



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly 46TH SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: FOURTH MEETING - SECOND SESSION

SPECIAL SITTING

Tuesday, 21 January 2014

(The East African Legislative Assembly held a Special Sitting at 4.15 p.m. in the Chamber of the Parliament of Uganda, Kampala, Uganda.)

Uganda National Anthem

East African Community Anthem

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Ms Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

PROCEDURAL MOTION

The Chairperson of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges (Ms Dora Byamukama Kanabahita): Your Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda, Your Excellency, the Vice President, the Rt hon. Speaker, and hon. Members, *heri ya mwaka mpya*.

Members: *Asante sana*.

Ms Byamukama: I beg to move “*THAT, This House pursuant to the provisions of Article 55 (1) of the Treaty and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure, do resolve to hold sittings in Kampala, in the Republic of Uganda.*” I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconded by hon. Kidega, hon. Ussi, hon. Valerie, hon. Taslma, hon. Nakawuki, hon. Sebalu and hon. Hafsa Mossi. Proceed, hon. Dora.

Ms Byamukama: Madam Speaker, the resolution of the Assembly to hold sittings in the Republic of Uganda reads as follows:

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

AND WHEREAS sub-rule 7 of Rule 11 provides that the Assembly may on a resolution adopted by a majority of its Members decide to hold one or more sittings elsewhere within the Partner States other than at its seat;

NOW THEREFORE this Assembly do resolve as follows:

That pursuant to the provisions of sub-rule 7 of Rule 11 cited above, the Assembly shall hold sittings in the chamber of the Parliament of Uganda from today, Tuesday, 21st January, 2014 to Thursday, 30th January, 2014.” Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Dora Byamukama. Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that this House pursuant to the provisions of Article 55 (1) of the Treaty and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure do resolve to hold sittings in Kampala, Uganda. I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

- *(Applause)* -

The Speaker: Hon. Members, amidst us today is H.E. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda. *(Applause)* I have in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty invited him to address this Assembly. I now would like to make the following proclamation to welcome his presence in this Assembly.

PROCLAMATION

“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 the presence in the Assembly of the President of the Republic of Uganda is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE, it is with great pleasure and honor, on your behalf, hon. Members to welcome H.E. in this Assembly.”

- *(Applause)* -

ADDRESS BY H.E. YOWERI KAGUTA MUSEVENI, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER OF EALA

The Speaker: Your Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; Your Excellency the Vice President of Uganda, Rt hon. Edward Kiwanuka Ssekandi; Hon. Phyllis Kandeza, the Chairperson, Council of Ministers; the hon. Ministers and members of the Council of Ministers; the Secretary General of the EAC, hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly; hon. Members of the Parliament of Uganda; Excellences, Ambassadors and High Commissioners; Heads of EAC Institutions and Agencies; the Inspector General of Police and the Commissioner General of Prisons; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen; I warmly welcome you to the Chamber of the Parliament of Uganda on the occasion of the special sitting of the Fourth Meeting of the Second Session of EALA.

At the onset, allow me on behalf of all EALA Members to wish you a prosperous and progressive New Year, 2014. *(Applause)* We wish you good health and God's blessings as you continue to lead the Republic of Uganda and the EAC Region to achieve their desired levels of integration.

Your Excellency, let me register the Assembly's sincere and deepest appreciation to you and to the Summit of EAC Heads of State for your outstanding leadership. *(Applause)* We laud the significant contribution in spearheading the EAC extraordinary growth and the performance as a prerequisite to unparalleled development.

Individually, Your Excellency, the subject of integration is a matter that is so close to your heart. We as servants of the people are also firm believers in the cherished and long held dream of the political federated East Africa. And we are certain that this one day shall become a reality. *(Applause)*

I thank you for your unwavering support to EALA. Indeed, since May, 2008 when you first addressed the Assembly in Arusha, you have continued to offer us wise counsel. We are internally grateful to you for continuously sparing your time to attend and participate in our EALA programs.

Allow me to mention that early June, 2013 you officiated at the Inter Parliament Relations, Nanyuki Series, which took place in Entebbe. We still recall with fond memories. Thank you very much.

Less than a month ago, you graced the occasion of the finals of the EALA Inter Parliamentary Games at Namboole Stadium. *(Applause)* This was an important activity of EALA as we go through games to integrate the peoples of East Africa. We thank you.

Let me just take a cue on your attendance at the Inter Parliamentary games and form the few minutes of the soccer artistry that you displayed. I say that I want to congratulate Parliament of Uganda who at that occasion challenged EALA and they are the gold medallists. Congratulations, Parliament of Uganda. *(Applause)*

I can't run away from also congratulating EALA because they are the silver medallists. Both teams; the netball and football- we want to congratulate you; we want to salute the team captains and the commissions of both Parliament of Uganda and Parliament of East Africa and also the Speakers' Forum for making sure that this annual event continues to be on board. I think this is a very important activity to uphold integration.

Your Excellency, I similarly wish to take this opportunity to salute the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda, Rt. hon. Rebecca Kadaga, albeit her absence, for her continued support to EALA.

Let me inform you formally, Sir that the Rt hon. Speaker is away attending the Global Commonwealth Speakers' Conference in New Zealand. And also the Rt hon. Deputy Speaker, hon. Jacob Oulanyah is also away attending a conference in the United States of America.

Nevertheless, Your Excellency, the relations between Parliament of Uganda and EALA are cordial and warm. Our sitting here today is confirmation of the sign of true friendship and commitment to the EAC integration process. I humbly request that the Parliamentary Commission convenes our warmest appreciation to the speakership of this august House. *(Applause)*

Allow me, Your Excellency to congratulate you on the successful Summit held in Kampala on 30th November, 2013. As EALA, we would like to salute you, Sir because you heeded to one of our dearest calls to you. *(Applause)*

Let me also say that the signing of the Monetary Union Protocol on 30th November, 2013 was an important landmark signifying the entry of the third tier of the integration. I wish to congratulate the Summit of the Heads of State, the Council of Ministers and all our Partner States' technical teams for this historic milestone.

A number of activities are envisaged including the attainment of the macro economic convergence targets, economic and financial integration and fiscal discipline amongst others. All of which shall enable the East African Community to be more competitive.

It is, however, important for the East African Community to draw upon the experiences and lessons learnt from other regions and to manage the road map to the single currency carefully. It is in our best interest to consult widely as a region to avoid what befell the Euro Zone, which today continues to reel from economic depression, huge public debts and unemployment.

Today, the East African Community can lay claim to the fastest growing economic bloc in the continent and in the world, the challenges notwithstanding.

Your Excellency, I am pleased note that the region has started to keenly address some of the strategic bottlenecks that you pointed out in your speech to the Assembly last June.

Allow me to applaud a number of the positive accomplishments that have started, notably the East African Infrastructure Program which has registered a boost in notable investors recorded in the railways sector; energy sector; and the ports and harbours sub sector.

The construction of a standard gauge railway that has commenced on the one hand in Kenya and the concerted efforts being made to decongest the ports of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam is a big step in the right direction.

The East African Community has further sustained efforts to erase the Non-Tariff Barriers as has been evidenced by the reduction of Police roadblocks along the Northern Corridor. Though we commend this initiative, we recommend the involvement of all stakeholders if it is to be

sustained. We advise that the private sector, for example, takes an opportunity to devise mechanisms to hold the EAC accountable. Of course I want to say that as some of the NTBs were being erased others re-emerged. So, we want to make sure that this re-occurrence is checked.

On the part of the East African Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to report with satisfaction that the activities both of the committee and those of the plenary are on course and are being undertaken as planned. EALA has so far enacted seven key Bills. And I want to congratulate you, Your Excellency because you have already signed five out of those seven. *(Applause)*

EALA also received oversight reports of its various committees and it has also been able to pass several reports, resolutions and also has posed questions to the Chair, Council and has also passed over 20 motions and resolutions.

Let me also report to you, Sir that our work was further punctuated by oversight visits to the EAC institutions and programs and projects in the region. As the year, 2013 came to the end, EALA held a series of oversight activities covering the following institutions of EAC: we visited Lake Victoria Basin Commission in Kisumu; we visited East African Development Bank, here in Kampala; we visited the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) in Entebbe; we visited the Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization in Jinja; and the East African Civil Aviation Academy in Soroti.

Members we also bade to visit other private organizations which provide significant and strategic services to the East Africans. Notably, we were able to visit the Kibos Sugar Factory in Kisumu and the Quality Chemicals Industry in Kampala. These elucidated the achievements that can be registered between private sector and public sector collaboration.

Allow me, Your Excellency, Sir to share with you some of the major concerns that we registered during those visits.

At CASSOA, we were informed of the necessity for the aviation sector to harmonize the aviation laws and unifying of the East African Community airspace. We urge you, Your Excellency, Sir and the Summit to direct whoever is concerned with the unifying and liberalizing of the airspace, given its strategic demeanour, to enhance safety adequacy and reduction of the cost of air tickets amongst others, in order to stimulate development and to improve transport in the region.

For the Soroti Flying School, Your Excellency, we salute the Government of Uganda, and I want to add, you Your Excellency particularly, for the resources and support you gave to this institution towards its facelift including the availability of improved equipment. Let me report that we were able to find more small aircrafts used for training by the young pilots. At least courtesy of you, Your Excellency. This was applauded.

Allow me to say that the management has tried to resuscitate this institution which a few years ago was at the verge of collapsing. But Your Excellency, I wish to call on you again and the Summit that this institution be transferred back to the East African Community to be one of the institutions of excellence as it was named and known before.

Currently, we know that the cost of training pilots – we know very well that this is a strategic sector in the Common Market Protocol but they are very difficult to either train or to retain. We think that if the Civil Aviation Academy is brought back to the EAC, it will be addressed. *(Applause)*

Allow me also to report on the East African Development Bank. Today it is very vibrant and it plays a critical role in the financial and development sectors of the East African Community. But we call on the harmonization of its membership with the Treaty, specifically Article 9 (3) so that it is recognized as a true institution of the East Africa Community. This is also the same with Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization.

The Summit should urgently direct the Council of Ministers and the EAC Secretariat to operationalize the deeming of these institutions, which is talked about in Article 9 (3) to realign them into the realm of the East African Community operations.

As part of its representative function, EALA similarly contributed to the discourse of the Millennium Development Goals by hosting a major continental conference of the Global Parliamentarians on Habitat in Arusha in August, 2013.

Legislators at the Conference reiterated the need to take the habitat agenda to the next level as a panacea for unrelenting growth in the region and the continent. It was noted that the unplanned cities and the deplorable housing conditions in the EAC were actually one of the reasons or conditions that negate the very objectives of the Common Market Protocol.

Your Excellency, given our region's optimistic nature, we look forward to a number of developments in the year 2014. Allow me to say that we want to term this year, "a year of deliverables." And I want that such must include the reinforcement of the Single Customs Territory, which I believe would reduce cargo clearing costs by half since the transit bond fees along the corridor would be scrapped.

On the part of EALA also, we expect to see much more progress with regard to the free movement of citizens. The Common Market Protocol has also received a major boost following the agreement on the use of identity cards as travel documents within East Africa for the citizens of the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. We look forward to the full realization of this initiative. This move takes place in support of the anticipated completion for the preparation and procurement of the next generation of the internationalized East African passport which is targeted to be issued by 2015. We are anxious to have it as East Africans.

Your Excellency, allow me to report that during this plenary, we intend to transact the following business: We are going to have the First Reading of the East African Community Cooperative Societies Bill, 2013; we are also going to debate three Bills namely:

- (i) The East African Community Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Bill, 2012;
- (ii) The East African Community Integration and Education Bill, 2014; and
- (iii) The East African Community Supplementary Appropriation Bill.

We shall also debate and adopt various committee reports that shall be brought to the floor of the House.

I want to say that we note your support towards EALA to undertake the sensitization role of the citizens of East Africa, which is also in line with our EALA Strategic Plan, 2013/2018. We are going to embark on this activity this year, albeit budgetary constraints.

I am happy to report that the initial leg in Kenya has received some support from the Government of Kenya. *(Applause)* We call upon you, Sir also to support EALA to be able to intensify on this activity. We remember your passionate statement on sensitization when you last addressed us here in this Assembly.

I wish to assure you of the Assembly's commitment and support in this year, 2014 as we move in the quest to realize the East African Community mandate.

Your Excellency, Sir as I wind up my remarks, allow me to congratulate you on Uganda's steady economic growth arising from a number of capital reforms, stability and vastly improved infrastructure.

We also congratulate the NRM Party and Government upon its 28 years of good leadership to be celebrated on 26th January, 2014. *(Applause)*

We also acknowledge your contribution towards ensuring that peace and security are maintained in the East African Community and in the ICGLR regions and we fully support all your initiatives to deploy forces to conflict prone zones to ensure peace is maintained. *(Applause)*

The recent deployment of UPDF in Juba, South Sudan was timely and is timely since this is part of the agreement during the Nairobi IGAD talks but more fundamentally we know very well that Uganda has an obligation to stop the conflict from degenerating any further.

Your Excellency, Sir before I conclude my remarks of welcoming you, allow me to introduce – before I do that, I think let me invite you because I need to check with my clerks' records to see that I have everybody. But for noting, by the powers of the Speaker, this chambers has been shortened to three rows on your right and two rows on your left; the back rows are the gallery of this House. *(Laughter)*

Allow me to mention that the distinguished Members of Parliament of Uganda are welcome in their won chamber but in the gallery.

Finally, Your Excellency, it is with great pleasure and honour that I execute my humble duty to welcome you to address this august House today, Tuesday 21st, January, 2014. I invite you, Your Excellency; *karibu Raisi*.

The President of the Republic of Uganda (Mr. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni): Thank you. H.E. the Vice President of Uganda, the Rt hon. Speaker of the east African Legislative Assembly, hon. Ministers of East Africa, hon. Members of EALA, members of the gallery - *(Laughter)* - Ladies and Gentlemen, I greet you and welcome you to Uganda. You are most welcome. *(Applause)*

I have talked to you before on the subject of the East African integration. On the 24th of April, 2013 in Kigali, I addressed you on this issue. And the Rt hon. Margaret Ziiwa has shown me the magazine where you are now capturing those speeches of the Excellences. So, I thank you for broadcasting my views and those of other presidents on the issue of integration because they are now in a magazine form and it is easy for other people to read those views. *(Applause)*

In Addis Ababa on the 25th of May, 2013 I addressed the African Union on our 50th Anniversary on the same issue. I have also addressed myself to this subject of integration many other times. I actually started being involved in that in 1963. So, for the last 50 years we have been on that issue of the East African integration.

The other day, we were in Zanzibar remembering 50 years of the Zanzibar revolution and what was crucial, although I didn't have time to point it out in the stadium, was that on the East African federation in 1963, our leaders; Mwalimu Nyerere, Mzee Kenyatta and His Excellency Milton Obote had met in Mbale, here in Uganda and declared that before the end of 1963, there would be a Federation of East Africa. You can go back to your library since you like doing research and look for those documents.

Now, I don't remember why Zanzibar was not there because I don't remember seeing the Zanzibar delegation in that meeting in Mbale. Whether they were there and I didn't see them or they were not there. But as you heard, when the Zanzibar Revolution happened in January 1964, the 1963 had ended and nothing had been done because some of the people had started pulling out. But when Mzee Karume took over then, Tanganyika and Zanzibar went ahead. There would have been no Tanzania if there had been no revolution in Zanzibar. That new leadership is the ones who pushed with Mwalimu. So, we have been talking about this subject and I don't want to again go into that. Therefore, today I will not address myself to the rationale of East African integration.

I will rather address myself on the examples of the decisions and gains we have been able to push and achieve in a fairly short time on the Northern Corridor. First, we addressed ourselves to the Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). On account of these NTBs, it would take 18 days for a container to move from Mombasa to Kampala.

By removing roadblocks, weighbridges, multiple procedures and multiple bonds, the days the container takes have been reduced from 18 to three or a maximum of four to Kampala. *(Applause)* To Kigali the days have been reduced from 22 to six or seven days. *(Applause)*

The weighbridges were reduced to one in each country; Kenya at Mariakani; Uganda at Malaba-Busia; and Rwanda at Katuna. Multiple bonds have been reduced to one. There used to be many bonds for the importers. You must pay money for this and that. Now these bonds are very subversive to the economy- and to the businesses because it means a business man apart from getting money to buy the item must also get money to give to the customs people before he has even sold his product. Buying that bond makes it very expensive.

Now payment of a single bond has made a saving for Uganda and Rwanda of US \$ 45 million per year. Business men and women no longer require to travel to Mombasa to clear goods. Business people can clear the goods in Kampala through the Uganda Revenue Authority and in

Kigali through the Rwanda Revenue Authority and by clearing using one clearing agent unlike in the past when multiple clearing agents were required.

So, now it is no longer necessary for people to travel to Mombasa physically. You just go here in Kampala because there is this computer communication - what do you call it? That method of using computers to talk to each other - so, you don't have to physically go and come back, stay in hotels - you just go and pay here and what you have paid is reflected in Mombasa and then your goods are released to come. So, this one has now been implemented on the Northern Corridor.

As far as Uganda's fuel imports are concerned, a saving of one and a half days has been realized by the petrol imported thereby making the turnaround time much faster. In the three of the Northern Corridor countries, people are travelling freely using digitized IDs, the fact that Uganda has not completed the implementation of its ID project notwithstanding. *(Applause)* We are still holding back other East African countries because we have not finished our ID computerization.

With the computerized register of citizens and others, it will be very easy to know the identities of people because these are, as you know, they are not just ID cards which you print on Nkrumah Road. Nkrumah Road is one of the streets where they commit all sorts of things here. *(Laughter)* But this one captures your thumb print, name, photograph and all your details so that nobody can duplicate it. So, once all the East African countries have got computerized ID systems, there should be no reason to disturb them with passports and so on because you can check from the system and know who is where. *(Applause)*

Many years ago when I was neither in Parliament nor Government but in the Bush, my family was living in Sweden. They had not found refuge in east Africa because they said – my family stayed in Kenya for a little while and then the Government here complained that by my wife and children being in Kenya were embarrassing them here. So, they went to Sweden, which was not a bad idea because I was able to follow them there.

So, when I came from the Bush going to organize how to take over the government in town here, but also see my family, I still had hidden my old passport, which I got when I was a minister- I had kept it - and the regime here had not remembered to cancel it. *(Laughter)* So, I had my passport in my names.

When I got at the airport in Gothenburg, which is another city – not Stockholm, which is the main town. So, I went from Kenya to Stockholm and then I connected to Gothenburg. When I got to the counter, the lady there asked me, “What do you want; where are you going?” I said, I am going to see my family. Then she asked me, “What is your name?” I said, Museveni and she just punched in the computer there and she allowed me in. You know somebody from the Bush. *(Laughter)* But they had a system in Sweden where everybody is recorded. So, by me giving them the name, Museveni, they were able to check that my family was in Sweden in just half a minute.

But here in East Africa, if you travel, it is like you have committed a mistake! *(Laughter)* *Una kwenda wapi?* Imagine! *Unakwenda wapi?* I am going to do my things. *Ni kama umefanya kosa.* You see, the question itself, “*Una kwenda wapi?*” In other words, you should not be going

anywhere. (*Laughter*) You should be staying in your house. That is not good. We can't develop like that. So, with IDs things should be made much easier. This is in contrast to the passports that are expensive and take long to acquire.

The single tourist visa was supposed to start on the 1st of January, 2014. There was a delay but it will start in February, 2014. This means that a tourist having got a visa from any Embassy of one of the Member States can freely travel to the others using the same visa. (*Applause*) This costs only US \$ 100 and I think there is a system of how this money will be shared, hon. Bageine? This \$ 100 will be shared by all the countries but in certain proportions. The fellow pays at one point and then it is shared; the one where he is going gets more - *inakuwaje*? I think they call it information in Parliament; can I get information from the hon. Minister?

Mr. Bageine: Your Excellency, the share arrangement is that the country who issues gets \$ 10 out of the \$ 100 and then the \$ 90 is shared equally amongst the rest of the Partner States.

Mr. Museveni: Okay. So, the one who issues gets a bonus for issuing otherwise you share the money.

This costs only \$100 and it is shared in that way. Originally the tourists had to seek and pay for the separate visas to the Member States. Obviously this will increase the tourists in the region.

A Single Customs Territory was launched in October and became operational by 1st January, 2014.

There are other projects such as the oil refinery, the pipelines and projects in electricity generation on which common action is being undertaken.

We have discussed with other members of the East African Community and we are looking at the Central Corridor. I have been talking to President Kikwete to see whether we cannot give the same medicine to the Central Corridor as we have given to the Northern Corridor. When I last checked the Central Corridor now takes – should be taking how many days now, hon. Bageine? Can you give us information?

Mr. Bageine: Your Excellency, the number of days taken from the port in Dar es Salaam to Lake Victoria at present ranges between 20 and 35 to move cargo from Dar es Salaam to Lake Victoria.

Mr. Museveni: But part of the problem is on this side. You also done have railway wagons – what do you call them? The ferry

Mr. Bageine: Your Excellency, the problem is availability of the wagons, which would take probably 14 days if they were made available. But if they were available, then the number of days would be considerably reduced to about 15- two weeks.

Mr. Museveni: To reach Port Bell or Mwanza?

Mr. Bageine: Yes, Your Excellency!

Mr. Museveni: You should give more information later on when you have more figures. You should give them to the Members.

Mr. Bageine: Thank you.

Mr. Museveni: I have discussed with H. E. President Kikwete that the Central Corridor needs the same medicine or similar medicine to what we gave to the Northern Corridor.

President Kikwete is following up with the issues of the Central Corridor and he will be in touch with us. (*Applause*) Kenya has already started the construction of the standard gauge railway all the way from Mombasa to Malaba. Uganda is also working on the plans to build a standard gauge railway from Malaba to Nimule and from Malaba to Kampala to Kasese and the Rwanda Border. We already have water–railway link with Tanzania through Mwanza. We hope that Tanzania will reconstruct the railway and upgrade it. Railway transport, if efficient, will reduce the cost of transport, lower transport costs and make business more profitable. With the potentials that our economies have, there should be no minute to lose.

Now, on the issues of the cost of transport, the other day, we were somewhere in one of our internal meetings here and in the usual way the talk, they said – I challenged them. I said, what is the cost of transport of, for instance, transporting a container of goods from Mombasa – because previously I talked about the days. But then there is also the cost; how much does it cost? So, I said, how much does it cost to transport a goods container from Mombasa to Uganda?

They gave some figure, and I said that is too high. They said, “No, it is not too high as compared to Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.” I have been advising them – I say, please if you really want to develop, you should stop this practice of comparing pygmies. Which pygmy is slightly taller than the other one? (*Laughter*) This is not a good way of comparing. If you want to compare, compare yourself with the real high performers. That is what you should do.

So, I insisted and said, I want to know the cost of transport from Beijing to Shanghai? Now, they said they gave me these figures. Let me see; so the figures are here. Here I was addressing a budgeting workshop that Ugandans had called me for. And when they budget they start with *chakula; chakula; chakula*. I say, if you eat all the money, what will you use? Let us start with *mipango* and not *chakula*. So, we were having a quarrel with my internal people.

So, a 40 feet container costs US \$ 1,600 to be transported from Shanghai to Beijing, a distance of 1238 miles while a similar container would cost US \$ 3,700 to be transported from Mombasa to Kampala, a lesser distance but almost twice the cost. This is now the cost and not the days; the days are many but also the cost. And why is the cost so high? It is because of the inefficiency of the transport system.

Then I asked my budgeting conference, what does a unit of electricity cost in China? A unit of industrial electricity costs US 8 Cents in China while in Uganda now it is US 12.4 Cents; they say that in Kenya it is 13.7 Cents; you can see where the problem is. So, now you can see where the problem is. You are already backward; you are already lagging behind other countries and when you try to come into the competition, your costs are very high, how will you catch up? So, this struggle in the electricity sector is to make it cheaper for our business people to do business so that they can make profits and once they make profits, that expand their businesses and once

they expand their businesses, they create employment. It is all linked and I am, therefore, insisting that these people should be quoting China because it is a high performer. Don't compare to the neighbours because you are talking about Tanzania, Kenya, Congo and South Sudan, now how will you move? No.

Integration is a *sine qua non* of social economic transformation and greater strategic security. Violence and armed conflicts are, however unfortunately, still endemic in our region; South Sudan, which was settling down has now started again. Congo, Central African Republic and in Somalia; these conflicts are mainly fuelled by ideological mistakes. When we were in Kigali I think I talked to you about the tribe. I have tried to study this issue of tribe and in order to study it I start with my own tribe the Banyankole and I tried to find out what the Banyankole helped me with as an individual and I have failed to see it. *Sijaona namnagani Wanyankole wanaisaidia kwa maisha yangu binafisi.*

To make matters worse, all those Banyankole are all cattle keepers. They all keep cows, grow bananas, they grow coffee, these days they are beginning to grow tea. Those are the Banyankole. Now my neighbour cannot buy my milk because he is also producing milk. I also cannot buy his milk because I have got mine. I cannot buy his bananas and vice versa. So I have been trying to see how the Banyankole help me to be prosperous, I have not seen it.

The only way the Banyankole help me is in one way; they produce a lot of milk together with me, a lot of bananas, coffee and therefore marketing is easy. In that way they help me. Beyond that, those people do not help me to be prosperous in my life. The only people who help me are actually the people of Kampala because they are the ones who buy my milk, buy the bananas-

The next ones who help me are the people of Bukoba, Mwanza because they also buy from here. People of Kigali, Bujumbura, Congo, when they are peaceful they buy our cows, Kenya, Nairobi, South Sudan. They are the people who help us to get money. So when somebody comes and says we Banyankole I say *mimi namwambia kwamba we ni shetani. Unataka kuniharibia. Watanzania walikuwa wanasema unataka kumwaga unga.* That is what they used to say.

One day I was with a Tanzanian army officer who was working with me. We were going towards Kamata- there was a bus company called Kamata and there is a station. He was driving me there so that I catch my bus to go and do my underground activities. As we were getting near, a taxi driver started insulting him because the car sort of blocked. So the taxi driver started insulting him and the man was wearing uniform. He started saying, *wewe ni mjinga.* This officer said *wewe bwana unataka nimwage unga wangu* you want me to beat you so that I am dismissed? *Sasa wewe unasema banyankole, banyankole. Unataka tumwage unga wetu* because Uganda is the source of prosperity for those Banyankore. East Africa is their source of prosperity. The Great Lakes region is their source of prosperity. So when you hear these conflicts *kabila hii inapigana na kabila nyingine. Wanapigania maslai ya nani?* - in whose interests are they engaged in those conflicts?

You should study this. For me I know I have got my opinions but since I am President and the President is the one in charge of foreign affairs, you should be polite and not over criticize people because then it will be taken as foreign affairs and so on. But you people should have seminars. Margaret said they were going to organize seminars. Organise seminars and dissect

this rubbish- so called sectarian conflicts of tribes, sometimes even religion. That people are fighting each other on behalf of God; that God has deployed them to fight. *Sasa hii?* Because all these conflicts are based on that ideological mistake first and foremost.

It is the base of all these but unfortunately when you go to address them, you do not address that. You talk about other things like individuals, tribes. When there was a conflict in South Sudan recently, so many Ugandans, Kenyans and other people like Ethiopians, Eritreans were caught up there. They were all there. If the tribe is important, what were they doing in South Sudan because their tribes are not there? Their tribes are here so why have they gone there? *Walikwenda kutafuta kabila au katafuta biashara?*

So this thing must be confronted ideologically and we expose these opportunists because they are the ones pushing all this. When they mix up with the Europeans, the cocktail of Europeans and opportunists, you cannot even know which direction you are taking. This tribe and they will blow it up; this tribe is fighting with the other tribe. Fighting about what? What is the interest of that tribe and this other tribe? Even before the money economy or capitalist system which we have now, before colonialism, there was barter trade. People would come from the coast. The other day I was in Zanzibar and I was telling them that people would come from Zanzibar all the way to here with goods for barter trade. They were bringing *shanga*, *bunduki* and that is why you had these Ugandans with *bunduki*.

Bringing what they had and taking what they did not have. That is always so if somebody is benefitting you, how can you say he is a problem and your tribesman who is not helping you is the one who is useful to you?

During that time when people were coming from the coast to bring goods here, *walikuwa wanasumbuliwa* by some of the chiefs who were greedy on the way like there was one chief in Bujinja *lakini walikuwa wanaita Uzinza*. The chief was called Ruswarura. That was a very greedy chief. He would take so much from the traders. *Walikuwa wanamwogopa*. But then in Karagwe there was a very nice Chief Rumanyika. He would come and assist the traders to go through. So the idea of exchange and barter trade was there even before the time of capitalism and therefore *vita vya makabila na dini havina msingi ideologically*. What do we call ideologically in Swahili? *Nadhalia* is theory. *Itikadi?* Yes. *Havina msingi. Ni vita vya watu*.

Even talk of tribes in the newspapers and in political mobilisation is not correct and it should be challenged. And you can challenge it through seminars, through- The other problem is the poor discipline of some of the political actors. Even if you are fighting war, why do you rape women? Because that has nothing to do with war. You want to fight and shoot the enemy. You now go to rape a woman instead. *Hii sasa ni askari wa aina gani?* Whether you are a rebel or in the government, you are a useless soldier. *Kama unapigana, pigana vita?* Why do you rape women? Why do you kill people; non-combatants? Why do you loot? Looting towns? These poor people- Somebody has got a shop and he has been working for 30 years, he has been able *kukusanya mali kiasi hapo* and you come overnight and you take it. This is a crime against humanity. *Huyu ataanza vipi?* How will he start again?

And then the third problem is that these foreigners also *wanachochea* and encourage all these useless people. That is what I was telling some of the diplomats I was meeting. I said, you are the

ones who invite these people to your embassies and give them tea. You are the one who encourages them. You should tell them to go away because they have got nothing useful to add.

In the Bible it says that you shall know them by their fruit. You shall know the people by their actions. From actions you can tell what sort of person he or she is. And then of course the weak state structures. If you have got weak state structures then they also invite the opportunists to make mistakes. Therefore I am glad that in East Africa, we have got strong state structures. The army, the government- you cannot do as you like. The governments are there in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi has come up from the conflict. So we wish that culture of strong state structures extends to our neighbours to the Congo and to South Sudan and Somalia.

Thorough and honest dialogue on these issues is a must otherwise the economies of East Africa are growing, the bottlenecks they face notwithstanding. By the end of this financial year, the economy of Uganda will be US\$ 70 trillion. This is about US\$ 28 billion. This is still too low by world standards. However bearing in mind the very low level we started from in 1986, this is quite an achievement.

The GDP of Uganda in 1986 was only US\$ 1.5 billion. Therefore the economy of Uganda has expanded in size by a factor of almost 19 i.e. 19 times bigger than it was in 1986. We would have achieved even more if it was not for internal lack of cohesion that delays projects. I congratulate the East Africans on the achievement of the Monetary Union that we agreed on in the last Summit. The Member States must remember that one crucial stimulus for socio-economic transformation is infrastructure; roads, the railways, electricity, ICT backbone, piped water, telecommunications etc. it is these that will lower the cost of doing business in the East African economies.

The examples I gave here about China and the cost of transport, the cost of electricity. On the issue of the Soroti Flying school, it is true that we bought new training planes for them and we have repaired the buildings. The civil servants in Uganda however have been sabotaging its progress by underpaying the instructor pilots. They did not know that if you do not pay the pilots well they will go to the airlines. So they are the ones who have been responsible for the school not doing so well. I have ordered them to stop this and pay those pilots what they would get if they were piloting for private airlines.

If East Africa wants to take over that institution, you are most welcome. Come and take it over. But in the meantime, I want to make sure that the pilots are well paid so that they teach the students well.

East Africa is moving ahead, the constraints notwithstanding. The future is in our hands. Let us not miss the opportunities again. I thank you very much.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Your Excellency the President of the republic of Uganda, we are indeed honoured by that speech. It has given us a lot of zeal as we start 2014. We are even happy that you have been able to promptly respond to some of those concerns we raised to you. We thank you very

much. One of our colleagues is going to say these words better than I am doing right now so allow me to end on that note of appreciating both the time and those very important words to the East Africans on the progress of the East African Community.

Allow me before I invite our colleague who is going to move a vote of thanks to recognise some of the distinguished people who have honoured our invitation and they are here with us to have you officially open this very important plenary sitting in Kampala.

Your Excellency sir, allow me to recognise and welcome His Excellency the Vice President of the Republic of Uganda, hon. Kiwanuka Sekandi and just to mention that he is one of those very key supporters of the East African Community. As the former Speaker of Parliament of Uganda, he actually supported the East African Legislative Assembly a great deal. We thank you for being here.

We do have the honourable ministers of the Republic of Uganda. Allow me to invite you to stand up so that we are able to recognise you. *(Applause)* Thank you very much for being here and for honouring our invitation.

We also have parliamentary commissioners. Hon. Jalia Bintu, thank you for being here. We have hon. members of Parliament of Uganda. May I beg your indulgence that you kindly stand up so that we are able to see you.

(Applause)

Let me especially thank you because today you have really honoured us by your presence. Thank you very much.

Indeed we do have distinguished ambassadors and high commissioners. Allow me to mention that we have Rosa Whitaker, she is right in the Speaker's gallery. She is the former US trade representative for Africa. You are most welcome. We also have former members of East African Legislative Assembly. Hon. Lydia Wanyoto is in the gallery. Thank you for coming and keeping the East African Legislative Assembly candle burning. We have ambassadors; Ambassador Aniset Kabaye, the first counsel of the Burundi embassy. Thank you for being here. We have Dr Komba, the high commissioner of Tanzania, welcome. We have Ambassador Frank Mugambage the high commissioner of Rwanda, welcome. We also have Ambassador Geoffrey Okanga, the High Commissioner of Kenya, you are most welcome.

We also have heads of EAC institutions. I know you are there in the gallery, welcome. We also have heads of government institutions, you are most welcome. We have the Inspector General of Police. His representative has been with us and the Police have done a good job, thank you very much. We also have the Commissioner General of Prisons, thank you very much and other important dignitaries and former Members of Parliament and other East Africans. You are most welcome.

Allow me at this juncture to invite hon. Kiangoi Joseph to represent us in appreciating the very important statement delivered by His Excellency. Hon. Kiangoi.

Mr. Joseph Kiangoi Ombasa (Kenya): Your Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda, Your Excellency the Vice President of Uganda, Rt hon. Margaret Zziwa, Speaker of EALA, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, the Council of Ministers itself and all other ministers present, members of EALA and members of the Uganda Parliament, the Secretary General of the East African Community, Your Excellences the ambassadors and high commissioners, ladies and gentlemen.

Allow me on behalf of my colleagues at EALA to sincerely thank Your Excellency for accepting to address us again here in Kampala. When one is asked to move a vote of thanks to a great leader like you, one does not know exactly where to start, what to include and what to exclude because Your Excellency, you have so many achievements and attributes.

However Your Excellency, it is my privilege and honour to cite but a few. Your Excellency, we love Uganda and the resilience of its people. A few years after attaining independence, Uganda went through difficult times but thank God because of some young revolutionaries led by yourself, you have turned round this country. Democracy is thriving, the rule of law has been restored, the economy is getting stronger by the day and as we talk now, the country has one of the leading rates of economic growth anywhere in the World. Thank you, Your Excellency.

Your Excellency, you have been a strong proponent of Pan Africanism since, we are told your school and college days. Today you still have the same conviction and these tireless efforts have contributed to us peace and prosperity within our region.

Your commitment to unity and stability within the region could perhaps explain why you became a freedom fighter very early in your life time and why threats to peace and security within the East African region is of cardinal concern to you sir. Your efforts to Somalia and the Great Lakes region and currently Southern Sudan are a testimony to that conviction. We support you and the entire Summit of the East African Community on the issues of regional peace and clearly prosperity cannot be achieved in chaotic situations and we know that that commitment will bear fruit and we pray to God that it bears fruit because we are all concerned about the prosperity of the African people.

Your Excellency, from the shambles that you found Uganda, today when it was a net exporter of refugees, today it is a net importer of refugees. That is very commendable Your excellency and we do not take that for granted. *(Laughter)*

As members of EALA Your Excellency, we have now begun to walk with our heads high more so because East African Community has now begun to walk its talk. The biggest achievement Your Excellency as just pointed out is the reduction of NTBs and specifically the removal of weighbridges and road blocks along the other corridor. Your Excellency, if the business environment improves, the ordinary *mwanainchi* begins to test the fruits of integration of which you are a great ... Your Excellency.

We do not need to reside in Uganda to appreciate that under your leadership, the economy of Uganda has grown by several fold. This translated to the improvement of lives of Ugandans and unlike previously when nobody- Your Excellency, I come from Kenya and there was a time when you would not find people entering into a bus and coming to Uganda but today, there are

so many companies. When I walk around in the morning and that is another result of the peaceful situation that you have ensured prevails in Uganda. Even as members here, we are able to walk within Kampala, along Kampala streets as early as 5.00 a.m. *(Applause)* When I walk around, I find so many buses from Kenya meaning that so many people are coming to Uganda. People cannot come to a situation where there is no business, where there is no food. It means Uganda has prospered and that is very encouraging for East Africa.

Your passion for education for all is helping to develop the country. The initiative on science and technology in higher institutions of learning cannot go unnoticed. Today Your Excellency, your government is spearheading innovations in agriculture, health and ICT. This is laudable.

On behalf of the Assembly, I wish to convey to you sir our appreciation for the very successful Summit that was held on 30 November 2013 here in Kampala. That Summit made far reaching decisions some of which Your Excellency imparts directly on the Members of EALA. Specifically Your Excellency, on the issue of welfare. *(Laughter)* Your Excellency, if we were in Kenya we would have said, at least we got a half a loaf. But Your Excellency if you find us again as members of EALA because we believe in you, if you find us at your door step knocking again, kindly open for us.

(Laughter)

Your Excellency, I am always impressed by the Coca Cola advert that states that eat, sleep and drink coca cola. I tend to think that Your Excellency you eat and sleep and drink integration. The way you have explained the process of integration was like a lecture in a university hall. We always appreciate those lectures you give us because your manner of explanation actually makes us understand more about the subject that you are dealing with. You are a good teacher and for that we thank you as our leader.

(Applause)

Your Excellency, history will remember you are a bold and courageous leader who greatly contributed to the peace and prosperity not only in this region by even globally, a leader who believed that Africans are the only people who can solve their own problems. There is a tendency of people running to *wazungus* to solve their problems but we have come to believe that your belief that Africans can best solve their problems is the right direction to go. Thank you for that guidance.

As a Kenyan and as an East African, we wish to thank you for the support that you gave to our president, His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta and his deputy not very long ago during the problems that they are undergoing. It is important Your Excellency because after we saw your guidance on the matter, quickly as EALA we met and made a resolution here in the EALA Chamber supporting your position which was the position of the African Union. That will greatly contribute to the peace and stability that we are craving for.

Your Excellency, the list of your attributes are long as I said at the beginning. I cannot possibly complete all of them and with this short notice and time that the Speaker allotted to me, I would only say Your Excellency that as Africans, we respect you. As East Africans we will try as much

as possible to emulate you so that we can all talk as one people of East Africa. God bless your Excellency, God bless East Africa. We thank you.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Kiangoi, thank you very much for speaking those very important words on our behalf. Definitely if we had more time we would go on and on because Your Excellency you passionately touch each one of us individually was you deliver those important speeches to us.

Hon. Members, today has been a very successful day and I think we need to clap for ourselves. *(Applause)* We have been blessed by not just the presence of His Excellency but by his very important statement which he has given to us. I want to assure you, Your Excellency that it is going to give us guidance and focus as we start deliberations for the next two weeks when we are here in Kampala but also as we proceed into our deliberations for the rest of the financial year until June 2014.

Hon. Members, before we come to the end of our deliberations today, allow me to make the following announcements. First I want to say that as we exit the Chamber, we are going to congregate at the stairs in front of the plenary hall for a group photograph so I will request you humbly to move very fast so that His excellency is able to come and join us for this very important group photograph.

After the group photograph, I want to take the opportunity to invite all of us distinguished guests and members of EALA and members of Parliament of Uganda to a cocktail which has been organised in honour of EALA's presence in Kampala at Serena hotel immediately. So we shall find our way to Serena and I want to invite everybody. You are all most welcome.

With those very many announcements, we have come to the end of our deliberations today and I want to take the opportunity to close today's sitting until tomorrow Wednesday at the Parliamentary Chamber in Kampala. House stands adjourned.

EAC Anthem (Three Verses)

National Anthem (Three Verses)

(The House rose at 5:45 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday 22 January 2014 at 2.30 p.m.)