



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

23RD SITTING – SECOND ASSEMBLY: SIXTH MEETING - FIRST SESSION

Wednesday, 21 May 2008

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Old Chamber of the Kenya National Assembly

PRAYER

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

The Assembly was called to order.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I rise to notify you that the Minister responsible for East African Community Affairs from the Republic of Burundi is present and would like to take his seat in this House. However, in accordance with Rule 6 of the Rules of Procedure of this Assembly, he cannot sit or participate in the proceedings of the House until he takes the Oath of Affirmation and Allegiance to the Treaty as a Member of this Assembly.

Rule 6(3) specifically states:

“When a Member first attends to take his or her seat other than the first sitting of the new House, he or she shall be brought to the Table by two Members who shall present him to the Speaker, who shall then administer the Oath of Affirmation to him or her. I, therefore, request any two Members of the House who know the new Member to present him to the Speaker in order to be rendered by the flag.”

(The Hon. Veneran Bakevyamusaya was escorted into the Chamber and presented to Mr. Speaker)

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Member:-

Mr. Veneran Bakevyamusaya

MOTION**For The Approval of the EAC Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2008/2009**

(Debate interrupted on 20 May 2008 Resumed)

MOTION**For the Adjournment of Debate**

The Minister for East African Community Affairs, Kenya (Mr. Jaffah Amason Kingi): Mr Speaker, Sir. I stand to move a Motion, pursuant to Rule 31(c) of the Rules of Procedure of this august House, for the adjournment of the debate on the Budget Estimates of the East African Community for the Financial Year 2008/2009.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Ministers responsible for the East African Community Affairs went through a very elaborate exchange of views with the General Purpose Committee of the House on 19th May, 2008 with respect to the Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2008/2009. Yesterday, at the Plenary Session, we were again seized by the elaborations on the Report that was tabled in the House by the Chairperson of the General Purpose Committee.

Judging from the overall direction of the Report as well as the views put forward by hon. Members, it is clear that it is in the interest of the EAC that the debate on the Budget and further consideration of the Budget pursuant to Article 49(2) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community be deferred until a suitable time to be fixed, but not later than the end of the current financial year. The dates have been discussed with the Hon. Speaker and all efforts will be undertaken to abide by those dates.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers will direct the Secretariat, in conjunction with the Management of the relevant organs and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, to meet expeditiously with a view to exhaustively review the Budget Estimates in line with the pertinent proposals made, and in line with the concerns raised in the House.

We propose that at these meetings, a select number of hon. Members of the General Purpose Committee be involved from day one. In order to give legitimacy to this process, it will be essential that the partner states also be involved at the level of very senior officials. The revised Budget Estimates will then be tabled before the Council of Ministers, in line with the Rules of Procedure involving Council meetings for decision.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Members of the General Purpose Committee will be invited to interact with the full Council prior to the Council taking a decision on the Budget

Estimates. The Council will, therefore, request that an extraordinary session of EALA be convened after the Council meeting to resume debate on the Budget Estimates.

We hope that with this proposed way forward, we shall be able to arrive at a mutually acceptable Budget for the Financial Year 2008/2009.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move.

The Assistant Minister for East African Cooperation, Tanzania (Mr. Abood): seconded.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, debate on the Motion is open. Is there anyone wishing to contribute? Now since there is no one wishing to debate this Motion, I will put the Question, which is that this House do adjourn debate on the EAC Budget Estimates for Financial Year 2008/2009 until further notice.

(Question put and agreed to)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

Courtesy Call on the President of the Republic of Kenya

The Speaker: Honourable Members, before we adjourn, I would like to make a quick announcement. We are going to see His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya at 4.00 p.m. We will be leaving here at exactly 3.30 p.m. So, all of you should be on time.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the House now stands adjourned until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 2.40 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 22 May 2008, at 2.30 p.m.)