Speaker further called for increased awareness on the benefits of regional integration.

“There is need for all East Africans to feel the positive impact of integration at a practical and local level without any hindrance in order for integration to be better supported and appreciated,” she told legislators.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs Hon. Eriya Kategaya noted that integration was key and if states opted for isolation and total independence from the others, they would face



an uncertain future. He told MPs that integration with other countries was the best option for survival of modern states. Minister Kategaya reaffirmed that unemployment in the Partner States of the Community Partner would be reduced when the states fully utilize the Common Market.

 **KENYA**

Recent colloquium at KNA a first for the region



Speaker, Rt Hon. Kenneth Marende

The Kenya National Assembly recently hosted the inaugural Africa Colloquium of Legal Counsel to Parliaments. The Colloquium held on 27th- 31st October 2011 in Nairobi attracted legal professionals serving in Parliaments in Africa.

The Colloquium took place against a background of the need for Parliaments to discharge their

constitutional roles in an efficient and effective manner.

To properly do so, Parliaments require having, at their disposal, sound, professional and independent legal advice. Parliaments in Africa have traditionally relied on the Executive for the provision of

legal services. Such services are provided in some countries through the Office of the Attorney-General and in others through the Ministry responsible for Justice or Legal Affairs. In recent years and as African Parliaments have sought to assert their independence and separation from the Executive, the traditional model has, in many jurisdictions,

proved to be less than satisfactory for the purposes of providing efficient, effective and expeditious legal services. Consequently, many African Parliaments have engaged in-house Counsel to provide independent legal services to Parliament. There are however some Parliaments in Africa that have retained the traditional model with varying levels of success.

The 2011 Colloquium thus primarily intended to provide peer learning and capacity building for Legal Counsel to Parliaments in Africa with the view of examining the functions and roles of Legal Counsel serving in Parliaments; and sharing modern trends and best-practices in the provision of legal services to Parliaments among others.

REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS SHOULD OWN THE INTEGRATION PROCESS

...they must play a more visible role and sensitize publics



EALA Speaker Rt. Hon Abdi with the Secretary General of SADC-PF, Dr. Enos Chiviya

Regional Parliaments have been urged to play a more visible process in the integration process if integration process is to be understood, appreciated, owned and driven by the people who are the eventual beneficiaries, the Speaker of EALA, the Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi has said.

At the same time, there is every need to provide leadership in explaining and sensitizing people about the importance as well as the benefits of integration. The Rt. Hon. Speaker delivered the message at the 29th Plenary Assembly Session of the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) at the Hotel Serra-da-Chela Lubango - Angola, on June 8th - 9th, 2011.

The meeting was opened by the Vice President of the Republic of Angola, H.E. Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos who read a message on behalf of the President H.E. Eng. Jose Eduardo dos Santos.

The Vice President lauded SADC-PF programmes and

activities as positive and irreversible steps towards an inclusive and participatory regional integration. He underscored the need for policy harmonization and greater complementarity among SADC Member States.

In the EALA paper entitled: "The EALA Experiences as a Regional Parliament", the Rt. Hon Abdi called for the strengthening and empowering of the supra national organs and institutions of the respective regional integration blocs to enable them fully execute their mandate and in a more appropriate and efficient manner. "We need to appreciate that our RECs are at different stages of integration which makes it imperative for us to benefit from one another through peer learning as a way of building regional capacities as a basis for a sound and viable continental integration", Rt. Hon. Abdi denoted.

He enumerated the various achievements of EALA over the ten years of its existence as: the successful creation of space at the EAC as the legislative Organ of the Community, spearheading and supporting the integration process of the EAC with dedication and zeal.

The Speaker further noted that in addition to the over 30 pieces of legislation enacted so far by EALA, it has also marketed the region to East Africans as evident by the outreach programme that it undertook, enabling the Community to come in to contact

with many citizens. "To this effect, the achievements registered by EALA in the various areas of integration should provide you with a learning experience in terms of best practices that can be emulated in our region", the Hon Speaker told the attentive delegates. "On the other hand we are also here to benefit from you and learn about the achievements so far made by SADC-PF as a regional parliament" Hon Abdi remarked. "Our wish as EALA is to see SADC Parliament transformed from a consultative and advisory forum to a fully legislative Parliament that will facilitate the faster integration of the Southern Africa States", he added.

The 29th Plenary Assembly drew lessons from experiences of the EALA on among other things, the framework of its establishment, relationship between the Assembly and other Organs of the Community and the relationship with National Assemblies. The plenary was also attended by the Clerk of the Pan African Parliament (PAP) Maitre Zwelethu Madasa who also addressed the deliberative session.

At the end of the meeting, a Communiqué was released which *inter alia* noted and expressed support for the transformation of the SADC Parliamentary Forum into a regional Parliament.

The Assembly thus requested the SADC Summit of Heads of State and government to have the matter on its agenda for deliberations. EALA and the PAP further expressed readiness to work with the SADC- PF towards its transformation in to a regional Parliament.

EALA PLANTS TREES IN ARUSHA AS IT ROLLS OUT STRATEGY FOR ENTIRE REGION

...legislators visit Nadosoito Primary School to launch Green Bunge project & celebrate Assembly's decade

EALA has committed to planting 50,000 trees in the Partner States over the next one year, in an initiative dubbed the *Green Bunge* project. At the same time, the Assembly is urging local communities to grow and conserve trees and integrate the same in their farming systems.

EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Abdirahin H. Abdi, said that by so doing, EALA was committing to enabling the region realise sustainable environment in accordance with goal no. 7 of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that all Partner States have appended their signatures to realise.

EALA made the pledge during the tree planting ceremony held at Nadosoito Primary School, in Terrat ward, 17 km south-east of Arusha on May 23, 2011. The tree planting ceremony marked part of the 10th Anniversary celebrations of EALA. Over 300 different species of trees were planted in the ceremony that brought together legislators, the community, school children and their parents.

The species planted included the drought resistant and fast growing genus such as: *Senna Spectabilis* (Mhojoro), *Olea Capensis* (Loliondo), Acacia, Mango and Guava. In a speech read on his behalf by EALA MP, Hon. Kate Kamba, the Rt. Hon Speaker pledged the Assembly's support in going every mile towards legislating relevant pieces of law that protect and conserve the environment. According to the Speaker, an

average of 1100 trees planted per year per Member of EALA, shall see the Assembly hit the 50,000 target. "This translates to about 90 trees a month or simply put, 3 trees a day, a target that is possible", Rt.

challenges is in harvesting rain. We shall do all we can', he said.

The Rt. Hon. Speaker said EALA would continue in its quest to look for opportunities to engage with publics



A tree a day conserves the environment: Hon Mike Sebalu plants a tree at Nadosoito Primary School

Hon Abdi added. In attendance were the Member of Parliament of Arusha region, Hon Godbless Lemma and officials of the Arusha Municipal Council led by the acting Municipal Director, Mr. Redneck M. Mbatian.

The Arusha MP urged the locals to support the idea of growing more trees as a mode of checking the environmental degradation.

He noted that the water situation in the area and region generally, was grave and needed to be urgently addressed.

The Head Teacher of Nadosoito Primary School, Mr. Simon Siara hailed the initiative by EALA noting that the residents in the area were motivated by the worthy activity. "One of our major

across all cadres of society. "As we appraise our own effectiveness as an Assembly, we continue to reflect on what tomorrow holds. Let me hasten to say that "tomorrow belongs to the young ones you see here". But tomorrow also belongs to a strong and unified East African Community region where all citizens shall enjoy the full benefits of integration, social inclusiveness and cohesiveness."

The tree planting ceremony was timely and took place against the backdrop of the International Biodiversity Day which was commemorated globally on May 21, 2011. The theme of this year's International Biodiversity Day was Forests and Biodiversity and the ample theme coincides with the UN Proclamation of 2011 as the International Year of Forests.

EALA GOES GREEN IN KAMONYI DISTRICT IN RWANDA

By Amanda Kayumba

Members of the EALA Rwanda Chapter participated in a tree planting activity in Runda sector, Kamonyi district as part of the *Green Bunge* initiative on November 5th 2011. The Green Bunge project is an EALA initiative dedicated to ‘greening’ East Africa through planting as many trees as possible and is one of the activities marking EALA’s 10th Anniversary.

The tree planting event attracted high level dignitaries in the Rwandan government. The President of the Senate, Hon. Ntawukuriryayo Jean Damascene was the chief guest in the ceremony attended by the Speaker of Chamber of Deputies, Hon. Rose Mukantabana, the Minister of EAC Affairs, Hon. Monique Mukaruliza and the Minister of Natural Resources, Hon. Stanislas Kamanzi. Others in attendance were Hon. Harebamungu Mathias, Minister of State in Charge of Primary and Secondary Education, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Natural Resources, Caroline Kayonga and members of the Diplomatic corps. Citizens of Runda sector also participated in the tree planting activity.

Participants at the ceremony which took place in Gihara Secondary School planted a total of 9,600 trees on six hectares estimated at 2,100,000 Rfw. Kenya Commercial Bank (KCB), Rwanda collaborated with EALA in the initiative.

Speaking at the event, Hon. Ntawukuriryayo Jean Damascene,



Hon. Ntawukuriryayo Jean Damascene, President of the Rwanda Senate (right) joins Hon Patricia Hajabakiga in planting a tree in Runda Sector, Kamonyi district recently. EALA is to plant 50,000 trees in the Partner States

told participants particularly citizens of Runda sector and students of the secondary school that trees must be nurtured and taken care of to ensure they grow. He decried deforestation, saying trees are too useful to be cut down.

“Trees can be a source of fresh air and rain, which is what we need to combat the dryness that is characteristic of East Africa”, Dr. Ntawukuriryayo said.

Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga, Chairperson of the EALA Rwanda Chapter said EALA had also collaborated with Rwandans on other projects like eradicating grass thatched houses (anti-Nyakatsi) countrywide. *‘We have committed as EALA to ensuring progress not only in Rwanda but in all the Partner States,* Hon Hajabakiga said.

The Green Bunge project was launched in Arusha in May 2011 with a visit to the Nadosoito Primary School on the outskirts of Arusha where EALA Members planted over 300 different species

of trees. Its aim is to plant 50,000 trees in all East African Community Partner states, to promote a green East Africa.

Hon. Stanislas Kamanzi, Minister of Natural Resources, informed participants that planting trees was also part of the program of the Government of Rwanda and it would go on for three months. Hon. Monique Mukaruliza, the Minister of EAC Affairs termed the activity as part and parcel of the activities of the EAC Week, dedicated by the Ministry to sensitizing Rwandans about the East African Community.

‘I urge Rwandans to look out for benefits and opportunities provided by the EAC through the signed Protocols’, the Minister said.

Editors Note: Ms. Amanda Kayumba is the Media and Public Relations Officer at the Ministry of East African Community, Rwanda



The Partnership between EALA and AWEPA



AWEPA

The Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA), is an international nongovernmental organisation, which works in cooperation with African Parliaments to strengthen parliamentary democracy in Africa, keep Africa high on the political agenda in Europe, and facilitate African-European Parliamentary



dialogue. It has a membership base of some 1500 current and former Members of Parliament from almost all EU Member States plus Norway, Switzerland, and the European Parliament. AWEPA works in Africa from a development perspective to strengthen the core functions of Parliaments: oversight, representation and legislation. It believes that strong Parliaments, good governance, transparency and accountability lie at the heart of Africa’s long term development.

AWEPA currently works with some 25 Parliaments in Africa through jointly agreed capacity building programmes. These include national Parliaments, regional parliamentary bodies and decentralised authorities. Through multi-annual programmes, AWEPA provides training, workshops, seminars and study visits for Parliamentarians and parliamentary staff. In addition, AWEPA works in post conflict countries such as the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, Somalia and Sudan to assist them in realising the basic functioning of a Parliament. AWEPA always works at the request of Parliaments in Africa and all programmes are carried out in close partnership and co-operation with Parliamentarians and staff. In AWEPA, activities the principles of gender and multiparty balance are respected.

AWEPA also informs and mobilises Members of national European Parliaments, as well as Members of the European Parliament on policy issues in African-European relations, development cooperation and democratisation in Africa. This is done largely through its access, via its *Sections* in Europe, to experienced Parliamentarians in Europe and Africa, who can

contribute and exchange information and experience related to acute political issues. In addition to active Members of Parliament (MPs), AWEPA has a network of former MPs who, having years of experience in parliamentary work, can provide invaluable inputs into the support programmes. Peer to peer exchange amongst African Parliamentarians is a proven methodological advantage in the assistance provided. As a non-partisan organisation, AWEPA has members from the whole political spectrum.

EALA and AWEPA

Recognising the importance of a regional Assembly for East Africa, AWEPA was present at the inauguration of the EALA in 2001. Since then the partnership has been fostered in a mutually beneficial way, in the sense that both partners value each other’s expertise and work together in a spirit of learning and collaboration. In 2007, the collaboration between the partners was formalised in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation. Additionally, a MoU was signed between EALA, AWEPA and three development partners, namely Swedish International Development Co-operation Agency (SIDA), Irish Aid and Norad, committing the partners to implement and support a capacity building programme for the period 2008-



2011. The excellent collaboration in the 1st Assembly has continued in the current Assembly with the Speaker giving the partnership a high profile.

AWEPA has contributed towards raising awareness and recognition for the EALA on different fora, both in Europe and Africa. AWEPA gives EALA opportunities for interaction with different stakeholders, which has resulted in wide appreciation for the Assembly. EALA uses these opportunities to strengthen its legislative oversight, representative and budgetary roles, thereby enriching debates, dialogues and enactment of laws for the deepening and widening of the EAC integration agenda. During the past decade, AWEPA has successfully fundraised for the EALA and thus enabled the EALA to expand its scope of activities.

BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED

...President Pierre Nkurunziza officiates at unveiling of EALA's inaugural edition

Toasts, pomp and excitement marked the launch of the flagship EALA magazine – *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki* on April 5, 2011. The ceremony officiated by the President of the Republic of Burundi and the Chairperson of the EAC Heads of Summit, H.E. President Pierre Nkurunziza, took place at the Parliament of Rwanda in Kigali, Rwanda on the sidelines of the 4th Meeting of the 4th Session.

In his remarks, President Nkurunziza hailed EALA for the novelty in launching its flagship Newsletter adding that it would go a long way in marketing and publicising the activities of the Community while acting as a bridge to the information divide within the EAC.

“Since our region is built on a people-centred integration process, it is imperative for the Organs and



UNVEILED: President Pierre Nkurunziza launches the EALA magazine

Institutions of the EAC to constantly appraise the people on pertinent developments, plans and goals. I therefore commend the initiative by the East African Legislative Assembly to come up with this Newsletter which I believe, will go a long way towards sensitizing and educating our people on EAC projects and Programmes”, President Nkurunziza said

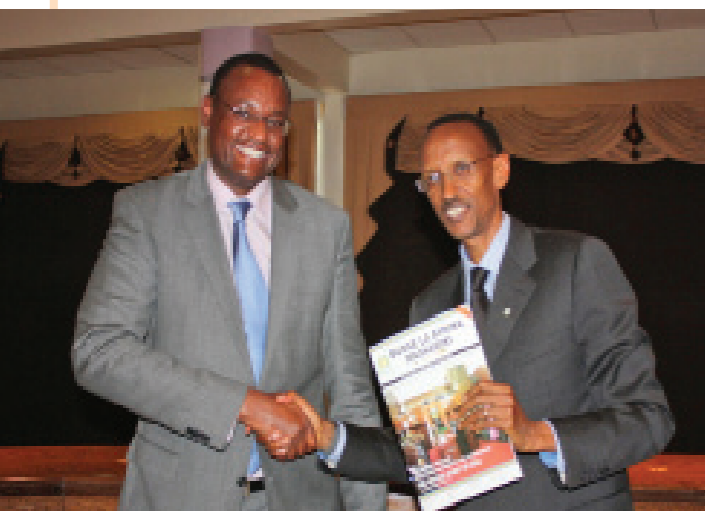
The Speaker of EALA, the Rt. Hon. Abdirahin H. Abdi noted that *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki* would be devoted to reporting on matters of EALA and important issues and developments taking place within the EAC region. “Our editorial policy shall strive in telling the truth as well as being integral while offering the most educative, informative, entertaining and transformative content”, the Rt. Hon Abdi said. The arrival

of the magazine thus marked a turning point in EALA's bid to leverage its corporate image in the eyes and ears of its constituents.

The magazine also serves to enhance public understanding of EALA's roles and responsibilities as the legislative Organ of the EAC as provided for and articulated by Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

The launch of the magazine took place few months after a similar launch of the EALA website (www.eala.org) and the EALA Strategic Plan at the fifth Meeting of the third Session held in Nairobi and Mombasa, Kenya respectively.

The launch which was well attended was a momentous occasion that was also timely in the scheme of things with regards to EALA's Plan of Action for the year 2010/11. *Bunge la Afrika Mashariki* literally means the East African Parliament.



EALA Speaker presents President Paul Kagame with a copy of the Bunge La Afrika Mashariki magazine

EALA passes Resolution paying tribute to Amb. Juma Mwapachu

...Former Secretary General acclaimed for exemplary performance



The 4th meeting of the 4 Session of the Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda passed a Resolution paying tribute to the former Secretary General of the East African Community and *ex-officio* Member of EALA, Amb. Juma Mwapachu. The Motion on March 31st, 2011 moved by Hon Clarkson Otieno Karan, hailed Hon. Amb. Juma Mwapachu for his outstanding and exemplary work during his five years of service as the Secretary General of the EAC. “Hon. Amb. Mwapachu's tenure as a dedicated Secretary General of the Community is marked by significant milestones and achievements for all to see”, Hon Karan said as he presented to an attentive House.

Hon Karan noted that Amb. Mwapachu never wavered in his desire to see the EAC grow by leaps and bounds, offering leadership in the implementation of the EAC Customs Union, which had been adopted by the EAC a year before he (Mwapachu) joined the Community. Amb Mwapachu also provided leadership for the successful negotiations of the EAC Common Market Protocol signed in November 2009 and entered in to force on July 1, 2010. He was also instrumental in putting together the development of the Terms of Reference (ToRs) to spearhead the negotiations of the EAC Monetary Union which is the next level of integration. The Assembly was told that Amb. Mwapachu had during his tenure facilitated the admission of the two Partner States of Rwanda and Burundi in to the EAC fraternity and that the former Secretary General greatly facilitated the work of all Organs and Institutions of the Community. The Assembly thus urged the Chairperson of the Council to transmit the Resolution to the Summit of the Heads of State for noting. It further urged the Minister for EAC Affairs in the United Republic of Tanzania to convey the same to H.E. Jakaya Kikwete, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for noting.

Dr Sezibera sworn in as EALA Member

...New SG lauds Assembly's role in fostering integration



The new EAC Secretary General Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera was sworn in as an *ex-officio* Member of the East African Legislative Assembly during its Fifth Meeting of the Fourth Session in Arusha on May 24th 2011.

Two days later, the Secretary General addressed the *August* House for the first time, where he hailed the regional assembly for its role in fostering EAC integration in the ten years of its existence.

“I have noted with great appreciation, the zeal and the passion with which this illustrious Assembly has championed the EAC cause as well as ensuring that the East African integration agenda translates into real benefits for the people of East Africa,” Dr. Sezibera remarked.

Amb. Dr Sezibera apprised EALA Members of his priority undertakings for his five-year tenure as Secretary eneral, where he outlined strengthening the operations of the Customs Union, in particular, working towards the establishment of the single customs territory, putting in place the necessary legal and operational frameworks for the Common Market Protocol and concluding the Protocol on the Monetary Union “as a component of the region's march towards a Political Federation”.

The Secretary General has also set his sights on causing an intensification of regional infrastructure development as well as strengthening popular participation, a common East African identity and political will behind the regional integration process.

Speaking of regional integration as “an idea whose time has come”, Amb. Dr Sezibera closed with a clarion call: “We should position ourselves as a strong, solid and sustainable, regional economic bloc, responsive to the needs of our people, committed to support and development of the Private Sector, and inclusive of all sections of our society, the youth, the women, civil, society, the media and others.

WE SET UP A UNIFIED ASSEMBLY



Rt Hon Abdulrahman Kinana was the first Speaker of EALA (29th Nov 2001-28th Nov 2006.) He spoke to Bunge La Afrika Mashariki Magazine on the experiences. Below are the excerpts:

the debate and approval of the budget of the EAC annually. We had a Bill that exhaustively debated on the fast-tracking of the political integration of the EAC which resulted in the formation of the Wako Commission to advise on the fast-tracking of the Political Federation.

Question: What about the exciting moments for the first Assembly?

Answer: When we toured the Partner States. The discussions and learning were interesting. During the tours for example, we had Members from Kenya who visited Tanzania chuckle that Tanzania had huge idle land they could utilise. The Tanzania representatives to EALA on their part were also excited with the entrepreneurship of their Kenyan colleagues! Such were the interesting moments.

Other exciting times were when EALA met with the Heads of State often exchanging pleasantries. At times, we also asked hard questions. We had exhilarating times when we met the citizens of East Africa who probably at times made proposals thinking that we had extra powers to assist them in their problems, particularly those living in the border areas.

Question: The discussion on the elections and the numbers of representatives to EALA is on-going in the Partner States. What is your comment on the matter?

Answer: The discussions started when I was the Speaker. The questions whether 45 Members are enough or not and whether the method of representation is fair are valid. In my view considering the size of the Assembly and the budget constraints, I would suggest that we continue with the same experience until such time that the region is ready.

However, EALA needs to close ranks with the national Parliaments. As the region becomes stronger so do the demands. It is important for us to increase the numbers in the next five to ten years. In terms of elections - we have a very good example in the European Union. Initially, the Members to the Assembly were elected similarly as in the case of EAC by the National Assemblies before they changed to have the electorate decide their Members to the European directly. At one point, I am sure in the future, East Africans will be able to directly elect Members.

Question: As the first Speaker of the EALA, briefly highlight the mandate of the first Assembly and the challenges you realized when it was established?

Answer: First and foremost, I think it was a very challenging mission to establish the East Africa Legislative Assembly in November 2001. The first challenge was to put up in place an Assembly from inception which had no front or back bench.

Second and most importantly was to establish unity and collective purpose between the Members from the three Partner States. As you are aware, the Members came from different backgrounds with some coming from parties which were governing parties, others came from opposition parties. The good thing is that we established a good working relationship where all Members spoke as a unit and with one voice representing the People of East Africa.

The third area was to institute and practice according to the rules and procedure of the Parliament and to put in place modalities that would enable the committees to operate in a new set up. So really, I think it was a challenge but at the same time it was quite exciting. I think Members were very happy. The other important aspect then was bringing parliamentarians to the people.

We held very extensive country tours yearly and this enabled Tanzanian Members to know more about Kenya, Kenyans became more familiar about Uganda and Ugandan Members, also learned about Tanzania and *vice versa*.

During the tours, we visited and interacted with Government, Civil Society, Parliamentarians and peasants. By the time we completed our tour of service as EALA, we were really conversant with issues of East Africa.

Question: How many Bills did the First Assembly pass?

Answer: We probably passed about 16 Bills related really to the strengthening of the EAC. A number were interesting and exciting. We had the Appropriation Bill for example, which provides for

EALA STRONGER TODAY AS A PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY



EALA is celebrating its decade of existence this year. EALA's Senior Public Relations Officer, Bobi Odiko and seasoned Journalist Nicodemus Ikonko of the East African News Agency (EANA) based in Arusha, Tanzania, recently interviewed the EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi on the progress and challenges of EALA. Excerpts below:

Westminster-Commonwealth Model. Generally, EALA is looking at putting in place systems that will ensure Members are able to articulate issues and responses to parliamentary affairs effectively. The envisaged formation of the East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) is one such initiative of EALA and the National Assemblies of the Partner States that shall among other things, improve functioning of parliamentary institutions and their roles in representation, legislation and oversight. EALA has also stepped up its efforts in liaising closely with the National Assemblies.

3. Under the EAC Treaty, could you say you still have room for another state like the South Sudan to join the EAC?

Rt. Hon. Speaker: The EAC Treaty succinctly allows for expansion of membership so long as the in-coming country adheres to the tenets and principles of the Community as laid out in Article 3. Such may include but are not limited to the adherence to the universally acceptable principles of good governance and the rule of law, geographical proximity and the potential contribution to strengthening integration. South Sudan is very much itching to join the Community. I recently met with the President Gen Salva Kiir Mayardit after the inauguration of South Sudan and he indicated in as much of his country's interest and desire to join the Community. In hindsight, South Sudan offers an opportunity for the EAC to expand and increase investment opportunities and expand its reach geographically.

4. I noticed that the current EALA has 45 and 7 ex-officio Members totaling to 52, out of which 20 are women. Are there plans to increase the numbers of women in the House?

Rt. Hon. Speaker: EALA certainly recognizes that women make a significant contribution in the process of socio-economic transformation and sustainable growth. The Treaty is concise about the matter of gender as stipulated in Article 5. We are committed to ensuring elimination of prejudices against women and promotion of gender equality.

1. Would you say your August Assembly lived to the expectations of the East Africans for the last 10 years? If so can you elaborate?

Rt. Hon. Speaker: Indeed yes! Over the last decade, we have realized a number of successes. EALA has passed a significant number of laws that are aimed at facilitating regional integration. We as an Assembly have continued to spearhead the integration process with zeal and dedication. EALA has marketed EAC to East Africans as evident by the various outreach programmes undertaken in the region and the contacts made with the citizens of the region. Such include public visits and networking opportunities that enable EALA to share experiences with the Civil Society, Private Sector and youth among others. We have thus remained visible and continue to provide an opportunity for dialogue between our Members and the various publics. In its representative role, EALA continues to be the voice of the people in the integration dispensation informing them about the commitments and policies of their governments to the EAC. That said, we believe the 'sky is the limit' and EALA can take on its role and associations with citizens of the region to the next level.

2. The first Assembly constituted three Partner States, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania but in July 2007, two other countries Burundi and Rwanda joined the regional bloc. Would you say there are any noticeable differences in the conduct and operations of the House?

Rt. Hon. Speaker: The operations and mandate of the Assembly have been strengthened since May 2008 when the Members from Burundi and Rwanda were sworn in as Members of EALA. With the coming of the new Members, the Assembly expanded two-fold from 27 to 52. The new Members speedily familiarized themselves with the rules (and procedures) and operations of EALA whose *modus operandi* is largely based on a



BURUNDI'S ENTRY INTO THE EAC TIMELY AND A HOMECOMING

...tete á tete with Mzee Leonce reveals

Having said that, I wish to reiterate that EALA's Members are elected from the National Assemblies of Partner States which as the Treaty stipulates should as much as possible take into consideration a number of aspects including gender.

Be that as it may, at 20 out of 52 Members, we have basically met the globally accepted minimum one-third representation. Each EALA Chapter which consists of 9 Members also meets the fundamental requirement since a minimum of three Members are women. We however continue to implore Partner States and National Assemblies to adhere to the said principles of equity in representation when electing their members to EALA. We welcome initiatives taken to increase the number of women not only in this Assembly but in various levels and cadres of leadership in the region.

5. You have almost a year to complete your term as the Speaker of the House. What can you say that you have managed to achieve?

Rt. Hon Speaker: It has been four great years of service to the people of the region. Even as we begin to wind the clock of service and for me as the Speaker, there are a number of achievements. I wish to denote that we today have an efficient legislative Assembly and one which has brought services closer to the people.

The Assembly has also successfully created its space within the EAC as the legislative Organ of the Community. The second Assembly has shown high levels of vibrancy and enthusiasm as testified by the numbers of laws and other resolutions enacted/adopted respectively in such a record time. We have likewise upheld the principle of separation of powers between the Executive and the legislature on matters affecting East Africans. EALA has a niche within the regional and international parliamentary fora. Other than the European Union, we are the other only regional parliament that makes laws. The SADC-PF, the ECOWAS Parliament and even the Pan-African Parliament (PAP) are indeed learning from and borrowing best practices from EALA.

Let me state that a good number of the noteworthy achievements have taken place against an environment of minimal and sometimes sub-optimal resources. There is still much more we can do with additional resources. We want an Assembly that resonates closely with the people of this great region and meets them at their points of need.

6. Do you have any ordinary event(s) in the life of EALA you would like to share with the readers?

Rt. Hon Speaker: As mentioned earlier, we are celebrating ten years of working closely with *wananchi* of the region.

We are celebrating ten years of great success while using the observance as a period to reflect on our challenges as well. EALA is truly a "people's Parliament". It exists in the day to day lives of the ordinary citizens. We are proud that the Civil Society, Private Sector and the youth are reaching out to EALA for direction over time. This is a good pattern. We encourage citizens to freely contact us on matters of legislation and/ or otherwise approach us with ideas of how to improve their lives.

7. Do you have any suggestions on how to improve EALA Operations?

Rt. Hon Speaker: A prosperous and united region and one where citizens think of themselves as "one people with a common destiny". I wish to leave an EALA that is both adaptive and constantly responsive to the needs of the people.

To this effect, the achievements registered by EALA in the various areas of integration should provide a learning experience in terms of best practices that can be used as impetus for the Assembly and be emulated beyond our region by other parliaments of our stature.

It should be noted that if integration is to succeed, then Parliaments as the representative institutions need to play a more visible role in the process.

8. What legacy do you think you wish to leave?

Rt. Hon. Speaker: The Assembly has always been concerned with the presentation, scope and content of budgets of EAC. Whilst generally noting the scarcity of resources, there is need to ensure the EAC budget is properly aligned to the Strategic Development Plans of the Community.

It is the considered view of the Assembly that the Partner States should provide the resources and leave the matter of prioritizing to the Assembly with the support from the Secretariat. Secondly, legislation is our core business and a necessity to successful integration. EALA is of the view that protocols are instruments of co-operation and not integration because they are not enforceable. Thus to improve our operations, it is vital for the EAC to amend section 59 of the Treaty removing the limitations of the subsequent provisions in order to enable the Assembly to initiate all Bills deemed relevant to strengthening the integration process.

Ideally, the EAC has decided that it needs to integrate up to the level of a Political Federation, a move we fully support.

EALA's Senior Public Relations Officer, Bobi Odiko (BO) recently talked to EALA Member and Chair of the Burundi Chapter, Hon Leonce Ndarubagiye (LN) and picked up his mind and thoughts on EALA as the Assembly turns ten. The climax for the celebrations is set for Bujumbura. Excerpts below:

BO: Greetings Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye! The big EALA party happens in Bujumbura in November. Quickly give us your views of EALA as it turns ten

LN: Wow! This is a momentous epoch. The theme: "Ten Years of Service towards a Political Federation" sums it all. It is a period of joy and celebrations for our Speaker Rt. Hon. Abdirahin H. Abdi, Members of EALA, the EALA Staff led by the Clerk and for the entire Community. We celebrate our achievements in the process of integration that is guided by the mantra ONE NATION, ONE DESTINY.

BO: Burundi has recently joined the EAC. How does it feel? Describe the event?

LN: Mr. SPRO, I would not call it an event but a process. In fact, the very act of Burundi joining the EAC is really like a homecoming.

You will recall that Burundi together with Rwanda and former Tanganyika formed the *Deusib Ost-Africa* with Dar es Salaam as the capital city, for close to 20 years in the beginning of the last century. It was only after the winners of the first world war decided to dismantle the German colonies that Burundi and Rwanda were attached to the Belgian Congo. That was great injustice done to us if you ask me - as we really belonged to the East of Africa and not the West.

BO : Can you elaborate?

LN: During the years of independence in the 60s, our leader and Prime Minister Prince Louis Rwagasore and Mwalimu Julius Nyerere met several times in Ngara and Dar es salaam to plot how Tanganyika and Burundi could re-unite after independence. Unfortunately, Prince Louis Rwagasore was assassinated before independence and before the planned re-unification. Nonetheless, the man who later succeeded him as Prime Minister, Pierre Ngendandumwe re-contacted Mwalimu Nyerere in 1964, but again, he also was assassinated before reaching the wonderful goal. I think that Hon. Thadee Siryuyuminsi, the then Speaker of our National Assembly and the Deputy Prime Minister, Dr Pie Masumbuko went to see Mwalimu Nyerere over that matter as well. So, it was H.E. President Pierre Nkurunziza and his government who successfully negotiated our

happy entry into the revived East African Community and we all (Burundians) shall be very grateful to them for that specific achievement among many others.

BO: Do you feel satisfied with the entry of Burundi in the EAC?

LN: Absolutely YES!!

BO: Why ?

LN: Because Burundi has everything to gain in joining the Community. It is set to take advantage of the big and vast market. Burundi shall also benefit from the existing Customs Union and the Common Market currently being implemented. We are looking forward to the common currency been negotiated now and ultimately, the Political Federation. Furthermore, tariff and Non-Tariff barriers are in the process of being removed. The ports of Mombassa and Dar es Salaam and all other infrastructure are now easier to access. Let it be known also to all that our security as a country is now better assured as an EAC Partner State. Could we have achieved all these things alone? The answer is of course - no!

BO: Any wishes; what is your parting shot as concerns the East African Community?

LN: Before answering your question, let me reveal to you that in 1993, I mentioned on radio that we shall revisit and implement the agreement on re-unification between Mwalimu Nyerere and Prince Rwagasore. I almost landed in jail for that and had to flee to Kenya for 2 weeks after receiving a tip from the Attorney General Majanyuma. Now about your question, my dream today is that we reach the Political Federation during my lifetime and thus leave a better and wider world for our children.

BO: Thank you Hon. Ndarubagiye.

LN: Thank you too, my dear brother Bobi.



Hon Leonce Ndarubagiye



By Hon. Augustine C. L. Lotodo

STABILISING SOMALIA CALLS FOR JOINT EFFORTS BY ALL

Nineteen years of lack of a stable government in Somalia has been a source of disorder in the East African Region. Before then, Somalia had a full governing state during the reign of former President Said Barre, with its institutions facing normal challenges faced by any government such as unemployment, infrastructure, and education.

The current state Somalia is in today is a fundamental disaster. A whole generation is lost. No Schools, Colleges, or Universities. Infrastructure is in bad shape



From left: Somalia President, Shariff Sheikh Ahmed, Ato Meles Zenawi, Prime Minister of Ethiopia and Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki during the opening of the Summit on the Horn of Africa crisis held in Nairobi in September 2011

and so are hospitals. The Environment has been destroyed while the life of the common Somali citizen is not assured due to insecurity, corruption, violence, lack of basic needs and social amenities. Brain drain has been on for decades. Businesses flourish under smuggling, illicit

trade, black markets and no taxation. In brief, there is no planned development.

East African Partner States have agreed, through the East African Treaty to co-operate on all broad areas not excluding political, economical, social, cultural and defence issues. Any instability calls



for joint interaction. The 2007/8 post-election violence in Kenya had its toll on trade, business and

Businesses flourish under smuggling, illicit trade, black markets and no taxation.

life within the region. Tourism in Kenya, Burundi and Tanzania



Kenya National Assembly Deputy Speaker Hon. Farah Maalim (left) is welcomed in Mogadishu by Col. Bakasumba. Looking on is the Special Representative of the AU Commission for Somalia, Mr. Nicolas Bwakira



Kenyan forces in Somalia

to the citizens against travelling to our region, terming it a dangerous holiday destination. Consequently, the ordinary life of East Africans is disrupted by calls to be careful and to avoid certain places. The role of the East African Community in stabilising neighbouring states is well documented. Uganda and Kenya have played a critical role stabilising South Sudan leading to its eventual independence. In the same vein, stabilisation in the Somalia will address the current threat of terrorism, piracy, kidnappings, smuggling and the general state of peace and security in the region.

slumped to a negative. Under the African Union mandate, our Partner States of Uganda and Burundi joined forces to stabilise Somalia. Ethiopia at one time went into Somalia and then left. Kenya has now been forced to join. IGAD and the Commonwealth countries have offered moral support. President Jakaya Kikwete and President Paul Kagame have expressed moral support though we need tangible support in terms of military personnel. *Al Shabaab* warlords'

have made and carried terrorist threats within the region. 80 Ugandans were killed in Kampala as they were watching the World Cup soccer games taking place in South Africa. Piracy off the coasts of Kenya and Tanzania are well documented.

Kenyans have been killed by the *Al Shabaab* sympathisers in Nairobi recently. They have further threatened Burundi and any other State trying to help in the Somalia solution. Europeans have as usual, issued travel bans

Somalia needs a functional government which can address the livelihoods of its citizens, issues of infrastructure, education and health. I look forward to a state where good governance concepts and human rights issues are entrenched and respected and a state of working institutions and a healthy economy. This is the ideal we should strive to create.



By Hon. Dora C. Kanabahita Byamukama

HALT TRAFFICKING

A decade on, EAC has potential to stop illegal trade in persons...

Trafficking in Persons or Human Trafficking is also referred to as 'Modern Day Slavery' partly because - its purpose is to exploit vulnerable persons in various ways, including forced begging, prostitution and forced labour. Such acts have been reported in agricultural plantations, cattle herding, street vending, bars, gold mines; domestic servitude and sex tourism. Of recent, we have witnessed other forms of trafficking in persons which include child sacrifices, abduction and kidnapping for body parts of albinos in specific and other vulnerable people. There is clear evidence that although slavery was abolished centuries ago, new forms facilitated by modern technology have emerged.

The Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children defines human trafficking as:

The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of persons, by means of - the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation.

Exploitation shall include at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labour or services, slavery



EALA during a session. The Assembly should enact an EAC Bill of Rights to stop trafficking of persons

or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs. The consent of a victim of trafficking in persons to the intended exploitation as defined shall be irrelevant where any of the means set forth in the definition have been used. The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of a child for the purpose of exploitation shall be considered "trafficking in persons" even if this does not involve any of the means set forth in the definition; and "Child" shall mean any person under eighteen years of age.

The Trafficking Protocol entered into force on 25th December 2003, had by June 2010, been ratified by 117 countries and 137 parties. All the

Traffickers usually gain from poor families' trust through familial, tribal or religious ties.

EAC Partner States are signatories to the Protocol. Burundi signed it in 2000 while Kenya ratified the Protocol in 2005. Rwanda signed and ratified the Protocol in 2000 and 2003, respectively. The United Republic of Tanzania on its part signed and ratified it in 2000 and 2006 respectively, while Uganda signed the Protocol in 2000. Traffickers usually gain

poor families' trust through familial, tribal, or religious ties and fraudulently recruit children through offers to raise and educate them while offering men and women lucrative employment.

Currently, East Africans voluntarily migrate to other countries and continents in Africa, Europe and the Middle East in search of employment, where they are trafficked in domestic servitude, massage parlours and brothels and forced manual labour. Chinese, Indian and Pakistani women also reportedly transit through East Africa enroute to exploitation in Europe's sex trade. According to the Trafficking in Persons Report of 2011, compiled by the US Department of State - all EAC Partner States have incidences of internal and transnational trafficking, acting as a source, transit point or even destination countries for men, women, and children who are subjected to modern day slavery.

The EAC integration process which as of 2010 established a Common Market that principally facilitates free movement of labour, goods, services, capital, and the right of establishment poses serious challenges and opportunities in its bid to stop trafficking. Action at the EAC level to stop modern slavery could include the following:-

First, each Partner State must of necessity, enact comprehensive anti-trafficking legislation that provides for prevention of trafficking in persons, prosecution of traffickers, and protection of victims of trafficking. The law should also provide for rescue, rehabilitation and re-integration of victims of trafficking as well as mechanisms for cross border co-operation including extradition

agreements amongst Partner States. Secondly, anti-trafficking legislation should be enforced to prosecute trafficking offenses, convict and punish trafficking offenders including government officials suspected of complicity in human trafficking. In line with this, some of the laws need to be reviewed in order to ensure traffickers do not use loopholes that exist - for example, the law on adoption if not crafted carefully, can be used to traffic children. Partner States also need to institute a tracking and monitoring system to ensure that children who are adopted are not exploited.

Thirdly, all EAC Partner States should seriously embark on an anti-trafficking awareness campaign and provide additional training to law enforcement officials and diplomats posted overseas on identifying and responding to trafficking crimes. Capacity to combat trafficking in persons should be reinforced by Inter-Ministerial Committees at the national and regional level to combat the vice; and engage foreign governments on improving legal protections for EAC workers to render them less

vulnerable to trafficking. Fourthly, the Partner States must squarely address the issue of poverty and moral decay.

The urge to seek for work anywhere at any cost and the sale of human beings for self aggrandizement is evidence of high levels of poverty and greed. EAC integration has the potential to amalgamate and rally human and financial resources to stop trafficking in persons by recognizing, promoting and protecting human rights in accordance with provisions of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. This is a fundamental principle of the Community. Indeed, Article 5 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights states that - *"Every individual shall have the right to the respect of the dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition of his [or her] legal status. All forms of exploitation and degradation of man [and woman] particularly slavery, slave trade, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited.* As East Africans, let us catalyze the enactment of an EAC Bill of Rights through a joint operation to stop trafficking in persons - here and now.



The rightful place for this youngsters is in school



By Hon. Sebalu Mike

DOES THE EAC NEED TO NEGOTIATE ANOTHER TREATY FOR THE MONETARY UNION AND POLITICAL FEDERATION?



EAC Heads of State remain committed to realising integration

In my continued engagement with issues of the East African Community integration process, I have attended a number of workshops, seminars, conferences and symposia. These kinds of interactions are becoming more frequent and regular which is an indication that the subject of integration is topical and popular and is attracting a lot of interest across the board.

In all these interactive intellectual engagements around the subject of EAC integration, a number of issues are emerging. The emerging issues range from those supporting the integration process to those opposed to the same. This kind of debate is very healthy and is going to add a lot of value to the integration process both qualitatively and quantitatively. As this kind of debate continues within the

public domain, there is need for technical guidance to ensure that it remains largely knowledge based, focused and in the proper context.

It is in the best interest of the Community that we remain steadfast and focused on our strategic objectives.

One of the emerging issues that need serious technical attention is with regard to the EAC Treaty as it relates with the Monetary Union and the Political Federation. During the recent EAC Annual Governance

Conference held in Kampala, this matter took centre stage. Two distinguished academics in the names of Dr. Adams Oloo, Head of Political Science Department at the University Nairobi and Prof. Palagamba Kabudi, Dean, Faculty of Law, University of Dar -es -Salaam, put up a legal argument that needs immediate clarification through the interpretation of the Treaty. The two dons separately argued that the provisions of the current Treaty only cover the first two stages of the integration process namely, the Customs Union and the Common Market. They further went on to say that for the Monetary Union and the Political Federation to be implemented, the Summit needs to negotiate a new Treaty. Their contention is that, without another negotiated Treaty, the process of integration regarding

the Common Market and Political Federation is a futility. This is indeed an important matter that needs the immediate attention of the Council of Ministers to seek an authoritative interpretation of the EAC Treaty regarding the Monetary Union and Political Federation. The East African people need to be guided on this matter so that they get the same conceptual understanding and appreciation of the Treaty on this matter.

Article 5 of the Treaty spells out the objectives of the Community and co-operation in political affairs is well highlighted in Clause 1.

Of more interest is Clause 2 of the same Article which states that, the Partner States undertake to establish among themselves and in accordance with the provisions of this Treaty, a Customs Union, a Common Market, subsequently



Central Bank Governors at a past meeting. The region is looking towards having a common currency

activities, the benefit of which shall be equitably shared. The above Treaty provision needs to be unpacked so that all East Africans get a common understanding of its import. The Council of Ministers should call upon the East African Court of Justice to do justice to the Treaty in as far as the interpretation of this article is concerned.



EACJ has a fundamental part to play in interpreting the EAC Treaty

a Monetary Union and ultimately, a Political Federation in order to strengthen and regulate the industrial, commercial, infrastructural, cultural, social, political and other relations of Partner States to the end that there shall be accelerated harmonious and balanced development and sustained expansion of economic

Furthermore, Article 123, relating to the co-operation in political affairs needs similar attention. Of particular interest is Clause 1 of this Article which states that in order to promote the achievement of the objectives of the Community as set out in Article 5 of this Treaty particularly with respect to the eventual establishment of a Political Federation of the Partner States, the Partner States shall establish common foreign and security policies. Furthermore, Clause 6 of Article 123 empowers the Summit to initiate the process towards the establishment of a Political Federation of the Partner States by directing the Council to

undertake the process. It is worth mentioning that a number of processes have been undertaken by the Council of Ministers at the direction of the Summit.

These include the Wako Committee on fast tracking Political Federation, the National Consultative Committees on Political Federation and the Committee of experts on the fears and concerns of Political Federation.

The above process as well as the specific activities undertaken need to be clarified as being in conformity with the provisions of the Treaty relating to Political Federation. In that respect therefore, I call upon the Summit, Council of Ministers, the East African Court of Justice and EALA to work closely together to ensure the EAC integration process as set out in the Treaty is not derailed by this emerging debate. It is in the best interest of the Community that we remain steadfast and focused on our strategic objectives that we set out to achieve through integration. That way we shall be able to create an East African Community that is prosperous, secure, stable and politically united.



By Hon. Margaret Zziwa Nantongo

LET EALA AND GPH HELP EAC FOCUS ON HUMAN SETTLEMENT

...move shall help region attain MDG 11

Ten years after UN Member States committed themselves to improving the livelihood of their citizenry, we can today reflect to see how much governments have done for each of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target lines considering the timelines given. The timing is perfect given that it is also ten years since the EALA was established!

All MDG targets are crucial and actually tackling some can immensely improve others. For instance, in tackling poverty and hunger, MDG1 can help MDG 2 on education or MDGs 3, 4 and 5 and so on). However with a critical outlook, one appreciates that there are intricacies in achieving each of these MDGs. For instance

are we doing enough to achieve the MDG 11? "Shelter for all by 2015" The clock is ticking pretty fast, but are we about to attain shelter for all?

Shelter is a basic human need, it is a governance issue, it is a

Housing situation in East Africa leaves a lot to be desired, where mud and wattle walls and dust floors are still a predominant phenomenon.

gender issue; it requires planning, resources, constant direction and monitoring. Our people live in deplorable conditions, in shanties,

in slums with no services or utility provisions, yet the population in the cities are growing by day. Our cities are characterized by congestion, pollution, and poor or no planned areas for housing. Some of our governments have left this role entirely to local governments with little or no tools, meager resources and inadequate human capacity to handle the challenge. Global Parliamentarians for Health (GPH) and EALA can help in keeping EAC Partner States focused on housing. The Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community may not have a specific Article

to address human settlement or housing but Article 5 (b) on economic development, Article 7 (2) on various rights and social

justice and Article 120 on social welfare, generally point in the direction of service and utility provisions. More explicitly, the Bill of Rights spells out *inter alia*, the Right to housing, Right to clean and safe environment which are the core aspects of the Habitat Agenda. This can be a strategic entry point for EALA in to the sector. It is a fact that the housing situation in East Africa leaves a lot to be desired, where mud and wattle walls and dust floors are still a predominant phenomenon both in cities and villages alike. A good number of homes are more so, still roofed by grass or other biodegradable material making them very insecure for the dwellers. Statistics reveal that over 70% of East Africans still habit in sub-standard housing.

In December 2010, EALA moved a Resolution (Resolution of the Partner States urging the EAC Partner States to quickly undertake concrete policies for adequate Housing for all EAC Citizens) calling on Partner State governments to put in place practical policies and measures to tackle poor housing, slums, traffic congestion, pollution so that as the Common Market phase of integration takes form, our cities can facilitate investment and can be appealing to Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) and promote growth. Global Parliamentarians on Habitat (GPH) is a forum for Parliamentarians from UN Member States under the auspices of UN Habitat who have committed themselves to advocating for better laws



Statistics reveal over 70% of East Africans still live in sub-standard housing. EALA and GPH want to change this

to take care of planned cities, adequate resources to housing, descent and affordable housing and access to land. To GPH, it is very absurd and humiliating for any Parliamentarian to seek for a vote from a household head in a shanty dwelling without offering any hope.

With the renewed commitment during the UN General Council 23 in Nairobi, GPH Africa offered to follow passionately on the Habitat Agenda drawn in Istanbul, Turkey in 1985. Policies like slum upgrading policies, low cost housing policies, land policies, urban development policies put up by our governments must be supported to ensure that adequate

resources are appropriated to these policies. Even in cases where the laws have been enacted, implementation has remained in abeyance. GPH has taken a strong resolve to remind our governments to "walk the talk". Good and planned cities testify to the orderliness and the strategic nature of the people. The EAC Summit should take a close look at the MDG 11 and evaluate the gaps which need to be plunked in the remaining 4 years (up to 2015). Fellow Parliamentarians, I challenge you to take up your oversight role(s)..... are Ministries of Housing, Urban Development, Lands and other stakeholders doing enough?

Editors Note: Hon Margaret N. Zziwa is also President of GPH Africa.



A slum in the region. East Africans deserve better living conditions



By Hon. Muhongayire Jacqueline

GOOD-BYE NYAKATSI

...Rwanda's plot to eradicate grass thatched houses gets boost from EALA



Bye-bye Nyakatsi. Rwanda is set to eradicate the grass thatched houses

EAC Partner States are signatories of both the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in which articles 25(1) and 11(1) respectively, state that, everyone has a right to a decent standard of living for his/her health and well-being and for his/her family, including social services. Such social services include housing, clothing, medical care and other necessary services. Additionally, decent shelter is one of the indicators of a good standard of living and poverty eradication - one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The East African Community has a population of about one

hundred and thirty million people, the majority of whom live in rural areas. The most vulnerable of the population live in grass-thatched houses.

Rwanda as one of the EAC Partner States has a population

EALA delegation noted that shelter was "a critical and basic right"

of close to 11 million people with about 80 percent of them living in the rural areas and is considered amongst the most densely populated countries in Africa. In

2010, some of the most poverty stricken individuals in Rwanda still lived in grass-thatched, mud-brick huts known as "Nyakatsi."

The good news is that the government of Rwanda in collaboration with its citizens, different institutions and the Rwandan diaspora have come together to eradicate the Nyakatsi. The implementation of this programme is been co-ordinated by the Ministry of Local Government and is set to be completed by the end of 2011.

The eradication of the Nyakatsi houses is one of the many signs of Rwanda's commitment to transforming a nation devastated by the genocide seventeen years ago. In an effort to improve land utilization and speed-up

development, Rwanda is in the process of improving settlement and habitation from scattered and unplanned settlements to planned settlements called "imidugudu." This is being done through the local leaders at all levels (decentralization system) and encourages the population for those constructing new houses or rehabilitating existing houses to settle into the planned areas.

For the homeless and other vulnerable groups, efforts have been made towards helping the groups have homes that are considered standard habitat or housing. Greater efforts have also been registered from the diaspora through a campaign known as "Bye-bye Nyakatsi."

In the spirit of representation and of bringing the Community closer to the people, on March 26, 2011, EALA Members participated in the anti-Nyakatsi eradication drive in Kanyinya sector, Nyarugenge District on the environs of Kigali City during the Community Work initiative. At the drive, H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda also joined the citizens



Shelter remains a critical and basic right

of the area in constructing houses. In addition, Community work also known as 'Umuganda' takes place on the last Saturday of every month from the village level through to the national level. On April 8 2011, EALA Members returned to the Kanyinya sector this time to distribute over 300 iron sheets and to assess progress. The EALA delegation noted that shelter was "a critical and basic right" for all. EALA commended

the government of Rwanda for the initiative adding that it was a scheme worthy of emulation in the rest of the other EAC Partner States.

EALA Members were privileged to have been part of the scheme to eradicate the grass thatched houses. Coincidentally, in December 2010, EALA had passed a resolution urging the EAC Partner States to quickly undertake concrete policies of adequate housing for all citizens. The Resolution was brought to the floor of the House by Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro.

The involvement of EALA with the Nyakatsi initiative comes in light of this Resolution and emphasizes EALA's stand in ensuring all its undertakings are people-centered and geared towards ensuring a common destiny for all. EALA also took the opportunity to launch its 10th Anniversary celebrations by engaging in construction as a means of both outreach and participation in Rwanda's campaign to eradicate the grass-thatched houses.

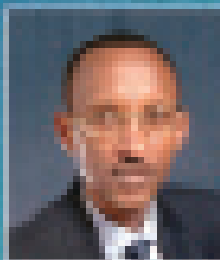


President Paul Kagame (Second from left) joins EALA Members in building during the anti-Nyakatsi drive



BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI

Celebrating 10 years of progress



ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY