



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

77TH SITTING - SECOND ASSEMBLY: THIRD MEETING - THIRD SESSION

Wednesday, 17 February 2010

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in Parliament House, Kampala.

PRAYER

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

(The Assembly was called to order.)

PAPERS

The following papers were laid on the Table:-

By Mr Manasseh Nzobonimpa (Burundi):

The report of the House Business Committee for the Period June 2007 to February 2010.

By the Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Dr George Nangale, Tanzania):

The report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural

Resources on the on-spot assessment of the EAC projects under the Lake Victoria Basin Commission; by the Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources.

By Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda):

The report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the Fourth East African Petroleum Conference (EAPC 09).

The report of the 15th Conference of the parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in Copenhagen, Denmark, December 2009.

BILLS FIRST READING

The East African Community Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2010

The Minister for East African Co-Operation Tanzania, And Chairperson, EAC Council Of Ministers (Dr Diodorus Kamala): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that “*A Bill for an Act to Amend the East African Community Act, 2006*” be read for the First Time.

The Counsel To The Community (Mr Wilbert Kaahwa): Seconded.

Bill read a First Time.

The Speaker: The Bill stands committed to the Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee.

MOTION

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

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Dr George Nangale, Tanzania): Mr Speaker, Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community mandates the East African Legislative Assembly to legislate for the EAC to ensure 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 the region, especially in light of climate change, early in 2009 the Committee initiated a process of evaluating the best way for the East African Community to ensure food security for its entire population.

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

For this reason, the EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources is of the opinion that the East African Community Common Market provides an excellent

opportunity to make food insecurity a history in this 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.

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

Mr Speaker, *Kilimo Trust* funded a regional study team, and tasked it to produce the evidence required to design a long-range movement for enhancing food security, thereby deepening the economic benefits accruing to producers and others involved in the supply of foodstuffs in the East African Community.

In November 2009, the Committee held a workshop, which brought together Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, Members of Partner State national assemblies, experts in agriculture, representatives of the International Food Organisation and farmers' associations to receive and deliberate on the findings of the study. Both AWEPA and *Kilimo Trust* supported the workshop. Attached as Annex II to this report are the proceedings of the workshop.

Mr Speaker, I want to extend our appreciation for the support extended to EALA by *Kilimo Trust* in the assessment that produced the evidence in this report, the subsequent workshops and other meetings that led to the production of this report. (*Applause*)

Let me now outline the recommendations and the common strategy for food security in the East African Community as presented by the Committee.

We have divided our 17 recommendations into three different priority areas for your consideration. First, to enhance the free movement of food in the region:

- (i) In the implementation of the East African Common Market Protocol, trade in food commodities and products should be given priority, not just to ensure food security, but also to ensure that the majority of the East African Community citizens, whose main preoccupation is the production of food commodities, become a leading beneficiary of the Common Market.
- (ii) Non-tariff barriers, which hinder the transfer of food from zones that produce surplus food to areas with deficit, should be eliminated.
- (iii) There should be no export bans on food commodities and products extended to consumption within the East African region.
- (iv) The ongoing improvement of transportation infrastructure should give adequate attention to a balanced development of major infrastructure such as highways and railways on one hand and the development of rural feeder roads on the other hand to ensure that major infrastructure is optimally utilised.

- (v) Other food markets supporting infrastructure such as hall markets, consolidated centres, warehouses and primary process facilities should be established and strengthened to reduce post harvest wastage of food and to reduce marketing costs.
- (vi) Food commodities and products in the EAC market should meet common regional safety standards for the protection of consumers and, therefore, standards for sanitary and phyto-sanitary certification, branding and labelling of food products, and their enforcement should be harmonised and regionalised.
- (vii) Investment in agro-processing and agro-industries to process food commodities should be expanded so as to: increase the tradability of all food commodities, especially the perishable foodstuffs; to improve shelf life through preservation; allow for storage from one season to another; increase the extent to which food products sold in local and national markets are in the processed form and meet food safety standards desired by consumers; and, ensure that food exports from the region are as far as possible processed products.

Mr Speaker, only last week, His Excellency President Museveni showed us the lead by directing that all the maize exports from Uganda should be processed into maize flour instead of exporting grain. *Hongera sana Mzee! (Applause)*

- (viii) The private sector should be facilitated to undertake commercial production, processing and marketing of food products.

The second priority area is to increase production by enhancing productivity.

- (ix) The common strategy and action plan for food security should take into account the relationship between land use and ownership, access to capital and increased agricultural production and the necessary agrarian reform should be undertaken.
- (x) The governments of the EAC Partner States should implement the ten percent budget allocation for agriculture according to the Maputo Declaration, which our Partner States are signatories to, and focus this allocation to strategic investments.
- (xi) The EAC should develop regional technical assistance programmes for pooling regional resources and expertise to ensure the supply of agricultural technologies, sharing and utilisation of such technologies, and that supply of inputs and services required for food production are achieved in a more efficient manner that reduces duplication of efforts.
- (xii) The fertiliser programme already initiated in the EAC with the support of the African Development Bank (ADB) towards a regionally co-ordinated procurement and manufacture of fertilisers should be accelerated to ensure adequate and cost effective supply of fertilisers in the region.
- (xiii) Develop a regional irrigation master plan to increase the productivity of water used in agriculture, including, among others, water mass body sources like

Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Albert et cetera. We have many water masses and many rivers, as you know.

Rainwater should be harvested through integrated, agricultural water solutions that integrate proper tillage to efficiently capture and retain rainwater in the soil. Rainwater harvesting will capture water for supplementary irrigation. There is need to design efficient and optimally operated conventional irrigation systems.

- (xiv) Emergency food aid should always be linked to long-term development of food supply systems by emphasising that such food should be procured within the East African Community, and the process of supply should include investment in the affected areas.
- (xv) The East African Community should enact legislation to provide for a legal framework for regionally coordinated weather index insurance for agriculture and rural livelihoods.

Mr Speaker, honourable members can get more information about weather index insurance in Annex I of this report.

- (xvi) The EAC Partner States should resist the leasing or selling of large chunks of land to foreign entities for production of food or bio-fuel feed stock solely for export, which is disadvantageous to food security in the region. But the EAC in general and each particular Partner State should realise that ample potential in land and water resources can be used to make the region an important exporter of food products to the high and rising global demand and prices for food, and should, therefore, make a common strategy for this purpose.

Mr Speaker, the third priority area is to improve and accelerate the implementation of policies, strategies and programmes. The East African Community should enact a regional framework that provides a legal framework to ensure a coordinated regional approach towards issues of food security and climate change. Many policy declarations and agreements have remained unimplemented due to lack of political will but also due to lack of legal binding instruments.

I would like to take this opportunity to recommend fellow members of the committee for their keen interest and hard work in the pursuit of this important task on this sub-sector of food security in our region.

Mr Speaker, Tanzania has now rekindled the 1970's Mwalimu Nyerere's "*Kilimo ya kufa na kupona*" to "*Kilimo kwanza*" – (*Applause*) - and as a trained agricultural engineer and a son of a farmer, I feel honoured and nostalgic to have had the opportunity to take part in this cause.

Mr Speaker, on behave of the Committee, I beg to move that the House adopt this report. Thank you. (*Applause*)

Ms Safina Kwekwe (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I thank you. I have the honour to serve on the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee and, therefore, I identify with the issues raised in the report. I only want to speak on three areas that hon. Nangale has highlighted. I want to start with recommendation number four, which is on the issue of improving the transportation infrastructure.

We cannot overemphasise this issue because within the EAC region, we have a railways master plan; we have a strategy for the infrastructure projects in the region, but most of the strategies are for the major highways and trans-national roads and networks, and yet the production of food is in the rural areas, which are very remote. Some of the areas do not have any roads; they are only accessible through footpaths. Therefore, for us to ensure food security in the EAC region, we must move food from where it is grown to where it is needed.

Therefore, the recommendation of the Committee is that investment in infrastructure should not only be for highways and railways as is currently the practice, but we must also look at the development of feeder roads. This is because without the development of the rural feeder roads, there is no way the food can come to the highways where the traders come to consolidate their loads for transportation to the urban areas. Therefore, I pray that as a region, as much as we need to look at the development of the highways and trans-national roads, we should also urge our Partner States to develop the feeder roads if we really intend to have food security within the region.

Mr Speaker, the other recommendation I would like to talk about a little bit more is recommendation number 11, which concerns the issue of technical assistance programmes.

Every Partner State has institutions geared towards research in agriculture, be it food multiplication or development of tools like ox-ploughs to ease food productivity. However, the challenge we are facing as a region is that as much as we have such noble initiatives in our Partner States, many of the products of such research expire on the shelf.

For example, if I may speak of Kenya, we have the Agricultural Research Institute (KARI) and I know that every year, they endeavour to research into seeds that are applicable to different geographical regions. However, most of these seeds do not get to the consumer - who is the farmer - in time because there is lack of a mechanism to disseminate this information on these seeds to the farmers for them to be able to put their energies and investment into seeds that will yield impressive products for them.

Therefore, as we move towards an EAC commission in charge of science and technology, we must look at how the work we invest in can reach the consumers. Food production without the proper seeds cannot help us to achieve the goal of food security.

I want to conclude by saying that the food security sub-sector is indeed a very important sub-sector. The Committee has been serious with this issue, and I hope that when the

EAC ten-year strategy is out, these two documents shall indeed guarantee the right of every East African to have food on their table.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

Ms Catharine Kimura (Kenya): Thank you, hon. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this very important subject. Our East African countries pride themselves on being agricultural economies and yet we continue to have hunger and shortage of food across our region.

This report is timely because we would like our countries to address this issue of food security. I am encouraged that this report does recognise the issue of irrigation. For years, we have depended on rain-fed agriculture, and yet if you look at our region, we have some of the largest water masses...Lake Victoria, Lake Tanganyika, Lake Albert, Lake Kivu, Lake Turkana, the ocean, and we have not been able to increase the acreage that can be irrigated to counter drought!

I believe that we could even produce food in the northern part of Kenya, which is very dry. From that region, year-in, year-out, we see pictures of hungry people; we see their livestock dying. It is important, as leaders in this region, that we put our best foot forward and encourage irrigation within our region. *(Applause)*

The other issue that I would like us to take note of, and which I would like our countries to put at the forefront, is the issue of agri-business. We continue to export our agricultural products in their primary form with very little processing. If you take the case of coffee, we just export our beans, the processing takes place elsewhere, and then we import it as instant coffee. Therefore, the farmer gets very little. The intermediaries, the processors, and major multi-national companies are the major beneficiaries of our agriculture. We need to get the full benefits of our products! *(Applause)*

You can imagine the amount of, say, avocado that goes out of this country and then comes back here in form of skin care products. Why can we not have factories to process these products within our region? One can cite the issue of tea going in bags for processing in Europe and elsewhere, and then selling them within Africa in packages and yet it is produced here!

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I do hope that our leaders will take cognisance of the issues raised in this report. If you look at the EPAs that are under discussion today - and I believe there is a team discussing EPAs here in Kampala - we can have very good agreements, but unless we address the issue of supply - our capacity to supply the goods that are required in Europe - those agreements are useless to us; they will not help us economically.

We know that most of our products that are part of those agreements are agriculture based. As we conclude these EPAs, I urge the Council of Ministers to be very careful where they place agriculture. Our agriculture should not be affected by opening our

market to processed products from Europe - processed cheese, processed milk and so on - that can come back here and affect our own agricultural industry. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, in view of these issues discussed here, and as the EPAs is being discussed, issues of agriculture should be considered very carefully so that we do not sell what I would consider the birthright of East Africa. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

Dr Said Bilal (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor. Since I am taking the Floor for the first time, let me take this opportunity to thank the people of Uganda for allowing us to walk freely on the streets of Kampala. On a sombre note, I wish to express my sincere condolences to our colleagues, hon. Mulengani for the loss of his wife, and hon. Gen. Muntu for losing his mother.

Mr Speaker, this report could not have come at a more appropriate time. We are having pockets of hunger and food shortages in many parts of the region and yet we are taking note that there is plenty of food in the region. The problem is how to make sure that we have the appropriate infrastructure that can enable us to take food to the mouths of the people of the region. I am thankful, and I commend the Committee on Agriculture for the thoughtfulness to come up with this report. *(Applause)*

Let me make very brief comments on the body of the report. It is very technical and lengthy, but it is a good report because it dwells on the issues of how we can have food in abundance in East Africa. I would have liked for this report to dwell on how the common market can facilitate our several sectors so that the food, which we are told is in plenty, can be put to good use.

We are told that there is technical evidence of the existence of plenty of food, but that really did not come out clearly for me when I was reading this report. Mr Speaker, this report says, “*The region as a whole has on average produced adequate food for its population*”, but it did not take into account the commodity products from livestock, fisheries, marine, other aquatic products and forestry. What I would have liked to see in the recommendations are mechanisms that we can put in place for converting into food products the other varieties that are available in East Africa so that they can benefit the people of East Africa.

I would also like to see that we have diversification in the way that we eat our staple foods. I know that in some regions of East Africa the people eat *ugali*, others eat *matooke* and others eat rice, but the more confined you are to your staple, the more prone you are to food shortages and hunger. Therefore, the strategy should be to make the people of East Africa diversify their food so that when you miss one type of food, you have another available. I think I will not be wrong to say that there are a number of communities in East Africa that do not take *ugali*, they would say that is *kyakula kya nyoka*. Some of them do not even know the name *ugali*; they call it *Kawunga*. So, we need to change our ways and become more omnivorous than confining ourselves to one particular staple. On that note, I would like to thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

Dr James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. With your guidance, I would like to add one recommendation, although I am not a member of the agriculture committee. In order to implement most of those recommendations, we need institutional frameworks, so I recommend the creation of an East African Cereal Board, and an East African Marketing Board. Those two institutions would be perfect for promoting the brilliant ideas introduced to this House by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The idea of warehouse receipts is a perfect solution for the financial issues facing our people. Warehouse receipts have worked in India, they have worked in Pakistan, they have solved their food production issues, and those people are able to export rice to us. We all consume rice and other foodstuffs from Pakistan.

It is a shame that in East Africa, which is nearly the size of India, our people are still starving and dying of hunger! Mr Speaker, this is the recommendation that I wanted to make. Thank you.

Ms Sebtuu Nassor (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor. I am a member of this committee, and of course, I support the motion, but I would like to remind the House of some essentials.

Thanks to the tours that we have been making around the East African Partner States, we have come to know that this region has fertile land in many parts. Some are semi-arid, but most of it is very good and fertile land, which means that if there is political will, we can definitely produce sufficient food for the people who live in this area and also for export.

I think there is no need to repeat the fact that out of the 190 countries in the world, those that have developed started by developing agriculture. Let me also remind you that not so far back, in the 1950s and 1960s, in some parts of countries like Italy and China, people were still hungry. If they have been able to achieve it, we can also achieve it. *(Applause)*

The essential requirements for agriculture normally include land, water, altitude, and what we put inside the soil, like fertilisers and phyto-sanitary products. Agriculture also requires technology for cultivating and for processing the products. We can do this in our region if there is political will.

Mr Speaker, much as I support the motion, I also wish to support the proposal that hon. Ndahiro has just made. Thank you very much. I beg to support the motion.

Mr Dan Wandera Ogalo (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity to contribute to the motion before the House. I wish to begin by thanking the Committee for this report on food security in this region. I am particularly happy that the Chairman, Council of Ministers, who heads the Executive in Arusha, is here, and he is in effect the Prime Minister of East Africa. Therefore, I am going to direct most of my comments to the head of the Executive. I am also glad that the hon. Secretary-General, who is going to implement most of these decisions, is also here.

Mr Speaker, the question of food security is clearly an important area, which this Assembly has to address, but the pace at which we are moving as East Africa in most of the areas, including food security, perturbs me. On looking through the very many recommendations in the report, it is clear to me that there is still a lot to do. Therefore my question is this, why are we stagnated? What is missing?

I want to refer to the Treaty, which is in effect the Constitution of East Africa. Presidents Benjamin William Mkapa, Daniel Arap Moi and Yoweri Kaguta Museveni signed it on the 30th of November 1999, and in this document, they said certain things, which we were supposed to put in place, or which we should keep putting in place.

I want to refer to Article 110, which is specific on food security. It is over ten years since our presidents made the provisions for food security and in that Article, one of the things we were supposed to have done over the last ten years was to “... *initiate and maintain strategic food reserves in the region.*” At our last session in Dar-es-salaam, I did ask a question about these strategic food reserves, and the answer I got from the Council of Ministers was that the Partner States have them. I have moved around, although not much, but I am yet to see the strategic food reserves, which have been set up in this region.

They may argue that the Partner States undertook to set up these reserves but as the Counsel to the Community told us, the Partner States are the Community, and this is not a document for the Partner States. It is a document for the Community, it is a document for this Assembly, it is a document for the Council of Ministers, and it is a document for the Secretary-General. Therefore, if anybody is to take blame for not doing what we are supposed to have done, the blame will rest squarely somewhere in the regional organs.

Mr Speaker, when ten years elapse and we see a report from our committee showing that we have done very little in this area, we have to pose and ask where the weakness is. Why is it that all these matters - it is not only on food security. Article 109 talks about irrigation and water catchments management, and in this report, the Committee is talking about irrigation to ensure that we have sufficient food; Article 106 talks of seed multiplication and distribution, livestock multiplication and distribution, and, plant and animal disease control. All the issues that the Committee has addressed in this report are issues agreed upon over ten years ago. So, in my view, we must address why we are stagnating - *(Interruption)*-

Mr Kidega: I thank hon. Ogalo for giving way. I would like to comment specifically on the issue of seed multiplication and its implication on food security. I happen to be a small farmer. By virtue of being a son to my father, I became a landlord in a small district in Uganda here called Amuru, where I do some farming. I sent my farm manager to buy bean seeds for planting. He went and bought beans, which were for consumption, and he planted them on five acres. The beans grew very beautifully but never flowered, so we got nothing. I lost a lot of money there.

The information I want to give is that western-based scientists own most of the food that we enjoy today in this region. If we want to do something on food security, we should implore our scientists and researchers to work hard and ensure that they take seed multiplication very seriously.

There is something called genetic user restriction technology, which our farmers in the rural areas still do not know about because of their traditional practice of picking food from the garden and preserving it for seed. They are losing a lot of production. Therefore, our scientists and our researchers must consider this. I thank you for giving way.

Mr Ogalo: Thank you for the information, hon. Kidega, and I want to take off from there. Under whom do the researchers in this Treaty fall? Where are they? Why can the people of East Africa not see them? My conclusion is that the setup of the Community organs somehow does not allow the Executive in Arusha to take charge of these matters. Therefore, the people of East Africa are entitled to ask the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers here today that, “Sir, over ten years ago you said you were going in for seed multiplication and distribution, and you said you were going to maintain strategic food reserves, where are they?”

We have to address this question, which has left some lacuna, which, to me, is structural because the Executive in Arusha is divorced from the implementation of what is in the Treaty. It is very necessary for the Executive in Arusha, led by the Council of Ministers, to take charge of this Treaty, and of the promises made to the people of East Africa so that we can start to implement them.

One thing, which will come up, will always be the question of sovereignty. Sir, I think that many times we hide behind this question of sovereignty because there are agreed upon undertakings in this Treaty. Therefore, the question of sovereignty cannot arise when you have the authority to fulfil what is here. I think that this House should critically look at the structural setup with a view to revisiting the powers of the Council of Ministers, vis-à-vis the Partner States. If the Council of Ministers or the Executive is unable to fulfil what is in this Treaty and we leave it to the Partner States to do it, then there will be no need for an East Africa.

The second point that I wish to comment on is the question of irrigation, which the chairperson has ably recommended. Obviously, this question of waiting for the rains to come and then we plant - and now we hear of this global warming - sometimes the food crops fail in Uganda, and hunger sets in. We are happy that now the rains are here and we can now go out and plant, but in this 21st Century, we cannot continue to rely on the rains in order to sustain our food reserves, and whatever we plant! (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, I know that there is a problem but I think the Community and Partner States - on the issue of irrigation - are not coming out strongly enough on this issue. We are aware that prior to the independence of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania, the colonial masters negotiated a contract on our behalf with Egypt in which they bound us not to use

the waters of Lake Victoria in any way as would reduce the flow of water arriving in Egypt. That has really held us back.

We have not been able to dam the waters for irrigation for the simple reason that soon after independence, the governments adopted those colonial agreements, and they could therefore not breach them. To the detriment of the people of East Africa, it is coming to 50 years, and we are still talking about irrigation. Everybody is pointing to all the lakes in the region that we could use for irrigation, but these archaic agreements that our governments have to respect, hold us back. Except for Tanzania - I am glad of the stand that Tanzania took to ignore the agreements and go on with irrigation in Shinyanga.

What has now happened here is that because people felt that those colonial agreements were not fair, they have now come up with another organisation, the Nile Basin Initiative, which has expanded to include over ten countries. For years a number of years now, they have been and are still negotiating how to use the waters of the River Nile. *Sijui* “riparian states”, *sijui* “upper states”, and these negotiations have been going on for years, but simply sustaining and maintaining the position imposed on us by the colonial masters!

Mr Speaker, I understand that even the agreements that they are negotiating in the Nile Basin Initiative are not the best for this region. Therefore, when it comes to irrigation, we will continue to be held back. The chairperson of the committee will come here and recommend to us in a report that we should have irrigation. We shall adopt this report and recommend it to the Council of Ministers, but the question that arises is, will the Council of Ministers take up the matter? Will they pick up the courage and say, “We are going to breach these agreements and we are going to speak for the people of East Africa?” Otherwise, the debates will continue. It is time to see and move for the people of East Africa. (*Applause*)

The chairperson of the committee spoke on the need for standardisation and certification to ensure the protection of the consumers, and that there are safety standards in the agro industry. It is a very good recommendation, and we are talking about the people of East Africa from the five countries. However, if history is anything to go by, and with due respect to what hon. Ndahiro has said, right from 2002, this House has on several occasions attempted to create East African institutions. Right from the time of the Customs Union, the Assembly attempted to create an East African authority to take care of customs. The idea did not go down well with the Council of Ministers, so they threw it out.

During the debate on the EAC Competition Act, which this House did pass, we attempted to have an East African authority to manage this kind of competition at the regional level. This was because we believed that one could not be a judge in one's own case. How can you have an authority in Uganda dealing with the competition matters in Uganda? Again, they rejected that.

I have seen that whenever there is an attempt to create a regional institution, it does not go down well, and so I wonder, how will you manage East Africa without regional

institutions? It does not make sense that you are a community, you are one region, but each country should do its own thing! Therefore, when the chairperson calls for standards and certification to protect consumers, it is a very good idea, but I know they will say, "Leave those standards for each Partner State to deal with." Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity. *(Applause)*

Ms Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I would like to join my colleagues in supporting the motion. And before I can comment on the Report, allow me to thank all of you for the solidarity that you showed us during the time when our colleague, hon. Bernard Mulengani, lost his dear wife, and also when our other colleague, hon. Mugisha Muntu, lost his dear mother, Aida. I thank you very much. In addition, I thank you for even going to the respective villages for the burial. We shall forever remain very grateful to you.

I would like to commend the chairperson of the committee and the members for doing a very good job. I would also like to thank *Kilimo Trust* for the co-operation they have had with members of the committee in particular, and with EALA in general. I would like to inform Members that actually *Kilimo Trust* is located here in Uganda. If you want to access it, you go to Mbuya towards the Army Barracks and you will be able to get *Kilimo Trust*.

Kilimo Trust facilitates wealth creation and poverty reduction in agriculture, and they are currently supporting government institutions in East Africa to negotiate EPAs with the EU better. For that, we really appreciate, in particular, the CEO of *Kilimo Trust*. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I would also like to go on record for thanking some of the major farmers, because farming is not easy. I want to thank, in particular: the Muljibhai Madhvani family for the tremendous work they have done in Uganda; the Mulwanas for the work they have done; my mothers, the small hold farmers countrywide; the women who constitute 80 percent in Uganda and Rwanda, and I am sure in Tanzania, Burundi and Kenya. They are the ones who actually do a lot of the farming work. *(Applause)*

The report was quite comprehensive. It touched on all sectors that needed to be touched. In summary, I would like to say that the report clearly indicates that all over the region of East Africa, there is immense underutilisation of our agricultural potential. I agree with that totally. We have very fertile, which we have been able to witness during our tours. I was actually very impressed when saw how fertile Burundi is. Colleagues will remember seeing wild tangerines growing all over the countryside. So, if we harness the land, how much food could we get from the beautiful land of Burundi?

When we had a tour of the Rift Valley areas of Kenya – by the way, when went to observe election, we did not only observe elections but we also saw the fertile lands in Kenya. I in particular went to the central region, in Othaya, I saw the fertile lands there, and I appreciated what Mother Nature and God has given to this region of East Africa.

Uganda, my country, which is known to be “Gifted by Nature”, I can just tell you that in my village there are areas where you throw a seed and it grows. However, we need to take this fertile soil to another level. We need to support the household farmers by ensuring that we mechanise our agriculture, so that we can, not only feed East Africa, but also export our produce to the Arab world and other countries that lack food. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, we have water bodies in the region despite the fact that most of them are now getting affected. We have seen a decline in the levels of Lake Victoria, which is causing all the power shortages, as you know. Nevertheless, we are not badly off when it comes to water. We have the goodwill of the people of East Africa. The common man is interested in working; the common man is asking for support; the common woman is asking for support; they are innovative. *(Applause)*

We have heard our presidents in the region calling upon families not to fragment their land. I want to salute my president in Uganda in particular for calling upon farmers not to fragment their land, and I think that is very good if we mechanise agriculture. I want to thank Gen. Salim Saleh, one of our retired generals in Uganda, in particular. He has decided to retire and go into farming in one of the areas called Nakaseke. If you look at what is happening in Nakaseke, it is very interesting. I hope that in future the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, or even Members of this House, will go and see the big maize fields - similar to those that you see in the movies - so that you can go back home and maybe implement what the hands of an individual can do. I would like to salute him in a special way for that.

The report clearly indicates that despite the hunger in some of the areas in the region, the region is still able to feed its population. However, I am glad that it does not ignore the fact that we have had cases of hunger. We have had cases where people have died because of hunger. We have had cases of women battered...when a woman is beaten and you go into the details as to why, there could be food shortage somewhere. Those are all indicators of hunger. Therefore, we must handle hunger because it is a very serious matter. Yes, the region might be sufficient in food, but we must really consider those minor cases.

The report clearly indicates that despite the problem that we have had of food shortages and taking food from Rwanda to Uganda, from Uganda to Kenya, from Kenya to Tanzania, the Common Market offers hope. *(Applause)* I find today's session very special, because we have the Chairman to the Council of Ministers, hon. Kamala, and the Secretary-General of the Community, hon. Mwapachu, present. It is our prayer, Mr Speaker, that the question of food transportation is considered a priority in the Common Market. If that is done, we shall really be very grateful.

I am speaking from the experience of a farmer who has been exporting eggs to Rwanda. Therefore, I know the difficulties in transportation of, especially, perishables from one country to another. The technical barriers you meet while taking these products to the neighbouring country – the bureaucracy along the way is immense. We hope that after this, those who are transporting milk from Tanzania to Kenya, and those transporting beef from Kenya to Uganda will find life so easier, and that we will be able to transport

food from areas where there is abundance to areas where there is scarcity. I am glad that my brother Lotodo is very excited because he will be able to get more food into his region.

Mr Speaker, I am also happy with the report because of the observations therein. Some of my colleagues have already talked about them, but I want to mention something on the question of agro-processing, which is lacking in our region. There is a vivid evidence of this in our supermarkets. Honourable colleagues, if you take a hike to *Nakumatt* or any other major supermarkets in Uganda and in Kenya, what you will find in those supermarkets will be mostly imported foods. This means that as a region we need to ensure that we invest in the sector of agro-processing.

One major issue, which has really been a problem, is climate change. Most of our farmers find it difficult to reap what they expected on deciding to grow particular crops, just like my colleague, hon. Kidega has said, because of the bad climatic conditions within the region. I believe it is the same globally. This has really affected many countries, and in East Africa in particular, it is affecting our achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

Now, how can we achieve the Millennium Development Goals if we are not able to control malnutrition? Definitely, you will have mortality of children! How can we achieve universal primary education if the children cannot access the schools because of flooding, which is a result of climate change? How can we eradicate extreme poverty when the areas along Lake Victoria are affected?

Mr Speaker, we went to Kisumu and saw the dumping of sewage being into the lake. We also saw the extent to which the areas around the lake are affected, and I realised that we are very far from meeting the MDGs if climate change and other mistakes continue as they have been.

I also support what my colleague, hon. Ogalo, has commented on the Treaty. The Treaty in Chapter 18 says it all. In Article 105, 106, 107 and to 109, issues of irrigation, seed multiplication, et cetera are clear. Therefore, it is up to the Council of Ministers to ensure that they consider whatever our leaders committed themselves to so that the people of East Africa are able to realise the beautiful gains. People want to see how they can benefit.

Mr Speaker, food security is a very serious issue, and I would like to call upon our governments in the region to take food security as a security issue. We should consider food as a security issue. Lack of food is a prerequisite for insecurity. It is very difficult for a mother to stay stable if she fails to supply food for her husband and her children. Lack of food makes it very easy for a community to riot. Therefore, we should take food very seriously if we are to ensure that our region remains stable.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Secretariat, because according to the report, they are doing something. I say they are doing something because they have the Food Security Action Plan, 2010. I really applaud them for that. *(Applause)*

I also want to thank the Members of the EAC Summit for calling a special summit meeting to discuss food security. That means that as leaders they have taken the question of food in the region very seriously, and they will be able to utilise our comparative advantages, like growing a staple food in Uganda in another area, and be able to supply it to the areas of need.

With those few remarks, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you. *Asante saana. (Applause)*

The Speaker: The last speaker will be hon. Kate Kamba before I call hon. Nangale to reply.

Ms Kate Kamba (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for allowing me to comment on the report, which is a common strategy for food security within our region. This report has actually done a lot of service to the people of East Africa. It has touched on most of the things, but I just want to echo what is in this report on page 12.

In calling for the African green revolution, His Excellency Kofi Annan, when he was the Secretary-General of the United Nations said, *“The knowledge required for Sub-Saharan Africa to achieve its own green revolution is not lacking. What is lacking as ever is the will to turn this knowledge into practice.”* The World Bank corroborated this in its report, which estimated that *“The rate of use of improved varieties south of the Sahara was about 24 percent; use of chemical fertiliser stood at only 13 percent; and use of appropriate water control systems for agriculture covered only 4 percent of the cultivated land.”* This is a summary of the sad situation of the region. It is really pathetic and sad.

When you look at what God has given Africa – and now I am narrowing it down to East Africa – it is very immense, but agriculture is an area that touches every individual in the region. If this Community is going to give benefits to our people, it is in the area of agriculture, and that is the centre of our coming together.

We are here, and we have committed ourselves in the Treaty that we are going to do this and that. We can be apologetic when it comes to infrastructure; we can fail to build roads and so on, but when it comes to agriculture, where everybody is engaged in one way or another, and we are still apologetic, we are not doing much, then we are doing a disservice to this Community. An area that the Africans within the region are going to appreciate is agriculture. So, I urge - as my colleagues have been urging - the Secretariat and the Council of Ministers, to really show East Africans that we care about our people.

Agriculture is a science, but what we are doing is very unscientific. Agriculture, I keep on repeating, is a science. We are thankful to our mothers, although some of them never went to school and are subsistence farmers who, because of this unscientific way of doing things, cannot afford a safe and balanced meal. Therefore, when we are talking about

food in Africa today, we are talking about starch; you know we are talking about *Ugali*! When you go to the developed countries, they will be talking of fish and beef. This is very pathetic, because in Africa, and especially in East Africa, we also have animals! We have a large concentration of animals like goats, sheep, and chicken, but our people cannot afford to put those things together as a meal in a day simply because we are acting in a very unscientific way.

Agriculture - I will keep on repeating it - is a science, and once you do not apply the science properly, there is no good seed, no fertiliser, no reliable water and no pesticides. If you forget about these, then that science will never work. Therefore, I urge my brothers and sisters in the Council of Ministers, and in the Secretariat, including us, the Members of this Assembly, to go back to our people, the farmers. We never go back to our farmers to impress it upon them that we are rally relevant to our coming together here.

Just like the example that hon. Kidega has given, we do not have seeds. I know that the Kenya Seed Company is doing something in that area but we cannot afford the seeds; the seeds are too expensive. When you go to fertilisers, you have to import from abroad. A bag of fertilizers enriches only the intermediaries, as it is too expensive for the farmer to buy fertilizers in Tanzania. Irrigation is at only 4 percent for the region. So, the next development strategy - which I hope is almost in place - should really be action oriented - *(Interruption)*-

Ms Byamukama: I thank you, hon. Member, for giving way. I have reliable information that notwithstanding the fact that all the East African Partner States have agreed to implement a ten percent budget allocation for agriculture, none of them have, to date, actually allocated this ten percent. Currently, it is only Tanzania, which has the highest, and it has only six percent. Obviously, this is still below the ten percent requirement. I just wanted to augment your point.

Ms Kamba: I thank hon. Byamukama for complimenting my point. Let us work together. We have the oversight function, maybe we could maximise this function as an Assembly to pressurise the region, and to put sense into our people that if we develop Africa, then we will actually be enriching the farmer.

The level of poverty of our people is a reflection of our lack of seriousness. They do not sleep in safe shelters, yet they do not deserve to sleep that way as East Africans but that is where they are. Most of them sleep in ramshackle shelters, and if you go to their table, they have malnourished children. It is high time we increased the oversight function of our parliaments in the region to put sense into our governments to translate political will into the realities of the East Africans. *(Applause)* Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to support the Motion.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, before I call hon. Nangale, I would like to recognise the presence, in the Gallery, of our representative from Kilimo Trust, Miss Christine Alokot. *(Applause)*

The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Dr George Nangale (Tanzania)): Mr Speaker, first I want to thank all Members of the House for their overwhelming contribution and enthusiasm for this report. For the members of the committee who have worked tirelessly for many months to come to this stage of submitting the report to the House, we are happy that the House has debated and enthusiastically received the report in a positive way.

The discussions covered many aspects, and I would like to highlight some of the issues, which will help to enrich the report and inform the House on various interventions as per our rules and regulations.

I want to thank hon. Safina Kwekwe for her contribution, and for particularly emphasising the issue of investing in infrastructure, and particularly in the feeder roads where food comes from in the rural areas. It is true that we have many highways and railways but you will find very few trucks on the highways carrying food because of the poor state of the feeder roads. So, most of the food is left in the rural areas because it cannot come to the main roads.

I want to commend hon. Kimura for alluding to the issue of agri-business. It is true we need to add value to our products if we are to compete and find our products on the shelves of supermarkets, and elsewhere where they need the food.

I want to commend hon. Dr Bilal for his contribution – *(Interruption)* -

The Speaker: Honourable Member, perhaps you could just summarise your statement; I think most of the issues were the same. I do not think there were any questions.

Dr Nangale: Mr Speaker, I want to commend Dr Ndahiro. His contribution on the issue of facilitating food trade institutions is important. Already we have an East African Green Council, but I am sure that through the EAC Food Security Action Plan 2010-2030 will take care of this.

I want to commend hon. Leonce, hon. Ogalo, hon. Tiperu and hon. Kate Kamba for their positive contributions.

Mr Speaker, the heads of state have directed to hold an extra-ordinary summit in the course of March in Arusha, and we will be submitting our recommendations as a House to the background paper later on. *(Applause)*

I beg to move that the House do adopt the report. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now put the question that the report of the Committee be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Resolution adopted.

MOTION

FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON A DRAFT ELECTION OBSERVATION MANUAL FOR THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Mr Mike Sebalu, Uganda): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the *“Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on a Draft Election Observation Manual for the East African Community”* be adopted.

Mr Abdul Karim Harelimana (Rwanda): Seconded.

Mr Sebalu: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As per the mandate of the committee, the Committee undertook to develop an Election Observation Manual for the East African Community. This stems from the fact that the East African Community has been engaged in the process of observing elections in the Partner States. The feeling is that this we need to institutionalise this process by providing for it in the calendar of activities of the East African Community, by setting aside sufficient funding for the activities, and by developing a manual spelling out the best practices developed.

This year alone, three of our Partner States are going to have elections: The United Republic of Tanzania will be holding presidential, parliamentary and local government elections; the Republic of Rwanda will be having presidential elections and the Republic of Burundi will be holding presidential, parliamentary and local government elections. Therefore, this year will be a very busy year in terms of elections for the Community.

This Election Observation Manual seeks to establish a common standard, which the East African Community and other stakeholders can refer to, to determine the credibility of electoral processes and the legitimacy of electoral outcomes in the Partner States.

The manual is important for enhancing democracy, the rule of law and governance, which is essential for the political, social and economic development of the East African region. The East African member states of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda do share a common heritage, and they are working towards a common destiny as encapsulated in the Community’s theme for the ten years, “One people; One destiny”.

Article 123 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community requires that Partner States, among other things, develop and consolidate democracy and the rule of law, respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

Further, Article 6(d) requires that Partner States do achieve, *“good governance including adherence to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability,*

transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, gender equality as well as the recognition, promotion, and production of human and people's rights in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and People's rights."

Article 3(3)(b) of the Treaty provides that membership in the Community requires adherence to universally acceptable principles of good governance, democracy, the rule of law, observance of human rights and social justice.

The African Union (AU) Declaration on Principles Governing Democratic Elections prescribes that democratic elections should be conducted freely and fairly under democratic constitutions, and in compliance with supportive legal instruments under a system of separation of powers that ensures, in particular, the independence of the Judiciary; at regular intervals, as provided in national constitutions; and by impartial, all inclusive, competent, accountable electoral institutions staffed by well trained personnel and equipped with adequate logistics.

Furthermore, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which all member states of the United Nations accept, emphasises the universal right to genuine elections. Article 21 of the Universal Declaration stipulates that, *"everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives."*

The same Article also establishes that free elections are the only basis for a government's authority: *"The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government. This will be expressed in periodic and genuine elections, which shall be by universal adult suffrage, and shall be held by secret ballot or by equivalent free voting procedures."*

In view of the above, it was found prudent for the East African Community to develop an East African Election Observation Manual, which would incorporate universal best practices.

Article 49(2)(d) and 49(3) of the Treaty establishing the EAC provides the Assembly the mandate to discuss all matters pertaining to the Community, and to make recommendations as it may deem necessary for the implementation of the Treaty.

Consequently, the East African Legislative Assembly has developed this manual as a tool to entrench a democratic culture of transparent electoral processes in order to prevent conflicts in the region.

We have divided this manual into sections, and I am only going to give highlights basing on the premise that Members have read the manual, because we gave sufficient time for Members to go through it. Therefore, I will just give highlights to lead the discussions.

The manual is divided into the following sections: we have the introduction on pages 3 to 10; the conditions for free and fair elections are on pages 11 to 21; guidelines on

election observation and monitoring are on pages 22 to 26. We also have annexes and references.

Under the introduction section, and general consideration in particular, the manual defines and dwells upon the following: we define elections, election systems and we have a number of them as clearly spelt out in the manual. We have the single member plurality, and the single member majority; we have proportional representation system, and the mixed member proportional system. Those are the different systems.

On pages 6 and 7, we dwell on the voting centre, polling station and election materials. On pages 7 to 8, we spell out the election stakeholders, and on pages 8 to 9 we bring out issues that we want to be considered when dealing with election observation and monitoring.

Mr Speaker, we dwell on the conditions for free and fair elections, and under that section, we cover benchmarks, including international election benchmarks, as seen on page 11. We have continental election benchmarks on pages 11 to 12, and we have regional election benchmarks on page 12.

We are trying to apply all the different benchmarks and standards available so that we come up with a superior arrangement that would give us a good comparative analysis.

Furthermore, this section also covers the following electoral cycle: we have the pre-election phase, election phase and the post-election phase. In the pre-election phase, we deal with matters, which include, among others: the constitutional and legal framework, on pages 12 to 13; the electoral systems, on page 13; election management bodies on pages 13 to 14; voter registration on page 14; registration of political parties on pages 14 to 15; nomination processes on page 15; and, campaign process, on page 15 as well.

The media is on pages 15 to 16; use of public resources on page 16; political violence and intimidation on page 16; the role of security forces on pages 16 to 17; political party-financing on page 17; and, civic and voter education.

These are among the major activities that are supposed to be undertaken in the pre-election phase, and our findings are that these are very important aspects that really need to be properly interrogated and emerging issues identified because they have an impact and they influence the outcome at the end of the day.

On the election phase, we are dealing with the following: the polling stations on page 18; secrecy of the ballot, page 18; ballot papers, ballot boxes and election materials, pages 18 to 19; and the counting process, which is on the polling day.

Then, the post election phase draws on the following major areas: announcement of the overall result is on page 20, and the details are well explained there; acceptance of the result; post election review; post election disputes...you see, even the idea of accepting an outcome is such an important aspect in terms of determining the legitimacy of the

outcome that you will find that it is becoming common practice to contest election results even where no indications of foul play are detected.

Therefore, we really need to appreciate the issues. We need to look at and this entire process, and so the East African Community wants to create serious benchmarks along those lines in order to have a comparative analysis, even in terms of performance from one Partner State to another.

Mr Speaker, this manual also covers guidelines developed by the committee to guide election observation and monitoring missions in the region. Thus, the manual deals in detail with the subsequent issues under this section.

From page 22 to page 23, we have spelt out detailed guidelines, and we have clearly articulated preparation for observation and monitoring from page 22 to page 26. There is a clear issue regarding preparation. If it is done on an ad hoc basis without making thorough preparations, then it will affect the outcome of the exercise. Therefore, there is a need to do critical, sufficient budgeting and proper planning. All logistical and other support systems need to be put in place in good time to give the mission sufficient capacity to be able to deliver.

Mr Speaker, we also need to look at the following issues: steps for setting up an observation and monitoring mission; observation and monitoring as a process in itself; the preliminary and interim reports as well as the final reports.

Last but not least, we have included checklists as annexes to this report. It may not be exhaustive, but we have tried to cater for those very critical and salient features that we really need to take into account. We have the pre-election checklist for the period before the mission and before the elections are undertaken in conformity with the conditions that are mentioned earlier on. Then there is also a need for a polling day checklist to ensure that you are looking for those aspects that will give you confidence in determining at the end of the day the credibility of the process. In addition, we have references, which are hereby attached.

I would like to thank all the different stakeholders who have been involved and who have made tremendous contribution to the process of formulating this draft manual.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House do consider and adopt this manual so that it can be put to test during the forthcoming elections in the Republic of Burundi, in the Republic of Rwanda and in the United Republic of Tanzania, as we continue subjecting it to various levels of tests. It will definitely be a subject for improvement until it gets to the point where we feel it meets the standards and the demands for very credible electoral processes to usher in an era of electoral outcomes that the participating parties do not contested.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House adopt this report. I thank you. *(Applause)*

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to support the report on the election observation manual of the East African Community. I would like to congratulate the committee, chaired by hon. Sebalu, for this piece of work. This will no doubt go down in the record of the Assembly for being proactive, as well as for contributing to the fundamental principles of the Community as enshrined in Article 6, namely: peaceful co-existence and good neighbourliness, peaceful settlement of disputes, and most importantly, good governance and adherence to the principles of democracy.

It gives me a lot of pride, if I may say so, to be part of the Assembly, which has come up with a very innovative method of work, which is proactive, and therefore will enable the Community to integrate deeper and wider as we continue on to political federation.

I want to commend your leadership, Mr Speaker, which has enabled some of us to monitor elections, especially in this Second Assembly. We have monitored elections in Kenya, and some of us had the opportunity to monitor elections in Zimbabwe, as well as in Rwanda. Therefore, with this experience, we look forward to contributing to the peace, not only in the East African region, but also beyond.

Mr Speaker, I have some three points that I want to raise arising from our experience. The first point that I would like to raise, and which I propose for the committee to adopt clearly is to articulate who will lead election observation missions in the East African region. We have had this as an issue and when we went to Zimbabwe for example, it was very clear that SADC was in charge and when we went to Kenya, EALA did take charge. And therefore for clarity, I think it would be good or proper if the committee could capture the fact that EALA has the mandate as the custodian of people's rights as well as representatives of the people, to take charge and lead these election observation missions.

Secondly, I would like to point to the fact that when we have observed elections in Kenya, in Zimbabwe and in Rwanda but especially for the case of Kenya, we did not have funding from the East African Community. We had to solicit for funding from partners and this puts question to our central role as well as to our mandate under the Treaty to ensure that we have good governance as well as adhere to the principles of democracy. I, therefore, urge the committee to also recommend that the East African budget should clearly include election observation as an important aspect rather than depending on donors who may be fatigued especially with the credit crunch.

Mr Speaker, as I said before and as we all know, elections are sources of instability in some of the areas but we hope that with this manual, when a conflict resolution mechanism is established, we will be in a better position to handle the next three years, and to keep on track the integration, notwithstanding that we shall be going to elections in the next three years. I thank you, and I beg to support. *(Applause)*

Ms. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity. I also want to thank the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution for this very comprehensive report on the election observation manual of the East African Community. This is indeed a very important manual because it is going to

help to guide our electoral offices and electoral commissions as they pursue the important road of maturing our democracies in the respective Partner States.

I want to salute the Committee because it has presented a very comprehensive report. It has notably listed a comprehensive inventory of the basic requirements in every electoral process, and I think it is important for us to list them candidly because it is common to omit some requirements in the course of some of these exercises. Moreover, there is usually no office to plead that the absence of one requirement or another has affected the outcome of the elections. Therefore, I think that listing an inventory will give an opportunity to every electoral commission in our Partner States to check that all that is required for an election is present. I think that will improve our electoral processes and the question of democracy in our Partner States.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, I also want to say that this election manual proposes a mechanism that will help to standardise the process and procedure of elections in the Partner States. In most cases, the constitutions of the Partner States provide for an independent electoral commission, but that notwithstanding, there is usually a lot of influence, perhaps from government or from the opposition parties, which in some cases influence the electoral commission not to follow its functions candidly. Therefore, this kind of manual will give the electoral commissions a chance to check properly for what is required in the election process.

I also want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, because under your leadership we have had the chance to observe electoral processes in the various countries. In most cases, we have had the opportunity to propose a *modus operandi*, and in some instances, we have adapted from the existing electoral processes. However, I am sure that now with this proposed manual we will be able to go through the election processes consistently and be able to give a thorough check on the processes.

Mr Speaker, you will appreciate that at the end of every electoral process, a report of the observation team is very important. What has been happening is that in some cases, we tend to give what I may call a personal view of the process, highlighting certain areas vis-à-vis the others. In addition, I would say that in some instances, the views would be localised to a specific region, giving the view depending only on that area where you have been operating. Now having very comprehensive guidelines on the observation process will give us chance to whoever will be participating to be able to give a well-structured opinion on the election process.

I want to end by thanking the Committee for a well-thought out manual, and I call upon the Council of Ministers to think through this report. In addition, in view of Article 123 of the Treaty, which talks about the political affairs within the region, and also in view of Article 6, we are able to look at this report, adopt it and recommend it to the Partner States to be able to match it with the respective electoral laws. I beg to support motion.

Dr. Lwanyantika F. Masha (Tanzania): Mr Speaker, I am not a member of this committee but I am glad that somebody has thought out something as useful as this

manual. Therefore, first I have to say congratulations to the committee, which has done this one. I have been an election observer four times; twice in Zimbabwe, once in Kenya and once in Rwanda. Had we had this kind of manual, it would have been extremely useful.

When I first went as an observer to Zimbabwe, I was part of an observer mission from the Government of Tanzania, and for the entire period that we were preparing to go, we did not have any guidelines. We were sort of groping for what to look for and how to get our report done. I think this would be a very useful starting point. Bearing on the experience we had in that mission, I would suggest that perhaps we could interest the Partner States to see whether this manual might also be useful for their observer missions. They could look at it and suggest whatever changes they might want to make so that we have one general manual for all the election observation missions by both the EALA and the Partner States. Since I am not a member of the Committee, I do not know whether the Committee has already done any consultations in this regard. If they have not, then I suggest that we interest these governments into looking at this manual to see whether it might also be useful to them. Given the experience I have had, I think it would be very useful.

Mr. Speaker, I have noticed that the checklist is in a form that we can create with a computer program. Basing on my other experiences as a researcher, I hope that thought has been given to developing a computer program, which will just channel out this information to get to the results - at least the preliminary results - very quickly. Looking at the format, I think that should be easy. In addition, this would eliminate some of the lengthy discussions before coming to a final report.

Finally, I would like to suggest that at whatever point this manual is complete, thought should be given to printing it out in some attractive form. I am sure if it is well done, it we could even sell it. I think it is a good piece, and if it is well done, we could print it in some attractive form, which we would be proud to carry around with us as we go to these observer missions.

Let me just caution that if thought is given to printing it, some thought has to be given to separating the two; the preliminary part up to page 26 and the checklist, because otherwise the checklist would have to be torn out to be used for the computer analysis, which I have suggested. Otherwise, this is an excellent piece of work; I congratulate the Committee for bringing it forward to us. *(Applause)*

Mr. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I congratulate my colleague here, hon. Masha. I am a member of this committee, and I fully support this motion.

I take the floor to urge this House to adopt this report because an election observation manual will be of great importance for our region. Mr Speaker, as my Chairperson, hon. Sebalu, has already stated, in this year 2010, we will have many elections. As he has

already stated, in Burundi, we will have five different elections in a period of three months, and as we have already said, there will be elections in Rwanda and in Tanzania.

We need this election observation manual because we must have some understanding so that we can have credible elections in the region. When elections are credible, it means that even we ourselves are credible and trustworthy.

Mr Speaker, I also think that if we adopt this election observation manual, for me it will be a signal of our common will and commitment to go to further in the integration. That is why I am inviting this House to adopt this report. Adopting this report will also be a sign for our populations that the elections will be guided and then there will be no reason to fear elections in our region. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, as the representatives of the population, we have a mission to assure them that elections in the region are transparent, fair and free. This means that we must avoid the kinds of elections, which were a source of conflict in the previous years. That is why I am again asking my colleagues here to adopt this election observation manual.

Mr Speaker, if you go to page 28, you will see that the Committee has proposed some guidelines. I think these guidelines will be very useful for all the persons who will come to observe elections in our region. It will also be a signal for our population that the elections are guided, and that they will take place in a guided and safe climate.

I do not want to take too long, but I want to urge this House to adopt, as quickly as possible, this report. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

Ms. Lydia Wanyoto-Mutende (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and hon. Members. I would like to thank the Committee of Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution for the draft report. I would like to propose two areas of addition to this manual so that it becomes a unique manual, tailored to the East African Legislative Assembly.

My first point is to request the Committee to give us an annexure of all the electoral laws of the EAC Partner States. It will be good for us to know the electoral laws - maybe in a summary form or in a popular version – of all the five countries. My thinking is that we have a mandate to observe, at least for a start, elections in our Partner States. Therefore, if we could do popular versions of all the electoral laws that obtain in the Partner States, it would be useful to annexe it to this manual. This is so that when we get into Uganda, for example, we will know the Ugandan electoral laws, and then we can be able to observe the elections in Uganda from an informed point of view.

The second issue is something that could make this manual to have a niche that relates to the East African Legislative Assembly. This Assembly gets its mandate through elective positions and, therefore, we are in elective politics ourselves. Unlike the other institutions like the development partners, the civil society organisations, the media, and political party organisations, EALA has elected members. Therefore, when you look at page 8 of

the report where they have set standards of who should be an election observer, I would like to request the Committee to add a paragraph or bullet that relates to the standards of the members of EALA who would qualify to observe elections. This is because of one, our history, and the roles that we play in our partisan participatory politics.

I am saying this because we must rise above the bar if we are to be serious about election observation in terms of our own participation in elective politics back in our Partner States, and in our electoral laws. I want to give some examples.

There is the issue of the image of political actors in terms of violence, mentioned in this manual. If you are going to observe elections in an area where there is violence, and back home or in your own political activities, you are violent during elections, then you put the EALA manual or even the image of the institution you are representing at stake. Or, if you are found or you are imputed to have a record of ballot stuffing in the election processes wherever you are because you are an active politician in your own right, the institution if EALA then is put at stake. Therefore, we need to have a paragraph to check the members of EALA who are also active in politics back home, and who are going to observe elections representing EALA.

We must be impeccable in terms of image and representation so that we can go to check what we ourselves are. I am sharing this because I was in Kenya in 2007 with some election observers. When they saw some people in the media, they said that perhaps those people had gone to teach the Kenyan Electoral Commission how to cheat in elections! This is because they had been actors and had that image. Therefore, my point is that since EALA members are politicians, we must check our own image. Therefore, there must be a paragraph about this unique institution, which is in elective politics, and would like to observe others. We must rise above and set the bar for good elections and for election observation. I do not see it in this manual, and I think it is a big gap because we are active politicians, and we would like to set the bar for what a good election process should be. I thank you, hon. Speaker and colleagues. *(Applause)*

Dr. Aman Kabourou (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the election manual. First, I should say that I am a member of this committee, and that I am pretty much satisfied by what we have suggested in here. We would however like to urge the hon. Members to adopt this manual because, as my colleagues have already said, it is a very important manual, given that we have the mandate in the region to observe and monitor elections.

I just stood up here to support some of the suggestions made by, first, hon. Byamukama, who asked us to see to it that EALA is given preponderance when it comes to leading these observation teams. I think I support that. As a legislative body, we certainly have more rights over these matters than anybody else. As a matter of fact, in some countries, we know that matters relating to election conflicts are usually settled within Parliaments; they do not go to the courts. Therefore, although we are a little different from that, it is very important for EALA to lead the observation teams, and I support that.

I also would want to say something about the budgeting process. As clearly elaborated in this manual, the East African Community will have to find a budget for this activity. We have gone a little further in this manual to say that an election is not an event but a process, and it takes a long time before its consummation. You have the pre-election and, of course, there are many things in there, as you have seen in the manual, until the day when people go to vote. After that, surely there has to be some effort to come up with a final report. We cannot do that if funds are not available, and I do not see how we can do this without budgeting for election observation in our own EAC budget. *(Applause)*

Printing this manual as a booklet is also a good idea, and I want to support that. Mr Speaker I am also a little bit experienced in election observation. I have been to about six or seven of these, and I know that when you first arrive in the country, the electoral management body or the national electoral commission gives you a whole set of different documents, including maps of where you may end up. I am not very sure that this manual would be the most appropriate, although of course, we are only dealing with the region, but there is some implied notion here that this manual should also guide us even when we go to observe elections in other countries outside the region. Therefore, the annexure of electoral laws in the region may be important, but as I said, since when we go out there we get all these things from the electoral commissions, I think that would be a little cumbersome if we add it in here.

Otherwise, I would like to take this moment and - of course, I have a conflict of interest in this in that I would like to see this report adopted - to urge the members that this is a good beginning, and when there is need for changes, we are all free to do that. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Mr. Mike Sebalu) (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank all the members who have contributed in enriching this manual. Our intention was to stimulate interest in the subject, but we are available and willing to have it improved from different perspectives. I do acknowledge and thank members for the initiative to add value to this process.

I would like to begin by thanking hon. Kabourou. He has done quite a good job of responding to big chunk of some of the issues, so I will concentrate more on those on which he has not commented.

Regarding the leading role of EALA, I think the fact that we have come out to develop this manual is a clear indication that we see the need and we see it as an activity under our area of jurisdiction. Therefore, EALA playing a lead role is not a contradiction in any manner. I think it is most appropriate. We need to follow and streamline this process to create best practices for stabilising our politics in the region. If we really have to play a stabilising role in the region, then this is an area that we really need to emphasise. As a people's representative body, I think we are duty bound to play this role. The fact that we have come out is something that is good and worth writing home about.

Regarding funding, the idea of institutionalising this activity is to bring it into conformity with the institutional framework of operation so that it ceases to be an ad hoc business of the East African Community. The idea is to have it programmed by drawing an election calendar, make provisions for sufficient funding for those activities. The good thing is that this information is available. We know in which year and the particular season that the different Partner States will go for elections, so it is a question of capturing all this, institutionalising it, providing budgetary allocations for it and making it an activity that is properly factored within the activities of the EAC. Therefore, that is the kind of importance we attach to this activity, and we believe that the appropriate levels will take it seriously.

Hon. Masha, although this manual is going to be available for use by EALA and the EAC, our view is that it is going to be available for any stakeholder who wants to engage in the business of observing elections. These include civil society organisations, the private sector, and all those that are interested. We are just setting best practises and benchmarks that someone can use. Even private citizens may want to use it as a checklist. They may not be observers but they may want to assess how their countries are performing in terms of upholding universal principles that relate to good electoral management. Therefore, it will be available. Of course printing it in a very attractive way is something that we would all be proud of, and funds allowing, we could do that, but it will be available to all stakeholders.

Having it printed is another stage, and it is work in progress. As a committee, we have initiated the process but definitely, issues of quality control would come in. We will need to have it presented in a format that is internationally recognised. We really need to put it to those international standards. We are talking about benchmarking, so even our own product should meet international standards.

Hon. Ngenzebuhoro's were very good compliments. I want to inform hon. Wanyoto that there is a problem with annexing the popular versions of national electoral laws. The best-case scenario would be to assume that these laws are the same all the time. However, you will find that whenever a Partner State goes for elections, most times they amend the laws. Even in Uganda right now, the Parliament is in the process of amending the electoral laws. Therefore, if you get those annexes and put them in the standard text, then you will have a problem whenever the Partner States amend their laws. However, what we have provided in our manual is that in the pre-election stage, our observer team will always undertake a process of reviewing electoral laws of a particular Partner State that is going to hold elections so that you bring it up to date with the requirements. Otherwise, that would only be good in the assumption that these laws are not subject to amendments whenever there are elections.

Regarding the issue of the observers, we have clearly indicated on page 23, bullet three, that the members of any observation mission will have to abide by a code of ethics. WE have clearly spelt it out that you a member of the observer mission will be required to sign an undertaking to follow strictly, the letter and the spirit of the mission. That is for purposes of creating good order and practice out there in the field.

Mr Speaker, I thank honourable members for supporting this motion. We hope that by the time the mission goes to observe elections in the Partner States this year, we will have something to which to refer. We will use the manual as an instrument to test how efficiently we are implementing the principles of good governance within our region for purposes of stability and for the people to exercise their rights without any impediments.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you for having given us the opportunity to present this manual, and I beg this House to adopt this manual so that we can implement it sooner than later. I thank you very much. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I now put the question that the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on a draft Election Observation Manual for the East African Community be adopted.

(Question out and agreed to.)

Resolution adopted.

MOTION

TO RECORD SPECIAL THANKS TO HON. MONIQUE MUKARULIZA FOR HER EXEMPLARY PERFORMANCE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

Mr. Reuben Oyondi (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

THAT, this Assembly do resolve to give special thanks to hon. Monique Mukaruliza for her exemplary performance as Chairperson of the East African Community Council of Ministers.

I beg to move.

Dr. Didas Masaburi (Tanzania): Seconded.

Mr Oyondi: Mr Speaker, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 26 (1) of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, and Article 59 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, I beg to move a motion for resolution of the Assembly in the following terms:

“WHEREAS the Partner States have all appointed ministers responsible for EAC affairs; and,

WHEREAS the ministers responsible for the EAC affairs collectively form part of the EAC Council of Ministers and assume office of Chairperson on a yearly rotation basis; and,

WHEREAS the EAC Council is the policy organ of the Community for the purposes of reinforcing the implementation of the programs of the Community

and to ensure the proper functioning and development of the Community in accordance with the Treaty; and,

WHEREAS hon. Monique Mukaruliza has made a significant contribution to the Council of Ministers, being its chairperson in the period June 2008 and November 2009;

AWARE THAT she was barely a few months in the EAC fraternity;

COGNISANT of the fact that the assumption of the Chair of the Council by hon. Monique Mukaruliza brought in a gender sensitive touch to the chair and that she has done exceptionally well;

AWARE THAT previous Council of Ministers were men;

ACKNOWLEDGING her sworn stand for fast tracking and deepening of the EAC's integration agenda;

HAVING NOTED that it is the only way forward for the EAC Partner States to avoid their further marginalisation in the globalised economy;

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING her personal commitment to launch a number of major EAC projects during her tenure as Chairperson of Council, namely, the EAC Headquarters building, which had previously stalled, and the construction of the Arusha-Namanga Road;

APPRECIATING her role in the EAC Common Market negotiations by inspiring members of the High Level Task Force to move rapidly the negotiations of the Common Market Protocol amidst her very strong expressions to finalise the protocol, as directed by the Summit of the EAC Heads of State, ready for signing in November 2009, and indeed achieving the set target of November 2009;

RECOGNISING the tremendous effort she put in place to inculcate a spirit of inter organ relationships within the EAC firstly by working with His Excellency Paul Kagame to spearhead the introduction of the first ever EAC strategic retreats, which made important recommendations to further the EAC integration agenda, and secondly introducing meetings of Heads of EAC Organs to enhance relations and to work towards a common cause, which meetings have since been a mainstay in the EAC calendar, her tenure as chairperson of the meetings having been characterised by great levels of astuteness and wisdom with a holistic EAC picture in mind;

COMMENDING her for ably steering Council business within the Assembly, namely; answering questions put the Council, introducing Council Bills, presenting the EAC budget for financial year 2008/2009 and 2009/2010, debating

important motions, attending meetings of standing committees and select committees, and assisting in the passage of Bills before the Assembly;

NOTING with appreciation her role in arguing the case for EALA committees to be availed funds for oversight work in the main EAC budget and in the Partnership Fund, which has greatly improved the Assembly's operations;

NOW THEREFORE, this House do resolve as follows;

- 1. That it collectively conveys its special thanks to hon. Monique Mukaruliza for performing her work as Chairperson of Council with remarkable distinction*
- 2. That it collectively registers its gratitude to the exemplary leadership style of hon. Monique Mukaruliza, the outgoing Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers and Minister for EAC Affairs, Rwanda*
- 3. That it collectively registers its thanks to the entire Council of Ministers for their steadfast resolve to push forward the EAC integration agenda*
- 4. That it collectively recognises the faith placed in hon. Monique as Minister for EAC Affairs, Rwanda by His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda*
- 5. That it collectively thanks the EAC Summit of Heads of State for extending her tenure in office for a further three months until 20 November 2009."*

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

(Question proposed)

Dr. Didas Masaburi: Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion. I have some few comments on what we are going to resolve. On my part, I think that hon. Mukaruliza as a minister was doing all that she did on the support she got from the Chairperson of the Summit. She was also getting some support from the Council of Ministers. As such, I would propose that this motion also takes consideration of the contributions by the Chairperson of the Summit, the Summit as a whole, as well as the Council of Ministers.

Mr Speaker, if I was the Chairperson of the Summit, who is the person who nominated this minister and now we are recognising the contribution of the minister without mentioning the people who gave her the support she needed, I think to me that would not be fair. I therefore support the motion, but I would like the mover to find a way of including those people who also contributed and made her work easy as well as all those she was dependent on. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Member, but if you read the motion -and you are the one who seconded it -it also talks of those issues you have mentioned - *(Laughter)*. Most of the issues you are talking about are implied here.

Ms. Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to join my colleagues in supporting the motion to appreciate the contribution of hon. Monique Mukaruliza. I am very happy and excited to contribute to this motion because hon. Mukaruliza came at a time when, as women in EALA, we were very concerned about the

composition of the Council of Ministers. The Council had no woman at all, and so when she came, at least we had a Council with a difference. *(Applause)*

I am happy that her qualities have been ably articulated; the question of her being able to present the budgets, her ability to steer the Council...name it! She was new, took all the challenges and never embarrassed us the women of East Africa. We are very proud of her. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I had an opportunity to interface with her when she appeared before our committees. She had a style, and knew how to convince us on whatever she wanted. She and would do everything possible to let us understand her point, and finally we always took on all her demands. You do not get that special character easily. *(Applause)* Mr Speaker, I admire her in particular because she is very resilient. She is exemplary and has no intrigue. She is very cooperative and that made our work with her extremely easy.

I would like to thank President Paul Kagame in a very special way for that appointment. He showed us that he was supportive of women, and when we moved to Rwanda, we were able to witness the support that the President gives women in Rwanda in the manner in which he appoints his ministers. *(Applause)*

I also want to take this opportunity to thank her predecessors, beginning with those who were Ministers of Foreign Affairs. We had His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete who was then Minister for Foreign Affairs from Tanzania and now he is the President of Tanzania. I give special thanks to him. I also want to take this opportunity to thank hon. Andrew J. Kyenge, hon. Dr Ibrahim Nsabaha - you all know him, and I believe many of us appreciated the manner in which he used to articulate issues on the floor; hon. Dr Didorus Kamala, we appreciate your contribution too – *(Applause)*; hon. Mohamed Abood of Tanzania, we appreciate his contribution, hon. Nicholas - *(Interruption)*-

Mr. Sebalu: Mr Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague for giving way. We are setting precedence in this House, so I am wondering whether it would not be better to amend the resolution to include all those who have served well in the service of the Community.

The Speaker: Honourable member, if you look at the motion, it is thanking the minister for exemplary performance. If the others perform, they will get the same thing. We are talking about a particular person and not the Council of Ministers.

Mr Sebalu: The appointing authorities access them.

The Speaker: Well we also access them here.

Ms Tiperu: Thank you very much, hon. Sebalu for your support. I do support the motion, and hon. Mukaruliza's exemplary leadership. I was trying to name some of the former ministers who did an equally good job, and I thought this should go on record. I thank the mover of this motion today because it has given us an opportunity to be able to

recognise the contribution of her predecessors. Therefore, with hon. Mukaruliza, good things came.

I would like to thank hon. Peter Munya, hon. Kingi of Kenya, hon. James – *(Interruption)* -

The Speaker: Honourable Member, we know all of those names. If you could just finish, you do not have to mention them. Please continue.

Ms Tiperu: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I am glad that you have said that you know all those names, but there are people who do not know people like hon. Tom Butime of Uganda who was a Minister of Foreign Affairs. I would like it to be on record that we appreciate his service as a former Minister for Foreign Affairs, hon. Sam Kuteesa and others.

I would like to conclude by - *(Interruption)* -

Mr. Ogalo: I have heard the names being mentioned, and I would like to give information about hon. Kuteesa that after his appointment he came only once in the House. He was sworn-in, and we never saw him again. *(Laughter)*

The Speaker: Hon. Tiperu, I was hoping you would not go that way because even hon. Butime came only once in a whole year. Therefore, if you go that way then it will become a problem for you. You did not want to take my advice, but you may continue.

Ms. Tiperu: I Thank hon. Ogalo for his information, but as a seasoned politician, I think he is aware a minister's performance is not only judged by his attendance of meetings. He could be representing his country in many other for a! Therefore, for me as a person, I feel that we should recognise their contribution.

I would also like to thank hon. Eriya Kategaya in a special way because regardless of the fact that hon. Mukaruliza was new, he willingly handed over to her to steer the Council of Ministers, which work she did very well. If he were not an exemplary leader, it would have been very difficult for her to assume office of Chairperson of the Council of Ministers. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Mr. Augustine Chemonges Lotodo (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I also want to join my colleagues in supporting the motion on the floor, and to agree that since this Assembly came into place in 2001, many achievements have been recorded. I just want to say that the most important stage was the Customs Union. I believe that was the foundation for this next stage of the Common Market.

I do agree, and I would like the mover to recognise that many good things have happened that we could perhaps attribute to the past chairpersons of the Council. We have to remember that all Council makes all its decisions by consensus. If we recognise that, then I think it would be good for us to recognise the members of the Council of Ministers who

really put their efforts to ensure the success of all these achievements that are taking place.

I just want to say that hon. Eriya Kategaya played a very big role, and I would wish for that we also recognise him at this time. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I beg to support the motion.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, maybe to guide you, if you read paragraph three of the motion, it reads, *“That it collectively registers its thanks to the entire Council of Ministers for their steadfast resolve to push forward the EAC integration agenda”*. Therefore, I think hon. Members should read the motion before asking for the things, which are already in the motion.

Ms. Safina Tsungu Kwekwe (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to support the motion as presented. In African culture, most of the times it when people die that we sing their praises. I am happy that hon. Monique Mukaruliza is alive and kicking, and God willing, will continue to do so for many more years to come.

I want to congratulate hon. Oyondi, the mover of this motion, for recognising that it is good to say, “thank you” when people can say, “I have heard you” rather than when they cannot respond.

The motion is very clear. Indeed, it was the privilege of this Assembly to get hon. Mukaruliza as the Chairperson of the Council exactly one year after the swearing in of this Assembly. Therefore, it was our privilege to have her as the Chairperson of Council, at least for the Second Assembly, as the longest serving Chairperson of the Council. Probably we may have many more to come who might serve longer she has served, but already she has gone down on record as having served longer than any of the other Chairpersons of Council that this Second Assembly has interfaced with.

Mr Speaker, I want to conclude by saying this. I am happy that the mover of this motion is hon. Oyondi, because it has now come to light that women are not just helpers but companions who you walk side by side with the men along the way. I do not think there can be any other persuasion that this Assembly can have other than what hon. Monique Mukaruliza has proven beyond reasonable doubt that she is a woman of substance, and she has served us well. I thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

Mr. Clarkson Otieno Karan (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to support the motion. Hon. Mukaruliza as the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers did her work with remarkable distinction as honourable members have enumerated, but one thing that I want to underscore is that she was very honest in discharging her duties. Previously we had situations whereby a decision would be made, and nobody would want to own the decision in subsequent meetings. However, hon. Mukaruliza would make a decision, stand by that decision, and ensure that she convinces her colleagues to be able to toe that line. *(Applause)*

The other issue, Mr Speaker, is that once hon. Mukaruliza was convinced that the issue before her and the Council was the right thing to do, she went all the way to ensure that the issue is implemented.

Besides the other issues mentioned by the other members, I want to support this motion recognising her exemplary performance as the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers. I beg to support the motion.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, it looks like everyone is supporting the motion, perhaps I do not need to call hon. Oyondi. Do you want to say something?

Mr Oyondi: Mr Speaker, I want to thank all those who have contributed. You have seen them and heard what they have said, including all those who have been listening. *(Laughter)*

I want to say that we all have a chance to do good. There is a saying in the book of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 9 verse 11 that, *"I have seen something else under the Sun,"* What are those things under the Sun? It is human beings! *"The race is not to the swift or the battle to the strong, nor does food come to the wise or wealth to the brilliant or favour to the learned, but time and chance happen to them all"*. All of us have a time and chance to do good. Do not postpone until tomorrow if you are supposed to do it today. Do not say no if you know the answer is supposed to be yes.

Finally, I want to wish hon. Monique Mukaruliza total happiness in her new life, and wish her peace for the rest of her long life while on this planet Earth.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move. *(Applause)*

(Question put and agreed to.)

Resolution adopted.

MOTION

FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO URGE THE EAC TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Ms. Dora Kanabahita Byamukama: Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

THAT, pursuant to Article 59 of the Treaty and Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure, this Assembly do resolve to urge the East African Community to take action against the practice of Female Genital Mutilation also known as Female Genital Cutting.

Ms. Safina Kwekwe (Kenya): Seconded.

Ms. Byamukama: Mr Speaker and hon. Members,

“Whereas Article 5 (3) (e) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community on objectives of the Community obliges it to ensure the enhancement of women in cultural, social, political, economic and technological development; and,

Whereas Article 6 (d) of the Treaty on Fundamental Principles of the Community provides that such principles include, inter alia, the rule of law, promotion and protection of human and people’s rights in accordance with the provisions of the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights; and,

Whereas Article 121 of the Treaty specifically provides for the role of women in socio-economic development, and in particular, Article 121 (b) obliges Partner States to, through appropriate legislative and other measures, abolish legislation and discourage customs that are discriminatory against women; and,

WHEREAS all East African Partner States are signatories to key international conventions, notable amongst which is the International Declaration on Human Rights, the Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, otherwise known as CEDW, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, otherwise known as the Maputo Protocol;

BEARING IN MIND that the East African Partner States share borders, and thus have similar social, cultural and religious practices; and,

BEARING IN MIND that with the establishment of a Common Market, there is free movement of labour, goods, services, capital and the right of establishment in accordance with Article 76 of the Treaty;

RECOGNISING that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises of procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non medical reasons;

RECOGNISING FURTHER that in Africa an estimated 92 million girls have undergone Female Genital Mutilation and that it is practised in all the East African Community Partner States;

ACKNOWLEDGING that Female Genital Mutilation is internationally recognised as a violation of the human rights of girls and women; and,

FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGING that the 6th of February is recognised as the World Anti-Female Genital Mutilation day, which date falls within this month of the Assembly’s meeting;

NOW THEREFORE, the Assembly do resolve as follows:

- 1. That all East African Community Partner States enact comprehensive laws that prohibit the practice of Female Genital Mutilation*

2. *That all East African Community Partner States provide resources and put in place measures that will ensure laws that prohibit FGM are enforced*
3. *That the Council of Ministers addresses the Assembly on 6th February or soon thereafter on measures taken by the East African Partner States to stop Female Genital Mutilation or Female Genital Cutting."*

I beg to move. (Applause)

(Question proposed)

Ms. Safina Tsungu Kwekwe (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity, not only to second the motion but also to support this motion in totality. The reason why I support this motion, amongst others, is that in Africa, we have information that 92 million girls between the age of 10 years and above have undergone FGM, but annually, 3 million girls are at risk of undergoing FGM. Specific to the East African region, 27 ethnic groups practice FGM. That means that on average, every year at least 400,000 girls are at risk of undergoing FGM.

Mr Speaker, for those that have not witnessed this, those who have not had the chance to experience it, it may not be an issue, but let me take this opportunity to inform this House that four distinct categories of FGM is practised by 27 ethnic groups within this region. Many of the 27 ethnic groups practice three categories, namely; clitoridectomy, which is either partial or total removal of the clitoris, which is the equivalent of the penis in a man. The second is excision, which is partial or total removal of the clitoris together with the labia minora, with or without the labia majora.

I want honourable members to understand the extent and gravity of the problem of FGM. There is another one known as incubilation, where even after undergoing all the cutting, the girl has to undergo stitching to leave a small opening just for urine and menstruation flow. So, what is the implication of this? These are the three major categories practised in the region.

The fourth one, which is the pricking, piercing, incising, pulling, and scrapping, is also practised, but the three major ones are the one, two and three that I have already mentioned.

So, what are the implications of a girl undergoing FGM, at the age of, say, ten? The immediate implications could be bleeding, shock, death, getting HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis B in the process. In the mid term, there could be problems in urinating, fistula, and stillbirths. This is all because when the opening that God has created in a woman to allow a child to come out to this world is restricted for non-therapeutic reasons, what happens to that biological function that a woman is supposed to do? The woman therefore brings the child into this world through very difficult conditions, sometimes leading to a stillbirth, or brain damage, but also the life of the woman is at danger.

The long-term implications are therefore social and health wise. A girl has to drop out of school because other than it being a rite of passage, it also signifies that this child has

now crossed from one stage of development into another, from childhood to adulthood. This definitely curtails the child's chances of continuing with formal.

There are laws in many of the countries, but having laws without commensurate actions such as putting resources in place, educating the masses to appreciate the dangers that they make girls and women go through, such as role modelling; people coming out and putting their feet down and saying this is wrong, we cannot go further, is of no use. Egypt has a law in place as well as Ethiopia, Guinea, Mauritania, Benin and Niger.

Incidentally, before the law came into being in Egypt, it was a mandate for 97 percent of the women and girls between the ages of 15 and 49 years to undergo FGM, whereas in Ethiopia, it was 80 percent. Today in Tanzania, it is 18 percent and Kenya 32 percent.

Mr Speaker, we have a problem in our hands, particularly because we practice the most severe forms of FGM. Therefore, it is up to leaders like us, who have confessed to respect human rights, coming from states that, in their constitutions, have guaranteed the rights of every human being regardless of their race, age, colour and ethnic grouping to say that FGM is a human rights violation, it has no space and place in the 21st Century, and that we all must come together and urge the Partner States to do what this motion seeks to do, which is to take action today because tomorrow might be too late for the fight against the practice of FGM.

I thank you, Mr Speaker and hon. Members and beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

Mr. Dan Kidega (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the chance to contribute on this motion. I am in total support of this motion. I would like to make it clear that I condemn this culture and practice of subjecting women or young girls to this brutal, barbaric and selfish behaviour or practice. We must condemn it! *(Applause)*

When the Assembly was sitting in Arusha the last time, we debated a motion that was condemning violence against women. It got overwhelming support, and the Assembly resolved as it did. Today we are debating another motion to deal with the welfare of the women. I would like to appreciate your leadership, Mr Speaker, and the House for being sensitive to women issues. Not many Parliaments in the world have opened up to debate this matter as this House is doing. *(Applause)* I think we have a reason to appreciate and thank ourselves for the work we are doing.

Hon. Kwekwe has enumerated some countries that have outlawed this practice. I would like to emphasise that laws alone cannot do much to a vice in a community. We need political will and all leaders, be it political, social, cultural and religious, to come out clearly and condemn this practice, reach out to the public and explain the dangers to the population. *(Applause)*

I am grateful that just a few months ago the President of Uganda, in the company of many experts- and I think hon. Byamukama was part of that team -went to a community that practices FGM, and reached out to them and talked to them. I would like to implore

political leaders, starting with us, to reach out to our communities and talk boldly about this matter. It is a dangerous thing, and I would like to invite, particularly the men. Let us not leave this struggle in the hands of our female counterparts. If the men come out clearly and condemned this practice, I think the communities would listen better. *(Applause)*

I am not an anthropologist, but if I am to imagine the origin of this culture, I do not think a woman sat to design this culture. It is a selfish thing that denies women their rights of enjoyment and subjects them to health conditions that can be fatal. *(Applause)*

From hon. Kwekwe's description of the forms of mutilation, it is clear that it is a health hazard. Apart from infection from bacteria, it denies a woman the right to give birth. If women are not giving birth, perpetuation and continuity of the world will stop. Therefore, this matter is very serious, and we need to look at it deeply.

I would like to implore further our experts who are dealing with this matter to scan through this region. Is it true that only 27 communities in this region practice this thing or there are more? There could be small quiet communities that are doing this kind of thing. We need to explore and educate them to stop it.

There is also an influx of refugees and immigrants that come from communities that practice this culture into other communities that do not, and there is a risk of emitting or inculcating this culture into those communities, or they go in, and because they are in a community that does not practice, they are ignored. We need to look deep into our refugee and immigrants communities but not only concentrate on the 27 communities so far identified, and then we will be making serious contribution towards stopping this evil thing.

Mr Speaker, I support this motion. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity also to express my support for the motion. You will not be surprised that I am emotional, because listening to what is being said and having seen FGM being practised on little girls, I don't know if many of you would watch what we saw in a film that was shown, I think it was three weeks ago but I don't recall the dates. Watching that film, you would automatically condemn the practice of FGM. I think we would all get up and start shouting against this bad practice.

Mr Speaker, we talk of gender equality. We all want our countries to develop. We want Africans to come out of this abject poverty where we have been for too long, but knowing that we have that big number of women being partially mutilated and being taught because when the practice is being carried out, they don't only take the girls and cut them but they talk to them. They teach them who they are, what they are supposed to do, that they are there to serve men, not to enjoy sex but to make sure that the men enjoy sex. They tell the girls that they belong only to their men, so the men will do whatever they want to them. Because they do it to young girls, the girl will obey and fulfil

whatever the spouse or partner wants to do with her. While practising such kind of mutilation on the girls, we are actually stopping them from thinking for themselves and feeling that they are complete human beings.

It is also very physically damaging for the body of the girl. I will not extend the description because hon. Kwekwe has explained how they do it. I would wish that as parliamentarians and politicians, we all get up and speak loudly within our countries, in our communities, and even in Africa wherever there is this malpractice. Moreover, not only this, but all the other malpractices done to women. *(Applause)*

This is because if we want women to be equal human beings with men, we need to consider them as such from a young age. We need to educate them equally to the boys and make sure that they grow up feeling that they are full human beings. *(Applause)*

I would wish that the Ministries of Health – *(Interruption)*–

Mr Kidega: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, I should have mentioned this but she has just tickled my mind on some matter. There is a practise, which is also growing in our communities today, which is not African in terms of origin. Our little sisters and daughters are engaging in unnecessary piercing of their bodies and wearing rings. The conditions under which they do this may not be hygienic, and I would like to implore our experts to examine that also. The issue of wearing rings where they are not supposed to wear them is not African, and I think they are a health hazard as well. Thank you. *(Interjection)*

Dr. Nyiramilimo: I thank hon. Kidega for his information. I wanted to conclude by urging the Council of Ministers to join in this effort to eradicate the FGM by urging the Ministries of Health in our Partner States to adopt policies to fight against FGM, and to implement them. I would also want to urge the parliaments in our Partner States that have communities that practice FGM to make laws for combating it.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support hon. Byamukama's motion. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Ms. Claire Kayirangwa (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to support the motion. The victims of Female Genital Mutilation are denied basic human dignity. They are suffering from horrible physical and psychological abuse.

I support the East African Community Partner States introducing strong laws against the practice, but the law alone cannot change social or cultural practises. Therefore, fighting against Female Genital Mutilation requires several types of intervention. It is a shared responsibility by many actors. We should also use the Media in the prevention of the practice; school curriculum should include respect for human rights as a subject. This would inform the girl students about practices that do not respect human rights, such as FGM. Health workers and religious leaders, as well as other community leaders should be involved in the fight to stop the practice.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

Ms. Sarah Talaso Bonaya (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I would like to thank hon. Byamukama for this very important motion. I want to add my voice to the many contributions made on this floor to say that this is a very dehumanising practice in our region, and leaders like us should take it as an issue and discourage it at whatever level communities are practising it. I think the East African Community level is an important level where Partner States, through the EAC, can be encouraged to make laws where they do not have them, and ensure that they treat this practice as criminal, and allow it to continue in our region.

I come from an area in Northern Kenya where this practice is very eminent, and as a result, many girls have become homeless after running away from their homes to mission camps or other charitable centres in fear of the practice catching up with them. It has also been a source of economic weakness for women. For most of the communities that practice FGM it is a preparatory phase for marriage, and as a result many young girls have been sent into early marriages where they are not able to sustain their families. It has also been a cause of disinheritance for these young children.

I think the motion is timely, I support it and as many colleagues have said it in different words, I also think that the EAC should spearhead the process of criminalising this practise in the region so that we can empower our women to be able to catch up with the other members of the society. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

Ms. Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I want to thank every member who has contributed to this motion in a special way. I also want to salute you, Mr Speaker, for your leadership, and for being a role model and for doing what you should as the patron of the EALA Women's Forum. We are very privileged to have you as one of us. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I will not dwell on this topic, but I would like to implore the East African Community -and I am glad that the Secretary General is here- to take this issue very seriously. It may sound just like a women's issue, but I know that given the background that we have in the Community, it is a breach of a fundamental human right. It is torture, and it means that you have about half of the population of East Africans under danger or threat, to some extent, of being dismembered or disabled from exercising their full potential.

Even the children they bear may not grow because of the scars and the high infant mortality. Therefore, I would like to implore the Community and the Assembly to keep this issue on the agenda.

I would like to thank, in a special way, all the male honourable members who have contributed positively to this issue, as well as role models like hon. Dan Kidega who, since he is a bachelor, will serve to show that they can marry women who are not

circumcised, because although these women are confined to certain communities, they should be able to choose husbands from other communities without fear. *(Laughter)*

Having said this, I would like to say that those men who are married to those women who are circumcised, in most cases are not very happy. It also leads to polygamy as well as explosion of population, which also brings about issues of poverty and underage marriages.

With these comments, I would like to implore that the 6th of February should be recognised, and that we do not only wait for this day but in our individual roles as role models and leaders, we speak out against this practice and condemn Female Genital Mutilation. I thank you again. *(Applause)*

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION

TO SEEK LEAVE OF THE HOUSE TO INTRODUCE THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION BILL, 2010

The Chairperson, Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges (Mr Abdullah Mwinyi) (Tanzania): Mr Speaker, I beg to move:-

THAT, this Assembly, pursuant to the provisions of Article 59 (1) of the Treaty, and Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, do grant leave to hon. Abdullah Mwinyi, Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges to introduce a Private members Bill entitled “*The East African Community Service Commission Bill, 2010*”.

Dr. F. Lwanyantika Masha (Tanzania): Seconded.

Mr. Mwinyi: Mr Speaker, the object of the Bill is to establish an independent East African Community Service Commission for the organs and institutions of the Community.

Unless otherwise stated by the Treaty, this envisaged commission shall be charged with the duty of making recommendations to the Council on appointments of East African Community staff, determination of their terms and conditions of service, and any other human resource matters as required by law.

Mr Speaker, the idea of the Bill is to reinforce provisions of the Treaty, and specifically the provisions related to human resource management. It also seeks to reinforce the various Council policies so that clarity of purpose is clearly stipulated.

Mr Speaker and hon. Members, you will agree with me that the EAC employees our fully manage our current setup, and may not be entirely free of bias or abuse. This Bill therefore will offer legal credence to establish an independent commission similar to those in the Partner States as a means of addressing this challenge.

This Bill seeks to form a single commission; however, there are provisions within the Bill to allow for commissions that are more specific when the need arises. As an example, we can envisage in the near future an East African Legislative Assembly Service Commission, or an East African Court of Justice Service Commission.

Mr Speaker, the Bill specifically seeks to establish a commission, and to assign it specific functions. It also seeks to provide for it immunities and privileges, and three, provide for its financing and reporting mechanism.

Mr Speaker, once enacted, I am convinced that this Bill will streamline provisions in the East African Community staff rules and regulations, and in any other law incidental to service of employment in the Community.

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit, I beg for the Committee on Legal Rules, and Privileges to be granted leave to introduce a Private Members' Bill entitled "*the East African Community Service Commission Bill, 2010.*"

Mr Speaker, as I make this request, I submit a draft of the Bill in accordance with the provisions of Article 64 (5) of the Treaty.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move. (*Applause*)

(Question proposed)

Dr. Lwanyantika F. Masha: Mr Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand to support the motion, which has been long overdue. The Chairperson of the Committee, which is behind this Bill, has made the elements of the Bill very clear. I would just like to make a few more points in addition to what the Chairperson has already indicated.

This Bill, among other things, intends, for example, to ensure that all citizens of the Partner States will have due and equitable consideration by this commission, if it is set up, for work in the Commission and in its institutions, and that every Partner State shall have at least one member on the commission.

In draft clause 5 (1) it states that, "*The commission shall consist of seven members nominated by the Council and approved by the Assembly*" and, "*Each Partner State shall have at least one national as a member of the commission.*"

Among the requirements for membership to this commission will be that they be citizens, of course, of a Partner State, but we are looking for persons of integrity. and persons who have demonstrated and proven experience in public affairs that can do well to this Community in its appointments.

I want to also stress that no single member state has a monopoly of merit of its own nationals, so that every citizen of a member state will have due consideration. There is a section, which is imploring this commission to ensure that there is equitable treatment of all nationals of member states.

We realise that the creation may, for the time being and in the absence of a federal state, work more or less closely with the Council because the Council currently does some of these duties given to the commission. So, most of the references in here are that in its decisions, the commission will be making recommendations to the Council so the Council should have no fear that any of its functions are being moved away in contravention of the Treaty. The decisions of the commission will be recommendations to the Council, but we want those recommendations made by a commission, which is truly independent.

In fact, we have some references to penalties for attempts to influence the commission unduly other than through the proper processes of making presentations to the commission. So, you will find some clauses in here which give penalties to any person who attempts to influence this commission in its decisions outside of the normal procedures of its work.

Mr Speaker, this Bill is overdue, and I hope it will meet the acceptance of the members. I also hope that it will lighten the work of the ministers who, I am sure, have had to deal with some unfortunate duties of hiring and sometimes - I have never heard of them firing anybody, but I suppose this commission will help them do some of that work as well.

I beg to support the Motion. *(Applause)*

(Question put and agreed to.)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

MEMBERSHIP OF STANDING COMMITTEES

The Speaker: Hon. Members, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 78 (3) of the Rules of Procedure of the House, I stand to notify you that fresh nominations for membership of the committees have been finalised at the expiration of the stipulated two and a half years. Therefore, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 81 (3) (c), the House Business Committee at its meeting held today, Wednesday 17 February 2010, has made the necessary nominations of members to constitute the various committees.

The committees will now be constituted in the following manner:

The Committee on Accounts Committee:

Hon. Issa Ngendakumana
Hon. Dr Sabine Ntakarutimana
Hon. François Bizimana
Hon. Jacqueline Muhongayire
Hon. Straton Ndikuryayo

Hon. Claire Kayirangwa
Hon. Dr. Aman Kabourou
Hon. Janet Mmari
Hon. George Nangale
Hon. Christopher Nakuleu
Hon. Otieno Clarkson Karan
Hon. Catherine Kimura
Hon. Bernard Mulengani
Hon. Dora Byamukama
Hon. Dan Wandera Ogalo

The Committee of Legal Rules and Privileges: -

Hon. Regine Katabarumwe
Hon. Francois Bizimana
Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro
Hon. Pierre Damian Habumuremyi
Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza - I am sorry about the names, they are very difficult.
Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi
Hon. Dr. Lwanyantika Masha
Hon. Sebtuu Nassor
Hon. Gervase Akhaabi
Hon. Augustine Lotodo
Hon. Sarah Talaso Bonaya
Hon. Dan Wandera Ogalo
Hon. Dora Byamukama
Hon. Dan Kidega.

The Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment:

Hon. Francois Bizimana
Hon. Regine Katabarumwe
Hon. Georgette Nibitanga
Hon. James Ndahiro
Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga
Hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza
Hon. Didas Masaburi
Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi
Hon. Said Bilal
Hon. Reuben Oyondi
Hon. Catherine Kimura
Hon. Gervase Akhaabi
Hon. Mugisha Muntu
Hon. Lydia Wanyoto
Hon. Nusura Tiperu.

The House Business Committee:

Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye

Hon. Manassé Nzobonimpa
Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga
Hon. Jacqueline Muhongayire
Hon. Otieno Karan
Hon. Reuben Oyondi
Hon. Didas Masaburi
Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi
Hon. Dan Ogalo
Hon. Dora Byamukama.

Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources:

Hon. Issa Ngendakumana
Hon. Manassé Nzobonimpa
Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye
Hon. Abdul Karim Harelimana
Hon. Jacqueline Muhongayire
Hon. Patricia Hajabakiga
Hon. George Nangale
Hon. Janet Mmari
Hon. Kate Kamba
Hon. Clarkson Karan
Hon. Safina Kwekwe
Hon. Augustine Lotodo
Hon. Dan Kidega
Hon. Mike Sebalu
Hon. Bernard Mulengani.

Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution:

Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro
Hon. Manasse Nzobonimpa
Hon. Georggetta Nibitanga
Hon. Abdul Karim Harelimana
Hon. Odette Nyiramilimo
Hon. Pierre Damian Habumuremyi
Hon. Aman Kabourou
Hon. Lwanyantika Masha
Hon. Kate Kamba
Hon. Sarah Bonaya
Hon. Christopher Nakuleu
Hon. Augustine Lotodo
Hon. Mike Sebalu
Hon. Mugisha Muntu
Hon. Margaret Zziwa.

Committee on General Purpose:

Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye

Hon. Sabine Ntakarutimana
Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro
Hon. Odette Nyiramilimo
Hon. James Ndahiro
Hon. Stratton Ndikuryayo
Hon. Didas Masaburi
Hon. Sebtuu Nassor
Hon. Said Bilal
Hon. Reuben Oyondi
Hon. Safina Kwekwe
Hon. Sarah Bonaya
Hon. Nusura Tiperu
Hon. Lydia Wanyoto
Hon. Margaret Zziwa.

Honourable Members, those are the Committee members as nominated by the House Business Committee.

I would also like to make another announcement. This evening we have a dinner, which is being hosted, in our honour, by the Speaker, the Rt. Hon. Edward Ssekandi at the Sheraton Hotel at 7.30 p.m. So please be on time.

Ms Kimura: Mr Speaker, I wish to rise and I do not know whether I am in order – *(Interruption)* -

The Speaker: You are not in order.

Ms Kimura: The Rules say that – *(Interruption)* -

The Speaker: Hon. Kimura, you are not in order so you can sit down and read your rules. When the Speaker is standing, nobody moves, you all freeze and you cannot have a point of order on the communication from the Speaker. So, hon. Members please read your Rules before you stand on points of order in future.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Hon. Members, we have come to the end of business today. I now adjourn the House until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

(The House was rose at 6.00 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 18 February 2010 at 2.00 p.m.)