

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY RT. HON. JUSTIN MUTURI DURING THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY THIRD MEETING OF THE THIRD SESSION OF THE 3RD ASSEMBLY IN NAIROBI, REPUBLIC OF KENYA ON 18TH NOVEMBER, 2014

THE SPEAKER OF THE EAST AFRICAN ASSEMBLY, RT. HONOURABLE MARGARET ZZIWA,

CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAC COUNCIL, HON. PHYLLIS KANDIE,

HONOURABLE MINISTERS,

HONOURABLE EALA MEMBERS,

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

LET ME FIRST TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO WARMLY WELCOME YOU TO KENYA AND TO NAIROBI IN PARTICULAR. THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PEOPLE OF KENYA ARE ALWAYS PROUD AND HAPPY TO HOST MEMBERS OF THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA). **KARIBUNI!** IN OUR SPIRIT OF “**ONE PEOPLE ONE DESTINY**”, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT KENYA WILL ALWAYS BE YOUR HOME! THANKS TO THE WISE DECISION OF THIS 3RD ASSEMBLY, EALA ROTATIONAL SITTING IN THE PARTNER STATES HAS CONTINUED TO DRAW THE ATTENTION AND ENGAGE THE CITIZENS OF EAST AFRICA ON THE PROGRESS BEING MADE IN ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES OF EAC INTEGRATION IN GENERAL AND THE PERFORMANCE AND VISIBILITY OF EALA IN PARTICULAR.

MADAM SPEAKER,

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT EALA AS AN INSTITUTION HAS DONE COMMENDABLY WELL IN ITS CORE FUNCTION OF LEGISLATION. SINCE 2002 TO 2014, EALA HAS PASSED OVER SIXTY ACTS AND BILLS WHICH ARE AT VARIOUS STAGES OF OPERATIONALIZATION OR CONSIDERATION. THE ASSEMBLY AS ONE OF THE ORGANS OF THE COMMUNITY CONTINUES TO BE A CENTRAL PILLAR IN BUILDING AN ECONOMICALLY, SOCIALLY AND POLITICALLY STABLE AND SUSTAINABLE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY. IN LESS THAN A DECADE AND A HALF OF ITS EXISTENCE, EALA HAS DEMONSTRATED THAT IT CAN ABLY SHOULDER THE RESPONSIBILITY BESTOWED UPON IT BY THE TREATY. IT IS INDEED AT THE CENTRE OF FINDING SOLUTIONS TO THE CHALLENGES FACING THE COMMUNITY IN ORDER TO STRENGTHEN EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY INTEGRATION.

IN THIS REGARD, I WISH THEREFORE TO CONGRATULATE THIS ASSEMBLY FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL HOSTING OF THE LATEST INTER-PARLIAMENTARY (NANYUKI VIII) SEMINAR IN KIGALI, RWANDA EARLY THIS MONTH THAT ADDRESSED THE CHALLENGES OF TERRORISM AND HOW AS A COMMUNITY WE CAN JOINTLY TAKE ACTION TO ADDRESS THIS GLOBAL THREAT. IT IS MY EARNEST HOPE THAT THE ASSEMBLY WILL NOT ONLY STRENGTHEN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE FORUM BUT ALSO CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN THE LINKAGES BETWEEN THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY AND THE PARTNER STATES NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES. THIS WAY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CITIZENS OF EAST AFRICA CAN EFFECTIVELY RELATE WITH AND UNDERSTAND THE FUNCTIONS OF

EALA AS THEY TAKE THE MESSAGES OF INTEGRATION TO THE PEOPLE OF EAST AFRICA.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

THE POWERS GIVEN TO THIS INSTITUTION BY THE FATHERS OF THE TREATY FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY CLEARLY SHOWS THE CONFIDENCE AND TRUST THEY HAD PRESUPPOSED OF THE MEMBERSHIP OF EALA; OF MEN AND WOMEN OF HONOUR AND INTEGRITY; AN ASSEMBLY FOR MEN AND WOMEN WHO WOULD MAKE SACRIFICES AND DECISIONS IN THE INTEREST AND GOOD OF THE CITIZENS OF THE EAST AFRICA. INDEED, I BELIEVE IT IS THIS PRESUPPOSED TRUST THAT THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY REMAINS DISTINCTIVE AS THE ONLY REGIONAL PARLIAMENT ACROSS AFRICA WITH FULL LEGISLATIVE POWERS. I AM SURE THEREFORE THAT OTHER REGIONAL PARLIAMENTS ARE WATCHING WITH KEEN INTEREST THE PROGRESS BEING MADE BY THIS ASSEMBLY AS AN INSTITUTION WITH WHICH TO BENCHMARK ON BEST PRACTICE.

MADAM SPEAKER,

HONOURABLE MEMBERS,

WE CONTINUE TO REGARD REGIONAL INTEGRATION AS AN IMPORTANT STRATEGY FOR EXPANDING ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES FOR EAST AFRICANS and for the FOR THE WELFARE OF OUR PEOPLE. I CAN ASSURE YOU OF KENYA'S SUPPORT AND PARTICULARLY THE KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN PARTICULAR, IN PROMOTING EAC INTEGRATION SO THAT WE MAY EFFECTIVELY COMPETE WITH OTHER REGIONAL BLOCS IN THIS GLOBAL ARENA.

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

HAVING ACKNOWLEDGED THE CRITICAL ROLE THIS ASSEMBLY HAS PLAYED IN THE BUILDING OF THE COMMUNITY TO DATE, THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT IT HAS ALSO BEEN GOING THROUGH SOME TURBULENT TIMES THIS YEAR. THE FAILURE OF EALA TO CONDUCT PLENARY BUSINESS UNINTERRUPTED SINCE MARCH THIS YEAR IS A MATTER OF GRAVE CONCERN THAT IF NOT URGENTLY ADDRESSED HAS THE REAL POTENTIAL TO DESTROY THE WHOLE COMMUNITY WITH ITS ORGANS AND INSTITUTIONS GIVEN THE CRITICAL ROLE THAT THE ASSEMBLY IS EXPECTED TO PLAY IN THE RUNNING OF THE COMMUNITY. I AM SURE YOU ALL BELIEVE AS I DO THAT THE PEOPLE OF EAST AFRICA HAVE INVESTED SO MUCH RESOURCES, ENERGY AND HOPE IN THE FUTURE OF THE COMMUNITY TO LET IT GO DOWN WITHOUT DOING ALL IT TAKES TO ADDRESS THIS THREAT. I WISH TO PLEAD WITH YOU TO BE SENSITIVE TO THE ASPIRATIONS AND BEST INTEREST OF 150 MILLION EAST AFRICANS AS YOU CONSIDER THE BEST WAY FORWARD IN RESOLVING WHATEVER CHALLENGES THAT THE ASSEMBLY CURRENTLY FACES.

THE CHALLENGE EALA CURRENTLY FACES THREATEN NOT JUST THE FUNCTIONING AND EXISTENCE OF THE ASSEMBLY BUT THE COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE AND THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY IS GROUNDED.

MADAM SPEAKER

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

AS WE MOVE FORWARD, I WISH HONOURABLE MEMBERS THAT WE ALL RECALL THE HISTORY OF THE COLLAPSE OF THE EAC IN 1977.

MANY HAVE LARGELY APPORTIONED THE BLAME ON THE FAILURE OF LEADERS THEN TO ADDRESS THEIR DIFFERENCES IN ORDER TO SAVE THE COMMUNITY. THAT IS INDEED WHY THE REVIVED COMMUNITY IS SUPPOSED TO BE A PEOPLE CENTRED INTEGRATION. WE SHOULD THEREFORE ASK OURSELVES WHETHER IN ALL THAT WE DO WE ARE PROMOTING THE SPIRIT AND ASPIRATIONS OF THE PEOPLE OF EAST AFRICA. AS LEADERS YOU HAVE AN ONEROUS TASK AND RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE TO IT THAT EAST AFRICA REMAINS UNITED AND KNOWING THAT EAST AFRICA COMMUNITY IS BIGGER THAN ALL OF US.

IT IS WITH A LOT OF RELUCTANCE THAT I AM CONSTRAINED TO WADE INTO THIS MATTER HAVING DUE REGARD AND RESPECT TO THE PRINCIPLE OF SEPARATION OF POWERS. AS NATIONAL LEADERS, WE ARE ON THE ONE HAND WELL AWARE OF THE NEED TO RESPECT THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE REGIONAL ASSEMBLY WHILE ON THE OTHER HAND IT HAS ALSO BECOME IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE THE CURRENT STALEMATE IN THE ASSEMBLY WHICH HAS THE POTENTIAL TO PARALYZE THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. I BELIEVE HONOURABLE MEMBERS WOULD APPRECIATE THE PRESSURE THAT SUMMIT MEMBERS HAVE TO PUT UP WITH WHEN TAKEN TO TASK BY THEIR CITIZENS AND NATIONAL CONSTITUENCIES TO RESPOND TO THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE ACTIVITIES OF EALA WHEN IT IS UNABLE TO TRANSACT ITS CORE BUSINESS. I WISH TO PLEAD WITH THIS AUGUST HOUSE TO PUT EMOTIONS AND PERSONAL INTERESTS ASIDE TO DO WHAT IS BEST FOR THE PEOPLE OF EAST AFRICA.

MADAM SPEAKER

HONOURABLE MEMBERS

AS LEADERS WITHIN PARTNER STATES INSTITUTIONS WE ARE INDEED NOT IN A POSITION TO GIVE DIRECTIVES TO AN INDEPENDENT ORGAN OF THE COMMUNITY ON HOW IT SHOULD CONDUCT ITS BUSINESS BUT WE CAN HUMBLY PLEAD WITH YOU TO LISTEN TO THE VOICES OF EAST AFRICANS AND ACT IN THEIR BEST INTEREST. THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AS THE COMMUNITY GROWS THERE WILL BE MANY CHALLENGES THAT THE CURRENT TREATY PROVISIONS MAY NOT EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS. SIMILARLY, WE UNDERSTAND THAT THERE IS NEED FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO EQUALLY PRIORITIZE A RECONSIDERATION OF THE HOUSE RULES OF PROCEDURES TO MAKE THEM BE IN TANDEM WITH THE GROWING NEEDS AND REALITIES OF THE ASSEMBLY'S FUNCTIONS. INDEED I AM INFORMED THAT THE ASSEMBLY IS ALREADY IN THE PROCESS OF AMENDING ITS RULES OF PROCEDURE. IT IS MY HOPE THAT YOU CAN CARRY OUT THE EXERCISE IN SPIRIT OF UNITY, GOOD WILL AND GOOD FAITH THAT IS DEVOID OF EMOTIONS. THE RULES MUST BE FOR POSTERITY.

WITH THESE REMARKS I WISH YOU A FRUITFUL AND SUCCESSFUL MEETING IN NAIROBI. LONG LIVE EAC!

GOD BLESS EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY!

HON. JUSTIN MUTURI, EGH, MP
SPEAKER KENYA NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

18TH NOVEMBER, 2014