



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

23RD SITTING – FIFTH MEETING – FIRST SESSION – FOURTH ASSEMBLY

Friday, 8th June 2018

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:30 p.m. at the 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)

MOTION

CONSIDERATION OF THE BUDGET OF
THE EAST AFRICAN
COMMUNITY FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2018/19

The Speaker: Good afternoon honourable Members. If I may remind you, yesterday before we adjourned the Chairperson, Council of Ministers had made his reply and requested time to consult internally. I granted him that time for further consultation. I now

ask the Chairperson, Council of Ministers to report to the House.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Speaker, I want to thank you once again for this opportunity to stand before the House. Yesterday, I attempted to respond to the report and the debate that had ensued in the House. I requested the House to allow the Council to do internal consultation, which we did.

Yesterday evening we went through the plans and the adjustments that had been put before

this House by the Committee on General Purpose and we put our efforts to have a few reallocations. Mr. Speaker, we had the opportunity to meet the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose this morning to harmonise our report with his and I believe he will be reporting back to this House on the areas that we harmonised.

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you. Chairperson Committee on General Purpose.

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you very much Rt. hon. Speaker. I take this opportunity to thank the Chairperson, Council of Ministers for his wisdom yesterday in asking us to reconsider and take time out to go and consult further because yesterday we were at a point where temperatures were a bit high. I think it was a good thing; he did, to start his discussion yesterday with prayer. We should not underestimate the power of prayer. What he did translated to discussions this morning between Council, myself and a number of Members of this House during which time Council presented a number of suggestions and areas that they wanted us to reconsider in our report.

Hon. Speaker, that deliberation and discussion continued up to five minutes ago, the request from Council was to reduce the number of reallocations that the Committee on General Purpose had done on several areas citing a number of good reasons for that particular purpose, and the Committee on General Purpose has listened to that. On the onset, I feel very encouraged that on many grounds the Committee on General Purpose found it necessary to reallocate funds and the Council agreed with us. Therefore, from the onset we started from about fifty per cent in

agreement on the issues that existed leaving us to hammer out the remaining fifty per cent of the issues. Through the deliberations and discussions, we managed to zero in on three core areas of great concern to Council for seeking our consideration.

As I stand here to speak honourable Speaker, I want to seek your indulgence. My report is being typed by the secretariat. Therefore, I will be giving a lot more details that are elaborate later. However, in the meantime, since some of these figures are known to me, to brief honourable Members, the suggestion of Council would have seen a reduction of the amounts that were reallocated by the Committee on General Purpose, according to the report, to about US\$770,000 down from the US\$1,960,000 that the Committee had recommended. Upon discussions that we had and upon agreeing on the three areas of critical importance, that number will change in three areas. That will now mean that because the report of the Committee on General Purpose is still on the Floor and the question has not been put, that honourable Speaker, first, I will seek an amendment to the report.

On the three areas Mr. Speaker, the House was yesterday informed on the issue of the ICT department. In the ICT department, the Committee on General Purpose had rationalised an amount of US\$ 384,000. However, with the percentage of budget utilisation, which as I informed the House yesterday was a subject or product of a person who I had earlier said was moving with information in hand to persuade the Chair on the corridors outside the Chamber, that information has now been formally tabled before the Committee on General Purpose this morning. Therefore, the Committee on General Purpose took time to consider that particular request of consideration by the Council on the ICT, which showed that

unlike the information we were given earlier at the stage when the Committee on General Purpose was making its deliberations two weeks ago, now the new status of that particular department is now available to us. We realised that, indeed, their utilisation to date stands at the number of eighty per cent and for that reason, with a number of new programmes that are likely to run next year the Committee on General Purpose had to take some further consideration.

In this regard honourable Speaker, the report of the Committee should be amended both in annexure 1 under the activity on ICT and I will read the activity number for ease of record because we have to amend these things very technically. I beg your indulgence honourable Speaker because we just concluded this meeting and the documents are being prepared by the clerks. The activity number M5S24T2407S, which is on the ICT department, the number that had earlier been deducted will now, change. You are looking at the annexure page 5 of the annexes that you have to the report. That number which earlier read US\$384, 887 will now be corrected. On the annexure and in the report for the particular activity which I have described. I do not know whether for the clerks purposes I will re-read that activity number again. The activity in ICT number M5S24T2407S is page 5 of the annexure. It is also in the report but I would rather be guided from the annexure in terms of numbers then the report will also subsequently be amended accordingly.

That number will now come down from the US\$384,887 to US\$184, 222. Therefore, the Committee on General Purpose is now proposing that as an amendment to our report, both on the substantive report and the annexure, that particular Vote be amended accordingly. Further, we will now have to amend the second one, which I mentioned

was for the activity for staff welfare. Honourable Members I will guide you to the page, please bear with me. I sought for the Speaker's indulgence and I seek the same from you. I can understand the confusion you are going through. We have just come out of this meeting. The detailed report is being typed by the secretariat. I am doing my best to dig into the report. I will go through it with you and guide you accordingly to the appropriate page where we want to amend.

Page 8 of the annexure will also reflect a similar narrative in our report. I think the clerks have the activity number. On page 8 of the annexure, the first activity on item number 19, M4J03T1801S05, was under the political affairs Vote. That particular amount of US\$69,950 was deducted from a substantive amount of US\$112,000 that was allocated for review of the Constitution to convene a meeting of experts from Partner States to review and upgrade the views of the Council of Ministers on the proposed model of the EAC Political Confederation. Council presented a strong case on this particular one and urged the Committee on General Purpose that this was necessary expenditure to incur because it would result to among other things, the working out of the modalities of the new Constitution for the envisaged EAC Confederation. For that reason the Council brought adequate explanation to show that the activity's funding was very necessary and therefore should be maintained.

Subsequently, the Committee on General Purpose accepted to take note of the view of Council and thereby accommodated that amount in totality. Therefore, that recommendation for a rationalisation of US\$69,950 from the activity described is herein dropped. Therefore, we will amend our Committee Report as well as the annexures of this.

Rt. hon. Speaker, I just want to let the Members know that I am taking you through this so that you understand the areas that we have addressed. They are only three in that area then of course, we will go to the reallocation effect on the other side. In accounts, you have to balance the numbers all the time. We have talked about the US\$69,950, we thought that that expenditure was a necessary and should be retained.

The third and last item for consideration is an amount on staff welfare, which was presented by the Council. This is on page four of your annexures to the report that I have presented to you. There is item number nine there which activity number is M5S09T1904S02 on the Human Resource Management and Development department vote which was to coordinate EAC staff welfare. In this area, the amount that was earlier allocated in that place was US\$ 94,000. The Committee on General Purpose had rationalised an amount on US\$50,000 out of that particular Vote. However, Council presented a strong case to this urging Members to reconsider.

We had deducted earlier because we were advised by the utilisation rate. That particular Vote was underutilised but this is a Vote that has something to do with the unfortunate event that we lost a member of staff and issues of welfare; that of the families as detailed in our Staff Rules and Regulations. There are certain financial obligations, which the Secretariat will have to accommodate in order to do that. Therefore, the fact that in last year's Budget that vote underperformed is a good thing. That means that God was kind to us and certain things like deaths did not happen. For that reason, they said it was justifiable to understand the underutilisation. However, that amount has to be provided for again this year because we do not know what is out there.

For that reason, the Committee on General Purpose was persuaded to reconsider its reallocation of US\$50,000 from that particular Vote and instead, decided to reallocate an amount of US\$20,000 from that particular Vote. This is now accommodating the Council's request not make that place have US\$50,000, but instead to reduce it to US\$30,000. The effect it will have is that the amount provided for there as US\$50,000 will reduce US\$30,000. That means that the Committee on General Purpose has considered giving back to that particular Vote and amount of US\$20,000. It was US\$50,000 earlier; it has gone down to US\$30,000 so the Committee on General Purpose is giving up US\$20,000 so that the amount is brought back to US\$30,000.

What does that mean? That means that in total, out of the amounts that were reallocated earlier, the Committee on General Purpose had yesterday, through this report, recommended a total amount of reallocation to the tune of US\$1,918,386. That was the total amount of reallocation by the Committee on General Purpose and honourable Members, we went through that yesterday. Bear with me honourable Members. The detailed report will be presented to you as soon as it is ready. I want to take you to the annexure on page sixteen of the report, annexure one to the report. If you go to page 16 of the annexure to the report, the total amount set aside for reallocation by the Committee on General Purpose was US\$1,918,386. Now that number will change. The total figure there, when you take note of what we have been doing to this same annexure, will change by a number of US\$ 290,615. Thereby the figure on that particular page of the report should be amended to read US\$1,627,771.

The reallocation of US\$1,627,771 will be as follows. The East Africa Court of Justice

(EACJ), we have maintained our provision as was in our report earlier, nothing changes. They had asked for two requests, which I explained yesterday. The issue to do with their sittings to 40 days and the additional vehicle they had asked for. We maintained that number for the court as was. That is the allocation of increase of their Votes by US\$208,400 which remains as the Committee on General Purpose presented earlier. Additionally, the amount that was allocated to the Audit Commission of US\$34,000 – honourable Members, the details of the things I am taking you through are available on page 17 of the annexure the report reads the same. I am taking you through the annexure because the annexure has the detailed numbers. It is easier to understand the changes from here. That first Vote for the EACJ with the activity number M5S01T0601S01; Developing and Strengthening the Capacity of all the EAC Organs and Administration, that is the general area and of course, the other thing is court sessions for forty days. This is the additional US\$96,600 which they requested and which was granted by the Committee on General Purpose. That will remain and there is no change. The activity that follows for the cars, the Purchase for motor vehicle US\$112,000 is also maintained as I had earlier said.

We are now looking at the reallocations. I had told you that there is an amount of US\$1,627,771 which is being reallocated. I am, therefore, putting the reallocations for the same so that we balance the books for the budget. For the reallocation, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) had asked for six sessions of twenty-one days, which required US\$1,196,780 to strengthen and enhance the mandate of EALA. That was the detailed information I gave yesterday with regard to that particular activity. That

particular activity also remains as was. It does not change. – *(Applause)*

Honourable Members because the process of negotiation is give and take, you have to cede certain grounds so that you can accommodate the very genuine concern put aside by the goodwill message from the Council. For that reason, the next activity M5I01T0101S01 which relates to the same; To Strengthen and Enhance the Mandate of EALA but which specifically was meant for the Committee on General Purpose and the Committee on Accounts, there is an additional nine days per Committee. Remember we said these Committees have had a very difficult time working through ten days to do the entire audit report of the EAC was unthinkable. Considering this enormous budget activity, you can see the amount of details in ten days was also a very difficult thing to achieve. Therefore, the Committee on General Purpose was of the opinion that for each of those Committees an extra nine days for them to effectively do their work be granted so that they can do a good job to scrutinize the audited accounts as well as to go through the budget process.

Regrettably, because we have to give out an amount of US\$ 290,615 as I had told you earlier, it is recommended that this particular activity be dropped. That means that particular activity available to those two Committees will now be dropped. The other activity, which follows, is an activity for sensitization. Five days sensitization programme. Activity number M5W02T0403S01, five days sensitization programme in the respective Partner States an amount of US\$ 245,850. The Committee on General Purpose found it wise to retain that amount as is. – *(Applause)*

Let me finish that next activity. The next activity is to carry out a forensic audit that is

the Audit Commission activity number M5K05T1704S was allocated an amount is US\$ 34,416. Since sensitization is so important, this is an activity of the engagement for the Audit Commission, which we have observed, is seriously underfunded. We have also retained that amount for that particular Vote. It remains as is. The question now comes then. There is a figure of US\$57,875 which is now needed to balance that number. I have told you that we have carried a liability of US\$290,615 and the only number we have knocked off there is US\$ 232,740 so you might be asking where is the other amount for that particular gap? To retain the financing of the US\$245,850 that you see for sensitization, we have had to eat internally into EALA to make that amount be retained as it is. We therefore reallocated an amount – will read it to you shortly – I am just waiting for my detailed MTF book to be here so that I can read you the specific activity line that is here. We have removed an amount of US\$57,875 that was earlier allocated as a Vote for our Commission for a very important function. A function of planning which is a very critical function of the Commission for the House. We have had to reconsider that particular Vote and now our report will be amended.

Hon. Members if you have the detailed MTF, it is on page 185. This is now a new line, which will be added to the deductions from the earlier annexures. Therefore, I want to move an amendment that on page sixteen of the annexure report, immediately after the activity on that page M5S23T1401C07, another activity for reallocation be created there and the activity number is M5L01T0101S22. This is coming from the core centre 0310102, which is the Office of the Speaker. That activity is to convene Commission meeting to prepare and approve the EALA budget. That particular activity, which is, has an amount of US\$ 57,875 will

be put there for reallocation. So, we have done that and we will be seeking the Commission to constrain time within its very busy schedules in one of the meeting when they are planning for our EALA plenary sessions, if they could sit even if it is into midnight like this Committee on General Purpose has been doing, because there is no budgetary provision for this activity to happen on another date again. They should be kind enough for that particular reallocation to be done. Therefore, that now balances my books. When you do what I have just done, putting that activity here in the deduction and having removed here from the reallocation the amounts that I mentioned earlier, having dropped that activity for the two Committees and maintaining everything else as was, that now balances us to the overall number for the reallocation to the figure of US\$1,627,771. However, that does not change in any way the overall budget reallocation for the year of US\$99,770,716. Honourable Speaker I beg to move those amendments. – *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable Members, the Committee on General Purpose Chairperson has moved the amendments and we have to pronounce ourselves on them. However, before I do that, I note that, Council Chair, in your reply there are some areas you did not attend to, which had been raised in the Committee report maybe because of the mood that had been created. However, we cannot overlook them. Very important issues were raised by the Committee, which you need to make a reply. I am not sure you are ready now.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*: Mr. Speaker thank you very much. Members, during their discussion with the Committee wanted clarification on some

areas that I believe have been covered especially those, which arose from the Committee report concerning the Budget. However, there was one issue that Dr Ann talked about which is fast tracking of the integration of South Sudan. The purpose as to why the allocation was being done was to ensure that South Sudan is put onto two Protocols, the Common Market and the Customs Union as the fast-tracking mechanism that would bring their system especially the integration systems in customs. This would allow the whole region to read their custom system and to allow trade facilitation and ensure that there are some areas in trade, which are realised fast. The people of South Sudan would get to understand sensitive items and some requirements needed to do trade within the region especially the minimum amount that is required for a person to be exempted from taxes for goods produced within the East African Community which are at the threshold of US\$2000 and the requirement of having the simple certificate of origin.

These are areas that I felt needed clarification and why South Sudan's budget will still be maintained and only focus on those two Protocols of the Common Market and the Customs Union. Mr. Speaker, one Member brought up an issue on the stagnant budget of the East African Community, which is not putting into consideration inflation. Yes, this came out of a directive from the Summit; that, there should not be any increment on the budget but there should be streamlining of the institutions that should still do their operations within the small budget that is available as they do institutional review to manage the budgetary estimates to be put to proper use where there is value for money. This process is also ongoing and I believe once we establish a very good financing mechanism, the budget will definitely begin growing.

There was also an issue of the operationalization of the Single Customs Territory (SCT) at some border points and this one came from several Members. Some Members even

Commented on some positions in places like Lunga Lunga-*(Interruption)*

The Speaker: Council Chairperson, sorry for interruption. There is something I want you to help put into perspective so that we are on the same page. We take note of the Council directive not to alter the ceiling of the budget. However, does it remain the same even when there is an additional Member? Is there no proportional increment? When you accommodate a new Member who also contributes, why does it not proportionally increase because it would still be observing the Council directive with my poor mathematics? – *(Applause)*

Instead of it, becoming a relief to old members, why can it not continue to bear the same burden but in a situation that considers that there has been an additional Member who does not become a liability because he also contributes? Those who are better in mathematics could help in this matter.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*: Mr. Speaker the budget has increased with the admission of new members, proportionately, and I believe we had a budget allocated, with the admission of South Sudan. I recall it was US\$2 million that cut across all sectors. I believe the sector of the Assembly must also have been affected by that increment because we got new Members here in the Assembly. We also need to appreciate the time when South Sudan came on board. I think that was in October and we have treated that based on this budget which

has come. As much as we are saying there is no growth in terms of the old status quo, with the coming of South Sudan we have increased the budget with the US\$2 million.

Mr. Speaker there was also a question from a Member about the number of refugees within the East African Community. I had planned to make my colleague Ministers to give us the total number of refugees each partner is hosting. However, we did not have time to consolidate for the region but I can speak comfortably for Uganda, which I believe, is the biggest hosting country in the whole of Africa and second in the world. Right now, it is hosting 1.5 million refugees from across the world. There are people from almost 19 countries who are refugees in Uganda. On private sector involvement in the budgeting process, yes the private sector is consulted. East African Business Council leads this process and we have many people who are normally engaged during the budgeting process. We also engage with development partners because they also support our budget during the whole process. Therefore, this process is ongoing. It is a structured system, which is used. Probably it may not be so pronounced in the media, that we are having budgeting process ongoing, but they have a calendar and they know the people they normally consult.

Mr. Speaker one thing, which also came out, is whether East Africa as a bloc was involved in the negotiation for the Continental Free Trade Area. The Continental Free Trade Area was directly involved in a country, not as a region but putting into consideration the protocols and agreements that we have also signed from the blocs where we belong. That is why you find that during the signing in Kigali, almost all African Partner States signed this agreement and there are about nine, which only endorsed. The negotiations are going on to harmonize the agreement with

their national laws for them to come on board. I believe it has been a very successful process and it is one area I believe is going to open up the whole of Africa to trade.

There was also a question about the court judgement in the East African Court of Justice, an appeal which had been put by Rt. hon. Margaret Ziwa, the former Speaker. There was a cost, which was put as compensation to hon. Margaret Ziwa. She was awarded special damages and we have not determined how much it will be because the damages or the cost has not been taxed as by now. Therefore, we can only be comfortable to speak about this after the taxing has taken place. The issue will definitely be brought before the Council, which will later determine how this money will be paid. I know that will be an additional cost, which might emerge subsequently based on the decision that the Council will take.

Mr. Speaker there was also a question as to why there was irregularity between the Financial Rules and Regulations and the Budget Act. I want to report that the Secretariat right now is undertaking consideration to realign the irregularities in the Financial Rules and Regulations to the Budget Act. This process is already ongoing and in the next budget, we may be having no irregularities. They will definitely be consulting with the Committee of this House to also have its input so that we put the whole thing together.

Mr. Speaker there was also a comment from a Member about the GDP growth of Burundi. This emerged in the discussion covered together with the Budget Speech. We can say that the growth of Burundi – since I consulted with the Ministers – in 2017/18 reduced by 2.8 per cent and not by 1.3 per cent as it had been put in the Budget Speech. There was a

comment on the e-passport issuance. Right now Burundi, Tanzania and Kenya are already issuing the e-passports. – *(Applause)*

I believe that some of Members already have the East African Community electronic passport. Rwanda, Uganda and South Sudan are yet to adopt the system but they have been given a period of up to August 2018, to begin issuance of this passport because we have to recall ordinary passports and begin using this e-passport.

Mr. Speaker there was a problem with Members during their tour. They discovered that the one stop border point (OSBP) of Lunga Lunga/Muhororo was not functional. This is because there is a problem of the soft/hardware interconnectivity within the customs systems. The countries have already committed to develop a network that will be connecting to customs so that this customs point can begin operating as an OSBP. There was also a question one Member raised on the regulations that the East Africa Community has put in place to manage Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

Mr. Speaker, the East African Council on Agriculture has adopted a harmonised guideline on the East African seeds. It is supposed to regulate the importation of GMO seeds and at the same time, the management of any new breed of seeds that will be coming into the market so that there is already a harmonised guideline which the Ministries of Agriculture and the Sectoral Council of Agriculture has already adopted.

The rest of the areas, Mr. Speaker, have been handled within the budget. The Chairman comfortable, within his reaction this morning, touched on others because they directly pick on the budget, which we have already agreed upon and harmonised. – *(Applause)*

On the issue of the mace and the emblem, I can only say that this is the responsibility of EALA but they seem comfortable with using this mace. If they only can put it in their next budget, then the Council will definitely approve that money to buy a new mace. – *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, since it had not been spoken about, we thought we were very comfortable with it, we could still move on like that. Sensitization of the national parliaments is a responsibility of Partner States and EALA. I just want to say that we can put our efforts together as national Partner States with EALA especially our chapters to see how we can deal with sensitization. It will be very difficult for EALA to do this sensitization without the input of the Ministries of East African Community because I do it and I know how difficult it is. It has a very big budgetary constraint that I believe EALA cannot afford. Therefore, with that budget, working with the Ministries would make the work easier. – *(Applause)*

I was only worried about a comment, which was made by a Member that his Members of Parliament do not know anything about EALA; they even do not know their Members. *(Interruption)*

The Speaker: I think that was on a light note because how else do they Vote for you if they do not know where they are going.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*: That is what I wanted to comment, that these are his Voters and definitely they must be knowing him. However, on a lighter note I think he was emphasizing on sensitization. Therefore, Mr. Speaker that is what I was

able to pick which I could react to this morning. Thank you very much.

Ms Susan Nakawuki Nsambu (Uganda): I have a clarification Rt. hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes hon. Susan.

Ms Nakawuki: Thank you Rt. hon. Speaker. I need further clarification from the Chairperson Council of Ministers when it comes to the shrinking budget. From his statement, he has told us that there is a Summit directive that there should be a zero per cent increment. In my understanding, zero per cent increment does not mean a reduction. I want to use some figures here Rt. hon. Speaker. I think the Chairperson Council of Ministers gave us a wrong answer that there has been actually an increment. I will start from the Financial Year 2015/16. The budget was US\$ 110,660,698 before the sixth Partner State was brought on board. Now in 2016/2017, the budget was US\$101,374,589. Then, when we go to 2017/2018 when the Republic of South Sudan came on board, the budget became US\$ 110,130,183. However, looking at this Financial Year 2018/2019 the budget is US\$ 99,770,716. This implies that between the time South Sudan came on board and now, the budget has even reduced further by another US\$2 million. To me that is not growth, it is a reduction but the question I was trying to put across is after South Sudan came on board because we have extra staff from South Sudan, we have extra Members, the budget would instead grow other than shrinking but now it has shrunk with those figures. So where is the problem?

My other clarification is on why CASSOA and East African Development Bank are not part of the Budget Speech because through that we are supposed to know what they have been able to achieve the previous financial

year and what their priorities for the next financial year are even if their budget is not going to be part of the EAC budget. I need clarification on those.

The Speaker: Actually what I meant was to proportionally maintain the ceiling but not to grow the budget.

The Speaker: I do not know whether that is the correct expression so Council Chairperson.

Dr Abdullah Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker before he comes on, it is like the general comment we submitted yesterday. One concerning the - (*Interruption*)

The Speaker: But are you sitting or standing?

Dr Makame: Standing, standing upright Mr. Speaker- (*Laughter*)

Dr Makame: Mr. Speaker thank you very much. I have an issue. As the East African Community, we are a regional Community of six sovereign Partner States. We observed that we should be presenting the budget in a booklet format and that is just to say who we are because if we continue presenting the budget in scuffled papers, it does not appear very well.

The Speaker: Thank you Dr Makame you made that point and hon. Rose made a similar point. Let us not re-open the debate because we have a lot more business ahead of us.

The Speaker: No, a point of concern cannot be accommodated now unless you have point of clarification. Your concern can be expressed through voting.

Dr Gabriel Aher Garang Arol (South Sudan): Thank you Hon. Speaker. I just want to know from the Council. This issue of GMOs, I think we need to move cautiously with that. If we want to import GMOs so that your farmers can use them, we need first to have studies done and we have to have proper scientists to do the demonstrations so that we know whether it will work for our environment or not. I think we do not have to be sufficiently food secure by bringing in GMOs. We can do it with our local seeds. We can also use our traditional breeding in our universities. Therefore, we need to be careful with that.

The Speaker: Thank you but let me ask that we do not re-open the debate. Council could you respond.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Speaker thank you very much. On the stagnation of the budget, which is neither growing nor reducing; this was a directive, which we have implemented very well. When you see some variations in the budget from 2016, 2017 and now 2018, you will see that there is some increment and some reduction. This is money, which comes from donor funding. Therefore, in years where you find the budget has not grown, it does not grow because we do not get funding adequately from the donor fund. However, the Partner States have a standard contribution that they do. There is no increment from the Partner States. Therefore, if the money has not come from the donor, the Partner States will contribute but we have a standard that we are operating at. Today, as I talk, support from the donor has gone down. We are now getting donor support at 42 per cent and definitely, our budget has to come down also.

Mr. Speaker, issues regarding civil aviation were not in the Speech because that one is not being appropriated from the Secretariat. Its entire Budget is a contribution from the members who constitute the Civil Aviation Authorities within the Partner States and they have their management, which is done within their own budgets, which they allocate, based on their regulation. That is why it was not reflected in the Budget Speech. About the East African Development Bank, the bank is not under the management of East African Community as a bloc where the Secretariat would have powers as it has on these other institutions. It is being managed by a charter and that charter is led by the Ministers of Finance who are managers or overseers of this bank but there is already an arrangement. The Council sat and resolved to working on a plan to streamline on how to bring it into the East African Community institutions. The plan is on and we shall be reporting to you appropriately once the legalities have already been concluded. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

The Speaker: Yes, hon. Mbugua.

Mr Simon Nganga Mbugua (Kenya): Mr. Speaker thank you. I would like to get to know from the Council what they are doing. There are a lot on institutions, which have misappropriated funds. Do we continue pumping funds to the same institutions when there are reports, which mention how they have misappropriated funds? Do we continue pumping money to those institutions, Mr. Speaker?

The Speaker: Hon. Rose so that the Minister can take both. Is it a point of clarification?

Ms Rose Akol Okullu (Uganda): Yes hon. Speaker. Thank you Rt. hon. Speaker. I am seeking clarification from the honourable Minister, Chair Council. The issues I

mentioned yesterday, apart from presentation, are quite pertinent and this had to do even with our oversight function as Parliament and even their own monitoring and evaluation. However, this is the way the Budget has been presented. It was presented here and I looked at the MTEF. There are no procurement plans, no work plans and not even recruitment plans. Rt. hon. Speaker, having quarterly procurement plans and activity plans and releasing resources quarterly also helps them in their planning with the meagre resources they receive. You receive the quarterly requirements from all the spending entities and you plan accordingly and allocate. As Parliament, we also perform our oversight against these allocations. Ideally, we should be doing quarterly oversight and even on returns to Parliament on spending, mid-term review of budget performance among other things. *(Interruption)*.

The Speaker: Madam Rose keep it short because you debated this yesterday. I thought you wanted a response because you did not get it.

Ms Akol: What I am trying to ascertain from the Chair Council is that we as Parliament would like to know – *(Interruption)*.

The Speaker: I am not sure Chair Council is giving you the attention you need right now.

Ms Akol: Chair Council, this will help this Parliament perform its work efficiently. We would like to get assurance that at least within the period of one month, Parliament is presented with organograms for all the institutions under EAC, showing the gaps that need to be filled. Two, that also in that presentation you will have the procurement plans and the quarterly activity plans that will help you in allocating resources. The presentation should also have your

monitoring and evaluation function and also our oversight role and the recruitment plan if there is any plan to recruit. Thank you Rt. hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. Chair Council.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*: Mr. Speaker, on the misappropriation of funds within the institution, this Assembly has just debated the audited accounts and you made your recommendations to the Council. Mr. Speaker we have taken note, as a Council and we are also supposed to look into those recommendations and action will be taken. I just want to inform Members why these audited accounts come here. This is for you people to have an input, which later comes to the Council. It is also for your information. There was a Whistle Blowers Report at one time, which had also attempted to do some investigation within the Community. There was also a Summit directive to have a forensic audit in all the institutions of the East African Community. – *(Applause)*

I have a feeling that based on this institution that has been mandated, where we also have our very able Auditor Generals from our Partner States, who will be coming here, we will do some good work, which will give us new life.

About the budgets coming with procurement plans, work plans and activity plans including recruitment plans, I think this is something we need to improve. We have taken note and we have discovered that the information has been missing and we have taken it for granted even in the previous budgets. I shared this with the Chairperson of the General Purpose Committee. After this whole process of passing the Budget, the Commission and the General Purpose Committee with the Council

will organise a day and we run through areas that we have discovered are not going entirely well in this whole process so that we streamline. This is one area, I believe, we have noted and which has come out clearly. We will guide the Secretariat on how it should generate the Budget.

The Speaker: Thank you Council Chair. Hon. Mbugua if you did not take note of that when the Committee on Accounts report was debated, we said that at the level of the Commission, we shall do an inventory of recommendations and establish a mechanism of regular interaction with the Council to ensure implementation. I heard the Committee Chairperson talk about a certain allocation on forensic audit. I think it is meant to address that specific recommendation so that we do not recommend something and we do not budget for it. At the end of the day, we should not have an excuse, that the recommendation did not have funds to finance it. It has to happen.

The Speaker: No more on this. Hon Members, we have to proceed. I will now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The Report was adopted)

(Applause)

The Speaker: I want to commend the Council and the Committee under the able leadership of Mr Aden.

The Speaker: I will not put the cart before the horse. However, I am commending the camaraderie, the togetherness in dealing with the situation. I commend the way we approached it with an open mind and good will. That is what I really want to commend. The details are where we are heading.

Hon. Members I now put the question- That this Assembly do resolve itself into: -

(a) A Committee of Ways and Means to consider and approve the financial statement for the Financial Year 2018/19; and,

(b) A Committee of Supply to consider and approve the estimates of expenditure for the Financial Year 2018/19.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to.)

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS AND COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY

(Order for Committee read)

[The Speaker (Mr Martin Ngoga) left the Chair]

IN THE COMMITTEE

[The Chairperson (Mr Martin Ngoga) took the Chair]

BUDGET OF THE EAC FOR THE
FINANCIAL YEAR 2018/2019

MOTION

**APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL
STATEMENT OF
THE EAC FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2018/2019**

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*):
Mr Chairman I beg to move:-

THAT, this Assembly approves the Financial Statement for Financial Year 2018/2019.

I beg to move.

Mr Ruot Gai Kim Duop (South Sudan):
On a point of procedure, hon Speaker.

The Chairperson: Yes, hon Kim.
(*Interruption*)

Mr Duop: The honourable, Chairperson, Council of Ministers, should say, 'as it is amended.'

The Chairperson: There is no amendment. Hon. Kim, so far there is no amendment.

Mr Duop: Thank you.

The Chairperson: Honourable Members, I now propose the question that the Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2018/2019 be approved.

(*Question proposed*)

(*Question, that the Financial Statement for the FY 2018/2019 be adopted, put and agreed to.*)

Vote 001 – The East African Community Secretariat

(*Question, that a sum of US\$46,693,056 be provided under Vote 001, the EAC Secretariat, including the Defence Liaison Office and the Directorate of Customs and Trade, for the Financial Year 2018/2019 proposed*)

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you, Rt. hon Speaker. Following the discussion which we had earlier with Members, that has changed. That figure will have to change because of the reallocations that we have proposed and should now read the new number. I want to add the two Votes, the Vote in total for the Secretariat should now read US\$ 45,561,286. That is the new number for the Secretariat.

(*Question of the amendment proposed*)

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Speaker I concur with the suggestion that comes from the Chair of the Committee on General Purpose. – (*Applause*)

(*Question, that a sum of US\$45,561,286 be provided under Vote 001, the EAC Secretariat, including the Defence Liaison Office and the Directorate of Customs and Trade, for the Financial Year 2018/2019 put and agreed to*)

Vote 002 – East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)

(Question, that a sum of US\$17,885,852 be provided under Vote 002, the East African Legislative Assembly, for the Financial Year 2017/2018, proposed)

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Honourable Speaker, that number also changes from the US\$17,783,352 to US\$19,202,723, which accommodates, sorry; I beg your pardon US\$17,885 – *(Interruption)*

The Chairperson: Could you take some advice from the Clerk?

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Okay.

The Chairperson: Maybe honourable Josephine should have been closer. The mathematician.

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): I have been guided honourable Speaker because the changes in that number will have to be justified in terms of reallocation and they are coming from Votes after the Secretariat and all these others. I would like for the EACJ and EALA that we stand over and come back to them once we have dealt with the other institutes. For EALA I beg that we stand over and we will come back to this particular Vote after we have dealt with the other Votes ahead. Thank you Chair.

The Chairperson: Honourable Members, following that request, we stand over the Vote for the reasons given by the Chairperson.

(Vote deferred)

Vote 003 – East African Court of Justice

(Question, that a sum of US\$3,982,446 be provided under Vote 003 – The East African Court of Justice, for the Financial Year 2018/2019 proposed)

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Honourable Chair, just like EALA, this Vote will also be changing so I will stand over on this one as well we will come back to it later. Thank you Chair.

The Chairperson: Honourable Members, we will stand over the Vote for reasons given by the Chairperson.

(Vote deferred)

Vote 004 – The Lake Victoria Basin Commission

(Question, that a sum of US\$13,357,673 be provided under Vote 004 - The Lake Victoria Basin Commission, for the Financial Year 2018/2019 proposed)

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you honourable Chair. On this Vote an amount of US\$63,400 was rationalised for reallocation. Therefore, the new number for that particular Vote should be US\$13,294,273. I beg to move.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius

Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*):
Mr Chairman I concur with the rationalities
which have been made by the Chairperson of
the Committee of General Purpose. –
(Applause)

(Vote 005 agreed to)

(Question, that a sum of US\$13,294,273 be
provided under Vote 004 - The
Lake Victoria Basin Commission, for the
Financial Year 2018/2019 proposed)

Vote 006 – Lake Victoria Fisheries
Organisation

(Question, that a sum of US\$2,518,137 be
provided under Vote 006 - The
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation, for
the Financial Year
2018/2019 proposed)

(Question, that a sum of US\$13,294,273 be
provided under Vote 004 - The
Lake Victoria Basin Commission, for the
Financial Year 2018/2019
put and agreed to)

**The Chairperson Committee on General
Purpose** (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank
you hon Chairperson. On this Vote as well
there is no change. The Committee has not
changed and we agree with the presentation
by Council.

(Vote 004 as amended agreed to)

Vote 005 – The Inter University Council of
East Africa (IUCEA)

(Question, that a sum of US\$2,518,137 be
provided under Vote 006 - The
Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation, for
the Financial Year 2018/2019
put and agreed to.)

(Question, that a sum of US\$6,847,969 be
provided under Vote 005 - The
Inter University Council of East Africa, for
the Financial Year
2018/2019 proposed)

(Vote 006 agreed to)

Vote 007 – East African Science and
Technology Commission

**The Chairperson Committee on General
Purpose** (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank
you hon Chairman. There is no change to that
number. The number remains the same. The
Committee has not made any reallocation to
that amount. Thank you.

(Question, that a sum of US\$1,661,779 be
provided under Vote 007 - The
East African Science and Technology
Commission, for the
Financial Year 2018/2019 proposed)

(Question, that a sum of US\$6,847,969 be
provided under Vote 005 - The
Inter University Council of East Africa, for
the Financial Year 2018/2019
put and agreed to)

**The Chairperson Committee on General
Purpose** (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank
you hon Chairman. The Committee concurs
with the proposal by Council. Thank you.

(Question, that a sum of US\$1,661,779 be
provided under Vote 007 - The

*East African Science and Technology
Commission, for the
Financial Year 2018/2019 put and agreed
to)*

(Vote 007 agreed to)

*Vote 008 – The East African Kiswahili
Commission (EAKC)*

*(Question, that a sum of US\$1,605,353 be
provided under Vote 006 - The
The East African Kiswahili Commission, for
the Financial
Year 2018/2019 proposed)*

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you hon Chair. On this one the Committee has reallocated fund amounting to US\$ 229,350 and therefore, the new number will read US\$1,376,003. I beg to move.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Chairman, I concur with the suggestion of the Committee.

*(Question, that a sum of US\$1,376,003 be
provided under Vote 008 - The
The East African Kiswahili Commission, for
the Financial
Year 2018/2019 put and agreed to)*

(Vote 008, as amended agreed to)

(Applause)

*Vote 009 – East African Health Research
Commission*

*(Question, that a sum of US\$4,204,032 be
provided under Vote 009 - The
East African Health Research Commission,
for the Financial
Year 2018/2019 proposed)*

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you hon Chairman. On this one, the Committee concurs with the position presented by Council.

*(Question, that a sum of US\$4,204,032 be
provided under Vote 009 - The
EAHRC, for the Financial Year 2018/2019
put and agreed to)*

(Vote 009 agreed to)

*Vote 010 – East African Competition
Authority*

*(Question, that a sum of US\$1,014,418 be
provided under Vote 010 - The
East African Competition Authority for the
Financial
Year 2018/2019 proposed)*

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Mr. Chairman, on this one, the Committee rationalised for reallocation an amount of US\$ 203,251 and, therefore, the new allocation for that particular Vote should read US\$ 811,167. I thank you Chair.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

(Question, that a sum of US\$811,167 be provided under Vote 010 - The East African Competition Authority for the Financial Year 2018/2019 proposed)

The Chairperson: Chairperson Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (Ex Officio Member): Mr. Chairman I concur with the Committee.

(Question, that a sum of US\$811,167 be provided under Vote 010 - The East African Competition Authority for the Financial Year 2018/2019 put and agreed to)

(Vote 010 as amended agreed to.)

Vote 002 – East African Legislative Assembly

(Question, that a sum of US\$17,885,852 be provided under Vote 002 - East African Legislative Assembly 2018/2019 proposed)

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you hon Chairperson. This is the amendment that was earlier to the Report this afternoon taking into consideration the consultations made earlier this morning. The Committee has rationalised the reallocation in addition to the US\$ 17,885,852, US\$ 1,419,374 which brings the new number to US\$19,305,223. I thank you hon. Chair.

The Chairperson: Chair, Council of Ministers.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (Ex Officio Member): Mr. Speaker I concur with the adjustments made by the Committee.

(Question, that a sum of US\$19,305,223 be provided under Vote 002 - The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) 2018/2019 put and agreed to)

(Vote 002 as amended agreed to)

Vote 003 – East African Court of Justice (EACJ)

The Chairperson: I propose the question that a total sum of US\$3,982,446 under Vote 003 be provided for the expenses of the East African Court of Justice for the Financial Year 2018/19. Chair Committee on General Purpose.

(Question, that a sum of US\$3,982,446 be provided under Vote 003 – The East African Court of Justice 2018/2019 proposed)

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you Hon Chair. As earlier explained with regard to the amendment to the report by the Committee as was presented in the report of the Committee, the Committee added onto this Vote an amount of US\$ 208,400 thereby bringing the new number on this Vote up to US\$ 4,190,846. I thank you Hon Chair.

(Question of the amendment proposed)

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

Minister of State for East African Community Affairs Mr Julius Wandera Maganda (Uganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*:
Mr. Chairman we concur with the suggestion.

(Question, that a sum of US\$4,190,846 be provided under Vote 003 - The EACJ 2018/2019 put and agreed to)

(Vote 003, as amended agreed to)

MOTION

FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*:
Mr Speaker I beg to move:-

THAT, this House to resume from the Committee of Ways and Means and the Committee of Supply reports thereto.

(Question put and agreed to)

(The House Resumed)

[The Speaker, Mr Martin Ngoga, in the Chair]

REPORT

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*:
Mr. Speaker I beg to report:-

THAT, a Committee of the Whole House has considered and approved the Financial Statement for the Financial Year 2018/19 of the Budget of the East African Community organs and institutions for the Financial Year 2018/19 and the budgetary estimates of the expenditures for Financial Year 2018/2019 amounting to US\$ 99,770,716.

I beg to move.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*:
Mr Speaker sir I beg to move:-

THAT, the Report of the Committee of Ways and Means and Committee of Supply be adopted.

I beg to move.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Report as amended adopted)

(Applause)

BILL*Second Reading***THE EAC APPROPRIATION BILL,
2018**

The Speaker: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move:-

THAT, the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2018 be read for the second time.

The Speaker: Seconders? Honourable Nooru, Dr Kalinda and all the Members standing. Chair Council of Ministers justify.

(Mr Nooru and Dr Kalinda seconded)

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Speaker the purpose of this Bill is to appropriate US\$ 99,770,716 of the Budget of the East African Community for the expenditure of the organs and institutions of the Community for Financial Year ending 30th June 2019. This approval of the money will now bring the legal framework to provide for the appropriation of this money. I beg to move.

(Question proposed)

Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden (Kenya): Thank you very much Rt. hon. Speaker for the opportunity to speak to the Appropriation Bill. I want to inform my colleagues that we have moved from the Report. We are now on

this document; the Appropriation Bill. This is what we are debating now. Indeed, the journey towards the debate on this Appropriation Bill has been a very interesting one; a first time for all of us in EALA, because it is the first time we are going through this process. You could see the apprehension from the Members wondering at what stage things change and at what stage what happens. It is only after we debate this Bill in this Second Reading and the Third Reading that we will go to the Committee Stage to amend it, during which, the Chair will be seeking an amendment to the table, which appears on page four. On that page, we will adopt new changes and that will become the newly appropriated funds.

Let me say, honourable Speaker, on the overall, the Budget for the East African Community is one that has very good intentions. The challenges to it are issues that we debated. The issue of growth in size of the institutions of the EAC without proportionate amount of funds being increased in the Budget is probably one of the shortcomings that we saw in this particular Budget. On another note honourable Speaker, we would like to see in the next budgets, initiatives to indicate that other organs of the EAC also become beneficiaries of donor funded monies. We have allocated funds to the Secretariat in this Bill, for them to do what is called mobilisation for Funds. I wish to urge the Secretariat; as you do that, please be encouraged to adopt the spirit of cooperation with the other organs of the EAC. When you are going to meet a very important stakeholder, take along with you either a person representing the other important organs like EALA, for example, or the EACJ. Should you see any opportunity out there in terms of resource availability that can fund certain programmes in other organs like EALA, the EACJ that would help us overcome these constraints of the Budget?

Otherwise, some of the good things that will come out of here is that the funds we have allocated here are very important. I want to give an example. Kenya has built the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), which has come all the way to Nairobi now and will soon be moving from Nairobi to the border of Malaba. Our counterparts in Uganda are expected to build a railway line beyond there. The story is the same for the Northern Corridor as we saw. In the United Republic of Tanzania, the rail is now reaching Dodoma on its way to the border. I think it is going towards Kigali.

This is what this Budget means. Our technical team of the EAC has been enabled by this Budget to offer technical advice to our governments on all sides so that the design of rail being built by Kenya will conform to the one being built by Uganda on the other side. This is what this Budget does so that you do not build a certain gauge of rail line in Kenya, which runs, stops at the border, and cannot continue because of specifications within the rail line so that there is uniformity in the layout of big infrastructure across the East Africa region. The Budget that we are appropriating today has provided money for technical input for the Secretariat to give technical advice to our governments, which is very important.

I also want to sincerely thank the donors, the partners who have come to the aid of this Budget. If it were not for the efforts of the donors who have contributed here, our Budget, which is now reading US\$ 99,770,716, would be reading in the range of US\$50,000,000. So, 43 per cent of finance by donors cannot also be ignored. I want to take this opportunity to most sincerely thank those donors out there who have come forward to collaborate with us on these very important crucial projects. Security for example, is such a paramount issue. The

donors have financed to the tune of US\$5,000,000 just on that one docket of security to safeguard the people of East Africa and this is very commendable. I also want to send a word to them, to urge them to consider enhancing and building capacities of the other organs of the EAC like the EALA and EACJ. The EALA as the people's representative has experts within it, very dedicated people, Committees like that of honourable Kasamba. If only the policies and ideas that this Committee has would get the material support that is required to develop the policies, East Africa would see hunger no more. We are asking our donors to please look at the other organs as well. Please look at EALA, please look at the EACJ that is now seeing the people of East Africa seeking justice at another level.

Honourable Speaker, the other very important thing that must be commended on this Budget is that it shows how prudent we are able to live within our means. With the little resources available, what you saw during the tussle of could you allocate this there and that here, is what happens when twins go and lie in the same bed. They keep punching each other but it does not mean they are enemies. It just means that they are showing love and care to accommodate each other within the available space. That is what you saw yesterday. Therefore, there was no fight here yesterday; there was brotherly consultation so that we accommodate each other.

I urge honourable Members to support this Appropriation Bill and at the appropriate stage, we will recommend the amendments.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Chairperson, Council of Ministers, do you want to respond to this?

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Clause 3 agreed to)

Second Reading

Clause 4

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
APPROPRIATION
BILL, 2018

(Question proposed)

(Order for Committee read)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Clause 4 agreed to)

*[The Speaker (Mr Martin Ngoga) left the
Chair]*

The Schedule

IN THE COMMITTEE

(Question proposed)

*[The Chairperson (Mr Martin Ngoga) took
the Chair]*

The Chairperson: Honourable Members I know where you are heading but just wait. Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose.

Clause 1

(Question proposed)

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you honourable Chairperson. I told you we are going through this as EALA for the first time although we might have done it in other places and that is why the little apprehension here. I think also Members wanted to ventilate a bit on this. However, I hope, overall when we pass this at the end, after the Third Reading and after the Committee, reports progress, Members will be have an opportunity to say one or two things.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Clause 1 agreed to)

Honourable Chairperson, I propose amendment to the Schedule as follows.

Clause 2

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to)

(Clause 2 agreed to)

Mr Chairperson, I beg to move:-

Clause 3

(Question proposed)

THAT, the Schedule be amended on Vote 001, the EAC Secretariat, to read US\$ 45,561,286. I beg to move.

(Question put and agreed to)

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Chairman, I want to cause another amendment that in the totals that have been made on that particular Vote – (*Interruption*)-

The Chairman: Chairperson, Council, could you pronounce yourself on the amendment moved by the Chair of the Committee?

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Chair I am not conceding to his amendment and I can justify.

The Chairman: Let us proceed like this. Chair Committee on General Purpose, do you have any more amendments you intend to move?

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Yes.

The Chairperson: Could you move all of them because it seems as if the Council Chair is concerned with the total when we have to go systematically so that he pronounces himself to all of them?

The Chairperson Committee on General Purpose (Mr Abdikadir Omar Aden): Thank you honourable Chairperson. The first is Vote 001.

Mr Chairperson, I beg to move:-

THAT, the Schedule be amended on Vote 001, the EAC Secretariat, to read US\$ 45,561,286. I beg to move.

I beg to move.

Mr Chairperson, I beg to move:-

THAT, the Schedule be amended on Vote 002, the EALA, to read US\$ 19,305,223.

I beg to move.

I would like to make a clarification on that one of EALA. I received a note here from the technocrats of the Secretariat and I think that is what is causing the agitation a bit. There was an amount of US\$57 million which has been amended within. Therefore, the balances there have no problem.

Mr Chairperson, I beg to move:-

THAT, the Schedule be amended on Vote 003, the EACJ, to read US\$ 4,190,846.

I beg to move.

Mr Chairperson, I beg to move:-

THAT, the Schedule be amended on Vote 004, the LVBC, to read US\$ 13,294,273.

I beg to move.

That, Vote 005 which is the Inter University Council should now read as was in the Schedule before; that is, US\$ 6,847,969. There is no change on that one.

Vote 006 Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation there is also no change as per the Schedule as it is now. Then Vote 007 the East African Science and Technology Commission there is no change to that particular Vote, it reads the same as is in the old Schedule.

Mr Chairperson, I beg to move:-

THAT, the Schedule be amended on Vote 008, the EAKC, to read US\$ 1,376,003.

I beg to move.

Vote 009 which is the East Africa Health Research Commission should read as was, there are no changes to that particular Vote in the East Africa Health Institute.

Mr Chairperson, I beg to move:-

THAT, the Schedule be amended on Vote 010, the East Africa Competition Authority to read US\$811,167.

I beg to move.

Now, interestingly honourable Chairperson, when you add the computations, there is a small change of one dollar and I think that is the correction the Council Chair wants to make. I will welcome that change where it is happening. It is just about a dollar change to the total sum, which will read US\$ 99,770,716. That should be the number that should be reading and I will beg to know from the Council Chair specifically where that one dollar is being lost here. I beg to move those changes.

The Chairperson: Honourable Mnyaa, I think that one dollar is making you very uncomfortable.

Mr Habib Mohamed Mnyaa (Tanzania): Thank you Mr Chairperson. Actually as an august House, we should do things perfectly. We are in order to pass this Appropriation Bill. I raised a question yesterday regarding the one-dollar difference and the Council Chair told me that there was a mistake somewhere, which had to be corrected. He said that the mistake was in the EAC Secretariat. Therefore, the Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose should

change the US\$ 45,561,286 to read US\$ 45,561, 287. If that will happen then there will be, no more changes in this Appropriation Bill and it will tally with the Budget we have passed. That figure from the EAC Secretariat should change from US\$ 45,561,286 to US\$ 45,561,287. Thank you.

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers, is that your position?

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Yes, it is my position.

(The Minister spoke off record)

The Chairperson: Could you pronounce yourself on record?

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) (*Ex Officio Member*): Mr. Chairman we had discussed with the Honourable Member about this. We had the burden to identify exactly under which Vote this one-dollar was disappearing until we discovered it was the EAC Secretariat. Mr. Chairman, I have no problem with amending the figure to read US\$ 45,561,287 as the Budget for the East African Community Secretariat.

The Chairperson: Thank you.

(Question that the Schedule, as amended be part of the Bill proposed)

(Question, that the Schedule as amended be part of the Bill put and agreed to)

(Schedule, as amended agreed to)

The Preamble

(Preamble agreed to)

The Title

(Title agreed to)

MOTION

FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

The Chairperson: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*:
Mr Speaker Sir I beg to move:-

THAT, the House do resume and the Committee of the Whole House reports thereto.

(Question proposed)

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House Resumed)

[The Speaker, Mr Martin Ngoga, in the Chair]

REPORT AND THIRD READING

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2018

The Speaker: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*:
Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to report that a Committee of the Whole House has passed the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2018 with amendments.

I beg to report.

(Question Proposed)

(Question put and agreed to.)

Third Reading

The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2018

The Speaker: Chairperson, Council of Ministers.

The Minister of State for East African Community Affairs, Uganda (Mr Julius Wandera Maganda) *(Ex Officio Member)*:
Mr Speaker I beg to move:-

THAT, the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2018 be read for the Third Time and do pass.

The Speaker: Seconders?

(Mr Abdikadir Aden and Ms Josephine Lemoyan seconded)

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The Bill was read a Third Time and passed)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, congratulations. – (*Applause*)

There is no question on whether the Assembly has the final say on the Budget of the Community because we have done just that. However, most importantly, we worked together with all other organs because our roles are complementary and whatever might have appeared at some point to give a wrong impression of friction was not friction. There cannot be friction. That was a way of discussing and arriving at a conclusion in a manner that is beneficial to all of us and to the people we represent. That is the way to go. This Assembly will not, at any time, change the method of working. We are going to work with Secretariat, with Council and with all the organs of the Community.

This is our first Budget. We have considered the Budget that we voted for through our Committees, the Committee of Accounts and here. This is our own Budget. We know the details about it. We know where the resources are directed and what they intend to achieve. Therefore, this is the beginning of the journey. We have to accompany this Budget and make sure it achieves exactly what it is meant to achieve.

I want to implore upon all budget agencies and Accounting Officers to make sure that the next audit report particularly on this Budget does not raise any queries. – (*Applause*)

This House will not be redundant if auditors do not raise queries. We shall do more important things than coming here to discuss how people mismanaged or misappropriated resources of the Community. Our wish is to see a clean report without queries and that will make us concentrate our efforts where

we can achieve better results than spending time and resources debating how people are doing things the wrong way.

Honourable Members, I want to request you to keep this momentum and keep the spirit of working together. Yesterday there was an impression that we would disagree. I knew we were not going to disagree because how do we? (*Applause*)

How can we disagree when we work for a common objective? We cannot disagree. Disagreement is failure and this House is not ready to fail. Thank you honourable Members. There was a request from the Committee Chair that some of you may wish to make some comments because we still have a little time. However, do not reopen issues that we have settled. What I am looking forward to is appreciation of what we have done and not to open certain areas that we do not want to revisit. Hon. Kasamba. This is going to be two minutes and not more than that. This gadget can also allow me to switch you off though I have not done that. Hon. Kasamba, hon. Aden and hon. George as fast as we can.

Mr Mathias Kasamba (Uganda): Thank you very much Rt. hon. Speaker. I would like to congratulate our Chairperson of the Committee. I want to thank the Chairperson, Council of Ministers and the entire team for the teamwork, which you have exhibited. I want to commend the spirit of MPs. Congratulations! I want to thank you Rt. hon. Speaker for guidance. I just want to make one point.

Members, let us work together. Let us be one and the people of East Africa will enjoy and appreciate the fruits of integration. One slight comment. We have passed the Budget. However, there is no institution supervising the enhancement of food security and

agriculture. We have the East African Kiswahili Commission, the East Africa Health Institute, and Lake Victoria Basin Commission but there is no organ or institution within our EAC enhancing agriculture. That is why we are becoming net importers. That is a very important critical element, which we should focus on and in the very near future, mobilise to make sure that we generate our own food and employment through value addition. We should ensure that the people of East Africa are enjoying the enhancement of production and make sure that their livelihoods are enhanced. Otherwise, I thank everybody. Lastly, tomorrow Members of the Climate Change Committee of Agriculture are having a workshop on climatic change from 9.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. I beg Members of the Committee on Agriculture and all other friendly Committees who want to see the environment enhanced to turn up and make sure that the depletion of the forest reserves, the declining environmental issues are addressed. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. Hon. Aden briefly again. Remember this is a discussion where we have no vote.

Mr Aden: Thank you very much honourable Speaker, first, for your indulgence and guidance through this process. You have been very helpful in breaking what looked like small push and pull here and there between brothers. I also want to thank to thank Members of the Council. *(Applause)*

They have been very considerate and I have fully understood that these are men and women committed to the cause of EAC. I am very grateful for the actions that you have taken in considering the adjustments we have done. You have acknowledged the deficiencies and the challenges that exist in other organs and through your powers you

have granted, without any disagreement, us the opportunity to pass this Budget without any acrimony. We are very happy with the spirit and the tone you have certainly set.

I also want welcome very much the Council Chair's proposal that beyond here, EALA and Council should engage even deeper. Outside Plenary, we should have opportunities where we seek to discuss issues so that we set the right priorities for our Community. Honourable Speaker, I do not have much to say. However, let me also thank Members of my Committee on General Purpose for the good work they have done. *(Applause)*

They deserve special recognition. These Members have worked for many hours to make sure that we get to where we are today. Equally, there has been a number of Members who came as friends of the Committee often spending many hours, sometimes a whole day with the Committee and I really want to thank them because their input has been very valuable to this process. This has been a learning process for all of us as new Members of EALA. We might have carried our experiences from back home but I must be honest with you, it was a first time for every one of us to pass the Budget of the East Africa Community as we have done today.

Rt. hon. Speaker, as I end, I want to urge our technocrats to now do the needful. The budget officers, our Finance Director, people who input because there is a system to input these numbers into the budget because I know that the system is locked. The passwords for those is exclusive to only the budget officers, very limited, about two people. The onus is upon you now with the schedules that you have been provided with to make sure that every activity is captured where it belongs. I just want to make this

emphasis because we have agreed on the overall numbers. However, the details of those are in the attached annexes, which we have given out. We have technically amended some of them this afternoon here in agreement. The BMS data entry of the same should be done. As Chair of the Committee on General Purpose, I will kindly request that once that is done, we get a report of it so that we know that we have accurately captured the information as we passed it on the Floor of the House. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable George. Briefly again.

Mr Stephen George Odongo (Uganda): Rt. hon. Speaker, it appears impossible until it is done. Those are the words of Mandela not mine. I want to thank the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat for the spirit of good working relationship during this process. Though difficult, I think it was more about perception but eventually we overcame and today we have a Budget that speaks to the future of this Community.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank them for the recommitment to fight graft, the recommitment to ensure that there is transparency, the recommitment to ensure that we follow every single coin so that it achieves the purpose for which we have appropriated. Integrity, honesty and trust are not for cheap people. It is a very expensive product and I will tell you that we have to invest in it. That is the reason why we are putting much emphasis to ensure that we strengthen the accountability systems within the Community. We are strengthening the mechanisms for audit so that there is value for money.

Mr. Speaker integrity and accountability is a very high code and this Assembly and the East African Community is a super

institution. Therefore, it calls for us to ensure that we rise up to the challenge and be able to account to the East African people. I am happy that, that commitment has come through and we are working very closely together with Council. Our call to those who are going to implement this Budget is; please, this will not be business as usual. If there was a time when there was laxity on the part of those who supervise you, know that there is something called the East African Legislative Assembly that is going to leave no stone unturned. Thank you very much Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker: Thank you very much. Honourable Rose.

Ms Akol: Thank you Rt. hon. Speaker. I want to join my colleagues. First, in thanking the Council of Ministers for the good working relationship that has been demonstrated in this Budget process. This is the way to go. If we are truly for this Community this is how we have to work. I really thank you from the bottom of my heart. I also want to thank the Committee for the resilience and the time they put in working up to midnight and sacrificing their sleep in order to come up with a very good report. Thirdly, I want to thank the House for the time we have all put in to ensure that we come to this win-win situation. I want to say it is a landmark in the EAC and EALA. This is a landmark achievement.

Rt. hon. Speaker, as the East African Legislative Assembly, the Budget is one of the most important policy documents that we consider as an Assembly. It is a technical document. As an Assembly we need to establish what we call a Budget Office to help us analyse this technical document called the Medium Term Expenditure framework and match it with the five year Strategic Development Plan of the EAC because that is

where we derive budgets from. We should also ensure that the budgets are in conformity with Summit directives and the background to the budget. We should analyse other documents that we need to look at in order to come up with a very good budget. When we are doing that, we should have experts to help us rather than individually looking at this big voluminous books. We do not have the time. They only give us two days.

As I conclude Rt. hon. Speaker, we also need, as an Assembly, to realign our Committees so that consideration of the Budget is by the whole House. We can however form Sectoral Committees for budget consideration. That helps and then the budget Committee assimilates and receives reports from the various Committees that have analysed functions in detail and then the budget Committee reports. Mr Speaker this is the way we do it in our Assemblies back home and I really appreciate this practice. I would like us to also bring it here as a good practice, to the East African Legislative Assembly. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon Mbidde and then hon Fatuma.

Mr Fred Mukasa Mbidde (Uganda): Rt. hon. Speaker and Members of this august House, mine is majorly to thank you. I have been here for the past five years and I guarantee you that I saw a very brilliant House five years ago. However, this time, I have seen something more than what I had seen. – *(Applause)*

This is a kind of House that is coupled with unity. It is a House that listens to diversity. It is a House that also controls anger but it is also a House that actually adheres to cohesion. This is not an easy kind of House to find. I thank this august House for being an exceptional Assembly. Number two, this

is to you. I have also seen governance and know how difficult it is to mediate between two competing interests, which interests also stand at competing pillars, at antagonistic levels. To also make sure that you obtain a win-win situation, that kind of administration should be emulated. I thank you. *(Applause)*

I am saying this because by the end of yesterday, we had resolved on very serious matters. The Council had taken a position and we had taken a position. In fact, when the Speaker allowed people to go and talk, this Assembly formed an ad hoc Committee of hardliners to go and confront the Council. I was happy to have been recognised as one of the hardliners to go and confront them, dismiss them and come back here with the sole purpose of test driving an impasse to the extent that another organ would intervene to help.

Rt. hon Speaker let me also report to you that we were faced with an extremely brilliant Council of Ministers. They completely deflated us and they made no mention of what happened here yesterday. By the way, it was extremely hard for us to maintain decisions we had come with because we were faced with a brilliant Council. We instead engaged in a bi-partisan approach of dialogue and we were now able to come up with this kind of brilliant consensus we have called the Budget of the East African Community.

Finally, I think in my humble opinion, because this Assembly has an eye that really sees everything that has not been either exhibited or at least hidden, as we confront the future, I have firm belief that East Africans will now begin and continue to hold the East African Legislative Assembly with very high regard. God willing, we will give East Africans what they anticipated while

directing us to this august House. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Hon. Fatuma.

Ms Fatuma Ibrahim Ali (Kenya): Thank you Rt. honourable Speaker. I was initially disturbed when I saw three male Members speaking and no female Member speaking – *(Interruption)-*

The Speaker: You should never be disturbed. The Speaker is a very keen leader who takes into consideration all those details.

Ms Ali: Honourable Speaker I agree. I have on two incidents interacted with you and even yesterday, when I was worried the Ministers took a position and you said we would be okay. I want to do the traditional one of congratulating Members of this House including the Council of Ministers. I think we are one House including the Council of Ministers. I think the spirit of budgeting for the East African Community has joined us and sunk inside us. Initially it appeared as if the budget making process is a tug of war. It is not a tug of war; it is give and take situation. The Council of Ministers have applied that spirit of win-win for all sides because win-win situation is for the East African Community. It is not for an individual, it is for all of us.

Honourable Speaker the other thing we need to strengthen is to implement the Audit Commission Report. We are now going to the 20 years of East Africa Community. Maturity and resilience of the institution must be tested. If we do not test the maturity, growth, expansion, and resilience of institutions, we will remain a baby and if we are still babies in our functions and performance, we will not achieve as aspired by our Community. We are looking at the

East African Community reaching the European Union level. We are not aiming for less than that. I want to appeal to the Council of Ministers. You are our pillar of growth, you are the ones to spearhead, you are the link, you are the heart, and you are the heartbeat of strengthening institutions, particularly the Secretariat. I am very sad to see in the Report of the Accounts Committee that we have lost millions of dollars. Those are dollars lost because goods are either not properly procured, creditors are hanging around and they could be portraying the East African Community in bad light because their money is tied. It is not a good thing. I support honourable Rose in establishing a Budget Office. A Budget Office advises. I was a Member of the Budget Committee. The Budget Office gives you the merits of any budget you are allocating and demerits.

Since we had a long week, the Kenya Chapter has organised a dinner for Members of the East Africa Legislative Assembly including the Ministers. Join us this evening in Carnivore Restaurant, which is a very beautiful place. Most people like to go to Carnivore when they are tired and fatigued after serious mental engagement. I am assuming all of you will join us and have a good evening. Council Chairperson you are also invited to that beautiful dinner. Thank you.

The Speaker: We will give details about that shortly. Two final interventions. Hon. Muhia, hon. Maghembe and hon. Kim final. Two minutes each then we close. In the beginning when the Clerk read Communication from the Chair, I did not make any Communication, I reserved that for you to make these comments you are making so we are not out of the Order Paper but let us be very brief.

Ms Wanjiku Muhia (Kenya): Thank you very much Rt hon. Speaker. Allow me to thank the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose and the Members and most sincerely the Chairperson Council and his team. I want to inform this House that today I was a friend of the Committee on General Purpose. I can inform this House that these Committee Members are very committed to their role just like other Committee Members.

Honourable Speaker, it is time for institutions to give the Community value for money, to show the commitment to zero tolerance to corruption. They should live up to what they promised when they were presenting this Budget. It is a learning process and I am sure things have changed and the institutions have seen the difference in the way they presented the budget previously. They may have noticed some difference. I want to say that I know next time that institutions and the organs of EAC will present their Budget very well and I am sure there will be no problem between the Council and the EALA organ.

We have to always understand the unity of purpose because our mission is one people, one destiny. For that reason, I urge the Council of Ministers to know that things could have gone wrong with the previous EALAs. You could have formed a perception. Kindly delete that perception. We are a new EALA, new beginning, new calendar and our aim, role, mission and vision is to give value to the Community, which voted, for us. Let us work together as one organ with unity of purpose. I extend an olive branch to honourable Ministers. Kindly attend the Carnivore dinner. I particularly want to see Dr. Susan at the dinner. Thank you.

Dr Jumanne Ngwaru Maghembe (Tanzania): Thank you very much hon. Speaker. I will be very brief. I am sure you

noticed that yesterday I did not contribute on this Budget. If you take into account my history, how we began this Parliament and the 175 pages I read here, I thought I must be the Member with the most words in the *Hansard*. Let me today leave my other able Members to contribute.

After listening to the debate yesterday as a neutral and watching how Council Chair handled the issues before us, it reminded me of the quote by Diana Terezi who is a star women's basketball player. She told her teammates, '*in order to be a good team, you first have to be a good team mate*'. Therefore, I would like to congratulate the Honourable Council Chairperson and the Members of the Council. They have been very good teammates on the face of it. I feel that we will be able to work together as a team to achieve our objectives. So, *hongera sana*.

To the Committee, I would like to congratulate my fellow Chairperson. Hon. Aden is a Member of my Committee. He is a very bright man and he is one of the senior Members although he looks young. According to me, he is a senior Member and one of the good ones, such as hon. Victor and hon. Garang Alaak who I rely on consistently. The Committee has done a very fine job. Lastly, as a Chairperson of Accounts Committee I would like to declare interest that I am very happy that the Budget has passed giving me an extra couple of days to do the work of the Audit Commission to ensure that I do not age another ten years like I did previously. It was very tough. I would like to thank the Council Chair, Members of the Council and the Committee for a good job. *Hongera sana*, thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Kim then Hon. Thomas. I now you have not been around.

Mr Duop: Thank you honourable Speaker. I want to thank the Council of Ministers and also my brother and client, hon. Aden. I will thank two people who are not in this House. When our Chairperson took a chance to thank the Committee on General Purpose, he forgot two people who are engines of the Committee on General Purpose, our clerks; Elizabeth and Olivia. *(Applause)*

They did a very good job. Hon. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on General Purpose, we congratulate them. I will add my voice to my sister Happiness who said yesterday that all women are very strong. *(Applause)*

Women are the best. They are strong and they have showed us that without them, this Bill would not go forward.

Finally, I will thank, a little bit and not so much, the Kenya Chapter regarding what was raised by hon. Fatuma. The Kenya Chapter invited us for dinner today. We have music playing outside in honour of this big achievement of passing the Budget. We are going to dance here after closing. We have been here for one month, bored in our hotels. However, finally the Kenya Chapter has come to our rescue. Rt. hon. Speaker I think today we will see Kenya as a very good country because for one month we have not slept. Today can talk for more than three hours in this House. After we had a meeting with Chairperson, Council of Ministers we felt relaxed. We are very happy and this is the beginning of a good job between the Assembly and the Council. Thank you very much. – *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Hon. Thomas and hon. Nooru after Hon. Thomas.

Mr Thomas Gatkek Dut Deng (South Sudan): Rt. hon. Speaker I would like also to add my voice. I arrived in Kenya yesterday

and I was really moved by the division I saw. I could not rest at all.

The Speaker: May be you should tell the Members where you have been.

Mr Deng: I actually belong to the Committee on General Purpose, a very committed Member. We had a very heavy discussion on the Budget. It was not an easy job and I thank our honourable Chairperson of the General Purpose Committee and my colleagues for a job well done. I would also want to add my voice by thanking the Council. We have been corresponding and I could see there was a good working relationship, which needs to be commended. This is the start. Today is a day of great achievement for the Community.

Number two, I would also like to declare that this was good luck for me. I just came in and I could see this great achievement done by this august House. It is very great. I would like to recommend that next time, it will be important for the institution of the EAC to work together in processing the Budget. We need the involvement of everybody so that next time we do not have any grievances because some doubted those who processed the Budget. However, during the next Budget we will be together in processing the Budget because the goal is one. We need to work in harmony. The goal is to achieve the development of our Community in the EAC. I also personally thank you for your wise leadership because from time to time when there are hurdles here and there you always intervened. Thank you very much.

Hon. Member: Where were you?

The Speaker: Let me clear that for you. Hon. Thomas and hon. Mo-Mamo were representing me in a meeting of Speakers and

Members of Parliament in Moscow. –
(*Applause*)

Welcome back. I do not know when they were there who acted as the Speaker and the Member of Parliament, maybe that was internal arrangement.

Mr Adan Mohamed Nooru (Kenya): Thank you very much honourable Speaker. I want to join my colleagues and friends in thanking the honourable Chairperson of the Council and the Council of Ministers for the wisdom that brought us this far. We are better than yesterday. Thank God and thank you very much for your wise leadership. We have to acknowledge and appreciate the budget making process. It is not only about passing budgets and approving them. I think if we had the opportunity to be involved in the process from the word go, then the issue of approval would just have been a last thing. Next time, I think God willing we are going to move together step by step until we harmonize and agree on a better way of doing the budgeting of this institution.

Honourable Speaker, I want to appeal to the Council that, at least, with the meagre resources we have, corruption in this continent and in this region in particular is becoming an issue. We have to rise above that and really work to fight as much as possible to utilize these little resources through accountability. We have no time for wastage anymore. As you have heard from the honourable Members, the institutions and organs of this Community are expanding and the resources are still as meagre as they are. We need to focus a little bit so that we move with speed in mobilizing and raising resources for this Community. I think the pace at which the Community is growing and the pace we are mobilizing resources is too far apart. We need to try to narrow this gap and see how best we can rise up, mobilize

both externally and internally so that, at least, we make an impact, and make integration of this region a reality.

There are many issues of pending protocols and ratifications required. We need to ask Council to fast track those pending protocols with the member States that have not signed so that the issues raised can be rectified and prevailed upon so that we move. We are at the first stage of the four pillars. However, even the first has not been fully implemented. Therefore, we need to move with speed so that we see how best we can achieve our goals. Goals without targets and timelines cannot be achieved. Therefore, we need to set targets as to when we should achieve our targets so that, at least, we offer service delivery to the Community, which has brought us here.

Rt hon Speaker, with those few remarks, I want to thank you for the good guidance and the wise leadership to this House. This is the first Budget as my colleagues have said but I think we need to pull up our socks. We have to call a spade a spade. We are not up to the expectations but we are also not so badly off. However, we need to fix whatever requires to be fixed so that we can be seen to be working. We have to be seen to be available in this Community.

The public participation and outreach is more critical for this integration. We are not boardroom people. We just have to get in touch with the Community so that member States and citizens in the Community move with us. We should not just tell them one day that we are going to change the currency or we are going to change the flag because we have one president because we are politically integrating. It will not be possible. We need to give people the opportunity to participate and take part in those processes. In law making process, a community has to

participate. We have four days, in the entire year, for community participation, in Bills and Regulations. We need to look into those things and look at the calendar of the Assembly and calendars of our protocols to see what we can achieve. Thank you very much.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker: Thank you honourable Members for your interventions. I know everyone would have wanted to contribute. However, it has been a very hectic week. I think we need time to go freshen up and prepare for the dinner that has been generously arranged for us by the Kenya Chapter. I am informed that arrangements have been made to pick you from your hotels at 7.00 p. m. So, have your high heels ready. I think there will be more than just eating.

I am informed that our colleague, hon. Chris Opoka, has been taken ill and has been rushed to hospital. He is being given medical attention. We pray that he recovers quickly and joins us.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, I adjourn the House until Monday 11th June 2018 at 2.30 p.m. right here in the County Hall. House adjourned.

(The Assembly rose at 6.30 p.m. to resume on 11th June 2018 at 2,30 p.m.)