



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

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**IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)**

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

**90<sup>TH</sup> SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: FIFTH MEETING - THIRD SESSION**

**Thursday, 19 March 2015**

**SPECIAL SITTING**

*(The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:34 a.m. in the  
Chambers of Burundi National Assembly, Bujumbura, Burundi)*

**ANTHEMS**

*(The National Anthem of the United Republic of Tanzania was  
played)*

*(The National Anthem of the Republic of Burundi was played)*

*(The EAC Anthem was played)*

**PRAYER**

*(The Speaker, Mr Daniel Fred Kidega, in the Chair.)*

*(The Assembly was called to order)*

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**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, amidst us today is His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State. *(Applause)* I would now like to make the following proclamation to welcome his presence in the Assembly.

**PROCLAMATION**

*"WHEREAS Clause 1 of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to attend the Assembly notwithstanding that he or she is not a member of the Assembly if in his or her opinion, the business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable and;*

*WHEREAS in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and current Chairperson of the EAC Heads of State is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly*

*NOW THEREFORE it is with great pleasure and honour, on your behalf honourable members, to welcome His Excellency in this Assembly."*

**THE STATE OF EAC ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE, MR. JAKAYA MRISHO KIKWETE**

**Welcome Remarks by the Speaker EALA**

**The Speaker:** Your Excellency Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chair of the Summit of EAC heads of State, Rt hon. Pierre Ntavyohanyuma, President of the Burundi National Assembly, Rt hon. Gabriel Ntisezerana, President of the Burundi Senate, His Excellency Gervase Rufikiri, second vice president of the Republic of Burundi, your excellences, former heads of state of Burundi, Senator Sylvester Tibatunganya and Senator Demetier Ndayiziye, honourable Ombudsman of Burundi Dr Muhammed Rukare, honourable members of the Bureaus of the Parliament of Burundi, hon. Dr Harrison Wakembe, the Chairperson EAC Council of Ministers, the honourable ministers and members of the Council of Minister, Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera, the Secretary General of the East African Community, honourable members of the East African legislative Assembly and the Parliament of Burundi, His Excellency Amb. Elias Tamba, excellences, ambassadors and

members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

Your Excellency, I take this humble opportunity to warmly welcome you to Bujumbura on this occasion of the State of EAC Address and to thank you for gracing us with your presence. *(Applause)*

I also take this opportunity to warmly congratulate you following your assumption to the Chair of the Summit of EAC Heads of State and to assure you of our total support as an Assembly.

Before I proceed Your Excellency, let me reassure you and all East Africans that the Assembly which went through a tumultuous 2014 is now back on track and stronger than ever before.

I thank Your Excellency and the Summit for the concern and support but above all, for giving us democratic space to clean our House. You did so by upholding and maintaining the principle of separation of powers. We are absolutely optimistic that we shall deliver on our promise for in any case, our constituents, the people of East Africa expect nothing less than that.

We have also picked up on some very useful and vital lessons that shall indeed strengthen the resolve to carry on with our mandate.

Such include, measures to strengthen EALA by amending the Rules of Procedure and integrating a code of conduct as part of the governance system.

My administration is keen to do three things to leverage our score card. As we continue to put brick to mortar in the integration process, we will do the following:

1. To reconcile and reunite the assembly to enhance team work, congeniality and create a cordial working environment for all.
2. We will revamp and reposition the image of the Assembly as the people expect it to be.
3. We will prioritise the backlog that is pending before the Assembly.

Two days ago, we were privileged to have His Excellency Pierre Nkuruzinza grace the special sitting of the Assembly and in his remarks, offered us words of counsel and policy directives. The Assembly is very grateful to him.

Today presents yet another occasion for us to listen into the State of EAC Address which is a hallmark and fundamental activity in the annual EAC calendar.

Even more important is the dual uniqueness with which the occasion presents. The first is that the address, as delivered, provides the EAC with the impetus and direction for its organs and institutions to pick their cue from while outlining strategic challenges which require the attention of stakeholders to stimulate progress.

The second concern is its rotational nature which is similar to the very cardinal principle of EALA. In most instances, the occasion calls upon the Chairperson of the Summit to deliver the speech in a neighbouring state from where the EALA is sitting. This aspect evidences the progression of the EAC integration process.

The novelty of the State of the EAC Address dates back to the year 2008 when His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni made the inaugural address to this Assembly in Arusha in the Republic of Tanzania. It has since been institutionalised and we are grateful that all the heads of State have continuously honoured their invitation to this occasion.

The EAC journey has no doubt been marked by a series of interesting, engaging and challenging events. Above all, such experience has proved right the foresight of the founding fathers

of the EAC, who saw the unique value of regional integration. May their souls rest in peace!

Today, the political will is palpable and I congratulate the Summit for the support and direction availed to ensure stability of the integration process, the challenges notwithstanding. Similarly, deemed worthwhile is the determination with which the citizenry attach to the successful implementation of the integration process.

The private sector and civil society have, on the one hand, demanded and rightfully so, their place within the fulcrum of the integration. On the other hand, they now play a watch dog role in line with Articles 127 and 128 of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC.

Your Excellency, a quick glimpse at some of the benefits of integration reveals that:

- a) The rising trade volume which has witnessed the expansion of intra-regional trade from US\$ 1.6 billion in 2008 to US\$ 3.8 billion in 2010. This is coupled by a balanced trade relationship with various partners, which similarly focuses on new and emerging markets.

- b) An upward trend in the foreign direct investment in 2013 with an increase of 6.6 per cent to US\$ 3.7 billion compared to what was registered a year before.
  
- c) The entry and implementation of the one area network in Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda that has seen significant drop in the calling charges to about US cents 12 per unit. We are indeed looking forward to July this year when Tanzania and Burundi will be part of this network.
  
- d) Visible progress with regard to movement of goods in conformity with the rules of origin principle.
  
- e) Visible progress in roads, ports, airways and railways sub sector and the bold decision to introduce the modern standard railway gauge.
  
- f) We look forward to the entire time when the crucial and critical infrastructure system shall reach Kampala, Kigali, Bujumbura to further open the interior to the greater trade and development available.



g) The determination to implement the incremental approach to the integration process in line with Article 5(2) of the Treaty.

Such developments, Your Excellency can only be reinforced with what Jennifer Blake, a leading chief economist and member of the World Economic Forum whose writings and insightful opinions says, "regional integration is key to addressing economic growth and that any existing weaknesses may be addressed through the delivery of wider social and economic benefits and should be prioritised by Africa's leaders as they look to ensure that Africa delivers on its promise in its wider context."

Your Excellency, honourable members, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, generally I am proud that we have not looked back since we rekindled the integration process. Indeed the process has sometimes been punctuated by occasional stagnation or reversals in a few cases and modest achievements at best in others. However, we have kept the faith and hope alive at all times.

We could indeed have done better had we not let the scourge of the non-tariff barriers encumber on the smooth operation of the Customs Union and Common Market but all is not lost. In this regard, I am particularly happy that the Council of Ministers has introduced

the Elimination of NTBs Bill, 2015 in the Assembly. This is one of the priority Bills for the Assembly in this meeting.

I am further pleased to state that the Council of Ministers has assured us of tabling at least four Bills this calendar year. This is vital for the integration process. As EALA, we are alive to what citizens of the EAC continuously crave for as an enabling legal and regulatory environment for integration that is meaningful, that is respectful and is inclusive, adheres to international best practices and that is capable of positioning them to take full advantage of the available opportunities. This is heavily loaded but the reality.

EALA is also elated by the recent pronouncement by the Summit in Nairobi that all Bills due for approbation in accordance with Article 63 of the Treaty be assented to by 30 July 2015.

EALA congratulates the Summit for the pronouncement which puts to rest the public criticism over the perceived delay in the assent of Bills despite the safeguard and provision of the timeframe within the Treaty.

Of equal importance Your Excellency is the enforcement of Acts of the Community by the Partner States. While there is good will on

the part of each Partner State to implement the Community laws, hitherto different levels and tiers of bureaucracies encumber the processes. There is need for the Summit to direct the policy authorities within the respective Partner States to move with haste in this direction.

As an Assembly, on our part, we shall also pick up the matter with our counterparts; the national assemblies in the Partner States.

Your Excellency, permit me to bring to the Summit's attention three issues to chew on, the first being our keenness to see the EAC Treaty amended to reflect the current status of implementation. There is already some work in this direction but EALA pleads that we speed up the process. Let us open to the hard fact that the integration is living and that the process of amendment should be living as well.

Secondly Your Excellency, we appreciate very much that once a year, we have the State of the EAC Address as evidenced here today. We are also very privileged to have the Head of State open the EALA sitting whenever we visit the Partner States. However, we now need to take this level of collaboration to the next level. It is important for us to explore an avenue or possible mechanism that

enables the Assembly to interface with the Summit and exchange more than these experiences.

Our view would be a carefully thought out regional dialogue or forum that brings together the Summit, EALA and key stakeholders to a round table.

Thirdly, let me speak to the issue of full autonomy of the Assembly, a subject so dear to our hearts which I know is also the very intention of the Summit. At the moment, the Assembly is semi-autonomous. The ideal scenario would be full autonomy including direct funding by the Partner States. This is absolutely necessary for the betterment of the EAC. These areas can be addressed by constant engagement between the Assembly and the Summit.

Your Excellency, the matter of elections is key. The cycle of elections begin here in Burundi this May. The United Republic of Tanzania shall hold referendum in April this year and hold general elections in October this year. The Republic of Uganda goes to the polls a year later before the culmination of the same in the Republics of Rwanda and Kenya in 2017.

Our clerical call as EALA is for all Partner States to conduct credible, free and fair elections in line with the respective constitutions devoid of violence and malpractices.

At this juncture, permit me to congratulate you as you head to the finishing line of your tour of duty, Your Excellency. Your Excellency, you not only retire as a statesman but you leave the mantle with your head high and with an indelible legacy for East Africans and Africans to remember you. We are so proud of you for the work you have done and continue to do for this region, Your Excellency.

Before I invite you to address this Assembly, I may briefly request that you allow me to introduce to you some of the dignitaries present in this Assembly. The following dignitaries are present and in attendance of this sitting today: Former President of the Republic of Burundi Senator Sylvester Tibatunganya, Senator Dematier Ndayizeye, the honourable Ombudsman of Burundi Dr Muhammad Rukare, honourable members of the Parliament of Burundi, members of Parliament and Senate of Burundi, honourable ministers of the Government of Burundi, honourable Minister of Zanzibar, Tanzania Dr Mwinyi Hajj Makame Mwadini, members of the Judiciary of Burundi, members of the diplomatic corps, members of the Police and Defence Corps, religious representatives, members of the

national commissions and finally, members of the East African Legislative Assembly.

Finally Your Excellency, it is now with singular pleasure and honour that I execute my humble duty to welcome you to address this august Assembly today, the 19<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2015. You are most welcome, Your Excellency. *(Applause)*

**The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Chairperson of the Summit of EAC Heads of State (Mr Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete):**

Honourable Daniel Fred Kidega, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly; President of the Burundi National Assembly; President of the Burundi Senate, Vice President of the Republic of Burundi, former Presidents of the Republic of Burundi Tibantunganya and Ndayizeye, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers Harrison Mwakyembe, honourable ministers, honourable members of the East African Legislative Assembly, members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me begin by thanking *Bwana* Speaker for the invitation to me to come and grace this Fifth Meeting of the Third Session of the Third Assembly.

I also thank you for the kind words you said about me and the East African Community and the progress that has been made. Your speech contained a number of useful ideas. I wish I received a copy of your speech in advance so that I could have responded to some of the issues here. Anyway, nothing has been lost. We will look into all the wonderful proposals that you have made and we will respond accordingly.

Allow me also to take this opportunity to thank our host, His Excellency President Pierre Nkurunziza for the warmth of reception and gracious hospitality. We have been received very well, we have been kept very warm, and indeed we feel very much at home away from home, thank you so much the President and the people of Burundi.

I sincerely congratulate you, honourable Speaker on your election to this esteemed position of leadership both in the East African Legislative Assembly and in the East African Community setting. We all look unto you for good leadership and wisdom to steer the affairs of this House to the greatest heights possible. I wish you the best of luck and assure you of my personal support as well as that of the government of the United Republic of Tanzania and every country in the East African Region in the discharge of your noble duties.

Whatever way or whenever you think I or we can, in our collectiveness, be useful, please let us know.

Mr Speaker, I thank you for affording me this rare opportunity to address this august Assembly. This is the fourth time in the past six years that I do so. It has always been a pleasure and honour for me to share my thoughts with the distinguished members of the East African Legislative Assembly and this time in particular about the East African Community and East African integration process.

Let me state at the outset that when one looks back through the tunnel of history, one clearly appreciates the momentous achievements made by the East African Community to date. A lot of progress has been made, both in building the institutions of the Community and in integrating the region. No doubt, East African Community has become a very strong institution both in terms of its organisation and institutional setup and in the functioning of its various organs and institutions.

With regards to integration process, a lot of ground has been covered and successfully so. Mr Speaker, as you may recall, in the Charter establishing the East African Community, it was agreed that the entry point in our integration process would be the



Customs Union followed by the Common Market then the Monetary Union and ultimately Political Federation.

The Customs Union which started in the year 2000 involved two things: Firstly, the free movement of goods produced in the East African member states. Secondly, a common external tariff. Goods are supposed to move freely across the borders of member states without tariffs being charged and not encumbered by non-tariff barriers.

It is heart-warming indeed to note that the implementation of the Customs Union which started in 2000 as I said earlier, has been a great success. Indeed goods which meet the criteria of the rule of origin have been moving across borders without paying taxes. However, non-tariff barriers remain a challenge.

Progress has been made but the matter has not been resolved fully yet. These challenges notwithstanding, intra-East African trade, Community trade has registers phenomenal increase in the past 10-15 years. Trade is now at 23 per cent, over and above the intra-African trade figure which is only 12 per cent. It is half what we have achieved in the east African Community.

There has been a 300 per cent increase in the volume of trade within the East African Community region. These numbers, coupled with the East African Community GDP of US\$ 110.3 billion with an overall average rate of growth of 2.6 per cent, some of them are far above that, makes our region a formidable trade and economic block in Africa.

At the same time, government revenues have continued to increase annually year after year from 69.55 per cent of the target in 2010 for example, to 96.86 per cent of the target in 2013. I am mentioning this because it is important.

During the discussions on the establishment of the Customs Union, the fear of loss of government revenues was one of the leading fears. It has turned out differently. One can indeed brag to say the East African Community is next to none on the African continent.

We envisage increased revenues when the single customs territory becomes fully operational in the near future. So far, so good, the piloting exercises are progressing well in all member states. Indeed it has proven to be helpful in reducing encumbrances to importers and discouraging dumping and diversion of transit goods.

Ultimately, it will be an effective tool of promoting trade and curbing revenue losses to government or rather increasing revenues to governments.

Mr Speaker, it is incumbent upon us therefore, to ensure that all the remaining non-tariff barriers to trade are removed in the East African Community region. We all admit that we have done very well in eliminating tariffs as I have just mentioned but we must now resolve to do away with the remaining non-tariff barriers, commendable work has been and continues to be done to address the transport related non-tariff barriers such as road blocks, weigh bridges, police check points on the roads as well as customs red tape at ports and exit points.

The progress made so far at the ports of Mombasa and Dar-es-Salaam and on the Northern Corridor with regard to road blocks shows that it is possible to eliminate these non-tariff barriers. Measures have been taken in earnest to reduce road blocks on the Tanzanian side of the Central corridor. I am sure in the next few months, you will notice a huge improvement.

Mr Speaker and distinguished members of this Assembly, I am happy to inform this august Assembly that Police check points have been reduced from 15 to six. Our aim is to reduce them to none except

when need arises. I am underscoring the issue of need arises because you cannot simply say that there will never be Police check points anywhere on the East African roads. Suppose there has been a robbery? Suppose there is a security problem you have to erect Police road blocks.

So I am saying, the aim is to get to none but I cannot say it is going to be 100 per cent none all the time, every day 24/7, from January to December, no way. There may be times when they will have to be erected because of the particular circumstances that may arise.

The Tanzanian Revenue Authority checks have been reduced from three to zero, weigh bridges have remained eight but our plan is to reduce them to three. We are introducing weigh in motion technology. One is aired done at Kigwaza, two are on their way at Manyoni and Nyakahura. When I mention these names for the transporters, they know what I am saying. For the rest of you who do not know what Manyoni or Nyakahura means, good for you.

But those who are in the business of transportation know that from Dar-es-Salaam if you have a weighbridge at Kigwaza and another one at Manyoni, it means that you pass through Kyalinze, Morogoro and all these places until Manyoni. After that you pass all the way

through Isingida, Nzega, Kahama, Nyakanazi, Lusahunga up until Nyakahura which is a few kilometres away from the Burundi and Rwandan border. So if you can have only these three weighbridges to the transporters it is such an important matter indeed.

I am told with the current improvements alone, for a container to move from the Port of Dar-es-Salaam to Kigali takes three days. From the Ports of Dar-es-Salaam to Bujumbura takes three and a half days from the previous eight days respectively. I pledged, during the Sixteenth Summit that during my time as Chairman of the East African Community, I will give due attention to the elimination of non-tariff barriers in the East African Community region. I intend to follow up on this pledge.

We are dealing with the non-tariff barriers related to the transport infrastructure but we should now devote time also to do those related to phyto-sanitary measures.

I would appreciate the partnership and support of the East African Legislative Assembly in these endeavours. We must make the East African Community region the best place to do business on the African continent.

Mr Speaker, we must do everything within our power to reduce infrastructure related costs at the shortest possible time. These are responsible in a big way or in many ways, to the high cost of doing business in our region. It is estimated that the cost of transport in our region are four to five times higher compared to the cost of transport in the developed countries. It is estimated that it accounts for about 30 to 40 per cent of the price of goods in the land locked countries. Investing in better and efficient ports, railways, roads, aviation services, energy and telecommunications are things we must continue to do.

As you may recall at the Second East African Community Heads of State retreat on Infrastructure development held in Nairobi on 29 November, 2012, we undertook to close the infrastructure deficit in East Africa by 2020. I note with a deep sense of satisfaction the on-going work both in the Northern Corridor and central Corridor in this regard. The East African Legislative Assembly should regularly request member states to report on progress being made on the implementation of the outcomes of that retreat.

Let us be reminded that the full integration of the East African Community region very much depends on the success of these efforts. We must also know that the world we live in and that that is ahead of us has no place for fragmented markets, no place for isolated

industrial value chains and no place for inadequacy in-country or cross border infrastructure. Work with the Council of Ministers to devise ways and means to secure investments and funding for the East African infrastructure programs and projects.

When I was Minister for Foreign Affairs and responsible for the East African Community, we worked so hard and came up with what we call the East African road network. Its implementation is on-going. You should undertake similar initiatives related to other infrastructure within the region. That one remains the guideline.

The other thing that we did was to undertake a road show. I led that road show to Brussels in the EU, to Japan, to Washington, the World Bank and the US Government to pitch for support for the implementation of the East African road network. We also went to Abidjan. At that time the East African Development Bank was based in Abidjan. That is how we have been able to get this money. The Kyotera-Mutukula-Bukoba-Muhutwe road, the Arusha-Namanga-Athi River road funded by the East African Development Bank but being implemented in the two countries separately but we pitched together because we went there saying, this is an East African road, help us. This is the way to go but we have to prove that this is an East African project and this is what we did and here we are now, we have these roads.

Of course even when you do investment internally, you always talk about it. Almost 75 per cent of the roads in the East African road network are in Tanzania so Tanzania as a country has this responsibility of making sure that those roads are constructed but whenever we talk about construction of these roads, we have the East African region in mind. You will see in this network that we had the Northern Corridor which starts from Mombasa through Uganda-

At that time Rwanda and Burundi were not part of the East African Community but we built in a concept where these roads within East Africa should enable the East African countries also to reach neighbouring countries. That is why when we did the Northern Corridor, we ended up at the border with Rwanda. We also ended up at the border with Sudan at that time. On the Kenyan side, we also went to the border with Sudan, to the border with Ethiopia. On the Tanzanian side we also went to the border with Zambia and to the border with Mozambique. So we have that road.

We also have the Central Corridor which starts from Dar-es-Salaam all the way to the border with Burundi and Rwanda. Then we had the ring road; the Lake Victoria ring road which starts from the Tanzania-Uganda border all the way to the Kenya-Tanzania border



and all the way to the Uganda-Kenya border and again through Uganda to the Tanzania-Uganda border.

Then we had what we call the Western Corridor which starts from Tunduma all the way along Lake Tanganyika, again to the border with Uganda and Rwanda and Burundi. So the whole idea is if Uganda wants to do trade with Zambia, they do not have to go all the way to Nairobi and then to somewhere in Tanzania, back and then go there. They just use the Lake Tanganyika Corridor all the way. That of course now benefits Rwanda and Burundi because on that road there is a lot of work that is going on which we have done. One thing that we have done in Tanzania is the roads. We have done a lot. The Great North road is about to be complete and now you can travel from Tunduma all the way to the Ethiopian border. When we complete the stretch from Dodoma to Babati then everything will be done.

The Lake Tanganyika access is now done up to Mpanda. We are working on the stretch between Mpanda and Ovinza and then we are also working on the stretch from Kigoma to Nyakanazi. In the Kigoma-Nyakanazi stretch we are also going Kasulu-Manyovu. I am sure the people of Burundi know that so that you completely open up this area.

The point I am making is that it has been an East African project, in its inception and its mobilisation of resources. It is so important. I am saying if we have to be an East African region, the example of the East African road network is the example to follow.

Excellences, honourable Speaker, honourable ministers, members of the East African Legislative Assembly, as stipulated in the Charter establishing the East African Community, the Common Market is the next stage after the Customs Union. As you may recall, the Common Market protocol was signed in 2009 and came into force in 2010. This Common Market is what answers the very question about movement of people, capital and services within this region. The feedback from the east African Common Market scorecard 2014 presented at the last Summit in Nairobi shows that progress is not good enough. For example with regard to the free movement of services, 63 measures out of 500 key set of laws and regulations of Partner States were identified to be inconsistent with the Common Market Protocol. 73 per cent of these are exclusively related to professional services.

With regard to the movement of goods, a lot has been done a part from the non-tariff barriers related to sanitary and phyto-sanitary measures. In terms of movement of capital, only 2 of the

20 capital operations are free of restrictions in all the Partner States. These two are related to external borrowing and repatriation of proceeds from the sale of assets. Otherwise, the remaining 18, in all our countries, remain wanting.

The scorecard reminds us that Partner States are behind schedule in reviewing and amending national laws in accordance with the Common Market protocol. This impedes progress in the implementation of the protocol and the East African integration process at large. We agreed at the Summit in Nairobi that we should do more in our respective member states on the implementation of the findings and recommendations of the scorecard. I appeal to this august House to join hands in raising awareness and support for the speedy implementation of the findings and recommendations.

We should help to overcome embedded resistance and narrow nationalistic sentiments. I appreciate the fact that there are, before this House, a number of Bills which will help advance the building of the Common Market. I am told there is the East African cross border legal practice Bill, the East African Community electronic transactions Bill, and the East African Community competition Bill. I hope you will treat them with the urgency that they deserve.

Mr Speaker, ours is a regional integration undertaking the ride from the historical lessons of the defunct East African Community; the one which was there in 1967 up to 1977. Also from the gains made by the Tripartite Commission on East African Cooperation from 1996 to 1999. We all know what contributed to the demise of the previous East African Community. It is not my intention to dwell on the narration of the reasons and circumstances of the collapse but when conceiving the new Community, which I happened to be part of, we all agreed that we should avoid doing the things that caused that Community to collapse.

We should avoid repeating the mistakes of history. However, we should not be prisoners of it. We also agreed to move cautiously, making every step we take the building block of the next step. We agreed that every step we take should be the building block of the next step we are going to take. That way, we will be building on very strong foundations.

Indeed we started with the Tripartite Commission on East African Cooperation in 1996 and later in 1999, this was graduated to the current East African Community. The principle of growth in stages is well enshrined in the Charter establishing the East African Community. We have remained faithful to this principle but above

all, we have grown in memberships. We started as three partners, we are now five.

But the new Community has provision for others to join if they meet the terms and conditions we have stipulated. Among the terms include sharing a common border with a member of the East African Community and subscribing to the ideals of the East African Community. So far, South Sudan and Somalia have applied. Subscribe to the ideals of democracy-

Let me say that yesterday I was inaugurating new national archives. They brought me to the archives of the East African Community. Somalia had actually applied to join the Community in 1974 and the documents are there only that two or three years later, the Community died. I was pleasantly surprised that Swaziland had also applied. Unfortunately, they did not have a common border. Ethiopia had applied. But of course we have a lot of criteria. The documents are there in the national archives. Of course now we have Sudan and Somalia again. I think the process has started, hopefully we will soon conclude and invite these countries to join us as members of the Community. *(Applause)*

But subscribing to the ideals of democracy, good governance, human rights and rule of law are critical tenets of the East African

Community. (*Applause*) We all agreed that better governed member states contribute to a prosperous region. It is also true that badly governed member states frustrate the integration process. Moreover, it deters investment and makes the region an unfavourable destination for both investment and trade. Peace, security and stability must and should continue to be high on our agenda.

I am happy, as I address this House, which this region is peaceful, this region is secure and this region is stable. Democratic values and institutions continue to take root and shape in our countries. This year, we will be having elections in Burundi, a referendum on the proposed constitution in Tanzania and general elections in Tanzania. The people of East Africa should join hands in wishing these two countries success in these important undertakings of theirs.

Let the elections be credible, free, fair, which abide and respect the Constitutions and the relevant electoral laws of the countries. Let them come out of these processes peaceful, a united nation and united people.

To my Burundi brothers and sisters, let me say that I am aware of the anxiety over the electoral process ahead of you. There are whispers, at times they are translated into fears that this great

country may lose the prevailing peace and stability garnered over the last one and a half decade, I say peace and stability that has been a very painful one to attain.

Honestly, it scares some of us and we dread the idea that there could be violence in Burundi. God forbid! In my views, there are ways of doing things right and avoiding political instability and violence. The leaders; political, religious, civic and the people of Burundi should consider to do the following: one, respect the Constitution of Burundi and the Arusha Peace Accord. Respect them to the letter and spirit.

In the same vein, respect the electoral laws of the country. If you respect the Constitution and the electoral laws, where will the problem be? How could it arise? It would only arise if you have ambitious political leaders because at times the problem we have in Africa is that the elections are not good enough if I do not win. But if the laws of the land are respected, the Constitution is respected and in the specific case of Burundi, the Arusha Accords are respected, where is the problem?

Two, desist from talking about resorting to violence. You cannot go into this process and say if this does not happen, I am going to start violence. How? I really cannot contemplate that somebody

right for the start is contemplating on civil disobedience and violence. Then you are not doing it in good faith. That may land your country into even bigger problems.

Use dialogue, as much as you can. There are so many wise men and women in this country, there are so many institutions that are able to do that. You do not need to import anybody in order to do the dialogue. You do not need anybody to lecture you on the importance of dialogue. Above all, an election is governed by the Constitution, by the laws of the land. If you feel that the laws of the land have been violated, your recourse is to the courts of law. Invoke the laws of Burundi when you feel the Constitution of the electoral laws have been violated. Your recourse should not be violence. It does not solve the problem because an election is governed by the Constitution, is governed by the electoral laws. If you resort to that violence, it will not help you to implement the laws. If laws are violated, the arbiter is the court of law.

We all have trust in you the leaders; political, civic and the people of Burundi that you will rise to the current challenges and overcome them. You have been able to manage even more challenging situations before. I do not see why you should fail this time. Pluck up courage, master political will and everything will fall into place.



I would like to assure you that Tanzania, all members of the East African Community and the Great Lakes region will assist and is ready to assist if need be. We are ready to walk with you every step of the way as we did in the past when you had problems.

Mr Speaker, our region is not without security challenges. The fact that we are surrounded by other countries and regions in conflict poses a security challenge to our region. On the Burundi thing, let me say, my humble appeal to all of those who are friends of Burundi, help the people of Burundi. Take the path of dialogue, take the path of constitutional order, and take the path of respect for the electoral law and the legal institutions. Do not help the people of Burundi by doing something else. Then you do not love this country, you only love yourselves. You love your own personal interests.

Back to what I was saying, peace, security and stability must be and should continue to be high on the agenda of the Community. There are security challenges, the fact that we are surrounded by other countries and regions in conflict poses a security challenge to our region. Therefore, we cannot avoid keeping our eyes on them and being of assistance when need arises.

It is in this regard that our region has been involved in the DRC, it is now involved in South Sudan and Somalia. We must continue to assist these countries. It is in our best interest to do so since all of them are potential future members of the East African Community. But even if it does not happen, as human beings we have a historical responsibility to help brothers and sisters in danger or in need.

Mr Speaker, terrorism and transnational crimes are other security challenges facing our region, which require a regional response for effective control and success. I am glad that efforts are ongoing at regional level to address these challenges. There is closer cooperation between the defence and security organs of our respective countries, they share intelligence and undertake and coordinate joint actions. This is welcome and we should encourage it to continue.

It is important that our region remains seized with the peace and security agenda for as I said earlier, it determines the sustainability of the East African Community now and in future.

Mr Speaker, this esteemed House is one of the important pillars of our Community. It is the Organ that carries the voice and aspirations of our people. This is where people's interests are

raised, aggregated and translated into laws. Since ours is a people's integration, this House is at the heart of our integration. I commend the good work being done by this House. This is amply evident. The Bills passed by this House give life and meaning to our cooperation aspirations. It could not be possible for the East African Community to achieve so much within this short period of time of its existence without the good work being done by the East African Legislative Assembly.

Many Bills passed by this House and resolutions adopted have contributed immensely to us advancing the East African integration agenda. I am glad to note that in this session too, there will be Bills which if passed, will impact positively on the facilitation of the Common Market and Monetary Union.

Mr Speaker, this Assembly must continue to be the people's Assembly and their first point of call. You must be seen to be spending more time deliberating on issues of concern to the people of East Africa and not otherwise. You must give credence to issues which are regional in character rather than trivial national interests.

We must see that East Africanness in you. You have to show that you are East Africans. If you come to this House fragmented and everyone withdrawing to his national cocoon, then the East African

Legislative Assembly is not the place you should be. Look for some other place.

I appreciate the efforts you are making or expending in reaching out to your respective national parliaments, governments and various interest groups. They are your constituencies. I am aware also that during this meeting, you will meet the East African Community ambassadors in Burundi and hold consultations with the East African Trade Union Confederation, the East African Employers Association. This is the way to go.

I urge you to do this throughout East Africa. This way, you will increase people's awareness and enhance the relevance of this Parliament and the Community to them. I am glad to report that another historic milestone has been laid with regard to the functions of the East African Community; the East African Court of Justice.

At the 16<sup>th</sup> Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community in Nairobi recently, we adopted and signed the Protocol to operationalise the extended jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice. This extended jurisdiction covers trade and investment matters as well as issues related to the East African Monetary Union. This is yet another important avenue to East Africans to

access justice and reap more benefits from their Community. It consolidates the integration process.

Mr Speaker, integration is not a one off event. It is multi-faceted and takes time. As such, patience and understanding is absolutely important otherwise we may end up making mistakes which we could avoid or make mistakes which, at the end of the day, we will regret why we took that decision. We must remain steadfast and focused on deepening and widening East African integration.

Trade indicators and statistics confirm that this is happening steadily. However, we should not be complacent. In my view, we need to do more in many ways. Allow me to mention two things going forward. Ne, we must increase the pace of the implementation of decisions, agreements of the various organs of the Community which we ourselves enter into and decide.

Recent reports show that implementation of tense decisions and agreements stands at 78.5 per cent with Kenya, 75.7 with Rwanda, 66 Tanzania, 56 Burundi, and 48 Uganda. Is this correct, Secretary General?

At the last Summit, we agreed to urge ourselves to ensure speedy implementation of the decisions we make and the agreements we sign.

We also applauded the idea to institutionalise mechanisms of tracking the implementation of the decisions and agreements reached.

Secondly, we must promote ownership of the integration process by the people of East Africa. As a matter of fact, the future and sustainability of this Community very much depends upon how far we succeed in making the people of East Africa feel that they benefit from the Community. The issue here is making them feel that they benefit. It is not about lecturing to them that you know, this thing is good, economies of scale- If at the end of the day they do not benefit, those economies of scale benefit you and not them. We have to keep this in mind. We have to do the things that the people of East Africa can rise and say, I am benefiting from the Community and not say that our leaders are saying the Community is useful. How about you? They say well, the leaders are saying it so maybe I also benefit.

The state of East Africa report 2013 done by the Society of International Development provides us with some important insights. It suggests that the future of the region will depend on how we make growth inclusive and how we narrow the inequality gap within nations and within the region.

You cannot have a Community where there is inequality within nations but there is huge inequality between the nations that are cooperating partners. This is not sustainable. At some point, this will collapse. We do not want the Community to collapse again.

Certainly, the answer lies in deepening integration, increasing investments and trade which have proven to be good catalysts for promoting prosperity and improving the welfare of our people. Integration is the best way forward for no one country can overcome these challenges alone. I urge this Assembly to make its requisite or expected contribution towards advancing the cause of East African integration.

In conclusion let me say that we are all witnesses to the fact that a lot of progress has been made in the East African integration process. What we have been able to achieve in this short period of time is truly amazing to us and the world at large is observing what is taking place in the East African Community. The pace and depth of the integration process has certainly been phenomenal. We have demonstrated to the world that the integration process can actually happen in Africa.

Therefore, the East African Federation and the United States of Africa are not a distant mirage or dream. They are possible and

doable. For us in Tanzania, with 50 years' experience of the union between Tanganyika and Zanzibar, we know it is possible and we know it is doable. We believe in it, we are living in it, we look forward to live as East Africans in the East African Federation and ultimately as Africans in the Unites States of Africa.

Let us remain committed and steadfast in the pursuit of these noble ideas, nothing is impossible, it can be done, play your part.

Mr Speaker, with these many words, I thank you once again, and members of this Legislative Assembly, for the invitation and for your kind attention. I thank you.

#### **VOTE OF THANKS**

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, Your Excellency for your very powerful and crystal clear speech. There could never have been any speech better than this one at this point of our integration. It is loaded with a lot of policy directives and we are very grateful.

Your Excellency, the Assembly shall debate this speech and out of the debate will stem motions and several other outputs from the Assembly. We are very grateful.



Your Excellency, it is not the intention and shall never be the intention of this Assembly to ambush you or any member of the Summit. This Assembly is a learning Assembly and the next State of the Community Address will receive the speech of the Speaker in time.

Your Excellency, I do not have enough words to appreciate your words of wisdom but allow me to invite one of the honourable members who shall do so on our behalf. Hon. Hafsa Mossi, please come and move on our behalf.

**Ms Hafsa Mossi (Burundi):** Your Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Summit of Heads of State, Your Excellency Pierre Ntavyohanyuma, the Speaker of the National Assembly, Your Excellency Gabriel Ntisezerana, the president of Senate, The Rt hon. Speaker of EALA, members of the Bureau from National Assembly and Senate, Your Excellency the Ombudsman of Burundi Sheikh Muhammed Rukara, former heads of state Demetier Ndeyizeye and Sylvester Tibanhunganya, honourable members of EALA, honourable members of Parliament, the Chairperson of Council of Ministers Your Excellency Harrison Mwakyembe, honourable ministers, members of the diplomatic corps and international organisations, members of the media, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed.

It is indeed, Your Excellency, a great honour and privilege for me to be given this opportunity to move a vote of thanks on behalf of the East African Legislative Assembly. Allow me, Your Excellency, first and foremost to thank you for having accepted to come to Burundi to address this august House and the Government of Burundi for hosting you, Your Excellency.

This is a testimony of your commitment to the integration process and we have just heard so many words that can confirm that you are

really committed to integration. We thank you, Your Excellency for your guidance and directives aiming at taking the integration process to greater heights but also for such a powerfully and inspiring speech.

We very much agree that tangible actions are needed so that the people of East Africa are benefiting from the integration process. Your Excellency, we appreciate your commitment to contribute in any way to make sure EALA is stronger than ever but also your commitment once again to the integration in general.

Your Excellency, we appreciate the directives you gave, but also the pledge that you gave to make sure that all non-tariff barriers to trade are removed - *(Applause)*. We commend that you gave directives that initiatives be taken so that we can have more EAC projects in the area of implementation of Common Market protocol but also in the areas of all the pillars of integration. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency emphasised that peace and security are high on your agenda, and this is Music to our ears, Your Excellency. We appreciate the advice given to Burundians because you were one of the architects of the peace process in Burundi and you know, Your Excellency what it took for Burundi to get where we are today.

Your Excellency, I am particularly honoured and very privileged to speak today about the charismatic leader that you are, hailed to be outgoing, down to earth, accessible and generally media friendly. When I speak about this, I speak with authority because I have known Your Excellency for the past 19 years when I was a journalist and I interviewed you so many times. You were always available, even when it was almost impossible. *Mina shukuru sana, Mhemshimiwa Rais.*

Your Excellency the President and Chair Summit of EAC Heads of State, allow me to highlight some of your major achievements of which we East Africans are proud of and I beg your forgiveness if I miss some of them because you have been in the Public Service for more than 30 years. You have also been the most serving Foreign Minister in the history of Tanzania.

Your excellency, you have been instrumental since you were the Minister of Foreign Affairs in bringing about peace in the Great Lakes region but also in the Southern African countries and I know for a fact that Burundi has benefitted a lot from your efforts, commitment, sacrifice that the country Tanzania has made to make sure men and women of this country live in a peaceful way. Burundians are forever grateful for the role in mediation,

facilitation, hosting talks but also for managing the 1 million refugees that you received in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Your Excellency, on foreign policy, you understand the global dynamics, you can negotiate with global leaders with confidence and you have rebranded Tanzania in East Africa with pride.

On the economic growth, you have won much international praise for your management of the Tanzanian economy and have steered the country towards a free market economy without totally rejecting the principles of the founding father of Tanzania *Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere.

Your Excellency, you have indeed embarked on a program to fulfil the Tanzania Vision 2025 with the aim of moving the country from a low income country to a middle class income country, alongside the importance of initiating a model of fast tracking the economy and uplifting the country, which is dubbed the "Big Result Now" *ama "Matokeo Makubwa Sasa"* cannot be over emphasised.

The sectors which are covered under this program are the drivers of the development namely energy, natural gas, transport, water, education and agriculture. As you were once quoted saying, "Roads are the blood vessels of the economy" you really walked the talk

because infrastructure has been one of the top priorities with particular focus on roads.

Today Your Excellency, the road network in Tanzania is one of the most admired in the region, which connects the whole country. Other projects are *Kilimo Kwanza* since you believe that food security is one of the priorities of this region. Your commitment towards empowering women and I repeat empowering women, youth and sports is also one of the legacies you are going to leave behind.

On the integration process, you have been playing a pivotal role or rather, you are the key architect of the pillars of the integration particularly the delicate negotiations that went under your supervision of the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and now Political federation and especially your role in developing infrastructure.

It is our prayer that as you prepare to leave office, you will continue to commit yourself to the integration agenda and peace building because East Africans will need to benefit from your experience and skills in those areas in our region.

Finally Your Excellency, I want to hail you for embracing technology as one of the tools for communication because communication sets the agenda of the world. We wish you all the

best in your endeavours to make sure people from Tanzania have a new Constitution in the future with the aim of uplifting the lives of millions of Tanzanians and therefore, East Africans. *Kwamara ingine tena, Mheshimiwa Rais, heshma na taalina na umbani nitweshkrani thathati komwekolo ... towa siku kwa lewo.* We thank you very much for your presence amidst us and we will make sure that the Council of Ministers implement the directives and the decisions of the Summit. I thank you very much, Your Excellency. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you so much, hon. Hafsa Mossi for the wonderful accolades on our behalf to His Excellency the President. Honourable members, before I adjourn the House, I have the following announcements to make.

One, His Excellency has gracefully accepted to have numerous photographs with us - *(Applause)* - because we know this is one of the last chances available for us to have photograph with him. Your Excellency you will be in front for the numerous photographs and the Sergeant-at-Arms should organise this.

We also invite Your Excellency and all our invited guests to a cocktail at the beautiful foyer in front of this Assembly.

I now therefore take this opportunity, Your Excellency, to adjourn this House to this afternoon, 4 p.m. House stands adjourned.

*(The Assembly rose at 1.30 p.m. and adjourned until 2.30 p.m. in the afternoon)*

#### **ANTHEMS**

*(The East African Community Anthem was played.)*



*(The National Anthem of the United Republic of Tanzania was  
played.)*