



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

72ND SITTING - SECOND ASSEMBLY: SECOND MEETING - THIRD SESSION

Thursday, 19 November 2009

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. in Simba Hall, AICC Building, Arusha.

PRAYER

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

(The Assembly was called to order.)

PROCLAMATION

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I have, in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty, invited the honourable Speakers of the National Assemblies of the EAC Partner States to attend the Assembly. *(Applause)*

I would now like to make the following proclamation to effect the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty:

“WHEREAS clause (1) of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to attend the Assembly, notwithstanding that he or she is not a Member of the Assembly; if in his or her opinion the business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable;

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of the honourable Speakers of the National Assemblies of the EAC Partner States is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is with great pleasure and honour, on your behalf, honourable Members, that I welcome the presence of the honourable Speakers of the National Assemblies of the EAC Partner States in this Chamber.”(Applause)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Amidst us here today are the honourable Speakers and Deputy Speakers of the National Assemblies of the East African Community Partner States. They are here to take part in the East

African Community 10th Anniversary celebrations, and also for the formal meeting of the Bureau of the East African Community Speakers.

As part of the celebrations to mark ten years of the East African Community, I made a decision to have a special sitting of the House at which the honourable Speakers would address us. I know that we have had an opportunity to be addressed by each of the honourable Speakers individually whenever we hold sessions in the partner states, but I hope you will agree with me that such an occasion, at which all the top leadership of the National Assemblies are with us at ago, is rare. *(Applause)*

This spirit of togetherness began humbly way back in May 2008, when we held the first meeting of Speakers in Nairobi. At that meeting, we agreed on a way forward, which was formally adopted in the second meeting in Kigali in August 2008, and in April 2009 in Bujumbura. May I, on your behalf, thank the honourable Speakers for accepting our invitation to join us? *(Applause)*

Therefore, I kindly request you to give a resounding round of applause to the honourable Speakers for their commitment to, not only the East African Community integration process, but also to the cause and needs of EALA as well. *(Applause)* I continue to thank them for the facilities they normally accord us whenever we hold sittings in the respective partner states, and for all the support rendered to the various committee activities. *(Applause)*

Finally, may I take this opportunity to introduce them to you one by one? First is hon. Kayinamura Gideon, representing the Speaker of the Parliament of Rwanda. *(Applause)* Second is hon. Anna Makinda, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of the United Republic of Tanzania. *(Applause)* Third is hon. Kenneth

Marende, Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya. *(Applause)* Fourth is hon. Pie Ntavyohanyuma, Speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi - *(Applause)*, and fifth is hon. Edward Ssekandi, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda. *(Applause)*

ADDRESS BY SPEAKERS OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES OF THE EAC PARTNER STATES

Leader of Delegation, Rwanda (Mr Gideon Kayinamura): Rt. Hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly; Rt Hon. Speakers of the Parliaments of Burundi, Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania; honourable Senators and Members of Parliament from the East African Community Partner States; your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners; representatives of the United Nations agencies and other international organizations; distinguished delegates; ladies and gentlemen.

Let me first of all express the gratitude of the Rwandan delegation to the host country, the United Republic of Tanzania and its people for the warm welcome and courtesy which has been extended to our delegation since our arrival in this beautiful country. I am sure that many of you will attest to Tanzania's legendary hospitality, which is well-known in many ways, but especially so, for being the host of the East African Community, its institutions and many other regional and international organizations. *(Applause)*

My delegation's gratitude also goes to the Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Haithar Abdi, the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly and to the officials of this great institution, for the cordial welcome and facilities which have been made available to the Rwandan delegation. *(Applause)*

Rt. Hon. Speakers and Members of Parliament, please allow me to convey to you greetings from the Parliament of

Rwanda, both the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, and to express the apologies of the President of the Senate of Rwanda, Dr Vincent Biruta, and the Rt. Hon. Madam Rose Mukantabana, President of the Chamber of Deputies, who could not make it on account of unavoidable circumstances. This is why they have graciously asked me to represent them. *(Applause)*

There could be no better timing for holding this fourth meeting of Speakers of the National Assemblies of the East African Community Partner States and EALA in this historic town of Arusha than now. The tenth year celebrations to mark the signing of the Treaty establishing the East African Community in 1999 is a significant landmark in the history of EALA, which was re-launched in November 2001. I have chosen carefully the use of the term “re-launch” because some of us may not know that there was an EALA in existence until the collapse of the East African Community in 1977. EALA was then an exemplary regional legislative Parliament which other multilateral parliaments drew lessons from in order to set up their own parliaments. The case in point is the then European Economic Community comprising six member states, which used the EALA model in order to mould and set up the present European Parliament. *(Applause)*

Rt. Hon. Speakers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the importance of this 10th year celebration of the East African Community cannot be re-emphasized here. Suffice it to simply say that it is the most appropriate opportunity for us to look back at the recorded successes and challenges which EALA has gone through in the past eight years as a regional legislative organ in matters relating to regional legislative governance. In our view, it is an occasion to build on and to strengthen its achievements with a view of strengthening this institution and to prepare a trajectory

path for its long term vision for the future. *(Applause)*

It is in this connection that the Rwandan Parliament, which is a young and new entrant in EALA, is well poised to learn from the past experiences of this institution and to draw from the wealth of knowledge and experiences of the Speakers here present. Your long term experience will undoubtedly help us in advancing the cause of regional democratic legislative governance. In this way, we shall be able to shape together the future and vision of EALA in the years to come. *(Applause)*

Hon. Speakers, hon. Members of Parliaments, let me briefly indicate what the Rwandan Parliament hopes to bring as its modest contribution to regional legislative governance within the framework of EALA.

You might probably be aware that the genocide which was unleashed against the Tutsi in 1994 did not only wipe out more than one million Rwandans, but it also left us with a shattered socio-economic and political fabric of the nation. There was no Parliament worth mentioning at all. We found a country which was still governed by the laws which had been enacted by the colonial masters and which had no bearing whatsoever on the realities of the Rwandan society.

Notwithstanding that situation, however, Rwanda is proud to inform you that a number of achievements have been recorded in the area of parliamentary legislation from 1994 to to-date. *(Applause)* In the past 15 years, the Rwandan Parliament has been able, for example, to enact a total of 637 laws, an average of 42 laws enacted each year. I have no comparable number of laws which were enacted by other Parliaments over a similar period of time so as to know whether we under-performed or not. All I

can say is that it was a daunting task indeed. *(Applause)*

These achievements could not have been possible had it not been for the commitment to cause, as well as cooperation between the Executive, the Legislature and the Civil Society, which worked together and in harmony in order to rebuild a country whose social fabric had been destroyed. *(Applause)*

You may wish to know, Rt. hon. Speakers and distinguished delegates, that Rwanda did not have to reinvent the wheel in enacting these laws. It had to draw from its history, and culture, and also to pick from the best legislative practices from all over the world in order to enact laws which are responsive of the Rwandan society, and also in line with modern times.

There are a number of such Rwandan laws, which we would be able to share with the rest of the legislatures present here as our contribution in regional legislation in the context of EALA. Examples of such laws include those in the area of gender mainstreaming and gender budgeting; anti corruption laws; fiscal and legislative decentralisation up to the levels of district councils; environmental protection; mutual medical insurance scheme, et cetera.

It is also well known that Rwanda is the first country in the world with the biggest number of women in Parliament – *(Applause)* - 56 percent, and at least 30 percent in other decision-making organs in Rwanda's administrative democratic paradigm. You were also able to see for yourselves, here in Arusha, what happened during the football tournament for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of East African Community. For the first time, and perhaps in the history of football in this region, parliamentary footballers from the East African Community member states, saw that there was a mixed team of

Rwandan men and women footballers who played against teams from the East African Community Parliaments, which teams were composed exclusively of men only. *(Applause)* Such an event goes a long way in boosting the determination of the East African women in advancing the social interaction dimension of women in this region. *(Applause)*

Rt. Hon. Speakers, ladies and gentlemen, the Speaker of EALA in his report to the Assembly described ably some of the activities and programs of EALA. He also made some proposals which derived from the third meeting of the EAC Speakers' meeting, which took place in Bujumbura, and which the Rwanda delegation is pleased to align itself with. *(Applause)*

The Treaty establishing EALA in its Article 49 reminds us of the mandate and key functions of EALA, which relate to different but mutually reinforcing activities of equal importance, but let me point to the important role of EALA in promoting harmony and co-operation among member states in their overall resolve to strengthen regional economic integration.

In this regard, and as a regional people's legislative Assembly, and in view of the presence of Members of Parliament who also represent their respective political constituencies, it might be useful to consider the following proposal of alternating the inter-East African Community Parliamentary football matches and other cultural activities to take place in our respective member states on a rotational basis so as to show the citizens of East Africa that the East African Community exists in the real sense. *(Applause)* This is indeed in line with the provisions of Article 49 of the Treaty, which refers to EALA's role in linking "*the Community and its governance organs with the people of East Africa.*" It is also consistent with another

function of EALA, of fostering cooperation between EALA and national Parliaments of the Partner States. *(Applause)*

It is at this juncture that I would like to thank the Speaker of EALA, who has been very supportive to the Rwandan Parliament as a new entrant in EALA. The number of visits he has made to Rwanda and the discussions he has had at the highest level of officials, including the President of the Rwandan Senate, the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies and Members of Parliament, do testify to his commitment in assisting Rwanda in its efforts to be fully conversant with EALA's activities and programmes. *(Applause)*

I would like to conclude my remarks by seizing this opportunity to assure this conference that the Rwandan Parliament will continue to cooperate with EALA and the Parliaments of the East African Community Partner States in our common cause of defending the interests of the citizens of East Africa. Their hopes and expectations of a political federation should be considered with all the attention that it deserves by all of us. I thank you. *(Applause)*

The Deputy Speaker, Parliament of Tanzania (Ms Anna Makinda): Hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly; hon. Speakers of the East African Community National Assemblies; distinguished parliamentarians; your Excellencies and members of the diplomatic corps; ladies and gentlemen. First of all I stand before you on behalf of my Speaker, hon. Samuel John Sitta, who was supposed to come and address this event today but unfortunately he is committed to another important meeting in the United States of America. Otherwise, he would have been here today with you. Please accept his apology. *(Applause)*

I am delighted to have this opportunity to join you in commemorating the 10th anniversary of diplomatic relations between our five countries. The relationship has come a long way in time and in substance, since the establishment of the East African Community by our founder fathers and later revised by subsequent presidents.

This anniversary is an occasion for reflection; for looking back and for looking ahead. This year, which marks the 10th anniversary of the East African Community, is an excellent time to think about and discuss how to reactivate the association between our respective countries and to give it greater economic and political content. This reunion, which we have achieved, is a good chance for the East African Community to focus more on our relationship for the betterment of our people. *(Applause)*

It gives me great pleasure, therefore, on behalf of the Tanzania Parliament, to congratulate the organisers, including you, Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi, Speaker of EALA, and to applaud your secretariat for their work, which has enabled us to be here today to celebrate the occasion. *Asanteni sana! (Applause)*

Our countries surely are close geographically and, therefore, there are many similarities that serve as the foundation for strong relations. We can take advantage of our countries' geographical locations and resources to build the East African integration. These include, among others, our strong commitment to the values of developing economic infrastructure in the area of transport, communication, energy, institutions of higher learning and so forth. The strength of the East African Community's financial sector is vital to the future vibrancy of our nations' economies. With the establishment of an East African Community, our countries are

determined to strengthen their economic, social, cultural, political, technological and other ties for their fast, balanced and sustainable development. *(Applause)*

We are now on the establishment of an East African customs union and a common market as transitional stages to an integral part thereof, subsequently a monetary union and ultimately a political federation. This co-operation in all fields of human endeavour will raise the standards of living of the East African people, maintain and enhance their economic stability, foster close and peaceful relations among East African states, and accelerate the successive stages in the realization of the proposed African Economic Community and political Union.

While we are exchanging knowledge between African countries, we have to share on how we should continue to fight corruption, poverty, illiteracy, diseases, and stop conflicts and civil wars. We have to institutionalise and make laws to protect these good practices. We have to find a way through which the oversight role of Parliament is strengthened and not compromised. *(Applause)*

Tanzania has benefited from our relationship, and particularly our exchanges with several of the other members' nationals playing key roles in our development and economy as a whole. There are many problems facing our countries, which must be given priority to find very strong measures on how to tackle them. National members have to ensure the stability of the East African Community economy especially during this on-going global economic downturn effects. Our governments should be committed to overcome these difficulties. *(Applause)*

My Parliament positively values its relations with this distinguished East Africa Legislative Assembly, which we

hope will continue to grow in the coming years, particularly in some of the areas I have outlined. Let us all wish for a successful anniversary. Together let us make parliaments a force to be reckoned within our turbulent, unstable world. *(Applause)*

I wish to conclude by underlining the need for our countries to make greater efforts to work together and to strengthen one another economically and politically. Let us, as East Africans, protect the right of our people, build concrete economic policies within East Africa, and at the international level, manage the globalization process. This will ensure fast and steady growth of our countries, and we will have a stronger voice on issues of mutual concern and interest. *(Applause)*

I wish to end by reaffirming the commitment by the Tanzania Parliament to work with EALA and other National Assemblies for our people's prosperity. I thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker, Kenya National Assembly (Mr Kenneth Marende): Hon. Speakers, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, "*Our children may learn about the heroes of the past but our task is to make ourselves the architects of the future.*" These words, spoken by Kenya's founding father and her first president *Mzee* Jomo Kenyatta, while addressing the Nation on Kenyatta Day in 1981, make sense to our gathering today. I believe that as Members of the regional Assembly, we have the good fortune now and today to chart the path for the future of our region, a rare and exclusive privilege that only a select few enjoy in the history of progressive politics. *(Applause)*

"Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day before tomorrow." Hon. Members, I want to endeavour to

demonstrate in this short address, optimal use of opportunities at our disposal illustrative of this perception by Mark Twain.

It is my great pleasure and delight to address this August Assembly on the occasion of the celebration of the 10th anniversary of the East African Community. Allow me, at the outset, to thank our host Speaker for the warm hospitality since my arrival in Arusha, in the true spirit of African generosity. It feels good to be part of this auspicious occasion. *(Applause)*

EALA has been in existence for ten years. This Anniversary presents an opportunity to reflect on the performance and achievements, as well as putting in perspective the role of the Assembly in the period ahead. Its establishment in November, 2001, was a defining moment in the evolution of regional integration in East Africa. EALA is charged with the responsibility of giving legal effect to the activities and programmes of the Community. It is therefore born out of the desire to ensure that the EAC operates on the basis of laws and rules, as well as the expressed will of the peoples of East Africa. More importantly, the establishment of the Assembly was a deliberate decision of the partner states of the Community with overreaching implications as it touched on their ceding of significant authority to the East African Community. This is illustrative of the determination of the Partner States to unite in pursuit of a common destiny for the region. *(Applause)*

Honourable legislators, ladies and gentlemen, what is the will of the people of East Africa; are we giving adequate expression to that will? These are the questions we must bear in mind even as we formulate the requisite legal framework and structures that will lead to full integration.

The extent and magnitude of the Assembly's legislative, oversight and outreach mandates cannot be understood without an appreciation of the broad mission and vision of the Community. The Community today presents perhaps one of the most comprehensive and far reaching regional arrangements in the continent and the developing world. Far more refined than the pan African Parliament. Few other regional organizations envision, as the East African Community does, the eventual unification of the partner states as a single political entity.

The Community's Treaty vests in EALA unique powers and responsibilities, and puts it at the very heart and centre of the regional integration process. Regional integration as envisaged in the Community covers virtually all areas and sectors of human endeavour, from cooperation in trade, investments and industrial development, to health, social and cultural activities and cooperation in political matters, including security and foreign affairs. The extensive agenda makes the role of EALA onerous, commensurate with that of the region's Speakers.

It is noteworthy that despite limited resources, the Assembly has realized many achievements in respect of legislation and in the exercise of its oversight functions. The Assembly has discharged its mandate through consideration of Bills that were tabled before it by the Council and private Members; motions and resolutions touching on key aspects of the Community's activities, projects and programmes, as well as management of the Assembly's external affairs.

Some of the statutes passed include the East African Community Customs and Management Act; the East African Community Competition Act; the Lake Victoria Transportation Act; the Trade Negotiations Act; the Inter University

Council of East Africa Act, all of which are of great and unprecedented import and have impacted significantly on the regional integration process in critical sectors of trade and social rapprochement. *(Applause)*

EALA, right from the first Assembly, envisioned one East African policy and set the pace for the move to a political federation. It persistently followed this, culminating into the respective Heads of State appointing a committee to fast track political federation and ultimately creating an office to coordinate political affairs at the level of Deputy Secretary-General.

It is this very Assembly that mooted the idea of Partner States appointing ministers dedicated solely to the East African Community, and proposed that ministers should be resident at the seat of the Community and be responsible for specific sectors. I want to confirm that we are beneficiaries of the efforts by the Assembly because we in the Kenya National Assembly are regularly briefed on the developments of the Community and the Assembly by the Minister responsible for the Community's affairs, who is also a Member of this Assembly. *(Applause)*

On the front of promotion and strengthening of close relations with the National Assemblies of Partner States, this Assembly has fared commendably well as a result of the innovative actualization of the series of constructive inter-parliamentary relations seminars regularly held and popularly known as the "Nanyuki Series", following from the first one held in Nanyuki, Kenya in June 2004, and subsequently the Inter-Parliamentary Liaison Committee comprising committees of EALA and committees of the National Assemblies with similar mandates on critical sectors of health, accounts and trade. I applaud the Assembly for

exceptional brilliance in this regard. *(Applause)*

This brings me to the Speakers' Forum, which I find useful in getting the National Assemblies' Speakers informed on the developments in the regional Assembly and other organs of the Community and, therefore, positioning them to support integration efforts in a manner competent and resourceful.

As regards its oversight role, the Assembly, I have observed with admiration, has remained principled and uncompromising, debating serious issues and conducting enquiries, even those touching on the raw sensibilities of the sovereignty of the Partner States, or the impartiality and autonomy of the Secretariat and other organs and institutions of the Community. And, whenever honourable Members of the Assembly, you live against all odds and varied temptations to play to the gallery, stood out as women and men of integrity, the Assembly has largely conducted itself with decorum, devoid of acrimony, or tendency to succumb to vindictiveness. This is an attribute I have to pay to the Assembly. Please, keep it up. *(Applause)*

The scope and mandate of the Community is continuing to expand to new areas of integration, and mainly the consolidation of the Customs Union; the implementation of the East African Common Market Protocol; the promotion of East African Community trade and investment, including the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations, concretizing of regional projects and programmes in various sectors, prioritizing infrastructure development, laying the foundation for the Monetary Union, intensifying activities under the political federation agenda and cooperation in political affairs.

As the Executive organs implement these activities, EALA has its job cut out in providing the appropriate legislation to create necessary institutions, and to play the oversight role effectively in order to ensure that the Treaty, strategic plans, programmes and projects are implemented properly and within set timeframes. From your past successes and accomplishments, I have no doubt that you will make the Community progress in accordance with the spirit of the founding fathers to ensure that the Community is people driven and private sector led. Indeed, I am aware that the Pan-African Parliament is looking to EALA as a probable model to emulate. *(Applause)*

In celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Community, I would like to go on record to express my gratitude to the Summit of Heads of State of the EAC Partner States that founded the Community: H.E. Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi, the Second President of the Republic of Kenya; H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of the Republic of Tanzania, and H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; the current summit of Heads of State; past and serving Members of the Council of Ministers; former and present Secretary-Generals and members of staff of the Community. *(Applause)*

I also pay special tribute to the Hon. Abdulrahman Omar Kinana, the founding Speaker of EALA for his astute and selfless leadership; the current Speaker; hon. Members and staff for their efforts in championing the cause of EALA. I further appreciate and acknowledge the support of development partners who have contributed towards the steady development of EALA and the Community. *(Applause)*

Finally, friends, sisters and brothers, we each have a role to play towards the realisation of the Community's dream.

Together we can achieve a new phase of regional development in East Africa; one that creates inclusive and sustainable markets; builds development and enhances cooperation regionally and internally. Let us leave here today with renewed commitment. We have enough wealth in the region to feed every man and woman. We can make them rich if we harness our immense resources optimally, devoid of greed and self aggrandizement. We must be prepared to be each other's keeper without feuding over borders. There is no better and natural neighbour to the Tanzanian, Ugandan, Rwandese or Burundian than the Kenyan and the converse is true in every respect. *(Applause)*

So, let us stop this nonsense of calling each other names; perceiving each other with suspicion, or even as enemies, and encouraging unhealthy competition amongst and between us. As a matter of fact, we have no business fighting over fish on Lake Victoria; it is our duty to conserve it in order to put more fish in it. We are by divine design brought together and must live this way harmoniously for our common good. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker, Chamber of Deputies, Burundi National Assembly (Mr Pie Ntavyohanyuma): Hon. Abdirahin Abdi, Speaker of EALA; hon. Samuel Sitta, Speaker of the Tanzania National Assembly; hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly; hon. Edward Ssekandi, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly; distinguished guests. It is great pleasure for us to thank you, hon. Abdi Abdirahin, Speaker of EALA, for the invitation you kindly extended to our Parliament for this great event. *(Applause)*

Hon. Speakers and Members of EALA, we have been mandated by the Parliament of Burundi to come to this meeting to

congratulate the East African Community on the commemoration of its 10th anniversary. We therefore seize this opportunity to express, on behalf of the people of Burundi and the Burundi Parliament, our heartfelt gratitude to the peoples of Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda for the hard work done to reach such a substantial achievement after only ten years. *(Applause)*

Although Burundi has been a member of the East African Community for only two years, the people and the government of Burundi are very proud of the contribution of the Community to promoting peace and security, not only in our country, but also in our region and in the whole of Africa. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, in Burundi we believe that the objectives of our Community will be achieved. In this regard, we deeply appreciate the success of the 2006-2010 development strategy. For this reason, let us acknowledge the on-going efforts by our Community to implement the forthcoming 2011-2015 development strategy, which comprises, among others, the consolidation of the East African Community and the establishment of a Monetary Union. *(Applause)*

In the same way, our peoples share the broad vision of the East African Community. They are aware of their determination to consolidate this vision and to overcome the notorious challenges they are facing in order to ensure sustainable development and the raising of their respective standards of living. It is with this vision that we once again thank, very sincerely, the honourable Speaker of EALA, for having invited the Parliament of Burundi to this very great event. *(Applause)*

Finally, this time we have been given is an opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude to the people of Tanzania and

their leaders for their warm welcome and hospitality. Long live the East African Community!

Thank you very much for your attention. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Speaker.

Honourable Members, last but not least, it is my pleasure to invite hon. Edward Ssekandi, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda. *Karibu Mweshimiwa Speaker! (Applause)*

The Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda (Mr Edward Ssekandi): The Speaker of EALA; my colleagues, the Speakers and Presiding Officers of the National Assemblies of the Partner States; Speaker Emeritus, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly; hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, hon. Members from Parliaments of the Partner States; Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners and members of the diplomatic corps here present; invited guests; ladies and gentlemen. In the first place I bring to you very warm greetings from the entire Parliament of Uganda. *(Applause)*

I take this opportunity to congratulate the partners of the East African Community on this auspicious occasion of celebrating ten years of a successful cooperation. I also wish to congratulate EALA for marking ten years in existence. I also extend my congratulations to the people of East Africa on attaining this hallmark of cooperation. *(Applause)*

EALA was created by the Treaty of the Community under Article 9 and the functions are clearly laid out under Article 49 of the same. One of the functions is to ensure linkages between the Assembly and the National Assemblies of the Partner States. To enhance these linkages, there

has been concerted effort by the Assembly to rotate its sittings amongst the Partner States, and I wish to applaud the Rt. Hon. Speaker for this innovation. *(Applause)* This practice has brought the workings of the Assembly closer to its electorate, and it is appreciated by voters. Representatives should show that they are doing what they were sent to do, and we now know more about what you do.

The East African Community Treaty further envisages that there shall be exchange of information between the National Assemblies of the Partner States and the Assembly in the form of Bills passed by the National Assemblies of the Partner States and the Assembly. I can regrettably say that this needs more work to improve on it. However, I believe that in the near future we shall be able to bring our books together and pass all legislation related to the East African cooperation in this Assembly. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, my colleagues the Speakers, distinguished guests, and hon. Members present, there is a need for the National Assemblies of the Partner States to set up a committee to specifically handle matters relating to the Community. *(Applause)* I know that we all have committees that handle Community matters among others however I believe we should emulate the executive branches in our respective governments, who have established ministries responsible for East African Affairs by establishing East African Community Affairs committees. *(Applause)* We still have a long way to go as a Community, and the task ahead is still enormous, so we need a specific committee to handle these matters that I have proposed. *(Applause)*

There is also a need to share the experiences of the Assembly with National Parliaments. In this regard, I would suggest that an inter-parliamentary liaison committee be set up to ensure that such

experiences can be shared. This, of course, will enhance the cooperation of the assemblies, and also harmonize the legislations of the assemblies as we head towards political federation. *(Applause)*

The world in which we live today is very complex, and issues relating to world affairs are negotiated according to interests. It is unfortunate that in the 21st Century states in our region still negotiate at the international level as single countries. My prayer is that we learn to negotiate as a bloc. *(Applause)* Our interests in the region are the same, and one country cannot claim that its needs are different from its neighbours. As we head towards Copenhagen in a few weeks, we need to go as a bloc and negotiate for the future generations of our children. *(Applause)*

The Treaty of the Community provides that the official language of the Community shall be English. This in my opinion disenfranchises our people who do not speak or read the English language. I know that one of our Partner States has to translate Community documents into a language widely spoken in the country. I would propose that the Assembly seeks to amend the Treaty to provide for an East African language. *(Applause)* This should be a precursor to the federation so that the peoples of East Africa can move on as one state. Once we can communicate effectively amongst ourselves then trade and movement of persons shall be much smoother. We should aim to be one community of East Africa. *(Applause)*

We the Speakers of the respective national Assemblies set up a Speakers' forum. This forum is meant to act as a link to the forum on matters relating to legislation for the benefit of the Partner States. We, however, require that the forum become an organ of the Community to give it the respect it deserves. *(Applause)* I would, therefore, request that the Treaty be amended to

accommodate the forum of Speakers as an organ of the Community. *(Applause)*

I would also wish to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the tremendous work that is done by this Assembly in bringing the Community closer to the people of the region through the Nanyuki Seminars. This innovation has enabled our people know the value of the Community, and has also opened the eyes of the Members, during the various tours, on the needs and aspirations of the East African people. Through these interactive series I believe that the issue of federation will be easily resolved because it will be people-centred. The Community should not only be for leaders, it should be for us; the farmers, the hunters, the traders. *(Applause)*

Finally, the East African Community and the Assembly have done quite a lot to bring the aspirations of our people to where they would want the region to be. I cannot, however, claim that the sailing has been smooth all along. There have been challenges, failures and achievements. I would like to propose that partner states set aside time for all these issues to be debated in the respective assemblies for a harmonized way forward to be attained.

Mr Speaker, I missed our “Peles” on the field. I want to take the opportunity to thank all our teams from the five parliaments for this tournament, and in particular, the Ugandan team. I thank you very much.

I also take this opportunity to thank all of you for your kind attention, and may the Community live very many years and become stronger. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Speaker. Before we go to the next item, I think I will excuse the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers because there is a Council of Ministers meeting going on, which is supposed to have started at 10

o'clock but they swore their allegiance to this House. *(Applause)* Now that the Speakers have finished, we can now excuse them so that they can go and continue with the Council of Ministers meeting since the Heads of State are arriving this evening.

Hon. Members, you also heard what the Speaker of Uganda said about the Speaker's bureau, which you are deciding on now and I think you have heard.

MOTION

FOR A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY TO COMMEMORATE THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

Ms Jacqueline Muhongayire (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, in accordance with Rule 35 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, I beg to move_

That This House, do resolve to recognise the successes recorded by the East African Community in its ten years of existence.

Mr Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): Seconded.

Ms Muhongayire: Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly:

“RECALLING that pursuant to the provisions of Article 14.02 of the Mediation Agreement of 1984 (following the dissolution of the East African Community), the Heads of State of the East African Community on 30th November 1993 agreed to establish a permanent Tripartite Commission for cooperation, responsible for the coordination of economic, social, cultural, security and political issues among the Partner States;

FURTHER RECALLING that on the above date the Heads of State also issued a

declaration for closer East African cooperation, which on 26th November 1994, culminated into a protocol on the establishment of a Secretariat of the Permanent Tripartite Commission for cooperation between the Partner States;

AND FURTHER RECALLING that on the 29th day of April 1997, the Heads of State, after reviewing the progress made by the Tripartite Commission, directed it to embark on negotiations for upgrading of the Agreement establishing the Tripartite Commission into a treaty;

NOTING, THEREFORE, that the Treaty was eventually signed on 30th November 1999, and came into force in July 2000, giving birth to the East African Community;

FURTHER NOTING that in the said Treaty, the Partner States agreed to develop policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening economic, social and cultural fields, etcetera for their mutual benefit and to establish among themselves a customs union, a common market and subsequently a monetary union and ultimately a political federation;

NOTING with satisfaction that in accordance with the East African Community Development Strategy (2006 – 2010), the Customs Union was established in 2005; negotiations for the common market protocol have been finalized and the protocol is ready for signing by the Heads of State; and preparations for the establishment of the monetary union and the political federation are on course;

FURTHER NOTING with pride that the East African Community has in its first 10 years of existence expanded from three to five partner states;

Now do resolve as follows:

1. *To pay tribute to H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; H.E. Daniel Arap Moi, former President of the Republic of Kenya; H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; and H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania as founding fathers of the new East African Community cooperation, for their bold and visionary decision to re-establish cooperation among the partner states, and for their dedication and commitment to the ideals of oneness;(Applause)*
2. *To pay tribute to H.E. Benjamin William Mkapa, former President of the United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; and H.E. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya for their commitment to the cause of the Community and their bold decision and directive of 2004 to the effect that the integration process be fast tracked; (Applause)*
3. *To thank all the present leaders: His Excellency Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda; H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania; H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; H.E. Mwai Kibaki, President of the Republic of Kenya; and H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi for the positive steps and bold decisions taken to widen and deepen the EAC integration process, and particularly by successfully thrashing out the controversial issues in the Common Market Protocol; (Applause)*

4. *To further pay tribute to H.E. Paul Kagame, President of the Republic of Rwanda and H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza, President of the Republic of Burundi for their wise and visionary decision in leading their respective countries to join the family of the East African Community, which membership has further reinforced the integration spirit within an expanded Community; (Applause)*
5. *To appreciate and underscore all efforts by EALA and the national Assemblies for their support to the integration process, particularly through enacting legislations, playing their oversight roles, fostering liaison and enhancing their representative role; (Applause)*
6. *To congratulate all ministers and officials of the Partner States; the secretaries general of the East African Community, past and present; the former Speaker and Members of EALA; the President and judges of the East African Court of Justice; organs and institutions of the Community for their dedication and hard work, without whom the current benefits to the Community may not have been realised; (Applause)*
7. *To congratulate all stakeholders, including the civil society, private and development partners for their contribution towards the Community's integration agenda, either directly or indirectly;*
8. *To thank all the people of East Africa for their dedication, belief and commitment to the cause of a united East Africa as demonstrated by the Wako Commission Report and other subsequent reports thereupon; (Applause)*

9. *To call upon all the people of East Africa to do all it takes in strength and deeds to ensure a stronger East African Community that will realize the aspirations and hopes of all the East African citizens for their welfare and well-being of the present and future generations."*

Mr Speaker, I beg to move. (Applause)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I would like to say that we do not have a lot of time, so you have to be brief. You have a maximum of five minutes to speak, and you have to say what you want to say very quickly without repetitions.

Debate is open. Hon. Leonce.

Mr Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): Mr Speaker; hon. Speakers of the National Assemblies; hon. Members of Parliament; hon. Members of EALA, I second this motion for several reasons, but especially to extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed to the achievements that have been realised to this day. (Applause) I particularly support the expression of gratitude to the founding fathers, who had the vision that we are now implementing and looking forward to achieve. If it were not for them, we would not be celebrating anything today. But we have so much to celebrate after the achievements that this East African Community has made to this day. (Applause)

Mr Speaker, as you have said we do not have much time for a long statement, I just want to say that I second the motion. Thank you.

Ms Safina Kwekwe (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I wish to support the motion as moved by hon. Muhongayire for several reasons, one of them being that I take great pride and joy when I look at the East African Community today - its organs and institutions, and what they have

collectively achieved for East Africa. *(Applause)*

When I look at the CASSOA, the Inter-University Council of East Africa and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission as the flagships of this Community, I take pride that we will not only have institutions of the Community, but also have the institutions that have been legally constituted by the actions of this Assembly. I take pride in that. *(Applause)*

When the first East African Community collapsed in 1977, there were only two members of the Summit who had been the founding fathers. But in the early 1990s, a new breed of Heads of State, comprising H.E. Yoweri Museveni, H.E. Daniel Arap Moi and H.E. Ali Hassan Mwinyi, started the rebirth of the current East African Community. This shows that there was and there still is belief in the East African Community integration as a vehicle towards prosperity and posterity of the Community.

I want to conclude by saying that Parliaments are not only legislative organs but they are also families in their own right. Therefore, I want to commend the Parliament of Tanzania for emerging the winners of the Inter-Parliamentary Football tournament. *(Applause)* I also want to commend the Parliament of Uganda for having brought the largest delegation to Arusha. *(Applause)* I would also like to thank the National Assembly of Kenya for having demonstrated true sportsmanship, having come as the reigning champions and having gracefully accepted to share the trophy with others. *(Laughter)*

I want to particularly thank the Parliament of Rwanda. The Rwanda Chamber of Deputies truly demonstrated that Parliament is a family of men and women. *(Applause)* Together they have demonstrated to the world and the entire

region that parliaments are not only a place for debates; a place for people to come to air varying views, but a place to come and enjoy and also have fun. Mr Speaker, I thank you. *(Applause)*

Dr F. Lwanyantika Masha (Tanzania): Mr Speaker, it is with great humility that I am part of today's historical event; that I am among so many great Speakers of the national assemblies of our partner states and all the distinguished parliamentarians in the House!

The motion before us gives us an opportunity to say "thank you" to those who started the Pan-African cause; to say thank you to our leaders. *(Applause)* Therefore, I join the mover of the motion to express my appreciation to the leaders who had the foresight to prepare the ground to get us where we are now; our former presidents and the current presidents for the wonderful vision which we all agree is great for our people in East Africa, and indeed, for all the African people.

I remember with nostalgia the wish of former President Nyerere, who had wanted to delay the independence of Tanganyika so that we could all get independence at the same time as a single country of East Africa. *(Applause)* Unfortunately his wish did not come to pass, but the idea was so great that even the institutions which followed could not survive the idea, which is still so great that we are still re-creating the institutions that otherwise would have already been in place and maybe we would have had a federation.

May I take this opportunity also to salute, not just the leaders in East Africa, like Kenyattas, but also to salute the vision of the Pan-Africanists, the Nkrumah's, who had the foresight to see the possibility of a great Africa with a union government. This vision is also still alive through the great institution that we have, the African

Union. To me, as indeed to others, these regional bodies, even with the great idea of the eventual federation of East Africa, should not be seen as the end result of that great vision of the Pan-Africanists. We should find ways of converging wherever we can so that we can all move towards that great Pan-Africanist vision of a continental government.

In that light, I wish to thank those who have seen the possibility of convergence in the COMESA, SADC and the East African Community integration processes, to see that we can move together towards that great vision.

Mr Speaker, with these few remarks, I support the motion. *(Applause)*

Mr Clarkson Otieno Karan (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to join my colleagues in supporting the motion, which highlights the benefits and the achievements of the Community.

I also want to thank the founding fathers of our partner states who thought it wise to start this cooperation. I wish to thank the current members of the Summit for following the process which was initiated by the founding fathers. This decision was on behalf of the people of East Africa. It was not in the interest of the leaders, but for the people of East Africa to be beneficiaries of a united East Africa. So, I would like to thank them. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, there are so many achievements which we can celebrate today, and I am happy that I am part of the group that is celebrating them. One of the achievements initially seemed very bad to a number of legislators because when the second Assembly was inaugurated, the landmark ruling of the East African Court of Justice was a ban on the Assembly from sitting because the process of electing the Kenyan members to the Assembly was not

recognised. We had to go full course and do it again. At that time we were not friends of the East African Court, but today we stand here tall and say that we emerged from that ruling very strong, and we feel happy to be part of this Community. *(Applause)*

The other issue I would like to talk about as an achievement is on EALA. First I beg to pay tribute to the First Assembly led by hon. Speaker, Kinana. *(Applause)* This is the Assembly that laid the foundation on which we are now building. I want to remember that when the Speaker and the entire legislators of the First East African Assembly visited me in Kisumu when I was the mayor of Kisumu, I felt like an East African. *(Applause)* It is that feeling that inspired me to be part of the resolution to take the Assembly to the Partner States, which has brought about the visibility of the East African Community in all our partner states. *(Applause)*

Finally, I wish to thank the Kenyan Government, especially the Parliament, for ensuring that the East African legislators tour Kenya as a Partner State. *(Applause)* It has given us visibility within Kenya, and I would urge the other partner states to follow suit so that we can be able to interact with all East Africans. *(Applause)* Finally, I want to say that because the founding fathers are steering the Community very well, I have full hope that when it comes to the time of federation, the issue of sovereignty will not be a stumbling block. With those few remarks, I beg to support the Motion. *(Applause)*

Ms Dora Kanabahita Byamukama (Uganda): Mr Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this motion, and from the onset, I beg to support the motion.

Mr Speaker, permit me to make reference to the very first part of the motion, which

makes reference to the bold action and visionary decision to re-establish cooperation amongst the partner states, and the dedication and commitment to the ideal of oneness by H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, H.E. Arap Moi and H.E. Benjamin Mkapa.

The theme for this celebration is: “One People; One Destiny” and it is very apt because indeed we are one people. I note that for us who come from border communities, for example the difference between Katuna and Gatuna is non-existent, because our people get firewood from either side and also marry from either side. When I conferred with hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro, he told me that the letters ‘g’ and ‘k’ could be used synonymously because you can say, “Gitega” or “Kitega”, so indeed we are one people. *(Applause)*

When you go further down south as far as South Africa, you will find people who refer to each other as “*muntu*” which is a Swahili word “*mtu*”. So, I would like to allay the fears of Hon. Ssekandi that indeed we have an African language in the Swahili language. *(Applause)*

Having said that, I would like to make reference to the context in which we are celebrating the 10th anniversary. This context is very different from when the forefathers decided to integrate. The context at the time had elements of imperialism and other issues. Currently, the context is of an economic downturn, otherwise known as the credit crunch; terrorism; neo-colonialism and issues of climate change.

As has been noted in other circles, especially in the European Union, the East African Community has been cited as a model, and I believe the reasons why we are a model is because we have built on the best practices. *(Applause)*

Permit me, sir, to cite some of the best practices that we have observed as we have visited the countries of East Africa. In the beautiful country of the Republic of Burundi, there is no charge for maternity services. *(Applause)* Another example is in the beautiful country of the Republic of Rwanda, where women are considered to be equal to men in reality. *(Applause)* In the beautiful country of Tanzania, we look at all the respect and peace that has existed for so long, and the tourism opportunities that are a direct result of this peaceful atmosphere. In the beautiful country of the Republic of Kenya, we envy the industriousness and the enterprising nature of our brothers and sisters. *(Applause)* When you go back to Uganda, which gifted by nature, we bring with us hospitality and an emerging centre of excellence in education. *(Applause)* Mr Speaker, all the above make up the flavour of the East African culture, and the flavour we would like to build on because ‘united we stand, divided we fall’.

Of course we have challenges, and one of the challenges is how to deal with conflict, because conflict will always be there. We must build a mechanism to nip conflict in the bud lest it takes away our vision and therefore makes us not reach our destiny. There are also issues of unemployment of the youth because this can lead to chaos.

Mr Speaker, there are many challenges, but allow me to stop here and thank you specifically for allowing the private sector, especially the media, to cover our activities during this time. We pray it will happen more often because this is one way of keeping the vision alive and reaching our destiny in a shorter time. I support the Motion. *(Applause)*

Mr Gervase Akhaabi (Kenya): Mr Speaker, in supporting this motion, I wish to join my colleagues to congratulate the people and leadership of East Africa on the 10th anniversary of the East African

Community. It is important for all of us to realise that this achievement is no mean achievement. *(Applause)* It took real courage for the three leaders to come together in 1999, and to put into existence the Treaty under which we operate today. It was courage because at that time there were too many suspicions and detractors, but these three gentlemen decided that it was more important for the people of East Africa to take this bold step so that they could benefit, and we congratulate them. Fortunately they are all still alive, and they are still guiding our Community. *(Applause)*

As we move into the second decade of the Community, we must realise and remain on guard against the obstacles that arose in the first East African Community, obstacles which still exist and pose a danger. Therefore, as an Assembly we must be watchful, and we must be at the vanguard of forging the new East African Community. *(Applause)*

I wish to particularly associate myself with remarks of my friend, hon. Dora Byamukama, regarding the issue and the needs of the youth of this Community. Mr Speaker, as we move towards deeper integration, we must realise that it is the youth of this region that count; that this Community will come to nothing unless the youth are empowered; unless we put in place institutions and mechanisms to empower them so that this Community can thrive, and for the vision of our fore fathers not to be brought to naught.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity, and I thank hon. Muhongayire for moving this motion. *(Applause)*

Ms Lydia Wanyoto (Uganda): Thank you very much hon. Speaker and distinguished delegates here present, all protocol observed. I stand to support the motion by hon. Jacqueline Muhongayire. From the onset, I want to appreciate the

mood and tone of this resolution, which in many ways is different from the tone and mood of the other plenary debates that we have been having as an Assembly.

Mr Speaker, I am saying this because this motion, which is being debated by this Assembly today in this mood and tone, should go a long way to give a message to the main actors of the Community on the intentions and the spirit of the Assembly. I have been seeing a lot of excited faces in the last few weeks from our partner states. People are happy to celebrate ten years, but suppose we looked at the *Hansard* of our debates on how we have worked vis-à-vis delivering what we want to see as a Community? It is really amazing!

Therefore, I would like to support this motion, and hope that those that we have worked with can be able to read and see the intentions and the spirit of the Assembly, through its oversight function, in pushing them to get things done. At the end of the day, we are all saying, “*asanteni sana*”. We are all thanking them for the contribution they have made in the last 10 years, but also thanking ourselves for how far we have been able to push because we have to be accountable to our people. Therefore, I would like to associate myself with this type of resolution because we have something to show. We are here to celebrate 10 years because we have been able to do something that we can at least show the East Africans thereby laying the foundation for the EAC integration. *(Applause)*

As we mark ten years, I would like to raise the issue of the messages that we should be sending to our people. In my thoughts, I imagine that sometimes most people sit in their homes, offices or communities and expect that somebody will go around distributing the benefits of the Community. In my own opinion, and basing on my experience, I believe that we should start sending messages out for

people to look for opportunities so that they can place themselves in a position from which they can best utilise the opportunities.

The Community, in my opinion, is like the Biblical Christians who are still waiting for Jesus. They complain that he has not come after 2000 years, while others are enjoying their lives and spending it with Jesus. Therefore, our duty to our people is to lay out what we have been able to do for them so that they are able to enjoy and benefit from the opportunities that this Community brings. It is not going around in a basket or in a small bag; it is being laid out for everybody to tap and benefit from.

Mr Speaker, my last two points are on the issue of the Speakers' forum. I would like to draw your attention to the issue of amending the Treaty to include the Bureau of Speakers. Hon. Ssekandi mentioned this, and I would like to say that the national parliaments have space and mandate, under the relevant Articles of the Treaty, to have an input when the Treaty is being amended. Therefore, it is a very opportune time for them, during the consultations, to use that as one of the avenues to ensure that issues of a legislative nature are properly entrenched in the Treaty.

Secondly, I would also like to draw the attention of our national Speakers to Articles 49, 50 and 51, which relate mainly to the matters of the legislative Assembly. Mr Speaker, they have an opportunity to expand and entrench, using our national positions, the interests of this legislature in their own right as national Parliaments. Therefore, they should take this opportunity so that we can all benefit from this very important – *(Interruption)*–

The Speaker: Hon Wanyoto, I think your five minutes are over.

Ms Wanyoto: Thank you so much Mr Speaker. I beg to support the Motion. *(Applause)*

Ms Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to join my colleagues in thanking hon. Jacqueline for having moved the motion. I stand here in support of the motion, and also to take this opportunity to thank you in person for having lived to the true principles of the Treaty. The Treaty calls upon Members to ensure that the integration process takes in the principle of people-centred and private sector-driven method of integration, and today I believe the session is a unique one because we are having the Speakers and Members from our national assemblies present. This is an indication that we are moving more towards having the population within the region participating more into the issues of the East African Community. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, allow me to take this opportunity to thank our Speakers in a special way. Hon. Muhongayire read out our achievements to include resolutions, motions and Bills passed by EALA. The Assembly has done a lot of this work in the partner states. It would not have been easy if our national Speakers, who are present here today, were not cooperative to EALA. *(Applause)* For example, during our visits to Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya, we enjoyed the hospitality of the Members of Parliament of these respective Parliaments. We enjoyed the hospitality of the people as we moved around, and saw what the countryside is like. As a result, our contribution in this House has improved because we understand the region better than before. *(Applause)*

I also want to thank President Museveni of Uganda, President Kibaki of Kenya and President Kikwete of Tanzania for working hard to ensure that Rwanda and

Burundi join the Community. *(Applause)* I say this with pride because now East Africa is seen as a very attractive investment destination globally. When we talk about attracting investors to this region, we boast of a population of 120 million people, and that is no mean achievement, and the two countries joining the Community has made that visible, and I can assure you that everybody is now coming to invest in the region.

I would like to conclude by supporting all the recommendations that in the resolution, and I wish all my colleagues fruitful celebrations. *Asante sana! (Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Tiperu. I hope you reciprocated the hospitality that was given here in Arusha as well. *(Laughter)*

Ms Patricia Hjabakiga (Rwanda): Thank you hon. Speaker for giving me an opportunity to also thank the mover of this motion, and to thank you also for making it possible for us to have this special sitting today in commemoration of the 10th anniversary together with national Members of Parliament together with the leaders of our voters.

I do not have anything new to say, but like others, I would like to thank the past and present leaders of this region who established the East African Community as an important tool to alleviate poverty in this region. *(Applause)* If you look at the Treaty establishing the East African Community, we have all the answers. Therefore, as we move to the second phase of this integration, which is the next decade, I believe we will work even harder to fully operationalise this Treaty for it to become meaningful for the people of East Africa.

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would not like to leave this beautiful Simba Hall without

remembering, with a lot of emotion, that between 1990 and 1993, when they were negotiating for the Arusha Peace Accord, a founding document for the new Rwanda, I would say, Rwanda frequented this Hall while some of us were refugees in East Africa. Mr Speaker, I am glad to sit here today as an East African and not a refugee. *(Applause)* I thank you all and I support the motion. *(Applause)*

Mr Wandera Ogalo (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this motion, which I support. I wish to just raise three matters.

Looking at paragraph 2 of the resolution, I wish to add that the whole process begun in 1994, and that President Mwinyi was at the centre of it. So, the motion should also recognise him by naming him.

The Speaker: Hon. Ogalo, I know you are sitting with *Mweshimiwa* Mwinyi and that he is not the one moving that amendment - *(Laughter)* - but I would like to say that I have an amendment from *Mweshimiwa* Kwekwe to that effect.

Mr Wandera Ogalo: Thank you, sir.

The second point is also to recognise the fact that when the Treaty was being negotiated, originally EALA was not one of the organs to be set up. The negotiations did not originally include the setting up of the EALA, and in that regard, the Speakers of the three member countries then, Speakers James Wapakhabulo from Uganda, Ole Kaparo from Kenya, and Pius Msekwa from the United Republic of Tanzania met here in Arusha and insisted during the negotiations that there should be an East African Legislative Assembly. So, I would also wish to recognise those Speakers who insisted that we should have an Assembly in place. The only difference was that those Speakers had suggested 15 Members per country, but what came out eventually was 9 Members per country.

However, it was because of their insistence that we have an Assembly in place, and I wish to thank them for that. *(Applause)*

I also want to recognise the leaders of the East African Community which collapsed. The second one which we are rebuilding is founded on the first one. So, it is also necessary to recognise those leaders who were there at the beginning; those who formed the first Community because without them we would not be talking about the second Community. In that regard, therefore, we should also specifically recognise the late President Kenyatta, the late President Apollo Milton Obote, and the late President Julius Kambarage Nyerere. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, with those few remarks, I beg to support the motion.

The Speaker: Mr Ogalo, you know how the rules work. Could you bring those amendments quickly, we will be winding up soon.

Dr Didas Masaburi (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. What I wanted to say has been said by hon. Ogalo. Thank you, sir.

The Speaker: Thank you hon. Masaburi.

Mr Mugisha Muntu (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like first to express my gratitude for this session in which the honourable Speakers from the five Partner States are here present, together with the Members of Parliament from the respective national parliaments. It is exciting for those of us who are in EALA to be engaged in this process after 10 years.

It is exciting in the sense that when you look at the history of most countries in Europe, Asia and a number of the other continents, I think their existence is a geographical expression of the social, economic and

political aspirations of the societies that exist in those countries. It is not so in the African continent. As we exist today, we are more or less geographical expressions of external interventions in the 1800s. Had there been no colonial intervention in the 1880s, as we speak today nobody could say whether there would be a Uganda, a Tanzania, a Kenya or a Burundi. And the same goes for almost all of these African countries as they exist today. There were aspirations of our people, there were struggles of different kingdoms, but we do not know what shape they would have taken; we do not know where we would be and in which entity.

This is a historical fact, and it cannot be changed, but what is exciting is that during our time - and let me express our gratitude to the founding fathers of our countries. At the time of independence, they saw it necessary to work together in the East African Community with the view - even then when we achieved independence under the late President Nyerere, the late President Kenyatta, and the Late President Milton Obote - to work together towards a federation, which unfortunately never happened.

As we celebrate the 10 years, I also want to express our gratitude to the present leaders - who have already been recognised - for realising that there was an error, which caused the breakdown of the East African Community and therefore learning from history and working towards the re-establishment of the East African Community as we see it today. When we make mistakes, it is good to learn from them. For that matter, I would like to express gratitude to the presidents who realised that mistakes were made.

So, how do we work to shape the social, political and economic aspirations of our people in the present time so as to shape our future? One hopes we will be equal to the task, and if it is the will of God, we

may see a reshaping of our communities. Who knows, we may end up in larger entities than we are in today! We have already seen the aspirations of our people through the surveys which have been done, and they indicate that they would want us to integrate.

The process is on, and we hope we will be able to see it come to maturity. And should it reach that point of federation, to many of us it will be one of the most exciting moments of our lives because we will be able to see a reshaping of our future. But that will only be possible if it is deliberately done by the leaders at the different levels, and it is something that has to be home-grown, coming from our own aspirations as a people, which is different from how we exist today. As I have already indicated, our existence today as countries was more or less a consequence of external interventions, whereas when we integrate, it is going to be a geographical expression of our present aspirations. *(Applause)*

As I end, let me take this opportunity, once again, to thank the leaders at the different levels; the Summit, the Council of ministers, the Speakers, the regional parliament, as well as the national parliaments, and ask God to be gracious to all of us to see that period when we can achieve a common currency and a political federation. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

Ms Catherine Kimura (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to join my colleagues in congratulating you for thinking ahead to make it possible for this session to happen. The motion is to appreciate the work that was done by the founding fathers, those who are currently serving, and those who may have retired, but let me also appreciate and join hon. Ogalo in bringing up the issue of the founding fathers of the original East African Community. I also

want to propose that they should also be recognised at this forum for, indeed, if it was not for them, we would have had nothing to build on. So, as we thank and appreciate the founding fathers, let us reflect on what our responsibilities are and the challenges as an Assembly today.

Our founding fathers started the race, and as you know, in a marathon race the start is easy but maintaining the momentum for the rest of the race is difficult, and it becomes even more difficult at the finishing kick. They had the vision, the will and the commitment. For us here today, our role is to maintain the momentum that was created and finally have that finishing kick of the political federation. The challenges that were there then are not the challenges that we are facing today, and, therefore, our role is much more difficult. But I do believe that we shall be equal to the task. Therefore, I want to challenge us that indeed we have a job to finish. The three original founders of the East African Community did not see a political federation, as it had been their wish. It is in our Treaty that the ultimate for this Community is a political federation, and I believe that it will be those of us who are in this room today who will live to see that political federation. Therefore, let us do everything in our power to see that dream become a reality. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, a lot has been achieved within the last 10 years and more so since this Assembly enacted the Customs Union Management Act. Statistics show that intra-Africa trade has indeed increased. Let us remember that help to lift us out of our poverty will not come from outside. Our development partners can assist us, but it is up to us to lead our people out of poverty, and there is no better way to do that than through trade. So, let us build on the activities of the last several years, and as we move to see the signing of the common market protocol tomorrow, it will

be a new beginning in terms of development for this region.

Let me finish by saying “thank you”. Let us hope that the challenges that have been pointed out here today about linkages between the institutions of our national parliaments and EALA, can help to widen and deepen integration, and that we at EALA will do everything possible, with the assistance of the respective national parliaments, to strengthen the linkages that are very necessary. Thank you hon. Speaker, I beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

Ms Margaret Zziwa (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to support the motion. I want to congratulate you, hon. Speaker, upon this very distinguished sitting, which has accorded us an opportunity to celebrate ten years. It has also given us the opportunity to interface with the distinguished Speakers of our respective national assemblies and also our colleagues from the respective national assemblies. Congratulations! *(Applause)*

Allow me to support the motion by hon. Jacqueline Muhongayire and to congratulate the Summit of the EAC Heads of State for distinguishably and continuously working towards executing Article 9 and Article 11 of the Treaty by putting in place the various organs of the Community. I also congratulate them upon exhibiting political will and being able to give and take on all the difficult areas to enable the integration process go forward. We congratulate them both; the current Heads of State and the forefathers. I think we have a lot to learn towards while drawing from their distinguished input.

As we celebrate these ten years with the theme of “one people, one destiny”, let us as EALA, salute all the organs which we have put in place: the East African Court of Justice; the East African Community

Secretariat; the Lake Victoria Basin Commission; CASSOA, and all other organs and institutions, which have been in position to implement the directives of the Treaty in order to give direction to the aspirations of the peoples of East Africa.

When we celebrate, we normally make assessment. It is good that today we are able to see vivid fruits of the 10 years. Let us commit ourselves to pushing the integration process forward. We who are seated in this great Simba Hall know very well that we have a distinguished law under Article 49 and under Articles. Let us ensure that we exercise our mandate. Let us make sure that we put in place the prerequisite legislations so that we are able to give opportunity to our people to enjoy the fruits of East African integration.

I will leave by saying long live the peoples of East Africa, long live this process which is people-centred, and long live the integration process. I support the motion. *(Applause)*

Dr James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Mr Speaker. I would also like to congratulate the people of East Africa, our leaders, and most especially the founding fathers, for the guidance and vision for our integration process. A lot has been said about the 10th anniversary and the first Community, and today I join others in celebrating a Community that is people-centred and private sector driven. I think that is the difference between the Community today and the previous one. I would like to thank our present leadership for having positioned this Community and thought of the two main principles, if not, doctrines of this Community. At an appropriate time, I think we should think of a third doctrine of the Community, and it should be discipline. We should introduce discipline as a third doctrine. *(Applause)* We shall be able to compliment the two doctrines, and we shall move in the direction which our forefathers wanted us to move in.

Mr Speaker, you will remember that after the 1960s, most of our countries had just attained independence, and there were many liberation movements around. What was in the minds of the different leaders then was a future that was not known. We were living in the unknown and moving towards the unknown. Definitely, the slogan "united we stand and divided we fall" prevailed, but today we are talking about competition; about providing for our people and responsive politics. Therefore, as we move ahead in our next decade and make the dreams of our fathers a reality, we should place the Community in the hands of the people and the private sector so that together we stand, otherwise we fall. Thank you. *(Applause)*

Ms Janet Mmari (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice in support of this very important motion for a number of reasons. A number of them have been mentioned, and I do not wish to repeat them. However, I want to give testimony that my heart is crying with joy because I am a former member of one of the institutions of the defunct East African Community. I was an employee of the East African Harbours, and so when I see that we started something new, and this baby is celebrating 10 years today with a number of achievements, I cry with joy. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, notwithstanding the number of achievements that we have made, I wish to ask the current Summit, and even the founding fathers, to urge the current Summit to strengthen some of the organs of the Community. One of them would probably be the formation of an East African Commission rather than a Secretariat; a commission that will be empowered to make decisions; a commission that will not have to wait upon the Executive no matter how major the decisions. *(Applause)*

We have harbours that will not function - not the one in Tanzania - harbours that are congested; harbours that are not moving and not actually helping trade for the people of East Africa. We have airlines that charge more money for travel within the region than what is actually charged to go Europe. Is that what we want for the people of East Africa? Certainly not! We are talking of a Community that is people-centred, that is for the people of East Africa, and if this is what we are looking for, then we should be prepared to put in place institutions that will work properly for the people of East Africa.

Having said that, what else can I do apart from supporting this motion and saying that all those amendments that have been proposed should be added in order to enrich this motion? I thank you Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I had said that hon. Mmari would be the last speaker but for purposes of gender balance, I can see some people are complaining. Gender is both male and female, so hon. Damien - and please be brief.

Mr Damian Habumuremyi (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me the Floor. I am glad to see at the high table, five Speakers of our respective national parliaments, and that delegations from the respective national parliaments are also present here. I am glad that through them the people of the East African Community are here. *(Applause)*

People need results from the Community. I am proud that the 10th anniversary celebrations will coincide with the signing of the Protocol on the Common Market by our distinguished Heads of State, which protocol will allow our people to move freely to benefit from the good practices and potential assets within our partner

states. This dream will become a reality, as has been said by other members, and our people can enjoy the goodness of our Community. That is the reason why I support the motion moved by hon. Muhongayire. I thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Honourable Members, we have come to the end of debate. I would like to call hon. Muhongayire to say a few words because everyone supported her motion, so I don't expect her to say much.

Ms Jacqueline Muhongayire (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, I would like to thank all Members of the Assembly who have contributed to this motion. I know every Member wanted to improve this resolution. I would like to recognise the contribution of the following Members: hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye, hon. Safina Kwekwe, hon. Masha, hon. Karan, hon. Byamukama, hon. Akhaabi, hon. Wanyoto, hon. Tiperu, hon. Hajabakiga, hon. Ogalo, hon. Masaburi, hon. Muntu, hon. Kimura, hon. Zziwa, hon. Ndahiro, hon. Mmari and hon. Habumuremyi. All the proposed amendments have been accepted, and they will be incorporated by the office of the Clerk. I thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

(Question on the Motion put and agreed to.)

Resolution adopted.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the next item is adjournment, but under the powers conferred upon the Speaker, I am amending the Order Paper to call upon hon. Sebalu to move a vote of thanks on our behalf. I thought you would do it from there but go ahead.

Mr Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Since the statements were made from here, the vote

of thanks would be more appealing if it is made from the same point. *(Laughter)*

The Speaker of EALA; Judge President of the East African Court of Justice; the Speakers of the national assemblies of the partner states; the Speaker of EALA emeritus; honourable ministers in absentia – *(Laughter)* – but they were here; hon. Members of the National Parliaments and hon. Members of EALA; heads of institutions, departments and agencies of the East African Community; all distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. I wish to congratulate all of us for being part of this historic moment of celebrating 10 years of East African renewal. *(Applause)*

I wish to acknowledge, respect and associate myself with the statements and sentiments of appreciation made in this special session regarding the different generation of leaders that have made a contribution to the Community's integration as clearly pointed out in the motion that was just adopted by this House. For that matter, my vote of thanks will not go into the area of thanking those generations of leaders; I will restrict it to today's occasion.

Sir, I wish to thank you for your able, wise innovative and dynamic leadership style that has enhanced the visibility of EALA as a results-oriented regional Assembly. *(Applause)* EALA is now a household name in national, regional, continental and international parliamentary circles. The session we are witnessing today is a clear manifestation of our innovation, where you have brought us together as leaders, from the parliamentary angle, to be able to build the synergy of to move forward in the integration process. *(Applause)*

I also wish to thank the EALA Speaker emeritus, hon. Kinana, who is in our midst, and the first Assembly for the role they played in pioneering this process and

in laying a strong foundation over which we are building as the second Assembly. *(Applause)* I specifically want to thank him for always being available and with us as we undertake this process of carrying forward the work they started seven years ago. *(Applause)*

I also wish to thank the Speakers of the national assemblies from the Partner States for having responded to your invitation and honoured it with their presence despite their very busy schedules. I wish to further thank them for the support they have always given and continue to give EALA. It is a clear manifestation of their commitment to the cause of the East African integration. *(Applause)* Furthermore, I would like to thank the Speakers for their statements which were full of wisdom and good counsel. We pledge, as EALA, that we are going to take them seriously as we embark on the next 10 years of integration.

I would like to thank the Council of Ministers for the cooperation that it has fostered to create a healthy functional relationship with EALA. I also appreciate the collaborative role that all the East African Community organs and institutions have always given EALA as we perform our duties. *(Applause)*

I would like to thank our national assemblies, and especially the football teams that have clearly demonstrated that we are actually one people with one destiny. *(Applause)* Their coming to Arusha at this point in time, gave them the opportunity to be part of the process of widening and deepening the integration of the East African Community, and they did exhibit a lot of commitment to that as they went around playing their games; a sign of solidarity of the East African peoples. *(Applause)*

I would like to thank the development partners for the different roles and support

that they have always given and continue to give to EALA in particular, and the Community in general. *(Applause)*

Thanks also go to members of staff of the Community in general, and of EALA in particular, led by the Acting Clerk, Mr Kenneth Madete, for the role that they have always played in supporting and supplementing the efforts of the Members of EALA as we go about executing our mandate.

Thanks also go to the media for giving coverage to the integration process and for covering this very celebration. It is something to write home about. *(Applause)*

Finally, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, the Members of EALA, for the high degree of commitment and seriousness they have exhibited in executing their mandate. I would like to assure the Speakers here present and the Members from the national parliaments, and all the East African peoples that EALA is made up of technically very well qualified East Africans who are functionally versatile, and who execute their mandate with dignity and decorum. *(Applause)* As we go into the next decade of integration, EALA will not only consolidate the gains so far made, but will build on them and take the integration process to another level.

I would like to conclude by quoting the late Julius Nyerere, one of our founding fathers, when he said that, "It can be done, provided each one of us plays their part." I want to pledge that as EALA we are ready to play our part in the best interest of the East African integration. The best way we can pay tribute to the forefathers of the Community is by playing our rightful role by turning their dreams into a reality. *(Applause)*

Thank you, Mr Speaker, I thank you hon. Members and all distinguished invited guests. One people one East Africa! Long live East Africa, long live East African peoples! (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, we have come to the end of our business for today, but I would like to make two announcements.

First and foremost, I would like to say that when we leave here, we are going to have a photo session with the Speakers of the national assemblies of our partner states as follows: The Speakers with EALA Members; the Speakers with the Parliamentary teams; the Speakers with the former Speaker, Judge President and EU representatives and other guests; and the Speakers with members of staff of EALA. When we leave, we will go and assemble at the usual area for the photo session.

Secondly, we are holding a dinner in honour of the Speakers of the national assemblies and Members of Parliament from our Partner States this evening at New Arusha Hotel. It will start at 7 o'clock. We hope to see all honourable Members and invited guests there this evening.

Finally, there are some badges, which have been distributed to you. I hope that all of you have got them. They are security badges for tomorrow's Summit meeting. All honourable Members are expected to wear the badges tomorrow.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: I would like to adjourn the House, sine die.

(The House rose and adjourned sine die.)