



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly
76TH SITTING - SECOND ASSEMBLY: THIRD MEETING - THIRD SESSION

Tuesday, 16 February 2010

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber of the Parliament of Uganda, in Kampala.

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Mr Abdi H. Abdirahin, in the Chair.)

The Assembly was called to order.

MOTION

FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON THE COMMON STRATEGY FOR FOOD SECURITY IN THE EAC

The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Dr George Nangale, Tanzania): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the Common Strategy for Food Security in the EAC, be adopted.

Ms Safina Kwekwe (Kenya): Seconded.

Dr Nangale: Mr Speaker, Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC mandates the EALA to legislate for the EAC to assume the full realisation of the Community's objectives. In executing its functions, EALA works through standing committees; one of which is the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources.

Given the importance of food security in East Africa, especially in light of climate change, the committee initiated, in early 2009, a process of evaluating the best way that the EAC can

ensure food security for its entire population. The Committee recognised that the region as a whole has a substantial and unutilised potential for agriculture, and that even the resources that are put into use are under-utilised because of low productivity of labour, land and water. However, despite the frequent pockets of food shortages and hunger in the EAC region and the below optimum production mentioned, the region as a whole on average produced adequate food. Moreover, most of the statistics used to assess food supply underestimate the extent of supply because often they do not fully take into account food commodities, products from livestock, fisheries and other marine and aquatic products, horticultural produce and forestry and other food products.

Mr Speaker, for this reason the committee is of the opinion that the East African Community Common Market provides an excellent opportunity to make food insecurity history in the East African region through a common strategy for food security that encompasses increased productivity, better handling, processing, and marketing of food products across the region. This requires a common regional strategy.

To develop its recommendation on this matter, the committee requested and received assistance from *Kilimo Trust* to collect evidence and hold a workshop to deliberate on the evidence. This report presents recommendations of the committee, together with the summary description of the process as well as an executive summary as attached to Annex 1, of evidence presented to the committee by experts commissioned by *Kilimo Trust*.

Kilimo Trust funded a regional study team and tasked it to produce the evidence required to design a long-range blueprint for enhancing food security and deepening the economic benefit accruing to producers and others involved in the supply of food staples in the East African Community.

In November 2009, the committee held a workshop – *(Interruption)*-

Ms Janet Mmari (Tanzania): I rise on a point of order, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes, hon. Mmari?

Ms Mmari: Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 13 the Rules of Procedure, we do not seem to have a quorum in the House. The Rule says “*The quorum of the House or of the Committee of the whole House shall be half of the elected Members, provided that such quorum shall be composed of at least three of the elected Members from each Partner State.*” Mr Speaker, I do not seem to see any Ugandan Member in this august House.

The Speaker: Do you mean there is no Ugandan here? That being so, I will suspend the House for the next ten minutes, and instruct the Clerk to ring the quorum bell.

(The House was suspended for ten minutes.)

(The quorum bell was rung.)

(On resumption, the Speaker presiding_)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, since we do not have any Members from Uganda in the House, we cannot therefore raise the quorum.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: I now adjourn the House until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 3.00 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 17 February 2010 at 2.30 p.m.)