

The Speaker: Your Excellency, indeed EALA and the East Africans have benefited from the wealth of wisdom both by your position as the chair of the Summit – but I should also add – because of your age and experience. *(Applause)*

Allow me to invite one of us, hon. Jeremie Ngendakumana to put all our words of thanks to you so that we are able to know that in you, as our chair of the Summit, EALA has a leader and an ally.

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr Jeremie Ngendakumana (Burundi): Your Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of the Summit, Rt hon. Speaker of EALA, Rt hon. Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies of Rwanda, Your Lordship the Chief Justice of Rwanda, the President of the Senate of Rwanda, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, hon. Ministers in charge of EAC Affairs, hon. members of EALA and Parliament of Rwanda, the Secretary-General of the EAC, members of the diplomatic corps, all invited guests, ladies and gentlemen. Good afternoon everyone.

Your Excellency, Chair of the Summit, we value your presence today in this House and your patience that this is the commitment on your part to the ideals of the East African Community integration process of which you have played a very significant part towards its current achievements. We believe that the dream of East Africans for a stable, peaceful and prosperous and united East Africa will be truly achieved as evidence by your commitment and of your brothers, the other heads of state. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, as Chair of the Summit, the people of the Community have many expectations in you. You are among those who initiated the re-establishment of this Community and I believe that you know it better everybody else. You know its strength and weaknesses and you are the right person who can feed it well so as to make it healthy and grow up. *(Applause)*

We have noticed, Your Excellency, that by the deliberate actions and programmes of the Community, there is more free movement of people within the region and that the East African citizens are enjoying, slowly the evidence of being in a community. They understand now that to move as a community is better than to be alone.

Your Excellency, during your address to EALA, you have shown to – I like it every time your Pan Africanism spirit - *(Applause)* I can say that I am lucky because I have got many opportunities to listen to your speeches and whenever and wherever you address people, your spirit of Pan Africanism is always highlighted. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, under your leadership, we are sure that the integration process will be pushed to another level so that the customs union moves farther to a single customs territory and the common market protocol should be fully and well implemented. And step by step, with widening and deepening, we shall move towards the monetary union and ultimately the political federation.

Your Excellency, as an East African born in Burundi, I take this opportunity to thank you for the commitment to peace in Burundi and in the entire region. *(Applause)*

As chair of the regional initiative for peace in Burundi and also as one who knew enough about the problem of Burundi together with His Excellency, Mwalimu Julius Kambarage Nyerere (May his soul rest in peace) you played a key role in Burundi's peace process until the signature of the Global Peace Agreement. And you did all these when Burundi was not yet a member of the East African Community but rather more from your commitment to deliberations and unity of Africa as a whole. *(Applause)*

Now, Burundi is a peaceful country and His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, the President of Burundi is doing the best he can so as to improve the welfare of our people by promoting democracy and freedom, peace and development. *(Applause)*

After more than a decade of heavy rain, the sun of peace is now shining in Burundi, thanks to the contribution of all the EAC partner states. *(Applause)* Your Excellency, the people of Burundi shall always be thankful to you and wish you well.

Your Excellency, we do appreciate your initiative for peace in Somalia. This House supports the partner states of Uganda and Burundi for their show of comradeship and brotherhood to the people of Somalia by sending their troops to be part of the African Union Mission. The dividends are there for all to see.

In our culture, it is said that when a house of your neighbour is on fire, do not keep quiet, because the next to catch the fire will be yours. *(Applause)* What you did about Somalia, Your Excellency, is commendable. Please continue with your efforts until Somalia is a stable and peaceful country. And who knows, maybe tomorrow they could be a proud member of the East African Community as they have applied. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we are also proud about your strong position on the International Criminal Court (ICC). As it has turned out, the ICC seems to have now shifted to be merely a target for Africans, especially African leaders. We encourage you and all your brothers, the members of the Summit to stand firm in your position because it is the right one. *(Applause)*

We believe that Africa's problems can be solved by the Africans themselves. As we said, it is a question of ideology.

Your Excellency, during your speech, the words like "united people", "united states", peace and development came up many times. I have already said that I have had the opportunity to listen to many of your speeches and the spirit of Pan Africanism has always been highlighted. If the service in charge of the press and communication in your office, Your Excellency, could put all your speeches together and give us a book; we could give it a title like "The Pan Africanism Spirit of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni" so that we can have a one-stop place to get all the information regarding how to build our Community, Africa and maybe the whole world. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we are now seeking for your support permanently and of course for your guidance and you can be sure that you have the full support of this House. *(Applause)*

And apparently, with those few words, we want to thank you once again. Good afternoon. Idumu Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Jeremie Ngendakumana for those very important words said on our behalf.

Honourable members, this has been a very prestigious session and we are honoured that we have been here on behalf of all East Africans to receive the very powerful message from the chair of the Summit of the East African heads of state.

At this juncture I want to appreciate all of you for coming; I want to appreciate the members in the gallery – thank you for being here. I will just make a few announcements. After we adjourn, we shall proceed to the front of the Chamber of the Deputies for a group photo. Your Excellency that is very important for our history books. Afterwards, I invite all of you for a little cocktail – it will subsume lunch – at the place on the right hand side of the chamber. All of you are invited. And with those announcements, House stands adjourned until Thursday 25th April 2013 at 2.30 p.m. House stands adjourned.

(The House rose at 2.00 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday 25th April 2013 at 2.30 p.m.)

(The Uganda National Anthem was played)

(The EAC Anthem was played)