



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

33RD SITTING – SECOND ASSEMBLY: SECOND MEETING – SECOND SESSION

Tuesday, 16 September 2008

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 3.00 p.m. in the Chamber of Deputies, Parliament of Rwanda, Kigali.

PRAYER

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

The Assembly was called to order.

PAPERS

The following papers were laid o the Table:

(by the Chairperson, Council of Ministers: Ms Monique Mukaruliza)

The Audited Financial Statements of:

- i) The East African Community for the Year ended 30th June 2007
- ii) The Lake Victoria Basin Commission Partnership Fund for the Year ended 30 June 2007
- iii) The Lake Victoria Environment Management Programme II for the year ended 30 June 2007
- iv) The Lake Victoria Basin Commission for the yea ended 30 June 2007
- v) The Mt. Elgon Region Ecosystem Conservation Programme for the year ended 31 December 2007

BILLS

First Reading

The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008

The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2008

The Counsel to the Community (Mr Kaahwa): Seconded**PERSONAL STATEMENT**

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Monique Mukaruliza) (Ex-Officio, Rwanda): I feel honoured to address this august House which, in my opinion is only second to The African Parliament as far as effective representation of the people beyond national borders is concerned. I am particularly gratified that I have been enabled to move a motion for a second reading of an important Bill during my maiden speech. Since our last meeting in Nairobi our membership and staff have lost some relatives. It therefore behoves me to extend my personal condolences and those of the Council of Ministers to Hon. Reuben Onserio Oyondi who lost his father. I also condole with our Members of Staff, Ezekiel Migosi and Elizabeth Gitonga both of whom lost their respective fathers and Priscilla Amoding who lost her husband. May God rest the souls of the departed persons in perfect peace!

Mr. Speaker, Sir, allow me to start by applauding you and all my honourable friends for having ably and purposively steered the second East African Legislative Assembly since its inauguration in June last year. Your eloquent achievements not only in advancing the integration process but also ensuring that the intended socio-economic benefits reach the people of our five Partner States speak louder than words. It has not taken much of an effort to realize that you have been able to continue the good work that emanates from our pioneer first Legislative Assembly which you Mr Speaker and a few other members amongst us did serve with distinction. In this regard, I wish to recognize the various and invaluable contributions which the first Legislative Assembly, headed by Rt. Hon. Abdulrahman Kinana made towards the implementation of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and the East African Community Development Strategies. As the Community grows in terms of programmes and activities, so do the challenges and the expectations of the people we serve. As an Assembly therefore let us rededicate ourselves to our cause, let us build collaborative arrangements with other organs and institutions and stakeholders knowing only too well that “*umoja ni nguvu utengano ni udhaifu.*”

Mr. Speaker, Sir, it would be remiss of me if I did not recall with gratitude the steps consistently taken by the Summit of Heads of State in giving general direction and impetus to our organic integration process. The Heads of State have been consistent in stressing the need not only to conserve our gains since 1993 when co-operation was revived but also to look ahead towards bigger horizons in a world increasingly faced with challenges stemming from globalization, acute multilateral trading dictates, the widening gap between the affluent and the indigent, technological advancement etc. It is in this regard that I remind you of the considered view expressed by The Chairperson of the Summit, His Excellency Paul Kagame, while addressing this august House on 11th September 2008 that “*integration is not an option but a vital instrument for growth and socio-economic transformation*”.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, personally, I feel challenged to ensure that during my chairmanship I steer the Council of Ministers not only in fulfilling its key role as a policy organ of the Community but also in effectively contributing to the success of this august House and in cementing intra-organ cohesiveness and relationships. I bank on the established support of my colleague Ministers comprising the Council and some of whom, along with the Hon Secretary General and the Hon Counsel to the Community are Members of this august House. I also undertake to stay the course of the role so well played in this august House by my predecessor Chairpersons of the Council

namely HE Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, H.E. Stephen Kalonzo Musyoka, Rt Hon James Wapakhabulo (RIP), Rt Hon Eriya Kategaya, Hon John arap Koech, Hon Col Tom Butime and other Ministers who have in the past served this Assembly namely Hon Dr Ibrahim Msabaha, Hon Nicholas Biwott, Hon Sam Kutesa, Hon Dr Wilfred Machage and Hon Andrew Chenge.

It is on this basis that I want to assure this august House that the Council of Ministers will ensure timely submission of required reports to the House and the Committees of this august House, contribution to the Annual Legislative Programme and facilitation of the work of the Assembly and the Hon Members.

Regarding the initiation of legislation, I am duty bound to ensure that during the course of this year, I move that the Bills on the amendment of The Community Emblems Act, 2004 and on the establishment of The Inter-University Council for East Africa and The East African Community Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency are read a second time and passed.

The Council will in the near future also submit Bills for the establishment of Lake Victoria Basin Commission, The East African Kiswahili Commission, The East African Health Research Commission and The East African Science and Technology Commission; a Bill on dealing with elections of Members of this august House and a Bill for a law dealing with counterfeit practices and products, among others. In this regard, the Council of Ministers will ensure that the Partner States expedite all the necessary ratification of Protocols which form the legal basis for the Bills.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, since according to the Treaty initiation of Bills is based on two sources for the Bills, the Council will appropriately support the enactment of Bills initiated by way of private members' motions. The bottom line is to ensure that enactment of Community laws serves to emphasize the Partner States' binding commitment to implement the Treaty as provided under Article 8 of the Treaty. I thank you.

BILLS

First Reading

The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008

The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2008

MOTION

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Monique Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that, the *East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008* and the *East African Community (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008* be read the First Time.

The Counsel to the Community (Mr Kaahwa): Seconded

Bill read a First Time.

BILLS

Second Reading

The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008

The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2008

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Monique Mukaruliza) (Ex-Officio, Rwanda):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

THAT, the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008, and the East African Community (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008 be read the Second Time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of the object of the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008 is to make provision for the appropriation out of the budget of the East African Community of specified amounts of money for the services and purposes of the Community for the financial year ending 30th June, 2009.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the object of the Supplementary Appropriation Bill, 2008 is to make provision for the supplementary appropriation out of the budget of the East African Community of specified amounts of money for the services and purposes of the Community for the financial year ending 30th June, 2008.

The Counsel to the Community (Mr Kaahwa): Seconded

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Bill Read a Second Time.

THE ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

(The hon. Abdi Abdirahin in the Chair)

BILLS

Committee Stage

The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008

Clauses 1, 2, 3 and 4 agreed to.

Schedule

(Question proposed)

Mr. Bernard Mulengani (Uganda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to seek clarification. Given the task that was put ahead of us basically on a gentleman's agreement to look at the possible areas of saving within the budget that we passed, if we passed the Schedule as it is, I don't know how we shall proceed with the activities that are not complete to date. We had thought that by now, we should have completed that exercise and, therefore, guide us on how the Schedule would look like while specifically dealing with this Bill.

I would, therefore, seek your indulgence, Mr. Chairman, Sir, and clarification from the Minister as to whether it would be ideal to create a miscellaneous provision in this Schedule which would

eventually be looked at if we get savings out of the task that was given to the two Committees, both from the Assembly and the Secretariat. I am raising this because the mode of operation and the purpose for which the two Committees were raised to look into the various areas of possible savings was good and the intentions were good. Therefore, eventually, the reallocation would be looked into after we have done that.

I thank you.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I suggest that at the next meeting of EALA, we should look at the whole issue and see our achievements at a meeting to be held between EALA and the Secretariat.

Mr. Mulengani: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Minister for the response. Since it looks like we are on a gentleman's agreement, I would like the Minister to proceed and tell us on record that whereas we pass the Schedule as it is, any savings that will be got out of the meeting she is talking about will be of benefit to the Committees which are looking at the reallocations.

The Chairman: Hon. Mulengani, I think the Minister has given her assurance and I can see the Secretary-General nodding in agreement. I think we did have a meeting of the Secretariat and a sub-committee of the Committee. I think they are giving the assurance that they will finish the job. Once you do that, the reallocation can be done by the Council of Ministers. If there are any supplementary funds needed, a supplementary Bill can be brought later on. So, I don't think there is a problem with the Schedule.

(Question put and agreed to)

Schedule agreed to.

Title agreed to.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza) (Ex-Officio, Rwanda): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the House do now resume and the Committee of the Whole House reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Assembly resumed, the Speaker presiding)

BILLS

Report Stage

The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to report that the Committee of the Whole House has considered a Bill entitled The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008 and passed it without amendment.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the report of the Committee of the Whole House be adopted.

The Counsel to the Community (Mr Kaahwa): Seconded

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

BILLS

Third Reading

The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2008 be read a Third Time and do pass.

The Counsel to the Community (Mr Kaahwa): Seconded

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Bill read a Third Time.

BILLS

COMMITTEE STAGE

The East African Community (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to

Schedule agreed to.

Title agreed to.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza) (Ex-Officio, Rwanda), I beg to move that the House do resume and the Committee of the Whole House reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Assembly resumed, the Speaker presiding)

BILLS

Report Stage

The East African Community (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to report that the Committee of the Whole House has considered a Bill entitled *The East African Community (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008* and passed it without amendment.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the report of the Committee of the Whole House be adopted.

The Counsel to the Community (Mr Kaahwa): Seconded

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

BILLS

Third Reading

The East African Community (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that *The East African Community (Supplementary) Appropriation Bill, 2008* be read a Third Time and do pass.

The Counsel to the Community (Mr Kaahwa): Seconded

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

Bill read a Third Time.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Mr. Mukaruliza): Emblems of the Community which include the seal, the logo and the flag. From the viewpoint of a sense of belonging, regional pride and the establishment and promotion of

Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the Chairperson of Council for her statement of commitment to working with EALA and ensure that the legislative programme

is given all the support it deserves from the Council. I think that is a very good point of departure in this session.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank the Committee for the very good recommendations they have made regarding this very particular Act, that was overdue. I just want to support them on the issue of coming up with a (??) kind of symbol that will be able to enhance unity without appearing to be biased in any interests. When you look at the Treaty, it clearly spells out that the Community can grow involving Partner States that may be sharing borders with the current Partner States. Initially, they were three and given that the two countries of Rwanda and Burundi were sharing boundaries, among other conditions that are set out in the Community, it became easy for the Community to expand naturally and organically. That clearly means that we could still have other members interested in joining, who are sharing borders with us and who are fulfilling the other requirements as set out in the Treaty. Now, if we are going to keep amending every other time we get new members coming in, at some point it may become very cumbersome and it may lose meaning. So, idea of commissioning a study to come up with a (??) free symbol that can stand the test of time and that can ride over and above different internal interests of the Partner States would be an idea that needs to be supported and initiated as soon as possible. So, I think that recommendation is well thought-out and it adds a lot of meaning to the process of integration given that we are not looking at five member States only; we can expand even to many more areas that are close to us. So, the earlier that study is instituted the better for us.

Secondly, there is the issue of the EAC flag. I specifically want to join Hon. Byamukama and Hon. Wanyoto regarding the usage. We need to make the EAC visible and without our flag flying at strategic institutions and offices, then we are like hiding the identity of the region. We really need to come up with a policy or law that will encourage the flag to be flown at all strategic institutions of government and even at the local government level. I would like to applaud the Chair; when we visited and we left a mark behind wherever we went in Kenya. Among other presentations you made to the District Commissioners, leaving them with the flag clearly shows that East Africa was there. So, even the people residing in those areas will be able to appreciate the process of integration. So, Madam Chairperson of Council and Members of Council, I think this is an idea that we need to work on very fast to ensure that when one visits any Partner State in any office, then you are able to appreciate that something is going on in the process of integrating this region. This would even help those that come from without this region to appreciate what we are doing in our process of integration. That will also help us to demystify this whole concept of sovereignty which appears to be something that we keep protecting at the expense of the bigger picture; because it emphasises the States more than anything else and yet we are aspiring to build something bigger in the form of an East African Community. So, this flag should be able to tell that we do have these States as constituent parts of a bigger unit that we are aspiring to create as a region and the flag, among others, will help us to increase the visibility and our advocacy work and to also establish our relevance. Those of us who are operating at the region, when we go back to our States and we are encouraging this whole idea of integration and those facilities that may allow us to make it easy for our communities to appreciate; I think it goes a long way. I am particularly impressed that where we are, in the Parliament of Rwanda, the East African Community flag is flying. When you see the Speaker sitting behind his own flag, it enhances his visibility as a Speaker of a regional Parliament. This should be applying to all our Parliaments and offices so that we don't have to talk about it. We should now move from the process of talking and acting what we believe in.

With those remarks, I beg to support the Motion that this amendment be done so that we create a sense of belonging and togetherness and we move together as a region with all the Partner States involved.

Mr. Bernard Mulengani (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I want to add my voice that of the rest of the Members who have spoken to support the Committee's position and the report.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have a few issues to raise on page 3 item two, where the Committee says that there is need to increase the size of geographical maps of the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi to be more visible on the EAC emblem. I would have required the Committee go further to even highlight the invisible islands of Zanzibar, including Unguja and Pemba and others. I am raising this because the islands are looking like dots. In any case, if you have sight problem, you may not be able to know whether the islands are part of the Community.

Mr. Sebalu; On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir, the information I would like to give is that the Chairman of the Committee comes from the island of Zanzibar. I don't know how he forgot his own identity.

Ms. Byamukama: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this issue was actually raised in the Committee; that the islands were not reflected, and in particular the island of Zanzibar was captured and we agreed with the Secretary-General that it would be included because it signifies the united aspect of Tanzania.

Mr. Mulengani: Thank you very much, Hon. Sebalu and Hon. Byamukama. The information is well taken and the Chairperson of the Committee definitely has taken that.

It is very interesting to realise the issues that I don't need to be put on record that surround the islands, both in the Kenyan side and Tanzanian side. We need to come out clearly and visibly to show these particular lands as part of the EAC emblem.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other issue I want to emphasise are the boundaries that are shown within the emblem as it is; the boundaries between Partner States. I would propose that as they look for an appropriate symbol that would possibly move away from the usage of the countries, for us to delete these boundaries and have on structure; just the total boundary of the Community without the geographical boundaries. I want to give an example of the European Union. They actually picked on stars. But wherever you are, immediately you see those stars, you would just know this is European Union. The essence is just to have something that will read like the East African Community. I beg to support.

Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to join my colleagues in congratulating the Chairperson, Council of Ministers in the way she has handled her parliamentary role.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am also in agreement that we should find maps that include everybody. Nonetheless, some maps can be ugly. Imagine if the USA had to include 50 States in its map to reflect the USA; how would it look? If European Union were to include all the countries, how would it look? During the Berlin Conference, I think they forgot about duty. They had other interests in dividing these nations the way they are. Therefore, I am also in agreement that we

should look for a symbol that reflects our ideology, because integration is not about geography, it is about ideology - (*Applause*).

We want to move as a Community, as a people. If we have to move as a people, we have a common ideology. We should pursue that in all our emblems, flags and in future in our Kiswahili language and other common values that should identify us as a people; not as people from which corner of them.

I am in total agreement with the recommendations of the Committee. We need to have an emblem that reflects all Partner States. But I urge the Council of Ministers to move quickly enough to incorporate the recommendations that we be recognised as a people with a common ideology and therefore, a symbol can be designed to reflect that. Initially when the three countries came together, it was easy to have three maps together. Imagine by the time we are ten countries, how will it look? We need to be identified by what we intend to achieve; our future aspirations and not by what is convenient to us now. Granted, what is convenient, we are in total support; let us go ahead, but in the shortest possible time, let us look ahead and be identified by our own ideology. I beg to support.

Ms. Safina Kwekwe (Kenya): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I thank you for availing me this opportunity to, first of all, start by congratulating hon. Mukaruliza for assuming the chair of the Council of Ministers and indeed, demonstrating that she has brought with her a gentle breeze of fresh air to the Community. She has set a precedent in this Assembly, and we recognise that we truly are a family and that we live together, celebrate together and make merry together. I want to thank her for that.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I also want to thank the people of Rwanda, the President of Rwanda and the Parliament of Rwanda for their generosity. This is just the beginning and I believe we are going to see even greater things within the month that we are going to be in Rwanda. I want to register my appreciation for their goodwill and generosity.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to go to the report that has been ably presented by the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges and thank the Committee for the good work it has done. The emblem is the identity of the Community. It is like the identity cards that we do carry; those of us who have them. But more so, the emblem, together with everything that is contained within it; the flag, the seal and all that, other than being an identity, also tell us of what we are, it actually reminds us of where we have been and what we want to see in the future. That is the case with all emblems; they are supposed to remind you of who you are, where you have been and what you want to be in the future.

Therefore, I concur with many of the recommendations that the Committee has put forward, except for the one that proposes the magnifying of the maps of Rwanda and Burundi so that they can be visible. I had the privilege of spending two days in a very beautiful part of this country that borders the Democratic Republic of Congo. The city of Gisenyi which actually was the city of the late President Juvenal Habyarimana is at the border of Lake Kivu. Having come from there last night, there are many reasons that make me wish the DRC would quickly fulfil the requirements that member States are supposed to fulfil to join the EAC. One of them is the beautiful bananas. If the DRC one day fulfils the conditions that member States are supposed to fulfil to join the Community, I would be the first one to jubilate. I would equally be the first to

jubilate if Southern Sudan could also join. If you combine those two countries, they are twice as big as the current EAC. Therefore, if we have to shrink and magnify, we would have to magnify the current Community as it is if the DRC and Southern Sudan joined. But why bother with all that if we have other options? We need to have a symbol for this Community that will identify us as East Africans and market us. We don't have to remind ourselves of where we were born. We are East Africans and proud and we need a symbol to remind us to be proud as East Africans; not boundaries or geographic dimensions, because all these are imaginary. So, why should we bother ourselves with imaginary things when we have tangible things that we value and bind us as East Africans, for example our culture? We have enough to identify ourselves with as East Africans other than our boundaries.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I want to support the Motion that our emblems need to be amended, but we need also to create urgency amongst ourselves that we need a symbol that will be able to identify us as the people of East Africa.

I beg to support the Motion.

Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda): Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Sir. Mine is to congratulate the Chair of Council of Ministers for her inaugural speech as the new Chair. I would also like to add my voice to the Rwandese Members who have spoken since the beginning of the sittings of the Assembly in Rwanda, to welcome you to Rwanda, and to ask you to feel at home. We are also humbled as the Rwanda chapter by the nice words from all those who spoke before me about what we did by welcoming you at the airport. I thank you very much.

Turning to the discussion in front of the House, on issue of neutrality of the emblem, away with maps which show the demarcation which were drawn during the Berlin Conference in 1884, I feel honoured and I would like to support the proposal by the Committee on getting away with this kind of problem and repeating what the colonial powers made us to be.

On the same note, I am wondering as to how long it would take to have further consultation on this proposal, instead of passing this Bill today just to come up with Rwanda and Burundi in dots. And just like hon. Wanyoto said, we can change all the flags, the headed papers and all the things we have to use just for a few days but then we will have to go back to change them again if we have to come up with a neutral emblem. So, I am wondering how long it would take us to just move straight away into this new proposal instead of incurring this big cost. I know how much it will cost to change all the symbols we have today but still come up with Rwanda and Burundi and Zanzibar in dots, which people would not even recognise, and later on incur another cost of actually coming up with a proper emblem.

With those few remarks, I was wondering if the Council of Ministers could not rethink about this issue, and probably give it a very short period so that we can come up with a good and permanent emblem, in order to reduce the cost and save the little funds we have to run the Community. I thank you.

Ms. Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. A few months ago, you led a delegation that visited Burundi and Rwanda, trying to familiarise the population about the election of Members of Parliament to EALA. I must say among other things we did, we tried our best to lobby the Presidents and in particular, we lobbied Burundi to help us and ensure that since

they had not yet nominated Ministers to the Community, we are given a woman. I anxiously waited for the new list of Ministers only to be salvaged by Rwanda. On that basis, I would like to congratulate President Kagame in a special way for having helped the women of East Africa to ensure that the Council of Ministers has got a woman.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, East Africans are anxious and they have been complaining, if you remember from our visit in Kenya that the pace at which we are moving is rather slower than expected. In particular, the businessmen have been complaining. In some corridors, it is said, if the Council of Ministers is composed of only men, what do you expect? My prayer therefore, without seeming antagonistic, is that the presence of Hon. Mukaruliza is going to help us speed the process.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to congratulate Hon. Mukaruliza for her presentation and I want to thank Members for the manner in which they supported the Bill that she presented before this House, and I hope that we continue with that spirit. I also want to thank the government of Rwanda, having been here four years ago. I saw what Rwanda was, but when I came this time, I was surprised. I want to thank the government for the manner in which they have moved very fast as far as changing the face of Rwanda is concerned. Yesterday, I got the opportunity to go towards the border and I was shocked when I saw the roads. We drove on a very smooth road and I was wishing that was the road taking me to my village. That must be commended and we hope all our governments will copy that.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to support what Hon. Hajabakiga said. I wanted to say that the Committee would have recommended that we defer this matter. We interacted with a number of Members of Parliament from Southern Sudan. Uganda is already trading with Southern Sudan and they have promised us that after their referendum, they would like to join the Community. We also met a number of Members of Parliament from DRC and they are looking at joining the Community. So, if we make an amendment to the emblem and still include Rwanda and Burundi, that means we will be doing the same work over and over again. So, for me, I would support what Hon. Hajabakiga is saying that we defer this matter until when a Committee comes up with an appropriate symbol that would talk about East Africa and make us feel that we are equal and that will have less logistical implications. I thank you.

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Monique Mukaruliza) (Ex-Officio, Rwanda):

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to sincerely thank all the Hon. Members who have ably contributed to the Motion on the Floor. In this regard, I pay tribute to Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi, the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges and the Committee's well thought-out report. The Council appreciates the Committee's analysis of the necessity to amend the Community Emblems Act. The Council equally appreciates the pertinent recommendations regarding the symbol of the emblem, the use of the emblem and the need to base such use on firm legal footing.

I also applaud Hon. Wanyoto for her contribution regarding the need for closer interaction and initiation of a peoples touch among the membership and staff of the organs and institutions of the Community. I totally agree with her on her sentiments regarding the role of gender in the integration process. I also appreciate her advice on the need for timely changes in the EAC documents and materials occasioned by Rwanda and Burundi's admission.

The comment on the need for a simple, more positive than the historical geographical boundaries is noted for follow-up.

Equally, I thank Hon. Dora Byamukama for her further elaboration on the report of the Committee. Her reference to the antecedent of the parent law on this Bill helps in noting shortcomings. These shortcomings include lack of provision for the EAC anthem which will be addressed in due course. Once the anthem is adopted by the Summit of Heads of State, the necessary amendment will be duly initiated.

Hon. Mike Sebalu's equally considered views regarding the need and the timeliness of this Bill; the need for a neutral and unifying symbol reflective of the ability of the Community to organically extend its borders and the need for a study in this regard are a necessary step forward. *Maelezo yake kuhusu visibility ya Jumuiya ni murwa.*

Hon. Bernard Mulengani's support of the Bill and proposals regarding the symbol in the emblem of the Community are taken note of. Hon. Dr. Ndahiro's kind accolades to my maiden participation are highly appreciated. I regard his proposal for an ideologically based symbol to be not only persuasive but also a call for building a more enduring unity.

I thank Hon. Safina Kwekwe for her kind words and far-reaching words of support of the Motion. Her comments and suggestions, like those of the Committee and the other Hon. Members who contributed on the Floor are quite guiding on improvement. To the extent that the able contribution of Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga implores us to redress negative colonial appendages, I thank her for her impressive analysis on the matter we are debating today. Her concerns on the symbol are an invaluable input.

Last but not least, I thank Hon. Nusura Tiperu for her appreciating my assumption of the chair of the Council. Much as I am a pioneer lady Chairperson of the Council, I will put representation of all gender in the true spirit of the Community's recognition of the role of both men and women in the integration process.

Lastly, and by way of summary, suggestions relating to the anthem, obligations of Partner States to carry the flag prominently and the need to have a neutral and perpetual symbol will be addressed by the Council of Ministers. I thank you very much.

(Question put and agreed to)

Bill read a Second Time.

THE ASSEMBLY IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

(The Hon. Abdirahin Abdi in the Chair)

BILLS

Committee Stage

The East African Community Emblems (Amendment) Bill, 2008

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to.

Title agreed to.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg to move that the House do now resume and the Committee of the Whole House do reports its consideration of the East African Community Emblems (Amendment) Bill, 2008 thereto.

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Assembly resumed, the Speaker presiding)

BILLS

Report Stage

The East African Community Emblems (Amendment) Bill, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to report that the Committee of the Whole House has considered the East African Community Emblems (Amendment) Bill, 2008 and approved it without amendments.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the report of the Committee of the Whole House be adopted.

(Question proposed)

Dr. Odette Nyiramirimo (Rwanda): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I heard most of the Members who spoke and they wanted the boundaries of the Partner States not to be seen in the emblem. This means that Clause 2 be re-studied and amended again. That is what I thought should be the conclusion. I thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Nyiramirimo, the Bill has already passed through the Committee stage and the House passed it, unless you want to move a Motion for the recommittal of the Bill.

(Question put and agreed to)

BILLS

Third Reading

The East African Community Emblems (Amendment) Bill, 2008

The Chairperson, Council of Ministers (Ms. Mukaruliza): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move that the East African Community Emblems (Amendment) Bill, 2008, a “Bill for an Act to amend the East African Community Emblems Bill, 2004” be read a Third Time and do pass.

The Counsel to the Community (Mr. Kaahwa): Seconded.

(Question put and agreed to)

Bill read a Third Time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I think we have come to the end of our sitting today. I think the Chairperson of Council of Ministers has set a record; it is the first time we have passed three Bills in one day. So, I would like to congratulate her on that - *(Applause)*. I hope that we will continue in this spirit and bring more Bills to this House.

With no other business, I now adjourn the House until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose .and adjourned until Wednesday, 17 September 2008 at 2.30 p.m.)