



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

**Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African
Legislative Assembly**

FOURTH MEETING- FIFTH SESSION - SECOND ASSEMBLY

SPECIAL SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 17th April 2012

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. in the
in the Chamber of Kenya National Assembly, Nairobi.*

PRAYERS

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

The Assembly was called to order.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

Mr Frederic Ngenzebuhoro (Burundi): Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move that this House, pursuant to the provisions of Article 55 Clause 1 of the Treaty and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure do resolve to hold the sittings in Nairobi in the republic of Kenya. Mr Speaker sir, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconded.

Mr Ngenzebuhoro: Mr Speaker Sir,

"WHEREAS Clause 1 of Article 55 of the Treaty provides that the meetings of the Assembly shall be held at such times and places as the Assembly may appoint and

WHEREAS Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure provides that the seat of the Assembly shall be at Arusha in the United republic of Tanzania and

WHEREAS sub rule 7 of Rule 11 provides that the Assembly may, on a resolution adopted by a majority of its Members, decide to

hold one or more sittings elsewhere within the Partner States other than at its seat

NOW THEREFORE this Assembly do resolve as follows. That pursuant to the provisions of sub rule 7 of Rule 11 stated above, the Assembly shall hold the sittings in the Chamber of the Kenya National Assembly from today Tuesday 17th April 2012 up to Thursday 25th April 2012."

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that this House, pursuant to the provisions of Article 55 (1) of the Treaty and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure so resolve to hold sittings in Nairobi in the Republic of Kenya. Debate is open.

Hon. Members, I now put the question that this House, pursuant to the provisions of Article 55(1) of the Treaty and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure do resolve to hold sittings in Nairobi in the Republic of Kenya.

(Question put and agreed to.)

PROCLAMATION BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker: Hon. Members, amidst us today is His Excellency Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya. I have in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty invited him to address this Assembly.

I would now like to make the following proclamation to welcome the presence, in the Assembly, of the President of the Republic of Kenya.

"WHEREAS Clause 1 of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to attend the Assembly notwithstanding that he or she is not a Member of the Assembly if in his or her opinion the business of the Assembly renders his or presence desirable and

WHEREAS in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and current chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of States is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly

NOW THEREFORE it is with great pleasure and honour on your behalf hon. Members to welcome, in this Assembly, the presence of the President of the Republic of Kenya.” (Applause)

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY, THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
KENYA

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER OF EALA

The Speaker: Your Excellency Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya, Rt hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, hon. Musa Sirma, the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, hon. Ministers, hon. Secretary General of the East African Community, hon. Members of the Kenya National Assembly and EALA, members of the diplomatic corps, your excellences' ambassadors and high commissioners, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, I wish to first of all thank the Rt hon. Marende the Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly and indeed the government of the Republic of Kenya for accepting to host us here once again.

(Applause)

The relations between the Kenya National Assembly and EALA are very cordial. Your Excellency, when I look at the inscription of the Kenya Coat of arms written on the scroll is the word 'harambee' which means pulling together. I am proud that both assemblies are pulling together as we collectively learn from each other and build ties across the Community.

We consider the precincts here as our second home and we have a sense of belonging whenever we sit in Nairobi.

(Applause)

Allow me to thank Rt hon. Marende who has judiciously and yet graciously offered us the use of the facility at a time when his own Parliament is in resumption in this very plenary hall. Such commitment exemplifies the warm friendship both assemblies share and is a gesture of the usual magnanimity of the Rt hon. Marende, we are truly very grateful.

(Applause)

Rt hon. Marende is a very active member of the EAC Bureau of Speakers, an umbrella body the national assemblies are using to spear head and set a number of institutional arrangements at the

EAC. I must admit that I admire the person of the Rt hon. Marende for his astute leadership and political philosophy. As a presiding officer of the House, he has spearheaded various reforms including revision of standing orders, introduction of live broadcasts of parliamentary proceedings and refurbishment of the Chamber.

(Applause)

Your Excellency, lately I have been keenly engaged in matters related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. Recently we had undertaken an Internet search and I was pleasantly surprised to learn the other face of Rt hon. Marende. I was relatively pleased to know that Rt hon. Marende is an environmentalist par excellence and when adorning his robes, he continues to green the environment through the Kenneth Marende foundation. Continue the good work.

With these few remarks, I now take this opportunity to invite my very good friend the Rt hon. Marende, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly to make his remarks. *Karibu sana mshemiwa Speaker.*

(Applause)

The Rt Hon. Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly (Mr Kenneth Marende): Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Commander in Chief of the Defence Forces and Chairperson of the Summit of the Heads of States for the East African Community, hon. Mwai Kibaki, the Rt hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly my brother Abdirahin Abdi, and thank you for those very kind words, I am indeed very humbles, the Chairperson of the East African Community Council of Ministers hon. Musa Sirma and your two colleagues the minister from Rwanda and Burundi, the Secretary General of the East African Community, members of the East African Legislative Assembly, Hon. Members of Partner States present at this Assembly, ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure, honour and singular privilege to welcome you into Kenya particularly to the Kenya National Assembly and to address you on this auspicious occasion of the 4th Meeting of the 5th Session of the Second Assembly of the East African Legislative Assembly which marks the last plenary in its term.

Allow me, Your Excellency to congratulate you on your appointment to the position of Chairperson of the Summit of Heads of State of the Community.

(Applause)

Your presence here this morning, Your Excellency sir, actively demonstrates your commitment to the integration of the East African Community and to its ultimate intent. I urge that we all feel completely welcome and ready to discharge the business before the Assembly at this sitting.

As the Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, I will endeavour to put in place adequate measures to ensure your comfort and provide the requisite facilities to enable delivery. The dream of a united East African Community as conjured by our founding fathers is looking ever so real following the unified sense of direction and shot of fresh breath by our five heads of State in office who have progressed the dream closer to reality.

For this, Your Excellency Mr President Sir, accept our commendation and convey the same to your colleagues the

Presidents of Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi in any order as you will find convenient.

(Applause)

By way of a flash back, I want us to stop for a moment and imagine how it will pay out if the late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, Mzee Jomo Kenyatta and His Excellency Milton Obote were to resurrect more so after the resurrection of Jesus and walk into this meeting now. In my view they would be proud of the contribution that each one of us in the House has made to get us to where we are.

(Applause)

And to you, hon. Members therefore, congratulations are in order.

Notable highlights include an increase in membership, bringing on board Rwanda and Burundi and the consequential enlargement of our economies of scale with a new work ethic that is result oriented and with measurable outputs through strategic plans and adoption of conventional technology in earnest to good with a revamped Secretariat.

Your Excellency and hon. Members, the East African Community was dubbed the most compliant regional block globally in instituting regulatory reforms earlier this month by a report compiled by the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on doing business. This, Your Excellency is in recognition of legislation, resolution and protocols ratified among them those on tourism, trade negotiations, trans-boundary eco systems and budget.

Standing out however as salient features are the protocols sanctioning the Customs Union and Common Market Protocol that brought the reality of integration closer home. Your Excellency and hon. Members, the fore going said and done, much more work still remains to be done.

I urge all Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, even as you wind up your tenure to roll up your sleeves and do all that it takes to leave for your legacy inter alia an enduring and enabling environment that will see to the fruition of the aspirations and expectations of our constituents, the people of East Africa.

We must fast track certain things that to me appear quick fixes such as issuance of the East African passport and perhaps I want to encourage you to follow the example of Kenya and Rwanda. Let us just have our national ID and it is adequate. We should be able to walk into Tanzania, Uganda, Burundi and vice versa without any inhibitions because I do not think that any of us aspires to move away from perhaps where we were originally born. I do not think I for instance will aspire to go and own 1000 acres of land in Tanzania. To the contrary, I would want to go to Tanzania and challenge my brothers and sisters to be like me.

(Applause)

Removal of non-tariff barriers, establishment of an East African Parliamentary Training Centre which Kenya has the capacity to and has offered and is ready to host having set up her own centre including legally so in the year 2009, assent to and domestication and enforcement of legislation that will see to and sustain a green East Africa. And Your Excellency, I am informed there is a Bill before you waiting for assent. I know the Private Sector may be saying, no let us continue to manufacture these plastic bags but I think it is important that we give them certain standards so that we see less of those

plastic bags littered all over. Surely we are under duty to make East Africa green.

Finally hon. Members, I reiterate that the Kenya National Assembly will remain steadfast in its support for the East African Legislative Assembly as necessary to enable it actualise the realisation of the dream and mandate of bringing East Africans finally together as one people with one destiny; the East African Federation, in the fullness of time and if I may hasten to add, as much as possible in our time.

(Applause)

Welcome to the Parliament of Kenya and to the country. On behalf of hon. Members of the Kenya National Assembly, members of staff, I wish you most fruitful deliberations. Thank you.

(Applause)

The Speaker: *Asante sana Mushmiwa* Speaker. Your Excellency Mwai Kibaki, the President of the Republic of Kenya and Chairperson of the EAC Heads of State, Rt hon. Kenneth Marende, Spekaer of the Kenya National Assembly, hon. Musa Seruma, Chairperson of

the EAC Council of Ministers, hon. Ministers, hon. Secretary General of the East African Community, hon. Members of the Kenya National Assembly, Members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, in welcoming you to today's special sitting Your Excellency, may it please you to note, Your Excellency that since our inauguration in 2007, you have consistently taken time off your busy schedule to address this House whenever invited.

(Applause)

Today marks yet another such opportunity only that this time round you wear two hats; one in your capacity of Chairperson of Summit of the EAC Heads of State and the other the host president. We are eternally grateful to Your Excellency for once again accepting our invitation to address this House today.

Your Excellency, this Assembly is fast approaching the end of its tenure and is striving to complete its mandate within the remaining time frame what we call the home stretch in anticipation of the inauguration of the Third Assembly on June 5th 2012. In that regard, this is indeed our last sitting as a Second Assembly in your beautiful country.

Allow me on behalf of EALA and my own behalf to extend our deepest appreciation to you, the Kenya National Assembly and the people of this great republic for your staunch support. EALA partly attributes the significant strides made during its tenure to your resolute support.

The assembly even in this residual time, remains dedicated and committed to its role as the legislative organ of the Community. We pledge our continued commitment to work closely with you, with the Summit of the EAC Heads of State, the Council of Ministers and other Organs and institutions of the Community until the dream of a united East Africa is achieved.

It is on this premise that over the next two weeks, we shall debate the following important Bills; The East African Community Customs Management Act (Amendment) Bill, the East African Community Emblems Act (Amendment) Bill, the EAC HIV/AIDS Prevention and Management Bill, The EAC Conflict Management Bill, the EAC Elections Bill and the EAC Human Rights Bill.

We shall also pose questions to the Council of Ministers, debate reports of committees, motions and pass resolutions. We hope

that the rest of the Organs especially the Council of Ministers shall expedite and submit to the Assembly any pending legislation to be debated at the last sitting in May/June 2012.

Your Excellency, permit me to quickly take stock of the progress of the Second Assembly. The Second assembly has duly enacted 25 pieces of legislation, three times more than its predecessor, carried out oversight of various EAC projects and programs and enhanced the visibility and representation among the people of East Africa. We continue to take any given opportunity to strengthen the integration progress and to enthuse a people centred approach.

EALA also takes into account some of the challenges we must collectively address to ensure all ranks of the people of East African enjoy the benefits of integration. Top on this agenda are the non-tariff barriers (NTBs) which are barring free flow of business in the region, lack of awareness amongst citizens of East Africa and the delay in decision making by the EAC Council of Ministers.

EALA as the representative of the people further welcomes feedback from the *wanainchi*, which feedback will always be taken

into account while legislating. Our appeal to the Partner States is that they fully and fervently implement the pillars of the integration process. Again allow me to reiterate, Your Excellency what has become the Second Assembly's call. This is the need for all the Partner States to implement the Common Market protocol, now in its second year of its execution since its inception,. The Protocol spells out various benefits including the merger of the five countries into one single market encompassing the free movement of persons, goods, labour, services and the right of establishment among others.

Almost two years on, Your Excellency, the unexploited potential of the region remains. I humbly petition you, Mr Chairperson of the Summit, to reach out to your colleagues in the Summit to impress upon them to cause the uptake of the set Protocol within the respective Partner States. I assure you of EALA support with regards to legislation, if need be, to support this.

Your Excellency, may I take this opportunity to congratulate you for steering the Republic of Kenya to greater heights.

(Applause)

We know that development is on-going in all areas of the country including Kenya's hitherto undeveloped semi-arid North. Your Excellency, the recent discovery of oil in the Turkana region deserves praise songs all round as the move that shall spur further development and impetus in the country and the EAC region.

(Applause)

Again it is important to note, Your Excellency that you are the first leader in East Africa and maybe Africa to bring in place a new constitution that is revolutionary, strong and gives the citizenry a say in ownership and decision making.

(Applause)

EALA feels proud to be associated with you following this profound transformation and I am very confident that this country shall continue to progress.

We as EALA shall constantly remember you for the free education, new and high profile constitution, increased space and freedom of expression between a better economy and infrastructural

development that came with your tenure as President of this great republic.

Turning to my colleagues, I have to thank them for the hard work and for their steadfast commitment to the EAC integration process. They have transacted business above and beyond the call of duty and no doubt have made my work as their Speaker very easy. I say *Asanteni sana*.

Your Excellency, later on this week the Kenya National Assembly shall be electing new members to the Third Assembly. The rest of the National Assemblies are also going through the paces. Short of vouching for my colleague, I want to generally wish all members who are contesting the very best of luck.

(Applause)

For others who shall be joining me in retirement at the tender age of 42, I wish you the very best in your future endeavours. Your Excellency, when people usually see me, they see this grey hair and think I am very old. It is only 42.

(Laughter)

Hon. Members, I wish you luck in your future endeavours.

Your Excellency, the next EALA shall be charged with consolidating the gains made by the First and Second EALA and taking the integration process to the next level. The next Assembly shall no doubt need an expanded mandate as the region moves to fast track the Monetary Union and set the basis of the Political Federation. This Assembly and if I may speak for the incoming august House, pledges its support to Your Excellency during your tenure as Chairperson of Summit and we are also confident that you will equally provide us with the necessary support that we shall require in our legislative role.

We reiterate our commitment to work closely with the Summit, the Council of Ministers and other Organs and institutions of the Community for fast realisation of the objectives and goals of our region.

Finally Your Excellency, it is with great pleasure and honour that I execute my humble duty to welcome Your Excellency to address this august Assembly today Tuesday 17th April, 2012.
Karibu sana.

(Applause)

The President of the Republic of Kenya (His Excellency Mwai Kibaki): The Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, hon. Members, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am pleased to join you during this sitting of the East African Legislative Assembly.

I thank the hon. Members for choosing to hold this Session of the Assembly here in Nairobi. (Applause) On behalf of the government and people of Kenya, I welcome you and wish you a comfortable stay. I also thank the hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly for inviting me to address this august House.

Mr Speaker, this Sitting comes at a time when the Second East African Legislative Assembly is about to conclude its five year term in office. During this period, the contribution of the Second Assembly in the integration process has been commendable. The Assembly has played a crucial role in deepening and widening the integration process for the benefit of all East Africans.

In addition, the Assembly played a key role in bring the people of East Africa on board the integration process especially through the numerous public hearings of Bills that were conducted throughout the region. Also important is that during your tenure, the Assembly debated and passed a total of 35 pieces of legislation, three times more than the First Assembly.

This is highly commendable. Hon. Members showed great commitment and hard work during your tenure. As your term acmes to an end in two months' time, I would like to wish each one of you the very best in your future endeavours.

It is my hope that in your new responsibilities, you will continue to support in one way or another, the integration process of the East African Community.

Mr Speaker, the achievements by the East African Legislative Assembly would not have been possible without your outstanding leadership. You have steered the House business with commendable zeal and wisdom. Your contribution has no doubt set high standards and I thank you for a job well done.

(Applause)

Mr Speaker, I would now like to turn to pressing matters in our region as well as our integration process. The establishment of the Customs Union in the year 2005 and Common Market in the year 2010 fulfilled our dream of economically integrating our region. We now need to focus our energies in deepening this integration by moving to even higher levels. The Summit will, later this month, be considering the process made in the establishment of a single Customs territory which is meant to facilitate further free movement of goods within the Community.

On the establishment of the Monetary Union, which is the next pillar of the integration, we have already given the necessary direction. It is my expectation that the experts involved in preparatory work will be conducting their work soon so as to have the establishment of a Monetary Union as planned. The full realisation of the benefits of free movement of goods and factors of production under the Customs Union and Common Market continue to face the challenge of non-tariff barriers. We must all do more to ensure removal of these barriers which are a bottleneck to our regional integration.

Some of these barriers are being placed by persons who do not understand the working of a Common Market. We therefore need to ensure that policies agreed upon by various institutions of the Community are clearly communicated across the region. This will guarantee a seamless flow of goods and services across the Community.

As we reflect back on the achievements of the East African Community integration process, we must certainly view the peace and security situation in our region. To this end, we need to continue supporting the African Union's initiative to stabilise Somalia.

(Applause)

Somalia is today going through a defining moment. The country has a great opportunity to move ahead after 20 years of internal strife. As the East African Community, we have a responsibility to the people of Somalia. I therefore salute our men and women in uniform from the nations of Uganda, Burundi and Kenya who are risking their lives on a mission that will ensure peace and stability for the nation of Somalia. We must also find ways to diplomatically address the unfolding events on the border

between South Sudan and Sudan. These two nations must not return to war so soon after a peaceful separation.

I call upon my brothers, the Presidents of the Republics of Sudan and Southern Sudan to work together towards resolving the dispute that may reverse the gains that have already been realised through implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and other initiatives.

Stability in Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan are critical to peace and prosperity of our region. Indeed we look forward to the entry of these countries to the East African Community to which they have already applied and expressed a desire to join. The stability in our region will see to it that we successfully implement the many ambitious regional projects we have planned for our region. Indeed, huge investments are required to interconnect our region through railways, roads, fibre optic cables and oil pipelines. Peace is a pre-requisite for this to take place so that our people can take advantage of the many untapped opportunities in our region.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I would like to thank you and thank our development partners for the support they have continued to

extend to us in the integration process. It is my hope that this partnership will continue to grow to higher levels. May I also take this opportunity to thank the Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly for providing the East African Legislative Assembly these facilities during its sitting here in Nairobi.

(Applause)

I am aware that the two legislative assemblies have been holding consultative sessions and I commend you for this partnership.

With these remarks, I wish the hon. Members fruitful deliberations during this sitting and allow me to express to you the hope of East Africans that we will move towards integration for the reason that we are very nearly there. There is no good earthly reason for not getting there and i am quite sure we will get there. *Asante sana.*

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now call hon. Dora to move a vote of thanks on our behalf.

Ms Dora Kanabahita Byamukama (Uganda): Your Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, the speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, hon. Kenneth Marende, the Speaker of EALA, hon. Abdirahin Abdi, the Chair, Council of Ministers hon. Musa Seruma and the Council of Ministers, hon. Members of the National Assembly of Kenya the Secretary General of the East African Community, my colleagues, members of EALA, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Mr Speaker Sir, let me first take this opportunity in thanking you for giving me this special opportunity to move a vote of thanks on behalf of my colleagues to His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya and the current Chairman of the East African Community Summit of Heads of State.

From the onset, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency on assuming this high office. (Applause) I also want to extend our appreciation to you as a person because you have always been available to us, you have been reliable to us and we want to thank you in a special way for your hospitality and to thank the people of Kenya for giving us a warm welcome every time we are here.

Your clear words to us every time we come here which are peppered with the word 'mujenjoy' always come to our hearts when we are entering Kenya - *(Applause)*- and we do enjoy Kenya.

Your Excellency, permit me to take off a few moments to recognise the partnership that we enjoy with the Rt hon. Kenneth Marende. We want to thank the people of Kenya and in particular the National Assembly of Kenya for electing him to the position of Speaker. *(Applause)*

Some of us were keenly watching as the Parliament elected him. There were several rounds, we watched his demeanour, and he was very clam. We are glad to note that he has left a legacy and will continue to give a legacy to us on how to navigate the challenges of chairing a national assembly whereby we have a government of coalition. This is noble and outstanding and we are proud of you sir.

Rt hon. Kenneth Marende, we also love your speeches. These are highly intellectual and yet practical. They are peppered with humour and therefore these are some of the speeches that some of us would like to take home and I know that in the East African region, these speeches are really loved and sought after.

Your Excellency sir, I come from the Republic of Uganda and we in Uganda are very proud of the fact that you went to Makerere University College. We are also very proud of the fact that you took time to lecture at this particular university and that you also went to the London School of Economics and served in politics for over 50 years I believe starting in 1963 when some of us were not yet born and yet we have grey hairs as the Speaker said.

So in you, Your Excellency, we are honoured to have a person of your character and some aspects of your life which are not mentioned for example when you stood down for Vice presidency and served as Minister for Health and made no fuss about it are clearly exemplary of a unique leader who has the humility and puts service above self. Indeed you were destined for greater things and the Republic of Kenya is honoured to have you as President for these years.

Your Excellency, some of us were here in 2007 and we spent Christmas observing election in this beautiful country. We want to thank you for the way you steered this nation and commend you for putting a stop to the chaos that ensued after 2007 and the civil manner in which this government of coalition has continued

to function. You have shown the whole of Africa and the world that it is possible to have a government of coalition. (Applause)

Your Excellency, on several occasions as you have done today, hinted on the issue of non-tariff barriers. This is a very important point. I believe that we together can do much more in order to inform as well as ensure that we have practical reality when it comes to issues of implementing the Customs Union and the Common Market.

Your Excellency, we commend the government of the Republic of Kenya for clearly spelling out the laws that need to be amended. I believe that this is one of I think if not the only country so far which has clearly articulated what needs to be amended in order for the Customs Union and Common Market to be implemented. We believe that the other East African Partner States will take a cue from this and follow in the footsteps of Kenya to ensure that we implement the Customs Union and Common Market.

Your Excellency, you have also mentioned the issue of infrastructure and I am glad that you have noted the issue of oil pipelines. I would like to congratulate you on the discovery of oil in the Republic of Kenya and to state, as His Excellency

President Yower Kaguta Museveni said before that this oil belongs to all of us in East Africa so together we shall share what we have.

Your Excellency, we also thank you for bringing into reality access of education to all. I remember clearly seeing a very old man sitting in a class in Kenya and I think he went on to complete his education. This is exemplary and we want to thank you for specifically supporting the girl child.

Your Excellency, the issue of the Constitution has been mentioned. This has been attained in your tenure. We want to congratulate you on putting in place human rights, fundamental freedoms and affirmative action. We want to thank you in a special way for ensuring that more women participate in politics and we hope that this will be implemented as it should.

This marks a new era not only for Kenya but also for the whole of East Africa because now we are using the Kenyan Constitution as a benchmark for issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Your Excellency, we would like to thank you and the people of Kenya in a special way for electing Members of EALA from Kenya. These members have been exemplary, they have performed very well and we are grateful that we are able to work with them up to this point. In a special way, we would like to thank hon. Karan, hon. Oyondi, hon. Kimura, hon. Lotodo, hon. Safina Kwekwe, hon. Sara Bonaya, hon. Gervase Akhaabi and hon. Christopher Nakuleu.

In a special way, we want to thank the Republic of Kenya for giving us a Speaker. *(Applause)*

As you have rightly noted, his leadership has been outstanding. Our Speaker is bold, courageous, committed, determined, compassionate and humane and results oriented. Your Excellency, we want to thank you and the people of Kenya for recognising all these attributes and awarding him the Moran of the golden hat. This was for his contribution to the EAC integration and since he is our Speaker, we also claim this award because he is ours. So this award comes to EALA. We thank you very much.

Mr Speaker Sir, let me also thank you for giving us the Chair, Council of Ministers who up to this point has shown that it is

possible to raise the profile of the East African Community and to be very candid about the work that we are doing. (Applause)

I would like to conclude by wishing you success in the upcoming elections and also by thanking you again for being leaders in ensuring that we tour other parts of Kenya. We have had the honour to tour the coastal region of Kenya and we hope that this culture will be maintained. We understand that there could be some challenges but as they say, where there is a will, there is a way.

Finally, on the issue of the upcoming elections, I would like to note that the vision of the East African Community is a prosperous, secure, competitive and politically united region. Therefore what happens in Kenya will definitely impact on us. I am glad to note that in the report on doing business in East Africa, the ranking has taken into account the fact that we are a regional community and therefore we implore all Kenyans on behalf of all of us in East Africa to ensure that the elections are peaceful so that we can go ahead and attain our vision as planned.

Indeed we are one people with one destiny. I thank you.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Dora. Hon. Members, we have come to the end of business but before I adjourn, I would like to make a few announcements. First and foremost, I would like to say that we are going to have a group photograph with His Excellency so after we adjourn, I request that you move quickly to the area where you will be shown for the photograph.

I would also like to say that we have changed the order of proceedings. We are going to have the national anthem later on when His Excellency is departing and not after adjournment.

Your Excellency, *asante sana* again for gracing this occasion and we will be working with you until then.

Hon. Members, I now adjourn the House until tomorrow morning 9.30 a.m.

*(The House rose at... and adjourned until Wednesday 18 April
2012 at 9.30 a.m.)*