



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

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Thursday, 7 June 2018

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 9.00 a.m. at Mini Chamber, County Hall,
Parliament of Kenya, Nairobi, Kenya.*

PRAYER

*(The Speaker, Mr. Martin K. Ngoga, in the Chair.)
The Assembly was called to order.*

**CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET
OF THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2018/2019**

*[Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden on Wednesday,
6.6.2018]*

*[Resumption of Business interrupted on
Wednesday 6.6.2018]*

The Speaker: Good morning, hon. Members. I may have to remind you that when we adjourned yesterday, the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose had concluded presentation of his Report. I had proposed a Motion and I had opened debate. Therefore, we resume

business from there. The debate is open and the Floor is yours.

Ms Fatuma Ndangiza (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me start by thanking the Council for the presentation of the Budget Speech of the EAC for the Financial Year 2018/2019 to EALA on 4 June 2018 by the Chairman of the Council. Equally, I would like to thank the Committee on General Purpose for the Report on the EAC Budget Estimates of the Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2018/2019 presented yesterday by Hon. Abdikadir Aden, the Chairperson.

I want to thank you for your steward leadership. I know that you spent less than

two weeks here. When they were presenting, I thought that if there were funds available and they were allowed to stay here in Nairobi, say, for at least one month, they would have come up with a quality report and one with very high standards. That is why, from the outset, I want to associate myself with the recommendations of the Report that was presented to us yesterday. They are all important recommendations and if fully implemented, they will help our organisation to not only be more efficient, but also help us to have a very vibrant Assembly that we all desire.

I would also like to associate myself with all the recommendations in the Report of the Committee of General Purpose, including the recommendation touching on the issue of duplication of resources particularly Partner States' contributions and those from development partners for the same activity, which was seen to be wasteful. This is an important recommendation which I would like to recommend to the Council to take up.

All the amendments and allocations that have been proposed by the Committee should be given due consideration. This is because we cannot have a budget where you have an activity funded by a budget from member states and at the same time funded by the donor community – that would be wasteful. The proposal they came up with of increasing the funding for the underfunded items or organs is very valid and has to be supported.

The other issue I find very important is the support to be given to institutional building. I want to agree with the Budget Speech that was presented and the priorities that were laid to be considered for this financial year, including institutional strengthening. We are a Community that has been growing. We have so many institutions today. During our Central and Northern Corridor tours, we were able to visit many institutions,

including the Kiswahili Commission. This is a very important commission that will enhance our communication. Remember that Kiswahili is our *lingua franca*, but how we wish it could be an official language. For us who were able to interact with the management of that Kiswahili Commission, we can say that they are really frustrated because of under-funding and even when funding comes their way, it is normally in May when they are left with a few months to the end of the budget year. They have staffing issues. This is not unique to this institution; it is the same thing with the East African Health Commission, the East Africa Science and Technology Commission and others that we have visited. It is equally the same with some of our organs that are very important.

I was looking at the report on the Court when the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose was making his presentation. I realised that the Committee was requesting the Council to provide a second vehicle to the Court. Imagine having an East African Court of Justice (EACJ) that, today, finds it difficult to operate because it does not have a vehicle and yet this is an important institution of our Community that is helping us to respect the rule of law!

Of course, the other institution is EALA. Our role is very clear just like any parliament. We have legislative, oversight, and representative roles to play. The mandate that we have includes representing 170 million citizens and doing oversight on Community resources. Remember, some of the resources are our taxpayers' money. The experience we had in our tour showed us that we need to do more of oversight. I hear some tone coming from the Council that we have to do serious oversight in our accountability role. However, how do you do all these roles when you are given 12 days only for a session? If you minus the weekends from the 12 days, you will be left with about five days only. So, five multiply

six days gives you 30 days. If you subtract the 30 days from 360 days means we are elected by our people to come and spend 30 days of the year here and then the rest of the year we are redundant. I do not think the Council and everybody who wants this important organ to do its work should accept that.

I think we came here for business and so it cannot be business as usual if we are to have quality legislation. The other time when we had an interaction with the Chairman of the Council and the Chairperson of our Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee, we were informed that there are about 39 pieces of legislation that were adopted by the previous EALA, but they have not been assented to, Why? It is, probably, because of the quality. I would not wish us to be part of an Assembly that wastes time on sub-standard legislation simply because we do not have the time and these pieces of legislation are not assented to. We need to do business. However, if the legislator is not in plenary, our other role is to represent our people and so we have to be closer to them.

When I look at the Budget, I realise that the Nanyuki Series was the only unique opportunity for Members of Parliament to reach out to the national parliaments. Remember this is a Treaty obligation. We cannot even do this work. It then means that if this Budget passes, the way it is without taking into consideration the recommendations of the Committee, then parliament will be disabled, or we shall be an irrelevant parliament to the needs of the people who voted us to be here. I would, therefore, like to encourage and recommend the Council to take up these recommendations, especially the one on institutional strengthening.

My final contribution is on the various programmes, especially the priorities that appear in both the Budget Speech and the Report of the Committee. When I look and

compare the priorities for the last financial year and this financial year I realise there is industrialisation, advancement in our region, the issue of peace and security, institutional strengthening, and ease of doing business in our Community. These are very important priorities. My recommendation to the Council and the Secretariat is that they should make sure that some of these priorities become flagship programmes.

Look, for example, at the issue of industrialisation. I do not think there is any country or region that can advance economically without industrialisation. When I listened to the address by our Heads of State, His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni in Kampala and President John Pombe Magufuli in Dodoma, and I realised that their emphasis was on industrialisation. Now, this is the priority for our leadership. However, we know that we cannot talk about growing strong economies when we are still importing without exporting; when we still have a balance of payment deficit; when we still have to put on second-hand clothes because we do not cherish our local industries or because they are not producing enough for us; and, when we do not cherish the EAC and that which is made in East Africa. I like the motto of Tanzania under the leadership of President Magufuli: *Tanzania ya Viwanda*. We should have ours too: *Afrika Mashariki ya Viwanda*, if really we want to prioritise industrialisation.

Our Budget is not a big one; it is close to US\$100 million. We should invest our money in strategic areas like industrialisation and especially in branding and sensitisation. The biggest challenge we have is the mindset. We need to invest in the social sectors.

Sometimes I ask myself: why is it that when we fall sick, especially the middle class and the leadership here and outside, we think of going to India? Does India have the best hospitals or is it just our mindset? Why can

we not improve our Nairobi Hospital, which I think is also doing very well? Mulago and Muhimbili hospitals are equally doing well. The money we are investing in other countries can be invested here in East Africa. I am sure that could be an incentive also to our private sector to invest, for example, in pharmaceuticals because they know there is ready market. With regard to schools, why can we not have standard schools?

In the Budget, there is establishment and support of the Nyerere Peace Centre. I am sure when we talk about Nyerere what comes in our mind is that he was a great leader who promoted unity of his country. He was one of the founding fathers of the African Union Liberation. We need to invest adequate resources in this centre so that it becomes the centre of governance and promoting the ideals of East Africanhood. That way, we will not waste our time going to the so-called western governing centres.

My appeal is for us to have flagship programmes in critical sectors. Industrialisation is very critical. It is going to contribute to winning from dependency. We cannot be an independent organization which depends on other taxpayers' for life.

The final point is on peace and security. This is very important. In our vision as a Community, we want a united, secure and prosperous Community. The programmes under the Department of Political Affairs are not sufficient enough to effectively contribute to the peace in the region. There are crises in some of our countries. For example, the Republic of South Sudan is still undergoing insecurity and instability. I am happy that the Burundi Dialogue is sponsored by the Community. However, I do not know why, as a Community, we are not bold on the issue of the Republic of South Sudan, specifically the search for peace for South Sudan. Why should we leave it only to the Inter-Governmental

Authority on Development (IGAD) and other actors?

Recently, EALA was requesting to have an observer status. You could get it or not. Why should we request for that? South Sudan is a member of the EAC and it is logical that once there is a problem in the Republic of South Sudan then it is our problem. Therefore, I want to recommend that in the road map of the Republic of South Sudan we put sufficient resources under peace and security so that we are able to support our neighbouring country to get out of the crisis.

There is the issue of documentation of the best practices. Being in Kenya at this time of handshakes and hugs - and given the recent gestures of reconciliation and forgiveness between the leaders in the ruling side and the opposition - is a great moment for us. It is something that we have to applaud. I am happy that this solution came from Kenyans themselves and not from outsiders. However, the question is: why do we not capitalize on these best practices in the region so that we are able to address our issues related to peace and security? We cannot talk about sustainable peace and regional integration without addressing the issue of peace and security. The same applies to good governance promotion- (*Interruption*)

The Speaker: Could you wind up, honourable Member?

Ms Ndangiza: I am trying to conclude. The fight against corruption is something that we must sustain. This is because corruption is a cancer in our region and it is taking a lot of our resources. As EALA, if we get the appropriate resources- I know that as I speak, we are coming up with a legislation around fighting corruption.

I want to support this Report and I hope the Council will take into consideration the

recommendations of the Committee. Thank you.

The Speaker: Dr. Anne.

Dr Anne Itto Leonard (South Sudan): Mr Speaker and honourable Members of this august House, I want to begin by thanking the honourable Speaker for the opportunity to contribute to the debate of the Financial Year 2018/2019 East Africa Community Budget.

I want to thank the Chairman of the Council for presenting a very elaborate Budget Speech explaining to us how the Budget for the 2018/2019 Financial Year will be spend. I am also impressed he said that the Budget for 2018/2019 is anchored on the pillars of the East African Treaty. Our job as the people's representatives is to ensure that the Budget is also people centred and that it contributes incrementally to achieving the aspirations of the people of East Africa, that is, peace, no hunger, good houses and prosperity.

Mr Speaker, I also want to thank the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose and his team for presenting to us a very good report that highlights areas we should place our concerns. Thank you very much for a job well done.

Mr Speaker let me go straight to issues I want to contribute. I know that in yesterday's debate regarding the Supplementary Budget many people raised their voices on how the EAC Budget is so much contributed to by donors. In the fiscal year 2018/2019 the contribution from donors is well above that from member states. Donors are contributing more than US\$57 million while member states are contributing US\$50 million. I am not saying we should not receive any support from development partners, but we should own the path and processes that would lead to a better East Africa. We should not allow, at any point, other people to do that for us

lest they begin treating us as dependants rather than an entity that is independent and capable of doing its own things.

Along the same line, my concern is that 99 per cent of the budget for the productive sector, which includes industrialisation, agriculture, and many other related issues is coming from donors. I find it very difficult to believe or even accept. This is a sector where we believe prosperity can come from. It is an area where 80 per cent of our people are engaged yet we want to push that to donors to take care of. I feel we can do better than that. In future, we should not only own the process, but also listen more to the farmers and all those people involved in the value chain.

Last week we had a meeting with farmers. However, when I look through the Budget, many of the issues they raised are not well reflected. They were more concerned about post-harvest losses. I know that we can put money into research on how to reduce post-harvest losses. The farmers are also concerned about which material to use for planting, that is, whether GMO is harmful or not and whether to use hybrid seeds or their own seeds. These are important questions that our farmers are asking. So, when we have a budget for the EAC, those issues should be well reflected so that what we do benefits our people. That way, we would appear to be people-centred.

Mr Speaker, I am also concerned that the budget for 2018/2019 is down by about US\$10 million. That reduction is in the face of a time when we want to fast-track the Republic of South Sudan into the integration process. That decline in budget is at a time when new institutions are coming up and we want to strengthen them so that they can play a better role in us achieving the objectives we set for ourselves as EAC.

I want to spend a little more time on the third issue. I want to agree with Hon. Fatuma that South Sudan requires special

attention. Before South Sudan can enjoy her presence in the EAC, the guns must stop and people must enjoy peace. That requires our active participation in helping that young nation attain peace. However, peace, by itself, is not silencing the gun. Conflicts come because of disagreement, which could be created, by institutions and policies that do not function well. Disagreements could arise because of people not being able to manage diversity. Most disagreements are related to issues of governance.

For this purpose, I really feel that much as peace is important, it is unacceptable to cut the funds that have been allocated for fast tracking the integration of South Sudan into the EAC based on the road map. When there is war, nothing stops – people must live. They do not stop trading. If you go to South Sudan, you will find onions from Rwanda and Tanzania. How do they get there? It is through trade. Our aim is to reduce cost of trade. Therefore, we must do everything possible to ensure that the institutions in South Sudan and along the border function well. This is so that people in South Sudan can get goods at reasonable prices like any of their counterparts in East Africa.

I, therefore, believe we should not cut the Budget. We should instead make sure that it gets more next time so that we can achieve what is necessary. That way, trade and movement of people will be effectively achieved and the people of South Sudan will fill their part of this larger family. If you have not lived in a place affected by conflict you would not know that people do not die. Their hopes are there; where energies are there. They will always want to do something that will make their lives better. Nobody will want peace if there is nothing to protect. You protect good life, investments, good roads and so on. That is the only way to pull South Sudan out of this desperate situation. Things will improve if we have in place things that will allow

traders, youth and schoolchildren to get to other parts of East Africa not only to do trade, but also to learn how to live peacefully. I believe that Budget should not be touched at all. If anything, in future, it should increase.

If we expect South Sudan to pay its contribution, its economy must improve. Life there must improve. That way, they can generate the necessary resources required to contribute to the Budget of the EAC.

Finally, at this point, where funds are scarce, we must think of using maximally what we have. This means that in institutions where there are not enough members of staff, there is no point in over-budgeting. We should first look at how to staff the institutions and improve the human resource skills so that they can fairly utilize the budget allocated to them.

EALA is a people's representative apart from the fact that we debate budgets and work on legislation. People's representatives mean we should be able to interact with different people, that is, national parliaments, traders, and various components of the society in the member countries that we come from. This requires us going there and not going to our homes because we do not have anything to use. Going there with funds would allow us address issues and encourage people. We will ensure that whatever other arms of Government can do, we as the people's representatives we will be in a position to do. That way, we will use our money effectively thus achieve our objectives.

In that regard, the request to increase funding for the sensitisation of EALA is very necessary. The last time we were at home, we put our fingers in our pockets and went to talk to our people. They looked at us as if we had a lot of information. The same is true with other Members of EALA – when you go home, people expect you to

explain things to them and give them good news. Therefore, that sensitisation is important.

About the time we spend in doing our business in EALA, asking for one more week is not luxury. It is meant to give us more time to attend to EALA issues. I think it is going to benefit us a lot. I want to direct this to the Council: one, we must ensure that the institutions of EAC, including EALA, are sufficiently funded so that they can carry out their work. Two, we must stop wastage because we do not have enough to waste. Finally, we must own our Budget and projects by making sure that most of the money used for funding comes from us even if from time to time we rely on support from good Samaritans.

Thank you very much. – (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Dr Gabriel Aher Garang Arol

Dr Gabriel Aher Garang Arol (South Sudan): Thank you so much Mr Speaker. Let me take this opportunity, first, to thank the Kenya Chapter for its hospitality. We are so happy and we feel at home.

Secondly, let me thank the Chairman of the Council for the speech he delivered brilliantly and with focus. I would also like to thank my brother and friend, hon. Aden. Even though I was not here yesterday, I believe he did a good job.

Mr Speaker, we are dealing with serious issues. Let me declare that I sit in the Committee on Accounts. In our two weeks of meeting, we saw and heard things that we never expected. We thought that this Community is at a certain level and people who come here come with integrity, but we were wrong.

Mr Speaker, budgets will never be enough. It is the case even in highly developed countries like the USA and others.

Financial resources will never and cannot be enough anywhere. It comes to merit and priorities. If you have your priorities right and you manage your resources very well, then you will get what you want. This is not happening in our Community. We know women are struggling and they cannot access hospitals in order to deliver children; sick people are dying because they cannot access health facilities; medical doctors are struggling because they do not have the right equipment; small-holder farmers, that is, *wakulima wadogo* in Kiswahili neither have the right equipment nor extension services; they do not have high yielding seed varieties; our universities are also struggling because they do not have facilities; and children are struggling in the rural communities because they cannot even attend school. The reason all these things are happening is that we do not have money.

However, there are individuals who are very lucky – they are actually privileged – to become MPs or work for the Community but they forget that our people are facing problems. This catastrophic mismanagement of our resources must stop if we really want to achieve something big in the Community. If we deeply care about the welfare of our citizens in the EAC, we must stay focussed and prioritize so that we manage efficiently and effectively so that we achieve our main objectives, goals and mandate.

Mr Speaker, let me get back to the Budget. I am going to focus a bit on what hon. Fatuma mentioned, that is, industrialisation of African industries. We need to ensure that we develop industrially. We should make sure that we produce drugs. We need to make sure that our medical doctors are well trained. We need to make sure that our people do not go abroad to seek medical treatment rather they should seek medical treatment locally, say, in Nairobi Hospital, Kenyatta National Hospital and other

hospitals in South Sudan, Rwanda and so on.

Our universities, which produce good doctors, are underfunded. I understand that we are doing that because of the difficult financial circumstances. However, we need to look at the linkage between development, health and the role universities should play. Economic development is directly related to the quality of education people have.

Our universities, which produce scientists, doctors and teachers, should not be underfunded and therefore lack facilities. The budget here is approximately US\$7 million for the Inter University Council. I come from an academic background. The university where I was teaching does not have facilities for the faculty of science. All they do is theory work. When they graduate with those degrees, they are not valuable because they do not have any hands-on experience or training. That is very unfortunate. They have degrees, but they have nothing to do with it. You employ them, but they cannot do the work. It is because our universities, nationally or regionally, do not have money. They are not funded adequately. That is the problem.

Economic development is actually maintained if people are trained very well; they need the right knowledge and the right tools to use. We lack those two things in our universities. Mr. Speaker and the Council as well, you need to take note of that very seriously. Our universities and hospitals cannot continue the way they are currently. Our students are bright. We have well trained faculty members, but they do not have facilities.

Global ranking of universities is done every year. It is only Makerere University in our region that appears. The ranking is dominated by universities from USA and others from Europe. When it comes to Africa, the ranking is dominated by universities from South Africa and others from Egypt. When it comes to our region, it

is only Makerere University, which appears in the lower levels of the ranking. This does not mean that we do not have bright students or our faculty members or instructors are not brilliant. The reason is simple. It is the fact that we do not have money.

We may have the money, but it is not spent in the right areas. Education is being neglected. It is underfunded. That is why our universities cannot compete globally. That is part of the reason our universities cannot compete. Our brilliant instructors are unable to do research because they do not have facilities. They cannot recruit graduate students, that is, masters and PhD students to do research. We are, therefore, lagging behind in terms of knowledge production. When you do the ranking globally, the focus is on research. It is about what journals each university has produced.

If Makerere University, despite all the struggles it is going through, can still be ranked favourably, if funded adequately, I think it could compete well with Harvard, Yale and other universities that dominate the top ten universities every year. Our region, therefore, cannot compete economically, politically, and socially without putting a lot of money in research at the university level where we produce our highly educated people. These people can spur economic development by producing new ideas, drugs, and so on.

I rest my case. We need to focus on universities.

The Speaker: Dr Kalinda and then hon. Mnyaa.

Dr Francois Xavier Kalinda (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this Report. From the outset, I have to declare that I am a member of the Committee on General Purpose. In that capacity, I fully support the Report.

Mr. Speaker, allow me to thank the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose for his brilliant presentation of the Report yesterday. I would also like to thank him for his leadership during the consideration and scrutiny of the Report that was presented yesterday.

Hon. Abdikadir Aden has not only demonstrated his leadership skills, but also his competence in budget analysis. During that exercise we saw how he managed the meetings very well. For that, I thank him very much.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the Report, you realise that the budget estimates of revenue and expenditure presented to this Assembly reflect a downward trend of 9.4 per cent compared to the budget of the last financial year. This will negatively affect all organs and institutions of the Community. Reducing the budget of the Community while the same Community keeps growing and expanding is a serious concern. Let me give one example: up to now, four institutions have been created and are operating within the same static budget. These institutions are the East African Kiswahili Commission; the East African Science and Technology Commission; the East African Health Research Commission; and, the East African Competition Authority.

Logically, the creation of these institutions could have been accompanied by an increase of the budget to accommodate them and allow them to discharge their mandate. Today, these institutions are operating within a minimum fund that cannot allow them to fulfil or fully deliver on their mandate. The East African Monetary Institute is another institution that was created recently. It is also accommodated in this static budget.

Mr. Speaker, the zero-budget increase principle that governs budget making is in contradiction with the context of growth

and expansion of the Community and it should be removed to allow all the institutions, organs and programmes of the Community to run smoothly. Otherwise, this principle of zero-budget increase will end up suffocating the whole Community.

As I conclude, I urge the Council of Ministers to consider increasing the Budget of the Community and to come up quickly with an alternative financing mechanism for the Community. I also urge the Council of Ministers to consider favourably the recommendations contained in this Report.

I urge the Members of this august Assembly to support this Report. I submit, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. You need to remember that we are not just debating the Committee Report; we are also debating the Budget and the Budget Speech. Honourable Mnyaa.

Mr Habib Mohamed Mnyaa (Tanzania): I thank you, Mr. Speaker for allowing me to contribute to the Budget. In principle, I support and agree with the Budget presented by the Chairman of the Council and the Report by the Committee on General Purpose. Unfortunately, there is one error that has been persistent in all the speeches.

The Chairman of the Council requested the approval of US\$99,770,716 but from the summary on the allocations for various organs and institutions cited on Page 68 of the Chairman of the Council's Report you will find out that it is US\$99,770,715. This figure appears even in the Appropriation Bill and the Report by the Committee on General Purpose at Page 9. I have used the Excel Program and my calculator gives me a figure of US\$99,770,715 and not US\$99,770,716. I, therefore, would like to ask the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose and the Chairman of the Council to adjust the figure accordingly. – *(Laughter)*

Actually, it is only a difference of US\$1, but for budgetary purposes, that matters a lot.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the Clerk had noted this issue and we had a conversation about it, but he said that only the Council can correct it. I was intending to raise it with the Council at some point. However, I am glad we have a very keen Member with an eagle's eye on details. Thank you, honourable Mnyaa.

Mr Mnyaa: Mr. Speaker, the second issue is still with the figure. Dr Anne said that it seems this year's Budget is less than last year's. It is about US\$10 million less. In normal practice, that should not be the case because of inflation. The organs and institutions are the same. If we can cite from previous years, we have been having shortage of funds. We had money problems and yet this Budget is less US\$10 million. This move needs a correct justification. Please, Chairman of the Council, you have to explain to this Assembly so that we understand the practice of depreciating of the Budget instead of it appreciating and yet the question of inflation is always there. I hope we will get that explanation.

Mr Speaker, there are also some specific issues which were not raised properly by the Chairman of the Council. On the tour of the Northern and Southern corridors, we discovered many problems. There is the issue of operationalisation of the East African Single Custom Territory, which started in 2013. For example, we found out that the Electronic Cargo Tracking System is not working properly. The Chairman of the Council has not addressed this matter in this Budget Speech. There has been no resolution or what to do about it. There are other issues about which we need some elaborations. Indeed, the details are needed. My colleagues mentioned other issues that we experience problems. We need to take care of those areas in this financial year's Budget proposal.

The report has been read in this august House and now we know that the NTBs have not reduced – they are still in existence. There are also issues to do with operationalisation of one-stop border posts, the directorate of trade and the tripartite business. With regard to these areas, we need more clarification. Once we know more, or the Chairman of the Council elaborates these issues, I do not think there would be any objection in supporting this Budget Speech.

I support this Budget Speech, but a more detailed explanation and justification is needed.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Rurakamvye.

Mr Pierre Claver Rurakamvye (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. As you would recommend, I will go straight to the report and also the compliments that are being given to the Committee on General Purpose and its Chairperson. I support the job that has been done by the Committee, but, I think, somewhere they have been mistaken. I would like to focus my analysis on Page 23 on the ICT Department.

Mr. Speaker, everybody now knows the context of information and technology. I was surprised to see that that sector's budget has been cut. Some arguments have been given, but I would like to urge that the budget for the ICT Department be restored to what they had sought to be given.

The world and our continent too, is now moving towards technology. The budget for this particular sector has been cut more than 60 per cent.

The Speaker: Are you saying 6 per cent or 60 per cent?

Mr Rurakamvye: More than 60 per cent. It was proposed to be US\$944,887, but they have been allocated US\$600,000. So, according to- (*Interruption*)

The Speaker: What is it honourable Member?

Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden (Kenya): On a point of order, Mr Speaker. I think hon. Abega is misinforming the House with regard to the numbers adjusted to that particular vote.

The Speaker: Why can it not be a point of information, instead? You could either raise it now or during the reply. I am also informed that the figures used on this particular item are not the updated figures in terms of budget consumption. Therefore, maybe, when you reply you could also consider that. I am talking about the figures used to justify the reduction and what was updated. You need to get the correct figures and then crosscheck the facts. Please, continue.

Mr Rurakamvye: Thank you, Mr Speaker. What is in this Report is contrary to the priority of the Budget because the consequences of the decision will affect many important activities relating to customs, capital market systems and the e-mail system.

Mr Speaker, I come from the Ministry of East African Affairs and I know the importance of internet or technology in the process of integration. Even though there has been a reduction in the ICT budget, the video conferencing that has been proposed is a good thing. However, that idea will suffer as a result of the decision to cut down the budget. All the Ministries responsible for East African affairs connect directly to East African Community data, that is, the Central Document Management and Video Conferencing System.

I would like, therefore, to appeal to the august Assembly that this matter should be taken seriously otherwise we will be lagging behind when other people are moving forward with technology.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues will supplement what I have already said. I submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Rurakamvye. Hon. Kennedy Mukulya and then hon. Claude.

Mr Kennedy Mukulya Ayason (South Sudan): Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable Members in the House. From the outset, I would like to say that I am a member of the Committee on General Purpose. When we were deliberating on this Budget, we looked at all the items. Every economy in this world, given that resources are always scarce, would ask these three fundamental questions: how do we produce resources? To whom are we producing? Where are we producing? These three fundamental questions led the Committee as it was doing its job.

We realised that our resources are very scarce and so we decided that we need to produce goods efficiently. In the production of those goods, we need to consider certain items in the Budget, which would encourage inefficient methods of production. That made us re-allocate the resources to more efficient use.

You realise that in certain sectors of this Budget, enough resources have not been allocated. So, we asked the question: to whom shall we produce? We, therefore, went ahead to re-allocate some of the resources to those areas that concern people. This informs us on how the Committee rationalized its allocation of resources.

Mr Speaker, the reduction on the ICT budget is at 38 per cent - we looked at their consumption rate for last year, which stands at that. The Committee rationalized less than 20 per cent. This clearly indicates that the Committee was cognisant of the effect that would arise if much more money was reduced from the ICT budget.

The Committee went ahead to identify and consider certain items in the Budget. For instance, if we were to rationalize an item X, how would that item affect the overall performance of an institution? We also asked ourselves: if, for instance, you move an item X in the Budget, how does that item contribute to the effectiveness of the Community? We also asked ourselves something about re-allocation of resources: how does re-allocation of an item X significantly improve performance in an area Z? Therefore, with all those considerations, the Committee ensured that it allocates resources according to where they are supposed to be, to whom and how they are supposed to be.

The Committee took into consideration all factors of production and other factors that affect the Budget. Therefore, the re-allocation, distribution and re-adjustment of the Budget is made between the overall Budget that was presented by the Council of Ministers, that is, at US\$99 million plus. Therefore, this indicates how the Committee was able to work round the clock to re-allocate and adjust the Budget efficiently.

Mr Speaker, allow me to say that with regard to the re-allocation and rationalisation of this Budget, this is the first budget that this Committee is considering for the Financial Year 2018/2019. This Committee took two weeks in working out the Budget. It should be understood that the Committee worked up to 9.00 p.m. almost every day to ensure that it completes the work. That informs the reason we needed at least 21 days in order to complete and do perfect work. We did many calculations to make sure that we came up with reasonable amounts of money.

It should also be understood that the re-allocation that was done is in all the sectors. We did not concentrate on particular sectors

only. We considered all the sectors, including EALA itself. It should be understood that even for EALA, we re-allocated more than US\$1 million, which we would have, spend on travelling around the capitals of our respective states. We argued that we need to have our sittings in Arusha so that we minimize the use of our resources. That is how we can efficiently use our resources. We are making sure that we put them to right use. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, we looked at the debate we had when we were passing the Monetary Institute Bill. Trust me, it was debated for two hours only and nine people only spoke yet it is a very important Bill. It is a preparatory Bill that seeks to establish the East African Central Bank. There are issues with the quality of debate that we had, the quality of information that was given and the nature of engagement with people. The Committee realised the importance of allocating more days to plenaries. That is why we proposed to increase our plenary days to 21 days. In those days, we can efficiently debate issues and work without stress. We would be using our own Budget of EALA – we did not remove money from anywhere. We are just re-allocating resources within. We are trying to efficiently make use of the scarce resources that we have.

Mr Speaker, we also looked at other institutions, organs and departments. Generally, this Budget gets 57 per cent contribution from Partner States and 43 per cent contribution from development partners. The difference is very small. The Assembly takes around 35 per cent of the contribution from Partner States. I would like to tell this House that the allocation to other organs of the EAC comprise 80 per cent of the resources from donors! So, if those organs take 80 per cent of the resources from donors, why can the other organs not also take about 80 per cent of the resources from the Partner States? – *(Applause)*

It is a win-win situation – you take from here, I get there; you throw the ball there, you kick it back; when it scores on the other side, it passes on. Therefore, that is what the Committee looked at.

Mr Speaker, when considering the Budget, we looked at item by item. We were not looking at the summary of items. I wish to refer you to one institution, that is, the Kiswahili Commission. Hon. Members, if you look at Page 307 to Page 310 of Book VIII, you will find that there is a duplication of items. For instance, there is an item there: “attending to statutory meetings”. It appears in all those four pages. The Committee looked at all those things. It decided to allocate the scarce resources in an efficient way and one that would generate more resources. That is what informs how the Committee re-allocated and re-adjusted the scarce resources.

The Committee did not look at one part of the institution; rather it looked at East Africa as a whole. We looked at all the organs and institutions of the Community, which have to function well if at all they have to yield results. That way, the EAC will be stronger and more resources would be generated. Everything was done in good faith. There was nothing from outside to influence the mind of members of the Committee on General Purpose. They worked in a very good mood. What they did was within the means of the Community.

Trust me, Mr Speaker, if we support the recommendations of the Committee, you will find that, even by the end of next year, we will still have surplus resources. We will not use all these resources. We know very well that the little resources that we have allocated to various organs and institutions of the Community are more than enough – there will remain even more. It is because we gave them resources this year and yet some of them have only managed to use 11 per cent. If an institution or organ has only used 11 per cent of the Budget up to May,

how would they consume 89 per cent of the Budget in one-month’ time?

We also looked at the staffing. You cannot allocate more resources to an institution that has only one member of staff, say, US\$1,600,000. (*Applause*)

How is that person going to use such resources efficiently? How is accountability going to be done? Who is going to check that person? So, we decided and said, “Okay, let us save this person from too much work. We can take some amount from here and put it somewhere so that the person can work very well.” – (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, we also looked at travels. This Community is travelling a lot. We were told that this is a travel Community. Therefore, we said that if, indeed, it is a travel Community then let us reduce the travelling. So, much of those re-allocations have been done on travel and even printing paper. I remember when we were presenting the report on accounts, we were given big books. I do not know who read them. We have to rationalize these issues so that we start using the little resources we have efficiently. Do not produce for us big books that we are not going to read. It is better we now go paperless.

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to support the report of the Committee.
(*Applause*)

The Speaker: I had spotted hon. Wanjiku first and then I will come back to you, hon. Namara.

Ms Wanjiku Muhia (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. From the outset, I want to support this report. I first want to congratulate the Chairman of the Council who stood for three hours reading a very nice Budget Speech. I also would like to congratulate the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose and its

Members. I have been reading this Report and I realised I was missing a fundamental area considering the fact that women and youth in our Community form the greatest percentage of our population. I am aware that the policies are not in place for a budget to be allocated. Therefore, I am challenging the Council to come up with policies so that in future our Budget is anchored on youth and women.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy that the Chairman of the Council said that in future the Budget must be anchored on our four pillars because that is the purpose of existence of our Community. He further said that, in future, the institutions have to show results so that when they are asking for additional budgets we see the results – we need to see what they have done. The Committee on Accounts, where I am a Member, came up with a report, which found out that this Community is specializing in- Priorities are on looting.

As much as we say that budgets can never be enough and we have to put our priorities first, we found that for most institutions, the first priority is looting; hence, the money cannot be enough. For this reason, I am happy that the Chairman of the Council insisted that institutions have to come up with reports that are accountable and have no misappropriation of funds. Integrity has to be in place before they ask for an increased budget.

Mr Speaker and honourable Members, I have an issue with the Partner States' contribution. I want to be candid here. Yes, we have less funds like any other institution, but we are aware that some Partner States are taking forever to contribute. I want to be candid and say as a mother, when I had my child and she delayed on her milestone and she seemed to crawl forever, I went to hospital so seek medical attention. This Community is 15 years old. Some children are still crawling. It is time the Council sought medical

attention on behalf of the children who are still crawling. We cannot have a Partner State, which, contributes zero and yet expects results. That is a syndrome of dependency which has to end if the Community has to grow. - *(Applause)*

We must not shy on this matter. I threw a challenge to the Council to review the Treaty. We want to review the terms and conditions of our Treaty. Yes, it could have been a coalition of the willing, but this child cannot take forever to grow. We need to grow like other Communities such as COMESA, AU, and EU and so on. We shall only grow if we are committed. You know commitment is also about contribution. We cannot rely on donor funding. We are thinking of ways in which the Community can be self-funding. Many Members have indicated here that the Partner States should contribute more. However, before my country, Kenya contributes more; have all the other Partner States contributed the amount of money that they are supposed to contribute?

Therefore, Partner States have to show commitment by contributing in time so that the Community's activities can run. Let me be candid enough and say I am not sure if my salary is in my account today. Let us not shy from saying that. In addition, it is simple because some states have not contributed. Therefore, for the Budget to be effective, contribution has to be in time. We may blame our institutions that they have slow absorption, but during our tour of the Central and Northern corridors, we sympathized with some institutions. They receive money, say, two months when the budget calendar is ending! How do they absorb such money? It is not practical. Therefore, these are challenges that we should face and realign candidly. Let us face issues head on.

Mr Speaker, I also have an issue with sensitisation. During our trips, we realised that our Community residents are not even

aware of the existence of the Community; its organs, say, EALA; and its activities. As much as we are looking forward to growth, we are proud that this is the fastest-growing economic bloc. We need to do more trade. How are my farmers in Kinangop Constituency going to do trade with the Community when they are not even aware of the existence of the Community? For this reason, I want the Council to consider sensitisation activities as fundamental. It should not be taken like leisure. It should be taken as a gear to move the Community forward. *(Applause)*

Once people in our Community are aware of the activities that they can engage in, then we will be able to do great things. We want people from Dodoma, Kinangop and outside Kampala to know that they can criss-cross our countries. Unfortunately, they are not aware. They have to have the information so that they can trade more and so that the Community makes more revenue, especially now that we want to be economically self-driven. In this case, I would like to refer Members to Page 27 of the Budget Speech where I see sensitisation has been given only four days. Honestly, I find this not realistic. I find this budget misplaced as well – it could better be used for other purposes.

I can see US\$165,000 has been allocated to EALA for sensitisation. Given my personal experience as a former Member of Parliament for a county which has only five constituencies, allow me to say here that even at the end of five years, I had not reached all the places in the five constituencies. In Tanzania, we toured and travelled for about three days yet that was just one end. Now consider all the other countries in the EAC that is, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, South Sudan and Kenya. Honestly, four days are not enough. Are we really serious? We can only continue doing sensitisation in Arusha, Kampala, and Dar es Salaam and the Community, at large, will remain without information. I want to urge

the Council to look at that are critically and seriously. We should add more budget towards that. It does not matter who will do it; the Secretariat can do one part and EALA could do the other. Overall, we want the Community to be aware of the opportunities available.

I also did not see the budget for the review of our Treaty. It is time we amended the Treaty. I know the Treaty has been amended twice, that is, in 2006 and 2007. Ten years down the line, we are still working with a Treaty which has not been amended. The Community began with Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. Three more countries have come on board which have diverse cultures and activities. For us to move forward, we need a current Treaty. Therefore, the amendment is required in many areas. I am aware that there is team of experts urged by the Summit, but I have not seen the budget. That means that the Treaty may continue to remain as it is.

Finally, I want to talk on misappropriation of funds. We all agree that the budget cannot be enough. We shall continue pleading and urging Partner States to contribute in time. However, how is our integrity as a Community? How are we appropriating the little that we have? Are people taking 80 per cent away and leaving 20 per cent to serve the Community? This is a key area. In this regard, I want to continue urging the Council that the audit report be implemented to the letter so that this Budget is implemented as it is.

I will not leave without mentioning some institutions. For example, the East African Kiswahili Commission, the Lake Victoria Basin Commission and the Secretariat itself. We found several loopholes in these institutions. We have continued to give money to these institutions because institutions will remain even without officers serving. However, if we are going to allocate money to these institutions which still maintain the same characters

who were looting the previous budgets, do we expect different results? (*Applause*)

In this regard, as we agreed as a House, some people must go home. They really must go home and this Budget should not find them in the office. The Community has to find ways of self-funding. It is the only way the Community shall survive.

I support.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Wanjiku. Now, hon. Namara and then hon. Jematiah.

Mr Dennis Namara (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the Chairman of the Council for presenting the Budget for the Financial Year 2018/2019. In a special way, I would like to thank the Committee on General Purpose under the able leadership of *Al Haj* Abdikadir. He steered us through scrutinising each small figure in that Budget. I can assure you, honourable Members that we went through that Budget, word for word and figure by figure without leaving any amount untouched. Sometimes we could not sleep because we wanted to read big volumes of books to ensure all was well. Apart from the previous parliaments, which I think we are doing things a bit differently, this parliament is able to stamp its feet on the ground and claim its functionality in the annals of history. We must not forget that one.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): On a point of order, Mr Speaker. Is hon. Namara in order to insinuate that the previous parliaments, that set a concrete foundation for the Fourth Assembly, did not put their feet down and that it did not work tirelessly to ensure that things are in order? Is the *mheshimiwa* in order?

The Speaker: Please, let us not spend more time on that one. You have rephrased his thinking. The understanding of the Speaker is that he cannot dare to discredit the

previous Assembly where the Speaker was also a Member. (*Laughter*)

Mr Namara: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Had honourable Susan listened to my conclusion, she would have understood what I was talking about. It is unfortunate she could not listen.

Anyway, Mr Speaker, I also want to thank the Secretariat. I thank the Secretary General and his team. I thank the Council of Ministers who have been with us to ensure that we go through this budget even as we do re-allocations and look at priorities.

From the outset, I would like to mention that the report of the Committee on General Purpose was developed through consensus. As we are here, we are not pulling ropes. I can assure you that the Secretariat and the Council of Ministers, through the able leadership of Dr Kirunda Kivejinja, went through all these details of the Budget and we were able to build consensus on some of these issues. – (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker, the theme of this year's Budget is enhancing prosperity and welfare of the East African Community. We had to come up with budget estimates that are in tandem with the theme. That is the real reason we went through the figures to determine whether the budget estimates and the priority areas are in tandem with the theme of this year's Budget. The Budget should fund the process of East African integration. We must not forget where we are – we are still in the process of East African integration which must be anchored on the four pillars, including the Common Market Protocol. How do we ensure that the Budget we are passing is going to facilitate the existence of a big market of the people so that they benefit from it? We must fund the programmes and activities within that functionality.

With regard to the Customs Union, how do we ensure that we remove the Non-Tariff

Barriers (NTBs) to ensure that our people do trade? When looking at the Budget, we looked at issues in that particular aspect of the Customs Union.

With regard to the Monetary Union, we want to ensure that in 2023 we have a common currency. If we do not budget in a way to ensure that we fund processes that lead to that, then we shall not be achieving our goal and, of course, ultimately, the Political Federation. Therefore, when the Committee looked at the details of the budget as presented by Council, it was able to rationalize and ensure that the budget funds the four pillars of integration.

We also looked at many other aspects, for example, the absorption capacity of some institutions. You will find an institution with an allocation of US\$1.6 million absorbing only 11 per cent of the allocation and yet it is being added another US\$1 million. We looked at such aspects as well. Even if the money from Partner States is only 56 per cent, why do you absorb 11 per cent? Some Members said that sometimes they get the money late. Yes, that is very true, but if you have been able to receive 56 per cent, why do you absorb 11 per cent only? We realised that, maybe, the institutions do not have the capacity because of staffing. The Competition Authority, for example, has one person and so does the Board. Now, how do you allocate them more money this financial year, that is, US\$1.6 million? How do you give them money for recruitment, meetings and conferences and so on, thinking that they are going to have more members of staff? We also looked at that, Mr Speaker.

We looked at institutions such as the EACJ and the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA). The EACJ wanted 40 days. They have been working for 30 days. The number of cases before them has increased. They requested the Council to increase their number of days, but it reduced them. So, when we consulted the Council and the

Secretariat we said, “Look here. There is no way the EACJ is going to dispense justice to the people of East Africa, especially now that we have even added the Republic of South Sudan, by reducing the number of days of them operating.” They agreed with us and said that, indeed, we should increase the number of days. That is why we are talking of 40 days now. – *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, we also looked at transport. If you hire a car for each and every justice of the EACJ, within five years you would have spent money which would ordinarily be able to buy cars. When a judge comes be it at night, midnight, 2.00 a.m., 6.00 a.m., or 6.00 p.m., the vehicle must be parked. The people who hire out these vehicles charge per hour. So, instead of paying those hourly charges, we said, “Why do we not re-allocate some money?”

There is a Member who talked about the ICT Department. It is very important, we agree. Last time, we allocated them US\$988,000. They consumed 38 per cent of that money and now they are being allocated much more money. Instead of adding them more money which they cannot absorb, we decided to give some money to the EACJ to dispense justice to the people of East Africa. – *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, many Members think that the money which is going to be allocated to EALA is being cut from other organs. That is not true. We had actually wanted eight sessions of 21 days – to be sincere with you – we wanted committees to have two weeks to function. This is because we must execute our core mandate of legislation, representation and oversight. If you give us 12 days for representation, multiply that by six months, you get very few days and yet we are being paid from the East African taxpayers’ money to work for the entire year. Why should we be paid for an entire year when we only work for two weeks in a period of two months? Is that not thuggery upon the people of East Africa? So, we said

no. We must be able to work. We must have value for money. When I go home and stay for one month my son asks me, “Daddy are you not working?” Which answer do I give him?

The Speaker: You tell him that you are working from home. *(Laughter)*

That was on a light note.

Mr Namara: I understand, Mr Speaker. We are now 56 Members of Parliament. If each person here is going to contribute to this debate, how many days do we need? Remember, we are talking about the Budget only and no other Bills. Therefore, from that background, we said that instead of travelling to these Partner States because every time we travel with staff we spend over US\$250,000. It is because we move with many people, including members of staff, vehicles, and photocopiers and so on.

Therefore, we decided to reduce on that and rationalise ourselves as EALA. Instead of having four sessions outside Arusha, why do we not have four sessions in Arusha and then two sessions outside Arusha for the purpose of rotation? The next year, we shall go to another state. By the time we complete five years, we shall have complied with the principle of rotation. How much money shall we have saved? If every year we save US\$1 million because of sitting in Arusha, in five years we shall have saved US\$5 million. That is what is called value for money and rationalisation.

The money which has been allocated for the 21 days of legislation is from the budget of EALA. Instead of going to the various member states, we have decided that we stay in Arusha so that we can save US\$250,000 per sitting but sit for more days in order to have quality debate. I think that is really justifiable.

Mr Speaker the other aspect is oversight. You cannot oversight without going

through the details. We had a meeting with the Audit Commission here in Nairobi. We sat for about ten days. They brought us documents of over 2,000 pages – the Audit Commission Report. I have not included other documents. You know we had to call for other contract documents which they had signed. By the time we finished, we had 25,000 pages to go through in ten days. Surely, even if you are gifted by God as a genius and you have a brain which can photocopy, you cannot go through all those pages. *(Laughter)*

Therefore, we thought that in this year’s Budget we increase the number of accounts to ensure that we have value for money. Since we could not go through all those documents, we could not give a very good report as far as accounts are concerned. I do not consider it as the best report because we did not call for some documents. We did not have time. So, we came up with the 21 days, once in a year, so that we can be considering the audit report.

It was the same thing for the Committee on General Purpose. We met but we were not able to go through all the documents. Some countries budget for three to six months, but for us we did it in ten days. That is not practical. Therefore, we agreed that that one also be given 21 days.

As I conclude, I would like to talk about sensitisation. In this Budget, there was nothing for sensitisation – it was zero. The five days you have seen there for sensitisation are part of the rationalisation that the Committee on General Purpose did. We are requesting the Secretariat and Council to look for money from somewhere as this year goes on so that Members can go to their countries and sensitise the masses. I sympathise with those who have been moving around and going to functions telling people that they are EALA Members. The people would ask: “What is EALA? What are you talking about?” it means people do not know EALA. We need

to do more work to ensure that people are aware about EALA and the Community.

Mr Speaker, with those few words, I would like to give other Members a chance to speak. I rest my case by supporting the report 100 per cent.

The Speaker: Hon. Gai Deng. No, Hon. Jematiah first and then I will come back to this side.

Ms Florence Jematiah Sergon (Kenya): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. From the outset, I support the Report and recommendations of the Committee 101 per cent. I would also like to let you know that I am a member of the Committee. I want to thank all Members of the Committee without forgetting our able Chairman. He is actually our super chairperson who guided us not only through the papers but also educated us because of his background. We want to thank this parliament because we have people who are placed well in their careers, especially in terms of budgeting and one of them is hon. Abdikadir.

Having listened to my colleagues, I think they have exhaustively given their ideas on the proposal that I have in mind. I would like to categorically say that this Budget has very important meaning in the integration of East Africa. Going by the theme, “Enhancing prosperity and Welfare of East African citizens” there was no better way to put across, the theme of the Budget today, because it is what has allowed all of us to be here. As Members of EALA, we represent, by physical appearance on the Floor, our cultures and beliefs from our respective states. Here, the budget reflects it very well.

Mr Speaker, there are very many areas we realised, during our meetings in the Committee, need a lot of attention, especially matters zero budgeting or ceiling. This is a pertinent issue that we need to discuss as an organ of EALA. Hon.

Wanjiku Muhia put it very well that we are going society. We cannot afford to stop at one point and say that we cannot move because of issues to do with resources. If we allocate as per the budget, it would mean that we are able to use the money given. The issue of remittance should be taken seriously with the seriousness that it deserves.

I went through some of the regulations and the Treaties under COMESA and other blocs. In COMESA, for instance, if you are a member state that does not remit to the bloc, there are specific and stringent regulations that guide that. For instance, you would not get the opportunity to debate on the Floor – I am not saying we are going there. You would also not be given an opportunity to do things that other member states which have contributed are allowed to do. It is because they want to take the issue of remittance seriously. As he said, when you look at our remittance vis-à-vis what we are planning, it is able to take care of all the activities without hustling and feeling that we are under-funded and going all over the place looking for donor-funding.

It is something that EALA should take seriously. The Council of Ministers should help us. They could, probably, put a limit and say that at this-and-that point before a Budget is read, all the states should have delivered some percentage of their remittance. That way, we will move forward. We should not be going forth and back asking ourselves whether we have the money or not. It has become a normal thing to do that.

The other thing is about Arusha vis-à-vis the rotation. I would like to go against my brother. When we talk about sensitisation, we should allow that rotation. We should allow people to move. When you want to sensitise, you have to be part of the physical movement and express the meaning of sensitisation. You should be able to

represent people. In my opinion, this issue of rotation, Mr Speaker-*(Interruption)*

The Speaker: Hon. Jematiah, if I can guide a bit so that this matter does not escalate out of hand, we can separate two issues here. There is need for an increment for the Assembly to convene as proposed by the Committee subject to the decision of the Assembly and there is need for the presence of the Assembly in the entire region. It is contradictory to suggest that we can improve efficiency by confining ourselves in one location. So, let us not mix issues. We can sustain both in a way that does not cause unnecessary issues. Certain matters are a subject of standing resolutions. We cannot remove standing resolutions through budgeting. I think, procedurally, that could also be wrong. In any case, budgeting must comply with resolutions. You do not pass a Budget that impliedly stops a process of law. I am sorry but you cannot repeal standing resolutions through the budgeting process. You should budget in a way that complies with the standing resolutions until you have repealed them.

Ms Sergon: In conclusion, so that I do not belabour that point so much, I would expect, as a way forward, the Council to allow us pass this Budget with the recommendations and observations brought forward by the Committee. I hope EAC is going to be one of the best in the near future. I submit and support.

The Speaker: Hon. Gai Deng.

Ms Gai Deng (South Sudan): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to participate in this debate. I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council for the Budget Speech. I would also like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose for an exemplary presentation and a very detailed elaboration despite the limited time, which brings me right away to the issue of increasing the days for EALA to do its work.

Imagine if we had more time and the Committee on General Purpose had time to scrutinize all the details and presentations that we are giving in terms of what needs to be spend, I am sure more issues would be brought up. I am sure Mr Mnyaa would have had even more time to actually point out some of the inconsistencies. Really, it is imperative that there should be more time given to EALA to actually look at how we are doing our business.

You have been able, in the Committee, to point out a department that has one person and yet they have an allocation which is more than US\$1 million. I wonder what else is there. In terms of budgeting, we have been saying that we do not have enough money yet there are departments with one or two people. So, where is the problem? It is important that we plan. You have to plan first what you want to do then think of how you are going to raise the money. It seems to me what happens is that we realise we have money and then we look at how we are going to spend it. Indeed, it does not make sense that we have departments where the budget is not being absorbed. If you allocate a budget, you must know what you are going to do with it. Where is the problem here?

It is important that EALA is given more time to scrutinize these issues. With regard to the 21 days, I do not think it is excessive. In fact, I really think we should have more than six sessions in the year so that we can do our legislative job properly.

The other issue I wanted to bring up is on sensitisation. Some of the Members have elaborated it very well. I like the analogy given by hon. Wanjiku. She said that when a child is crawling for too long, it is time to look at what the problem is. Sensitisation is the pillar of how we are going to achieve integration. When we were “working from home”- borrowing the Speakers analogy and term that he used – and when we made

contact with our legislative assemblies and other parts of the Community, we realised there was very little awareness of what EAC and EALA is all about. People are not going to know about us while sitting in their homes. They are not going to know about us if we do not actually go out and reach out to them to know what EAC is, what we do here in EALA, and what integration is.

That matter brings me to the issue of South Sudan. I do not agree with the reallocation of the US\$42,000. The Chairman of the Council, in his Speech, said that this Budget is anchored on four pillars. Two of the pillars are the Customs Union and the Common Market. There is a war in South Sudan and yet the Assembly was able to do its work. We were elected and we are here. We are representing our people. Yes, there is a war in South Sudan, but does that mean that life has to stop? If we want to fast track South Sudan into integration, it is imperative upon us to be realistic when we look at things.

As I said before, there is war, but that does not mean that trade is not going on. As I speak now, there are trucks with commodities entering South Sudan from all parts of the region – people are trading and communicating. So, why should we stop that? It is imperative that that continues in parallel with the efforts that EALA wants to put in place in terms of peace and security. We know that peace and security are important, but trade and integration are important too. I believe that the reallocation should not happen and that money should be there. Believe it or not, if you go right now to Juba, the Capital of South Sudan, there is a multitude of traders from all parts of Africa doing trade. It is important that we give that region of East Africa priority. We need to improve. We need to ensure that the fast-tracking of South Sudan in the Common Market and the Customs Union happens. That way, by the time there is peace, we would have come a long way to be part of the region.

Mr Speaker, with those remarks, I support the budget estimates fully with reservations on the reallocation as I said before. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Gai. hon. Oda, hon. Fatuma and then we will continue. We still have time for everyone.

Ms Oda Gasinzigwa (Rwanda): Thank you so much Mr Speaker. I want to declare that I am a member of the Committee on General Purpose. I am very proud to be in this Committee because it is one which enlightens you on the work of this Community. One gets an opportunity to give one's views and see how things can improve in our way of doing business.

I also want to thank my Chairman. He has really been a good leader. I thank the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat because we worked on this work of reviewing the proposed budget as a team. Today, what we are doing in this House is to share with the rest of the Members who did not get an opportunity to work with us. I think that is the spirit we need to take forward.

I would like to support the report by the Committee on General Purpose entirely, or 100 per cent. I wish to mention a few things which were mentioned by the Chairman of the Council in the report. Page 70 contains the conclusion. It is actually the summary of what we are discussing here. The Chairman of the Council mentioned the importance of focussing on the four pillars of the EAC integration. If you look at the details of the Report, then you will support the Chairman of the Council and the report by the Committee on General Purpose, especially with regard to focussing on priority areas.

Mr Speaker, this Budget has addressed issues in detail. The mandate of the Secretariat of co-ordination and monitoring

the activities of the member states, through the integration process, has been covered. When you look at all the departments, you will find almost 20 activities. We are not focussed. That is why I want to support the Chairman of the Council who said that from now on we should look at the budget in a more focussed way. That way, we will be able to find a lot of gaps, say, the duplication of using money from donors and member states; activities to be done by various departments and so on. If we do that, we will see what my colleague hon. Namara was trying to explain.

Our Committee realised that a lot of activities done are the ones that have been detailed here. We need to refocus and look into the major activities as per the pillars of the EAC. That way, we will come up with a concrete budget that will impact on the citizenry of the EAC.

The Council of Ministers observed something on the issue of professional staff. They will help us go beyond consultancies. If we work on the fourth observation and then an ad hoc committee comes up to support the Secretariat, then we will be in a position to address the issue of consultancy. Mr Speaker, about 60 per cent of the Budget is about consultancy. What does that mean? It means that we are not yet at the point of supporting the institutions that we want to work for us. Those institutions need to get enough members of staff with the capacity to do work within the Secretariat. I fully support the recommendations by the Council of Ministers of having qualified staff so that the budget that goes to consultancies is minimised. I am not saying that we remove completely the consultancy services, but we can minimize them and serve some amount of money in the budget.

Mr Speaker, each one of us has had a chance to do a budget. We have realised that the operation budget is taking more than 60 per cent because currently, 40 per cent of the budget is on salaries for our

members of staff. Today we are saying that we need more professional staff. There is a question there. The 60 per cent I was talking about comprises salaries and other charges. Development activities are allocated 40 per cent only. If you look at the budget in detail, you will realise that even the 40 per cent is not for the programmes; rather it is for consultancies, meetings, trainings and so on. This is an issue that can be taken care of if we focus on the four pillars of the EAC and develop institutional capacity.

Mr Speaker, I was wondering why the Council of Ministers made this observation this time round and yet we had an opportunity during the conference to look at these issues. Even during the planning process, we could have realised these observations by the Council of Ministers. We could have used that information to ensure that the budget we are reading today is correct. Today we are here coming up with the same observations and saying that we did not do this-and-that and that we will do these things in future. Why did we not do it during the planning stage? It is explained here clearly that had we done one or two things that were recommended, then we would have a good Budget.

In conclusion, I support mindset change in the social and productive sector. The theme explains why we should focus on citizens. It talks about education, women and empowerment, youth and so on. Those are the things that affect the wellbeing of the EAC. We talk more on things that regard operation as opposed to things that would change the livelihoods of our citizens. I urge this Assembly to do its business differently. Otherwise we will not be adding any value to our Community. What we are discussing here is not for EALA. It is for the EAC. EALA is part of the EAC. The Secretary General and the Ministers are part of the Community. How I wish one day we will be talking about the people and not us. Talking about us in the area of improving the way we do our business is

not something good. We want to make sure that the Community moves fast.

We need to use the minimum resources we have effectively, efficiently and in an accountable manner. That is very important. What EALA, through the Committee on General Purpose, is proposing is not against the goodwill of the Council of Ministers and the EAC. The Committee on General Purpose, the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat sat together for two weeks. I would like that to go on record. It was not work that was done as hidden agenda. The work done was professional, legal and administrative. There was a letter which was written to the Council of Ministers inviting them to a meeting of the Committee on General Purpose. The purpose was to look at the Budget in a more professional way for the benefit of our society. We are not from the diaspora; we come from this region. We, therefore, should sit down and talk. There is no essence of coming here if we cannot talk to our leaders. We also need to talk to members of staff. We hired them to do this work for the benefit of the EAC.

Sometimes I wonder when we sit down to discuss some issues and it appears as if there is an agenda for EALA, the Council of Ministers, the Secretariat and the staff. There is nobody's agenda here – we have come here with a ticket of our member states to work for the Community. Let us talk as the people representing this Community. If, say, the Committee on General Purpose did not have enough information, let us discuss it objectively. Let us tell the Committee that, maybe, in one way or the other, it did not consider certain information, or they used it wrongly, or they got the information very late.

Mr Speaker, I rest my case and wish that this Assembly and other organs of the Community move together as a team for the benefit of our Community.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Oda. Talking and talking frankly is where we are heading. And it is what we are doing although the Council is unusually quiet, but they will come to reply upon whatever you have been raising or the discussion you were having.

Hon. Fatuma Ibrahim.

Ms Fatuma Ibrahim Ali (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for allowing me to speak on this process and the Report by the Committee on General Purpose.

*[The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose,
(Mr Abdikadir Aden), withdrew from the Chamber]*

From the outset, I would like to appreciate the work of the Committee. It did great work. I want to single out the leadership of my colleague, Hon. Abdikadir. With his experience and understanding, he helped bring out a good report.

The Speaker: Is there a member of the Committee on General Purpose Committee holding brief for hon. Aden? At every moment in time there should be somebody taking note. Who is doing that? Is it you, hon. Kennedy?

Mr Kennedy Mukulya Ayason (South Sudan): Yes.

Ms Fatuma Ibrahim Ali (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I would also like to recognise the commitment of the Council of Ministers in giving leadership in the whole process. Indeed, the Council of Ministers is part of this great work. Its leadership shaped the work of the Committee on General Purpose. Without the Council's input, the gap could not have been filled. I also would like to single out the efforts of the Secretariat. It stood with the Committee and gave information that was necessary.

Mr Speaker, I was impressed by hon. Deng Gai's statement about the role and commitment of partners. When I look at Table One of Page 5 on the status of Partner States 'contribution, I realise that when one partner does not contribute it seriously affects resource allocation and use. Every Partner State is challenged. There is no extra money lying somewhere. I want to single out the Republic of South Sudan as the new baby with a new contribution. Congratulations, South Sudan. That is a sign of commitment. It is actually stating that you are a state of your own. It is a sign that you are independent and that you are handling your affairs. It is a sign that you are committed to the EAC as a strong partner even though you face many challenges, including the security situation, reformulating your country and looking for resources. Again, congratulations, South Sudan.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the table on contributions, the Republic of Burundi is nil. This means zero per cent. I do not know if this information is with regard to 2017/2018 only or it is for other years too. When we visited the Central Corridor areas, we realised that all the countries are stable. Every country, including Kenya, has its own internal challenges. Lack of commitment in terms of contribution might bring some element of lack of growth and opportunities. The Council of Ministers and the Summit must devise ways of securing the contribution from Partner States even if it is making it mandatory a contribution of 50 per cent minimum. I am saying this because that gap will definitely affect programmes, organs, and activities. Even the image of a country might not be proper as expected.

Mr Speaker I would like to single out the creative way the Committee has reallocated resources and recognized the importance of every institution. Every institution and organ of EAC has been analysed. I was

looking at a situation where the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose could have put some sanctions on non-utilization of allocated funds. In the report, I can see that some of the institutions have only utilised 5 per cent. In my view, that is very low. I do not know whether the Committee had the opportunity to engage persons from various organs and institutions of the EAC on poor performance, or low consumption of resources. If we ignore that that is not crucial, then the budget process will be a difficult one.

Mr. Speaker, the proposal to have a Financial Management Act is very crucial. I realised, when I was in the Budget and Appropriation Committee of the National Assembly of Kenya, that the Financial Management Act provides guidelines and processes. If the EAC does not have a Financial Management Act, it should be a priority. It will streamline some of the shortcomings, challenges, and gaps. We are growing; we are not going downward. We are growing upward. Therefore, we need to tighten the legal requirements, regulations, rules and protocols that will enhance efficiency, accountability and timeliness.

Mr. Speaker, the 2018/2019 budget should focus on performance and reduce wastage. The Committee on General Purpose should help in this course and even seal the areas that are likely to be avenues for corruption. As a region, we must fight corruption. We know that corruption is killing the resources that are needed. Resources are crucial when it comes to stimulating growth.

With regard to sensitisation, I would like to congratulate members of the Committee on General Purpose for seeing it important that more resources are added to the issue of sensitisation. The first time I travelled from Dodoma to Bujumbura to Kigali, it really opened my mind and made me appreciate that these countries have serious potential. At the border points, there were projects, but in my own reading, they did not give me

a practical picture that when we are here we talk about projects that would make a difference.

When I visited the Rusumo Power Project, I was really impressed with all its small challenges. But the thinking of a power project that will connect three countries of EAC and investing in that really impressed me. Without that visit, it would have been an imaginary affair. I would not have known where it is, how it looks like, how it would function, who the partners are, what they contribute, what the basic challenges on the ground are and so on. We need to add more resources on sensitisation. Let us not devalue the role, impact, and effect of sensitisation. We should even double the resources. The way I know Kenya should be the way I know other Partner States. I should not be imagining things about Rwanda or Burundi, or Tanzania. I should be able to internalize and see all of them the way I do my country. I should know their mega projects and even their people.

Mr Speaker, on sensitisation, we need to single out areas. I want to see women participation in the whole process. This Budget should have a specific project where the Council of Ministers and the EALA can partner so that we use it as a flagship. It must not be a mega project; rather it could be an intermediary project. Recently, when we had a meeting with the farmers and non-state actors who work with the farmers, we were challenged to do things that will propel agriculture. They told us that they do not want genetically modified seeds. They said that they want to retain and protect our natural seeds. How do we achieve that if we decide to sit in the boardroom?

The Council of Ministers should support the EAC more vigorously. We appreciate its support. When I listened to the former EALA Members, I realised that they had not utilised fully their potential in terms of expertise and time. It is amazing that you

are elected to a legislative assembly and you are told that you can only meet half the year. It is a waste of my capacity and space. We need to engage and facilitate so that we are more productive. Let us not look at the narrow path that MPs are looking for immediate benefits. We are not looking for immediate benefits; we are looking at the greater benefit of the EAC. A small facilitation will not make much difference. What is important is for us to sit and deliberate. We need to visit areas in this region to sensitise people. Even in Nairobi, if you ask people about mega projects by EALA, they will tell you that they do not know.

Mr. Speaker, I support the report totally. I appreciate the effort of the Council of Ministers to sit with us in meetings even though it is its mandate. You know, one day you are a Minister in the Council and the next day it is I or the other person. So, we are all represented here. – (*Laughter*)

Today you are an EALA Member, tomorrow I am a Minister in the Council, the next day I am the President of the Federation and so on. So, let us think beyond that. – (*Laughter*)

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Fatuma. We have a Member of EALA who was a Member of the Council. We also have a Member of the Council who was a Member of EALA.

Hon. Mbidde, hon. Rwigema, hon. Gai Kim, and hon. Nooru. We can try and be brief.

Mr Fred Mukasa-Mbidde (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. It so happened that my pick was a bit of gender insensitive, but it was not intended; it will be corrected. (*Hon. Nakawuki consulted loudly*)

Mr Mukasa-Mbidde: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg for your protection from hon. Nakawuki who is refusing to cede.

First of all, I would like to add my voice to those who have thanked the Committee for this kind of wonderful work under the stewardship of the Chairman. I personally also feel extremely indebted because this is good performance that everybody should generally emulate.

Let me also hasten to declare that I am not very good when it comes to mathematics. Hon. Susan always chides me. I used to have a problem even during my academic times with Mathematics. I would either get the correct answer without the good working or they could mark the working and I could not account for the answer I had. *(Laughter)*

Nevertheless, that was a challenge that I had to live with and it made my informed choices over which disciplines to pursue as I went along in my academic endeavours.

Mr. Speaker, I know that in legal practice, I have cross-examined an accountant before and I have made him even fall on the ground. He had balance sheets that balanced well, but the sheets would not account for what was appearing on the bank statements of the institution he was actually accounting for. I would ask, "If the balance sheet balances then why are we here?" They could not also account for that.

When we are doing anything that we are doing - I have heard the tone of debate from Members – let us avoid debating as if we are apologetic about what we have done. *(Applause)*

Let us not debate as if we are appearing before any organ and, therefore, explaining what we did and why we did it. Each time you are here, because you have done the best work in the world in terms of the budget, ask yourselves: what is the law that applies to what I am doing? That way, we are going to be extremely comfortable in what we do and we will leave this Assembly while knowing that we have

successfully performed our role and no other inquiry is going to be established round it once we are done with it here.

Article 55 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community stipulates in no uncertain terms that this Assembly has the powers to determine the place of sitting and the number of times in which to sit. Article 49(2)(g) gives this Assembly powers to enact rules under which to operate. Therefore, Rule 10 applies *pari passu* to the Rules of Procedure of this House. What does the rule say? Mr. Speaker advised me that we have little time. Therefore, I will take you through this very quickly. I beg your indulgence.

Rule 10(5) states that the meetings of the Assembly shall be held at such times and places as the Assembly may appoint and shall meet at least once in every year in Arusha, in the United Republic of Tanzania and at a time to be determined by the Assembly. Therefore, this Assembly has the entire available mandate to determine matters to do with our sitting.

Rule 10(6) states that the House shall sit for not less 80 days for plenary and not less than 40 days for committee meetings. Now, for those who think that 80 and 40 apply to the whole year, please, refer to Rule 1 on interpretation of sittings. You will know that even the 21 days are still below the threshold established by the Rules. Therefore, 21 days are still less. Under the interpretation section of the Rules of Procedure on sittings, we ought to have had not less than 40 days in each sitting. - *(Applause)*

Hon. Members, as you do your job, kindly find it well settled under Article 14 of the Treaty that the Assembly is exempted from the directions of Council. I mean exempted. - *(Applause)*

This is extremely enshrined under Article 14 on the roles of Council of Ministers.

Actually, it is Article 14(3)(c). You should begin with Article 14(1), which states that the Council shall be the policy organ of the Community. Article 14(3) (c) states that subject to this Treaty the Council shall give directions to Partner States and all other organs of the institutions of the Community other than the Summit, the Court and the Assembly. – *(Applause)*

What are we doing, therefore? What we are doing is under Article 14(2) (b) of the Treaty, which is about the functions of the Assembly. It states that this Assembly shall debate and approve the Budget of the Community. This is our specialized role and we must play it. As we play it, forget the inclinations. I have looked at Members here debating as if something else will come up with a contrary decision from the decision we have taken. This House will take a decision for or against the Budget as established. No other entity is, therefore, required to do anything to the contrary. *(Applause)*

Now, remittances. When you budget, you expect the budget to be financed. Often times, I have been persistent and consistent on naming Partner States that are actually not making remittances. I am running the risk of almost being antagonistic to specific countries. However, this is where we debate. This is the only we can have our voices heard. Council of Ministers, you are the Ministers in charge of the affairs of the EAC. The Republic of Burundi has not remitted; it does not remit, but you have not come up with a substantive report on what you are doing about it. What do you want us to do as the Assembly? My sister has just talked about South Sudan. A country is very young. *(Interruption)*

The Secretary General (Amb. Liberet Mfumukeko): On a point of information, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Will you take the information, hon. Mbidde?

Mr Mukasa-Mbidde: Yes, Mr Speaker.

The Secretary General (Amb. Liberet Mfumukeko): Mr Speaker, I just want to inform honourable Members that the situation will now change a little bit because we received almost US\$1 million from Burundi yesterday. *(Applause)*

Mr Mukasa Mbidde: Now, you can imagine he should have received the applause almost one year ago. *(Laughter)*

The Secretary General (Amb. Liberet Mfumukeko): On a point of information, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes, hon. Secretary General.

The Secretary General (Amb. Liberet Mfumukeko): Hon. Members, I just want to be positive and appreciate the fact that there are no arrears by any country for last year's remittances. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Okay. hon. Mbidde, you may continue.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Burundi (*Ms Isabelle Ndahayo*) (*Ex-Officio Member*): On a point of information, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: There is further information from Hon. Isabelle.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Burundi (*Ms Isabelle Ndahayo*) (*Ex-Officio Member*): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to inform the honourable Member on the Floor that Burundi has been contributing to the EAC. Let me tell you that we contributed more than US\$9 million which is more than 100 per cent of a year's contribution. We have been paying our arrears from the previous years. We have also remitted this year's contribution. Let me tell you that we are still committed.

Other monies are still coming; at the end of this week, we may get more money than you were expecting. *(Applause)*

In addition to that, let me inform you that Burundi constitutes a market for East African Partner States' products. We are, therefore, even contributing to the revenue of your respective states. So, Burundi is still committed to the EAC. Thank you.

Mr Jean Marie Muhirwa (Burundi): On a point of information, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Are you taking further information, Hon. Mbidde?

Mr Mukasa-Mbidde: I will take it.

Mr Muhirwa: Mr Speaker, actually I want to emphasize what hon. Isabelle has been saying. The delay that Burundi has been undergoing was due to the budget law in Burundi. The national budget in Burundi used to begin in 1st January up to 31st December. As a result of the referendum that was done, we have come up with a constitutional amendment that the Burundian national budget will be starting from 1st July of each year. By so doing, we will be in a position to remit our contributions timeously. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Hon. Mbidde.

Mr Mukasa-Mbidde: Thank you, Mr Speaker. First of all, let me also inform everybody that at the signing of the Common Market Protocol and the objective reasons that made it a logical necessity that the protocol should be signed were for purposes that we have got compartmental market expectations from each and every Partner State. Therefore, this is not restricted to one Partner State that it provides a market. All Partner States provide markets, but they pay. In my opinion, there is no justification for non-payment or late payment that hinges on provision of a market, in any case.

However, we must thank the Republic of Burundi for the contribution it is making. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, we also now need to request that for any other sitting that we come here, a matrix of remittances is established and brought here for purposes of formal proof of the same. I have consistently heard statements made here, but statements that have not actually been accounted for in terms of actualisation of remittances from Partner States. Mr Speaker, as I conclude my submission, we would request that a remittance matrix be actually established before this august House.

I was concluding on my matter to do with South Sudan. It is a young country with close to 12 million people. It is a country that almost relies on a single export commodity, which is oil and tainted with international commodity price volatility and all those exigencies of marketing of a single product. In spite of that, it affords to pay even with the security inconsistencies.

With regard to my brother, who spoke about the referendum, whose Act for actualization has not been passed by parliament, to tell me that parliament has actually determined the commencement of the budgetary year that is subject to further confirmation. In my opinion, we must remain extremely consistent and stringent on the requirement that Partner States must contribute. We are here grappling with the matter whether days can be reduced or increased. It is because at the level of the subconscious mind of people, they really think that we are constrained in terms of the Budget. There are suggestions that the Ministers need to take into consideration. If a Partner State requires austerity measures in order for it to continue to exist as part of the other Partner States, let us also have a study conducted other than beginning to turn this Assembly into a court broker of some sort.

Therefore, in my opinion, the result of this debate will be conclusively on the Budget of the EAC. Let us debate, but also let us not be antagonistic while we perform our work here. – (Applause)

The Ministers here are not members of the Council when they are here. They are here as Members of this august House *ex officio*. They are only Council when they are away from here. We do not expect an imprimatur as a final statement that has almost the effect of countering and skedaddling the decisions that we have made here. That does not apply. – (Laughter)

We are all Members. They are only exempted from voting, but we are all full Members of this august as we sit here. We should avoid this kind of conduct that almost turns out ignominious against each other. Let us perform harmoniously the duties and acts for which we are all sent to do to the extent that we all have reports to take to the voter that we have done our work. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Mbidde. Whom had I appointed? You see, the reason I mention several names is to spare you the effort of being up and down. Therefore, you wait until I exhaust the list and then I appoint a new list. Unless you want to stretch a bit because you have been sitting for too long now, we have to go by the list.

Mr Pierre Celestin Rwigema (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor. I am not a member of the Committee on General Purpose. Before I explain what I want to do, I would like to thank the Chairman of the Council not only for the Budget Speech, but also for the commitment he has shown towards bringing change. If you have been interacting with the Council you must have seen that it really wants to bring change.

I also thank the Committee on General Purpose, especially the Chairman, my

friend, Hon. Aden. I serve together with him in a committee and so I know how strong he is. I thank him.

Why do I have to thank the Chairman of the Council? The budget proposal for 2018/2019 is supposed to be about the implementation of the four pillars of integration. Once implemented, the East African taxpayers will get more benefits. They will get benefits that come with the attraction of investors. In fact, more states will be joining the Community. In this Budget, I see an aspect of integration. I think the Committee had to think about the constitution of the Political Federation.

The Budget is not only an accounting document. It is mostly a management and planning tool. This means that when we cut the Budget, it is not really a success story. When we cut the budget, it means we are cutting on management and planning. We have to think of restricting some services. This reminds me of something: the EAC heads of states, during a meeting in Kampala, directed the Secretariat to address its financial challenges. I think that is why in the near future we will get these changes through the Secretary General. What we have been doing as the Committee on General Purpose must now be done in another way; to restructure services without interfering with planning. The first step in management is not budgeting; it is planning. Budgeting comes second. The Speaker guided us on the issue of reallocation of money.

In response to Hon. Namara's statement on ICT, I cannot agree with the idea of taking money from ICT and reallocating it to judiciary. This is because the judiciary itself is making use of ICT. Even in Rwanda we are making use of ICT in the judiciary. I think ICT, nowadays, is a priority. That is evidenced on Page 22 of this Report. We can review this Budget with regard to ICT and keep it as it was.

Mr Speaker I share the comments made by hon. Ndagiza on industrialisation. However, it would be better to focus more on agro-industrialisation. Last week, we interacted with farmers' representatives. It was very interesting to listen to them. I was so glad.

In order to prioritize agro-industry one has to think about two things. There is the issue of climate change. If you have been following what has been happening in our region, you will realise that we have climatic changes. In Rwanda, we lost many human lives and crops. Imagine losing your crop and yet you borrowed money from a bank. You would not be able to stand. We have to offer subsidies to our farmers for agriculture and agro-industry in order to cover them during the bad periods.

I want to join my colleague, hon. Wanjiku in her remarks about the youth and women. During our interaction with the farmers' representatives, we realised that many of them were women. They were the ones who were talking and giving ideas. They were the ones giving recommendations. In Rwanda, women and youth are involved, in a dynamic way, in many activities. If we do not allocate some portion of our budget towards increasing participation of the women and youth, we will not really develop this region.

Mr Speaker, we need to get alternative funding and not to cut. When we cut the Budget that contradicts with growth. We cannot grow when we cut. What we have to do is to look for alternative mechanisms, which are not about cutting but for improving or increasing. I have seen in the Report suggestions to cut down the Budget. We need to focus on how to monitor the budgetary allocations. If we do not do that, we will not have a budget performance. In fact, we will be in the same situation as the last time.

Mr Speaker, I would like to allow my colleagues time to also participate. I support the Report.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Kim Gai.

Mr Kim Gai Ruot Duop (South Sudan): Thank you, Mr Speaker. First, I would like to congratulate the chairperson, hon. Aden Abdikadir and the members of the Committee on General Purpose. I also want to thank the Chairman of the Council, the Secretary General and the Secretariat for a good work done.

If you look keenly at this budget, you will realise that over US\$40,000 is mobilized by the Secretariat from the donors and international organization. That is good work done by the Secretary General. We should thank those organizations which stand together with the people of EAC.

Peace and security in the region which deals with the peace talks regarding Republic of Burundi is funded with US\$332,000 in this year's Budget. During our debate in the Committee, we asked the Secretary General why he was not lobbying for more funds for the peace talks regarding Republic of Burundi. The US\$300,000 is not enough for all the peace rounds. For South Sudan, there are questions why the EAC Secretariat does not support the peace talks in South Sudan. The country's peace talks are funded by IGAD, EU and others at over US\$170 million. This is more than the EAC budget. Why can our Secretariat not lobby for the Burundi peace talks to get good money in order to support the bid?

Mr Speaker, I am a member of the Committee on General Purpose. When we were in Dodoma we discussed the Bills on the Monetary Union. Unfortunately, I am going to write my minority report. I lost my father-in-law. I think the Committee is very lucky. *(Laughter)*

Last week, hon. Nakawuki brought a Bill, which we want to amend. What does that

mean for the Community? It means we rush to have laws. We need to discuss the Bills and even do public hearing. We should know exactly which law we need to pass. It should not be a case that today we pass the Monetary Union Bill and then after three years, a Member comes seeking to amend the Monetary Union Act. So, the 21 days can help us discuss all our Bills and pass them. That way, we will give our EAC strong and reasonable laws. That is why we are requesting for more 21 days. The Treaty itself talks of a minimum of six sessions. We have, however, relaxed that because of lack of resources. We also proposed 21 days for the Committee on Accounts and the Committee on General Purpose.

This Budget was brought on 8th May for us to evaluate yet it was supposed to be brought on 30th April. They brought the Budget on 8th May and then rushed us through it. They were telling us, 'You are new Members and next time we will do it better'.

Mr Speaker, the Audit Report for 2017/2018 on the public accounts has not been brought before this House. Actually, if it is brought, we will cut the allocations according to the report of the auditing team. Fortunately, they brought their report for 2015/2016. (*Laughter*)

We demand that the report for 2017/2018 should be brought to this House before they present the budget for the next financial year.

The Speaker: By way of information, I think the report was brought and referred to the Committee.

Mr Ruot Gai Kim Duop: Mr Speaker, we hope to have the reports in good time so that we can work on the budget.

There is an issue that was raised by hon. Gai Deng about US\$2,000 being cut by the Committee from an allocation to activities involving South Sudan. This amount of

money is not for South Sudan; it is for the Secretariat, which wants to travel to Juba. It is a waste of resources belonging to the Community. Therefore, we cannot give them the amount of money.

Mr Speaker I support 100 per cent the report by the Committee on General Purpose.

Mr Adan Mohamed Nooru (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this Motion. From the outset, I would like to support this Appropriation Bill with amendments as has been proposed by the Committee.

I am a member of the Committee. I want to thank the Committee and the Council through the Chairman for having brought this elaborate Budget. However, let us face the reality of the day. I have never seen a situation where bulky reports, such as the ones before us are tabled and passed on the same day. The Chairman of the Council of Ministers tabled the statement of the budget and then the relevant Committee tabled its report. Members are required to debate the reports and pass them in one day. What is the logic, Mr Speaker? In other jurisdictions, I know of, the reports or papers are laid and Members are given time to go through them, say, a day or two, or even a week depending on the calendar of sittings of those institutions. After reading and understanding the reports, Members can now debate them. Now, because of the constraints of our programmes, we are told to table the reports and conclude within two hours. Are we really doing justice? Are we really having value for money? – (*Applause*)

Mr Speaker the books before this House are very voluminous and scary. The purpose of having the Committee to oversight is so that it scrutinizes those documents and find out whether or not they are justified. If the Committee is not satisfied, it is supposed to call the entities concerned again to interrogate them further to find out why they have placed the programmes in those

institutions. Will ten days be enough for the Committee to do that work? It is the same question for the Committee on Accounts. We are not saying that these two committees should be given special preference, but when it comes to the two committees, they must be given enough time. The committees were given four days in a year to do public participation. How many Bills will you handle in four days in a year and even invite public participation in the six-member states?

I do not think we are in the dock, as an Assembly, to defend ourselves. We are only trying to put the facts correct. It is unrealistic for this Assembly to operate in the manner the programme has been crafted now – that the Committee has four days for oversight, four meetings for public participation and five days for representation. The total for the whole year is 13 meetings. This aspect of rationalising the budget comes from the reality that faces us. At the moment we are given 12 sittings six times in a year. So, twelve multiply by six is 72 days, which is two months and twelve days. For a period of twelve months we are expected to work round the clock for two months only and then go stay at home for 10 months and then we are paid. I think it is very unrealistic to have debates such as this critical one on the Budget, the one on the Monetary Union that we discussed in Dodoma and so on. We are rushing these things because of constraint of time and programme being squeezed.

Mr Speaker, on mobilization of resources, just yesterday, we passed US\$120 million under the Supplementary Budget to look for ways and means of raising funds for this Community. We were told that the programme would take two years. Of course, the concept has been there for a long time only that it was grabbed by AU and put to use by other institutions. So, if we say that we charge 0.2 per cent of the imports, does it really take two years to come up with that paper for the consultants to do that

work? In addition, if it has to take two years, why was it a crisis that we had to budget from the reserve fund and to put it in that programme?

Next time, Mr. Speaker, we need the Budget to be accompanied by the programmes. I was so amazed when I looked at the MTEF Programmes that were tabled before us. There are only three items or budget lines in an entire sector; whether it has an institution or not, or whether it is an organ. From the Secretariat to the smallest organs of the Competition Authority, the three-line items are hiring of conference room, per diem and tickets. There is no fourth item. For any of those organs and institutions, that is the only job that is done round the clock and it has been the case for the past 15 years. Are we going to stay there? Now we are arguing about IT. Is it the responsibility of EAC to maintain the IT sections of member states where we have to budget US\$1 million every year? If the programme has been put in place and the Community has given the standard and procedures, should we continue funding or is it a programme that should come to an end?

On the other hand, with regard to the IT issue that is being blown out of proportion, what has been cut is double funding. It is double funding in the sense that a member state's contribution was funding the same programme donors were funding. The question is: what is the essence of having double funding if already the donors have funded a programme? The issue of IT is not the way people are trying to put it, saying it should be closed down. No, it is not being closed down. We are just trying to rationalize any excess in the sense of double funding from both Partner States and development partners.

If you look at Page 43 of the Chairman's speech, you will realise there is nowhere he has mentioned something about resource mobilization or how we should raise funds.

It has not been touched and yet it has been funded by the Supplementary Budget. It will go on for the next two years. We want to know what is going to happen that we are required to fund for two years. Last financial year and this particular one, we have funded that programme to the tune of US\$120 million. We have been given a blank cheque to endorse the programme. I think it is not going to work anymore.

Mr Speaker there is an element of contributions or resource mobilization from the member states. The figures shown here are payments that were made 16 years ago when the Secretariat was just starting. It has grown and it is still growing. It is not stagnant. We are still moving.

Dr Abdullah Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Motion.

The Speaker: Yes, Dr. Makame. -
(*Interruption of Debate*)

MOTION

TO EXTEND SITTING TIME UNDER RULE 30(D)

Dr Makame: Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to raise this Motion. Because we are debating the Budget, which is a very important policy tool of the Community, I propose that using Rule 30(d) we suspend the time that was ruled so that we continue deliberating a few minutes past one. I beg to submit.

The Speaker: So, I take it that you are requesting that we suspend Rule 11.

Dr Makame: Yes, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: But you are not placing a ceiling. Maybe the Speaker will determine what the ceiling should be. Who is the Second of that Motion?
It is hon. Dr Maghembe.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the Motion is to suspend Rule 11 so that we can proceed past 1.00 p.m.

(*Question proposed*)

(*Question put and agreed to*)

(*Resumption of Debate*)

Hon. Nooru you may continue, but before then, let me thank Dr Makame for facilitating this so that we proceed up to 2.30 p.m. then we break and come back later at 4.00 p.m. We should be prepared to work until late so that we conclude this subject.

Mr Nooru: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Those who think that we are doing injustice and being wasteful should understand that this Assembly is not going to be run by crises that we keep on extending times because of the limitation we talked about of sitting for 12 days six times. They should understand that we have to operate within the rules. We are not going to manage by crisis.

I was talking about resource mobilisation in terms of member states contribution. These contributions were set 16 years ago when the organs of the EAC were put in place. The institutions are growing, but the member state's contribution is fixed. Is it that the Council of Ministers is not submitting this need to member states or is it that it does not have time to do it? Have they really checked whether the resources are enough to run these institutions? Are we fighting to increase member states' contribution? Are we fighting for the little contribution that has been accepted upon to be remitted on time? Where are we? We are fighting to increase, but others are not even able to remit what they have agreed to contribute. It is not only Burundi. In fact, it is only Tanzania which has completed making its payment.

My country Kenya has not completed making its remittances. The focus should

not be on Burundi or certain member states. Everybody is on arrears and we are unable to operate. We need to ask ourselves those questions. Are we going to remain stagnant or are we going to increase? Could we, first, get the remittances of the little that has been accepted on time? Thereafter, we can think of other alternatives of raising revenue or increasing the member states' contribution.

Mr Speaker, our member states depend on donors. As an organization, we will also be depending on the donors for life. If every member state were to pay 100 per cent, the contribution would come to US\$50 million which is 50 per cent of the Budget. If we paid, say, 62 per cent, that is, US\$30 million. We still would have an outstanding balance of 70 per cent, which we have to depend on donors to provide. We need to look at this issue the way it deserves.

On the issue of priorities, if you look at Page 69 of the Minister's statement you will realise that agriculture production and industrial development has been allocated US\$14.5 million while corporate support service has been allocated US\$32 million. I do not understand what "corporate support" is. Do we really have a corporate responsibility? Are we a multinational company that has a corporate social responsibility that will take US\$32 million when critical sectors of member states of EAC are ignored? We know countries in this region depend on agriculture for their economy. How could the entire sector be allocated only US\$14.5 million? Those are the misplaced priorities we are talking about.

Page 3 of the Minister's statement lists the programmes that are given priority. Are the achievements really in tandem with what has been financed? The achievements are on Page 3 of the Committee report. Look at that page and compare the contents there with what is on Page 3 of the Minister's statement. You will see total contradiction. So, are we really in the right direction in

terms of priorities? I think that is why we have corporate support services being allocated US\$32 million and the productive sector, which is very critical, getting only US\$14.5 million.

Mr. Speaker, we are not here in competition. We are here to supplement each other as organs and institutions of the EAC. Despite the fact that we are children of one mother and father and the resources are limited, we must be realistic in terms of looking at each other as brothers and sisters.

The issue of the number of our sittings as EALA, that is, three months of the year should be looked into. Where I served before, for six months, parliament would be in session and for another six months, it would be in recess. I do not think EALA is trying to be selfish in any way, but we are trying to make things work so that we do proper legislation, oversight and representation.

Sensitisation is an orphan – it does not belong anywhere. The funds go to the Secretariat where they say that they conduct sensitisation. The political wing, which would have done the sensitisation, has no budget line. It is crippled. What is EAC then? Why should we use taxpayers' money in EAC when we do not know the benefits? We are not here to serve ourselves. We are here to serve the people of East Africa.

The Speaker: Hon. Member, wind up.

Mr Nooru: We need to think about how much will go to the Community and how much will be used to facilitate the Assembly or the Secretariat.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Nooru. You need to conclude.

Mr Nooru: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: We still are in crisis and we have to live with it.

Mr Nooru: I support the Appropriation Bill with amendments.

The Speaker: So, now I appoint a new order hon. Rutazana, hon. Mary Mugenyi, Dr. Woda and hon. Makame. This time I got it right.

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would first like to thank the Chairman of the Council of Ministers for his Speech. I would also like to thank the Chairman and members of the Committee on General Purpose for a job well done. The detailed Report that was tabled yesterday shows that they spend a lot of time to come up with it. Indeed, it shows that they scrutinized issues to discover and understand various allocations so that the Budget would be profitable to the Community.

I have three observations concerning the Budget. In our last debate on the Audit Report for the Financial Year 2016/2017, we concluded that the Council should be presenting to the House, every three months, a progress report on implementation of the recommendations of the previous audit report. I suggest that the recommendation applies to the Financial Year 2018/2019. I say this because we want to see progress in the new financial year. We want to see the activities that have been planned for the financial year well implemented for the benefit of the Community. Therefore, I suggest that the recommendations in the audit report should apply in the coming financial year.

Look at Page 49 of the Speech by the Chairman of the Council concerning the Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation Programme. In the Audit Report 2015/2016, we heard of weaknesses in project management. It pointed out inadequate supervision and monitoring. At the end of the day, people are not getting

water because there is nothing in the pipeline. The same observation was made in the report by Members who toured the Northern and Central corridors. We are now talking of continuation of that project in 2018/2019. I suggest that we are told what actually happened with regard to the previous implementation so that we can continue in the right way. If we continue with this programme when we still have inadequate supervision, I think we will achieve nothing in the next stage.

We have to put more attention on the issue of industrialisation. In our region, we have many resources such as fish, oil, fruits and so on. If we put our efforts together, we will be able to do more. We could think of a strong strategy that would enable us export high quality materials. That way, we will be able to compete in the international market and attract more and more investors in our region. We will be proud to be called East Africans if our industrialisation becomes a success. I support the report and I thank you.

Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker for this opportunity. I would like to add my voice to those of many of my colleagues who have just spoken in congratulating both the Council and its Chairman who presented the budget ably. My special thanks and appreciation goes to the Committee on General Purpose and its Chairman in particular for a job well done. Honestly, I am proud to be part of this parliament having seen the quality of work that was because of the energy that was put in it by the Committee on Accounts and Committee on General Purpose. I am very grateful. Just yesterday, during the State of the Nation Address at home in Uganda, our president picked on EALA and said:

“EALA Members, we did not send you to just enjoy allowances and trips and hotels and so on. We send you to do a job on behalf of East Africans”. *(Applause)*

I am happy that my colleagues have done such a thorough job and in a short period of time. I am not a member of the Committee – I must clearly declare my position here. I would ordinarily have got up earlier, but I wanted to listen to members of the Committee. I thought I would benefit from more information as they debated the issues. So, thank you very much, honourable Members.

Mr. Speaker, hon. Mbidde has talked from a legal point of view; he normally does that very ably. He has brought a number of legal articles that empower us to do our work. However, I would like to speak from more of a diplomatic position and urge that we need to work together as a team even without having to deploy the law to emphasize our rights. We all know what we are here to do and what we are entitled to. The feeling that the EALA in its entirety should work and move together as a team is key. Let us not be coercive. Let us put blame where it should be and let us appreciate good work where it has been done. I think the Committee on General Purpose has done a good job. I would like to speak on this issue: optimal facilitation of organs and institutions of EAC.

We know that our economies are small. I want to repeat that the member states that have not remitted their contributions in full it is not out of choice. We all know our leaders. They are serious pan-africanists who started or joined the EAC wanting to see the EAC move. Indeed, it has been expanding. Having created certain organs and institutions, if we do not facilitate them to do their work, then honestly, we will not be doing any right to this Community. I want to start with the EACJ.

I have learnt through the presentation that they only have 20 days of the entire year. It would be a disservice, given the number of cases which are likely to come up in the

entire EAC, to allocate the EACJ 20 days only in a year.

I have also learnt that the EAC is spending money hiring vehicles for the judges and yet the same amount of money used for hiring could actually buy vehicles. Is that not rational? Instead of empowering these companies, and I know they are East African companies, let us think about prioritizing the need for efficiency. How do we help these judges to have means of transport that is cost effective and yet promote efficiency? I request that the re-allocation to the courts should be allowed. That is my appeal.

We have institutions with one member of staff but with large governing boards, say, 40 plus. Honestly, Council members, rethink these large boards. It is because all these numbers have to be facilitated. Does that promote efficiency?

I would like to speak for ourselves here, EALA. Members of the Committee on General Purpose, I hope I am not going to be misunderstood, but I want to slightly differ with you when it comes to EALA. I agree that there are many responsibilities that we are not carrying out. We are not here just to legislate, which also has very limited time. We are also supposed to do oversight and represent our people.

I suggest that rather than say 21 days are for plenary, let us ask for 21 days sitting including committee work. Within those 21 days, then the committees can sit. It looks like it is only the Committee on General Purpose and the Committee on Accounts that have work. There are other committees, which have a lot of work, which they could do, but because there is no engagement or facilitation, they actually seem not to have responsibilities. The oversight and representation functions could be done during the 21 days in such a way that while the Committee on General Purpose and that one on Accounts are meeting, we are also

engaging the population in another way. Creatively, we can think of how to utilize 21 days in such a way that we are doing our three functions as they are. That is my suggestion. So, just think about it.

I want to appreciate the fact that you are not allocating more funds to EALA – you are actually reorganizing. I congratulate you on that. If, honestly, the Council does not appreciate that then it will be very difficult for us to understand.

I want to speak about the Nanyuki Series. Which Member of Parliament does not go back to his or her voters to tell them what he or she is doing having been elected? The Nanyuki Series to me is an opportunity for us to account to our voters and interact with our parliaments. Please, do not scrap it off this year. Already, our people are asking us what we are doing.

The Speaker: Hon. Mary, Members need to be informed that certain activities like Nanyuki Series, Inter-parliamentary Games and so on are shared activities; they are not exclusively EALA activities. They are activities we jointly organise with the rest of the parliaments in the region. So, even the decision to alter or make any re-arrangement about them must be a shared decision. It cannot be exclusively for EALA to do that.

Ms Mugenyi: Thank you for that piece of information, Mr. Speaker. I definitely was not aware that the other Members were as concerned as EALA. As a legislator, that is, a person who asked for a vote and has the mandate to represent my people, it is important that I am given an opportunity to account to the people who elected me. It all starts with parliament. Our parliaments are national parliaments which vote for us. It is, therefore, my sincere appeal that Nanyuki Series continues, if possible plus others.

Mr. Speaker, I am one person who has convinced myself out of experience that donor money will never develop us. I want

to be informed. Quote for me an example of a country that was developed by donor money. What is happening in EALA is a clear example that would demonstrate to me even more that donor money is spoiling our game. Why am I saying that? For activities where member states' money is channelled, the same activities are funded by donor money. Again, I am not sure whether that is by planning or it is because donor money just falls. We have already finished with the budget and then donor money just falls on us and people have to look for a way of utilising that money. I have some requests to make:

Could we ensure that through the budget process, this money is planned for and that money that comes in between is not necessarily just taken because it is available. It disorganizes us even more. It is also really irregular that you put the same vote to a member state account and you charge it again on donor funding. To me that is very irregular. Donor money is accepted. Let it help us increase the activities, fund institutions that are under-funded and do other things, but not to fund the same activities.

I congratulate the Committee on General Purpose once again for identifying those areas where donor money and member state money are funding the same activities.

Yesterday, by coincidence, I happened to interact with someone who works for AfDB. This person was telling me that money has been withdrawn from the EAC, including a grant because of lack of absorption. We have not used the money and so it has been taken away. This is an example that there are institutions whose capacity to absorb funds are low. There are institutions which are crying for money and they could do with it. We have institutions which have one member of staff, for example, the Competition Authority and yet it has about US\$1 million. That is too much. It also has a large board. So, this reorganization should be appreciated.

I even believe that the area ADB was funding that is being withdrawn could most likely be ICT. I just do not want to be 100 per cent sure, but from my recollection, I think it is the area of ICT. The Chairman of the Council will tell us when he will be replying.

Mr. Speaker, growing institutions must be supported to grow further. It is not difficult to gauge and know who is growing and who is stagnant and so who needs more facilitation. What do we do before we allocate more money in order to help this institution to grow rather than just throwing money there? I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the opportunity. I also thank everyone who has contributed to the success of this report.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Mary. Now, let us have Dr Woda.

Dr Jeremiah Woda Odok (South Sudan): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank the Council of Ministers under the leadership of their Chairperson, Dr Ali Kivejinja. I am glad that this time around I am able to pronounce the name correctly. I also would like to thank the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose and the entire membership for a job well done. I would like to give input on refugee management. It was mentioned in the Budget Speech on Page 35. Refugee matters are very personal to me and I believe to most of you who happen to have relatives who are refugees somewhere.

The report mentions that there are 2.8 million refugees mainly from the Republic of Somalia and the Republic of Congo. I wondered because I know that within the region we have refugees. I wanted to know how many refugees we have within the region and what we are doing about it. Refugees are used to seeing donors who go there to give them aid. That is not good for us. I wanted to see some activities apart from the action plan and policies which

have been requested by the Council of Ministers upon the EAC Secretariat. Without an action plan and policies, we will not be able to maintain and manage the refugees.

During the 138th IPU meeting, the main debate was about immigrants and refugees. For the information of Members, I would like to declare something: being a refugee is not an option. One is forced to be a refugee because of conflict. We even have asylum seekers not because of conflict, but because of some policies within their countries. That is why I would like to request the Committee on General Purpose and the one on Regional Conflict to commit themselves and go pay a visit to the refugee camps. I personally visited the camps as a concerned party. I was saddened and shocked by the situation of the refugees. I was saddened by the way they looked at us. When we arrived there, they thought that we were part of the development partners. AS EALA Members, we need to have a link with the refugees. We have to tell them that we are concerned and that we have plans and activities for them.

I support the Council of Ministers in their request to the Secretariat to expedite the action plan and policies towards the refugees.

Mr Speaker, I submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, Dr Oda. Hon. Dr Makame.

Dr Hasnuu Abdullah Makame (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the Floor to air my voice during this session. I first would like to join you in recognising the presence of hon. Aburi Mpuru, the Member of EALA from the Republic of Kenya. He is here now. We thank God for availing him here.

I would like to commend the submission by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. I will spend much of my time on his

presentation because I realise most Members have not looked at the speech by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers. I would also like to commend the Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose and his members.

With regard to the Speech by the Chairman of the Council of Ministers, there is the issue of the presentation of the Budget Speech. You know we are looking for continuous improvement. I think we could improve on the format of the Budget Speech. We could have it in a booklet format, the way most of the Partner States do. It would be presentable and appropriate that way. This is document of the EAC. It is a policy tool that we would all want to have. In fact, it can also be delivered to libraries.

When we have the Budget Speech in the form of a booklet, we will have a table of contents. We have been talking about the productive sectors, industrial development, and social sectors and so on, but you cannot find that in the Budget Speech. All we have here are acronyms. It would be good to improve on that aspect. We know the way Partner States prepare their budgets. They normally have lists of tables, figures, diagrams and so on. Those items are important when you are doing statistics or comparing trends. We also need to do the same. I would not say that I saw a tabular matrix on the report by the Committee on General Purpose. Therefore, we could improve our Budget Speech and have a better way of engaging the stakeholders.

Mr Speaker the other is about stakeholder participation. Here we are Members of EALA; ex-officio Members of EALA, who are Members of the Council; and staff from organs and institutions of the EAC. We are not beyond that. If we talk about the budget as an inclusive tool, then we would, maybe, have Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The Treaty says that we should have the civil society and the private sector. That the EAC should be private sector driven. We

should, probably, be having EABC here to listen to the policy direction of the EAC for the next one year. We could also have ambassadors and High Commissioners who are accredited to the Secretary General of the EAC, donors and Ministers of Finance from Partner States or their representatives.

I observed that there is an East African Science and Technology Commission, the East African Kiswahili Commission and the EACJ. In the last budget, they had a good amount of donor funding, but in this particular budget that donor funding seems to have disappeared. Maybe we could be informed why that is the case. Those are my general observations. However, I have specific observations as well.

Mr Speaker first is the issue of Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). They have been mentioned in the Treaty establishing the EAC in 2000. It is stated that this Community strives to be NTB free. There should be no more NTBs introduced and in fact they would be scrapped. Now, 18 years down the line and after the introduction of the Customs Union and the Common Market, we still have NTBs in place. This is a common function. We should be dealing with NTBs as an unexpected activity both in the Secretariat and Partner States. They should be coming in an unplanned way, or unexpected because we want the EAC to be free of NTBs.

At this juncture, I will call upon the Council to come up with a political solution to NTBs because they are hindering integration and trade in the Community yet we want trade facilitated and people moving across the region.

The other issue is about the Single Customs Territory and specifically the Electronic Cargo Tracking System. We were informed during our tour of the Northern and Central corridors that the Electronic Cargo Tracking System in the Northern Corridor is working very well as opposed to the one

in the Central Corridor which only works until Rusumo and Kabanga. It does not go beyond that. We would like to see it working so that importers are able to track their products from the sea to their destinations, be it Kigali, Bujumbura or any other place along the Central Corridor.

Mr Speaker, the other issue is operationalisation of the One Stop Border Posts (OSBPs). This has been mentioned by the Directorate of Customs. We witnessed one of the one-stop border posts not functioning very well. It was not operational. I am talking about Kabanga/Kobero one-stop border post. There were some hurdles there. The concept of OSBPs was introduced in the EAC to facilitate trade. It was about making it faster to cross the border and also lower the costs. However, after so much investment by the Partner States and a lot of effort being put in, still the OSBPs are not functioning. Probably, the Council of Ministers should take a bold step, give a timeline, and say that by June or December 2019 all the OSBPs in the Community will be operational.

The other day I had an opportunity to visit the Horohoro/Lungalunga OSBP which borders Tanzania and Kenya. The structures are there and staff are eager to operate the OSBP but it is not operational. The Council of Ministers, probably, would indulge in informing us what is going to happen with regard to that.

With regard to the Directorate of Trade, we are embarking on the Continental Free Trade Area (CFTA) and the signing which was done by some countries in Kigali, Rwanda a few months ago. We also have the Tripartite Free Trade Area (TFTA) of EAC, SADC and COMESA. The Council should educate us. We in the EAC, given the Customs Union, we agreed that we would negotiate trade deals as a bloc. Now, in this TFTA are we negotiating as a bloc, a single partner state, or a tripartite? It would

be important that we get informed on that one.

The other thing is that the Council of Ministers reported that Partner States are dragging their feet in amending the laws at the Partner State level so that they conform with the Common Market. The delay is actually affecting the implementation of the Common Market.

Mr Speaker, I have two proposals for the Council of Ministers: either we have a directive at the Council level or the Summit level that within a stipulated time all Partner States have to amend their laws, or the Council of Ministers could resolve to delegate this issue to EALA so that it legislates regional laws to implement the Common Market Protocol as it had done with the Customs Management Act.

There is a policy research unit; this has been reported in the speech. Unfortunately, we have not had an opportunity to get any policy brief or something of that kind. If there is any, then it will be beneficial to this House if it is shared in our library.

We have also noted that there is low speed in the establishment of the Monetary Union. We have an action plan to achieve that. We are, however, lagging behind.

With regard to the road sector, we have the regional roads, but once the roads have been constructed, there is no maintenance. We need to have a component of maintaining the regional roads. There is an issue that was raised during our tour of the Northern and Central corridors. It is the issue of a roaming single area network. The Sectoral Council on Transport, Communication and Meteorology (TCM), in its November meeting resolved that by December, 2018 we will be in one area network. We would like to commend the Council for that and urge the concerned Partner States to ensure that we move in that direction.

Mr Speaker, with regard to the production and social sectors-*(Interruption)*--

The Speaker: Try and wind up.

Dr Makame: Mr Speaker, I am winding up very quickly. We have issues of GMOs which my colleagues mentioned.

The Speaker: Do you mean the Genetically Modified Organisms?

Dr Makame: Yes, and so when you talk about seeds which affect our people - *(interruption)*

Ms Wanjiku Muhia: On a point of information, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes.

Ms Muhia: Mr Speaker, may I inform my good honourable Member that the one network area is already working apart from the Republic of Tanzania and the Republic of Burundi.

The Speaker: He was referring to those who are not yet in one area network.

Dr Makame: Mr Speaker, with regard to the GMOs, what we actually saw is that there are some seeds which are affecting our production. You get a seed from a country in the West and plant it here. Yes, it will give good yield, but if in the next year you plant your native seed, it will not grow. Therefore, you have to import the seeds again. We are going to enslave ourselves! That matter is related to the Trade Inter-related Property Rights.

It also extends to the production of medical products. We should be very careful. We have policies and programmes being formulated year after year. For instance, we had the Climate Change Policy of the EAC and the Food Security Action Plan way back in 2009. We are now talking about

Regional Agricultural Investment Plan. How is the implementation of these things being reported and given feedback? The Secretariat and the relevant sectors should be reporting the implementation of the same.

Mr Speaker, the issue of water is very pertinent. There is a study that was done in 2007 by Eric Walaski which talks about having dams, that is, Norera, Inamila, Nyangarose and others. Those dams are very likely going to affect the Serengeti/Mara ecosystem. Presently, we have electric fences erected in the Loita Plains and Maasai Mara. The wildebeests and other wild animals can no longer move the way they used to in their natural environment. This is very dangerous it would affect the natural products that we have in the EAC.

The Speaker: Hon. Makame you need to conclude.

Dr Makame: Mr Speaker, let me conclude now because I have so many things.

The Speaker: Yes, but you cannot--- And I do not want to switch you off.

Dr Makame: Just two points, Mr Speaker. Bear with me, please. There is the issue of language. It is on Page 33, Paragraph 79. The Chairman of the Council talked about introduction of French. In Dodoma, I recall we also talked about Kiswahili. We have to rectify and amend the Treaty to make Kiswahili an official language of the Community. We also talked of having Kiswahili at the United Nations (UN). We do not have Kiswahili or any African language at the UN level.

Finally, I will talk about corruption. We have seen what the Republic of Kenya has been doing in terms of combating corruption. We have also recently seen what the President of the United Republic of Tanzania has been doing and other heads

of states. We commend those efforts. As EALA, we are resolved to ensure that we have legislation that will combat corruption. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Dr Makame.

Hon. Simon, Hon. Rose, Hon. Susan, Hon. Happiness.

Mr Simon Ngángá Mbugua (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. I am going to be very brief because I have been standing for long.

The Speaker: Hon. Mpuru, are you on a point of information or is it a matter of procedure? You can switch on the microphone while you are sitting. You do not have to stand. The Rules allow the Speaker to allow a Member to speak while seated. Therefore, I allow hon. Mpuru to speak while seated.

Mr Lawrence Mpuru Aburi (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, it is not a point of information. I just want to say thanks to the Members. Can you allow me?

The Speaker: At this time? Okay then because I really do not know what time you will need to live. Briefly then.

Mr Aburi: I would like to thank God for giving me this opportunity to attend this sitting after a long absence that was occasioned by illness. My being here today is a testimony to God. It is a great miracle in my life. I would also like to express my appreciation to you Members for taking time out of your busy schedules to visit me in the hospital and also for praying for me. Indeed, I am here right now because God answered your prayers. My heart is full of gratitude for the act of kindness that you showed towards me. May the Almighty God bless you handsomely and meet each one of you at the point of your needs.

On the other hand, let me take this opportunity to welcome you to Kenya. I hope you have had a great time during your stay in Kenya. It is a beautiful country and her people are warm to visitors. We fully support the East African integration agenda. We welcome Members of the Community to work, tour or even live here. As a Member of the body that is entrusted with the mandate of seeing to the integration of the beautiful Community, I wish to encourage you to put every effort in ensuring that this goal is attained. I look into the future with a lot of optimism knowing too well that people from our six countries will very soon realise the fruits of integration.

With those few remarks, let me wish you fruitful deliberations here in Kenya. May God bless you and take care of you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Aburi. On behalf of the Members, I would like to thank you. Everyone who had time to visit Hon. Aburi in hospital actually was encouraged by his courage despite the situation he was in. The first thing he would tell you is, "The General never gets defeated." *(Laughter)*

We are happy to see and we will continue to pray for your full recovery. I had given the Floor to hon. Simon.

Mr Simon Ngángá Mbugua (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker once again for the opportunity. I think I have been standing for the longest time. I want to also thank the Members of the Committee for coming up with the recommendations in the report. I also want to take this opportunity to welcome Hon. Aburi "the General" back to the fold.

We are representatives of the people and our interests are for the Community. The process that is before us is for the interest of

the Community. The Council also represents the Community. We are not in competition; we are in a symbiotic relationship. For the interest of our people and the Community, I do not think 21 days are more than enough to add for the purpose of us to represent, legislate, and oversight for the Community.

You can see an example in hon. Aburi. He has taken his time. He has been given six months of rest, but because of commitment to the business of this House, he is here. That shows that Members are truly committed to the activities of this House.

We want the House to exploit the synergies available. We want it to strengthen co-ordination between the Council and ourselves. We must make sure that we work hand-in-hand. Hon. Susan Kolimba said that we are in competition. Hon. Susan, we are not in competition. We are here to help each other.

The Speaker: I think Hon. Susan never said that we are in competition. I did not hear that. At least, it was not said here.

Mr Mbugua: Mr Speaker I withdraw that. We need to fast-track contribution from all Members. The Council needs to come up with a formula whereby, at least, every end of a financial year, member states contribute a certain amount of money. We need to work in a way that is understandable. We need to have a mechanism where by this time member states ought to have contributed some X amount of money. That can only be fast-tracked by the Council. I want to thank Burundi for the struggle. At least we are somewhere. We need to fast-track our contributions so that we can be at par with other member states.

Sensitisation is important for the EAC. When we took the trip to Meru people were asking, "Who are these EALA people?" "Where does the EALA Speaker come from?" So, our people do not know what

EALA is. We do not need to confine ourselves in the House. We need to go out there. We need resources. We need to educate our people about- (*Interruption*)

Mr Paul Musamali Mwasa (Uganda): On a point of information, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: What is it, hon. Musamali.

Mr Musamali: Thank you, Mr Speaker and *Ndugu* Simon for giving way. I would like to add weight to the point you are making. If you come to Uganda and say that you are from EALA, they will ask you the question; what are you talking about? In Uganda, in one of the communities, "yala" means people who are broke. In fact, in Kiswahili they are the *walala hoi*. (*Laughter*)

So, when you say that you are from EALA they respond: "What is the problem? Are you suffering from hunger?" That is the gravity of the problem. (*Laughter*)

Mr Mbugua: Thank you, hon. Musamali. We are not *walala hoi*. We are Members of Parliament.

Mr Speaker, on the issue of sensitisation, I believe we need to have more funds. The money allocated to sensitisation is not enough. We should not confine ourselves to the budget. We could talk to the private sector so that they can partner with EAC for us to have more funds for sensitisation. That way, we will continue advancing integration.

With regard to misappropriation of funds, it is a grave matter that the Secretariat has been accused of misappropriating funds. There are also organs in EAC which have been accused of misappropriating funds yet we keep on pumping money into those institutions. It shows that we are not serious. Somebody cannot pilfer funds and then we keep on pumping money their way. They would not even have accounted for the other money they were given.

In the spirit of what was started by President Uhuru Kenyatta in terms of fighting corruption, we need to make sure that the funds that have been stolen are refunded and the persons involved prosecuted. Recently, I was in another place and that place is not nice. So, Secretary General you should not go there. That place is not a nice place. (*Laughter*)

Mr Nooru: On a point of order, Mr Speaker, is hon. Mbugua trying to insinuate bad motive upon the Secretary General?

The Speaker: Maybe I should make a ruling on that one. One, we do not know the place he was referring to. Two, there was no reason to single out one Member of the House. So, that part of a comment is expunged from the record.

Mr Mbugua: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am in agreement. In conclusion, the way we award contracts needs to be looked into. We have a problem with AAR. I believe all Members are in agreement. We need a more serious company that will take care of our health as Members. Recently, Hon. Josephine took her husband to hospital and he was given a room near a toilet. It was said that the cover was not silver or gold – whatever they meant. We need to have a company that is serious with the health of Members and their dependants.

The money that has been put into consultancies- They say that consultants steal your watch and then tell you what the time is. If you want to steal money from an organization, you take that money to a consultancy. So, we need to evaluate the consultancies to which a lot of money has been pumped. We need to know what that money is intended for.

With those remarks I support. I once again congratulate the Committee for good work.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon. Simon. For purposes of proper record, that patient that

was taken by Hon. Josephine to hospital may not have gotten the best of treatment, but hopefully he was not kept in the place that was referred. So, that one we are also expunging from the record. Hon. Rose, hon. Susan and then hon. Happiness.

Ms Rose Akol Okullu (Uganda): Thank you, Mr. Speaker for giving me this opportunity to make my contribution to the Budget Speech and the report of the Committee on General Purpose. First of all, I want to join my colleagues in thanking the Council of Ministers and its Chairman for presenting the budget to parliament even though it came late.

Secondly, I want to thank the Committee on General Purpose and especially Chairman for the time they took to study the various reports, including the MTEF and other reports that were presented to them. They presented to us this very precise report on the MTEF. It takes commitment for a Member to work until late in the night. In fact, it is overtime which is unpaid. These Members would sit up to midnight looking at reports in order to come with this very important report we are looking at now. That, of course, says volumes about the way we are facilitated to do our work. I believe that has been emphasized by Members here.

Mr Speaker, the EAC is very important for this region. It should, therefore, hold itself in that high level of expectation. I want to emphasize what Hon. Makame said that this kind of presentation speaks volumes about image. I want Council to listen to this one. By the time EAC presents a budget like this one, it speaks volumes about the image the Council wants to present about EAC: that you do not have money to print a budget. You can only photocopy. The same applies to the MTEF. Members are given photocopies and yet a lot of resources are allocated to the Secretariat for stationery. Is this the best we can do about the image of our Community, that is, presenting photocopies?

I do not have powers, but this should be the last time we see this kind of presentation about the image of our Community. It speaks volumes!

With regard to the presentations that have been made, there is a lot to be done. The way this budget has been presented, in this book, I expect, apart from the figures, to see organograms, the organization chart for EAC and the projects that are being funded by the EAC. Everybody here should be able to understand. By just looking at an organogram you would see a project that is being led and run by one person is given US\$1 million. We miss that point when we do not get the organogram here.

In presenting the budget, each organization should attach its organogram. That is how budgets are presented. I do not know what happened to this one or how EAC does its things. We should have the organization chart for EAC and the projects so that we are able to see how many personnel we have to implement the programmes we are budgeting for and what gaps are there that need to be filled. (*Applause*)

That is the purpose of presenting the organogram so that we understand this budget in full.

I expect the budget to come with the procurement plan and work plans. When we have those plans, including the recruitment plans, the people who are allocating resources would be able to allocate the resources efficiently. One would be able to plan. We do not receive monies for EAC at one go, say, 100 per cent in a pool. We receive the money in bits. Now, when you receive money in bits, you should be able to prioritize and plan your activities. You need to know what will be undertaken in the first quarter up to the fourth quarter. Our work plans should be in quarters. This is so that when the money is received then you are able to efficiently allocate that money in accordance with the works that come first.

That is what I am requesting. Please, let us organize the way we do things at the EAC so that we can efficiently utilize the resources we are allocated.

When I looked at the book I only saw comparatives for 2018/2019 and 2019/2020 and 2020/2021. We are unable to discern and, therefore, to compare with the activities that were performed before. In presentation of budgets we should have information about the previous financial years. That will help those who are looking at the budget to understand where we are coming from. This is the challenge that we have as EAC and especially EALA. I believe the Committee did not even have time to study most of the reports because of the time allocated. As a Committee on General Purpose, there are many documents that you have to review for example, background paper to the budget, budget performance, expenditure frameworks and so on.

Mr. Speaker, with all that kind of work in mind, and I want Council to hear this, there is need to facilitate parliament with the required time to perform its duties. We are adding institutions, but the budget is not moving anywhere. There is a ceiling. With the little resources, however, we should be accorded the required funding to perform the little we can do. I am saying that because ordinarily parliament should be given enough time to do oversight. To do that, we need, as parliament to visit all these institutions that we fund.

When we fund any institution as EAC, the oversight body is parliament. In visiting these institutions, we are not just going for holidays. I want to assure you, Mr Speaker, that the other time you gave us permission to move around, we went to the Northern and the Central corridors and Members fell sick along the way. However, because of the commitment we had to exercise a lot of resilience in order to complete the journey. Had we been given time and resources,

perhaps, we would have, say, two or three four days to visit an institution and then come back. Because of lack of time and resources, we had to move this far in just a period of two week. In my view that is not being fair to Members of parliament.

I would like to request the Council to accept our proposal that we be given the necessary facilitation to perform our duties comfortably.

Mr Speaker funding is very important. As I speak now, I want to thank our development partners for the 43 per cent funding that they have been providing for the EAC. This is sacrifice. *(Applause)*

It is sacrifice because it is their taxpayers who are sacrificing their money for EAC despite their own challenges at home. I thank them for the commitment. However, at the same time, I want to say this: it is not sustainable. I want to plead with the Council of Ministers and the Summit that it is high time we found our own source of funding for our activities. This Community is more than 15 years old. We need our own funding for purposes of ownership and sustainability of what we are doing. With our own source of funding, we have a choice because we will be able to set priorities with regard to the type of programmes we would want to do at the EAC in order to enhance performance and achievement of objectives for which this EAC was set.

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot to say, but because of time, I want to stop there. Once more I thank the Committee for the very good report they managed to come up with and for the excess time they put in to come up with this report. I appeal to the Council of Ministers that as we try to make the Community operate efficiently, change is necessary. Therefore, the changes you are saying here are not because we just want to challenge your authority. No, it is a request. We want to see efficiency in the way we do

things at the EAC. We want to see achievement of objectives for which this EAC was set up.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I remember the speaking order I had appointed, but we need to take a break at this time. We will resume at 4.00 p.m.
Please, lower the mace.

Hon. Members: Three O'clock!

The Speaker: What do you prefer? Three O'clock or Four O'clock?

Hon. Members: Three O'clock!

The Speaker: Okay. We resume at 3.00 p.m. So, the House is suspended.

(The House rose at 2.15 p.m. to resume at 3.00 p.m.)