



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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Thursday, 7 June 2018

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 3.00 p.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 EAC BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL
YEAR 2018/2019**

[Mr. Abdikadir Omar Aden on Wednesday, 6.6.2018]

[Resumption of Debate interrupted on Thursday 7.6.2018 at at 2.15 p.m.]

The Speaker: Welcome back honourable Members. I think we should dedicate just a little more time for debate. We have to conclude and move to another stage. We are also making arrangements to serve *futari* to our colleagues who are fasting. Please, when the time comes do not go away. Just walk out and be served with *futari* and come back so that we continue together to the end.

Thank you.

Honourable Susan. Are you not ready? Honourable Josephine, are you ready? Okay, honourable Happiness will follow. Let us try to be brief so that we can move to the next stage.

Ms Susan Nakawuki Nsambu (Uganda): Thank you very much, honourable Speaker. First, I would like to inform you that hon. Sophie has donated her time to me.

The Speaker: Is she sure, she had the time? – *(Laughter)*

Honourable Speaker, I beg for your indulgence. Allow me to first thank the Chair, Council of Ministers, for presenting the Budget Speech to this Assembly. Despite the fact that he is on Ramadhan, he did the job very well. Also, allow me to add my voice and thank the Committee on General Purpose for burning the midnight candle and coming up with such a good Report.

Further to that, I would like to appreciate the entire Council of Ministers and the management, under the Secretariat, for the financial reforms that have been done on expenditure, especially when it comes to travel abroad. I know this is a concern, as expressed in the Report of the Committee on page 17. However, I will ably say that this Vote at least has substantially gone down.

Hon. Speaker, I rise to support the Report of the Committee on General Purpose with reservations. I will seek the indulgence of the Chair on a few proposals I intend to make on this matter.

To begin with, looking at the entire Budget Speech, there are two institutions of the Community that are not included. These are the Civil Aviation Safety and Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA) and the East African Development Bank (EADB). I know very well that the budget of the CASSOA comes from the Partner States civil aviation authorities but this does not mean that these institutions of the Community cannot be part of the Budget.

For example, among the things we expected from the Budget Speech was the Council, at least, to inform us on the key achievements of those institutions during the year under review. We are also supposed to be informed of at least the priorities they have for the financial year that we are considering. All that is not included in the Budget Speech.

Apparently, if you look at Article 9 (3) of the Treaty, you find that the East African Development Bank is still an institution of the Community since it was reverted to the Community. We are also very well aware that the CASSOA remains an institution of the Community – on which we need an update – I am wondering when the Council will inform this House, because this is a budgeting process. At what point will the Council inform the House of what we were able to achieve in those two institutions and what their priorities are for the next financial year? I know the Council has always done this. I do not know why this time around they have decided to forego it.

Honourable Speaker, I am equally concerned like my colleagues, about the reduced Budget for this financial year. Looking at the Committee's Report, they made the job very easy when they came up with figures. On page six of the Report, the Committee has informed us that the Budget for the 2018/2019 Financial Year has reduced from US\$110,130,183 in the 2017/2018 Financial Year to US\$99,770,716, making a difference of US\$10,359,183.

Honourable Speaker, I will equate this to buying oversize shoes for a child. Even if you buy oversize shoes that does not mean that the child will wear them until they are of adult age. At one point, they will still outgrow them. We are now at a phase when the Community is growing.

The institutions are increasing. The projects are increasing. However, instead of the Budget growing, it is reducing. One thing I understand is that the Council's directive has always been a zero increment. However, this time around, it is not even a zero increment; it is a decrease – a substantive decrease of almost to the tune of 10 per cent.

When you look at the 2015/2016 Financial Year, the Budget was US\$110,660,698. In the following Financial Year, 2016/2017, the Budget was US\$101,374,589. Therefore, even in that financial year, there was a decrease and then we increased it. However, this time around, the Council has deliberately decided that we do not even need a zero increment but a negative increment yet at the same time, there is one key component that has been increasing – the Supplementary Budget. The Supplementary Budget has grown substantively. For instance, in the 2015/2016 Financial Year, the Supplementary Budget was US\$1,569,941, while the Supplementary Budget of the 2017/2018 Financial Year is US\$4.9 million – almost US\$5 million.

Honourable Speaker, allow me to note that with the delayed remittances, I am sure that we cannot even look at the US\$99 million. Maybe, we should look at US\$60 million because, with what we are seeing now, we cannot be sure that we will have the entire Budget by the end of the next financial year; and this poses a challenge.

I am equally concerned, looking at the Report of the Committee on page seven. Even the Budget of the Assembly reduced by US\$11,111,107 yet the Assembly has grown; it is not reducing. I am wondering which activities we will not conduct. I was surprised as I was looking through the Report of the Committee to see that sensitisation was removed. I could not understand because this was a directive by the then Chair of the Summit, President Yoweri Museveni, that EALA was best positioned to sensitise East Africans. It was said before the entire Council of Ministers. Today, we come here and the money has been removed by Finance and Administration, which acts for the Council of Ministers.

Honourable Speaker, the issue of sensitisation should not be taken lightly. I remember two years ago, when we came to have here for *Bunge*, we met some Members of the Kenyan Parliament. The challenge in Kenya has always been that the Members of EALA are elected before Members of the national parliament. Therefore, when we met the Members, we told them that we were Members of EALA and they asked us, “EALA *ni nini?*” In short, they were asking, “What is EALA?” I am now talking about Members of Parliament. How about the *wananchi* at the grassroots level? When will we reach them? Do the Ministries responsible for EAC reach the grassroots? They do not. That is why this Vote is very critical.

On page 30, I saw that the Nanyuki series has been removed by the Council. All I could say was, “Shame on the Council”, because this is the only opportunity we have as an Assembly to interact with all the Members of Parliament from the national parliaments. The Council could not see how important this Item is.

Honourable Speaker, when I looked at the budget of the EACJ, which has grown with extra judges from the Republic of South Sudan, I noted that their budget has gone down by US\$157,000. I find the Council a bit unserious on this one.

We have new institutions on board. I expected that the Budget would grow to cater for the needs of these institutions, but the budget is not there. In fact, I am waiting to see what the Council will tell us when they bring the Statistics Bureau because they have already cut the

Budget. We are handling the Monetary Union. We know that there is already a Bill in the pipeline on the Statistics Bureau. Where are we going to fit this in the Budget? Maybe, you are sure that you are not going to bring it, because you are not going to take the heat when there is no financing available.

I expected a vote on the conclusion of the Institutional Review, which has stayed on for more than 10 years. However, I looked under the entire docket on Human Resource and Administration, in the summarised MTF and there was nothing to that regard. I want to know why the Council is silent on that matter.

Honourable Speaker, hon. Kennedy Mukulya talked about the reasons why they had to reallocate some of the finances in departments where there is no staff. Council, I do not know if you have had time to look at the staffing needs of the Community. We have a one-man department in the EAC, and they always come up with a budget. They want to do activities. This is the sole reason why the Budget performance becomes poor even with the meagre resources we have. I am requesting the Council to look into it with a keen eye.

Looking at the priority areas that have been referred to in the Budget Report, one of the key priorities is strengthening peace and security. I remember the Budget Speech of the 2015/2016 Financial Year. One of the achievements that the Council told the Assembly was that there were successful deliberations and consultations on the establishment of the EAC Peace and Security Council. We were told, in July, a meeting of Permanent Secretaries was going to take place; and that in that meeting the Council was going to be established, only for us to learn today from the Chair of the Council that the Peace and Security Council has not yet been established; and that the current joint meeting of the Sectoral Council on Interstate Security, Foreign Policy Coordination and Defence has tasked the Secretariat to work on the matter. It is work in progress. However, looking at the Budget, there are no funds for that purpose. How is the Secretariat going to work on this matter and come up with the Council when there is no budget pegged to this exercise?

As I wind up on that issue, I want to draw the attention of the Council to a case that has just been concluded in the EACJ – Appeal No.2 of 2017 in the case of Hon. Dr. Margaret Nantongo Ziwa verses the Secretary General. In this particular case, the Court made a ruling and awarded the costs of the suit to Dr. Margaret Nantongo Ziwa, including special damages. In total, when you look at all the damages involved, even those originating from the preliminary objections, which were raised earlier, they are in the tune of close to US\$500,000. In the ruling of the Court, under paragraph 103, there is interest that is going to be paid on that amount at the rate of 6 per cent per annum from the date the reference was filed in the trial court until the money is paid in full.

This money started accumulating an interest of 6 per cent from 24th February 2015 to date. However, this money is not in the Budget. The judgement was extracted. I know it was served to the Office of the Secretary General and the Office of the Clerk. I want to know from the Council how we are going to handle this obligation. This is a court ruling and there is no shortcut about it.

Honourable Speaker, my next issue is on a proposal by the Committee on General Purpose to review the Budget Act.

The Speaker: Try to wind up.

Ms Nakawuki: Honourable Speaker, I want to appreciate the Committee because the Chair himself has been very passionate about the idea of reviewing the Budget Act. When you look at the provisions under the Budget Act, for example, Section 4(1); it is categorical that the Council shall – this is mandatory – not later than 30th April of each financial year, submit and lay before the Assembly the Budget of the Community for the next financial year. However, when you look at Regulation 18 (3) of the Financial Rules and Regulations, the Secretary General is supposed to submit to the Council by 30th April, the Budget of the Community. Regulation 18 (4) is to the effect that the Council will submit to the Assembly on 31 May.

Hon. Speaker, when you go ahead and look at Section 4(3) of the Budget Act, it is the Committee on General Purpose that is supposed to consider, discuss and review the Budget, and submit it to the Assembly not later than 30th May in each financial year. Now, all the previous Assemblies have been making recommendations when it comes to amendment of the Budget Act. If this were to do with autonomy, the CTC would have been very quick to say this is inconsistent with a certain law. However, since this involves the Council, then, they do not know about it. We are now wondering whether we are following the Budget Act or the Financial Rules and Regulations. I know that the Council is mandated, under Article 135 of the Treaty, to come up with financial rules and regulations but, thank God, you are not the legislative organ of the Community; otherwise, we would be in much more trouble. I wonder how you came up with these dates without giving regard to the Budget Act. Therefore, I am requesting the Council, to urgently consider this very important issue and make sure that we have a substantive legislation guiding our budgeting process.

Hon. Speaker, as I wind up on that issue, allow me to also take note - (*Interruption*)

The Speaker: You actually have to wind up generally, not on that particular issue only.

Ms Nakawuki: Hon. Speaker, I borrowed the time of hon. Sophie.

The Speaker: I had not appointed her to speak. Therefore, she had no time to give you.

Ms Nakawuki: There is a recommendation of the Committee on page 16 that I would want to read verbatim on that particular matter of the Budget Act:

“The Committee further recommends to the Assembly to urge a member to introduce within a year a comprehensive Public Finance Management Act.”

I know that here, the Assembly recommends to the Council, and not to a particular member. However, the particular member has rights, which are already provided for under Article 59 of the Treaty and Rule 54 of our Rules of Procedure, whereby in the event the Council does not act, a private member can bring a private member’s Bill. I would request the Committee to consider that recommendation and recommend to the Council.

Rt. hon. Speaker, allow me to also comment briefly on the Budget of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), basing on the Report of the Committee on pages 30 and 31. The Committee proposed some reallocations but allow me to, first of all, say that this is an institution which is mostly donor funded. I know that has always suffered the ‘slashing’. I understand that Finance and Administration has already reduced the budget of resource allocation of LVBC to US\$20,000. However, if you look at the Budget critically, their budget

of over US\$10 million is going to be donor funded. Therefore, I would like to request the Committee that at least the money that they are removing from LVBC – at least on the Vote of cameras as you propose – we reallocate it on resource mobilisation for LVBC so that they can be able to raise the US\$10 million to cater for their budget.

In addition, there is rationalisation on recruitment of staff, which is US\$12,400 for reasons that the ad hoc Service Commission is the one to do the recruitment. However, I would like to inform the House that although it is the ad hoc Service Commission that is supposed to recruit the staff, there are related costs when it comes to recruitment that have to be borne by the institution that is requesting to recruit. For example, they are the ones who are supposed to do the advertising. They are also supposed to facilitate the ad hoc Service Commission when they are doing the shortlisting and conducting interviews, among others. Therefore, I would like to request the Committee to reconsider that aspect.

Rt. hon. Speaker, my second-last issue is on the IT Department. In the Report to the Committee, still on pages 22 and 23, there is a proposal by the Committee, which I want to read verbatim:

“The Committee, therefore, proposes for reallocation of a block figure of US\$384,887 to more urgent priorities from the total of over US\$984,887 under that particular activity Vote.”

The justification for the reallocation, as we are told from the Committee Report, is because the Budget performance as of 1st March was 38 per cent. I want to inform this House that the Department of IT was not able to interact with the Committee to show cause why their Budget should not be reduced, the reason being that in the previous Budget, Finance and Administration removed the budget for attending to Committee on General Purpose the reason being that the Budget activity was going to be in Arusha. When the activity took place in Nairobi, they did not have a Vote to use to travel to Nairobi.

The person who was there to defend the Budget is the DSGF&A, who is also new to the Community and probably did not have access to information as to why they needed this money. As we speak, their Budget performance is at 85 per cent, the reason being that this is a service-contract kind of department. They only pay after the service provider has offered a service, the invoice brought and scrutinised. The invoices come in quarterly. When the invoices came in, they paid the money that was available at the time and their budget performance went up.

Therefore, I request that we help the Department of IT, because they will not be able to execute their mandate. Looking at this deduction, when you do your maths, you will realise that this is a 40 per cent deduction. It is only less by US\$9,000 to make it 40 per cent. The Department will not be able to function if all this money is removed. I know very well that the money was put under the EACJ. The EACJ needs the money, but the Council should look for another Vote from which to remove this money, so that we give it to the Court.

If we take away all this money from the Department of ICT, we shall not have internet services. The Customs Information System will go off. We are going to have the conferencing facility go off. The Secretariat came up with a measure. The measure was, let us reduce the travel Vote so that meetings can be conducted through video conference. Members have been asking, “Why do we pay for the Partner States?” It is we who need to use the video conference. Therefore, we have to pay for the bandwidth. We have to pay for everything. The Partner States do not need it. Probably, for them, they have the money to travel and conduct their meetings, but EALA does not have this money.

The Speaker: Just conclude your matter.

Ms Nakawuki: Hon. Speaker, when you rush me so much, I forget.

The Speaker: I am not rushing you so much. You are the ones who are going to be here until midnight. Some of these points have been discussed. Therefore, we do not have to spend much more time on them. The point is made, and it is understood.

Ms Nakawuki: Hon. Speaker, I was trying to say that the money which has been saved by introducing video conferencing is actually to the tune of US\$6.5 million. We have conducted video conference meetings, which are in the number of 349. I request that we look for anywhere else we can pick the money to reallocate but let us spare the budget of the ICT Department. Otherwise, they will not be able to function.

My last point is on the documents that have been used by the Committee when they were considering this Report. Page 12 of the Committee Report gives the documents that the Committee relied upon in the execution of its mandate. Looking at Regulation 17(9) of the Financial Rules and Regulations, there are critical documents that are supposed to be availed to both the Assembly and the Committee. These documents include the Annual Work Plan, the Calendar of Activities, the Medium-Term, Budget Performance Report, the Recruitment Plan and the Procurement Plan, among others.

As honourable Akol raised, these are key documents. The documents were served but as an Assembly, we did not have all of them. I do not know if the Committee had all of them and they just omitted them, but we did not have them as an Assembly. Therefore, I would like to request the Council that next time; we need all these documents so that we are able to tell whether the Budget reflects what is in these documents.

Finally, before I sit down, looking at the Committee Report, when it comes to sources of revenue for the Budget of the 2018/2019 Financial Year, there is something they call “Miscellaneous Revenue”, which is US\$265,000. I would like to know from the Council the exact source of these funds. Is it from the Reserve Fund? Is it from the activities undertaken by the Community – those ones envisaged under Article 133? We are confused. I am seeing a fund that I do not understand. I need a clarification.

With those reservations, I beg the Committee to accept those few recommendations so that we are able to move on this financial year.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable Happiness.

Ms Happiness Elias Lugiko: Thank you, honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on this Budget Report.

I would like to talk about economic empowerment of women, which is on page 37. When we empower women, especially in the economic side, we have to create a conducive environment for them to become very successful financially. We should encourage women entrepreneurs who want to be big business owners and investors to dream big, think big, achieve big and

boost their self-esteem to make them feel that they have what it takes to become what they want to become.

Governments, NGOs and financial institutions must provide assistance to women entrepreneurs in financial and non-financial areas. This includes creating a good platform that can enable women who want to become big business owners and investors to get mentors and coaches who will help them to achieve their dreams. Women entrepreneurs must also be given practical training on how to run big businesses and build strong business systems, which can work even in their absence. In fact, women have a dual responsibility – to their families and businesses. Finding time to balance between the two is not an easy task for anyone.

Women empowerment comes with some challenges. Women face challenges in terms of balancing between business and family life. Therefore, they need to be supported by their family members. They need to be supported by their husbands. The challenge we face is that while we empower women, we forget to build and educate men psychologically to embrace the changes that occur in their wives. As a result, when they find that their wives are becoming successful in their activities- (*Interruption*)

The Speaker: Some men are very well educated on that subject, especially men in this House. – (*Laughter*)

Ms Lugiko: Honourable Speaker, some men are not psychologically prepared to embrace the changes that happen to their wives. When they find that their wives are becoming successful in business and other economic activities, especially if they find that their wives are making more money than they are, they suffer from inferiority complex. As a result, they start fighting their wives in order to bring them down, consequently leading to divorce.

I have also learnt that although we are empowering women, some women are not psychologically prepared to handle success. Once they become successful, they become arrogant to their husbands. As a result, this leads to divorce. Trust me; the people who suffer much because of divorce are children. That is why the number of street children is increasing every day.

Honourable Speaker, let us not forget our African culture. Women have to be submissive to their husbands, regardless of their financial status and their leadership positions. – (*Loud consultations*)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, order! What the honourable Member meant is that they have to be respectful. So, do not misunderstand her. That is either way.

Ms Lugiko: You know, being respectful to your husband is not a sign of weakness but rather a sign of strength. Strong women who are financially stable are submissive to their husbands.

Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda): On a point of procedure. Is it in order for the honourable Member, who is a very serious woman leader in East Africa, to tell women in this era to be submissive? We are supposed to empower women, and not to ask them to be submissive.

The Speaker: Honourable Mary, the Speaker has more ears. I clarified that the Member wanted to inform the House that, among the married couple, there must be mutual respect. She did not mean ‘submission.’ Maybe, this is why we need to move faster to amend the Treaty in the part that concerns language.

An honourable Member: On a point of order, honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Could we allow honourable Happiness to conclude her contribution? Please, proceed.

Ms Lugiko: Honourable Speaker let us find a way of balancing these things – to empower women and at the same time to educate men and women to be psychologically prepared to embrace change. This will help us to have good families, which will bring up good children who will become good citizens in their respective countries.

Honourable Speaker, when we speak about women empowerment, most people think about women in villages and other groups but even in this House, we have women. We need to be empowered. Yes, we are here but I believe we have not yet reached our highest potential. When we are adequately empowered, we will reach our highest potentials and accomplish big things that the world has never experienced. We need to be empowered through training, seminars and knowledge-based resources (*Interruption*) (*Loud consultations*)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, please, could we maintain order? She is contributing on a subject that Honourable Wanjiku contributed on, and I did not see this kind of reaction. Why now?

Ms Lugiko: Lastly, I would like to commend the United Republic of Tanzania for her contribution of 100 per cent. I urge other Partner States to finalise their contributions. With those remarks, I beg to support the Report.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Happiness. Let us hear honourable Chris Opoka then honourable Odongo. Honourable Members, I have tried my best to make sure that everyone contributes. However, it appears to me that practically it will not be possible. Therefore, when I make a decision that we close and move to another stage, I beg to be understood.

Mr Christopher Opoka-Okumu (Uganda): Thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me an opportunity to contribute. On the outset, let me say that I am a Member of the Committee for General Purpose. I would like, first, to thank the Chair to the Council for presenting the Budget. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for preparing the Budget, and the Committee for General Purpose for considering the Budget and making very important recommendations. Honourable Speaker, Article 132(2) of the Treaty is very clear. It says:

“Subject to the Treaty, a budget for the Community for each financial year shall be prepared by the Secretary General for consideration by the Council and approval by the Assembly.”

The words “prepare, consider, approve” are very important. He who has the power to approve also has the power to disapprove. I am very grateful to the Secretary General for preparing this Budget and for the Council presenting it when our Partner States are facing very limited financial envelopes. We are aware about this situation. We, Members of the Assembly, come from these Partner States. We know the conditions in our Partner States. We are aware of the limited financial resources. We are sure that the Council of Ministers would not have reduced the Budget when they are expanding the activities and institutions of the Community.

In fact, the Chair to the Council, while presenting the Budget, on page 9, talked about very important institutions whose creation are in the works. They include the East African Monetary

Union, which is very important. We have the East African Monetary Institute, the East African Statistics Bureau, the East African Surveillance, Compliance and Enforcement Commission; and the East African Financial Services Commission, among others. These very important institutions will give rise to the common currency. Our citizens will know that the Community exist when they see a different note – when they handle different monies on which we read “East African Currency Board” or whatever it will be called. That is when our citizens will know that there is an East African Community.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about the process of this Budget. For the first time, I have seen that the Council of Ministers, the Secretariat and the Assembly, represented by the Committee on General Purpose, working as a team. I commend this spirit. There was a tendency, during the discussion with the Committee on General Purpose, from members of the Secretariat thinking: “Let them cut, but the Council of Ministers will stop them.” That was a presentation of the old self of the Community where it was “they” and “we”. We need to work out a new political culture of working together as a team.

I highly commend the Chair of the Council, Al Haji Ali Kirunda Kivejinja; who, during the meeting with the Committee on General Purpose, when some members of the Secretariat tried to influence him in one way or the other, he said, “No, let me listen to them.” That is very important. When we listen to each other, we work better. I know that this process did not work very well for no blame of any particular person. The Chair to the Council, on page 64, talks about the pre-Budget conference that informs the Budget. On page 70, he talks about the pre-Budget conference that informs the Budget and the priorities. However, you will remember that the Assembly never attended the pre-Budget conference in August, because the Assembly had not been constituted then.

As the saying goes, two heads are better than one. When the Assembly, the Secretariat and the Council of Ministers met together, they came out with what is contained in the Report of the Committee on General Purpose of the Assembly. I urge honourable Members to strongly support the Report of the Committee on General Purpose, except one place where there is a typographical error where the Committee recommended an increase for nine days for the Accounts Committee and the Committee on General Purpose to consider the Budget and review the Audit Commission’s Report. I think they meant “nine days each.” Therefore, that is what was meant but the typo left that one out.

Honourable Speaker, I would not like to take a lot of time. With those few remarks, I would like to support the Budget and commend the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat for the process that has produced this Report.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. I know there are some Members who want the air conditioners off and others who want them on, but the best situation is to have them on. It will be catastrophic if they are off.

I had already appointed Honourable Stephen George Odongo.

Mr. Stephen George Odongo (Uganda): Honourable Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on these Budget proposals. First, I would like to thank the Committee, which has done an exceedingly good job in terms of the analysis of this Budget. I would also like to thank the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat for a very good job. I would also like

to congratulate the Council of Ministers for their courage. They have to keep on presenting this Budget and to keep on supporting it on the Floor of the House expecting that the results will change even when history says, at least from the books we have been going through during our Budget analysis process, that the performance has been extremely terrible, to say the least. Therefore, it really takes courage. I can understand the difficulty with which some of the members of this Council of ours go through, struggling with their own consciences to present some of these Budget proposals before this House. If it were I, I would have chosen not to. I would tell you where I am coming from. Please forgive me.

In one of Shakespeare's acts, there is a man called "Brutus". He had a good friend called "Caesar". However, one day, Caesar was brought before him, and he knew that Caesar has to be hanged. The committee asked, "Why do you have to hang Caesar? He is your very good friend." Do you know what he told them? He says, "I love Caesar, but I love Rome more." I am going to make my submission, and it is not because I love the Secretariat or I love this Budget less. It is because I love East Africa more.

A budget is the most powerful policy tool. It speaks to our ambitions as a Community. It tells us what our priorities are. It tells us what our commitments are. Indeed, if you gave me your budget, I would tell you who you are. If you gave me your budget, I would tell what your ambitions are. I have looked at this Budget. I listened very carefully and noted the difficulty with which the Chair of the Council made that presentation. I could tell that he was struggling between ambition and commitment.

You can see that we are a very ambitious Community, but our commitment is constrained. That is why when we talk about this Budget we need to look at efficiency. How are we managing the little resources that we have? This Budget is a true reflection of what this Committee went through. Our Budget proposals are true reflection of the sentiments that this Committee went through when we were considering the Audit Report. Allow me to be honest. While the Secretariat and the Front Bench sit here and give the impression that all is well, I will tell you that their troops are in disarray. During the Budget analysis process, some of the information that these people are privileged to have and try to use it behind the scenes sent some of us who are part of that Committee, into shock.

Therefore, while this Committee is posturing before us, and struggling to defend part of this Budget, behind the scenes, not all is well at home. That is why this Budget looks the way it is. When we came up with these Budget proposals, it is because we have considered some of the areas that this Committee must be seen to be financing.

It makes no difference at all when you continue to give Budgets in year one, year two and year three and at the end of every single year the Audit Report tells you the same thing, and then you think that you are going to make a difference. By the way, it is not about the money. There comes a time when somebody must stand up and say, "Enough is enough." Budgeting is the time when you say, "enough is enough, let us try to redirect our priorities."

By the way, we are doing this to help you, members of the Council, who are seated here. I know many of you have a very strong commitment to the fight against corruption. Many of you have your conscience intact. You are struggling because you have to account for your actions. You must project the bigger picture but let me tell you; it will mean nothing if things do not change in this Community. Accept that there comes a time when we have to embrace change. Change comes with many difficulties, and I know many of you are struggling with the

idea that this particular Assembly is beginning to assert its authority; that this Assembly is beginning to discharge its responsibility.

I will give you an example, and this is privileged information. During our Budget analysis period, there are very senior people of this very Council – the people whose Budget we are defending right now – who would come up and say, “do you know how many accounts are in Dar es Salaam? Do you know who is taking care of those accounts? However, we are here, busy. This is not a place for us to keep joking around. The members of this Community contribute money. The US\$8 million that comes from our Partner States is not little money. It is very little for the greed of this Community. It is not little for the needs of this Community, if we manage it well. Our presidents are showing the direction to go. You are not going to joke around with these kinds of budgets in the Republic of Tanzania. You know very well the saying that “If you are corrupt, please, drink poison before I arrive.” Is that the statement we heard from a member of the Summit? In this country, Accounting Officers have been sent on forced leave until they are vetted.

If we were to use the same principle, some of the members who are in this House would not be here. We would still be vetting them, but we are so kind because we want to live positively with even bad actions and we try to justify them. We use our positions to be on these microphones, and we are going to talk about them. I am very glad that in this process, we have been together with members of the Council. This Budget will test the trust. There are some unwritten principles that have guided us to reach here.

I am not privileged to talk about those principles but I am telling you that the way we are going to pass this Budget is going to test our relationship and our joint resolve to fight corruption in this Community. I am just pleading with you, Members. We have to be extremely cautious. Either we are going down together or we are going to rise up together. Nobody here has the exclusive rights to go beyond this Assembly. All of us have the opportunity to do that. If I leaked a very small percentage of the Audit Commission Report to my Parliament; if I leaked a small percentage of that Audit Report to the Parliament of Tanzania; if I leaked to the Parliament of Rwanda, South Sudan and Kenya, we would be struggling in the next financial year because they are the ones who appropriate our Budgets.

Therefore, when this Committee says, “Let us do reallocations”, let me be honest with you; you have seen all these reallocations. Forget the semantics. It was simply to reassert the power of this Assembly because we have done a good job. Even the Chair of Council appreciates the idea that we are doing a good job. If only in the last six months we continued like this, this Community would come back on track. We are working together with the Council and with the Secretariat to bring this back on track.

We had been sitting for 21 days, why would it be that the recommendation is for us to go back to 12 days. There is a precedence. We have been sitting for 21 days. It is not as if we are proposing something that is out of our means. We have been sitting for 21 days. This is the only thing we are maintaining in our proposal. There is nothing strange we are introducing. It feeds to the narrative that budgeting is a tool that is being used to undermine the sanctity of this Assembly, making us EALA *walalahoi*. Then you are vulnerable.

We are watching you carefully. If you want to sell your souls, East Africans are watching you. We are trying to put things proper. The Secretary General appeared before us. In some instances, he had his hands tied because we are creating small power centres. It is because of

budgets. Budget making is not just about lumping money. It is also, about how that money is being used. We could rationalise it academically here but in practical terms, when the audit report comes, it tells you how that money has been used. Therefore, when we reduce money from one sector and move it to another sector, it is simply because we have gone through the Budget and reflected on the accounts reports and we know where it is going. We are not going to give an extra pound to sharks. Can this Budget test our commitment to be prudent? Can this Budget test our commitment to hold those who are executing – the frontline officers of this Community – accountable? As long as every single year is, a litany of money being misused here, money not being spent there, priorities not being properly done. Two people of the Procurement Committee sit and append their signatures. We are wasting our time. It does not matter how much money we are going to receive as a Community. The budget proposals that we bring here speak to the future of this Community. We can start small. No amount of money is too little. I am very old school, as I look at this Budget. I grew up in a family where very strong family values were being passed on to us. However, little it is, live within your means but do the best with the little that is there and grow it slowly. This Community will grow as long as we make the best use of these resources.

I beg to submit, honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable George. Honourable Musamali has been on his feet.

An hon. Member: *Walalahoi.*

The Speaker: You know, our *Hansard* only understands English. - (*Laughter*)

Ms Francoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Thank you, Honourable Speaker, for allowing me this occasion to talk again in front of this august Assembly. I am going straight to the Report as a Member of the Committee on General Purpose and comment on the Budget Speech of the Council Chair, which I appreciate so much for being very informative.

First, I will go to the oversight role. While analysing the Budget, we realised that our oversight role is limited. We do not have funds to continuously oversight our institutions. There are no funds to engage as stipulated in the Treaty. Article 49, on the Functions of the Assembly, Sub-Article (2) (a) says that the Assembly shall liaise with the national assemblies of the Partner States on matters relating to the Community. This is important for us. You intervened to tell us that the Nanyuki series is one of the shared activities with national parliaments. However, let me add my voice to emphasise on this activity. As EALA, we undertake this activity with the national parliaments because it is kind of complying with the Article on liaising with our national parliaments. Therefore, I emphasise that it should be taken into account during the preparation of the Supplementary Budget for upcoming activities.

Honourable Speaker, having said this, I want to tell the Assembly that I am also a Member of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee. I got an opportunity to participate in this year's summit on agriculture. I can rate the findings of the Summit with what we were told during the Budget Speech about the Directorate of Productive Sectors and Food Security; that the EAC is committed to support implementation of the June, 2014 Africa Heads of States Malabo Declaration on Agricultural Growth and Transformation in Africa. However, it is unfortunate that during the summit, the Report showed the implementation of the Malabo Declaration stating that all Partner States should allocate 10 per cent of their national budgets to the agricultural sector and food security activities.

From the Report we received, as the Committee on General Purpose, there is the aspect captured on page 11, point (IV), which reads:

“(iv) Efforts towards enhancing agricultural productivity and regional industrial development, particularly value addition, are aimed at ensuring food security... by interacting with low scale farmers.”

This point was not put into consideration. We need emphasis on this one. We urge the Council to look at how to increase the budget for this under-funded production and social sector domain. However, in this domain there is always a point raised from the summit; that EALA has kind of task to transfer all the resolutions to the national governments. This is our task. Therefore, we need more funds to make this happen in order for our resolutions to be with our national governments so that you can be good ambassadors as this Community requested you.

A synergy between EAC, EALA and the national parliaments is needed to be focussed on the agricultural sector. Also, the population of East Africa, being quite young, we can absorb a big number of youth in this domain. The youth should also be much involved in the agriculture domain. The same applies to women, as highlighted by our colleague, Honourable Happiness. However, we should discuss gender matters because being gender sensitive does not necessarily mean what was mentioned. However, we will discuss gender issues at a kind of workshop for women. It will come.

In conclusion, how can we fight against hunger if we lose our crops by the use of fertilizers and GMOs? We should also focus on climate change. Honourable Dr. Oda mentioned the issue of climate change, and we are invited to have a kind of training the whole day on Saturday on climate change. We should invite all Members to attend so that we can fight together against the climate change impact throughout the EAC or the world. I end by saying we are all together. However, are we together? This is a question to all of us. Everyone should ask herself this question: Are we together by being together right now?

Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Musamali, maybe you need to do one more touch.

Mr Paul Musamali Mwasa (Uganda): Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Most of the points have been made but I will try to be brief on two or three observations. Let me add my voice to my colleagues’ to thank the Chair to the Council for the Budget Speech as well as the Chair and the Committee of General Purpose for their good Report.

I have two observations on the Budget Speech. The first one is about free movement of people in East Africa, which is articulated on page 34 of the Budget Speech. As you may be aware, we still have a problem of free movement of people and labour. When people from some Partner States enter certain countries, which I do not want to mention, they are required to pay visa fees. We are still paying for work permits. Where payment is not a requirement, it is still a big problem to get work permits. If I may read verbatim, the Chair to the Council says: “The process of harmonisation of classification of entry work or residence fee, finalisation of the application for special pass form and inclusion of health data in the existing entry arrival immigration card is still work in progress.”

Now, when we talk of ‘work in progress, when will it come into finality? Our people are hungry to work and produce but these non-tariff barriers (NTBs) are hindering them. We are supposed to do away with these barriers. Therefore, the Chair to the Council should shed more light on this particular matter.

The second one is on page 22 of the Budget Speech. It is about harmonisation of age limits. It is item 50(i), harmonisation of age limit for importation of used vehicles into the region to eight years. I support this recommendation. It is true that when we import junk vehicles that have worked for long elsewhere, they become a problem to our environment and even to our safety. However, we do not manufacture vehicles in East Africa. Much as there are intentions to have vehicles assembled within the region, we have not put in place proper infrastructure to provide for the same. Therefore, this will affect our people and those who deal in importation of vehicles as well as the users. Therefore, we need to have a proper infrastructure in place such that when we implement this directive, we are able to march along.

I have two other observations in as far as the Budget Report is concerned. If each of the East African Community member states were to contribute 100 per cent to the Budget, it would amount to 57 per cent of the total Budget. That means we are going to rely on people I do not want to mention here to finance 43 per cent of the Community’s Budget. There is the diplomatic term “development partners”. Fine, whether they are donors or development partners, it is okay. However, for how long are we going to depend on them? Council Chair, yesterday you alluded to this matter. You said that a team has been put in place to study a sustainable funding mechanism. I want you to assure this House, as we appropriate the Budget today; that the team is committed to coming up with a sustainable funding mechanism for the Community. You have told us about a period of two years as if we are going to study a course at the university. It is a long period. As I mentioned yesterday, the AU adopted the idea of percentage of Import Duty. It adopted it from the EAC, and they are already implementing it. Now, two years for what?

I want to support the proposal to facilitate EALA with more days to do our work. I want to assure this House that if we are back at home, assuming that we are in a house, EALA or parliaments the world over are supposed to work as dogs. We are not going to be bucking dogs. We shall also bite.

The Speaker: I am sure you are not referring to these honourable members. That analogy does not apply here.

Mr Musamali: I said we are supposed to work like dogs. We are not going to be dogs, kindly.

The Speaker: No, Honourable Musamali, we cannot.

Mr Musamali: Okay, if it offends, I am going to withdraw but let me use a proper word. Let me quote President John Pombe Magufuli. He is quoted to have said, “It is better to take poison than public money.” Now, let me rephrase this statement. For us, as EALA, we are going to bite. We are not going to wait for those who are going to eat public money to voluntarily take “poison”. We are going to take “poison” to them. So, kindly, let us work together and take “poison” to those who will have eaten public money. Let us support more funding for EALA activities so that we are able to do more work. Remember that even the institutes that we have in the countries, wherever we are, the Committee on Peace and Conflict Resolution of this House has never been anywhere to participate in contribution to peace process in our

Community despite the fact that, that is its work. If we do not have money, how are we going to move?

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable Musamali. Let us take honourable Kalonzo, Honourable Josephine and Honourable Kasamba, in that order.

Mr Kennedy Musyoka Kalonzo (Kenya): Thank you, honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity. So much has already been said on the various issues. Therefore, I will be very brief.

I want to thank the Committee on General Purpose for the wonderful work they have done. However, I have one or two points to make. First, I want to urge the Council of Ministers to look at the issue of funding. Many of the bodies that came before us said, “We have a budget. We have only used 38 per cent – or 20 per cent – because we got the money a month to the end of the Budget period. So, we could not utilize it.” Some of the institutions did not even have the capacity to utilize the money anyway, especially where we have one member of staff, as one of my colleagues mentioned, who is supposed to utilize US\$1 million.

Secondly, I want to thank honourable Opoka for the clarification. I understand that the extra days for the two committees also will include talking to stakeholders, research and public participation. I was on television earlier today, and I was asked, “When you are not here or when you are sitting, we do not see you. What are you doing? Do you have a lot of free time?”, and I had to clarify that, that is not the case. Therefore, it is important to include public participation.

The final one, which is crucial to all of us, and which has been echoed by many of the members who have spoken, is to urge the Council and the Secretariat to take action against officers who have misappropriated the funds of the Community. I believe, as a House, we are not going to be party to explaining to our constituents – the great people of East Africa – that the little money that comes from their taxes is lost in such a haphazard manner whereas our Heads of States have shown the way. They are committed to the fight against graft. As we speak, some people are in custody. Therefore, I want to urge the Council and the Secretariat to deal with those individuals appropriately. Let them face the full force of the law.

Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much for being brief. I am sure hon. Josephine has seen the way you did it.

Ms. Josephine Sebastian Lemoyan: I have seen what?

The Speaker: The way honourable Kalonzo was brief.

Ms Josephine Sebastian Lemoyan: Yes, I am, indeed, going to be very brief, honourable Speaker, Sir. Thank you very much for this opportunity. Let me also join colleagues to offer this congratulatory note to the Committee and to the Council’s Chair for both the Report and the Budget Speech.

I would like to start from where my colleague, Happiness, ended. I would like to mention that we were reading the Speech together. Specifically, we were delighted to see that it was included very clearly in the Speech of the Chair Council that although the Gender Equality and Equity

Development Bill has not yet been assented to, we are very anxious to see it assented to. At the same time, we are happy to see that the monitoring framework is being prepared. This is because we understand that the engine behind development is women. This is what my colleague and I have been discussing in the past. This brings me back to the summit that my colleague has been speaking about, when we were attending the budget Summit of farmers in this very room. Many of them being women have been insisting on people's participation in the Budget processes.

The Fourth EALA is committed. Time and again, we have been saying that we are very different because we are insisting and we are confirming that people's participation or people's centeredness is key in the Fourth EALA. That being the case, the Budget process, as I understand it, should start to look into ways where more participation of stakeholders is enhanced. In that regard, who are the people who are going to engage with the communities more than the politicians who are in this House – Members of EALA? This means we need more time and more money in order to ensure that we engage with the communities and make very much the process of budget making, monitoring and evaluation being people-centred.

Coming to monitoring and evaluation and coming to what Honourable Makame has been talking about improvement of the way we write our Budget Speech, I was wondering very much whether it was not possible to have key performance indicators included as part of our Budget document. It is easier to do monitoring and evaluation if we have the key performance indicators which are gender sensitive, so that after each year we are able to do the monitoring and evaluate ourselves to ascertain where we are as compare to the previous year's benchmark that we will have allocated ourselves.

Last but not least, I am also happy to say that I support this Report. I am happy that we see the involvement of the different institutions within the EAC working together. This spirit of teamwork should be continued because together, we are going to win.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Honourable Kasamba.

Mr Mathias Kasamba (Uganda): Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I want to congratulate the Chair of the Council and the entire leadership of the Secretariat. I want to thank the Honourable Speaker, the Parliament of East Africa, through the Chairperson of the Committee of General Purpose for the very good Report. I want to thank the Chair of the Council for the very good Budget Speech that he presented, which I think showed a positive trend of commitment by the Council. The theme of the Budget Speech is "Enhancing Prosperity and Welfare of EAC Citizens." This is a very important theme, which all of us should hold. Us being some of the super citizens of this Community, we are at the centre stage of ensuring that prosperity and welfare of the 170 million citizens of East Africa is enhanced.

Honourable Speaker, the integration has four pillars, as mentioned by all our colleagues. However, on page eight, the most important tool that has been put in place is the common market scorecard. If I can quote verbatim, the Report indicates:

"Partner States are lagging behind in implementing the Protocol due to a number of factors, particularly lengthy procedures for amending national policies, laws and regulations to conform to the Protocol and lack of concrete implementation plans."

These are very critical words on which we should reflect because they combine us. As the Legislature, we should oversee the effectiveness of the harmonisation of the policies and the protocols and make sure that the laws are in place. I would like to request the Council; I have not seen any proposed laws. When you project, during the Budget Speech, we should be put on notice, as a sister organ of EAC: “That, this year we expect these laws to be enacted to make sure that we move towards realisation of this harmonisation.”

Therefore, I appeal to the Council that in order for EALA to be in business, the first call should be for the Council to generate business for it. We do not want to fall into the practice where our predecessor parliaments brought many private members Bills, which eventually found many difficulties in being assented to. This is a very critical tool. As Parliament, we want to work together with the Legislature and the Executive, who are the Secretariat and the Council, to make sure that we project business that will enhance the welfare and prosperity of the Community. This should be projected within the year. I would like to request, if possible, that in the next two months, the Council should come up with the business they have. They started well in January by submitting the Monetary Institutional Bill, and the Statistical Bill, which we are fast tracking to make sure that it, is not the EALA systems, which are delaying the process of integration as far as the Monetary Union is concerned. I want us to be committed to make sure that we fast track the spirit of togetherness. I think we have begun on a very good note, where the Council, the Secretariat and the Committees of EALA are sitting together to project what is best for the people of East Africa.

Honourable Speaker, my colleagues have mentioned quite a number of measures. However, there is one of the new measures we could undertake as EALA whenever we are in any Partner State. We appreciate that when we went to Dodoma, we had a session with the Tanzanian Parliament. Let it be a culture that whenever we are in any Partner State, other than sitting in our chamber, we have a day when we interact with members of the host national parliament. This would create togetherness. This is an issue, which was highlighted by our colleagues during the pre-summit with farmers. We had the chairpersons from Tanzania and Uganda, who said there was still a big communication gap. When we are in Kenya, Rwanda or Tanzania, plan for a day when we can sit and talk about issues of integration. We can have all the information on brochures and members of the host national parliament can raise their concerns. We capture them and make sure that we project on how we can deepen and widen the integration.

In his Budget Speech, the Chair to the Council talked about free movement of labour. That issue is mentioned on page 68. We have not built institutions to facilitate free movement of labour. There are areas where there is some degree of cooperation but we have not facilitated institutions like the professional organisations coming together. I am aware that members of the legal profession are trying to put up a system whereby there is rationalisation for one to undertake legal practice within the region. Is there such an arrangement for accountants, engineers and *jua kali* practitioners? These ordinary people want to move within the region. Young people want to explore opportunities but how are we facilitating them as Council and national Partner States to make sure that we harmonise the processes to ensure that people of East Africa are facilitated to search for investment and labour opportunities and make sure that they are comfortably welcomed within the Partner States?

Lastly, I want to appeal to all of us who are here. The late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere, one of the forefathers of this integration, managed to integrate Tanzania into the United Republic of Tanzania with one language in the 1960s despite the diverse communities found in the country.

Why do we fail in this millennium? It is because of our failure to accommodate each other and give space to each other. We still think we could work as independent entities – as individuals and as states. Time has come for us to work together and open gates.

I always conclude by saying that it is not the non-tariff or the tariff barriers that matter most; it is the mental barriers within us. It is the mental barricades that are still disturbing us: “That, I can be a boss of myself without recourse to whoever is surrounding me.” Time has come for us to open up space, agree and talk to each other as institutions. We should enable every institution to facilitate regional integration. In fact, if we facilitate more free movement of people and freer trading within the region, we will minimise the cost of doing business. I am already preparing information papers. Kenya and East Africa import wheat worth US\$1 billion annually. As a region, we import rice worth US\$500 million. Therefore, we are “donating” money to other entities whereas we are sitting comfortably here, struggling on how we are going to allocate US\$100 million. It is time for us to begin to look at how to institute a mechanism of enhancing our productive systems instead of giving out money to other entities in terms of importation of wheat, rice and other foodstuffs, and clothing. Of course, when Gandhi said it was a taboo for an Indian to put on a second-hand cloth, he realised that dream. In a short while, the people of India never put on second-hand clothing. That is where the revolution of handlooms began, where clusters of families would make clothing. However, we are here seated, busy putting on coats from Asia and Europe and we are saying: “We can talk big.” They are busy fraternising with us, giving us donations to remain in the same quagmire. Time has come for us to have a mind-set change. Let us work together, get out of the comfort zone and begin a protracted struggle to liberate our people by working together and maintaining good relationships. That initiative begins with us in this House. We should make sure that we roll it out. We should mobilise the communities to make sure that the functionality of every project out there is well realised.

I rest my case.

Ms. Pamela Simon Maasay (Uganda): Thank you, honourable Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this Budget Report. I would like to declare that I am a Member of the Committee on General Purpose.

Honourable Speaker, we all received copies of the report from the Chair to the Council, which contain a number of plans with a number of expectations. Finally, we received reports from the Committee on General Purpose, which was presented by the Chairman, which also pointed out a number of issues as well as give recommendations.

I will go direct to one side. There is an area where it is indicated that there is underfunding of specific and sensitive activities. Those activities were mentioned. I will mention a few. Specifically, the agriculture sector, industrialisation and youth and women development have been underfunded. We all know that agriculture is the backbone of the people from this Community. We know that a number of members in this House reached where they are because they were supported by agricultural activities. We all know that we have the agreement of signing the free trade protocol for all countries in Africa to make sure that people do business together. If we do not support the industrialisation sector, how are people going to conduct trade? Where are we going to get the products to sell to each other?

Looking at youth and women development, we all know that in this Community, 70 per cent of the population comprises of the youth. We all know that we are suffering from unemployment. Many young people complete their studies every year. Even those who did not

go to school need to do something but because we do not sufficiently support the agricultural and industrial sectors, young people have nowhere to carry out their activities.

I would like to go specifically to the Budget. There is one area where I need to make bold recommendations. The Budget Report that was presented by the Chair to the Council is in line with the Report that was presented by the Chair of the Committee on General Purpose. On page 11, the Chair to the Council says:

“We have the expected outcomes. After conducting this Budget, we are expecting the Community to implement the initiatives which will enhance operational efficiency and accountability.”

Honourable Speaker, it is indicated that the major initiatives include institutional review, strengthening of internal controls, performance management and quality management system. The Report continues to say:

“These efforts will be further consolidated to ensure that operational systems are fully streamlined to achieve the desired level of efficiency, accountability and value for money for this Community.”

Going back to the MTF book, you can see the amount of money that has been allocated to this sensitive area, which is quality management system. There are only two activities which have been allocated money under Quality Management System while it has been mentioned that it is one of the sensitive activities which will lead the Community to perform its activities effectively to bring efficiency, accountability and ensure that the Community gets value for money. With due respect, this House needs to understand that quality management system contains all that we have debated since morning. From this Budget allocation, they indicate that there is only money for conducting surveillance audit. They have allocated money to pay people to come and audit what is not being implemented. There is an amount of money, which has been allocated for the transitional requirement. Why are we undertaking the transitional requirement while the people of this Community are not aware of the quality management system?

Honourable Speaker, there is need for the Secretariat, together with the Council, to look into this section and see how they can get other resources to fund this sensitive area. We have received quite a number of complaints that the reporting system is poor; there are no organograms or proper ways of dealing staffing issues. All these things fall under implementation systems. With due respect, I repeat that the Secretariat and the Council need to review these issues. We cannot do monitoring and evaluation if we do not have a system in place. We cannot do proper report writing without having the systems in place.

I hope the Chair to the Council will have a chance to respond to my comments, because this is a very sensitive section. It needs to be earmarked that it is of importance and needs to get more funds for the activities of this Community to be implemented efficiently.

I beg to submit.

Mr Jean Claude Barimuyabo (Rwanda): Thank you, honourable Speaker. I would like to, first, congratulate the Committee for General Purpose and its Chair for a work well done. Of course, they could not allow duplication of expenses or allow allocations to unspecified

activities. You will recall what happened when the Accounts Committee was discussing the Audit Report, where we found out that there was a meeting which was supposed to be attended by dignitaries, but which was attended by drivers. You will also recall another case where a flash disk was costing US\$3,000. Those are the kind of issues we will have to deal with if we over-allocate funds to some of the activities.

I wanted to contribute to two issues but a third one came up when honourable Kasamba was talking about the scorecard that was used to monitor the progress towards the set goals of the Community. He said that some laws have not yet been assented to and that others have not yet been ratified by the national parliaments of Partner States. That is a failure of the Assembly not because we are not able to carry out our responsibility but because we do not have enough resources to do so. This Budget will allow us to fulfil our responsibilities.

The first issue I initially wanted to contribute on is that of big number of board members. I would urge the Council to speed up the process of amending some protocols because this is also consuming a very big amount of money of the Community, which is up to now scarce. The second one is about donor funding. I realise that in the current financial year, the amount of funds from donors was US\$52 million but in the Budget that has been presented here, the donor component is US\$42 million. There is a decrease of about US\$10 million, which is approximately a 20 per cent decrease of the current Budget. This is a very big issue. We need to look at the root cause of this decrease. We might find that the root causes are on our side, where there is mismanagement in terms of the procurement processes not being followed. There are fraudulent actions that happened within our Community's organs and institutions. The Council should help to find out the cause of reduction of the donor component by 20 per cent.

Lastly, I want to add more information about what honourable Wanjiku said. I believe that the youth policy is in place. However, there are no funds to support its implementation. I will not talk so much about the issue but since there is a law establishing the Regional Youth Council, I believe the Council will respond on it.

At this juncture, I would like to submit and support the report.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Let us have the last intervention by Honourable Marie and then we have the reply.

Ms Marie Claire Burukukiye (Burundi): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to add my voice to what other members have said. I have only one point on the sensitisation programme. I am reading the Report and have seen that US\$2,045,150 has been allocated for this programme. The programme is necessary. I am trying to see how we are going to be with our people in the different counties. I remember that while we were at Dodoma, EALA was appreciated by the people of Musalatu, where we planted 300 trees with the community. I remember how EALA was appreciated by the community in Musalatu when EALA Members contributed money from their pockets and bought 70 bags of cement to aid a health centre that was under construction. I also remember how children with mental disability and children at the orphanage were very happy to be visited by EALA members. I congratulate the Committee of General Purpose for thinking about this matter. I request that this amount be increased.

Thank you, honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Chair of Committee on General Purpose, you can now reply.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you very much, honourable Speaker for giving me the opportunity. Through you, let me take this opportunity to most sincerely thank the honourable members who have very elaborately contributed to this Debate. Thirty-five members have spoken to it. - (*Applause*)

I still saw many of them standing to speak. I feel that, if time allowed, all the 54 members would have spoken to it. However, 35 out of 54 sends a very clear message. I want to most sincerely thank all the members who contributed, whom I will recognise in person in a moment.

Honourable Speaker, a lot of issues were raised during this particular debate and it is very important for me to clarify myself on them so that we can be able to reach a common understanding on the Budget issue. First, I must say that the process of the Budget was one, which had a number of constraints. This is the reason why you feel and hear the contributions of the members as they come through. Reduction of the budgetary allocation is an issue. The issue of time and ability of the Committee to debate, process and discuss this issue is another.

Very interestingly, something that I had actually never thought of, but looking at our Treaty, indeed, what is required of us to do so, and I know all our other Partner States do, it was as honourable Josephine raised; the issue of the need to include or consider public participation in our budget making process. I thought this is a very forward-thinking way, which is very much in line with what our Constitution requires us to do. You have all seen the example of our Partner States. The public have special times that are in fact gazetted and publicised through the major newspapers and given an opportunity to bring in as much as possible of contribution from the public. This is a very good forward-looking thing we need to consider in our future budget making process.

Honourable Speaker, the process was adversely informed by a number of documents given to us by the Secretariat as required under Rule 17 of the Financial Rules and Regulations. There was a huge amount of volumes of documents. The Rules, of course, require, and members have mentioned it; that the proposed annual budget shall be accompanied by an annual work plan, calendar of activities, mid-year budget performance report, recruitment plans, procurement plans and any other information, annexes and explanatory statements as may be deemed necessary.

I want to say on the outset that the Committee's decision on this particular matter was informed by the information availed to us by the Council. With your permission, I will refer to three documents that have largely been mentioned here and discussed.

In my Report yesterday, you saw the reduction of the amount from US\$110 million to US\$99 million with a growth of new institutions coming into place and new obligations such as Peace and Security Architecture (APSA), the Burundi peace process and the research arm that were offloaded from donors into the Budget. Therefore, whatever was presented to us as the Budget looked very much inconsiderate to the current situation of our institution as a Community, including its organs and institutional growth. Sometimes when I eat a little bit more of *ugali*, I grow in size. When I do, I have a pair of suit that fits me, which is bigger than what I have today. I will not expect to indulge in *ugali*, which I love, and continue to wear my small-size suit. I will look ridiculous. My hands will look far off, and the buttons will fly off if I try to

close them. This is the situation we are in in this Budget process. We are trying to fit into a suit that is almost impossible for us to fit in.

Honourable Speaker, members have largely spoken about donor funds and inflows. Indeed, this was an issue of major concern during the Committee's deliberations on this matter. We have seen skewed donor funds coming specifically to the Secretariat, and it is not by surprise. Why? Because it is the only organ that has been allocated donor funds mobilisation function. We asked ourselves, when these good friends of ours face the donors and find some who are willing to support other organs of the Community, do they keep everything to themselves in their pockets or do they intend to share it out fairly? This was an issue of serious debate during the Committee Stage. It is also very visible from the debate by honourable members; that donor funding is particularly skewed.

Having said that, the Committee has made a lot of reservations in analysing a lot deeper into the issue of donor funding. I called for the agreements of each of the donor-funded projects and I was given piles of files, which intimidated me. I love to read. Sometimes I stay up until very late. I probably got about two hours of sleep since I was here yesterday. However, when you get very big volumes of files when you have been through all these estimates issues, it becomes very difficult and defeating sometimes. However, I must say that when I threw my eyes in the best way I could, I saw donor funded programmes whose intent would have otherwise been very good result-oriented programmes coming out of it. Unfortunately, when it came to the Budget, it translated into US\$600,000 of donor funds for the purpose of having tea and talking.

If I bring some of these issues in the form of a report and the donors see these kinds of issues, it will be a serious issue that will impact on our ability to source for donor funding in the future. Therefore, as a Committee, we took a deliberate decision to inform the House during this time of reply. Yesterday, when I was reading my Report, I wanted to mention it then I noticed that it was not the opportune time to do so. I mention it now to the House. There are activities here of the US\$600,000. I am picking only one of those activities, namely; funding for breakfast to exchange ideas et *cetera*. There is nothing like production of strategy documents or working paper or undertaking of any reviews. The funding is absolutely for having tea.

Another issue that members mentioned is that of the Partner States' contributions. I will not belabour much on it. I cannot agree with them more. I am sure that the Council has had enough on this issue. It is now for them to go back to our member states and urge them to bring forward the funds that are outstanding. I am very encouraged to hear about the contribution of Burundi. The explanation given to us here was very forthcoming. It means a lot about our ability to do the work.

Duplication of activities has been one of the biggest challenges in terms of the reallocations that we have seen here. How I wish honourable *Waziri* Munya was here. I want the Chair to the Council to listen very carefully. I will pick just one example on the issue of duplication of resources on a matter I am aware. Yesterday evening, in a meeting of Council, the Council was misguided that this Committee deliberately went and chopped off activities which were meant to review the Constitution or the Treaty of EALA. Nobody more than me have agitated for the need to review the Treaty. Please, do not look at the need we have for that exercise to be done and think that somebody can be fooled to duplicate an activity and allocate it US\$93,000 twice.
– (*Applause*)

It is impossible. I hope the members of the Council have the MTF review expenditure or Book Eight. On page 133, which is the issue that was addressed to you yesterday – Please, get the facts right – there are two activities. First, you were told that we dropped the issue of the experts convening to review the political confederation model. I will read for you. Activity No.M4J03TI801S03, which reads, “Convene a meeting of Constitution Experts Team: Convening a two-day meeting to compile report on the EAC political confederation model.” The donor code is there, which is the Partner States. It has been allocated US\$93,250. If you were lied to yesterday that we removed that money, I confirm that we did not touch it. It is there. In a language I speak, which comes from the Eastern part of Kenya, where I hope someday honourable members will have an opportunity to go and see- (*Interruption*)

The Speaker: Honourable Chair, although the Council will reply, we know that the Committee interacted with the Council – (*Interruption*)

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): I am coming to that, honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: So, in some aspects, we need to know their response; for example, the question about double budgeting, which sounds like fraud of some kind. Therefore, the Assembly need to know their response, if you ever put this question to them. It is one thing to allocate what you believe is more than what is required and another thing that sounds like fraud to allocate the same activity twice.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you, honourable Speaker. I agree with you absolutely on that particular issue. If we did not do what we did as the Committee on General Purpose, and allowed the duplication to go as it is, certainly the auditors would not have missed to pick it up. They would pick it up. I am having a feel of the report that was tabled here by the auditors the other day. They told me, “You know, the one that you have just handled was a pass – meaning that they had no issues – but the one you are about to do is adverse.” Therefore, I wondered. If what I looked at was a pass and what is coming up is adverse, this is even more terrible. The particular activities I have referred to- (*Loud consultations*)

The Speaker: Let us not put the cart before the horse.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Honourable Speaker, I am guided. I want to read out that example. I have read out the one of the money that we did not touch. The amount is US\$93,250. The same amount has been provided for convening a two-day meeting to compile report on confederation model facilitation. Another line provides for US\$11,950 to convene a meeting of experts from Partner States to review and upgrade the Council of Ministers on the proposed model of the EAC Political Confederation. What I have read is the summarised version. There are two bigger two volumes of the MTF, which captures everything in details, which we called the “kitchen”. Whenever we saw it here, I would tell certain expert members of my Committee, “Could somebody give me a helping eye in the kitchen?” When we looked at the “kitchen”, we realised that all the activities that specifically describe the particular three provisions of US\$93,250, another US\$93,250 and US\$11,950 describe to the same activity.

An honourable Member: Shame on them!

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Surely, when the Treaty was written and somebody had the wisdom to say that the Budget would be done by the Secretariat for consideration by Council and approval by the Assembly, that somebody was not foolish. Somebody had good intention for our Community, and we will stand to do our job. - *(Applause)*

Honourable Members, I persuade you to consider the issues that I am mentioning to you as an example. I will pick one more example. The LVBC, an organisation I personally admire very much because it affects many of our countries, has an issue on budgetary proposals. Listen to this, honourable Members. There is an activity on page 222, I do not need to read the number. The activity is “To install a security system that combines both IP based CCTV and access control system, US\$60,000”. Another activity is “To procure and install CCTV, US\$50,000”. What are we talking about?

Honourable members, go into the details of this, and you find that this is the issue. I am only picking on three examples of probably more than 10 examples of duplication that we have seen. In fact, it is only with regard to those that are finance by the Partner States funds. We did not touch those that are financed by donors. The situation is worse with those activities finance by donors. If someone can have tea for US\$600,000, what do you think of the remaining amount of money?

Honourable Members: Shame! Shame!

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Honourable Speaker, the Committee found it rational to maintain the US\$50,000 for video conferencing facility for the LVBC. - *(Interruption)*

The Speaker: For completeness of information, I asked you to inform the Assembly about the response during the Committee’s interaction with the Secretariat on the issue of double allocation.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Honourable Speaker, that part will be my conclusion, because the Committee had an opportunity to immensely engage and interact with the Secretariat.

Honourable Speaker, that is yet another example of the US\$60,000. We maintained the US\$50,000. On the US\$60,000, we looked at what more needed to be done and realised that it was installation of cameras. We asked the Secretariat, “Who owns the building?” They replied, “It is owned by the Government of Kenya.” We asked, “Is that your permanent address?” They replied, “No, we have been given land, we are about to build. We are looking for donors. We soon want to build on that land.” We asked them, “You want to use this money for installing CCTV cameras on three floors...”

Ms Rose Akol Okullu (Uganda): Point of information.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose: Yes, Honourable Rose. Honourable Speaker, if you allow her, I will receive the information.

Ms Akol: Thank you, honourable Chair for allowing me to give you additional information.

Honourable Speaker and honourable members, as the team of the Northern corridor that visited the LVBC headquarters, and during the review of the Audit Commission Report, we noticed that LVBC had spent in the tune of US\$450,000 in that building, which is not ours. They accepted and opted to install a lift because they occupy the 12th and 13th floors. The LVBC procured a lift to install in that building. The reason was to enable the person who was supposed to partition the offices to carry the materials upstairs. The issue is: What was required to partition. It is just boards. What we saw there was some wood and boards. Misuse of EAC resources is continuing. That project raised an audit query. Now we want to provide another US\$110,000 to perform works on a building that is not ours. When we interacted with the LVBC, we realised that there was no agreement whatsoever that when they leave the building they would be compensated for the works they will have done on the building. Therefore, honestly, I am saying this because I want us, as EALA, to reflect on this as we listen to what the Chair is talking about.

Thank you, honourable Chair, for giving me the opportunity.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you, honourable Rose for that information.

Honourable Speaker, I am explaining and giving these examples because certain few Members of this House may not have the privilege of being informed on the Committee's findings following a deep investigation into this matter. Give me proposals to say, "Please, consider putting back the US\$60,000 for the LVBC ". Would it be morally right to do so on the building that honourable Rose has just described? You note the duplication of allocations that I have just described here.

Ms Nakawuki: Point of information, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Committee Chair, are you taking the information?

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Yes, honourable Chairman.

Ms Nakawuki: Honourable Speaker, the information I want to give the Chair is that there was a proposal. The proposal was meant for the money to be put under the CCTV cameras but to be reallocated to resource mobilisation for LVBC since their budget is mostly donor funded, and the budgets for resource mobilisation had been slashed to US\$20,000.

The Speaker: Are you sure that is the memo he is referring to? Maybe, he is referring to a different memo. He will confirm.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you, honourable Speaker and thank you Honourable Susan for that information. We, Members, can propose many things but certainly, we cannot create a new Budget line. It is the demand user who is supposed to have requested for what Honourable Susan is asking for now. It is not our obligation to do is. Why am I saying this? It is because I am aware of a flesh of money set aside for resource mobilisation for the East African Community that is sitting in the Office of the Secretary General. Why do you want us to give more money to these institutions? Why do we want to duplicate resources? It is not necessary at all.

Honourable Speaker, the issues of duplication of resource allocation are many. I want to come to the ICT issue but before I do so, I will give a last example of duplication. Honourable Members, if you have copies of the book that I am using, on page 307, the East African Kiswahili Commission, an institution in respect of which during the debate on the Report on the Accounts Committee, my brother, Dr. Ngwaru raised serious issues. He brought two votes for us to consider. One was put on page 307 and another one was put on page 310. It reads “Attend EAC statutory meetings, US\$42,000.” Another item reads “Attend stakeholders meeting that contribute to the functioning of the Commission, US\$34,800.” If you turn two pages overleaf, you will read a copy/paste of the same. The only difference is the amounts. I do not need to read the activity description.

I will read the amount for the first one, which is US\$31,500; for the second one, it is US\$27,150. This is a direct duplication of allocations. When we asked why, we were told, “You know, I will be travelling with this one and we have to do it in this manner. Therefore, we have to record it in these two different ways.” I asked them, “How much did you use for travel last year?” He replied, “That same amount.” This year you are asking for video conference facility worth US\$50,000 – which we gave them untouched – why are you asking for video conferencing? They replied, “We want to reduce our travel vote.” By how much has your travel reduced from last year? They replied, “It has actually grown.” Does it make sense? It does not make sense. Either the investment on video conferencing is a wrong priority or the travelling is being overprovided for. When we did a deep scrutiny of those votes, we rationalised their allocations. Those are the things that you will later hear from the Kiswahili Commission; that we are reducing this amount from here. I do not want to describe the look and feel of things. Even when this suit is so small, somebody can tell you, “I want US\$30,000 to drill a borehole. I am also asking you to finance for us US\$25,000 for a water bill.” How does it work? Certainly, it beats logic. These are the examples, honourable Members, when we talk about duplication,

As I close this book, let me finally come to the issue of the ICT, which has very much been talked about. I want to say that sometimes, as the Chair, it is my job to also protect the integrity of my Committee. This Committee used the hard-earned resources of the Community to do a two-week deliberation on the issues of this Budget. For those two weeks, we called every day, for document after document, justification after justification so that we are well informed. The Secretariat was with us throughout, and I commend them for that. Eng. Mlote and his team stayed literally on the corridors for two weeks, and all information we asked for was brought. When we came to the issue of the computers for the ICT, we looked at their budget absorption for last year.

For us, we are only informed by the documents that are officially tabled before the Committee. The Committee made a decision on the absorption rate using the officially tabled document, titled “EAC Budget Performance Report of July, 2017”, which includes the period up to March, 2018. I want to say this very clear because of what happened here yesterday. Somebody approached me in the evening yesterday as I left here and said, “You know, I come from the ICT Department. I want to give you this information. Please, look, our absorption rate is now 80 per cent.” I do not know this individual, and I am not the Committee in session when I am out there walking alone. I am an individual. - *(Applause)*

Why did it take the Secretariat two weeks to claim what is being claimed today about the absorption rate of the ICT issues? The decision that the Committee made on the allocation for

the ICT Department was based on the information that was availed to us during our deliberations.

The Speaker: Honourable Chair, in that case, if the Council could official place on record the present status of the ICT Department's absorption rate, if that is the only ground on which you based your decision.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): It is not the only ground, honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Okay.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): I have not concluded on this matter.

Honourable Speaker, when we look at the ICT issues and investment, we saw an amount of US\$984,887 that had been set aside. We looked at these items inside and asked, "What does this mean? What is the meat of this?" We went deep into the details to investigate on those issues. We came across interesting issues. Number one is an item on video conferencing equipment. I will just read the amount. Whoever wants to refer to it can look at page 42 of the MTF. There is a line for maintenance of video conferencing equipment, US\$168,508; video conferencing equipment trouble shooting, US\$14,200. When my computer has an issue, my 10-year-old boy trouble shoots for me but here, we are allocating this amount of money to trouble shoot computers for the video conferencing.

There is a line for upgrading of customer support system, which was provided US\$46,700 in the last Budget. There is wireless code network, which has been allocated US\$89,807; internet service provision for video conferencing, US\$226,168. This is the same video conferencing item. Then there is something called "Implementation of ICT security to ICT system and network security services which has been allocated US\$24,000." There is a line for upgrading of cyber boardroom security firewall. For those of us who understand what these terms means, I am activities captured on page 42 and other activities captured on page 43. Cyber security firewall was provided US\$16,250.

Please, take note, honourable Speaker. Some of us have used video conferencing so much. You buy a gadget like this one. This is probably one of them. It has a video mounted on there. All it needs from you is an internet service provision. You buy and fix it, it is done. There are no trouble-shooting issues. Hardly trouble-shooting issues occur. When they occur, they are minor. Now with wireless technology and advanced internet connectivity, this thing costs a small fraction of the requested amount.

I want Members to note that I am talking of investment in video conferencing in the ICT Department. This refers to institutions of the organisation. Each one of them has not less than US\$50,000 allocated to them for video conferencing services. Why this duplication? Therefore, we looked into these issues. Somebody might innocently think that we took off a blanket figure of this amount of US\$384,887. We did not do that at all. We calculated it and found the underlying cause of it.

Honourable Speaker, I close this with two comparisons of the same ICT facilities by some of the known institutions like TRA, Kenya Revenue Authority (KRA), and the equivalent

institution in Uganda; and KCB, an institution that has widely integrated across the region, which is connected real time. What they use as their annual budget is not even comparable to one-third of what is being used here. We could not justify passing this kind of budget. Remember, a lot of the audit queries that are haunting our Secretariat today have to do with ICT. A sum of US\$500,000 was paid to somebody to connect CCTV cameras in the EAC Building in Arusha, but not even a single camera has been put there. There is no way the Committee could justify the allocation of US\$1 million to the ICT Department. For that time, out of the US\$994,000, we removed US\$388,000. We left the rest because we know that it was not only sufficient but in it was also a statutory requirement for licence payments, which we are aware of. We looked at them in detail and identified them exclusive. We know how much they are being paid for.

Honourable Speaker, I want to exit that bit of presentation by saying that, indeed, during our work, as a Committee, we intensively consulted with both the organs of Council and the Secretariat. You had asked about this issue a number of times earlier on. We had an opportunity, at length, to engage the Council on issues, as a Committee. When we brought a number of general concerns to light, the Chair to the Council requested that he be taken through the details of what we had done. He is a very patient old man. You saw him make that reading. Honestly speaking, I am fasting. I do not know how much younger he is. I am not even half his age. He probably read three times the volume of work I read yesterday. On that day, I was seated here to do one service.

I was sure the *mzee* might fall back. I was ready to ensure that he did not land on the ground, but you saw his resilience. Why? It is because he is committed in heart to the work for the Community. He took six hours of his time. He and I were fasting. At least I have a home here. I rushed home after the plenary session. He called and asked me to go to where he was breaking his fast. I did mine quickly and ran there. By 7.00 pm, I was with him. We sat through almost midnight. I thank the few Members who were with me during the course of this Committee's work. One thing I must commend is that there are Members of the Committee and non-members of the Committee who actually did what is, in Kiswahili, known as "*kujitolea*", which involves working beyond working hours.

As you can see, this voluminous book is in tartars. It is because of the amount of work that has been done in it. There are markings and comments on literally every page of it. The old man had the patience to sit through the whole of my presentation on this book and on other documents, like reports on budget absorption. He listened carefully to my presentation. We engaged in depth, and we were at a common understanding on the reasons for our action. If would have allowed, I would have belaboured to explain each and every one of these activities to honourable members. I can tell you that, as I did with the Council Chair, I also got the opportunity to do the same with the Secretariat, on the request of the Secretary General. - (*Applause*)

On the following day, when this House had the privilege to sit here and discuss the Report of the Committee on Accounts – a Report on which both honourable Odongo and I love to contribute to its debate – the two of us sat from 10.00 am. When it reached 6.00 pm, we finished our line-by-line scrutiny of status and issues with the Secretariat. I want to inform the House here and now; that, many of the amendments you will be seeing me moving today are, word-for-word and figure-for-figure, proposals of the Secretariat. - (*Applause*)

Honourable Speaker, sometimes, as a member of parliament, you do not feed on grapevine. It is not allowed, and I do not want to do so. A good professor of mine at the university told me, “When you want to talk about rumours and you want to give it an academic name, you call it ‘anecdotal evidence’. Anecdotal evidence gathered outside this room this afternoon, indicates that the Secretariat and the Council might be having a challenge accepting the numbers that we are proposing for amendment. Where is the goodwill of working together as a team? Why did we waste six hours of the old man’s time, sitting with him? Why did we, as Members of the Committee on General Purpose, have to waste a whole day?

We missed a whole session of the House so that we could look at the Budget detail-by-detail with the Secretariat so that we could be on the same page together on certain issues. If the Secretariat were to give any contrary position, I will actually complement them by citing an example of a place where they, themselves, helped us to notice an issue of duplication. You know, it is not about witch-hunting each other. I want to say, in the spirit of goodwill, that not every recommendation that this Committee has made is a surprise to the Council or the Secretariat. The role of EALA, as a House, is very important. As I said earlier, all we are doing is not to hunt down anybody or reduce anything but to do our job as the oversight arm of the EAC.

Another issue that was raised for clarification is that South Sudan was also mentioned. A sum of US\$266,000 was allocated to South Sudan. I could go into this book and into the details of that allocation. South Sudan is a new member of the EAC. She deserves every support that we should give. There is no doubt at all from the Committee in that regard. In fact, throughout the programmes of the Secretariat, in terms of monitoring and supervision of all the issues up to, and including the issues described for this activity, South Sudan is part of it. I do not know if this statement is clear. This is an exceptional amount of allocation to give an emphasis to South Sudan but indeed the supervision and oversight role of budgeted amounts for the supervision by the Secretariat to the institutions and organs of the Community, South Sudan is inbuilt in those budget lines at different levels and at different offices. However, this particular one has to do with the issue of customs.

When we looked at the details of this allocation, I want to say without fear of contradiction; that, the Secretariat and we unanimously agreed that a certain item line of cost for US\$32,000 was unnecessary. Therefore, we got it for reallocation. It has nothing to do with denying funds to our infant neighbours South Sudan. I for one love them more than anybody else, and I will work very hard as a legislator in this House to make sure that South Sudan comes on board as full member of this Community. The US\$42,000 was an activity we studied in detail and realised that those travel activities were covered in that other programme that I told you about; it is inbuilt into the whole other system. Therefore, we said this particular provision is a duplication because it is covered elsewhere.

Honourable Speaker, on the Nanyuki series, I agree absolutely with hon. Members. If there is one regrettable line of the Budget that was dropped, for which we could not find funds to provide, is the Nanyuki series. The Nanyuki series is the only programme that gives us an opportunity, as per our Treaty obligation, to have a link with our national governments. Unless this afternoon God prevails upon our beloved Council Members to see it fit that, this activity should not die, this year it will not be there. Unless we get other means of providing for it, like Supplementary Budget I the course of the financial year, I announce that there will be link between EALA and the national parliaments in the next financial year. The amount that was to finance that expense was not found. I want to leave it at that.

Next is EALA's function for the 21 days. People talk about 21 days and it appears ridiculously huge and big. It is not at all. This morning, honourable Mbidde very eloquently presented to us the issue of the constitution. It is clear that the minimum is 80 days. The maximum is determined by the workload of activities for this House. The East Africa Court of Justice, which I will mention shortly, between January and May, handled cases twice the number of cases it handled between January and December of last year. Can we blame them for handling so many cases? We cannot. It actually means that something good is happening. The people of East Africa have now realised that they have a place they can go for justice. Likewise, very soon, as this institution grows, the burden on EALA is going to be growing by the day. It is inevitable. We realised that when we talk about 12 days of work, it means that when we remove two days for travel and a weekend of two days in between, we remain with about six days.

Surely, am I worth being paid by the people of East Africa for working for six days after every two months? We found this unacceptable. I want members to know. Somebody might think that we are talking of 21 plenary days. That is not the case at all. Before this plenary that we have had, several of our committees have had an opportunity to sit and do their work. Honourable Fatuma is here. Honourable Kasamba's committee sat. The Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution Committee sat; I even attended honourable Victor's Committee as a friend. On the outskirts of the plenary sessions, we are able to chip in and do a lot of very important committee work.

Therefore, when we talk about 21 days, the same mathematics applies; one day arrival, one day exit. Because the number is now 21 days, the weekends might be more than we had counted earlier. We are talking of fewer days of work. We thought this is a very important thing to do. It is the first time I am ever seeing. I tried even to study the jurisdiction of parliaments elsewhere. For a Budget report to have been read yesterday, for the Committee to have reported the following day, for the House to consider its adoption, like we are about to do today, this is a joke on the face of legislation. Half of the members sitting here have not read my Report and that of the Council.

They have not had an opportunity to go through all these volumes of documents, which otherwise as legislators they should have done so to inform themselves to make a better decision. I am of the very convinced opinion that should members have had an opportunity to have thrown their eyes to the extent to which I did, today there would be more than 54 amendments for further reallocation of funds from places we probably missed to see as a Committee because more heads are better than one. Luckily, this House is blessed this time to be formed of a large number of very experienced legislators and academicians. It is a privilege and an honour for the people of East Africa. I want to leave the issue of justifying the 21 days. It almost looked like an animal, which cannot be looked at. This is the reality about the 21 days.

I have mentioned the issue of the East Africa Court of Justice. I mentioned it and I am not going back to it. They came with a very humble request. On the issue of duplication of court cases, they came to the Council and said, "We are now operating at 30 days. Our cases have more than doubled in half a year. We are asking you to give us 10 days more; from 30 days to 40 days." An organ called FNA, which I am yet to have the privilege to interact with, which I would honestly love to know when their next meeting is. I have not seen them. I do not know whether it is an individual or a committee. I want to believe that it is a committee. I would like to have an opportunity to stand before them one day, even at my own expense. Chair, Council,

please, let me know the next day when FNA will be sitting in Arusha. I will need no per diem or air ticket. I will avail myself. I have something to say to them. - (*Applause*)

Even without justification from the East Africa Court of Justice, instead of even saying, “Stay with your 30 days”, they chopped off five days from them and said, “Go home with 25 days.” That is an organ of the EAC. For that reason, when that humble request was brought to the Committee, we could not deny them the 40 days. It is 40 days of justice to the people of East Africa. It did not even cost US\$100,000 as you will see. Honourable members, I beg your support when the time comes for voting for that particular vote.

In addition, they gave us a cost-benefit analysis of what happens when the judges are in session. The Summit has made a decision that every judge shall be provided with a chauffeur-driven vehicle. The Court gave us an analysis of how much they spent last year alone on hiring of vehicles. A judge is a very busy person. They are not that often free in the society, like you and I are. After this session, we go and hang out. Justices of their level spend a whole day listening to court cases or in their chambers studying and, in the evening, they go and park their cars until tomorrow morning when they come for work. Throughout the day and throughout the night, there is a rented car and a driver waiting in the car.

Mr Adan Mohamed Nooru (Kenya): On a point of information, Honourable Speaker.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose: I will accept the information, Honourable Speaker.

Mr Adan Mohamed Nooru (Kenya): Honourable Speaker, I want inform the Committee Chair that we are not stopping at the Judiciary. Look at the buses that this Assembly uses when we go out for sessions. Why do not we buy buses for this institution instead of hiring busses and parking them here? In the next Budget, we will move to buying buses for the Assembly, and not just stopping where we are now.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you, honourable Nooru.

Honourable Speaker, I just want to throw a light one. Chair, Council, please, look at the plight of this House. Look at this House as an organ that is critical to the optimal functioning of EAC. There is no issue of ‘them’ and us’ As a matter of fact, you are a Council member and a Member of EALA. You have been given an opportunity. Even the Secretary General is a Member. He drafted this Budget. You considered it. It was brought to us for adoption. For 15 years, this noble House is using a wooden mace with the emblem of Kenya – a borrowed mace. Can we not buy ours? Can you not see it? This is obvious. The mace is our symbol of authority. I asked, “How much does it cost?” I was told, “It costs US\$200,000.” Remember, the Audit Report that was presented to us by Dr Maghembe, showed that somebody, for non-delivery of anything, was paid US\$500,000 and went away with it. I am saying money is wasted. Please, you are part and parcel of this House. Do not ignore this House. When we make a request, it is genuine; we mean it.

Honourable Speaker, as I said, that was on a light note. It can even be expunged from the records, because I do not want somebody to know that we are not using a mace of the EAC even though I am sure that it was borrowed with permission. Therefore, that is off-the-cuff.

The Speaker: It is a very important point. You know, because we are a regional assembly, at times any property in any Partner State can be put to our disposal. That is the justification under the circumstances.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you, honourable Speaker. It is actually that same conviction that brought the Committee not to find it very necessary to allocate funds for buying a mace. We said, “Let us wait until when we have better times. “

The Speaker: That is now discouragement to me.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): No, no, honourable Speaker. I beg your pardon and beg your guidance on that one. I agree with you.

Honourable Speaker, the issue of East Africa and awareness was raised by members. I am sorry to say that when members went to Meru and said, “We are Members of EALA”, as a Kenyan, I was ashamed. Nobody knows EALA. When I walk out there, people, including the security personnel around Parliament Buildings, think that I am still a Member of the Kenyan Parliament.

I sat here. I was a Member of the Budget Committee. This was our room. When I told the people, I met out there, “I am no longer a Member of the Kenyan Parliament. I am a Member of EALA”, they asked me, “What is EALA?” Today we were even given a worse title. Honourable Musamali has brought in the concept of *walalahoi*, which was not there before.

However, I am surprised it has come. Indeed, the point I am trying to make is this; why is there low awareness of the EAC in the Community? I even asked the Secretariat. It would have been necessary to budget for a small amount of money to undertake a survey to find out the level of awareness amongst the people of East Africa about the EAC. It would be a very necessary line in next year’s Budget, so that we know where we stand. I am sure we will stand at less 10 per cent. The question is how we can salvage the situation. Remember that these are people we are passing laws to say that we are changing their currencies to a single EAC currency in the near future. They do not even know the EAC. Do you think they will accept that you change their currencies? It is impossible.

The Monetary Institute Bill that we passed in Dodoma will be subjected for debate in our respective parliaments for ratification. Once that law is send to our various states, it will be referred to parliament. I can assure you that it cannot see the light to the day because there is no awareness about EAC. What can we do about it? The members of this House are Treaty-wise bound to be the representatives of the people of East Africa. It is their role to create that awareness. The sensitisation programme that honourable members talked about is what I am driving at. We did not find enough funds to allocate to it.

With a lot of struggle, we managed to get slightly over US\$200,000, which, if you divide among the six-member states, it comes to about US\$40,000. What can you do in Kampala or Nairobi alone with US\$40,000 to mount a sensible awareness campaign? Forget about the whole of Kenya or the whole of Tanzania, which is the whole of the rest of East Africa combined. I did a bit of reading and realised that before we added Southern Sudan, the rest of the EAC combined formed only about 42 per cent of the land mass of Tanzania. Even if we add Sudan, I am sure we will not even get to 60 per cent. How much money do we need to

create awareness to the lowest level of the people of East Africa? Certainly, the members who can do that are the members of this House. We have found it logical to allocate to them US\$200,000 for that purposes.

Honourable Speaker, the Audit Commission is another area where the Committee found it wise to allocate resources. We managed to find about US\$34,000 to enable them do the audit work they do. For that reason, that proposal will be coming.

Finally, the reallocation that this Committee has done might look so huge. When this Budget was accepted by the Council and brought to us, following the deliberations that we have had, this House only reallocated 1.9 per cent of the Budget. The whole story of EALA reallocating funds is about less than 2 per cent of the funds of the Community that have been reallocated. I gave several examples of how we identified places where the money reallocated can add more value to the people of EAC. The percentages I was given out there were thrown at me, and I was told, "You know, EALA is now taking up to 40 per cent of the Budget of the Community." Let us bring facts. I love numbers. Contrary to honourable Mbidde, I sleep with numbers. I do not mind them.

Of the monies, contributions from Partner States amounting to US\$594,111,212, EALA will be getting, under the revised Estimates that the Committee has brought for adoption by the House, US\$19,493,338, which represents 34.5 per cent of the Budget. I do not want to call it a lie. That 'anecdotal' evidence out there is not true. Please, set the record straight. The whole of the Secretariat and the institutions they are responsible for, take up US\$39,917,874, accounting for 65.5 per cent of the Budget. The facts are there, and this is only with regard to member states contribution. If we talk about donor funding, which is a bigger amount than the member states contribution, the Secretariat takes 99.9 per cent because neither the courts nor EALA is a beneficiary of donor-funded programmes. For that reason, the entire of that amount is also available to the Secretariat. For that reason *Interruption of Debate*)

The Speaker: Yes, honourable Makame.

MOTION

EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME UNDER RULE 30(D)

Dr Hasnuu Abdullah Makame (Tanzania): Honourable Speaker, I am moving under Rule No.30 (d) to suspend Rule No.11, which talks about hours of the meeting of the Assembly, the reason being that we are having a discussion on the Budget, the Committee Chair is still presenting his responses, and we are yet to cover the process of the Budget. Therefore, we need some more time.

I submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, do you have a seconder?

*(Mr Kim Ghai and several honourable Members
stood up in their places)*

The Speaker: All the members standing. - *(Laughter)*

Therefore, the Motion before the House is that we suspend Rule 11 to allow more time to conclude the item on the Table.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Resumption of Debate)

When the Committee Chairperson concludes his presentation, I will suspend the House for a short while to allow our fasting colleagues to break their fast. We will then come back here and continue with business.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose: Honourable Speaker, I thank you for your kind consideration on those of fasting.

Honourable Speaker, the point I want to end with is that sometimes it might so appear, or somebody might try to sell an argument; that the decision that this House has taken to reallocate funds from where it felt has excess ‘fat’ to where it felt there is need for more funding, might disrupt programmes of either the Secretariat or any other organ. My Report has Annex 1, which details for you where the money is coming from, the amount and the justification for rationalisation. We have reallocated only 1 per cent of the Budget. If anybody has fears that that amount might cause disruption of an activity of whatever sort, I want to allay that fear.

We have gone through the Budget line-by-line with the Secretariat. In almost all the time, we only rationalised certain portions of excess on activities. Never at all did we cancel any activity, except for very few instances. Those instances have something to do with issues to do with hiring. This issue has been given, as a directive of Council, to the ad hoc committee. It is budgeted for as an activity in the ad hoc committee. Would you want to replicate it in other places? You do not have to do so. That is why we did that. Even when we did that, only US\$1,918,386 was considered rationalised for reallocation. What is the worst-case scenario? When finance people set scenarios, they also seek to know the worst-case scenario. Suppose the decision by the Committee was 100 per cent wrong.

How would it be salvaged? Will it then amount to serious disruption of activities or programmes, as my ICT friend while I was walking out there was trying to convince me yesterday evening? If it ever did, there is a remedy in the Budget process. We know that we can stand here to say that we are at well over 95 per cent confidence level. Researchers like Prof. Kalinda and Dr. Abdallah will tell you that when you talk of 95 per cent confidence level, you are happy with that confidence level. We are beyond that confidence level; there will be no disruption at all to any programme of the EAC as a result of the reallocation. As a matter of fact, there will be a revamp of efficiency at the East Africa Court of Justice, EALA and the Audit Commission will add a lot of efficiency into the working of the EAC.

If that scenario were wrong, what would happen? There is a correction remedy in the budget process. Later, in the year, the Council and the Secretary General could come to honourable Speaker and say, “these activities are being affected as a result of the reallocation. Therefore, we want to consider a Supplementary Budget.” The question is; will there be money for a Supplementary Budget? Yes, there is a lot of it. A sum of US\$21 million will be available for

use next year in our reserve. Why am I saying this? I am going with optimism. I am looking even at young nations like Burundi, who are now responding actively in their contribution.

Remember, this Budget is for use from July onwards. There is the amount that I read out earlier, of the contributions that are expected from member states, of US\$559,111 will be the amount due for contribution from member states. That is to finance this Budget. This Budget will not be financed with the areas we are waiting for now. This Budget will be financed by the income expected to flow in during the next financial year. For that reason, we have an outstanding amount of US\$19,741,027 from Partner States. The good words that we got from the Council Chair the other day, after consultation amongst Council members, were that there is a very high level of indication that, indeed, that money might flow in even – (*Interruption*)

Mr Mukasa-Mbidde: On a point of clarification, honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes, honourable Mbidde.

Mr Mukasa-Mbidde: Honourable Speaker, I seek clarification on the alleged Burundi remittance. I have accessed information from the Directorate.

The Speaker: I think you can take for truth what the Secretary General told us; that there have been remittances from the Republic of Burundi.

Mr Mukasa-Mbidde: Honourable Speaker, I would like the Chairperson, Council of Ministers to address us specifically on that issue as they reply, for the record.

The Speaker: Thank you.

The Chairman of the Committee on General Purpose: Thank you, honourable Speaker and honourable Mbidde for your guidance.

I earlier referred to US\$594 million. It is US\$59,411,212; that is the number we are talking about in terms of contribution. However, the percentages do not change. It is 34.5 per cent for EALA and 65.5 per cent for the Secretariat. The amount of US\$19,741,027 is the outstanding amount to be received in the new financial year as a windfall we are expecting, as the Council has assured us that it will come. When it comes, there will be no struggle at all for us to find money to reallocate US\$1.9 million. Do you understand where I am coming to, honourable members? This week, we passed a Supplementary Budget of US\$4.9 million.

A sum of US\$2.2 million was from the Secretariat Reserve Fund. There is no fear of anybody. Those who feel very concerned that certain activities in certain institutions might be hampered with, we have an opportunity and we are listening House. We will accommodate any effects that might arrive. Supplementary Estimates are inevitable; they will come, whether by effect of this reallocation, which is unlikely, or otherwise. Owing to the nature of operations of our activities out there, it is inevitable that around this time next year, we will still see a Supplementary Budget. The person walking out here saying, “You know, with my outstanding bills, I am at 80 per cent absorption rate.” My friend, we are in June, 2018. Come back in June next year to ask for a Supplementary Budget, if need arises. Do not ask for money now. This is good discipline of budget.

Honourable Speaker, I have spoken a lot. I want to end here by sincerely thanking the many honourable Members who have contributed to this Debate. They include honourable Fatuma Ndangiza, honourable Dr. Anne Itto Leonard, honourable Dr. Gabriel and Dr. Kalinda.

Before I go further, Council, please, look at the people who support this Budget. Have I ever mentioned anything else other than doctor? And the list is long. – *(Laughter)*

They include honourable Eng. Munyaa, Honourable Abega, Honourable Kennedy Mukulia Ayason, Honourable Wanjiku, Honourable Namara, Honourable Florence, Honourable Gai Deng, Honourable Woda, Honourable Fatuma, Honourable Mbidde, Honourable Dr. Celestine Pierre; Honourable Kim Gai, Honourable Noor, Honourable Rutazana, Honourable Mary, Honourable Dr. Woda, Honourable Dr. Abdullah Makame; Honourable Simon, Honourable Rose Akol Okullu; Honourable Susan Nakawuki Nsambu, Honourable Happiness Elias Lugiko, Honourable Christopher Opoka-Okumu, Honourable Stephen George Odongo; Honourable Dr. Xavier Francois Kalinda, Honourable Paul Musamali Mwasu, Honourable Kalonzo Musyoka; Honourable Josephine Sebastian Lemoyan, Honourable Mathias Kasamba, Honourable Eng. Pamela Simon Maasay, Honourable Jean Claude Barimuyabo, and Honourable Marie Claire Burukukiye; and the many other honourable members whom, I am sure, wanted to contribute to this debate.

Honourable Members, I thank you. I beg you to support the recommendations of the committee.

I thank you. – *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Honourable Abega is actually Honourable Pierre Claver Rurakamvye. He is commonly known as “Abega”.

Honourable members, we shall have a short break of 30 minutes. For those colleagues who are fasting, our hardworking staff will guide you to the upper floor, towards the gallery, where a special arrangement has been made for you. The rest of us will take our usual snacks.

An honourable member: What about friends of fasters?

The Speaker: No, no. Friends for this moment are not welcome. – *Laughter*

The Speaker: The House is suspended for 30 minutes.

[The House was suspended at 6.35 p.m.]

[The House Resumed at 7.30 p.m.]

Resumption of Proceedings

The Speaker: Chair Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr. Julius Wandera Maganda) (Ex Officio Member): Mr. Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Chair of the Committee on General Purpose and the members who contributed to the Report, which was, tabled here yesterday, and which we debated this morning. As the Council, we got

a few reactions that we feel we should put to you. This comes out of the discussions that were done by the members of this House.

We appreciate the concerns from all the members. I believe, based on the mood of the discussion, there is a big impact that is going to be put on the Budget proposals that we made here during the Budget Speech and even in the whole Budget document, which hon. Members have. We believe that the Council is here to also facilitate this House to run its affairs, but also the House has its mandate and right to debate and come up with areas they feel they can make changes. Therefore, I just want to seek your indulgence, Mr. Speaker and the House; that all the areas that you have pointed out for us to react on, they are coming in good faith.

Mr. Speaker, also do a prayer here as an ex officio member of this House. I have been trying to recite the prayer of EALA on so many occasions and referring to whether what I do here is really what that prayer would really make me do. The prayer says, somewhere in the middle:

“Let your blessings descend upon us here assembled and grant that we may treat and consider all matters that shall come under our attention and deliberation in so just and faithful a manner as to promote your honour and glory and to advance the peace, prosperity and welfare of this region and to those whose interests you have committed onto us.”

There is a prayer in the Parliament of Uganda, where I also sit as a Member of Parliament, which says:

“Let your blessings descend upon us and look at us with abundant favour and infinite wisdom...”

I feel this House has been blessed by that prayer.

Honourable members: Amen!

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr. Julius Wandera Maganda) (Ex Officio Member): Mr. Speaker, the Bible, in the Book of James, says that when you undress somebody you do not immediately dress in the clothes of that person. If you remove my jacket from me with the impression that the jacket does not make me look smart, and then you put on the same jacket there and then, people will believe that you are not doing it in the best interest of making me look smart.

I just wanted to bring that because the Council looked into all the process that the Committee undertook. The Council appreciate the reallocations that were proposed by the EALA Committee on General Purpose. We believe there are areas, which are tenable, and there are some places, which are not tenable because of reasons I want to give. Article 9(4) of the Treaty provides:

“The organs and institutions of the Community shall perform their functions and act within the powers conferred upon them by or under the Treaty.”

Hon. Opoka-Okumu attempted to bring it out clear, only that when he read he did not go up to Article 32 (3) and (5) of the same Treaty, which provides:

“32. (3) All expenditures of the Community in respect of each financial year shall be considered and approved by the Council and shall be made from the Budget.”

Furthermore, Article 32 (5) provides that the resources of the Community shall be utilised to finance the activities of the Community as shall be determined by the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Council.

Given the foregoing, the Council of Ministers, having referred to Article 13 of the Treaty, has not endorsed the reallocations being proposed by the Committee on General Purpose. The Summit and the policy organ of the Community have taken a decision that no organ should increase their budget, and the Assembly should not be an exception, Mr. Speaker. As you are aware, during the 19th Ordinary Summit, a decision was taken to reduce the number of DSGs to two. The mood in the Community is cost cutting and zero-increment in the Budget until a sustainable financing mechanism is agreed upon and approved by the Summit.

The Ministers of Finance have already initiated a study to align the structures, activities and programmes of the Community within the available resources from the Partner States in order to ensure sustainability. The review of the duration under EALA plenary and committee sessions, and the EACJ sessions, without involving the policy organs is bound to increase the Budget of the Assembly and the EACJ, which is inconsistent with the cost-cutting measures highlighted above.

Mr. Speaker and honourable members, as you are aware; the Council is the policy organ of the Community, whose function is set out under Article 14 of the Treaty. In exercise of its mandate, the Council adopted the Budget that included policy matters, which required budgets, some of which have now been proposed for reallocation. Mr. Speaker, allow me to cite these particular areas.

The Council took a decision to reduce the cost of physical meetings by making use of the video conferencing facility. The video conferencing facility was officially launched at the 16th Ordinary Summit of the East African Community Heads of States held on 20th February 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The Secretariat was directed to maintain and sustain its operations. This initiative is going to be defeated by the Assembly reallocating US\$384,888, which would have a very big impact on the directive from the Heads of States.

At the 19th Ordinary Summit in February 2018, the Council was directed to fund the constitutional making process of the East African political confederation. Accordingly, the Council funds amounting to US\$372,450 to implement the directive of the Summit, out of which the Committee on General Purpose is proposing a reallocation of US\$93,250. The Council is aware of the need to procure motor vehicles for the EACJ. The Council decided that this will be done progressively with one vehicle budgeted for each financial year, beginning with the Budget of 2018/2019 financial year.

Mr. Speaker, matters of video conferencing, medical insurance, facilitation of statutory meetings and delegates attending technical meetings, fast-tracking of the integration of the Republic of South Sudan, developing the new East African Community Logo and branding, undertaking an East African function analysis, enhancing the security at the Lake Victoria Basin Commission offices, adoption and implementation of a paperless way of conducting EAC business, to mention but a few examples; are policy issues within the mandate of the Council. The Assembly would be reluctantly have reallocated these funds.

The explanation given by the Committee on General Purpose for proposing reallocation – duplications in Budget lines – is not tenable because the nomenclature of the activities reflects under the MTEP either the short description of the activity or funding from development partners, which is complemented by counterpart funding from the Partner States. As you are all aware, the most reliable source of funding for the Community is the contribution from the Partner States given that we cannot be fully assured of receiving disbursements from development partners, and that the overall disbursement from development partners has never exceeded 42 per cent. Further, funds from development partners cannot be used for core functions of the Community.

The Secretariat, which coordinates the implementation of the four pillars of the EAC integration, employs more staff and has more running contracts with financial obligations to pay. It also incurs more costs than any other organ or institution of the Community. It remains underfunded. This was also rightfully indicated by the Report of the Committee on General Purpose under the sections of Productions and Social Services.

Mr. Speaker, given the above constraints, no funds should be reallocated from the Secretariat and the equally underfunded Lake Victoria Basin Commission, the East African Kiswahili Commission and the East African Competition Authority. Indeed, the analysis shows the Committee's proposal reallocate the money as follows: The East African Community Secretariat budget is US\$1,422,385, which is equivalent to 70 per cent of the expected contributions from the Partner States; Lake Victoria Basin Development Commission, US\$63,400, which is equivalent to 2 per cent of the Partner States' contribution; East African Kiswahili Commission, US\$229,350, which is equivalent to 14 per cent of the Partner States' contributions; and East African Competition Authority, US\$203,251, which is equivalent to 26 per cent of the Partner States' contribution.

Without those funds, the above four organs and institutions will not be able to deliver on the mandate conferred onto them by the enabling laws. The result of the reallocation will be that EALA will take 38.5 per cent of the main contribution from the Partner States leaving 35.7 per cent to the Secretariat, which oversees the welfare of other pillars for the integration process.

Our position is that the Budget be passed and adopted as was presented by the Council. The activities that require funds targeted from reallocation could be considered by the Council for subsequent budgets, especially in the Fiscal Year 2019/2020. In the meantime, EALA may re-organise its priorities within its current budget ceiling.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, after some consultation with the Council and based on how the Chair made its conclusion after making the sum up of what the members had made during the debate, and given the foregoing explanations, allow me to conclude that the Council requests for further scrutiny and consultations to harmonise on the position that the Chair of the Committee on General Purpose had come up with. We seek for more time and then we come back to this House when we have a harmonised position with the Secretariat.

With those remarks, I beg to reply. - (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Chairperson, Council of Ministers. The request to have time to further consult internally is granted but I want to challenge your thoughts on a few issues, as you consult further.

Council Chair, I am just giving you food for thought. When EALA sits to determine the Budget, it is not in the same capacity as when the Registrar of the Court sits to consider their proposed budget. It is not in the same capacity as when officials of LVBC do the same exercise. The relevant organ that does that similar exercise is the EALA Commission. Therefore, the restriction not to increase own budget can bind the EALA Commission but it cannot bind this House when it convenes like this. Therefore, if the interpretation was to go the way you put it, and then the function of this House would be rubber-stamp. The Treaty cannot have been crafted to create a parliament that will be a rubber-stamping body. Therefore, the Counsel to Commission (CTC) should have given a better advice. It is very important for the Council to consult further internally.

Honourable Members, I am going to make a few announcements before I tell you how we proceed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

RESCHEDULING OF JOINT LEGAL RULES & PRIVILEGES/REGIONAL AFFAIRS & CONFLICT RESOLUTION COMMITTEES SITTING

There is going to be a joint committee of Legal Rules and Privileges, and Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to interphase with some visitors here at 9.30 in the morning. Therefore, it will not be at the time you had been told earlier. Tomorrow in the afternoon, we shall convene here. The Council shall have consulted internally and we shall make a final determination on this subject. It would not be wise to deny time for people to further reflect on their views.

ADJOURNMENT

When I adjourn the House, I will request you to stay around for a few minutes because Abela is around.

Honourable Members, because we have not concluded this item, we shall continue tomorrow at 2.30 p.m. Therefore, I adjourn the House until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

*(The House rose at 8.45 p.m. to resume on
Friday, 8 June 2018 at 2.30 p.m.)*