



BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EALA

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3rd EALA COMPLETES YEAR 1 OF SERVICE EALA APPROVES EAC BUDGET

LEGISLATIVE

EALA PASSES MORE
BILLS IN 2013

REPRESENTATIVE

WE SHALL ENSURE
INTEGRATION IS FULLY
REALIZED – EALA
LEGISLATORS

OVERSIGHT/BUDGET

EALA APPROVES
2013/2014 BUDGET

INSTITUTIONAL LINKAGES

BRIEFS FROM NATIONAL
ASSEMBLIES



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DESK OF THE RT. HON. SPEAKER

Welcome to the 8th Edition of the *Bunge la Afrika Mashariki* which has continued to play a key part as our flagship magazine in keeping you abreast with the activities of the Assembly.

This edition is special since the month of November, bears special significance in the history of the EALA as it commemorates the period when the Assembly was established. The Assembly is this year celebrating twelve years of its existence on November 30, 2013. Allow me therefore to wish EALA and all East Africans a happy anniversary as we take cognizance of our achievements (and challenges) and map our future.

Today, the Assembly is coming of age. EALA remains dedicated to realising its mandate as underlined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC given that mandate of enacting legislation pertaining to the EAC, undertaking oversight as well as representing the interests of the citizens of East Africa.

I am upbeat about the on-going process being recorded at the EAC and the zeal with which the integration path is taking that calls for the strengthening of all Organs and Institutions of the Community. In so doing, we must commit to realizing the ideals of regional integration.

It is further expected that the Summit of the EAC Heads of State shall append their signatures to the East African Monetary Union Protocol (EAMU) on November 30, 2013 setting the pace for the entry of the East African Monetary Union. The roadmap of the EAMU provides for its implementation over a ten year period, time within which, the single currency should be realized. EALA is committed to supporting this important phase of the integration process.

We are fully aware of the Herculean task ahead—since we must enact legislation to consolidate the Common Market, to support the Monetary Union and ultimately, the Political Federation.

At the same time, the region must continuously look towards addressing challenges that face integration. At the fulcrum is the lack of awareness of the benefits of



RT. HON. ZZIWA NANTONGO MARGARET

integration by EAC citizens, the Non-Tariff Barriers and the need to speedily implement the Council decisions.

Looking inwards, permit me to report that, EALA has recently launched its second Strategic Plan as you will see elsewhere in the Newsletter. The Strategic Plan among other areas seeks to see EALA enhance administrative autonomy, boost its corporate image and development, support negotiations for the EAC pillars of integration and ensure robust and effective monitoring and evaluation.

It has been a year of hard-work with EALA passing 7 pieces of legislation and over twenty Motions and Resolutions. EALA was also represented in various meetings and conferences continentally and internationally as you shall read in other sections of the Newsletter. At the conferences, EALA and EAC at large used the opportunity to market itself and to espouse its mandate.

I wish to congratulate the EAC for the successes realised. I further wish to add that we have also been emboldened to address the challenges with more vigour and certainty in the coming future.

As we cork the champagne bottles to mark the achievements and the end of another year, let us keep focus on the ultimate prize – that of integrating towards the realization of the Political Federation.

Finally, I encourage you to read and enjoy the current edition of the magazine whose contents are informative. I wish you all a festive season and a prosperous 2014.



MR. KENNETH NAMBOGA MADETE

Jambo and a very warm welcome once again to the 8th edition of your magazine - the *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki*.

The Assembly has kept in the race to ensure the EAC realizes its objectives. As we celebrate twelve years of existence this November, we can look back with some satisfaction.

Today, we can celebrate some successes. We can confidently say that the Customs Union and the Common market have realised more successes than shortfalls for the region. The elimination of tariffs is more than welcome to many business people of the region. The free movement of goods, labour, people and capital has been enhanced by the progressive elimination of non-tariff barriers to trade which include roadblocks and weigh bridges.

With the EAC at a defining moment as it deepens and widens integration, the role of the Assembly remains crucially hinged on provision of legislative services. In doing so, we need to exhibit vibrancy and enthusiasm in carrying out our mandate.

We remain hopeful that through our hard work, we shall contribute to assist the region realize the prospects of growth and solid development. The Assembly is committed to liaise and closely collaborate with Organs and Institutions of the Community, the Private Sector, Civil Society and all others in fulfilment of the Community's operational principle of being people-centred. To this end, the overarching theme

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

of the Assembly's 2nd Strategic Plan is '*People-Centred Approach to Widening and Deepening of the EAC integration by a Strong and Effective EALA*'

This is more the reason why the recent launch of the EALA Strategic Plan in October 2013 in Bujumbura, Burundi is absolutely vital. We must perfect what we do. We must continue to be more innovative and creative in what we do. We must take a more proactive stance by utilizing the advantages towards influencing and sprouting the tenets of integration while holding Partner States more accountable on the implementation of the commitments. That way, we are able to realise success and also make a difference.

During the life of the 3rd Assembly, we shall also enhance closer collaboration with the National Assemblies to ensure deliberations that take place at EALA percolate into the Partner States. It is anticipated that the full Operationalisation of Article 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC by all concerned shall enable the full realization of the noble objective.

At the same time, it is incumbent on EALA and all stakeholders to scale-up awareness. We shall do our level best to leverage sensitisation and awareness creation programmes to ensure that the ordinary people, the business community, civil society, Government officials, implementing agencies and other stakeholders in the integration process appreciate the benefits of integration.

I welcome you to this specific edition of the *Bunge Magazine* and hope that you shall find it pleasurable. Finally, the festivities period is soon approaching and the clock is winding down fast. I thus wish to take the earliest opportunity to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 2014.

EALA HOLDS 2ND MEETING OF 2ND SESSION IN BUJUMBURA



President Pierre Nkurunziza arrives at the Burundi National Assembly ready to address the EALA Sitting

The Republic of Burundi's Head of State, H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza opened the 2nd Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 3rd East African Legislative Assembly in Bujumbura, Burundi on October 22, 2013.

President Nkurunziza was emphatic that a time had come to fully embrace the philosophy of 'One People, One Destiny' so that the integration agenda becomes fully realized. He called on EALA Members to come up with bankable resolutions that make a difference to the people of the region.

The President noted that the Monetary Union Protocol was on the verge of been signed at the Summit (Nov 30, 2013) and further called on the Partner States to accelerate realization of the Political Federation.

"I do believe that we can accelerate the Political Federation to which the Burundian population and those from other Partner States have overwhelmingly responded positively to", President Nkurunziza remarked.

The Head of State called for the full and speedy implementation of the Common Market Protocol to enable citizens to enjoy the mutual benefits.

He lauded EALA for its decision to continue with the principle of rotation in the Partner States noting that it would enable citizens to become more aware of the mandate of the Assembly. In her welcome remarks, the Speaker of the EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo

Zziwa noted that the Assembly was taking place at an irreversible time in the regional integration process. She noted the envisaged entry of the Monetary Union as key in the integration process.

"We are pleased that the Summit shall be signing the Monetary Union, the third tier in the process. The people of East Africa have patiently waited. We remain confident that after years and months of complex negotiations and board room trade-ins, the people of East Africa look forward to a single currency", the Speaker remarked. Rt. Hon Ntavyohanyuma called for closer collaboration between the EALA and the Burundi National Assembly in line with Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC.

Moving the vote of thanks, Hon Dan Kidega noted that Burundi had progressed following the leadership of President Nkurunziza. "President Nkurunziza is not only a leader par excellence, but a mediator who has brought Burundi from the precipice of war to a united country." Hon Kidega remarked.

SUMMARY OF THE PLENARY – 2nd Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 3rd Assembly

Reports

- a) Report of the Nanyuki (VII) Seminar (Inter-Parliamentary Relations seminar) -tabled and adopted.



- b) Report of the Committee of Accounts on the Audited Accounts for the EAC – tabled and adopted.
- c) Report of the CTI on the Consultative Workshop of the Monetary Union – tabled and adopted.

Motions

- a) Motion for the Resolution urging the International Criminal Court (ICC) to defer the criminal cases against the President and the Deputy President of Kenya. Passed.
- b) A motion for the Resolution of the Assembly to condole with the Government and the People of Kenya over the loss of lives in the tragic Westgate Mall attack and urging the EAC Council of Ministers to expedite the establishment and ratification of a mechanism for effective implementation of decisions made in areas of peace and security. Passed.
- c) A Resolution to mark the International Day of Democracy on September 15, 2013. Passed.



HERE IT IS: President Pierre Nkurunziza launches the EALA Strategic Plan as the Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa looks on. The Strategic Plan has six major objectives address the EALA Sitting

Bills set to be introduced

EALA further granted two of its Members leave to introduce Private Members’ Bill. The Bills set to be introduced are the East African Community

Cooperatives Bill, 2013 by Hon Mike Sebalu and the East African Community Cross Border Legal Practice Bill, 2013 by Hon Dora Byamukama.

The Speaker on her part, held the following discussions:

- a) received a delegation of Parliamentarians from Uganda (Committee of the East African Community) who were in Bujumbura on a one week tour to familiarise themselves with the activities of EALA and on the oversight activities of the Committees of EALA. The Committee also sat through the Plenary.
- b) met with representatives of the Westminster Foundation for Democracy.

PRESIDENT NKURUNZIZA LAUNCHES STRATEGIC PLAN

President Pierre Nkurunziza launched the EALA Strategic Plan (2013-2018) at a colourful ceremony held at the Burundi National Assembly on October 22, 2013. The President lauded EALA for anchoring the Strategic Plan on people-centredness and reiterated the need for citizens to be the core and centre stage of the process.

“The main achievements and lessons learnt in the last five years have no doubt played a fundamental role in helping EALA to develop and embrace its strategies for the future. The next five years should thus see the Assembly become more innovative, proactive and focused towards ensuring it remains on the cutting edge of regional integration” the President noted.

The Strategic Plan has six main strategic issues:

1. EALA’s main Administrative Autonomy, Capacity and Efficiency.
2. Negotiations for the EAC Pillars of integration
3. EALA’s Corporate image, institutional status, growth and development.
4. Capacity building in regional Parliamentary Practices.
5. Effective, sustainable and Results-oriented communication and sensitization on EAC integration.
6. Robust and effective Monitoring and Evaluation.

GENEVA CONVENES THE IPU ASSEMBLY

Global conference condemns Westgate attack in Nairobi

The 129th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) took place at the *Centre International de Conférences de Geneve (CICG) on October 7-10, 2013*. The three-day Assembly brought together nearly 600 MPs from 129 countries in discussing socio-economic matters relevant to Member States.

In the opening remarks, the President of the IPU, Hon. Abdelwahed Radi said IPU would revise the statutes and rules to enhance its efficiency in a bid to render better services to the Member States. The President maintained that IPU was committed to implementing the new Strategic Plan (2012-17) which *inter alia* envisages three thematic themes; Better Parliaments and stronger democracies, enhanced international involvement of Parliaments and the IPU as a more effective instrument of Parliamentary Co-operation.

The Assembly panel discussions delved into three key subject areas. Ridding the world of all nuclear-weaponry as well as weapons of mass destruction in line with the increasing concern of the proliferation of nuclear and chemical weapon prowess and in the aftermath of the recent chemical weapon use in Syria;

Role of Parliaments in protecting the rights of children, particularly, unaccompanied migrant children and in preventing their exploitation in situations of war and conflict and; Risk resilient development taking into consideration the demographic trends and natural constraints.

EALA was represented by, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa and Members, Hon Hafsa Mossi, Hon Sarah T. Bonaya and Hon Susan Nakawuki. In a message of solidarity to the IPU, the Speaker of EALA, said the Assembly supported the Arms Trade Treaty and called for the enactment of necessary legislations outlawing the acquiring, sourcing, trading in Arms to curb terrorism.

'We in East Africa in particular Kenya have witnessed the brutal acts of terrorism at the Westgate shopping mall, and many others that have occurred before in the region in Uganda, Burundi and Tanzania among others. As we mourn over the loss of our people, our hearts are heavy and bitter with serious questions that remain unanswered' the Speaker noted.

Also in attendance were Speakers from the Kenya National Assembly, Rt. Hon Justin Muturi and his



The President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Hon. Abdelwahed Radi



The Westgate inferno. The IPU Meeting condemned the attack on the Nairobi shopping mall

community has to prioritize action to protect basic human rights, particularly that of freedom of expression. The participants underlined freedom of expression as being core to the work of any MP and to democracy.

IPU Condemns Cowardly and Reprehensible Terrorist Attack in Nairobi – MPs condemned the recent terrorist act in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi, which claimed the lives of 67 people and left 175 injured. In a statement on behalf of the Membership, IPU President Abdelwahad Radi condemned terrorism in all its forms and expressed outrage “at such cowardly and reprehensible acts, which cannot be justified on any political, religious or ideological grounds.”

counterpart, the Speaker of the Senate, Rt.Hon Ekwe Ethuro, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga and the Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania, Rt. Hon Anna Makinda among others. A number of Parliamentarians from the Partner States also participated.

Summary of the Resolutions/Discussions at The IPU

Parliaments Demand International Zero Tolerance on Chemical Weapons

The IPU called on all its 163 Member States to condemn the use of chemical weapons and to demand their respective governments sign and ratify the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). An Emergency IPU Resolution adopted at the closing demanded that all States not yet party to the Convention accede to or ratify it as a matter of urgency and without any preconditions. Stressing universal adherence to the ban on the use of such weapons, the Resolution also underscored the importance of the speedy destruction of declared stockpiles.

Protecting Freedom of Expression as a Priority in Face of Rapid Technological Change – In the wake of global technological change, the international

Changes to IPU Membership–Bhutanese, Somali and Egyptian Parliaments The General Council approved the re-admission of the Parliament of Somalia as a Member of the IPU. The Assembly positively considered a proposal to waver all the arrears accumulated by the Parliament towards the IPU before its suspension from the Union in 2009. Parliament of Bhutan’s request for admission was also accepted. The Assembly pronounced itself under Article 4.2 of the Statutes of IPU and on that score, suspended Egypt. This follows the dissolution of the Parliament of Egypt on July 3, 2013.



Hon. Khalid Omar Ali, represented Somalia Parliament to the IPU Assembly in Geneva



Resolution 1540 (2004)

Adopted by the Security Council at its 4956th meeting, on 28 April 2004

The Security Council,

Affirming that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery,* constitutes a threat to international peace and security, *Reaffirming*, in this context, the Statement of its President adopted at the Council's meeting at the level of Heads of State and Government on 31 January 1992 (S/23500), including the need for all Member States to fulfill their obligations in relation to arms control and disarmament and to prevent proliferation in all its aspects of all weapons of mass destruction,

Recalling also that the Statement underlined the need for all Member States to resolve peacefully in accordance with the Charter any problems in that context threatening or disrupting the maintenance of regional and global stability,

Affirming its resolve to take appropriate and effective actions against any threat to international peace and security caused by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery, in conformity with its primary responsibilities, as provided for in the United Nations Charter,

Affirming its support for the multilateral treaties whose aim is to eliminate or prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and the importance for all States parties to these treaties to implement them fully in order to promote international stability,

Welcoming efforts in this context by multilateral arrangements which contribute to non-proliferation,

Affirming that prevention of proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons should not hamper international cooperation in materials, equipment and technology for peaceful purposes while goals of peaceful utilization should not be

used as a cover for proliferation,

Gravely concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors* such as those identified in the United Nations list established and maintained by the Committee established under Security Council resolution 1267 and those to whom resolution 1373 applies, may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery,

Gravely concerned by the threat of illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means

of delivery, and related materials,* which adds a new dimension to the issue of proliferation of such weapons and also poses a threat to international peace and security, *Recognizing* the need to enhance coordination of efforts on national, subregional, regional and international levels in order to strengthen a global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security,

Recognizing that most States have undertaken binding legal obligations under treaties to which they are parties, or have made other commitments aimed at preventing the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, and have taken effective measures to account for, secure and physically protect sensitive materials, such as those required by the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Materials and those recommended by the IAEA Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources,

Recognizing further the urgent need for all States to take additional effective measures to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery,

Encouraging all Member States to implement fully the disarmament treaties

and agreements to which they are party,

Reaffirming the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts,

Determined to facilitate henceforth an effective response to global threats in the area of non-proliferation,

Acting under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations,

1. *Decides that* all States shall refrain from providing any form of support to non-State actors that attempt to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery;

* Definitions for the purpose of this resolution only:

Means of delivery: missiles, rockets and other unmanned systems capable of delivering nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, that are specially designed for such use.

Non-State actor: individual or entity, not acting under the lawful authority of any State in conducting activities which come within the scope of this resolution.

Related materials: materials, equipment and technology covered by relevant multilateral treaties and arrangements, or included on national control lists, which could be used for the design, development, production or use of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.



2. *Decides also* that all States, in accordance with their national procedures, shall adopt and enforce appropriate effective laws which prohibit any non-State actor to manufacture, acquire, possess, develop, transport, transfer or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes, as well as attempts to engage in any of the foregoing activities, participate in them as an accomplice, assist or finance them;
3. *Decides also* that all States shall take and enforce effective measures to establish domestic controls to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons and their means of delivery, including by establishing appropriate controls over related materials and to this end shall:
 - (a) Develop and maintain appropriate effective measures to account for and secure such items in production, use, storage or transport;
 - (b) Develop and maintain appropriate effective physical protection measures;
 - (c) Develop and maintain appropriate effective border controls and law enforcement efforts to detect, deter, prevent and combat, including through international cooperation when necessary, the illicit trafficking and brokering in such items in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law;
 - (d) Establish, develop, review and maintain appropriate effective national export and trans-shipment controls over such items, including appropriate laws and regulations to control export, transit, trans-shipment and re-export and controls on providing funds and services related to such export and trans-shipment such as financing, and transporting that would contribute to proliferation, as well as establishing end-user controls; and establishing and enforcing appropriate criminal or civil penalties for violations of such export control laws and regulations;
4. *Decides to establish, in accordance with rule 28 of its provisional rules of procedure, for a period of no longer than two years, a Committee of the Security Council, consisting of all members of the Council, which will, calling as appropriate on other expertise, report to the Security Council for its examination, on the implementation of this resolution, and to this end calls upon States to present a first report no later than six months from the adoption of this resolution to the Committee on steps they have taken or intend to take to implement this resolution;*
5. *Decides that none of the obligations set forth in this resolution shall be interpreted so as to conflict with or alter the rights and obligations of State Parties to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention or alter the responsibilities of the International Atomic Energy Agency or the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;*
6. *Recognizes the utility in implementing this resolution of effective national control lists and calls upon all Member States, when necessary, to pursue at the earliest opportunity the development of such lists;*
7. *Recognizes that some States may require assistance in implementing the provisions of this resolution within their territories and invites States in a position to do so to offer assistance as appropriate in response to specific requests to the States lacking the legal and regulatory infrastructure, implementation experience and/or resources for fulfilling the above provisions;*
8. *Calls upon all States:*
 - (a) To promote the universal adoption and full implementation, and, where necessary, strengthening of multilateral treaties to which they are parties, whose aim is to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons;
 - (b) To adopt national rules and regulations, where it has not yet been done, to ensure compliance with their commitments under the key multilateral nonproliferation treaties;
 - (c) To renew and fulfil their commitment to multilateral cooperation, in particular within the framework of the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, as important means of pursuing and achieving their common objectives in the area of non-proliferation and of promoting international cooperation for peaceful purposes;
 - (d) To develop appropriate ways to work with and inform industry and the public regarding their obligations under such laws;
9. *Calls upon all States to promote dialogue and cooperation on nonproliferation so as to address the threat posed by proliferation of nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons, and their means of delivery;*
10. *Further to counter that threat, calls upon all States, in accordance with their national legal authorities and legislation and consistent with international law, to take cooperative action to prevent illicit trafficking in nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, their means of delivery, and related materials;*
11. *Expresses its intention to monitor closely the implementation of this resolution and, at the appropriate level, to take further decisions which may be required to this end;*
12. *Decides to remain seized of the matter.*

EAC HEADS OF STATE ADDRESS EALA SITTINGS IN A YEAR FULL OF ACTIVITY, ADVOCATE FOR STRENGTHENING OF INTEGRATION



Kenya's (then) President Mwai Kibaki is led out of the Kenya National Assembly Chambers by the Speaker of EALA and other government officials after delivering the speech



President Museveni makes his address. The Head of State rooted for increased sensitization by EALA

The first year of the 3rd EALA ended on June 2013. The year was eventful with the Assembly holding six Sittings in the Partner States. Apart from the first Sitting in Arusha, Tanzania, all other Sittings in the capital cities were graced by the respective Heads of State who addressed the legislators imploring the need for a stronger economic bloc.

Fresh from the swearing-in-ceremony on June 5, 2012, EALA held its first Sitting a day later on June 6,

2012. The Motion moved by Hon Abdullah Mwinyi in accordance with the Provisions of Rules 77, 78 (2) (d) and 81 (1) and (2) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly was passed and with that, elections to the EALA Commission and the respective Committees' took place.

Three months later in September 2012, Kenya's (then) President Mwai Kibaki opened the Second Meeting of the First Session at the Kenya National Assembly in Nairobi. The Special Sitting took place on September 4, 2012. President Kibaki called on the EALA and National Assemblies to forge more linkages noting that such a move would go a long way in enhancing the performance of the Community. He called on the different legislatures to work together to ensure the laws enacted by EALA enhance and compliment national laws.

'For instance, it may be useful to hold special joint sessions to debate the Community agenda. This way, the Community will be brought closer to the people for whom it is intended', he remarked.

The President pleaded for the removal of Non-Tariff Barriers to spur trade and to enable the seamless flow of goods and services.

The Third Meeting of the First Session took place at the EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania on November 26, 2012 to Dec 5, 2012. President Jakaya Kikwete opened the meeting on November 27, 2012.

The Head of State remarked that time had come for EALA to harness, mobilize and leverage citizens' participation in the integration process.

The President's speech was anchored on three key messages; comparative advantage, synergy building and effectiveness and further highlighted the rational



use of resources. He affirmed the need for the region to delicately address matters of the Monetary Union in order to be on the right side of history. *“We must avoid making mistakes in this important pillar. We must learn from history where the first Community was bedevilled by challenges leading to its eventual collapse”*, President Kikwete stated.

As the new year (2013) set in, Bujumbura played host to EALA which held the 4th Meeting of its 1st Session at the Burundi National Assembly. President Pierre Nkurunziza opened the Session on January 22, 2013 with a clarion call to maintain the momentum of integration gathered by paying more attention to the drivers of integration.

In this respect, President Nkurunziza remarked that a greater internal market was necessary to increase the share in global trade and economy and to spur new

jobs for citizens of the region. President Nkurunziza further urged the region to embark on value addition initiatives in agriculture through transformation and conservation, noting that it would boost up to 95% of the region’s population who thrive on the sector

President Nkurunziza noted that in addition, the implementation of a Single Customs Territory was ‘key in making a difference’ for the region.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame opened the 5th Meeting of the 1st Session of the 3rd Assembly at the Parliament of Rwanda in Kigali, Rwanda on April 16, 2013.

In his remarks, President Kagame reiterated that it was time for the EAC region to multiply the level of satisfaction and benefits accrued into the continental bloc, affirming that such dividends were necessary for a united Africa.

The President was categorical that such a move would ensure that Africa taps into further economic growth and enables a stronger voice in the international arena. *‘A better performing East African Community is good for our citizens. It would be even more beneficial if we established links with other regions of the continent so that all Africans can enjoy the benefits of increased and larger markets, greater safety, peace and stability and collective strength’* the President said.

In Uganda, President Museveni delivered his address to EALA at a Special Sitting of the 6th meeting of the 1st Session held at the Parliament of Uganda. On the afternoon of June 5, 2013. President Museveni urged EALA to sensitize the citizens of the region so they may appreciate the benefits of integration.

“EALA can assist the region to attain the much needed Political Federation. A key task of EALA should be to sensitise East Africans in addition to ensuring further integration of EAC through the provisions of the Treaty”, President Museveni remarked.

He called on EALA to enhance oversight of the projects and programmes of the Community and hailed the Assembly for realising a year in Office and for passing relevant Bills, key to the integration process.



President Paul Kagame and a section of EALA Members



President Jakaya Kikwete is led out of the EALA Chambers by the EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr Richard Sezibera and the Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania, Rt. Hon Anna Makinda (right) among other senior EAC officials

WE SHALL ENSURE INTEGRATION SUCCEEDS – MEMBERS PLEDGE AS EALA BEGINS YEAR TWO



The 3rd East African Legislative Assembly has gone a full cycle. The Assembly was inaugurated on June 5, 2012. The Assembly proceeded to elect Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa as Speaker and Members took their oaths in a ceremony at the Chambers in Arusha, Tanzania.

Members of the Assembly further pledged to ensure the citizens of the region live better and contribute to development in a more meaningful way. *“Despite the challenges, EALA is up to the task and ably so. We have the commitment from the Partner States and the leadership right from the top (Summit) and all the way down to various stakeholders and it is our solemn promise to work glove in glove with all Partners – a section of EALA legislators said.*

In her remarks at a sensitisation workshop, the Speaker pledged to consolidate on the gains of the Assembly. *Like I have said, I shall captain the ship while offering consultative leadership and teamwork. Our priorities during the period shall include enhancing awareness among the citizens of the region by taking the Assembly closer to the people and by working closely with the Civil Society, Private Sector, youth and all other groups to carry out the important mandate,* the Speaker remarked.

To show how serious they were, EALA Members immediately underwent a two-day induction process to re-orient themselves on the procedures and modalities of work at the Assembly.

The two day induction exercise was administered by the Institute of Regional Integration and Development (IRID).

In his presentation, the former Attorney General of Kenya and Senator of Busia, Hon Amos Wako noted that the region was interconnected through cultural and historical ties and remarked it was necessary for EAC to strengthen the

ties. *‘The entry of Rwanda and Burundi a few years back was not only welcome but nostalgic’,* he noted. *‘It was sort of a home-coming. They have always belonged here – in East Africa’,* Hon Wako added. Hon Wako however noted a number of impediments which he said, hampered integration.

The former AG cited national prejudices, suspicion and fear of ceding sovereignty as some of the barriers to full integration. Hon Wako presented a historical narrative of the defunct EAC and remarked that the collapse of the first EAC was necessitated by differences in political ideologies.

The Director of the Institute of Regional Integration Development (IRID), Dr. Wanyama Masinde stated that it was imperative for the Partner States to cede some sovereignty and powers to the super-state.

The Speaker Emeritus Rt. Hon Abdirahin Abdi presented the experiences of the second Assembly to the Members. He noted that the mandate of legislation, oversight and representation needed to be jealously guarded.

Since its inauguration, EALA has passed 8 key Bills, 20 Resolutions and several Reports. A summary of the Bills and Resolutions is on page 28 & 29 attached for reference.

EALA APPROVES 2013/14 BUDGET

...EAC Appropriation Bill 2013 and Supplementary Appropriation Bill sail through

In one of its key activities this year, EALA debated and approved the EAC Budget totalling \$131,806,032 as the House sat in June 2013.

EALA also passed the Appropriation Bill 2013 and the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2013 respectively on June 6, 2013 in the Kampala Sitings.

The object of the Appropriation Bill, 2013, is to make provision for the appropriation out of the budget for the specified amount of money for the services and purposes of the Community for the financial year ending 30th of June 2014. The Chair of the Council, Shem Bageine moved a motion for amendment to the budget allocated to EALA increasing the specified amount by USD 776,050 to enable the Assembly undertake an additional Sitting in its calendar.

The Budget is allocated to the Organs and Institutions of the EAC as follows; East African Community Secretariat (\$69,787,824), East African Legislative Assembly (\$13,806,032) and the East African Court of Justice (\$4,279,489). The Inter-University Council for East Africa shall receive \$ 9,692,785 while \$ 3,203,042 is earmarked for the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation.

The 2013/2014 Budget down from \$140million in the previous Financial Year, prioritizes on consolidating the Common Market; completion of negotiations and movement towards the East African Monetary Union Protocol; investment promotion and Private

Sector development; co-operation in cross-border infrastructure; enhancing the extractive and processing industries; implementation of the critical activities of EAC Food Security and the mainstreaming of policies, programmes and projects related to gender.

The approval of the Budget followed the presentation of Budget Speech by the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Minister of State for East African Affairs, Uganda, Hon. Shem Bageine on May 30, 2013.

Presenting the Budget estimates, the Council Chairperson, Hon Bageine cited, interventions in the Customs Union leading to establishment of a single Customs Territory as one of the priority areas. Hon. Bageine observed that the Single Customs Territory “would crystallize the gains of integration characterized by minimal internal border controls and a more efficient institutional mechanism in clearing goods”.

The FY 2013/2014 Budget is to be financed by Partner State contributions through the Ministries of EAC (\$37,297,442); Partner States through other agencies (\$7,249,252); Development Partners support (\$85,676,850); and other income (\$205,850).

The Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2013 makes provision for the amount required in the year ending 30 June 2013 for the expenditure incurred on Kenya Election Observation Mission. The amount approved

for the purpose is USD 478,930.94. Minister Bageine informed the House that EAC had last year submitted proposals to development partners for the sole purposes of observing the elections of the Republic of Kenya (The said elections took place in March 2013).

DANIDA approved over 4 Million Danish Kronor equalling to USD 635,000 and the funds were integrated into the EAC Partnership Fund. The amount boosted the EAC kitty following approval of a Supplementary budget of USD 235,000 from the EAC General Reserves in September 2012.



The Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon Shem Bageine. EALA recently approved the EAC budget

ENLARGING MARKETS AND INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT DOMINATE STATE OF NATION ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT MUSEVENI



President Yoweri Museveni reaches out to Hon Dr Martin Nduwimana after delivering the State of EAC Address in Kigali, Rwanda

One of the key highlights of 2013 was the State of EAC Address delivered by the Chairman of the Summit of EAC Heads of State, President Yoweri Museveni at a Special Sitting held at the Parliament of Rwanda in Kigali, Rwanda on April 24, 2013.

In the Address, President Museveni urged the region to resolve all existing strategic bottlenecks if the EAC is to spur integration. The Head of State called on EALA to use its legislative agenda and mandate to support the same and maintained that it was time for the region to eye political unity as a stabilising factor to development.

President Museveni affirmed that during his tenure as the Chairperson of the Summit, he would prioritise on infrastructure development to enable the region take its flight to the next level. He also undertook to push for the amendments to the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC in response to a request by the Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa.

The Chair of the Summit noted that the EAC integration was progressive and bright and called on the region to strive for the realisation of the Political Federation. *'Though economic integration is good, there are certain crucial issues that it may fail to address – and which a Political Federation will cushion us against'*, President Museveni added. *'We blame the Europeans for decolonising us – but apart from Ethiopia who were not colonised, the rest of us suffered since*

we were politically weak' the President remarked.

'Africa has a larger area in terms of squares per miles as compared to the likes of China, India and the US and the continent is fertile and well watered. But we have failed to take advantage of our political strengths', he added.

The President was categorical that Africa needed further economic growth and a stronger voice in the international arena. He cited the need to harness energy and electricity for development, noting that Africa's Kilowatt per capita was extremely low.

The President's speech delved into other strategic bottlenecks which he termed destructive to regional integration. He cited tribal, religious and gender ideological disorientations, lack of viable pillars in the judicial and defence sectors leading to collapse of state authority, attacks on the Private Sector initiatives and under-development of human resources and skills. Other challenges include an under-developed service sector, lack of industrialisation and lack of democracy.

The Head of State however noted that the region and Africa was on the path to recovery and had started correcting the wrongs.

In attendance was the Rt. Hon. Jean Damascene Ntawukuriryayo, President of the Senate, Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of Rwanda Chamber of Deputies and Hon Shem Bageine, Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers. Others were the EAC Secretary General, Amb Richard Sezibera, several dignitaries and high ranking government officials.

The Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Dr Margaret Nantongo Zziwa congratulated the Summit for the wise leadership noting that citizens had continued to enjoy the benefits of integration. The Speaker however called on the Council of Ministers to bring forth more Bills for debate and legislation.

The State of Nation Address is delivered by the sitting Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State and it espouses policies, impetus and direction from which all Organs and institutions of the EAC pick their cue.

President Museveni is expected to hand-over the reins of the Chair of the Summit in November 2013.



OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER BUSY WITH ACTIVITIES IN THE FIRST YEAR



The Speaker of EALA Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa is joined by the Chief Justice of Republic of Uganda Justice Benjamin Odoki and the Clerk to the Parliament of Uganda, Mrs Jane Kibirige at an official function in Kampla. The Office of the Speaker had a busy year

Over the past one year, the Office of the Speaker has held high profile meetings with leaders and key government officials, stakeholders and various groups in the EAC region.

Immediately upon her successful election, the Speaker held discussions with the Heads of State to introduce herself and to thank them for their unwavering support to EALA and to the integration process. The Speaker called on President Yoweri Museveni on July 3, 2012, President Paul Kagame on June 30, 2012, President Jakaya M. Kikwete on September 19, 2012 and President Pierre Nkurunziza on November 5, 2012. The Speaker held discussions with President Mwai Kibaki in June 2012 on the sidelines of the Rio 20+ Conference in Brazil.

The Heads of State remarked that advocacy at the level of the Summit was key for the purposes of creating awareness of the EAC amongst the citizens of respective Partner States.

The Presidents urged EALA to carry on its mandate within the framework of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC by concentrating its scope on

areas of co-operation as agreed upon by the Partner States. In the earlier days of the Speakership, Rt. Hon Zziwa held deliberations with the Speakers of the National Assemblies. Rt Hon Zziwa held talks with Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon Anna Makinda – Parliament of Tanzania, Rt. Hon Rose Mukantabana, Parliament of Rwanda.

She also paid a courtesy call on Rt. Hon Pie Ntavyohanyuma, Burundi National Assembly and Rt. Hon Kenneth Marende of the Kenya National Assembly.

The courtesy calls were part of the series of meetings planned to lay down strategy for the Assembly. In addition, the Speaker participated in a series of regional and international conferences. They included participation in the Pan African parliament conferences and other meetings organised by Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD).

The conference of Speakers from African Parliaments organised by the Pan-African Parliament took place on August 30-31, 2012 in Midrand, South Africa

with matters concerning enhancing co-operation between respective Parliaments in the continent, top on the agenda. The conference provided a progress report on the review of the Protocol establishing the PAP among other areas.

In a key conference on Democracy organised by AWEPA on June 17-18, 2013 in Abuja, Nigeria, delegates agreed to advocate for strengthening of institutions including the judiciary, legislature, security services, electoral commissions and a free press as a pre-requisite for sustainable development in Africa.

The meeting was addressed by Ghana's former President, H.E. Jerry Rawlings. His keynote speech entitled: Emerging Democracies; Challenges and Opportunities, emphasised that emerging democracies were grappling with problems of incoherent constitutions and weak institutions and called for a 'change of tide' in the democratic dispensation to guarantee freedom and justice for the continent.

At the International Conference on Governance and Democracy held on June 30, 2012 in Kigali, Rwanda, Rt. Hon Zziwa noted that women in Rwanda continued to take a central role in offering solutions addressing the needs of the people and added that the RIO+20 Summit had emphasized sustainable programmes and policies as the way out to development.

In a meeting in June 2013 organised by the African Women's Economic Policy Network Alumni Forum (AWEAPON-WEEP) in Kampala, Uganda, the EALA Speaker called on women to take a more central role in the regional integration process if they are to enjoy tangible benefits of the same.

She reiterated that women's contribution in development was paramount and central to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The Speaker requested the leadership of the organization to woo the Republics of Burundi and



Lets count the integration issues: The Speaker of EALA shares a light moment with the Clerk, Kenneth Madete as Hon Patricia Hjabakiga looks on



Rt. Hon Bethel Amadi, President of PAP exchanges ideas with the EALA Speaker. Both Assemblies enjoy cordial relations

Rwanda to its membership so that the entire EAC region can be fully on board.

In February 2013, matters of Governance and the post 2015 Development Agenda come into scrutiny at a high-level African Thematic Consultation in Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa.

The President of the Pan African Parliament (PAP), H.E. Bethel N. Amadi noted that substantial progress had been made since the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) set in thirteen years ago.

He cited the reduction of HIV/AIDS transmission, enhanced infrastructure and increased enrolment of primary school youth – as some of the benefits propelled by the MDGs.





1. From left: Hon Peter Mathuki, Hon Mumbi Ngaru and Hon Yves Nsabimana exchange ideas on integration at a past meeting
2. The Speaker Emeritus of the Parliament of Rwanda, Rt. Hon Rose Mukantabana speaks to the Chair of the Council of Ministers, Hon Shem Bageine as the Prime Minister of Rwanda Rt. Hon Pierre Damien Habumuremyi
3. **NICE MEETING YOU:** Hon Bernard Mulengani shakes hands with Hon Kerstin Lunogren, MP, Political Cordinator, AWEPA, Sweden. EALA works closely with AWEPA on capacity building issues
4. EALA Members listen keenly to the State of the Nation Address in Uganda. EALA continues to work collaborate with the Partner States to ensure integration is strengthened
5. **ALL RISE:** EALA Members at attention before commencement of a Session
6. **THE POINT IS:** Hon Judith Pareno gestures to Hon Hafsa Mossi as Rwanda's Minister for EAC, Hon Jacqueline Muhongayire (centre and partly hidden) listens
7. The Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa makes a point to the Registrar of the East African Court of Justice, Prof John Ruhangisa as the CASSOA Executive Director, Barry Kashambo looks on. The EALA Organs and Institutions regularly meet to track progress and exchange views on the integration process
8. Hon Mike Sebalu talks to Joy Uloy (left) and Charlotte Kyomuhangi, staff of EALA. EALA has recently launched the Strategic Plan (2013-18)
9. EALA Staff plant trees in a bid to conserve the environment
10. EALA Commission meet in Arusha. EALA has seven standing Committees
11. A section of the EALA Chapter, United Republic of Tanzania. The Chapters engage various stakeholders in-country
12. The Executive Director of Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern Africa (OSSREA), Prof Pascal Mihyo shakes hands with former Deputy Minister of Finance in United Republic of Tanzania, Prof Kilontsi Muhama Mporogomyi as Hon Bernard Murunya and Assembly staff member, Charles Kadonya look on.



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By Hon. Shy-Rose Bhanji

MY IMPRESSIONS ONE YEAR IN EALA (June 2012/June 2013)



The Clerk to the Assembly, Kenneth Madete assists Hon ShyRose Bhanji to take her oath as a Member of the 3rd Assembly

The process of getting into the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is somewhat similar to seeking for a job, since one has to go through various steps in order to qualify as a candidate.

I went through the preliminary stages by my party, Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). After filling the forms in April 2012, I appeared before the CCM National Secretariat Committee for interviews. Psychologically, it was a trying moment! I breathed a sigh of relief when my name was forwarded to the CCM Central Committee at the National level for approval. The list was submitted to the CCM Parliamentarians Caucus and we appeared for presentations and pre-selection at the Karimjee Hall in Dar es Salaam.

It is in Dodoma, where we faced all Parliamentarians for elections. We had to present and convince Members within three minutes. This was scary given the challenge of condensing the information within the required timeframe. Upon tallying of the vote count, I realised I had won by ONE VOTE, -just one vote! You may view it as a narrow win, but it was a massive victory, given the long journey to this point. This one Vote is symbolic because at one point during an election of the CCM National Executive Committee

in 2007, I equally lost by just ONE VOTE. I was still in shock and disbelief until the Speaker of the National Assembly Madam Anna Makinda announced to the August House the 9 winners to the EALA seat.

I am a believer in what Winston Churchill a one-time British Prime Minister said that: *“Success is not final, failure is not fatal, but it is the courage to continue that matters”*. I subscribe to this philosophy because perseverance is an important virtue. I have previously lost three elections. In 2005 elections for Special Seats (Women MP) for Dar es Salaam, in 2006, EALA by-election and

the 2010 Primary election within CCM for Kinondoni constituency. My perseverance, endurance and trust in God has finally enabled me to become an EALA MP.

I formally resigned as the Head of the Corporate Affairs with the NMB Bank and bid farewell to my colleagues and the corporate world upon my swearing in on June 5, 2012 and looked forward to joining politics.

Initially, I felt as if I had been thrown into the deep-end of the swimming pool and had to swim ashore. I had not been engaged politics at a National or International level. And here I was interacting with politicians from five countries some with political backgrounds, others being returnees to EALA and only a small proportion - beginners like me.

I had to learn by reading and observing. I must admit that I borrowed a lot from my previous background. I have an appreciable level of education in advocacy and lobbying having gained the insights as a Post Graduate Journalism student at the University of Wales in Cardiff- United Kingdom. Furthermore I possess quite some working experience: as a Journalist with the Tanzania Standard Newspapers- Daily/Sunday News, National Television- Televisheni ya Taifa and a PR

Practitioner in Dar es Salaam. Both situations helped me a great deal. Let me perhaps shed some insight about my impression during the first EALA session held in Nairobi, Kenya, and graced by (then) President of Kenya, His Excellency Mwai Kibaki. After his inaugural and impressive speech, Parliament hosted a State cocktail thus presenting an opportunity to meet and greet the President. This was my first time to come that close and to shake hands with the President. It was a highly memorable event. His eloquence in Kiswahili is perfect.

In the subsequent days, we debated and passed motions and various reports. At this session, I was privileged to be among those who had made contributions. I particularly focussed on the Presidential Speech debating on the need for a people centred integration as well as the importance of promoting Kiswahili as the EAC *Lingua Franca*. My maiden contribution in the House lasted for about ten minutes. It must have been received well because I received hearty congratulations thereafter from very experienced Members of the House in particular Hon. Mike Sebalu, from Uganda who requested to know if I had previously been a teacher or a politician. Equally, Hon. Samuel Sitta, the EAC Minister from Tanzania congratulated me.

At all times, I consider myself as an East African first because what is good for Uganda, is equally good for Tanzania as we seek unity and integration as the ultimate goals.

After the Nairobi session, I sort of gained confidence and motivation to contribute to debates during subsequent EALA sessions in Kampala, Kigali and Arusha. I however missed the Bujumbura Session as I had undergone medical treatment in India. It was a great honour for me to have also met respective Heads of State in their respective capitals. Invariably, every session I have attended has been an eye-opener. At all times, I consider myself as an East African first because what is good for Uganda, is equally good for Tanzania as we seek unity and integration as the ultimate goals.



Hon ShyRose Bhanji shakes hands with President Mwai Kibaki. "I was impressed that his Kiswahili was perfect", she said

My first year's experience has been exciting in many ways. EALA has taken me to all the capital cities of the EAC region and in so doing - giving me an opportunity to know first-hand, what other East Africans think of integration, development, business and politics. During the past one year, EALA has debated and passed several EAC Bills, Motions and Resolutions. Two key Bills include the One Stop Border Post Bill and the Vehicle Load Control Bill.

In reality, the Integration agenda is a huge task. In the previous Community (1967-1977), awareness was massive and trade was also at a larger scale compared to today. Even though trade statistics show growth, there is very little to speak about on the common services like the train, airline, marine and postal services among others. However, some notable achievements have been recorded. Such include the signing and implementation of two out of the four Pillars of Integration (Customs Union and the Common Market), the opening of EAC Headquarters in Arusha, commissioning of Arusha-Namanga-Athi-River Road and passing of important Bills by EALA.

I still have four years ahead as an EALA MP given that my term ends in 2017. It is my ambition to see Integration fully realised and an opportunity for Small and Medium Entrepreneurs to trade more in East Africa. I hope we can reach out to these SMEs and empower them. In the final analysis, trade, investment and integration are best handled and done through Public Private Partnerships.

Finally, let me quote Marcel Proust French Novelist (1873-1922) who once said: "The real voyage of discovery consist not in seeking new lands but seeing with new eyes".



By Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo

WATER RESOURCES IN EAC SOURCE OF WELL-BEING OF EAST AFRICANS



hydroelectric power plant project along River Ruzizi

Nobody can deny the central role of water in the wellbeing of the population. Water is also essential for biodiversity, energy production and industrial development as well as in playing a fundamental role in food production. Better knowledge of water reserves and assessment of needs for good programming are pre-requisites for a comprehensive and balanced management of this resource.

The wonders of nature have given countries of the East African Community huge amounts of water distributed in rivers namely Rusizi, Ruvubu, Ruvyironza, Akagera, Nyabarongo, Tana, Achwa, Katonga, Kabi, Sezibwa, Mubarazi, Nkusi, Kagera among others. Then in lakes like Kivu, Tanganyika, Victoria, Turukana and in the Indian Ocean. All these waters have benefits for the Community and the world.

To name but a few, the Rusizi River comes from the crests separating the basins of the Nile and the Congo. There is a hydroelectric dam generating electricity for the people of Rwanda, Burundi and Congo. It further contributes to irrigation and attracts tourists who bring foreign exchange to the country. These heavenly lakes and rivers of our region provide enormous

Better knowledge of water reserves and assessment of needs for good programming are pre-requisites for a comprehensive and balanced management of this resource.

assorted fish, including mukeke, tilapia, among others. The beaches and sands offer a relaxing environment that attracts tourists therefore contributing to our economies.

Let's talk about the source of Nile River

In October 2013 East African Legislative Assembly Members visited the source of Nile in Rutovu, the longest river in Africa (estimated at 6,671 km). Currently, Nile channel passes through six African countries: Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan and Egypt. And the most southern source of the

Nile is in the southern province in Republic of Burundi. Historically, in the second century, it was thought that the source of Nile is in large snowy mountains surrounding the equator and that melting snow fed lakes further north, inevitably bringing together two rivers which together formed the Nile. This perception was later disputed.

In 1858, it was thought that the source of the Nile is Lake Victoria. But two years later, a river connecting Lake Victoria to Lake Albert was discovered and regarded as the source of the Nile. Meanwhile, some missionaries and explorers claimed that Lake Tanganyika was a source of the Nile. It is in 1934, that an explorer Burckhardt Waldecker discovered the real and the southernmost source of Nile Gasumo in Rutovu district in Burundi's Bururi province.

This is a trickle of water coming out of the north side of Mount Gikizi in the Commune of Rutovu, Burundi. This river continues its tributary in to Gasenyi, Kigira and Ruvyironza rivers. The latter in turn empties into the Ruvubu whose waters join Nyarabongo in Rwanda to form the Kagera, main tributary of Lake Victoria. Lake Victoria waters' flow towards Jinja and out, becomes the White Nile and join waters from Ethiopia towards Khartoum by the Blue Nile.

At this point, the Nile is constituted by a single river and through Sudan and Egypt before emptying into

the Mediterranean Sea. This river has the attention of the international community through projects Nile Basin Initiative (NBI). Research indicates that among the six countries with the tributaries that feed the Nile River, Burundi has the further south point which is the Gasumo. This river is one of the largest rivers in the world. It nourishes 85 million people in Egypt and Sudan. Without it, Egypt would be a barren desert. Thanks to an ingenious irrigation system, the Nile River is used to grow crops feeding the population and also production of cotton. It allows the industrialization and richness of Egypt. Recently, Ethiopia has launched a major project to build a hydroelectric dam on the river that shall ensure electric supply to the population.



A section of Members depart from the source of the Nile (on right) after the recent visit

WATER CHALLENGES IN EAC

Even if our region is blessed with enormous water resources, with climate change, the effects of reducing the amount of water are felt; access to safe drinking water is still a big challenge in our Community.

- The countries of the EAC must plan better to integrate the management of water. Partner States face major challenges in stabilizing the amount of water including: Unpredictable rain seasons caused by effects of climate change.
- The demand of wood that is accompanied by the destruction of forests.
- The increase in use of hydrocarbons that produce the greenhouse salt gas such as sulfur etc.
- Unplanned construction and urbanization that constantly destroy green spaces.
- The rapid and huge population growth.

- Non integration of environmental conservation in national policies.

Faced with these challenges, we recommend the following to improve the situation:

- Measures against environment destruction should be taken and the protection of environment must be a responsibility of every citizen. Educating people to the conservation and protection of nature is an obligation for leaders.
- The use of hydrocarbons that produce salt gas should be prohibited or reduced.
- There is a necessity of integrating management strategy of water resources in our development plans.
- Plan construction in urban, semi-urban and rural planning.
- Birth control policy should be implemented and associated with education on family planning.



By Hon. Pierre Celestin Rwigema

RWANDA ELECTS FORMER GOVERNOR TO EALA AS IT STRENGTHENS ITS INTEGRATION AGENDA

They often say that birds of the same feather flock together. Perhaps that is why you will find out of that the newest EALA Member Hon Celestin Kabahizi and myself have many things in common. For a start, we share the same first name Celestin. Then we are all economists by background. Thirdly, we all believe in regional integration.

The election of Hon Kabahizi into EALA was a welcome idea. Hon Kabahizi was elected in October by the Parliament of Rwanda. Hon Kabahizi replaces Hon Jacqueline Muhongayire, who was appointed Rwanda's Minister for EAC Affairs in July 2013. You will recall that Hon Muhongayire was an EALA Member prior to the Ministerial appointment. According to the Rules that govern EALA and the Treaty, an elected Member ceases to be one if he/she is appointed a Minister or in any other position in the public service. On this note, a vacancy arose leading to the Parliament of Rwanda's decision to hold the election for a new EALA Member.

Hon Kabahizi was elected on Monday, October 28, 2013 after defeating his Social Democratic Party (PSD) colleague and former lawmaker, Hon Aurélie Gahongayire. Hon Kabahizi garnered 72 votes out of the 94 cast.

The voters were composed of both members of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies.

The new legislator was to be sworn in by EALA- which was having its 2nd Meeting of the 2nd Session of the 3rd Assembly in Bujumbura, Burundi. Hon Kabahizi made it to Bujumbura in good time for the ceremony.

The brief ceremony took place on Oct 31, 2013 at the Burundi National Assembly and was conducted by the Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa and the Deputy Clerk, Alex Obatre.

Hon Dr Odette Nyiramirimo, Hon Mike Sebalu and I had the privilege of escorting the new Member to the swearing-in lectern at exactly 2.40pm.

The Member took the oath in accordance with Rule



Hon Celestine Kabahizi takes the oath of allegiance assisted by the EALA Deputy Clerk, Alex Obatre as EALA MP, Dr Odette Nyiramirimo looks on

6 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly. The Rules of Procedure say in part that: “No Member can sit or participate in the proceedings of the House until the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to the Treaty is taken”.

Rule 6(3) specifically states that “when a Member first attends to take his or her seat other than at the first sitting of a new House, he or she shall be brought to the table by two Members and presented by them to the Speaker who shall then administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance”.

Hon Kabahizi has over 30 years experience in governance from various levels. He was previously a Governor in Rwanda’s Western Province. He is no stranger to issues of governance, decentralization and rural development.



Hon Celestine Kabahizi (left) talks with Hon Pierre Celestine Rwigema during the sitting at the Kenya National Assembly in Nov 2013

“The EALA Members also get to build their capacities and harness the legislative making process by attending various workshops, conferences and seminars.”

Hon Kabahizi holds two degrees in economics and statistics. He obtained his first degree in statistics and then obtained another in economics in Rwanda before enrolling for a Master’s degree in development economics in 2002 in Germany. Hon Kabahizi is multi-lingual with a good command of English, French and Swahili. He can fairly communicate in German as well.

I welcome Hon Kabahizi to the regional Parliament. He now joins the rest of the Rwanda Chapter chaired by Hon Patricia Hajabakiga, Consisting of Hon Christophe Bazivamo, Hon Dr. James Ndahiro and Hon Straton Ndikuryayo. Others are Hon Valerie Nyirahabineza, Hon Abdul Karim Harelimana, Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo and myself.

The regional Assembly discusses a number of pertinent issues to the Community. Its role is stipulated in Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. The mandate of EALA is to ensure legislation, representation and oversight matters. Since inception to date, EALA has passed over 50 pieces of Bills in matters within the purview of the Community. If I were to further segregate the passage of Bills, then the 3rd Assembly of which I am a Member has passed 7 Bills and about 24 Resolutions since its inauguration.

EALA Members are also privileged to carry oversight and representation activities in the Partner States. In essence, they get the privilege to consult with various stakeholders and at the same time promote and popularize the EAC brand. The Assembly is also a repository of Parliamentary knowledge and the collective voice of the people.

The EALA Members also get to build their capacities and harness the legislative making process by attending various workshops, conferences and seminars.

I am sure that in due course, Hon Kabahizi shall learn the ropes of the Parliament and begin to make significant contribution to the House. My colleagues and I shall accord him all the necessary support to ensure that he becomes conversant with the regional issues.

I want to congratulate Hon Kabahizi and Hon Muhongayire for their recent appointments and to wish both of them the very best in their endeavour.

Long live EALA, Long live the EAC!!



By Hon. Judith R. Pareno

LETS HAVE A LAW ON DRR AND... KEEP THE DEVIL AT BAY

As the saying goes, you talk of the devil and it appears. It was in January this year when the East African Legislative Assembly Members visited Bujumbura, Burundi for the 4th Meeting of the 1st Session of the 3rd Assembly. At that Sitting, Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga, a Member of the Committee of Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) sort leave of absence to introduce a Private Members' Bill on Disaster Risk Management and Disaster Reduction (DRR).

The House in accordance with the Rules granted Hon Hajabakiga leave to introduce the important Bill.

Immediately after the leave was sort for and granted, the unforeseeable happened. A fierce fire gutted the Marché Central de Bujumbura (Central Market of Bujumbura) situated at the heart of Bujumbura City on Sunday, January 27, 2013. The fire resulted in casualties and destruction of property worth millions of *Francs*.

The EALA Members visited the market and condoled with the affected and had a chance to witness the devastating effects of the occurrence.

The effects were by all means so overwhelming not only to Burundi but also to all East African Partner States as this market is said to harbor entrepreneurs from all over East Africa.

The market inaugurated in 1994 and which is renown in the East African region has continued to play a fundamental part in driving the economy of Bujumbura and the entire Republic. It not only merchandises foodstuffs, building materials and other hardware accessories, but it is acclaimed for stocking some of the finest Vitenge materials in the region. The unfortunate tragedy has thus rendered thousands of people who depend on the market for their daily upkeep, jobless and dealt the economy of the country a major blow.

In solidarity with the citizens of Burundi, EALA immediately passed a Resolution commiserating with

President Pierre Nkurunziza, the Government, the business community, traders and the affected families upon the great loss. The Resolution moved by Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo invoked sympathy following the tragedy and appreciated the quick assistance and rescue efforts offered by the Burundi Government and other EAC Partner States namely: the Republic of Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania.

As if the devil was continuously at work this time round on disasters, immediately after the Committee of Agriculture Tourism and Natural Resources concluded, and the Bill was heading to the next stage, that of public hearings in the Partner States, disaster struck again. This time, the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport suffered from an inferno.

We all know the fire almost brought the air transport services in the region to a standstill. As if disasters were stalking us through the period of preparation of the Bill, it was at the time when the Committee sort to have commuted to the House for the first time at the plenary session in Arusha that the attack at the Westgate Mall occurred. The attack was yet another reminder and a sad scenario that tested our disaster preparedness as Partner States and as a region.

We commend the Republics of Burundi and Kenya for their efforts to contain the disasters. The new market in Bujumbura is now almost complete while the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport is also substantially operating normally.

The disasters were however sad and a wake-up call for the region to have a regional policy or a regional disaster management system.

The disasters were clearly beyond the individual capacity of the Partner States and calls for a regional approach to curb such occurrences in future. In closing, permit me to sum it up that the regional Parliamentarian's response to this call is a regional Law.

BRIEFS FROM ORGANS & INSTITUTIONS OF EAC

KAMPALA TO HOST INTER-PARLIAMENTARY GAMES

...Netball to be competitive but can Uganda be third time lucky in Soccer?

December will see legislators swop their oratory and debating skills with fine deft moves and passes on the fields of play when the Inter-Parliamentary games kick off. The extravaganza takes place in Kampala, Uganda.

The annual Inter-Parliamentary games brings together football and netball teams from the National Assembly and EALA/EAC. In soccer, Uganda are angling themselves to keep the trophy should they win it for a third time in a row. Though home ground advantage favours the Parliament of Uganda, it is going to be a tough contest.

Last year, Parliament of Uganda narrowly beat EAC/EALA team 5-4 in post-match penalties in the finals at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani. In regular time, both teams drew 0-0. The performance then by the EAC/EALA team was exemplary. In 2011, Uganda showed their prowess beating the Burundi National Assembly 4-1 in a match played at the Prince Loius Rwagasore National Stadium in Bujumbura. A hatrick (3 goals) then by

Kampala legislator, Hon Muhammad Nserreko and another by Captain, Hon Odonga Otto was enough to enable Parliament of Uganda win the trophy.

Last year in netball, the EAC/EALA team finished third after beating Kenya 49-25 at the Nyayo National Stadium netball gymnasium. EALA then scored through Nunu Iddi, Loice Ampaire, Charlotte Kyomuhangi and Petronila Gibolo. Parliament of Tanzania were the winners of the trophy after beating Parliament of Uganda 51-27. They topped the league with 6 points. Uganda was second with 4 points while EALA had 2 points. Kenya finished last with no points in the four team netball tournament.

All teams have been training intensively for the tournament and they are expected to put up their best show forward. However, the teams that are purposeful and more creative shall definitely carry the day. *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki* wishes all the football and netball teams the best of luck in the tournament.

APOLOGY & CORRECTION BY THE EDITOR

HON PIERRE CELESTIN RWIGEMA



Hon Pierre Celestin
Rwigema



Hon Dr. James Ndahiro

In the previous edition of the *Bunge la Afrika Mashariki* Newsletter (Edition 7), we inadvertently omitted the passport picture of Hon Pierre Celestin Rwigema while designing the EALA Members Pictorial page. We instead published the passport picture of Hon Dr. James Ndahiro twice and captioned one picture bearing the name of Hon Rwigema. We take this opportunity to apologise to both Hon Dr. James Ndahiro and Hon Pierre Celestin Rwigema for the mix-up.

LAKE VICTORIA BASIN COMMISSION

In a press release dated, October 29, 2013, we published a story titled EALA Adopts Audited Accounts report. The article quoted Hon Susan Nakawuki as saying that *'it was improper for the EAC institutions to borrow from the gratuity fund for their own use and to repay back when Partner States fulfilled their obligations. The legislator cited the*

Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) as one of the institutions borrowing from the said fund.

We have since established that Hon Nakawuki did not refer to the Lake Victoria Basin Commission in her submission to the House. We take this opportunity to apologise to the Management and staff of the LVBC and to Hon Susan Nakawuki for the error.



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLUTIONS AND BILLS PASSED BY THE 3RD ASSEMBLY AS AT
NOVEMBER 22, 2013;**

Bills

- | | |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, (No. 2) 2012. 2. The East African Community Customs Management (Amendment) (No. 2) Bill, 2012. 3. The East African Community One Stop Border Post (OSBP), Bill, 2012. 4. The East African Community Vehicle Load Control Bill, 2012. 5. The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2013. 6. The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2013. 7. The East African Community Public Holidays Bill, 2013. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Resolution of the Assembly urging the Summit of EAC Heads of State not to amend Article 59 of the Treaty. 4. Resolution of the Assembly appointing Members to serve on the EALA Commission. 5. Resolution of the Assembly appointing Members to serve on the respective Standing Committees. 6. Resolution of the Assembly on the Security situation in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and EAC Neighboring Countries. 7. The Resolution of the Assembly urging the EAC Council of Ministers to adopt a policy on Social Cohesion in the EAC. 8. Resolution of the Assembly expressing sympathies and solidarity with the government and the people of Burundi on the loss of property occasioned by the disastrous fire that destroyed the Bujumbura Central Market. |
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Resolutions

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolution of the Assembly appreciating the remarks by His Excellency Hon. Mwai Kibaki, C.G.H, MP., President and Commander in-chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya and Chairperson EAC Heads of State Summit which he delivered on 4th September, 2012. 2. Resolution of the Assembly Marking the 15th September as the International Day of Democracy. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. Resolution of the EALA on the establishment of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly. 10. Resolution of the Assembly congratulating President Barack Obama upon his re-election as the 44th President of the United States of America. 11. A Resolution of the Assembly paying Tribute to |
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the Rt. Hon. Eriya Kategaya, 1st Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs of the Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of EAC Council of Ministers.

12. A Resolution of the Assembly commemorating the genocide against the Tutsi.
13. A Resolution of the Assembly urging the EAC Partner States to harmonize the work permit rates.
14. A Resolution of the Assembly to congratulate H.E Uhuru Kenyatta for his election as the 4th President of the Republic of Kenya and the people of Kenya for their commitment to peace upon the last general elections held on 4th March 2013.
15. A Resolution of the Assembly expressing support for an extension of the transition period under Article 66.1 of Trips Agreement without conditions for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).
16. Resolution of the Assembly urging the East African Community and Partner States to take urgent concerted action to end the encroachment and poaching of elephants and other endangered wildlife animal species.
17. Resolution of the Assembly urging the Partner

States to provide Sanitary facilities to protect girls in the East African Community Region.

18. Resolution of the Assembly paying tribute to Rotary International for the Humanitarian service around the world in general and the East African Community Region in particular; Resolution of the Assembly urging the EAC Partner States to study the security impact of Genocide Ideology and denial in the region.
19. Resolution of the Assembly to decide the issue of rotational sittings in Partner States of the EAC by the whole House.
20. Motion for the Resolution urging the International Criminal Court (ICC) to defer the criminal cases against the President and the Deputy President of Kenya.
21. A motion for the Resolution of the Assembly to condole with the Government and the People of Kenya over the loss of lives in the tragic Westgate Mall attack and urging the EAC Council of Ministers to expedite the establishment and ratification of a mechanism for effective implementation of decisions made in areas of peace and security.
22. A Resolution to mark the International Day of Democracy on September 15, 2013.





A SCHOLAR’S TAKE ON THE TRUE MEANING OF THE RISE OF ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM AILING EAST AFRICA THE CONTINENT AND THE GLOBE

Be it *Boko Haram* in Nigeria or *Al-Shabaab* in Somalia, the ruthless terror network, to most East Africans, may not any longer be far-fetched and distant irritants. Significantly, the common thread that runs across these marauding gangsters, as is with their ideological and operational global springboard, the *Al-Qaeda*, is that they cause havoc in the name of Islam.

But does Islam, through the application of its hitherto contentious codes, the *Sharia* laws, represent what the late Palestinian Parr Professor and literary critic, Edward Said described as “viciousness, venality, degenerative vice, and lechery in popular and scholarly discourse?” I put this question to the one man who at the time symbolized the spirit of Islamic resurgence in the Sudan, Dr Hassan Abdalla Al-Tourabi.

“Never, never, never at all!” he denied vehemently. At best he said these descriptions tally with what he called the perfect instance of propaganda and

politicized information which have been made to appear as the objective truth.

To appreciate the arguments of this charismatic Oxford and Sorbonne-educated constitutional lawyer, one needs to draw a parallel between these accusations and his views on the perceived rise of Islamic militancy *a’la* “fundamentalism.”

According to Dr Tourabi, whom I interviewed at the Khartoum offices of his (then) National Islamic Front in mid 1990, fundamentalism in its general sense conceives a society governed by laws in which its social behavior is regulated by norms independent of the whims of the state as is the doctrine of positive laws in the West. There may be criticisms of the *Sharias* supposed harshness and primitive qualities, but that does not blind the fact that it is nonetheless, a system of law in itself.

“There is no such thing as totalitarianism (the reduction of civil to political system) in the Islamic world, because the development and interpretation of the laws in Islam do not depend on the government of the day,” he said.

Moreover, the *Sharia* laws rest upon consensus building which recognizes that the concept of society governed by laws involves the further provision of codes of laws, personal freedoms, and therefore limits the potential of despotic powers emerging. The legal orders of the *Sharia*, at the same time act as a protection against economic injustices through the availability of a spiritual recourse to the deprived that are faced with such injustices.

“Tell me! Is that not democracy as is widely understood and should be?” contended Dr Tourabi, who also strongly believed that the *Sharia* laws was in essence, a blueprint for political organizations compatible with the African traditions and cultural heritages. He was opposed to the perception of Islam



Hon AbuBakr Ogle (then a Journalist) speaks with Dr. Hassan Abdalla Al-Tourabi (right) in Khartoum in 1990



Sudan's Islamist opposition leader Hassan al-Turabi speaks during a news conference in Khartoum on May 13, 2008

through the eyes of a “few” radical groups who were obsessed with fanatical tendencies. These people, he argued, were more of traditionalists who have not mastered the whole corpus of the Islamic *Sharia* than being fundamentalist Muslims.

The separation of the state and religion and traditions as the case may be, was the cause of all Africa's problems.

“Islam does not believe in violence. The action of some gangsters operating under the guise of Islam should therefore not be seen as representing Islam and Muslims *per se*. What of the so-called conservatives and liberals, and even the Western democrats amongst the Muslim *umma* (society)?” he posed.

“When we seek to return our countries to the *Sharia* laws, we do not necessarily see it as an end, but a means to reconstruct our national affairs in line with the wishes of the Muslim society,” he added.

Dr Tourabi admitted that there was a point of difference in the circumstances with the ordinary Western liberal thinking which places the state as the ultimate point of reference, and quickly qualified, “perhaps because we Muslims are unique in our approach and style that they (West) think we must be penalized for!”

The Muslim scholar was as much an opponent of secularism, which he called, an “irrational European thinking.” The separation of the state and religion and traditions as the case may be, was the cause of

all Africa's problems. “They (Europeans) walk naked, and they expect us to do so. They have no morality, respect and sensibility, and they expect the African to blindly ape that, and abandon their traditional hospitality. They say contact with your Creator is secondary, and they want the African to lock up God in the cupboard, mosque or church. This is irrational, illogical and incomprehensible to the African way of doing it,” he argued.

Dr Tourabi said that was why there were political problems, ethnic chauvinism, economic plundering, looting and pillaging of the meager resources. It is because Africans have deserted their traditional *modus operandi*, and recommended an immediate return to basics in a bid to salvage the sinking virtues of Africanism and Islamism.

And would his back-to basics prescription have helped end the bloody conflict there have been in the Sudan? “Precisely,” he thundered, pointing out that even before the coming of the white man and the consequent wholesale adoption by the Africans of the alien lifestyles, they (Africans) lived in peace and harmony. The rights of all, particularly minorities were well catered for, besides the fact that conflicts were resolved by a panel of elders.

“They (Europeans) came and interfered with the African world views. Today, they are Islamists, Capitalists, Marxists, Conservatives, Liberals and Traditionalists. Moreover, we have been categorized into northern and Arabised Muslims against the Christian and animists' southerners. That is exactly the problem facing the Sudan. It isn't one of our making,” he stressed.

His principles of applying religion, Dr Tourabi argued, was a remedy desired to freeze the Sudanese society so that it could gradually conform to the memory of what it once was: a society brought down by our grandfathers. In that vision, history and traditions, the past and the present would have merged and therefore provided a coherent political program.

Rhetoricals, maybe, intellectual and visionary analysis; certainly, applicable, depends. But overall, Dr. Hassan Abdalla Al-Tourabi words have at the time struck a chord among the elites and younger generation in the Sudan then, as well appeared to echo across many Muslim countries who felt they embodied an onward march of Islamic history.



BRIEFS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES

UGANDA

Address plight of women – Speaker Kadaga says

The Speaker of Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon. Hon. Rebecca Alitwala Kadaga has re-echoed the need to address the plight of rural Women as governments across the globe implement gender equality programmes.

Addressing the 10th Commonwealth Women's Affairs Ministers Meeting (WAMM) in Dhaka, Bangladesh in June 2013, Rt. Hon Kadaga noted that government priorities in sub-Saharan Africa focus on physical infrastructure even as the dignity and bodily integrity of the woman continues to be violated.

She noted that many rural women had not been

emancipated with several in the agricultural sector struggling to access markets for their produce. The Speaker also highlighted the need to address the girl child drop out rate which is on the rise.

"While affirmative action both at the level of Parliament and local government has increased, numbers to a critical mass of women, the expected social transformation has remained elusive. In a number of cases, appointment of women to leadership positions is perceived as doing them a favor for which they should be grateful," Speaker Kadaga told delegates to the Conference.

UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

Parliament approves Budget for FY 2013/14

The Parliament of Tanzania recently approved the national budget for 2013/2014 with minor amendments on proposed taxes as advised by Members of Parliament. The budget was passed during a Plenary session in Dodoma with 235 lawmakers voting in favour of the motion while 35 voiced their disapproval.

The Government meanwhile accommodated MPs' views to amend some of their projected taxes

that shall be contained in the Finance Bill. The Minister for Finance and Economic Affairs, Dr William Mgemwa, said the Government had amended tax rates on fuel prices with a view to bringing down the price of the commodity. Dr Mgemwa remarked the new rates would be contained in the new Finance Bill to be presented in Parliament. "The Government has worked on it very well," the minister said in his speech to wind up debate on the 2013/14 budget.

RWANDA

Parliament swears in Members, elects Speaker

Parliament of Rwanda also elected a new Speaker (Chamber of Deputies) and Members who were sworn-in on October 4, 2013, at a ceremony officiated by President Paul Kagame.

The Rwanda Chamber elected Hon Donatille Mukabalisa as the Speaker. Hon. Jeanne d'Arc Uwimanimpaye, was elected as the Deputy Speaker in Charge of Legislation and Government oversight while Hon. Abbas Mukama, is the new Deputy Speaker in Charge of Finance and Administration.

The Chamber has 80 Members. Of the 80 elected Deputies, 51 are women while 29 are men. New Members are 30, while the remaining 50 served in

the second legislature (2008-2013). In his speech, the President of the Republic, His Excellency Paul Kagame, asked the new Deputies to focus on the improvement of the welfare of the people they represent. He urged the candidates who were not elected to continue with their contribution to the development of the country.

The President took note of the increasing number of women in Parliament and said it reflected the confidence that the populace have in their abilities.

The Speaker reiterated that Parliament of Rwanda would continue to assist Rwanda to make further progress.

BURUNDI

Burundian MPs concerned with the population pressure

By Tharcisse Manirakiza & Clarisse Biraronderwa

The Burundi National Assembly is been urged to appropriate the issue of fertility management and propose concrete measures to address this challenge.

Members passed the Resolution at the end of the Parliamentary Debate on the role of Parliament in the analysis and management of population pressure and land policy, held on 20 of August 2013.

According to an agricultural Survey in Burundi conducted during the period 2011-2012, a household today owns and farms 0.5 hectares of land, whereas in 1992 it farmed 2.2 hectares. Land disputes increase each day as proven by the registration of land conflicts in the National Commission of Land and other Assets (CNTB). The commission highlighted that between July 2007 to July 2010, 16,354 land disputes were registered, the average year of 5,451 land conflict.

Another challenge that accelerates the depletion of farmland is the low urbanization of the Burundian population. Only 10% of the population live in cities and urban centers.

Given the complexity of the problem of population growth, and the dwindling of homesteads, and their consequences in Burundi, the Parliament has to take the lead to initiate a forum that brings together

all the stakeholders involved in the demographic issue. The conclusions of the Forum would serve as roadmap to cope with the issue of rapid population growth that the country is facing.

As many reforms in land policy have been undertaken, but the results are not yet achieved, MPs have agreed that the first issue to be discussed and resolved is the management of women fertility. Indeed, In Burundi, an average family consists of six children which is deemed to be many in certain quarters. Data from the last census in 2008 showed that 5.2% of girls aged 12-19 years old were already single mothers.

MPs suggested that a document of land policy be adopted by the Parliament and then a public awareness conducted across the country.

To resolve that issue, other alternatives should be explored and encouraged. Among them are the current policy of villagization, the delimitation of urban perimeters, the job creation, to put in place the decentralization law, compliance with provincial land use patterns, initiate a law that limits benefits for families with many children, especially with regard to the free health care and free tuition at primary level.

KENYA

Kenya elects Speakers for The National Assembly and Senate

Kenya National Assembly elected Rt. Hon Justin B. Muturi the new Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly on March 28, 2013. Rt. Hon Muturi defeated the immediate past Speaker, Kenneth Marende.

Rt. Hon Muturi, a former MP for Siakago constituency, graduated with Bachelors of Law (LLB) Degree from the University of Nairobi in 1981 and thereafter, proceeded for a Post Graduate Diploma in Law at the Kenya School of Law.

He was admitted to the Bar in 1982 where he became an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya. Former Turkana Central MP, Hon. Ekwe Ethuro was also elected the new Speaker of Senate. He defeated

former Lagdera MP, Farah Maalim. Murang'a Senator Kembi Gitura, won the Deputy Speaker seat. Hon Ethuro was first elected to Parliament in 1997. He was also a Member of the Speaker's Panel in the 10th Parliament.

Mr. Ethuro was also an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Planning and National Development from the year 2005 to 2007 and an Assistant Minister in the Ministry of Labour and Human Resource Development from 1998 to 2002. He served as a Temporary Deputy Speaker in the 9th Parliament.

The 49 year old Senator is a holder of a Msc in Agriculture and Economics and also has a Bsc in Agriculture from the University of Nairobi.



SAVE OUR ANIMALS!!

...Anti-poaching initiatives gets a boost from EALA



He can only be a poacher. This should be a felony punishable by imprisonment

A couple of years ago, I had a first-hand experience when I witnessed a major catch by agile predators in a famed national park. Then, a pride of Lions often referred to as the “Kings of the jungle” in the animal kingdom parlance had felled a buffalo, east of the Tsavo National Park in Kenya. They prided in themselves as they devoured chunks of meat oblivious of the crowd of tourists who were quickly adjusting and clicking away their zoom lenses. It was a scene to behold – perhaps sad, on the one side that the buffalo was now steak and possibly mince-meat. However on the other flip side of the coin, it underlined the beauty that is nature in its every essence.

Two days later into the holiday sojourn, a herd of elephants passed near our tented bandas making the week-long rest in the national park, more than memorable. Throughout the period away from the rigour of laptops and official meetings, the animal kingdom story often narrated by the Discovery Channel on DsTV, all over sudden, became alive.

This script may not be the same today. One has perhaps, to circle the track several times in the national park before sighting the proud pride of lions, the elephants or the spotted cats. Even rarer these

days is the *Ceratotherium simum* or in simple lay man’s english, the white Rhinoceros.

The region and the continent is reeling from wide-scale poaching. Today, poachers continue to roam in the grasslands and occasionally pull the trigger on the treasured wildlife. Our resources are continuously being exhausted and plundered on by the criminals. What worries more is the temerity with which poachers’ continue to reign havoc across the East African borders. They have more sophisticated weaponry, they are bold if not bald and they portray impunity in their destructive ways.

This is why all the initiatives taken by governments, stakeholders and industry players to change the tide against the rising level of wildlife crime is of absolute importance. Specific laws are either been enacted or continue to be amended to safeguard the interests of wildlife. The pieces of legislation come with stiffer penalties to deter any would be animal hit-men/women. Such initiatives must be wholly supported to ensure preservation of wildlife and their continued sustenance for the betterment of the environment.

EALA has also joined in the crusade to rid the anti-poaching menace in the region. At its last Sitting in Arusha, the regional Assembly passed an important Resolution urging the EAC and Partner States to take urgent and concerted action to end the slaughter of elephants for trafficking of ivory.

The Resolution in a nutshell noted the gradual decline of the East African Elephant population as a result of indiscriminate poaching for their international demands. It noted that if not checked, the vice would lead to their gradual disappearance and therefore, a decline in the economic and heritage value for the EAC Partner States and even beyond the African continent.

The Resolution moved by Hon AbuBakr Ogle was deeply concerned that at the local, regional and global levels, ivory continued to be exchanged for

money, weapons and ammunition that support local and regional conflicts, capable of disrupting entire communities and more, so their economies and ecosystems, thus undermining individuals' security.

The Resolution which received overwhelming support on the floor of the House, urged the EAC and Partner States to recognize elephant poaching and ivory trafficking as a national and regional crisis and as an economic crime. I fully support this measure.

The Resolution in a nutshell noted the gradual decline of the East African Elephant population as a result of indiscriminate poaching for their international demands.

The Assembly also told the Partner states to enact harmonised and comprehensive legislation that recognize wildlife crime as a felony punishable by imprisonment.

In addition, the EAC Partner States must scale up engagement with regional and global enforcement agencies in order to crack down on key cartels and continue to use the services provided by the International Consortium on Combating Wildlife Crime (ICWC). This body comprises of various bodies including: UNODC, CITES, Interpol, WCO, World Bank and Caucus Foundation (ICCF).

I believe the Resolution was worthy. In essence, the EAC must co-operate to identify wildlife crime hotspots and to conduct co-ordinated investigations, undertake joint crackdown on corruption and any corrupt tendencies that abet poaching of elephants for their ivory.

At the same time, the region must adopt ivory crisis outreach campaigns to educate major stakeholders including customs officials, revenue authorities, police, transporters, judiciary, air and seaports, general public, tourists, targeted communities on protecting the elephant and all other animals. A week later in Arusha, the Geneva of Africa,

elephant enthusiasts held a 10km walk dubbed the 'International March for Elephants' to raise awareness on the risk we face. According to the organizers, one elephant is killed every fifteen minutes! If this deadly extermination remains unchecked then it in essence implies that come 2025, no elephants shall be roaming in the wild – a sad but true fact.

The ink had barely dried on both activities when disaster struck in Zimbabwe on October 21, 2013. Illegal hunters were reported to have killed more than 300 elephants and numerous other safari animals, in Zimbabwe's largest national park by poisoning waterholes with cyanide. What a pity.

The result of the indiscriminate killing wiped out wildlife in great swathes of the once untouched wilderness of Hwange reserve which attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists each year. Zimbabwe is home to some of Africa's largest elephant herds, with half of its estimated 80,000 population thought to be in Hwange. But word has it, that, demand for elephants' tusks, which sell for around £300 each is thought to be encouraging destitute villages to take the drastic action.

They can be re-sold in South Africa for up to £10,000 a pair, sometimes re-emerging as carved artefacts such as bangles in Cape Town's craft markets.

Such is the sad scenario we face, but one that we can stem out completely. Well good people, it is that time of the year again when the Holidays are just around the corner. In event that you plan a game drive, please spare a thought or two for our wildlife. Save an Elephant.....save an animal.....stop poaching!!



The Rhino is so rare to the point of becoming extinct. We need to reverse the trend



East African Legislative Assembly

wishes you

a Merry Christmas

and a Prosperous New Year

