



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**  
**EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**WELCOMING SPEECH BY RT. HON. DANIEL FRED KIDEGA,  
SPEAKER OF EALA AT THE ADDRESS OF RT.HON DONATILE  
MUKABALISA, SPEAKER OF THE PARLIAMENT OF RWANDA  
CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2015, KIGALI,  
RWANDA**

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**Your Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of  
Rwanda;**

**Senator Bernard Makuza, President of the Senate;**

**Rt. Hon. Mukabalisa Donatile, Speaker of Rwanda Chamber of  
Deputies;**

**Your Lordship Sam Rugege, the Chief Justice of Rwanda;**

**The Chairperson and Council of EAC Ministers;**

**Hon. Ministers of Rwanda;**

**The Secretary General of the EAC;**

**Hon. Members of EALA and Chamber of Deputies and Senators;**

**Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners;**

**Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen:**

I wish, first of all, to thank Rt. Hon. Donatille Mukabalisa, the Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda and indeed, the entire Government of the Republic of Rwanda for accepting to host EALA for the duration of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly.

I congratulate Rt. Hon Mukabalisa for leading the Chamber of Deputies with dedication and charisma since assuming the position of Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies in 2013.

The relations between Parliament of Rwanda and EALA are cordial. That very gesture of surrendering the use of the precincts of Parliament to EALA over the two week period portends a strong statement of cordiality and one of pure friendship. We as EALA are truly grateful for the spirit of sisterhood and look forward to strengthening and solidifying the relations even further.

I am proud that both Assemblies continue to learn from each other and collectively build ties across the Community. I was privileged to meet Rt. Hon Mukabalisa in March this year during my introductory tour around the Partner States. At the same occasion, I also held discussions with the President of the Senate, Rt Hon Bernard Makuza and together, we discussed matters of mutual interest between the Legislatures.

I am also certain that we shall continue to benefit in many ways from the experience of Rt. Hon Mukabalisa as we strengthen the Speakers' Bureau, the Platform through which we spearhead and intensify the linkages of EALA and the National Assemblies as stipulated in Article 49 (2) and 65 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

In the very short time that we have worked together, I have found Hon Mukabalisa to be engaging, cordial, and absolutely co-operative. I think the Rt. Hon Mukabalisa made an extremely good choice 15 years ago to join politics.

The Rt. Hon Speaker is passionate that Rwandans should understand how Parliament works, and in enumerating what the responsibilities of lawmakers are. In many ways, the Rt. Hon Speaker contributes to telling and selling the story of how the Parliament operates. Today, many Rwandans are aware of their roles of the INTEKO (Pronounced INHEKO).

I admire you for your leadership style and political philosophy at the Parliament which was horned a couple of years ago as an MP in the Transitional National Assembly where you served as Deputy Chairperson on the Standing Committee on Economy and Trade and later on, for five years as Deputy Chairperson on Standing Committee on Political Affairs in the Chamber of Deputies.

I am confident that under your leadership, the Parliament of Rwanda shall make significant achievements and that its role as the Legislature, Oversight and Representative body shall continue to be strengthened. I can vouch that with you as the Presiding Officer of the House, we shall see far reaching reforms aimed at enhancing ensuring effective service delivery to the citizens.

Rt. Hon Speaker, I wish you my unreserved support and every success in the coming years.

With these few remarks, I now take this opportunity to invite my colleague, the Rt. Hon. Mukabalisa Donatile, Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda to make her remarks.

Karibu Mheshimiwa Spika !

**November 22, 2015**