



**3RD MEETING OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Arusha, Tanzania
27th November -6th December 2012**

**PRIORITY QUESTIONS FOR ORAL/WRITTEN
ANSWERS**

1.0 QUESTION : EALA/PQ/OA/3/11/2012 (By Hon. Christophe Bazivamo)

Article 105 of the EAC Treaty specifically under Chapter 18 compels the EAC Partner States to cooperate in the agricultural sector to achieve food security and rational agricultural production within the Community. In line with this, the EAC Food Security Action Plan (2011- 2015) provides a roadmap for the implementation of joint programs and projects, including support construction of a regional fertilizer processing plant and the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the plan.

Furthermore, The EAC Summit at its Ordinary Meeting of 26th June 2008 held in Kigali, Rwanda concluded that one of the immediate interventions to boost the agricultural productivity in the region is to exploit the available resources like natural gas and phosphates for production of fertilizers.

The Summit also decided that joint financing of fertilizer manufacturing plant in Tanzania and Uganda should be undertaken as a priority EAC regional project under the framework of the Agricultural and Food Security Program. The background to this question is attached. Therefore:-

Can the Chairperson Council of Ministers inform the August House:

- (a) On the progress so far made in made in implementing the detailed EAC Food Security Action Plan and the EAC Summit Decision?**
- (b) On the quantity and cost of fertilizers imported since the budget fiscal year 2007-2008 to date and how much money respective Partner States have committed to building regional manufacturing plants for implementing the EAC food security plan, 2011-2015;**
- (c) About the capacity building activities carried out by EAC Partner States to address fertilizer needs of youth, farmers' associations and the private sector as indicated in resolution 4 of the Abuja Declaration on Fertilizers for African Green Revolution.**

Madam Speaker,

For purposes of the implementation of the EAC Food Security Action Plan, priority activities, projects and programmes are being implemented at different stages

including development of Food Security and Nutrition Policy, Regional Food Balance Sheet Framework, Agricultural Development Fund, East African Agri-enterprises and Agro-industries Development Program, establishment of an early warning system for monitoring food shortage, EAC Strategy on Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal and Zoonotic Diseases, EAC Livestock Policy, Regional Agricultural Inputs Systems Development Project, Feasibility Study on Regional Fertilizer Production and Reinforcing Veterinary Governance (VETGOV) Project.

Resource mobilization for implementation of ready projects and preparatory work for others is ongoing. Proposals have been submitted to development partners. In this regard, discussions are ongoing with various development partners including European Union, African Green Revolution Alliance, African Development Bank, USAID and the Australian Government.

Madam Speaker,

From available data the region imported about 750,00 metric tonnes of fertilizer in the year 2009/10 worth over US\$550 million. The EAC region is currently a net importer of fertilizer with only 190,000 metric tonnes being manufactured/blended in the region.

A proposal for a Feasibility Study on Regional Fertilizer Production has been developed and submitted to the African Development Bank (AfDB) for consideration. Discussions are still underway with AfDB under the African Fertilizer Financing Mechanism framework. Therefore as a region we have not yet determined how much each Partner State is required to commit to the regional fertilizer production initiatives. However, the Republic Kenya is at an advance stage of preparations to construct a fertilizer production plant with a capacity of producing 350,000 metric tonnes of fertilizer from the year 2013 to be completed in the year 2015 at a cost of Kenya Shillings 27 billion (approximately US\$321 Million).

Madam Speaker,

With respect to capacity building activities carried out by EAC Partner States to address fertilizer needs of youth, farmers' associations and the private sectors as indicated in Resolution 4 of the Abuja Declaration of Fertilizers of African Green Revolution, no formal assessment has been carried out. However, it is worth noting that Partner States have put in place various measures addressing Resolution 4 of the Abuja Declaration. These measures include targeted fertilizer subsidies schemes to small scale farmers, fertilizer import support schemes and commercial loan guarantee to rural based agro dealers.

2.0 QUESTION : EALA/PQ/OA/3/O7/2012 (By Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga)

Article 47 of the Treaty Establishing East African Community provides that the Seat of the Court shall be determined by the Summit.

Can the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers inform the August House as to when the Council intends to advise the Summit to operationalize Article 47?

Madam Speaker,

It is correct that the Treaty, in its Article 47, provides that the seat of the East African Court of Justice shall be determined by the Summit of Heads of State. The Council of Ministers is also aware of the operational principle, in the Treaty, for the equitable distribution of benefits accruing or being derived from the operations of the Community. The logical pursuit of this principle has a bearing on the implementation of Article 47 of the Treaty.

However, the Council will advise the Summit on the implementation of this provision once it (the Council) determines, in terms of Article 140 (4) of the Treaty, that the Court is fully operational. Much as the East African Court of Justice has, since its inception, become a very busy organ of the Community it is not yet fully operational. For instance the Court's jurisdiction is still delimited to ensuring adherence to law in the interpretation and application, of and compliance with the Treaty; the Judges still serve on an ad hoc basis and are still Judges in their respective national jurisdictions. These and other matters are the subject of the ongoing Institutional Review. Once the review is finalized and the operations of the Court are fully defined, the Council will advise the Summit to determine the seat of the Court.

3.0 QUESTION : EALA/PQ/OA/3/O8/2012 (By Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga)

The Summit at its Ordinary Meeting of 26th June 2008 held in Kigali, decided that the time had come for the East African Community to put in place a housing Policy geared at acquiring and/or constructing houses for all key Community staff. The Summit further requested that banks, other financial institutions as well as Social Security Funds be approached with a view to restructuring mortgage lending for effecting the housing policy.

Can the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers inform the August House:

- (a) On the progress so far made in implementing the summit decision?***
- (b) How much money has EAC so far spent on paying for accommodation for the EAC Key personnel from July 2008?***

Madam Speaker,

It is true that at its ordinary Summit held in Kigali on 26th June 2008 the Summit decided that time had come for the East African Community to put in place a Housing Policy geared towards acquiring and/or constructing houses for all key Community Staff. The Summit further requested that banks, other financial institutions as well as Social Security Bodies be approached with a view to restructuring mortgage lending for affecting the housing policy.

Madam Speaker,

Currently, the Community does not have a specific housing policy but is guided by the provisions of Regulation 42 (1) of the Staff Rules and Regulations which provides that "all Members of Staff shall be entitled to a monthly housing allowance where no housing is provided by the Community". In this regard, all staff of the Community are paid a housing allowance ranging from US\$ 3,000 for the highest grade (ie D2) to US\$ 300 for the lowest grade (G1). The Community also pays a monthly housing allowance for some special categories of persons including the following:

East African Court of Justice:

- (a) the Judge President (US\$ 3,000 pm)
the Principle Judge (US\$ 2,500 pm); and
- (b) the Registry Clerks (based in Partner States – US\$ 400 pm).

The East African Legislative Assembly -

- (a) the Speaker (US\$ 3,000 p.m).
- (b) Project Staff (depending on the funding agreement); and
- (c) The Secretariat Project Staff (depending on the funding agreement).

However, the Council will continue to study the implications of the Summit decision and furnish this august House with a report at an appropriate time.

Madam Speaker,

As indicated above, the Community pays a monthly housing allowance to all established staff and some project staff based on approved grades. The amount paid in respect to housing allowance up to the end of Financial Year 2011/12 is indicated in a table which I now lay by on the table.

4.0 QUESTION : EALA/PQ/OA/3/O9/2012 (By Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga)

The Summit at its Ordinary Meeting of 26th June 2008 held in Kigali, noted that one of the immediate interventions to boost agricultural productivity in the region is to exploit the available natural gas and phosphates in the region for production of fertilizers. The Summit decided that a joint financing of fertilizer production in Tanzania and Uganda where the resources are adequately available should be undertaken as a priority EAC regional project under the framework of Agriculture and Food Security programme.

Can the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers inform the August House on:

- i) The progress so far made in implementing the summit decision?***
- ii) The quantity of fertilizers imported in EAC countries and how much it costs the region?***
- iii) The quantity of fertilizers produced in the region?***
- iv) The status and level of the use of fertilizers in the region?***

Madam Speaker,

A detailed Feasibility Study Proposal on Regional Fertilizer Production has been developed and submitted to the African Development Bank (AfDB) for consideration. Discussions are still underway with AfDB under The Africa Fertilizer Financing Mechanism framework. The overall goal of this study is to address the question of availability, affordability, accessibility and consideration for setting up a regional fertilizer manufacturing plant (s) taking into account the availability of raw materials for fertilizer production from the region such as in Tanzania and Uganda (natural gases and Phosphate Rocks). The study will also review the fertilizer markets in the region and develop demand forecasts for the next fifteen years. The study will explore challenges and recommend possible governments and private sector intervention to improve fertilizer market development in the region.

Madam Speaker,

From available data the region imported about 750,00 metric tonnes of fertilizer in the year 2009/10 worth over US\$550 million.

Madam Speaker,

Fertilizer use in the East African Countries has risen from 436,935 metric tonnes in 2002/2003 to about 650,157 metric tonnes in 2007/2008 (aggregates from the five EAC Countries). A Table which I now lay on the table, summarises fertilizer consumption figures for the EAC Partner States for the period 2002 to 2009 (FAOSTAT, 2012).

The overall fertilizer use in region is still very low with Burundi approximately 2kg/ha, Uganda 2kg/ha, Rwanda 5 kg/Ha/year, Tanzania 9 kg/ha and Kenya 30kg/ha. In comparison to other regions of the world, in East Asia it is 140kg/ha and South Asia is 100kg/ha.

5.0 QUESTION: REF: EALA/PQ/OA/3/10/2012 (By Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga)

The Summit at its 12th Ordinary Meeting of 3rd December 2010 held at Ngurdoto Lodge in Arusha directed the Council of Ministers to seriously address the delays in operationalizing EAC project Master Plans especially in the area of energy generation and interconnectivity. The Summit called for a long term energy Master Plan with a time dimension of 2050 which should show which Partner Stat would produce what type of energy, quantity and time frames to enable effective sharing of energy resources.

Can the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers provide the August House with a progress report on the above Summit directives?

Madam Speaker,

In compliance with the Summit directive, the Sectoral Council on Energy identified priority generation and interconnection projects selected from the EAC Power Master Plan. These projects are at different stages of implementation. A number of interconnection and generation projects are at implementation stage while preparatory studies for others have been completed. Resource mobilization for implementation of ready projects and preparatory work for others is ongoing. EAC Secretariat has submitted proposals and held discussions with various development partners including Africa Development Bank, Agence Francaise de Developpement, China, European Investment Bank, European Union, India, Japan, Norway and United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The development partners are supportive of these initiatives and are giving consideration to our submissions. The resource mobilization efforts will be carried out on a continuous basis.

Madam Speaker,

With respect to a long term energy master plan, the EAC Power Master Plan covering the first 25 years has been completed and is forming the basis for implementation of various projects. Terms of Reference and cost estimates for developing other subsector master plans, namely Fossil Fuels and Renewable Energy, are in place. The subsector master plans will be consolidated to develop a Regional Energy Master Plan. Resources are being mobilized for these activities.

The Master Plan, currently in place, projects the power needs for the region and identifies specific projects to be implemented at different times over the 25 year period in order to optimally meet the growing power demand. The plan ensures that the most economic sources of energy available in different Partner States are utilized. Identified interconnection projects will ensure effective sharing of energy generated from different Partner States.