



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

95TH SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: SIXTH MEETING – THIRD SESSION

Tuesday, 12 May 2015

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:30 p.m. in the EALA Chambers, EAC Headquarters in Arusha, Tanzania.

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Mr. Daniel .F. Kidega, in the Chair.)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I would like to take this opportunity, this afternoon, to welcome you back to Arusha. *(Applause)* I would like, in a very special way, to welcome you to the Sixth Meeting of the Third Session of the Third Assembly.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the various committees that have been very active and busy since we left Bujumbura. We thank you for the good work you have been doing.

The Office of the Speaker, since Bujumbura has also been very busy. We have received a number of delegations on your behalf at Arusha here.

We have made visits to the Partner States on invitation on your behalf as well. Notably, when we left Bujumbura on the last day, I had to rush to Hanoi, Vietnam to attend the Inter- Parliamentary Union where I represented you and made a good statement on your behalf. *(Applause)*

Honourable Members, in the same vein, we had the Speakers' Forum in Dar es Salaam. We met and considered a number of issues, which are contained in the communique that we released after the Forum and it is available on our website. I invite you to peruse through that communique that the Speakers of the National Parliaments released after their meeting.

But important for you to note, is that the Speakers have saluted the preparations for the Inter Parliamentary Games and the Republic of Rwanda, through the Parliament, has accepted to host the next Inter Parliamentary Games -(*Applause*)-that will take place between 1st and 11th of December, 2015.

It is also important to note that the Speakers Forum has approved the addition of two more games or sporting items to the games, namely; golf and volley ball. (*Applause*) It is now important for you, Hon. Members to engage in practice, at least, in the next tournament, we need to collect a few trophies. Coming back empty handed is not a very nice experience. (*Laughter*)

Honourable Members, this morning, I received a delegation from TWaweza, which is an organisation - civil society- based in this region. They presented to me and some of the representatives of the Commission a research finding on the education sector in three of the Partner States of EAC; it reflects the state of child education in the region.

I have requested the Office of the Clerk to distribute these findings to all the Members and we shall try to see how possible it may be to fix some time for TWaweza to make a presentation to the entire Assembly. However, I specifically would like to invite the Chairperson and the Committee on General Purpose to take note of these research findings because they touch so deeply on the chore of the human resource development in this region. We thank TWaweza for making friendship with the Assembly.

I also received a delegation of Members of Parliament from Uganda, specifically from the Committee on East African Community Affairs. We welcomed them; when they come to the gallery, we shall introduce them. (*Applause*)

Honourable Members, on a sad note, I would like to inform you that one of our colleagues, Hon. Nyerere Makongoro lost his dear brother. We extend our condolences to him and the entire Nyerere family for the big loss that the family has suffered.

In the same vein, we would like to extend our condolences to the Government and people of Kenya and the families of the students who lost their innocent lives in Garisa. I have a substantive motion on my table on this matter and this House shall express its condolences and sympathy to the families when the motion is on the Order Paper.

I have also written a letter on your behalf expressing your sympathy to the Government and people of Kenya through the President.

Honourable Members, this Meeting is a very important one. It is the Sixth Meeting, which is going to consider the annual Budget of the Community. It is the second last budget that we are going to consider. In addition, in our new administration, as per, the change of leadership from committees to the Commission, to even the Speaker, we are beginning with this budget. I, therefore, invite you to give special attention to the process of dealing with this budget.

I have had deep discussion with the Chairperson and the members of the Committee. We congratulate them upon the good work they are doing. I invite you to interact with them so that by the time they present the report on the floor, you are not strangers to the report. This will give meaningful debate to the process.

Give due attention to the process to ensure that all the Organs of the Community and its Institutions are well covered in this budget. I thank you so much and I wish you a good Meeting. Thank you.
(Applause)

PAPERS

The following Paper was laid on the Table: -

(by the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose (Dr Odette Nyiramilimo) (Rwanda):

The Report of the Committee on General Purpose and the EAC Annual Report for the Year 2012/2013

MOTION

TO COMMEND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE FOR THE CONCISE EXPOSITION OF THE EAC POLICY CONTAINED IN THE STATE OF THE EAC ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLY ON THURSDAY, 19 MARCH 2015

Assistant Minister for East African Cooperation, Tanzania (Dr Abdallah Saadalla Abdalla) (Ex-Officio): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I beg to move that this House do commend the Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State for the concise exposition of the EAC policy contained in the State of the EAC Address to this Assembly on Thursday, 19th March 2015. I beg to move.

(The Hon. Shem Bageine stood in his place to second the Motion)

The Speaker: Seconded by Hon. Shem Bageine. Chair, please go ahead and justify the motion.

Dr Saadalla: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to move a motion that:

THIS ASSEMBLY, guided by the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and the Rules of Procedure of this Assembly, and further guided by the State of the East African Community Address presented to this august House on 19 March 2015 in Bujumbura by H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Chair of the Summit of East African Community Heads of State and the President of the United Republic of Tanzania;

CONSIDERING THAT, the address by H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete provided a concise exposition of the EAC policy contained in his address to this Assembly, touching mainly on all the pillars of our integration process;

AND CONVINCED THAT the address focused on very important and yet very specific areas aimed at driving forward our integration agenda among them being: cordial relationship between the EAC Heads of State, the Summit and the Members of EALA; the ever growing need and desire to build and further strengthen the EAC Organs and Institutions; the continued efforts aimed at improving regional trade through fast tracking mechanisms for promoting free movement of goods, elimination of non-tariff barriers; the need to establish a Single Customs Territory; as well as the desire to continuously make the EAC a formidable trade and economic bloc; the continuous efforts aimed at improving regional infrastructure through reduction of costs, which will also

permeate into reduced costs of doing business in our region; the need to double efforts to enhance the implementation of the EAC Common Market objectives, especially through the introduction of the regional laws; efforts in maintaining regional peace and security, democracy, good governance, human rights, rule of law and free and fair elections, which in themselves are critical tenets of the EAC; and the need for EALA to continuously take centre stage in the integration process by freely carrying the voice of aspiration of the citizens of East Africa and the East African Court of Justice to judiciously carry out its mandate and freely open doors to East Africans to access justice. All this is aimed at enhancing ownership of the EAC;

AND FULLY AWARE THAT all the aspirations espoused by the Chairperson of the Summit will give greater impetus and direction to all EAC Organs and Institutions to further deepen and widen our integration process;

NOW, THEREFORE, this august House do resolve to commend the Chairperson of the East African Community Summit of Heads of State for the concise and clear exposition of the EAC policy contained in the State of the EAC Address to the Assembly on Thursday, 19th March, 2015."

I beg to move. (Applause)

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Chair, Council of Ministers. Honourable Members, the motion is that this House do commend the Chairperson of the EAC Summit Heads of State for the concise exposition of the EAC policy contained in the State of the EAC Address to this Assembly on Thursday, 19 March 2015 in Bujumbura. Debate is open.

Dr Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt. Hon. Speaker. I rise to commend H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of Tanzania and Chair of the Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community for the State of the EAC Address.

His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete disclosed to this Assembly that he pledged to eliminate non-tariff barriers in the East African Community. He asked EALA to support do that so that by the end of his tenure as Chair of the Summit.

Honourable Members, I think that we should support him as he requested because non-tariff barriers are part of the problems that the Community would like to do away with to implement fully the Common Market Protocol.

In our annual plan, we should plans some oversight activities, especially of the CTI Committee, to make sure these non-tariff barriers are eliminated.

In the same vein, President Kikwete urged EALA to request Member States to report regularly on the progress made on infrastructure development. I think, it is our duty to do so and the members of the Council of Ministers, here present, should regularly report on these advancements.

On the Common Market Protocol implementation, the President also said that the pace of implementation is too slow, especially on amending the national laws. Is it possible that the Council of Ministers explains to us why there is a slow pace of implementation; how can we now help to overcome the embedded resistance and nationalist sentiments that H.E. Kikwete talked about?

Even amongst ourselves as EALA Members, we are like promoting nationalistic tendencies instead of feeling like East Africans. Maybe we should also have a way of sitting together to discuss how we should make sure that we are talk for East Africa while doing our work as EALA Members and not for our mother countries. We are now East Africans; I am no longer only Rwandan but East African. So, I should be talking for East Africa.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I do not want to say much more but talking of peace and security, especially addressing Burundi in the current situation, I think the Chair of the Summit, President Kikwete did his work of reminding the people of Burundi to respect the laws, the Constitution and the Arusha Peace Accords. Therefore, as Members of EALA, we should all wish them the same and maybe give our contributions to our brothers of Burundi so that they respect their Constitution. That should be done throughout all our Partner States. I beg to support and commend the speech. Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, Dr Odette.

Mr Joseph Ombasa (Kenya): Thank you, Rt. Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to air my appreciation for a speech that I took personally to be very important in this Community. I commend H. E. Jakaya Kikwete for the exposition.

He did remind us that EAC has been growing in its institutions; has been growing in terms of integration. I will skip the issue of institutions first and go to integration.

The challenges that the Head of State – the Chair, Council did point out are still in existence; the NTBs. We must make a concerted effort to ensure that all NTBs are eliminated because with their elimination, the little that has been done has seen some reports on progress. Three hundred percent increase in trade, from two billion to 6 billion that was pointed out by H. E. Kikwete.

So, if we removed – and it is our responsibility as an Assembly to urge the Partner States; to put pressure on the Partner States so that every other NTB is eliminated except for the very necessary ones.

On the issue of transport, the Chair of Summit did remind us that it is very important for the Council of Ministers together with the Assembly and others concerned to find ways to ensure that money for investment in infrastructure is found.

In this regard, I find that, perhaps, the Council can be more effective if it was resident. We have a Council, as it exists now, of Ministers in Partner States. These Ministers in Partner States the moment they leave plenary or Council meetings, wherever they meet, just go back to their offices. What preoccupies them is the challenges that exist in their respective ministries in the Partner States.

It is very difficult for them to address the issues of the Community if they are not resident in Arusha. Perhaps it is time this is made an amendment of the Treaty so that we have a resident Council of Ministers here.

Mr. Speaker, on the issue of the Common Market, the Chair of the Summit, again reminded us, that the Partner States are far behind in reviewing their laws to be in conformity with the Common Market Protocol requirements.

The Committee on CTI has been going round. Whenever they go round and want to find progress, the partner States would come up with a picture that is very attractive. That they are doing everything to ensure that compliance is met. That is not the position. I think it is time as an Assembly that we need to look at this thing with a keen eye to ensure that indeed, if there is a report on progress, it is actually a progress - there is some movement.

For example, the Chair of the Summit did commend this Assembly that he noticed or was informed that we have passed Bills in this Assembly or there were Bills pending in this Assembly, namely; The East African Cross Border Legal Practice Bill, The East African Electronic Transactions Bill and The East African Competition (Amendment) Bill. He was very excited about it.

He asked the Assembly to move with speed and ensure that those Bills are passed so that as Chair of Summit, he can also ensure that – that is my presupposition- that they are signed and they become law. But the reports we are getting are not very encouraging. That behind there - the Chair of Summit has expressed himself that the technocrats are sitting and saying, “No, we are not even ready for those kind of laws coming from the East African Legislative Assembly.”

Mr. Speaker, we cannot speak at cross-purposes because we must have one policy that guides us. Those Bills like the East African Community Cross Border Legal Practice would ensure that there is free movement of services so that it is in conformity with the Common Market principle. However, there seems to be people who want to draw us backwards.

In this regard, I want to mention the EAPI. Mr Speaker, we did meet in Bujumbura with the Council of Ministers and the Secretary General, and the Chair of the Council of Ministers was there and they agreed that this is an Act that we can implement since it has not been implemented in the past but that was something not to worry about. That we would just give a concept note and move forward, which we proceeded and gave that concept note.

The Speakers Forum has met, at least according to what I was reading recently. They noted that that is a very important institute to start, which they are ready to fund. The Chair of the Summit had equally said that institutions have growing and encouraged that institutions should grow. Why don't we want this particular institution?

Who are these people again who after we have agreed – I thought that the Council once you agree with them whether informally or otherwise, they are the same people who sit. What happens when they meet their permanent secretaries, sectoral councils and other technocrats? Are they persuaded otherwise? Do they depart from the positions we had agreed upon and become different people? How do they now face us and tell us, “We didn't perform what we had agreed.”

I would want the Chair Council to respond to that. How shall we deal with them in the future? How shall we know that what they are saying is true or they are taking us for a ride? It is time, Mr Speaker that this Assembly is taken seriously.

My last point, Mr Speaker, is on peace and security. There are areas, which are now considered insecure, where peace is not guaranteed. For example, there is what is happening in Burundi where the Summit has to pronounce itself very clearly, because what we would wish, as an Assembly, is that there should be peace in Burundi. We would not want suffering populations.

There is insecurity occasioned by the Al Shabaab in Kenya. Mr Speaker, so many people have so far been killed by Al Shabaab. We need to come together and help Kenya also address this issue as a Community. We must guard, as East Africans, against this insecurity and ensure that it is eliminated from amongst us. For it is everybody's responsibility to do that.

These people come in the name of Islam but it written nowhere that Islam must sanction death of populations. That is very clear. However, they come in the name of Islam. It is upon Islamic leaders to come out and denounce these people even further. I know they have done so but they need to come out further and denounce them more so that there is no notion in the taint in the minds of people that perhaps might divide us as the people of East Africa.

It is for the Islamic leaders and the governments in East Africa to ensure that there is joint de-radicalisation of the youth because these youth live among us.

Mr. Speaker, I do commend the speech by the Chair of Summit and urge all of us East Africans and all our Heads of State to ensure that they impress upon the Council that they allow the Assembly to perform through Private Members Bills.

You know Private Members Bills are not enactments that are against the Community. Once they have been signed, they become laws like any other laws initiated by the Council. I thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Kiangoi. Hon. Members, I will be limiting you to five minutes to allow as many members as possible to debate.

I would also like to take the opportunity to recognise the presence of Hon. Tony Ayo, the Chairperson, Committee of East African Community Affairs, Parliament of Uganda, Hon. Sabila, members of the Committee and Madam Merina who is a Clerk to the Committee. You are welcome. *(Applause)*

Mr. Saole Ole Nkanee (Kenya): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. May I also say that it is my first time in the last 21/2 years in this Parliament to debate the State of the EAC Address and I thank you for bringing this one at this time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as usual, I would like to thank the people of the United Republic of Tanzania for giving us this permanent home, the seat of EALA in Arusha. *(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I stand here to commend the State of the EAC Address made on the 19th March, 2015 by the Summit Chairman, which was very futuristic, forward looking and also a dream, which has come to be true.

Mr. Speaker, sir, in the salutation of the President, he mentioned those who were present there, that day, as former Presidents of the Republic of Burundi. H.E. Sylvester Ntibantunganya and H.E. Domitian Ndayizeye were there showing they were comfortable in that country as Senators. *(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will not stop to mention that also in that country, we have four living former Vice Presidents.

In that country, they have a history. When you enter the Parliament, or Kigobe, where the seat of the national Parliament is, you see all the pictures of 13 former and present Heads of State, including the one who was dressed like a Maasai - *(Laughter)* - Chief Mwami Mwambutsa IV. The man ruled for over 80 years; Chief Prince Ntare V, the father of independence, Louis Rwagasore - *(Applause)*- Hon. Michelle Michombero, a living President, H.E. Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, a living President or former President Pierre Buyoya, the father of democracy Melchior Ndadaye, former President also who died by accident, Cyprien Ntaryamira and of course I had mentioned Ndirakobuca and we have the only one who has repeated Pierre Buyoya and the current sitting President, Hon. Pierre Nkurunziza. *(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I deliberately mentioned those ones because it is historical but also unfortunate that we have that problem now. We do not want to go back to the 1994 problem in the neighbouring country.

The Speaker: Honourable Member, just a slight guidance. I hope that was a preamble addressing yourself to the environment where the President made the address.

Mr. Nkanae: Yes.

The Speaker: But not going to address yourself to the context of Burundi politics. Thank you so much.

Mr. Nkanae: So, as I said, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairman of the Summit made a prediction. He was futuristic, and he mentioned the integration. He said he was going to give us his personal support as EALA, and that the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania will do the same and they are doing it.

He dwelt on the Customs Union, Common Market and the Monetary Union and, of course, the future political federation. It is well stated there. So, he urged us as EALA to be the voice and the aspiration of the peoples of East Africa. We should not dwell on trivial issues of nations but be East Africans.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, this House is the engine and the heart of integration. We are the first point of call for the people of East Africa. So, I ask this House not to dwell on things, which are trivial. Let us be East Africans and hope against hope that the peace in Burundi will be there and we wish them well. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Ms Emerence Buccumi (Burundi): Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker for giving me the floor. I am rising to support the motion, especially on peace, security and stability matters.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I want to appreciate the advice given by the Chair of Summit to Burundians as far as the election process is concerned. *(Applause)* He pleaded that the government and the opposition should ensure that everything possible should be done to avoid instability and violence.

Unfortunately, we deplore the violence and death caused by demonstrations and lack of maturity exhibited by some Burundians.

Mr. Speaker, rumours have also been the source of many Burundians fleeing into the neighbouring countries. We are grateful to the sister countries, which are supporting our brothers and sisters. *(Applause)*

Rt. Hon. Speaker, election times are difficult times in every country and we salute the Chairperson of Summit for the initiative to be involved in finding a solution to the crisis in Burundi. Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker. I support the motion. *(Applause)*

Ms. Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker. From the onset, I would like to associate myself with those who have supported the motion and to thank the Hon. Chair, Council of Ministers for coming up with this very important motion.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the State of EAC Address is a very important instrument, which enables the Assembly to link with the Summit in order to get direction and impetus on EAC matters from the Summit. It is a very useful tool, which was instituted in 2008 and the first person to address the EAC to make an EAC State of Address was the President of Uganda, President Y.K. Museveni. I am glad that this trend has been continued. *(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say and, maybe, propose something radical. I know this may not be in the speech but let me say it. I would like to propose that maybe in future, we, as an Assembly should find another forum either after the State of EAC Address or during the address so that we can have some more interactive session rather than hearing the State of EAC Address and moving a vote of thanks. I look forward to a time where we shall formally or informally be able to interact with the Heads of State and also put some issues across to them so that they are able to give direction and guidance. *(Applause)* With that applause, I hope this has been taken on board.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, while in Burundi some of us, particularly myself, I declared Burundi as my second home and I was not joking. I think in context of the EAC, all the EAC Partner States become our second homes because by virtue of being East African, it means my first home is Uganda because I am born in Uganda and my second home is any East African Partner State because these are East Africans and brothers and sisters.

Therefore, this said, I would like to move very quickly to what was said by the President on the issue of Burundi. He said in the State of EAC Address that *“There could be violence, some say,”* and he went on to say, *“Honestly, that fear all of us and we dread the idea of violence coming back to Burundi. God forbid.”* Mr Speaker, Sir, this is a quote and I would like to say that these words seem to be prophetic.

Unfortunately, this issue of violence has now become a reality and it is very sad to see Bujumbura on fire because we who watch *Aljazeera* and **BBC**, when we see Bujumbura or Burundi on fire, it is like seeing Kampala on fire. We are so acquainted with Bujumbura and we get concerned about our sisters and brothers in this particular region.

When you talk about East Africa, we are no longer talking about just one Partner State. We are talking about East Africa as a Community. Therefore, if you talk about Uganda and you say, Uganda is in the East African Community and fire is seen in Bujumbura, it means that whoever was coming to the East African Community would definitely fear to do so and therefore, we miss, for example, tourism and other benefits that would come from having a peaceful region.

I would like to emphasise, reiterate, and say that we commit to what the Chair of Summit said on page 17, he said, *"We will walk with you all the steps of the way as we did in the past."* Therefore, my question to this House and to all of us plus the Council of Ministers is for us as EALA to figure out how we shall walk with our brothers and sisters in Burundi. This is because this should not only be left on paper.

I would, maybe, like to propose that at some point, we should be able to get a brief from the EAC Situation Room and we as EALA, we would be able to discuss what we can do, especially as regards what is happening in Burundi because walking is not only about talking. It is about doing things and we would like to recommend the Partner States, for example, Rwanda, which has offered refugee to some of these people who have fled the Republic of Burundi.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to move on very quickly to the role of EALA and what I wanted to say has partially been said by my brother, Hon. Kiangoi. The President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Chair of Summit said that he commended the good work being done by EALA. He noted, *"This is amply evident."* I am glad that he said this because sometimes this is not very clear in our Partner States.

I am also glad that we have had some degree of improvement on media coverage in some of the Partner States by some televisions such as NTV, which is here. We would like to urge, maybe, this House and the Council of Ministers to provide is with more resources so that we can have our work that we do in EALA being shown in all EAC Partner States, on various TVs and in the whole of Africa.

I know we are on You Tube but I think we could even do better. Therefore, we need to have this particular aspect funded so that all know the laws that we make.

Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me just to refer to two laws, which Hon. Kiangoi did not touch on. The first one is the East African Joint Trade Negotiations Act, 2008. Some of us were very saddened when we saw that the Council of Ministers had brought back this very important Act and they wanted this august House to scrap it.

We wondered what it meant because if under the EPAS, the East African Community presented itself as a bloc, under what legal regime would it have done so if it did not utilise the East African Joint Trade Negotiations Act? This particular Act was crafted based on the Treaty and, therefore, I will hope that the Council of Ministers will abandon this move to get such a law scrapped because it does make sense in view of the fact that we are now operating as a bloc.

The other law, which touches my heart, apart from what has been said, is that one, which was moved by Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga, and this is on disaster risk management. We also actually have another law on establishment of a conflict resolution mechanism at the EAC level, which was moved by Hon. Odette. We need to track it and know where it is.

These type of laws are laws, which are very important. These laws give life and meaning to our integration aspirations. They would assist us, for example, in the present circumstances where we have floods in most of the capitals of the Partner States, and in particular the most recent of Dar-es-Salaam, which was very frightening.

So, I would like to urge this House to keep track of these Bills and to ensure that they are brought here so that we can pass them rather than them being delayed because we only have 24 months to do our work. So, we must do what we have to do within the time that we have. We cannot wait.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank H.E. President Kikwete for mentioning the fact that we should give prominence to issues which are original in character rather than trivial national interests. This august House has never succumbed to trivial national interests, and I am glad that we have, for example, the members of Parliament from Uganda, who are here with us to witness what we do as an Assembly. What we do here has been appreciated in the Parliament of Uganda and I believe in all the other National Parliaments as taking precedent over national issues. This is very important and this is why we, for example, need EAPI to be able to expose this principle to whoever may come into Parliament next since we know there are elections in almost all the Partner States.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to conclude by going to the issue of way forward. Some statistics were shown and these were capturing the implementation of decisions and agreements. Other statistics were also shown when it comes to compliance on the issue of the Common Market Protocol.

I would like to say that much as these statistics may seem to be warped in some instances, I think it is very important that we commend the EAC Secretariat for putting in place the mechanism of a scorecard. I would like to applaud this particular innovation, which was supported by, I believe, the World Bank and was introduced by the Secretariat because when you have a scorecard, I think whatever the results are, it will indicate to you how healthy or how compliant a person or a State is. I think it is very important.

However, I hasten to say that even when we use this scorecard, we have to be very careful to use parameters, which parameters are understood and agreed upon by all so that whatever we come up with will not be as if we are comparing oranges to mangoes.

Let me give an example, if you say that one particular Partner State has opened up on the issue of the Common Market at 20 percent and another Partner State has opened up at 40 percent. When you look the scorecard, you find that the country, which has opened up at 20 percent, is scoring higher than that one at 40 percent, what does it mean? Does it mean that the one, which has opened up at 20 percent, has fully complied 100 percent to be able to overtake that which has opened up at 40 percent? Does it mean that the one, which has opened up at 40 percent, is just doing it on paper but has not implemented what it is supposed to have opened up?

I think these are critical questions that we must interrogate as an Assembly and that should interest even the Council of Ministers so that we get further explanations. This is because this score card, much as it shows implementation and may not be seen as ranking, in a way you cannot have a scorecard without ranking. By virtue of attributing percentages, you are in effect ranking. Nevertheless, is the ranking based on parameters and thresholds, which are agreed upon and understood by all?

I am not questioning any of these figures, but I think we need to interrogate them further so that they do not dishearten those who are working very hard. Therefore, they should serve as an

encouraging instrument rather than one, which may dishearten people who may feel that maybe they were not ranked properly.

In conclusion, Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you again and to thank H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete who was a Member of this august House for reiterating, commitment to the political federation. He said in the very last part that: *"Therefore, the East African Federation and the United States of Africa are not a mirage or distant dreams. They are possible and they are doable."* I believe this and I hope that the Council of Ministers will at an appropriate time during this plenary give us a status report on the political federation so that we know where we are at. I thank you. (Applause)

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Dora.

Mr Abubakar Zein Abubakar (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to support this important motion, which pays tribute to the Chair of our Summit for the policy directives that are contained in his submissions, which is a submission on the state of affairs of our Community in a given year.

Allow me, sir, to start with, the kind words and the support that he made to support you and to support your office for the good work that you are rendering to this Community. (Applause)

Secondly, Sir, allow me to focus a little bit on EALA. I know some hon. Members have already spoken about this. I will not repeat them, but I would like to talk about, first and foremost, not because he praised us, not because he said very kind words to us, and not because he reminded us of the solemn duty that we have been given by our Community. I would like to quote. He said, *"This esteemed House is one of the important pillars of our Community. It is the Organ that carries the voice and aspirations of our people."* He went on and said, *"This is where people's interests are raised, aggregated and translated into laws."* I would like to underline that word "laws" and I call for the attention of the Council of Ministers to this statement by H.E. President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete.

This is a House, part of which our mandate demands us to translate the aspirations and wishes of the people of East African into laws. Many a times the record of this Parliament will show that the Council of Ministers has made statements on the floor of this House making commitments that at the beginning of the year, they will give us a schedule of proposed laws that would come from their Council.

I would like to thank them that they did that at the beginning of this year. I would like to urge them that we are still waiting for those laws. Some of them have come but of which their nature will show they are of statutory obligation. We are waiting for the other ones and not the ones that are demanded by law -procedure- by the Treaty to be brought to us. Therefore, we are waiting for that.

In the same vein, allow me to convince the Council of Ministers that every Member who stands up on this floor and seeks consent of this House to introduce a Private Member's Bill does it with good intentions. They do it with hope that they are translating the words of our President that we are looking into translating the interests that are raised, aggregated and translated into laws.

I know the President commended this House for good work and as the Hon. Dora Byamukama said, this is amply evident. That is what the President said. However, allow me to go over and above the good things that he said about this House to our challenge.

The President placed before us a challenge as a Parliament and I would like to quote on page 19; he said, *“This Assembly must continue to be a people’s Assembly and their first point of call. You must be seen spending more time deliberating on issues of concern to the people of East Africa and not otherwise. You must give prominence to issues, which are regional in character rather than trivial national interests. We must see that East African spirit in you.”* This is a clarion call to this House to be relevant. To be relevant means we are responsive to the needs and aspirations of the people of East Africa.

I will refrain from talking about Burundi until the Summit has pronounced itself because the Summit has indicated and the same Chair who gave this speech has indicated that he has called his brothers to a summit to deliberate on this. This does not mean we are not independent. I am saying, I am waiting to hear from them and then I will be happy to talk to my brothers and sisters in this house so that the Community can also hear from us about Burundi.

If we want to be relevant, we must respond to the needs of the people. Now we are being called to respond to the needs of the people of Burundi. When we were in Burundi, we said that if Burundi hurts, we hurt. We meant each word. I recall your statement, Sir, as Speaker. I recall the statement by the President who is the Chair of the Summit. So, I will hold my peace until I have heard from the Summit. However, I would also like, after the Summit has spoken, for us to speak as an independent body that represents the people of East Africa. *(Applause)*

This challenge, Sir is a challenge to us and other Organs and Institutions of the Community. I believe that the directive principles of Community policy that are contained in this speech and the speech of the previous Chairs should not be speeches in vain.

I believe that we must develop a way of tracking in that year who has listened to the directives coming from the Summit. Which Organ is not listening? Which Institution is not listening? When the Heads of State call on us to be the custodians of the people’s aspirations, we will do that. In addition, we will hold other Institutions and Organs accountable. We do not fear to be held accountable likewise.

I will finish on this point by saying this; when there are directive policy statements in the speech of H.E. President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete as Chair of Summit, I expect those issues raised to be worked on. I expect them to be allocated resources. *(Applause)*

I will give you an example. The President talked about the expanded jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice. And why that expanded jurisdiction is a critical issue to put our Community in good state and deepen our integration process. Therefore, any person who expects less than that will be reflected in the way we allocate resources and will be someone who will be held to account by this Assembly. *(Applause)*

Allow me to speak to the last issue that I wanted to raise. He told us that we must promote ownership of the integration process by the people of East Africa. As a matter of fact, and I am quoting: *“The future and sustainability of the Community very much depends upon how far we succeed in making the people of East Africa feel that they benefit from the East African Community.”*

The State of East African Report, 2013 by Society of International Development Seed provided us with some important insights. It suggests that the future of the region will depend on how we make growth inclusive and on narrowing the inequality gap within nations and in the region. And efforts must be made to address the question of inequality within each Partner State and between Partner States."

This matter has also implications on matters of peace and security. Where there is inequality, studies have shown there is a high likelihood of insecurity. Therefore, I finish, Mr Speaker, Sir by saying the following: the matters that have been raised in this statement on how healthy we are as a Community, what level of wellbeing this Community has, are not a platitude neither are they supposed to be paid lip service.

When we come one year down the line, and we realise Organs of the Community including the Council of Ministers and this House have not done their utmost to implement these directives, we will have a reason to ask why. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Zein.

Mr Emmanuel Nengo (Burundi): Thank you so much, Rt. Hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to express what has touched me in the speech of the Chairperson of the EAC Summit and the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete.

First of all, Mr Speaker, I congratulate you for the success and the entire House during our last session in Bujumbura. *(Applause)* I do not want to mention how busy the session, which was so successful for EALA, was. However, it was kind of a baptism of fire on you, Mr Speaker and we are very proud of the manner in which you managed it. We wish to do much more to step up our performance.

Secondly, when I get back to the speech of the Chairperson of the EAC Summit, I was very touched by the background he gave us on the good work so far done in the field of boosting the integration process.

When he got to the challenges, he emphasised them, which I think meant that he was requesting us to do more in order to boost the integration process. This means that it should be EALA to see how we can do more oversight, and to see what is going on in the Partner States to eliminate the challenges that he raised.

He talked about the NTBs, especially on the national laws that slow down the speed of the integration process.

Mr Speaker, when he was speaking about what featured in the Nairobi Summit, he showed that the progress as far as implementing laws is concerned is not good. I think what needs to be done is to improve and see how those findings, recommendations, directives and other agreements within our region can be implemented.

What I appreciated most was when he talked about the central corridor and the north corridor. This removed from my heart what was being said about the coalition of the willing. If I am not mistaken, he assured the region that that kind of infrastructure in the region had already been planned. I was very happy to hear that from the Chairperson.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, when I come back to my country, Burundi, I was very happy to hear from the Chairperson that he was very straight just like a good neighbour. This was because he gave to our leaders and to the people of Burundi many wise pieces of advice to avoid political instability and violence.

Now as some people said, there are some rumours but there are also realities in place. *(Applause)* I say this because I for one, I have many members of my family who have fled to Rwanda and other neighbouring countries in our region. Therefore, it is not a joke. It is a reality.

I first thank the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, that of Rwanda and that DRC for receiving our brothers and sisters. Much as it might be their role, it is good to thank them.

As for Tanzania, I thank them because they helped so much towards reaching the peace in Burundi. *(Applause)* So, when the Chairperson spoke about how we can avoid instability, it is because he knows the reality on the ground. And I think it is better for us Members of this august Assembly to do our part meaning that we also have a role to play by visiting the people who are in that condition.

We now have some refugees in this region, and they are congested in some places. I think that we as Members have a role to play by visiting them through the Committee on Regional Affairs. *(Applause)*

I would once again like to say that I am very happy to hear that tomorrow we have a meeting of the Heads of State. I think and hope that they will give us hope that the situation in Burundi can be brought down because when you are watching TV from here, you get frightened to see that in your country there, are people losing their lives and others being arrested. It is not good for me.

I request you, Members and other persons from this region, to pray for Burundi so that this situation can end and we have a peaceful election period.

The campaigns began on Sunday though they are controversial. I hope that the meeting tomorrow will help us to end the chaos and perhaps have a good mood in our country so that we can have a fair and all-inclusive election in Burundi. I thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Nengo. It is important for the Committee on Regional Affairs to take note of what Hon. Nengo mentioned on visiting our brothers and sisters in the neighbouring countries. Hon. Sebalu, and then I come this side. As expected, I see there is a lot of interest to debate the State of the EAC Address. So, let us take the exact five minutes or less.

Mr Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker. I would like to thank you for the good work you are doing for this Assembly in particular and the region at large where you interface with various stakeholders on issues of regional importance. I just want to commend you for that. *(Applause)*

Secondly, I want also to appreciate the fact that this practice of having the State of the EAC Address has gone on uninterrupted and it is now a tradition in this House that can never be changed like certain things that were being changed at some point in time. *(Laughter)*

Thirdly, I simply want to appreciate the fact that the State of the EAC Address is an address to the entire region. It happens to be passed on through this Parliament but it is meant to go to all the East Africans. I think that need to be appreciated. Therefore, it is the State of the EAC Address delivered through Parliament to the rest of the Community including Partner States, namely: ministries, departments and agencies as well as other stakeholders that may include even non-State actors who have a role to play. Therefore, it is not a state of address just for purposes of EALA. It is through EALA to the rest of the Community.

Now, if that is the understanding, we need to get a mechanism to ensure that this Address is widely shared between and among the other stakeholders because some of...not even Parliaments alone, it could go to Parliaments but my interest is to reach as far as possible - to all East Africans because they are stakeholders and they have an interest.

The reason that I am proceeding from that premise is to the effect that there are certain directives, which are given. They may appear to target EALA in the short run but essentially, all the stakeholders that have a role to play in this integration agenda should appreciate them.

Here, I simply want to say that EALA as an Organ is very important and that was very well highlighted. When you put that specific connection to the role of EALA in initiating legislation, you will appreciate that the role of initiating legislation could as well be an Executive function, factors remaining constant.

If the Executive is proactive and is it is going ahead in terms of looking at the needs of the East African Community, essentially the Executive can bring all the laws and our role is to debate and pass them. However, in the wisdom of the framers, that is why a window of opportunity was availed to Members of EALA in case certain laws have not been brought and yet the East Africans want certain areas to be legislated upon. Therefore, that is why we have the Private Members Bills. And when you have many Private Members Bills, it clearly shows that the Executive has not cast their net wide in terms of getting the feel of what the people want to be legislated upon.

Therefore, when Members of EALA bring Private Members Bills, they are not bringing them in their own interest or for purposes of showbiz. It is serious business. They are responding to the needs and demands of the East Africans.

So that way, when the President and the Chair is imploring us to be serious about laws, translating and aggregating the wishes of the people into laws, that is exactly what he means. In my view, EALA needs a big round of applause because we have done exactly that. *(Applause)*

We have had so many Private Members Bills passed and that is a clear indication that we have our ears on the ground in terms of what people need. I would like to salute Members who always make it a point to bring laws where they find that we need to do that.

Mr Speaker, in the same light, I simply want to say that there are some laws that we have passed which have not been assented to. One of the reasons, maybe, is due to the advice that is being given to the Heads of State. I do not see any reason as to why a disaster risk management Bill cannot be assented to when we are grappling with a problem of disasters in and out.

All our countries have experienced disasters ever since this law was passed. Moreover, our people have always called upon us to ensure that we do something about disasters. So, how do we explain

the fact that this law is still hanging? Even when one of the Chairpersons of the Summit, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta in this very hall called upon the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat to ensure that this law is brought back and whatever needs to be done is done so that it is assented into law.

I want to call upon the Council of Ministers in this regard to tell us what happened because it is responding to the needs of the people.

The Speaker: Hon. Sebalu, maybe to guide your debate for the Council of Ministers to pick clearly, you may also wish to know – I am not participating in the debate- that there are Bills that have been originated by the Council of Ministers to this Assembly but another sectoral Council of Government has advised against the Bill. Why is there uncoordinated movement of sectoral Council and Council of Ministers? The matter is serious and Council of Ministers must address themselves to that. Proceed, Hon. Sebalu. *(Applause)*

Mr Sebalu: Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker because as a Parliament, one of our major outputs are laws. If anyone is getting in the way of our production line, then that person does not wish us well. So, that is very important.

We are in the business of making laws and – *(Interruption)*-someone is trying to divert me from my serious debate.

The Speaker: Please, concentrate.

Mr Sebalu: So, Rt. Hon. Speaker, our major output is the laws and if anyone is going to bring us to account, he is going to say, how many laws have you passed? So, if we get any form of frustration, any form of derailment, it is simply getting in the way of our work. That is why I am concentrating on the laws and a subject matter that was very well highlighted by the Chair of the Summit.

So, my view is that let us take that as a very serious piece of advice in terms of direction and impetus so that we come up with laws that are going to add value to the people of East Africa given that we are supposed to aggregate them and translate them into laws so that they are able to benefit.

Finally, Mr Speaker, the assent to Bills is a process where ministries and technocrats are involved. I believe they also have to heed the advice of the Chair, Summit because we need to get these laws out so that they can get to be implemented.

With that, Rt. Hon. Speaker, I beg to support and in passing, I simply want to acknowledge and appreciate the wise counsel of the Chairman, Summit regarding the Burundi question. I also want to applaud his office as Chair for having called a Summit meeting specifically to address this subject.

I believe that that is the way to go given that leadership in this matter should be taken by East African initiatives and I believe that Summit is definitely going to come up with a good way forward. Thank you, Rt. Hon. Speaker for affording me an opportunity and for Members for their kind attention. *(Applause)*

Mr. Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt. Hon. Speaker. Let me first also congratulate you for the work you are doing for the Community. I thank you again for the opportunity that you have given me to take the floor.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, Sir, let me also thank the Chairperson of the Summit for his important address in Bujumbura on 19 March 2015.

Thirdly, Mr Speaker, Sir and Hon. Members, let me highlight that seeing the importance that H.E. Jakaya Kikwete gave to regional infrastructure development, especially in relation with our integration process, I hope our current session here in Arusha will put emphasis on that when passing the 2015/2016 Budget in order to contribute adequately to the integration process.

Here, Rt. Hon. Speaker, I call upon the Council of Ministers to take appropriate measures to fast track implementation of all agreed upon infrastructure projects in the region for the benefit of the East African Community citizens.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, when it comes to the implementation of the Common Market Protocol, the Chairperson of Summit recalled rightly that Partner States are behind schedule, especially when it comes to reviewing or amending national laws in accordance with the Common Market Protocol.

This, as His Excellency rightly said, impedes progress in the implementation of the Protocol and the East African Community integration process.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, following the decisions of Summit on this matter, this House should consider a way of passing, if it is possible, a kind of omnibus law on the implementation of the Common Market Protocol to fast track its implementation. *(Applause)*

Finally, Rt. Hon. Speaker, when it comes to peace and security, I really fully support the fact that all means should be used to ensure security of our population. I insist on the fact that all political matters should be resolved peacefully. Therefore, I think it is important for our House to call upon all parties involved in the Burundi elections process to think about the lives of Burundi citizens and to take the right decisions in order for them to end the current troubles and to protect the people. *(Applause)*

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I am sure the coming Summit will come up with a wise decision towards a peaceful future in Burundi.

Finally, Rt. Hon. Speaker, I commend the Chairperson of Summit for the address and support the motion. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Ms Agnes Mumbi Ng'aru (Kenya): Thank you, Rt. Hon. Speaker for the opportunity. I would like to say right from the onset that I commend the Chair, Summit H.E. Jakaya Kikwete on this State of EAC Address on the 19 March 2015.

He spoke to me as if he was speaking from the heart because he has walked the walk. When the Treaty was being created, I am sure he was there as a Minister for Foreign Affairs in the United Republic of Tanzania and the 10 years as a Head of State. Therefore, when he talked about the integration being very slow in pace, it is because he understands it more than all of us do.

I want to say that I was very impressed when he talked about the infrastructure development and especially the retreat in Nairobi of the Heads of State on 29 November 2012. I know this retreat had created an issue of the coalition of the willing that almost brought tension in the East African region. So, for him to restate that even as EALA, we should actually be asking for a progress report from the Partner States to know the state of implementation was very refreshing.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I remember that as you welcomed him and as you welcomed His Excellency the President of Burundi to our special sitting, you mentioned that EALA was in Burundi to give confidence to the people of Burundi and of the region. He said that we have confidence that there is peace, and that there will be peace and the issue of the upcoming elections will be handled in a very peaceful manner.

As we pronounce ourselves on peace and security in the region, and as we wait for the Summit to give us some direction, I posed in my own heart in a quiet way as I listened to hon. Nengo, whether there is anything that we can do as EALA as we wait for the Summit to pronounce itself. With confidence, I will say that there is something we can do.

The Chair, Summit while addressing us talked about the issue of dialogue and he said - I cannot read the quote; I have a problem with cataract in my eyes but I remember him saying that those of us who encourage the people of Burundi to dialogue make sure that the issue of violence is not in the dialogue.

So, we can do something. I do not think we would need to wait for the Summit to give us direction to pray about peace in Burundi. Prayer can be a quiet thing and as I remember the issue of violence even in my own country, Kenya, women came together and prayed about peace in their country.

We have a Women Caucus and I am asking our Chair to call a meeting that women in this House can pray together about peace in Burundi.

The Speaker: Hon. Mumbi, I think the men Members of EALA can also pray together with the women for Burundi. (*Laughter*)

Ms Mumbi: Thank you, Sir. I was coming to that. I wanted to start with the issue of women because I can say it without any fear of contradiction that the percentage of the refugees, maybe 70 percent or 80 could be women and children. I am very clear in my mind about that because it has happened all over.

Therefore, it is up to us the women to take leadership and then ask our brothers because Hon. Nengo is one of them to hold him and the rest of our brothers are in Burundi. Then under you, Rt. Hon. Speaker you can ask that we come and speak to God about Burundi as Summit pronounces itself.

It is a way of dialogue. We may not be dialoguing with Burundi but God is Almighty and when we give the peace of this region into His hands, I am sure He will prove able. He did it in Kenya and He can do it in Burundi.

The other issue that I would like to pronounce myself on in the speech of the Chair of Summit is what he talked about the infrastructure development, especially in Northern Tanzania, and how

they had drawn a master plan and asked the Chair of Council to make sure that the master plan for the road infrastructure is implemented for the future of integration in this country.

I am aware that the Chair of Council probably will pronounce themselves in the Budget about what they want to do with the infrastructure, what they want to do with the many things that were pronounced but I also want to remind him that the issue of sensitisation about integration is a key issue that can be taken on board by this Assembly.

I am not being trivial but I know in our country, Kenya, we have a sensitisation programme going on with Members of this House going to various counties to talk about integration of the East African Community. So, I am hoping and praying that as the Chair, Council pronounces himself, he will also take the issue addressed by the Chair, Summit that integration towards a political federation must involve all the people of East Africa. I beg to support. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Mr. Issa Twaha Taslima (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Rt. Hon. Speaker. I stand to support the motion. I also take this opportunity, being an East African from Tanzania, and we are in Tanzania, to welcome you all to Tanzania although you are at home. Since you are on Tanzanian soil, I take this opportunity on behalf of my colleagues to welcome you all, feel free, just as usual. There is no dinner today, no but it could be some other day during our session. *(Laughter)*

Rt. Hon. Speaker, let me state only two things: First, peace, security, and stability, indeed must be high on the agenda of every human being because they say, a man is a hard animal. If you are a hard animal, then you must learn and must be ready to live with others and the more you live with others peacefully, the more you live a better life.

Therefore, when you are talking about the problems of peace, security and stability in our region, we are not joking. We are talking about a thing, which touches every person inside East Africa and outside East Africa. At page 14 of the Address of the Chair, Summit, we can see and read that he said, *“Burundi and Tanzania this year are engaged in general elections. But for Tanzania, it is not only general elections, even for the referendum of the proposed Constitution in Tanzania.”*

You have heard what is happening in Tanzania right now concerning the Constitution and the general elections coming this year. You have heard how much noise has been going on around here. So, we pray that peace prevails and we ask all East Africans to pray for us as well so that we pass through this year without any more squabbles or for people just to remain the way they have been living in the past.

Another thing is about what our Chair, Summit said when he was talking about our EALA. He talked about EALA at page 18 and this is where he said that: *“EALA as such is an Organ that carries the voice and aspirations of our people and this is where people’s interests are raised, aggregated and translated into laws.”* If people’s voices can be raised through EALA, it means that we, in EALA should be the mouthpieces of the people of East Africa. In which case, we are confronted with the problem of sensitisation around.

I am glad to hear what is taking place in Kenya that they have a Committee, which is moving around the country sensitising people. *(Applause)* That is very commendable and it is really a step ahead, which all the other countries should emulate. I have not heard of such a thing in our country. However, we shall try to emulate what others are doing. However, that exactly is what we should be doing.

Dr Saadalla: Thank you, Mr Speaker and thank you, Hon. Taslima. Since your country is Tanzania, I am personally involved in a very big task of moving around and sensitising people about the East African Community with a Committee from the Ministry of East African Cooperation. Thank you.

Mr. Taslima: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank very much the Minister for informing me. As you can see, if I don't know it as a EALA Member – (*Laughter*) - then it means we have a lot to do. We are ready to give any support as a Government to go on with this effort to be together from an EALA point of view- from the Chapter. We shall try as much as possible to be together so that we reach our dreams.

Now, I should not take too much time, Hon. Speaker. This is all I had and I thank you very much for the time. (*Applause*)

Mr. Peter Mathuki (Kenya): Thank you, Rt. Hon. Speaker for this opportunity. Let me also retrospectively thank the good people of Burundi and their leadership for hosting us during our last session. (*Applause*) That was very important because it is in Burundi where we transacted very serious and important business.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, under your own leadership, we were able to achieve many things and we all know it is actually in Burundi where this great speech was delivered. It is in Burundi where we passed our own Rules of Committees. It is in Burundi where we passed the Code of Conduct. (*Applause*) It is in Burundi that we passed very important Bills that are affecting the lives of East Africans. Rt. Hon. Speaker, can you protect me from Hon. Mulengani? (*Laughter*)

The Speaker: Hon. Peter, you are protected.

Mr. Mathuki: Thank you, Sir. Of course, in the same vein, let me register my personal feelings on the political situation in Burundi because the political situation in Burundi is such that the people and the citizens of Burundi would expect us as Members of this Assembly to do something about their situation. In fact, the people of Burundi should know that Burundi is an equal and very important Partner State of the Community. They must not feel that they are different in any way. Therefore, we should assure them that we stand with them during this very difficult situation.

It is our hope and prayer that they will get out of this situation stronger as a Partner State of the East African Community. This could be a challenge but it may turn out to be a strength if they come out of it stronger. That is our prayer. Therefore, this is not an ordinary time in the East African Community, if indeed, the people of Burundi are suffering, and we must take extraordinary measures to make sure that the people of Burundi feel that we are there.

Let me turn to the speech itself that was presented by the Chair, Summit. If I gather the mood that the Chair, Summit had when he was giving the speech, he was very clear on several situations.

One, on the issue of infrastructure. He actually said as a person, that he was involved in fundraising finances that have played a key role to promote infrastructure in the region. I think in that he was again saying that much as we are doing a lot along the northern corridor it should also be seen as an effort of all the Partner States and not only some of them.

This is what Hon. Nengo was referring to as the coalition of the willing. Personally, I do not believe in the coalition of the willing. I believe that was a creation of the media because it is nowhere at

all in any of the meetings of the Community where we talked about the coalition of the willing.
(Applause)

So, our media people much as we appreciate the role and work you do to promote the Community, you should also be careful in terms of how you coin some terms because they can bring a lot of decision in the Community, which may not be right. This coalition of the willing was a creation of the media. I think that is how we should take it.

So, to the Chair, Summit he always played a role as a person in this Community. It is commendable right from the time he was a Minister up to such a time that he is serving as a President. We appreciate this.

He even told us that he would be leaving office this October and we wish him well. We still believe that he will continue playing an important role in making sure that East Africa remains strong because that is what we would expect of him. He is actually an asset to us and that is what he should know.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, as I conclude, I think I gathered three very important things and I think this is the way to go. First, he said, the future and sustainability of the Community depends on how citizens will appreciate the benefits coming out of this Community. What are the tangible benefits that citizens appreciate are coming out of this Community? If they are not getting anything or feeling any benefits, then we are not likely to be there as a Community. Therefore, I think that as stakeholders in this, as an important Organ we must make sure that the citizens of East Africa appreciate and feel the benefits.

Secondly, is about the strengthening of Institutions of the Community. We should have strong Institutions that will support the integration. I think that is what we are doing all over and we are called upon to do in our Partner States.

I think that is what Hon. Taslima was saying. For example, in Kenya we have members of the Chapter and others going around creating awareness about issues of integration. We are interfacing with the citizens and getting their feelings and, therefore, when we are talking, we are talking and contributing with authority because we are getting views directly from the people and citizens of East Africa. Therefore, we encourage that that is emulated in other Partner States.

Thirdly is the political will. That is the third most important point and he said it. We must be able to see political support in whatever we are doing in promoting integration. I think that is what we were saying regarding the role of the Ministers. At some point, we may need to evaluate the work they do because we bring very important business to them and for some reasons they trash it. This is not right. We may have to evaluate what they do and how they transact business that is related to this Assembly.

In conclusion, Rt. Hon. Speaker, we thank the Chair, Summit for the work that he has done for the 10 years that he has been President of the United Republic of Tanzania and the role as a citizen of this region has played to ensure the East African Community is what it is today. I thank you.
(Applause)

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Hon. Peter. I had already appointed Hon. Hafsa Mossi but before she takes the floor, I would like to put the following clear, maybe to note, they have been coming repeatedly.

You know that we are sending an observer mission to Burundi during their elections as EAC and EALA.

Secondly, it has come out clearly from the debate of Members that we must do something. In addition, I made it clear that the Committee on Regional Affairs and that of Legal, as a matter of urgency will have to come to my office and we find a way of sending a good will mission to visit this refugee camps where the people are now. That will do for us as an Assembly.

Ms Hafsa Mossi (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the motion on the floor and I first want to commend the commitment of the Chairperson of the Summit of the Heads of State of EAC for showing commitment in moving the integration process. Indeed, we trust that under his chair the region will be taken to greater heights.

I am not going to talk much because I had an opportunity to move a vote of thanks when he delivered his speech but I want to come back to two areas where he pledged commitment especially on removing non-tariff barriers and also in making sure that, the infrastructure development is given attention.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, I think infrastructure is the backbone of development and economic growth and indeed this Assembly was given homework to do follow up on the implementation of the decisions made by our heads of state when they had a retreat on infrastructure.

I want to assure the Chairperson of the Summit that this Assembly will play its role but also to appeal to the Council of Ministers to make sure that implementation of free movement of people and services and all the provisions, which are required in the Common Market Protocol, are implemented as it is enshrined in the Treaty.

In the area of peace and stability, the chairperson reiterated that this is a priority and indeed, it is the foundation of a prosperous East Africa. I appreciate the words of wisdom of our Chairperson of the Summit on the election process in Burundi and indeed he kept an eye on what is happening in Burundi and that is why he took the initiative to call an extra ordinary summit so that the situation in Burundi can be discussed.

We really feel proud of our Chairperson of the Summit because this shows that he is trying to find home-grown solutions to a problem in our own region instead of relying on outsiders.

As a Burundian, I appreciate a lot the support, which is given by our sister countries in making sure that the refugees who fled our country and went to their countries are supported and taken care of.

Mr Speaker, we have many expectations for the Summit, which is going to take place in Dar es Salaam, and I commend that initiative. It really breaks my heart to see what is happening in my country, not only as a Burundian but also as somebody who comes from East Africa. I condemn

the death of people. Indeed our own are dying in Burundi and nobody has the right to take the life of any East African in this region.

I pray that no more Burundians should die in Burundi because we do not have the right to do that and we should remember that the world is watching us so that we need to rally sit down and look at ways of coming out of this crisis.

Mr Speaker, I want to recognise and appreciate the kind words of support and solidarity by honourable members here but also to add my voice to those who have appreciated the support of our sister countries.

With these few remarks, Mr Speaker, I beg to support.

Mr. Bernard Mulengani (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for the opportunity to contribute to the Head of Summit address to EALA. I would like to raise a few issues on this address, which actually, as one of our colleagues said, in a way creates a challenge not only to the Assembly but also to the Council.

In the justification of the Council on why he moved the debate on this address, I expected the Council to come out vehemently and clearly on the issues that were raised in this address on how they intend and are planning to implement the Summit directive in form of an address.

Maybe for future justification, we would demand that Council comes out properly to highlight areas where the Summit has indicated gaps and on what they are intending to do as we come to debate but that notwithstanding – (*Interruption*) -

The Speaker: Hon. Mulengani, I hope you are not putting the cart before the horse because the Council just gave a justification of the motion and the debate is ensuing. At the end of the day, after the debate is concluding, he will give responses on behalf of the entire Council on what they are going to do.

Mr. Mulengani: Thank you for the guidance, Mr Speaker. In the address, the Chair of Summit says, I appeal to this august House but in the same line, I want to appeal to the Council. The Summit is appealing for us to raise hands so that we can create awareness and support to the speedy implementation of the Common Market. I am also pushing it to the Council that we appeal to the Council.

Right now, we are in the budget cycle, soon we shall be handling the budget but I would like to kindly request the Council also to consider putting money for the Assembly to take on the responsibility of awareness and sensitisation in this region.

Mr. Speaker, the Summit in three areas and I beg to quote, has raised very serious issues. On a certain page the Summit address is saying, “The world we are in and that ahead of us has no space for fragmented markets, isolated industrial value chains and inadequate in country or cross border infrastructure.”

At another point he says, “We should overcome embedded resistances and nationalistic sentiments.” In another area in the same address, he comes to say, “We must give prominence to issues which are regional in character rather than trivial national interests. We must see that that

East African spirit in one address referring to certain practices that are seemingly seen in our way of action to be nationalistic in nature.

To a Head of Summit bringing out three times in one speech, something mentioning of tendencies of nationalistic behaviour in nature is a very appalling situation and it is a challenge to us as an Assembly. We should desist from this action. The way we cooperate and do our work in an Assembly should not be in any way, demonstrative of nationalistic tendencies or sentiments. This will take us a stride as the Summit recognises our role in the integration.

Mr. Speaker, with these few remarks, I would like to support the motion. Thank you.

Ms Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this motion. From the onset, let me commend you sincerely for the way you have always led us in transacting our business as an Assembly. This Assembly is the heart of the integration process and His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the current Chairperson of the Summit of Heads of State has clearly said that this Assembly must play its role because it is the heart of the integration process so I thank you, sir.

Back to the State of EAC Address of His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, I would like to commend him for the policy directives that he has given through his speech which policy directives are meant to hasten the state of EAC affairs and all this towards the realisation of a full integration process.

Mr Speaker, I will stick to two important aspects of His Excellency's speech, one of them being the Common Market Protocol. Mr Speaker, His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete came out clearly and said that the Common Market Protocol is what answers the very question about movement of people, movement of capital and services within the region.

He also added that the feedback from the East African Community Common Market scorecard 2014 presented at the last East African Community Summit in Nairobi shows that progress is not good enough. I want to insist on this because it is very critical, this being another stage of integration, which is also laying a foundation to another very important stage of the integration process of the Community.

Mr. Speaker, I also happen to be a member of Legal Rules and Privileges Committee and we have had the opportunity to be given a task and I thank you sincerely for that, to assess the status of implementation of the Common Market Protocol within our Partner States.

I know that debate will come whenever the report of the Legal Committee is presented to the House but let me state personally that there is really a slow pace of implementation of the said important protocol mainly in that many things have been left to Partner States to deal with - (*Interruption*)

Dr Ndahiro: Thank you, Mr Speaker and hon. Valerie. I wanted to inform hon. Valerie that the road map for the implementation of the Common Market Protocol is ending in December this year and there are schedules to the Common Market Protocol, which are still pending negotiations, and yet we are supposed to be finalising in December this year. Thank you.

Ms Nyirahabineza: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and thank you for the information, hon. Ndahiro. That is why I am saying that the slow pace of implementation of the same Common

Market Protocol is deplorable. One of the main challenges is that the countries are implementing the protocol the way they want.

We were told, while interacting with various stakeholders that countries have been given laxity to develop their own implementation plan with regard to the Common Market Protocol. As of now, Uganda has developed that implementation plan, Rwanda is developing it and we do not know what is in the pipeline in the other countries.

This means that at regional level, I think there is need for a framework guiding the Partner States to implement whatever is required under the Common Market Protocol smoothly – *(Interruption)*

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Mr. Bageine: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. The Republic of Uganda has not developed a plan of the implementation of integration of EAC. It has developed a policy. There is a difference between a plan and a policy. We have a policy, which was launched and is now being rolled over to the rest of the country for purposes of encouraging integration within the Republic of Uganda. I thank you.

Ms Nyirahabineza: Thank you very much, Council. I talked about implementation plan of the Common Market Protocol because I know for a fact that that kind of policy related to the integration process is almost all over- At least in Rwanda and in Uganda I know it is there and in some other Partner States. I am not very sure about that but the implementation plan of the Common Market Protocol.

Mr. Speaker, I was saying that if a kind of framework could be developed at regional level to guide all our Partner States to lead them in that process of implementing the Common Market Protocol so that we can at least align ourselves with the information that hon. Ndahiro has just provided, that would be great.

My second and last point goes to the peace and security issue His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete highlighted. Mr Speaker, the full realisation of the integration process can only be attained when this region is secure, peacefully and can be visited by anybody without fear. I pray and I join not only my sister hon. Hafsa Mossi but also all those who spoke before me and I pray that God be with all of us so that wherever there are problems of peace and security, they can be solved amicably.

For this purpose and while we are talking about Burundi elections, of course the principle we have always followed is to have free, fair and peaceful elections so I hope all of us and I know we are all behind our sisters and brothers in Burundi for them to go through that very process in a peaceful manner.

I commend His Excellency's speech and I also thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to express these few words.

Ms. Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity. I would like to join my colleagues in appreciating the President on his remarks before the House.

Mr. Speaker, at times we might not know the value of somebody when he is with us but when he is gone we then remember. I would like to thank the former Speaker, hon. Abdi when he begun

the culture of the Speakers evoking our Rules of Procedure and the Treaty to ensure that we have the Heads of States addressing this House. I would like to thank you in a special way for continuing the tradition.

Mr. Speaker, when I got the opportunity to look through President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete's speech from the beginning to the end, you can clearly see that the Heads of State for every interface they have had with this House have always felt good to interact with us. They are happy and they cherish each moment. If you note from the speech, he was even able to note the number of times he had addressed this Parliament. That showed that every interaction was a memorable one.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to congratulate this House as led by you in the manner in which the House received President Kikwete, the reception from Burundi as a country as ever. We always enjoy the drum. The dancers at the airport always receive us and I am sure that must have been the same reception accorded to the President so the mood and the manner in which the speech is written clearly shows that when you are in Burundi indeed you feel that you are at the heartbeat of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, the President was clear and very happy about your election. He welcomed you as a member who had now taken space in the hierarchy of the key people leading the integration process. He clearly showed that he was ready to guide this House, which makes me very happy as a member of the House and it is a clear indication that the Chair of the Summit appreciates your stewardship.

Mr. Speaker, the President's speech was very articulate. It clearly showed that he was ready to show his thoughts with people, with the members, he was ready to share his experience, he was ready and he made commitments in the speech. He clearly appreciated the critical role that Parliament plays. He was cognisant of the history of the East African integration process. He was proud of the achievements registered so far. As people who have worked hard to ensure that the baby grows to what it is today, I think the President came out clearly to show East Africans that indeed remarkable progress has been made, we must be proud of this and we must ensure that we take the integration process to yet another level.

In his speech, I could see readiness from the President to support EALA in its execution of duty and in his speech, I was able to see predictions in the case of Burundi and when you look at what is happening today, it is like somebody would say, did he think it would happen because some of the statements clearly show that something was about to happen and indeed things have happened the way they have.

However Mr Speaker, as mothers we feel sorry for the mothers who could be suffering because of the tragedy that is befalling Burundi. We associate with the country and I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the Chair of Summit in taking charge of the process so far and calling upon all the other Heads of State to join him so that they come up with a way forward on what is happening in our sister country.

As EALA, I can only say that our role will be to stand firm with what the Summit would have come up with and we hope for the best for Burundi because we always want to go back there and continue enjoying the *mukeke* and the hospitality of the people of Burundi.

Mr Speaker, indeed in President Jakaya Kikwete's speech he talked about remarkable achievements among which he talked about the issue of increased trade, indicating that he would

really want the Council to give focus to issues that would make East Africa a good area for doing business. I think that as Parliament we should applaud him for that.

He made a number of commitments and key among them was the issue of reduced roadblocks within the region, the issue of reduced weighbridges, the issue of improved services at the ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam. He also said he would love to see speed in the transportation of goods, of course after realising and taking note of the fact that the transportation of goods for example from Dar es Salaam port to Kigali port has become faster than it was some many years before.

He also made a commitment to the fact that as Summit, they will ensure speed in implementation of decisions. To me, that is a sign of good news.

The role of Parliament was clear in his statements and as my colleague had already stated earlier, he said, Parliament was the voice of the people and that EALA should be at the heart of all endeavours. We should push harder for the realisation of the Common Market Protocol among others.

Now that we are going into the Budget process, I hope the Council will take note of the stand and commitment that the Chair of Summit seems to be giving to EALA. I pray that something comes out in the Budget that will enable Parliament play its critical role in the integration process.

Mr Speaker, as you may note, before we had no ministers for EAC, Parliament had to push, and today we are proud to have Ministers of EAC. We must demand for our right space. You cannot continue having a Parliament that has limited time for work due to limited resources. You cannot continue having a Parliament that is not properly visible because of the absence of transport. I hope that the Council will begin considering things like vehicles for members of Parliament so that when we are back home, we are visible and making people appreciate and talk to us and so that we are in position to go and consult stakeholders so that we put clearly the issues that affect them.

There is no way we can focus on investment as President Kikwete has clearly put it here. If I, as Nusura Tiperu, cannot call a meeting of a team of businessmen in my country and consult on the challenges that they are facing in their respective countries, and if I, as Nusura Tiperu, cannot drive to a locality in my village and call key people and ask them what they are facing when they are crossing the borders, then what is the role or the use of members of Parliament being given flags and fuel allowance without the car to put in that fuel in? We have been diplomatic for so long. Something ought to be done so that this Parliament does the work that it is supposed to do.

President Kikwete was so clear when he told us to take note of what led to the collapse of the integration process but cautioned us not to be bogged down by some of the mistakes of the past and asked us to move forward. He said that they were cautious of the steps of integration. However, they were happy that the stages were being taken systematically and everything was moving as planned.

With those remarks, I wish to conclude by wishing you well, Mr Speaker and to tell you that we are proud of you as our leader and as members, we shall give you all the necessary support required to make EALA take its rightful position in this region. *Asanteni sana.*

Mr. Celestin Rwigema (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the floor. I want to congratulate you on the good work you are doing and I encourage you to keep it up. You have our support.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this motion and when we were in Bujumbura and I listened to the speech, I was among the first persons to claim the text and the hard copy and then to read it myself. After reading it twice, the third time I started really memorising it. It was very interesting.

The speech is very clear and it shows good leadership. I was not interested in how he made a very strong background on the future of the integration. I was interested somehow on one point on peace, security and stability. This is very important for me because what we are doing – It takes us a very long time to build our country but it can take only one day to destroy it. This is the reason why we have to focus on peace and security and stability.

I was also very interested when he focused on Burundi situation. He asked the Burundians, mainly the leadership, to respect the Constitution of Burundi and the Arusha Peace Accord. He made a detail saying to focus on the spirit and the letter. This means you have to combine both the Constitution and Arusha Peace Accord, taking to both the letter and the spirit.

Burundians can avoid the violence and focus on dialogue; sitting on a round table, talking and finding a solution. This speech of someone has the knowledge and has experience because President Kikwete was a Minister of Foreign Affairs for more than ten years and now two terms as a President. He not only helped Burundians in resolving problems but I also remember in 1997, I spent a whole week with him in Ngara district when he helped to repatriate Rwandans who were refugees in that side of Tanzania.

This means President Jakaya Kikwete knows the region and the realities very well. I commend the Burundians to listen to him and see what they can do to push the peace process ahead.

Mr. Speaker, Burundians are suffering from violence and fleeing to the neighbouring countries of Rwanda, Tanzania and DRC. My colleague hon. Nengo was talking about actions to visit some refugee camps. I support him but I wanted this august House to know that not only refugees are in the camp. In Kigali, most families have family or friends from Burundi who are not really in the camps. That means they are everywhere.

This is the reason why I would like to ask that what hon. Nengo has said, we can also see how to reinforce the action and see what kind of mood is in Bujumbura or elsewhere in Burundi and to see if really, as I have heard that now elections are projected soon. I am wondering if human rights are violated, how the election environment is, if media access or coverage is possible and if code of conduct is possible in this kind of situation.

Burundians are really suffering from violence. As a Member of Parliament, you have to take action. I am very glad that the Chair, Summit is now inviting a Summit in Dar es Salaam. I hope we will get some good resolutions and we can move ahead and get good solutions for our friends, brothers and sisters in Burundi.

As one with Rwandan origin, I suffer more because Burundians are our brothers and sisters. Mr Speaker, you will see that when we are together, we do not need someone to translate. This means our language and culture- There are so many inter marriages between Burundi and Rwanda and

we are suffering more. I wish that this august Assembly can take action and we go to visit and see the reality on the ground. We are the voice of the people and we have to be the first to relate the reality on what is happening in Burundi. I thank you very much, I still support you and I support the motion.

Mr. Jeremie Ngendakumana (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. After His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete came to Burundi and addressed this Assembly and seeing what is happening in Burundi now, one would say that he knew what was happening. That is why he came up with the necessary advice to the people of Burundi to do things right and avoid political instability and violence and handle the electoral process in this instability.

He came up especially to the respect of the Constitution of Burundi and the Arusha peace accord altogether to the spirit and the letter.

For your information, I would like to say that the Arusha peace agreement talks about the term of the President of Burundi. It is said that the President is elected for five years renewable once. Later on, they say, no one can run for more than two terms. That is the Arusha peace accord. The Constitution of Burundi in Article 8 provides that citizens of Burundi can vote either directly or via their representatives. Article 96 of our Constitution provides that the President of Burundi be elected by direct suffrage for a term of five years renewable once so by direct suffrage, he can go directly or by a representative – *(Interruption)* -

The Speaker: Hon. Jeremie, I would like you to put your debate in the context of the speech of the Chair, Summit and not to go into the deep content of Burundi politics. Honourable members, I am not being unnecessarily restrictive on the honourable member holding the floor, but as you know, we are leaders in this region and we are dealing with a very fragile and sensitive situation.

The Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community says the Heads of State shall give political direction in the integration process. There is a Summit coming this week, so for now let us debate in the context of the speech. After the Summit has pronounced itself on the Burundi situation, as an Assembly and as an organ of the Community, we shall amplify that position. I beg to guide so.

Mr. Ngendakumana: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I was saying that Article 96 provides that the President of Burundi be elected by direct suffrage for a term of five years renewable once. I am raising this because it is in the spirit of the speech of the President.

Article 202 provides that exceptionally, for the first period post transition, the President is elected by the Parliament, both Chambers with a majority of two thirds. That is the Constitution of Burundi and we have been informed about the Arusha peace accord.

Now what is happening on the ground in Burundi is that there are protestors who are saying no to the third term of the President and there is the President who is running for a third term. In light of the Arusha peace accord and in light of the Constitution of Burundi, I do not want to influence anyone on how he is doing things but think about those things.

Before I conclude, I will be brief. We are all politicians here. Whenever a politician wants to take a decision and comes to realise that this decision is harmful for his people or for his country, he had better halt this decision. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. I invite hon. Shem Bageine to take the floor.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr. Shem Bageine)(Ex-Officio): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to make some comments through my Chair on a number of issues that the honourable members of this House have raised.

Before doing so, let me make a general statement to the effect that the Council of Ministers took serious note of all the issues raised, the comments made by His Excellency the Chair of the Summit Jakaya Kikwete during the address to this House on the status of the East African Community.

The Council of Ministers will implement those areas, which have already been agreed upon, and is in the process of initiating and formulating policies that will enable us come up with legislation that will lead to further implementation of protocols such as the Monetary Union in order to further the integration of the East African Community.

Mr. Speaker, as I said a number of issues have been raised by members of this House which we have taken note of. One of them is the issue relating to residence of ministers at the headquarters. Mr. Speaker, as you know and all the members are aware, we have been grappling with the issue of institutional review. It has been on for a number of years. The restructuring of the Centre, which is the Secretariat, and elevating it to a status where ministers of the Community will reside in Arusha has been talked about but we have a problem, which is financial constraints.

Mr. Speaker, on 28th of last month we had a meeting of the Council of Ministers here in Arusha. In order to enable us do our work more effectively, we took various decisions, among which was that we begin moving away from the current process of meetings and discussing issues oscillating between the so-called Senior Officials, the Coordination Committee, and the Council of Ministers.

For example, we agreed that the Council of Ministers must now take up critical issues in its capacity as a policy making Organ of the Community and stop relying on senior officials and coordination committees. The Council of Ministers must internalise critical issues such as the Political Federation, the institutional review and other issues, internalise them, own them, believe in them and then take the necessary action.

Mr. Speaker, Bills have been mentioned, both private members bills and Executive Bills. Mr Speaker, there is a technical problem within the Treaty, which states that whereas the Council of Ministers can and does set up sectoral councils, the decisions of those sectoral councils are taken as decisions of the Council of Ministers, hence the changing or disagreeing with Bills that would have been brought to this House when they are referred to the Legal and Judicial Sectoral Committee.

Not only that but it has become clear that on several occasions, this sectoral council has taken too long to meet and come up with legal inputs before we proceed with Bill sin this House. The Council of Ministers decided in the recent meeting that time had come for us to apply pressure on the sectoral council to do its work and bring out its comments in time for us to proceed.

Mr. Speaker, members have raised certain issues that relate, in a way, to finances such as sensitisation by members of EALA, such as purchase of motor vehicles for members of EALA, but we have a problem of financing. As you are aware, we still, to a certain extent, depend on

donor support and we have, as a Council of Ministers, still to grapple with the problem of Partner States not easily willing to let go of further funding to the Community.

As a result, it becomes a bit difficult for the Council of Ministers to move on with the various suggestions that members are making. That is not to say that these suggestions are misplaced. However, we are cognisant of the fact that finances may not be available and therefore we might not achieve those sentiments. However, we will try, as a Council of Ministers, to see what can be done.

Finally, Mr Speaker, the issue of the Parliamentary institute. This matter came up, we discussed it recently – *(Interruption)*

Mr. Ogle: I appreciate the minister's undertaking and appreciation of the point we raised regarding the facilities that should be made available to EALA members particularly related to the car grant. Can he assure us that we have his commitment to the principle that the Council will support the idea that MPs need to be facilitated accordingly?

Mr. Bageine: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thought I said that we are not averse to the suggestions made by the members of this House and indeed where possible, we will support but we have to be cognisant of the financial constraints that we are going through.

Mr. Speaker, I was talking about the East African Parliamentary Institute where a law was passed and assented to by the Heads of State. The Council of Ministers was supposed to appoint a date when this law would commence.

As I said earlier, the issues went to senior officials, the coordination committee and they come up with different suggestions and positions contrary to what the Summit had already done. Therefore, in this regard, the Council meeting of the 28th of last month decided that it was going to handle this matter without further reference to the bureaucracy as we know it.

Since the reason that has been given for its non-operationalization is the financial implication, if it means coming up with a motion or a supplementary estimate to take care of this institute, we will do so because we are aware that this particular institute has not been provided for in the Budget that is going to be read. Therefore, as I said, it may become necessary – *(Interruption)*

Dr Ndahiro: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wanted the minister to assure the House that they are going ahead to gazette the Act before we can even talk about commencement. Thank you.

Mr. Bageine: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. We took a decision that we will agree on the commencement date of this law and therefore look for funds to operationalize it. In this regard, if as I said it becomes necessary for us to seek a supplementary, we will do so and I am sure this House will willingly pass-

The Speaker: Honourable minister, I would like to volunteer some information to you that in the meeting of the forum of the Speakers of the national assemblies and parliament, the Right Honourable Speakers voiced concern about the delay of the commencement of this Act, which will give them the basis of budgeting for them as national parliaments for this institute.

Therefore, the financial burden should not be looked at from the point of the Community alone because the national parliaments are also involved in this. Please have this at the back of your mind when members are requesting for a commencement date or operationalization date of the ct.

Mr. Bageine: I thank you very much, Mr Speaker for that information. We certainly appreciate this particular institute and the concerns by members of EALA and Speakers' forum. As I said, we are committed to ensuring that we gazette the commencement date of this law and look for the necessary financing to operationalize it.

As I said, we have been bogged down by the bureaucratic approach to management of the Community affairs and time has come for the Council of Ministers to now take the lead and ensure that critical issues are dealt with expeditiously so that we all move for the benefit of the East African integration. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, honourable minister. We are also aware that the 30th Council referred this matter to the Institutional Review, and the Assembly is very uncomfortable with it. This debate most likely will be revisited during the Budget debate. I thank you so much for the insight. I now invite the Chair, Council of Ministers to summarise.

Assistant Minister for East African Cooperation, Tanzania (Dr. Abdallah Saadalla Abdallah): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. First of all I would like to thank all the members of this august House, those who stood up and those who did not stand up to support this motion. I believe unanimously they supported the motion.

Secondly, I would like to welcome members of Parliament from Uganda who are in the gallery. We welcome you so much our brothers, and there is a point, which I am going to talk about. Maybe you will take it on board with you so that you can make the Parliament of Uganda and the government of Uganda to fast track the process of domesticating laws concerning Common Market and other issues, which are pending.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and appreciate the contribution of members to the speech of Heads of State, our Head of Summit and indeed they just amplified what His Excellency talked about. As Council, we assure this august House that we will take into consideration the implementation of all contributions, concerns, challenges and directives from the speeches of the members.

There were some few issues, which will need some sort of clarification, and I am here to give that. The first issue is the one of NTBs. Yes, there were many NTBs but again I request the House to give hail us on decreasing the number of NTBs. There were almost 190 NTBs there years ago and now they are only 90. Therefore, we are fast tracking on decreasing the number of NTBs.

NTBs come up due to the differences in interests of different Partner States so in solving them, sometimes we need to sit down as East Africans through the Secretariat. Sometimes we are required or obliged to have a dedicated inter-ministerial and inter-sectoral meeting so that we sit down and solve them.

When we fail in all these issues when we sit down as East Africans, then we sit bi-laterally to solve the problems. As you can see, a very good example of NTBs was during the implementation of the single customs territory. Roadblocks, weigh bridges, some laws- mention it but in fact, all of

them have been cleared. There are other NTBs, which are technical, but we also sit down bilaterally and try to solve them we keep on decreasing them.

There comes the issue of Political Federation. In Political Federation, we are at the stage of having a task force to sit down and clarify, see and scrutinise what model of Political federation we are going to have. This was a directive from the Summit and we are in that process of how we can have first a model and then write a Constitution for the Political Federation. We are at that stage.

A big problem is with Common Market issues. I know we have national Common Market committees, which normally follow the implementation of Common Market decisions and directives by the Council, from Summit or from anywhere else. As you have seen, hon. Dora talked about the scorecard. The scorecard was just a follow up on which country, at which stage they have done what through the implementation of Common Market decisions.

The main problem, which we have now, is that if you see the score card, all Ministries of East African Affairs in all five Partner States have already sat down and notified which laws must be amended, which regulations must be introduced or amended so that that particular country can go along with Common Market issues.

The problem is, and that is why I said I am happy our colleagues from Uganda are here. Domestication of these laws is the issue. The Ministries of East African Affairs have already sat down in all Partner States and agreed on which laws should be amended. They sat down as inter-ministerial inter-sectoral committee but the problem now is domestication.

Therefore, I beg your indulgence and I urge Partner States or members to, at least, help the Council to penetrate through the Partner States and call sectoral ministries to put these laws into their legislative agendas.

Regarding the issue of Private Members Bills,, Mr Speaker, it has been clearly said that this House is for legislation, either from the executive arm, or from the private Member, and there is no way that ministers or Council of Ministers will stop the efforts or hinder or make a road block for the efforts of members to bring private members bills.

I know sometimes we are stuck when we want to consult the other sectoral councils like that Council of Legal and Judiciary or any other for consultations. Here is the problem, we sat down, and on Friday we will sit down to solve these problems of what Ministers from the Ministry of EAC says this but when it goes to Legal and Judiciary, they say the opposite.

About the issue of Burundi, I do not want to talk much about Burundi because my big boss has already called Their Excellences and they are going to sit down. There are rumours moving around whether it is tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. In short, the honourable Summit is going to sit down specifically to solve this problem of Burundi.

I really appreciate those who commended efforts of solving the problem of East Africa by East Africans. I commend this and I hope and wish all the best that Burundi is going to be safe, there is going to be peace in Burundi, not only in Burundi but also even in other Partner States. Nobody wants lives to be lost just like that.

About pending Bills, Mr Speaker you know how much the Council is keen on passing Bills. We are so keen on passing many Bills that we are not scared of challenges of the House because our main target is integration of East African Community and East Africans both politically and economically.

Therefore, the whip has been given to you to oversee us. Just whip us and we will move around. Thank you so much.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, honourable minister. Honourable members, the motion on the floor is that the House so commend the Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State for the concise exposition of the EAC policy contained in the State of EAC Address to this Assembly on Thursday 19 March 2015. I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE REPORT OF THE EAC FOR THE PERIOD 2012-2013

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Dr Odette Nyiramilimo) (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move that *The Report of the Committee on General Purpose on the EAC Annual Report for the Period 2012/2013* be adopted. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Secunder? Hon. Ndahiro, hon. Ussi, hon. Mulengani and all the honourable members standing.

Dr. Nyiramilimo: Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Article 8(3) and 49(2)(c) and 49(3) of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community and Rule 8(1)(c) and (f) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the EAC annual reports are considered by the Committee on General Purpose and adopted by the Assembly.

The mandate of the Assembly is to consider the EAC annual report in accordance with the Treaty provisions, which empower the Assembly to establish committees to consider matters of legislation, budgeting and oversight over projects and programs of the EAC.

The Committee on General Purpose is mandated, among others, to carry out oversight and the progress made in the implementation of provisions that address the matters of general application of the EAC in relation to its roles and functions.

The EAC annual report 2012/2013 was tabled before the Assembly in 3rd September 2014 in Dar es Salaam during the First Meeting of the Third Session of the Third Assembly by the honourable Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and committees to the committee for consideration.

Hon. Speaker, In accordance with Article 48(3), 49 (2) (c) and 49(3) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and Rule 80 (f) 81 (c) and (f) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the EAC Annual Reports are considered by the Committee on General Purpose and adopted by the Assembly.

The mandate of the Assembly is to consider the EAC Annual Report in accordance with the Treaty provisions, which empower the Assembly to establish Committees to consider matters of legislation, budgeting and oversight over projects and programmes of the EAC. The Committee on General Purpose is mandated, among others, to carry out oversight on the progress made in the implementation of provisions that address the matters of general application on the EAC in relation to its roles and functions.

The EAC Annual Report for 2012/2013 was tabled before the Assembly on 3rd September 2014 in Dar es Salaam during the First Meeting of the Third Session of the Third Assembly by the Hon. Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and committed to the Committee for consideration. The Committee on General Purpose met in Bujumbura, Burundi on 13th, 16th and 23rd March 2015 to consider the report.

Methodology

Following the consideration and adoption of the EAC Annual Reports for 2009/2010, 2010/2011 and 2011/2012 by the Assembly on the dates of 23rd April 2013, and 28th May 2014 respectively, the Committee once again sought to ascertain whether the EAC Annual Report of 2012/2013 reflected the fact that the recommendations of the Assembly and inputs into the preparation, lay out and format of the report as previously recommended had been taken into consideration.

The Committee considered the EAC Cumulative Activity Implementation Report for the period July 2012 to June 2013, and met with the EAC Deputy Secretary General, Planning and Infrastructure, Dr. Enos Bukuku on 23rd March 2015 to analyse the EAC Annual Report in line with the provisions of the Treaty.

Findings and Observations of the Committee

1. The Committee, basing its observations on the three previous reports on the EAC Annual Reports for 2009/2010, 2010/2011 as well as 2011/2012, finds that there is an improvement in terms of both content and presentation.
2. The Committee noted that the Report had been tabled in September of 2014, which was tabled in a timely manner given the tabling of previous reports although it was still overdue. The Committee further noted that the report contains draft financial statements as opposed to Audited Accounts as has been the norm.
3. The Committee further noted that there was specific reference to the report being compiled as a requirement of Article 49(2) (c), meaning that this was the report prepared specifically for parliamentary scrutiny as recommended by the Assembly. The Hon. Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Hon. Phyllis Jepkosgei Kandie, made the said references in the foreword to the report, and it was in the Secretary General's summary of the Report. This therefore reinforces the fact that the report compiled in fulfilment of Article 49 (2) should be according to the specifications of the Assembly.
4. The Committee noted that there is need for meaningful follow up to be made on sectors and activities undertaken which the Assembly can do under the respective sectors that Committees of the Assembly cover. The Committee however, acknowledges due to under staffing among other reasons, that there is a serious constraint with regard to the necessary skilled staff to facilitate the Committees in terms of research and expertise.

5. The Committee considers the omissions, errors and misrepresentations still emerging in the report to be unjustifiable. These include among others:
 - i. Completely wrong page numbering in the entire table of contents for the Office of the DSG F & A, EALA and Office of the Secretary General and so on;
 - ii. Pictures and photographs that should fit to the size of the page were cut haphazardly, which is highly unprofessional;
 - iii. Wrongly captioned photographs on page 57, among many others, where two serving Members of EALA are named in a photograph with completely different persons; as well as Office of the Secretary General which shows military personnel exchanging the EAC flag.
 - iv. The Report lacks basic information, details and statistics in line with the thematic areas of the budget in the Financial Year under review. Given that the theme of the budget for the financial year was full implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol, establishment of the East African Monetary Union and laying a strong foundation for an EAC Political Federation, interventions made and outcomes of those interventions should be reflected to give a more authentic and realistic picture of the Community. Additionally, basic statistics on indicators such as volumes of trade, as well as investment, the report would better reflect quantitative trends; and;
 - v. Omission and inconsistency which leads to errors within the report are cited in the report under the Office of the Counsel to the Community where a list of Bills passed by the Assembly includes the EAC Holidays Bill, 2012 which is later omitted in Chapter 8 under EALA. The Committee further noted that no challenges are reported in the report; challenges that exist are long standing and include the pending legal status of LVBC and the Nyerere Centre for Peace Research.
6. The Committee observed that there is need to amend the EAC Budget Act, 2008 to align the Act with reporting timeframes to ensure timely preparation and tabling of reports before the Assembly.
7. The Committee observed that since the Annual Report reported on all organs of the Community, projects and programs, consideration could be given to including a report of the Summit, status of implementation on Summit, Ministerial decisions and directives as well as recommendations of the Assembly.
8. The Committee further notes that the report contains draft financial statements of the Community as opposed to Audited Financial Accounts. It was said that this had been causing delays in tabling of the Annual Reports. If then the draft statements are to be used and flexibility has been employed to fulfil the requirements for tabling the Annual Report before the Assembly, it is expected that EAC Annual Reports will henceforth be received on time by the Assembly to inform the subsequent budgeting process.

Recommendations

In view of the observations by the Committee, the Committee makes the following recommendations:

1. The Committee commends the evident improvements in the EAC Annual Report for 2012/2013 with indications of editing and more careful compilation. The Committee however recommends that this be further improved by setting up a Committee comprising staff from each Organ and Institution to approve the contents of the draft report and validate

the Report before it is disseminated. Vital statistics and details need to be used to reflect progress on sectors such as trade, investment and industrialization. It is further recommended that quality control be enhanced and assured across board for all EAC documents.

2. The Committee recommends to the Assembly that EALA Committees monitor and follow up on issues in the Annual Reports that fall under respective EALA Committees as recommended by the House.
3. The Committee recommends that the EAC Budget Act, 2008 be amended to align reporting timeframes for all budget related reports and documents.
4. The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers that the Annual Report be tabled on time at least by September of each year to inform the subsequent budget process as should be. The Committee further recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to address urgently the issue of Human Resource Capacity as well as the development of the requisite competences in the Community so that EALA Committees are facilitated to fulfil their mandate.
5. The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to reflect challenges faced and interventions the Community has employed to give an accurate picture of the Community in a given year. Contrary to the belief that challenges may be interpreted as a sign of weakness, the Committee is of the view that a realistic picture as well as interventions and outcomes of the interventions reflect a more authentic and realistic picture of the Community to the outside world and highlights action points.
6. Considering all the errors, inconsistencies, lack of timeliness and material errors found in the Annual Report, the Committee recommends that the Assembly reject this Annual Report.

Acknowledgement

The Committee would like to express its appreciation to the Office of the Rt. Hon. Speaker, EALA and the Office of the Clerk, EALA for facilitating the work of the Committee. Appreciation also goes to the Deputy Secretary General, Planning and Infrastructure, Dr. Enos Bukuku, the Principal Planning Research Officer, Mr. David Sajjabi, Senior Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Mr. Julius Birungi for meeting with the Committee on 23rd March 2015.

Conclusion

The EAC Annual Report in respect of Article 49 (2) and Article 132 of the Treaty form the basis for preparation of the report as an accountability tool. It is therefore imperative that the report reflect a correct and accurate picture of the Community and not omit challenges or policies and procedures used in the management of financial, human and information resources for a given year. The Committee recommends that the Council of Ministers give attention to the recommendations contained in this Report.

Hon. Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you so much hon. Dr Odette, Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose. Honourable members, the motion on the floor is that *the EAC Annual Report for the period 2012/2013 be adopted*. Debate is open.

Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise also to congratulate you, Mr Speaker, for the past work, which you have so far done and achieved since your election as Speaker of this Assembly.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise to support the report of the committee but not the EAC annual report. I will only speak for less than three minutes.

Normally what I understand from the annual report is to help to assess the progress, assess the challenges in order to help for better planning.

Receiving a report of 2012/2013 in May 2015, what does that mean? This report was unable to help us plan for 2013/2014, did not help us plan for 2014/2015 and neither has it helped us to plan for 2015/2016 because we are right now in the Budget session.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, my only plea is for us to reject this report or just agree that we table it as information because it does not help this Assembly in its mandate to scrutinise what the Community has done in those years. Thank you very much.

Mr. Mathuki: Information.

The Speaker: Hon. Peter Mathuki, would you like to make substantive debate since the honourable member has already left the floor?

Mr. Mathuki: It may be helpful for her to note, as other members. It is very important.

The Speaker: Hon. Peter Mathuki, you have caught the eye of the Speaker. Can you speak?

Mr. Peter Mathuki (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I support hon. Hajabakiga on this. Look at page 57 of this report of the EAC. There is a pictorial there that is of ministers...I do not know some of the people, and it says, Bernard Mulengani introducing hon. Straton of EACJ. It is not even written hon. Bernard Mulengani and there is no hon. Mulengani in this photo. Even hon. Straton is not in this. Hon. Straton is a member of this House and not of the EACJ. Therefore, when we stand here as a House to adopt a report that in content is misleading, it may be very dangerous.

I would support and in fact move a motion to have this report only tabled and not debated because if we adopt information that is misleading, it may be very dangerous for us. In fact debating a report of 2012 as an Assembly in 2015- Mr Speaker, I think that we are shooting ourselves right in the feet. I think it is not right. I also support to reject the report but I support the report of the committee.

The Speaker: Honourable member, you may realise that this report was tabled and it is now here. The committee has made a report. Procedurally what we can do is amend the recommendations of the committee on how we should treat this report. I take it very seriously that honourable members of this Assembly are wrongfully associated to another character. These are serious issues that you should debate and decide on.

Mr. Yves Nsabimana (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to debate this annual report. As said by hon. Hajabakiga, I support the report from the committee and not this annual report because I cannot understand the purpose of this report. Two years after, what is the purpose of this report? I cannot support it.

In addition, I thank the Secretariat, which availed this report, but I cannot have a chance to evaluate the performance made by the management because I miss very important information on the Budget execution.

Mr. Speaker, it is only by analysing the implementation of the Budget that we can see how an Organ or institution is performing, how decisions are taken and if the surplus they have gained is an advantage or it is an activity not achieved.

You have seen that we have more than US\$ 3 million as a surplus. Is it an advantage, or is it that there are some activities not achieved? We cannot say anything about this.

I would like to suggest that the General Purpose Committee adopt another recommendation that they include in the report the implementation of the Budget in the annual report every time. This is very important - (*Interruption*)-

Mr. Ogle: Thank you, Mr Speaker and thank you, hon. Nsabimana. The Committee of General Purpose has often grappled with this matter when we are considering matters to do with the annual report. However, if members could kindly read our recommendation as per 4.4, we have made it very clear that in future- If you can allow me to read, Mr Speaker, the committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers that the annual report be tabled at least by September of each year to inform the subsequent Budget process.

This was the point that was also raised by hon. Hajabakiga. This is a matter that we have been grappling with for all the three years we have considered the annual reports and they have always stated various problems but you must understand that we have considered this. Thank you.

Mr. Nsabimana: I would like to conclude by saying that with this amendment of the recommendations, I support the report from the General Purpose Committee not the annual report from the Secretariat.

Ms. Nancy Abisai (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I belong to this committee and I would like to say from the onset that I want us to look at the flipside of the coin.

From the first time that I joined the General Purpose Committee, the annual report that we presented to this House and the structure and the way it is, this is a fundamental overhaul to that report. That report was so bad, I sat on that committee, I remember we were new members and we did not even know how to start analysing that report because it had defects right from the beginning from the way it was structured, from what was presented until the end.

Every other year, we have made recommendations, we have come up with very critical aspects that need to be looked at and I do not know to what extent then it is done but this is a very big difference compared to the other report that we have done.

Mr. Speaker, for me I look at this annual report from one perspective. When stakeholders consider an annual report, the first thing that they want to go to is the audited accounts. An annual report provides a system of accountability. Now an annual report that provides draft financial statements instead of audited accounts is an anomaly in any annual report and some people will just look at that.

Others would want to look at information. The report should be able to tell us who we are, what we are doing, our strategic direction, what we are implementing, and the status of what we are implementing. If people can buy in, we should be able to know exactly what the report is doing.

Largely, the recommendations of the committee clearly captures our key concerns on this report. I will not belabour and repeat them, but I would like to say that one of the key aspects that we have talked about, which I am sure we will talk about when we are looking at the Budget process, is the fact that we need to look at the amendment of the Budget Act of 2008 to help us to be able to align the processes, including this report, to that budget in terms of time frames and how we come up with this.

Mr. Speaker, process is as important as the content, so you cannot look at the process and say yes. Even if the content had anything that we want, to look at, you cannot also look at the process and say it is good. As the previous speaker was saying, we cannot not have a report of 2012/2013 while at the same time the General Purpose Committee is considering the Budget of 2015/2016. We have annual targets, broad development goals, we have the strategic objectives that need to be looked at and again we are looking at this annual report from the past previous years. That I think is something that we say we need to look at and correct. (*Interruption*)

Ms. Hajabakiga: Mr Speaker, I know that hon. Nancy is not the chair of the committee but a member of the committee as she has said. If they really found these anomalies, why did they accept this report and not recommend outright because you have to have a cut-off point. This Assembly has to have a cut-off point. She is clearly indicating that over years they have had the same recommendations. Why shouldn't we just as a cut-off point for once reject this report so that we send a message to the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat?

Dr. Ndahiro: Thank you, hon. Nancy and Mr Speaker. This is not the first time that we have discussed this issue. Let me remind the House that the objective of an annual report is twofold. One, you can give an annual report to your superiors for decision making going forward. Probably you would be analysing your performance, indicating to them your challenges and what you want to go forward. That is also called an annual report.

There is also an annual report for PR purposes that you prepare with pictures, wrong or right. You want to take it out for people to appreciate your existence.

Now we have not agreed in this House. You remember last time- Read Article 49(2) that says that this House will consider. What does consideration mean? Consideration- Probably we shall seek for interpretation but the Council has consistently thought that the annual report they want to present to this House is this PR typed document and we have gone with that for several years.

The information I wanted to give to this House is that we had better clarify what consideration means and two; we should demand a clear report for purposes of budgeting and differentiate it

from the PR document, which is also necessary for integration, which is also necessary for this Community so we can have two.

Actually, in 49(2), it is saying ‘annual reports’ in plural so we can have more than one. That is the information I wanted to give.

Ms. Abisai: I thank hon. Patricia and hon. Ndahiro for that information and just to add that yes, it is true. In fact, if members recall, during the debate of the last session on the previous annual report we did make mention that at the committee level, we even called it a marketing tool. That was, actually, what the committee had talked about. So, it is true what hon. Ndahiro is saying that it is possible that we could have two reports; one that has the seriousness that it deserves in terms of content and the other that can actually have the PR so that we sell what our Community is doing to the public out there.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we consider having validation forums in future so that it will be a process that provides a good opportunity for input into this report. I must say that apart from what one of the members identified of pictures, we have had serious issues even of figures that do not tally. We had one of us who was very keen in looking at this.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I join my colleagues in terms of our own report. Of course we support our report because these are the recommendations that we made but we need to consider how we want to deal with annual reports otherwise we will be debating these annual reports, points out these issues and again next year it will be a sad point if we can come back and it does not provide a system of accountability and transparency and openness that it should have. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

Ms. Isabelle Ndahayo (Burundi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for the floor. First, I would like to congratulate and thank the Committee on Regional Purpose for the work well done. If you look at this report, it is very clear and it gives us the image of this report because taking into consideration the time we were given, it was not easy for us to read it and be able to contribute on it. However, the committee has helped us to do this.

I rise to debate on this report but not to support it. I will support the motion on the report of the Committee on General Purpose.

When I saw this report, of course it is not the first time to debate such a report or motion but today it comes in my mind to ask myself the rationale of an EAC annual report. What is its objective? To me when you give a report on a given organisation, institution or entity, you try to show its realistic image either good or bad. It means you have to show what has been done during a given year, how was the situation during that year and you set out the challenges met and strategies made to deal with them in order to improve the situation.

I support the recommendation of the committee on this matter. Next time I hope it will be good. I think we will be given a report, which shows progress made in EAC towards the final stage of integration, where we are, what the challenges are that the Community is facing. We need to see the appreciation of EAC citizens on the progress made toward our vision and we need to hear from each Partner States and its citizens.

When I look at the second page where you saw the head of EAC organs and institutions, for sure of course, I am an East African citizen but I am Burundian. I am not happy to see this. This shows the image of the Community that among seven or eight heads of EAC Organs and institutions, there is no Burundian. Imagine. Do you think this is good? We need something like this where people can appreciate and comment on different information given in this report.

To conclude, I would like to ask the chairperson of the committee about recommendation 4(1). It states that the next time you will need to see in little statistics and details progress made in the sectors of trade, investment and industrialisation. Why do you limit this? Do we have this information about say the environment sector, social governance and other sectors of the Community or human life? Thank you, I support the report of the Committee on General Purpose.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, honourable members. I recognise hon. Ngenzebuhoro and hon. Dr Martin Nduwimana, but I find myself in a very difficult situation to allow the debate to proceed and at the end of the day put a question because the motion on the floor is that the report on which basis the committee report is being brought to the House is extremely erroneous to the extent that there is a member of this Assembly who is wrongfully represented.

I beg the indulgence of the House that at this point I am going to ask us to adjourn to allow further discussion and consultation on how to treat this report. I kindly invite you to consult deeply on this and then tomorrow we shall resume after the consultation and get a way on how to deal with this report. I thank you so much. House stands adjourned to tomorrow 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 6:14 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday 13 May 2015 at 2.30 p.m.)