



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

132nd Sitting - Third Assembly: Sixth Meeting – Fourth Session

Tuesday, 24 May 2016

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:30 p.m. in the EALA Chamber, EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania

PRAYER

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

(The Assembly was called to order.)

ADMINISTRATOR OF OATH

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Member:-

Ambassador Liberet Mfumukeko

The Speaker: Honourable colleagues, join me in welcoming the hon. Secretary General as a Member of this gallant Assembly. *(Applause)*

We welcome the Secretary General. Enjoy your time working with Members of this Assembly. You are most welcome. I congratulate you for joining this Assembly.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR

(I) SENSITISATION EXERCISE HELD IN THE EAC PARTNER STATES

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Members. I take this opportunity to welcome you to this meeting in our Chamber here in Arusha. After we adjourned *sine die* in Dar es Salaam, a lot of activities continued to take place within this region as required by our Community.

Most importantly, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to all the Members for the successful sensitisation programme that you carried out in the Partner States. The sensitisation exercise went on very well. The feedback that has come to my office is

positive. I congratulate you again – *(Applause)*.

I would like to reaffirm to you that we would undertake another sensitisation exercise after this meeting– *(Applause)*. The people of East Africa are very appreciative of this exercise and they posed one question: EALA, where have you been? That tells you how much we needed to have been with them. I take this exercise very seriously and will make it part and tradition of this Assembly.

(II) THE EAC SPEAKERS' BUREAU MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL IN ARUSHA

Within the period, we also had the Speakers Bureau's Meeting which sat here in Arusha on 29th April. The meeting considered numerous issues and decided many things for the welfare of our Parliaments and the people. Most important to note is the decision to give the Republic of Kenya the chance to host the Inter-Parliamentary Games. The Bureau of Speakers, as per the request of the Speaker of the National Assembly of Kenya, awarded Kenya the chance to host the Inter-Parliamentary Games this year.

Based on that and my earlier communication, I would also like to report to you that I have nominated two Members; based on the principle of rotation, to participate in the preparation of the next games. The Members are; hon. ole Nkanae and hon. Taslima. These two Members will work with Members of other Partner States to start the preparation of the Inter-Parliamentary Games. I appeal to you, honourable Members, to keep fit. The captains for the various disciplines should start the practice in preparation of the coming games.

(II) OPENING OF THE PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

I also represented you in the opening of the Pan-African Parliament in South Africa.

(III) SWEARING-IN OF HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVENI

I also attended, on your behalf, the swearing-in ceremony of His Excellency, President Kaguta Museveni, and the President of the Republic of Uganda. I take this opportunity to congratulate him for taking the mantle of leading Uganda under the new government.

I would also like to report to you that while we were away, the Parliament of Uganda elected new leadership in which it elected Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga as the Speaker of the Tenth Parliament. It also elected hon. Jacob Olanya as the Deputy Speaker. These two gallant daughter and sons of Uganda have been serving in this same position in the previous Parliament. On your behalf, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them and to wish them well.

I am supposed to be attending the opening ceremony of the Parliament and State of the Nation Address next week on Tuesday. However, due to the duties here, I will not make it but delegate one of you to represent this Assembly in that function.

(IV) MESSAGE OF CONDOLENCES TO BEREAVED COLLEAGUES

On a sad note, honourable colleagues, I would like to announce to you that the immediate former Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Richard Sezibera lost his mother this morning. Further, on a sad note, Mr. Bobi Odiko, the Public Communications Officer of our

Parliament also lost his mother sometime back. I thank all those who stood with him. I request that we stand to observe a moment of silence.

(The honourable Members stood in their places to observe a moment of silence)

PAPERS

The Minister, Office of the President for EAC Affairs, Burundi (Ms. Leontine Nzeyimana (Ex-officio): Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. In accordance with provisions of Article 134(3) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, I beg to lay on the Table the following audited financial statements of the East African Community Organs and institutions for the Financial Year ended 30th June, 2015.

This is an audited consolidated financial statement of the East African Community which includes accounts of the East African Secretariat, the East African Legislative Assembly, the East African Court of Justice and Projects.

The Audited financial statement of the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC); the audited financial statement of the LVBC Partnership Fund; the audited accounts of the civil aviation safety and security oversight agency (CASSOA), the audited financial statement of the Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) and the audited financial statement of Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO).

Mr. Speaker Sir, each of the organs and institutions have a management letter which form an integral part of the audited accounts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay.

(Ms. Leontine Nzeyimana laid the Papers on the Table) - (Interruption)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

(V) CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO BEREAVED COLLEAGUES

The Speaker: Hon. Colleagues, it is important that I also further give this announcement in association to the sad note of the earlier announcement.

Our dear friend and sister, hon. Jessica Eriyo, the DSG also lost her mother while we were on recess. Furthermore, our good friend and colleague, hon. Maryam Ussi lost her dear mother when we were completing our plenary meeting in Dar es Salaam. Death further robbed us also of the mother-in-law of hon. Rwigema.

We stand with all our colleagues and friends who have lost their dear ones. We continue praying for those who are still under torments of diseases and sickness to recover soon. We wish them quick recovery.

(VI) VISIT BY BISHOP JUSTIN NZOYISABA TO EALA

Hon. Colleagues, I would like to announce that Bishop Justin Nzoyisaba, President of the National Commission for the Inter-Burundi Dialogue (CNDI), is in the public gallery.

Rt. Hon. Bishop, we recognise you, welcome you and wish you the best.

I would like to refer Report laid on the Table by the Minister to the Committee on Accounts.

(The Audited Financial Statement of the East African Community Report for the Financial

Year 2014/2015 was referred to the Committee on Accounts)

MOTION FOR THE ASSEMBLY TO COMMEND THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE EAC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF STATE FOR THE CONCISE EXPOSITION OF EAC POLICY CONTAINED IN THE STATE OF THE EAC ADDRESS

The Minister for EAC Affairs (Burundi) Hon. Leontine Nzeyimana (Ex-officio Member): Mar. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

“THAT, this House do commend the Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State for the concise exposition of the EAC Policy contained in the State of the EAC Address to this Assembly on Tuesday 8th March, 2016.”

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Council to the Community, hon. Maryam, hon. Bazivamo, hon. Bucumi, hon. Patricia and all the Members standing.

Hon. Minister, you can move the Motion.

The Minister for EAC Affairs (Burundi) Ms. Leontine Nzeyimana (ex-officio Member): Mr. Speaker, Sir, you will recall that His Excellency, President John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, Chairperson of the Summit, on Tuesday, 8th March, 2016 through the Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa delivered his Address of the State of the East African Community.

The Chairperson of the Summit addressed this august House on the state of customs and trade in the region and pointed out that integration in the Community began with a customs union through the common market and ultimately, a political federation.

The Chairperson noted that substantial progress had been registered towards achievement of this agenda. The Chairperson pointed out that the implementation of the single customs territory which initially commenced on the northern and central corridor in 2014 has since been consolidated through among others, finalisation of key operational instruments.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairperson of the Summit informed this august House that the Community has adopted the use of one-stop border post as trade facilitation concept that will reduce delays on the major transport corridors.

He pointed out that so far, out of the 15 borders earmarked to operate as one-stop border posts, seven had been completed and four were operational. He pointed out that intra-EAC trade, given the improved infrastructure, is now expected to increase. Indeed, trade is now at 23 per cent over and above the Intra African Trade figure of 12 per cent.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairperson, Summit hailed the private sector as an engine of growth and development in the region and castigated corruption and unethical business and hindrance to economic growth within the community. He noted that corruption and bureaucracy are key factors which hinder movement of goods between the borders of the EAC Partner States. The Chairperson informed this House that non-tariff barriers (NTBs) remain a challenge but commended among others, the efforts to remove NTBs at the port of Mombasa and Dar es Salaam.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairperson, Summit, informed this House about the progress of regional infrastructure programme. He pointed out that provision of basic regional

infrastructure and adequate reliable energy and requisites to regional integration.

He revealed that the EAC power master plan among other regional master plans have been identified and require over USD80 billion worth of investment that needs to be raised. He reported the recommended enactment and assent of Vehicle Load Control Act and One-Stop Border Posts Act which will enhance trade facilitation and protect the regional road infrastructure from early destruction by overloaded trucks. He observed that the EAC will be the first regional economic community in Africa to have common laws and standard for one-stop border posts and vehicle load control operations.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chairperson, Summit, reported progress on the standard gauge railway project, harmonisation of freight and long distance trade, bus driver training and licensing standards. He highlighted the commendable achievement in the implementation of the EAC Common Market Protocol. He revealed that among the outstanding challenges is the issuance of electronic certificate of origin that has not been adopted regionally, the annex of mutual recognition of academic and professional qualification is still work in progress and the slow pace of harmonisation of national laws into the EAC context continues to hamper the implementation of the common market commitment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chair commended the good work being done by this assembly and challenged us to continue deliberating issues of concern to East Africans. He also revealed that the extension of the jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) on trade, investment and issues associated with monetary union has enhanced confidence in the regional legal system.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Chair of the Summit proposed among others, as a way of forward in terms of certification, sensitisation and awareness creation among our people for them to realise the full benefits of the integration process.

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Acting Chairperson, Council of Ministers. The Motion before the House is:-

“THAT, this House do commend the Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State for the concise exposition of the EAC Policy contained in the State of the EAC Address to this Assembly on Tuesday, 8th March, 2016.”

(Question proposed)

Debate is open.

Ms. Shy-Rose Sadrudin Bhanji (Tanzania): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity. Before I embark on the debate on the State of EAC Address, let me take this opportunity to congratulate Amb. Mfumukeko on his appointment and for being sworn-in to this House.

I formally welcome you to EALA and wish you all the best. We are also counting on your support.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, having said that, let me take this opportunity to express my gratitude and congratulations to His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli, Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC, for his enlightening State of EAC Address during our parliamentary session in Dar es Salaam in March. Indeed, that laid the ground on a number of issues which he highlighted and which are of great importance in the integration agenda.

In summary, I would like to first talk about the implementation of the Customs Union. It is good to note that the implementation of the Customs Union which started in 2005 is progressing well. Under the Customs Union Protocol, there is a criteria on the rule of origin. This is a very welcome exercise for traders as goods are moving across the borders without implication of taxes. However, for this policy and the Rule of Origin to have a wider impact, there is need for more stakeholders to issue the certificate of origin.

For example, in Tanzania, it is only the Tanzania Chamber of Commerce, Trade and Agriculture (TCCIA) which has been given this task to issue Certificates of Origin. The TCCIA is not, however, present all over Tanzania. Therefore, it is important for many stakeholders to be given this task so that certificates of origin can be easily accessed.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, my advice is that trade offices in districts, municipal councils and city councils should be given these tasks to enable, as I said, easy access to Certificates of Origin. Having a good policy is one thing. However, effective implementation of the good policy is another thing altogether.

I would like to give an example of our recent sensitisation exercise in Dar es Salaam. It was realised that not many people are aware of the Certificate of Origin let alone where to get it. This is not good at all. That is why I am advocating for more stakeholders to be involved so that many people can access the certificate of origin.

The other area I want to comment on is the Single Customs Territory. The Single Customs Territory has resorted in achieving minimum time for goods at the port and freight vehicles. Following the recent developments at the Dar es Salaam Port

under the Fifth Government of Tanzania under President John Pombe Magufuli I would like to request that this House goes to visit the port to see the achievements and milestones which have been recorded under the fifth phase government which is good in the integration process. The development of one-stop border post is also highly commendable because it has reduced time for passengers. While we commend the construction and operationalization of the completed border posts, I want to urge that the remaining border posts be completed soon so that they start operations. These are; Namanga; Busia, Malaba; Mutukula; and, Kabelo-Kabanga.

The issue of trade was overemphasised in his State of the EAC Address. I agree with him because trade is key in integration. In his Speech, *Mheshimiwa* Magufuli said that there was remarkable increase in trade figures. There is 300 per cent increase in value of trade from USD2 billion in 2005 to USD6 billion in 2014. It is my belief that by 2016 the trade figures will have increased in many folds.

In conclusion, I would like to talk about the challenges that President Magufuli highlighted. I would like to reiterate his call on the three challenges. The Council of Ministers have been tasked to address the challenges as fast as possible so that our people can enjoy the full benefits of the EAC integration. This is one, the issuance of electronic certificate of origin. As I said before, if we will have more stakeholders issuing certificates of origin and issue them electronically, this will be a milestone in the EAC integration.

The second challenge is on the mutual recognition of academic and professional qualifications. The third one is on the harmonisation of national laws into the EAC

context. Chairperson, Council of Ministers, I urge you to speed up this process so that we overcome these challenges. In conclusion, I once again, commend and thank the Chairperson of the EAC Summit, President John Pombe Magufuli for his timely address to this Assembly in March this year.

I support the Motion.

The Speaker: Thank you so much hon. Shy-Rose. Yes, hon. Maryam.

Ms. Maryam Ussi Yahya (Tanzania): Thank you very much Rt. Hon. Speaker. Before I start contributing on the Speech given by the Prime Minister on behalf of His Excellency President, Magufuli, let me also congratulate our new Secretary General Amb, Mfumukeko. I welcome you and hope to work with you.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, let me also take this opportunity to thank you, the staff and all Members in this august House, for your love and sympathy because you stood with me when I lost my mother who passed away on 20th March. Let me, wholeheartedly, thank those Members who attended the burial of my mother; hon. Abdullah Mwinyi, hon. Angela Kizigha, hon. Chris Opoka-Okumu, hon. Valerie Nyirahabineza, hon. Leonce and hon. Abubakar Ogle. I really appreciate. On behalf of my family and especially my father who asked me to thank you, I would like to say, *asanteni sana*.

Rt. hon. Speaker, Sir, let me first of all, congratulate His Excellency, John Pombe Magufuli for the pace he has taken with regard to the integration process. He recently announced that the flag of the EAC would be flying in all government offices. (*Applause*)

He also said that the EAC Anthem would be sang in all official functions. We really

appreciate his gesture and goodwill of supporting the integration process. With regard to the anthem part, I think he is following our Ugandan counterparts who sing the anthem even in rural areas especially in primary schools. We really appreciate that Uganda has shown us the way.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, coming back to the Speech, which was read by the Prime Minister, I will go into the challenges which include the slow pace of harmonisation of national laws into the EAC context. I would like to raise this issue and bring it to the attention of the Council of Ministers. Harmonisation of national laws into the context of the EAC is a requirement of the Treaty. So, it is interesting to see that up to now we have not fulfilled this Treaty requirement which is really important.

Mr. Speaker, there is slow pace in some areas with regard to harmonisation of national laws while in some areas this has not been achieved. This is critical. There are very many laws which have not been harmonised. It is time that the Council of Ministers put more effort in terms of setting aside funds so as to ensure that this exercise is done.

During the last plenary session, we were told that there were hundredths of laws which had not been harmonised. These are not just two or three laws. We have been moving slowly with regard to this issue and this is hampering the integration process.

I have seen, in the Speech, that immigration and labour laws in Tanzania have been harmonised. If not harmonised, these laws hamper the Common Market Protocol. If a person from Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya or Uganda came to visit Tanzania and wanted to work, they would first have to look at the Labour laws separately and also look at the Immigration laws separately. We should find a way of making this easy.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, sorry, today I am reading because I am not feeling very well in my head.

The Speaker: Hon. Maryam, I hope that in future, when people are reading the *Hansard*, they will not read about a Member who was contributing while her head was not well. I think you better put it into perspective that you have had a busy day and that your mind is crowded.

Ms. Yahya: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I am fully aware of what is happening. I am not under the influence of anything. I would like to assure the House of that.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, let me finally say that lack of harmonisation of laws will make us not benefit from integration very equally. Some Partner States are already ahead of others. It is time that we assessed our Partner States so that we see how far we have gone in terms of harmonising our laws so that the common *mwananchi* in the six Partner States equally benefits.

Lastly, hon. Shy-Rose talked about the Certificate of Origin. I want to also talk about that. If you look at the statistics, you will see that so far, there are very few Certificates of Origin that have been given out. In Tanzania, we have about 50 million people and only about 3000 and something certificates have been issued. This shows you that it is not easy to get these certificates.

Lastly, I will talk about inter-trade briefly. There is still a lot difficulties facing people who are trading along our borders. We have been receiving complaints especially about Namanga. There are a lot of difficulties facing traders who come from Tanzania and want to cross over to Kenya. I was also told that some fishermen from Tanzania are now

facing a court case in Kenya because of fishing in the Kenyan sea. This may be due to lack of knowledge or because we have not harmonised our national laws to be in tandem with the EAC laws.

I urge the Council of Ministers to keep this in mind and to ensure that this exercise is carried out. I know that it may require a lot of funds. However, because the laws are very many, we can start by implementing a few so that we see that the phrase of our Chairperson of the Summit, *hapa kazi tu* is working.

I thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Interruption of Debate)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION FROM THE STUDENTS FROM THE INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANCY - ARUSHA

The Speaker: Thank you hon. Maryam. Before I give hon. Abubakar Zein, let me recognise our good friends, the future of this Community, students from the Institute of Accountancy, Arusha, led by the Secretary of the EAC Youth Club Mr. Evans Emmanuel Ayoo.

You are most welcome. Thank you for taking interest in the integration process.

(Resumption of Debate)

Mr. Abubakar Zein Abubakar (Kenya): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this important Motion. Allow me, first, to extend my congratulations to the Secretary General for taking his rightful place in this honourable House. This is the Secretary General, hon. Liberet Mfumukeko.

Welcome Sir and feel that you belong to this House. I will speak about you briefly in what I am about to discuss. Allow me, Sir, to start with extending my commendation and appreciation to His Excellency President John Magufuli for addressing this House and assessing the health of our Community by asking about our Constitution. The EAC Address is always a point of reflection for us to think about the past, present and the future. I would also like to thank the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa for articulating President Magufuli's ideas before this House. *(Applause)*.

I will limit myself to two interrelated issues so that I may speak about them with a bit of latitude. Sir, if you permit me, I will not restrict myself to what is in the Speech. I will point out part of the Speech that I want to focus on. However, I will also link it with other issues that the President has been saying and doing. For me, these two things are important.

One is saying and the other is doing. When "saying" and "doing" converge and work is done in harmony, progress is made. I would like to appreciate President Magufuli for his concentration on two fundamental issues that if we pay attention to, in this Community, we will not go wrong but only make progress. One is corruption. *(Applause)*

The other issue is bad governance. President John Magufuli, by example, has spoken and led from the front on the issue of corruption and bad governance. He calls upon us, we in the Community, to lead by example and follow him as a General. We can only be his foot soldiers. Today, I commit myself to this noble quest and war which is waging in the Community and in the Republic of Tanzania. I give my solemn oath that I shall be his foot soldier and that I will fight tooth and nail, tooth and nail, tooth and nail, with him so that

our Community can become whole again. *(Laughter)*

President Magufuli, while addressing the Summit of the Heads of States here in Arusha, said in part; "my brothers, (referring to the Presidents of the other four Partner States) have asked me to continue for another one year. I hope that they will not regret asking me to do so because I want to bring the whirlwind of war against corruption and bad governance to the Community."

Amin, Amin, let that war come here to this Community. Why is it important for the war to come to this Community? This is because of something else that he has taught us to say which is; "in everything that you do, always remember, and never forget that you are acting and doing what you do on behalf of poor people." *(Applause)*

He reminds us that majority of the people we represent are poor. Therefore, we are the representatives of poor people. He says that every time you want to act and spend community money, never forget that you are doing it on behalf of poor people who are living in misery. He said to us, as leaders, that in this age of transformation, taking into account that economies are in dire strain, we cannot ask our people to tighten their belts while we are loosening ours. If we ask others to tighten their belts, it is only moral that we also tighten ours. Those who preach the gospel of others tightening their belts while they loosen theirs are hypocrites.

Let me make two final submissions and then sit down. One, the journey of fighting corruption and bringing good governance to the Community will not be easy. Those who are used to the pleasures of corruption, those are part of the network of corruption and bad governance, those who have grown to love

these bad these things will never let go that easily. They will fight back.

Mr. Abubakar Abdi Ogle (Kenya): On a point of clarification, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I hate to interrupt my very good friend and brother, hon. Zein. However, when he talks about a certain network and cartels which are here, is he referring to people who are within this Community? If so, could he give us more information?

The Speaker: Hon. Zein, in your debate you have insinuated that there are cartels that are used to the evil of corruption and this fight will not be easy. Hon. Ogle is asking whether you are talking about cartels which are in this House or from which organ of the EAC? That is what honourable Ogle is trying to find out.

Mr. Zein: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of my good friend, hon. Abubakar Ogle, to the fact that those are not my words. Those are the words of His Excellency President John Magufuli. He said that he would bring the war of whirlwind against bad governance and corruption to the Community.

Is this Assembly part of the Community? Yes, it is. *(Laughter)*

You are not immune to the directive of the Chairperson of the Summit of the Heads of States. I am not saying that we already know what will happen. All I am saying is that we, the foot soldiers, are beginning the war.

Before you interrupted me, I was making two final submissions. One, it will not be easy. Corruption always fights back. Bad governance always fights back. Those who are inspired by the sentiments of President John Magufuli will see that on page 3 of this statement, he is giving good account of the East African Business Council for fighting

corruption and for wanting to raise the integrity levels on our community.

Let me finish with the last one. I would like to congratulate the Secretary General. I have seen, from press statements, including one that appeared in *The Arusha Times* that he has started in the right vein. He has said the right things.

He is saying; behold, I am coming and I am embolden by the statement of President Magufuli. I would like to join the Secretary General and say; “behold, I am coming, behold I am coming, behold I am coming.” *(Laughter)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much hon. Zein for your submission. I will give hon. Mbidde and then hon. Ogle.

Mr. Fred Mukasa Mbidde (Uganda): Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. Honourable Members, allow me also to welcome Dr. Mfumukeko and congratulate you upon assumption of this great office of the East African Community as Secretary General. You are warmly welcome.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I equally associate myself with the Members that have thanked His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli for the wonderful Speech that was delivered on his behalf to this Assembly.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I discovered, recently, that he is my namesake. The name “Pombe” means “Mbidde” in my vernacular language. *(Laughter)*

For avoidance of any contradiction, I will be as humble as possible while addressing my namesake.

I associate myself, once again, with the submissions of my brother, hon. Zein, particularly with the regard to the oomph

with which His Excellency has started with in his performance of his duties of integration.

On page 9, particularly the first paragraph of the Speech, His Excellency is glad to report that with the extension of the jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ), East Africans are happy that the jurisdiction of this court has been extended to cover trade related activities. I am sure that this will be part of his major targets when he is waving his magical words against those who do not perform. This statement is not correct because the extension was not effectual. The directive was issued, the deadline passed and no Partner State deposited an accession document for this purpose. Accordingly, we do not have extended jurisdictions of the EACJ to cover investment and trade related activities and yet in the files of the Chairman, Summit, it is recorded as if this is done.

The foot soldiers that hon. Zein alluded to should start working. There is a problem. Without recourse to justice, you cannot have integration flourishing. We are dealing with a second EAC. What led to the demise of the first one in the 1970s? We must look at recourse to justice whenever injustices are occasioned. I have been looking at the EAC and I have seen a problem.

Our countries have been negating the idea of having organs of justice particularly the court. This one has been neglected to the extent that we almost think that we can integrate without necessarily having justice occasioned to people.

The Summit, without a substantive EACJ, would be nothing but a conspiracy against people. Members of the Summit would continue sitting but conspiring against East Africans who would have no recourse to any arm of justice whenever injustices are occasioned against them. We have no court

as we sit here that has the criminal jurisdiction to try a sitting president once such a president occasions injustice against his people. What we have are numerous motions by these same presidents against the only court that can try them which is the International Criminal Court (ICC).

We must make sure that we become serious and ensure that Article 6(d) is respected as we progress for purposes of integration within the EAC region. Even the African Court on Human and People's Rights which exists in the African Continent which, in effect, can be used by East Africans so that they take their human rights causes, the court, under the Protocol which establishes it, Article 34(6) requires that a Partner State deposits a declaration that allows citizens to sue. Here in East Africa, only one country did that. I took four countries to court and it is only Rwanda that did it during the trial of the matter which was before the EACJ. With regard to the rest of the countries, no citizen can access that court for purposes of redressing human rights violations.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, without an answer this makes East Africa the biggest and the most fertile recruitment ground for terrorism activities. Trade and operations of the Common Market Protocol are usually silent where there is war. Therefore, all we are talking about would be silent if we were in war. No one would be paying taxes and no one would be collecting anything. We would all be running and everyone would seize being a marketer, investor or a trader. They would all be refugees in a neighbouring countries.

East Africans need to take keen interest in occasioning instruments and organs of justice and powers that they can handle when it comes to matters related to their grievances. I end my submission by asking that this

paragraph is either expunged or we have commitment from our Ministers that this issue will be implemented as soon as possible for it to remain in the books of record as one of the statements made by the Chairman of the Summit.

Mr. Ogle: Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. Right from the outset, I want to associate myself with the contents of the Speech delivered by the honourable Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. It must be noted, honourable Speaker, that we, in EALA, consider the Address on the State of the EAC very fundamental and critical to us. Summit Members have always honoured and come in person. I remember President Museveni followed this Assembly to Kigali. President Uhuru drove all the way from Nairobi to come and deliver his State of the Community Address in this chambers in person. President Jakaya Kikwete followed this Assembly to Bujumbura to deliver the State of the EAC Address.

I understand that the Summit Member at the time we required the delivery of the Address could have been committed. However, we have always adjusted our programme and schedule in such a way that we accommodate them. Therefore, we should continue with the precedence of none other than the Summit member delivering future addresses. That should be taken note of. *(Applause)*

That is very important as much as I associate myself with the address by Kassim Majaliwa, the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Looking through the content of the Speech, it is also very interesting that all Summit Members have always repeatedly told us about the achievements of this Community in terms of the Single Customs Territory, the Common Market Protocol, one-stop border posts among others. It is always good to hear those things. In fact,

what they the Speech is saying is that the intra-East African trade is higher than what we have been dealing with. That is pleasant and important. It is always good to remind ourselves with the lofty ideals regarding what the Community has achieved so far. But let us be honest about this. These are Summit Members who have been saying that. In practice, Partner States have not been honouring their commitment to this community.

I am a Member of the Budget Committee which has been considering budget of the Community. There is a huge slash and none of the Partner States other than Kenya has committed 100 per cent contribution to this Community. It is high time that the makers of this pleasant Speech ensured that they make their contribution. There are no two ways about it. You are either a member of this Community or not. There are no two ways about it. You cannot keep on telling us, every other time, about the achievements; we have done this and that and yet you continue to fail in your responsibility as a Summit in contributing to the welfare of this Community.

That is why I have taken the opportunity to congratulate the Secretary General last. I want to tell him, as I congratulate him for being a Member of this Assembly that his work is cut out. He must ensure that somehow the Partner States are reminded to make their contributions to this Community. It is only then that I can come to this Assembly with all the majesty and say that we are this and that and congratulate them. Short of that, I will not.

Thank you. *(Laughter)*

Mr. Mike Kennedy Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you, Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir for the opportunity you have accorded me. Allow me to thank the authorities in Arusha for taking

care of us well whenever we are here. We should not take it for granted. Arusha City Council takes care of us. We need to appreciate them as our hosts at that level.

Allow me also to congratulate the Secretary General first for his appointment. Since he was appointed, I believe that this is the first interface we are having officially with him. Therefore, allow me to congratulate him for his appointment as the Chief Executive Officer of the Community. Secondly, I would like to congratulate him upon assuming and taking his seat in this august House after taking the oath that was administered appropriately.

You are welcome aboard. This place can be interesting and exciting. However, it can also be very challenging depending on which side you choose to operate from. That happens. These are very likable Members. We are a family. However, they have their expectations. Where you fall short of that, the same family Members can raise their voices and be firm in demanding that things be done the way they think they ought to be done. However, welcome aboard.

Allow me, Mr. Speaker, Sir, to congratulate a Summit Member, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni upon his victory on 18th February. The EAC was well represented and that was a good gesture of goodwill. He won and tasted democracy that the rule of law because a petition was put before court. So, when my brother said that leaders in this region do not respect courts, I do not know what he was talking about. *(Laughter)*

That was done and on 31st March, 2016, nine judges of the Supreme Court of Uganda ruled that President Museveni was elected in accordance with the laws and the constitution of the Republic of Uganda. I want to congratulate him upon subordinating himself

before the courts of law and awaiting their verdict.

Allow me also to congratulate him upon being sworn-in on 12th May, 2016, thereby renewing his mandate as a Summit Member of the EAC. With that, Uganda will continue with a steady progress of championing the integration agenda.

Mr. Ogle: On a point of clarification.

Mr. Sebalu: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not think that there is anything to clarify there. I just want to continue. We will address the clarification on the side-lines. It is always done. During tea time, I invite him to share a cup of tea with me and we will chat over the matter. *(Laughter)*

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, allow me to congratulate His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli for his inaugural State of the EAC Address that was delivered by the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. In this regard, it goes without saying that, indeed, the Summit extended goodwill by allowing their new colleague to continue being their Chairperson. President Magufuli was also gracious enough to take it upon himself to continue leading the Community. He has so far done very well in that regard.

As an Assembly – I think this will be appreciated – we missed his physical presence in the House that day. If anyone says that was a good thing, that person will be a liar. As an Assembly, we missed an inaugural opportunity to physically interact with him as a new Member of the Summit and as our leader. As the saying goes, *hapa kuna kazi tu*. There was also work in the Assembly that day. We missed that bit and I look forward to an opportunity when we will interact with him as an Assembly.

This is a genuine and a very passionate concern. We need to interact with him as a new Member just like we have had opportunities to interact with other Members of the Summit. The Tanzanian Chapter should do something regarding that. We really want to interact with our Chairman and the new Member of the Summit so that we get inspired. We have read and heard about him. We have also followed his actions which are very inspiring. However, that would make good sense if we had good physical connection and engagement with him as an Assembly. I believe that the Rt. Hon. Speaker will also use his good office to ensure that happens sooner than later. Remember we have a year to go. If we go without meeting our idol, that will be an anti-climax to our Assembly. I believe that is something we need to give due consideration.

His message was, indeed, well delivered and received by the Assembly. He covered a number of areas of concern. The Speech met our expectations from the point of view of giving impetus and guidance to the Assembly and in terms of engaging in the integration agenda. In his concluding remarks, it was clear that the idea and view of ensuring that East Africans are sensitised came in very handy. Therefore, allow me to thank the Rt. Hon. Speaker and the Commission for having responded in a very timely manner. The fact that this issue was addressed is was a good indication. It was timely because we immediately embarked on sensitisation. I believe that his good office tracks the on goings within the Community, they must have briefed him that one his concerns has already been addressed and responded to by the Assembly. Do you not think that deserves a round of applause? (*Applause*)

We always respond in a manner that suggests---

Hon. Members: *Kuna kazi hapa.*

Mr. Sebalu: Yes, that one. That was a very timely response and I believe that he is taking us very seriously in terms of how we engage in our work and respond to certain imperatives that are put before us. I want to thank the Rt. Hon. Speaker. If we will have another exercise soon, that will make us over perform and even surpass his expectations. Therefore, the Commission and the Rt. Hon. Speaker should explore possibilities of ensuring that implementation in that regard is done in a meaningful way.

A number of challenges were highlighted. However, some challenges which I want to talk about were not highlighted. As Members of the Summit, they may not have seen the challenges. However, from our view point, these remain serious challenges. One is the challenge of sovereignty. National sovereignty is still with us. The idea of falling back into our cocoons of national interests is serious and is hampering the progress of this Community. We need to unpack that and appreciate that when you go into the arrangement of integration, you must, as of necessity cede some of your sovereignty to a super national level of authority. There is no way you can undertake an integration arrangement and remain sovereign in the true sense of the word. That is where we are having problems. We have agreed positions at the regional level but when it gets to implementation, our people are appealing and referring to national jurisdiction. That is a contradiction. You are either integrating or sovereign. I always use an analogy of marriage where some serious scholars say that you are either married or happy. You cannot be both.

Hon. Members: No, no, no!

Mr. Sebalu: Yes, I can defend my position in that regard. However, that is for another day. There is serious contestation there.

We are either integrating or sovereign. We cannot be in between. So, we need to appreciate that there are those things that we have to do together, build synergy and work for the collective good. When that is forthcoming, you will always see us falling back to our cocoons and that compromises and delays the pace of implementation. East Africans are becoming impatient with us because they are already ahead of us in terms of the things they have powers to undertake so that they enjoy the wider space of East Africa. So, the whole notion of sovereignty is a challenge in its own sense in terms of facilitating integration.

We then have national interests versus regional common interests. That is another area that needs to be harmonised. Right now, we have areas of regional common interest that we need to give serious attention so that our people benefit from regional integration.

There is also a problem when we get to the stage of implementation. There are many agreed positions. However, when you go to national jurisdictions – Members must have come across this phenomenon while engaging with different stakeholders in Partner States – you will find that implementation is a problem. We come up with laws which we think are good for the region.

A case in point is the Disaster Risk Management Act which some countries have not signed on the basis of national interests. I wonder what interest a nation can have regarding disasters within its jurisdiction so that it is not interested in synergies across the region. What would be the national interests regarding disaster that would make it not

worthwhile to have a regional law or mechanism or initiative in managing disasters? Those three issues remain critical and as EALA Members, we need to raise them with our own governments in all the fora that we get so that we start thinking, talking and acting like East Africans. It will not help us if we do not come up with clear deliverables upon which East Africans can appreciate.

As hon. Ussi said that it was declared in Tanzania that the East African Anthem should be played in all official functions. That may appear to be symbolic but this has great impact in getting people to appreciate and to start thinking East African. That is something we have been doing for many years in Uganda. When you visit villages, you will find that the version of Kiswahili that the people there know is within the East African Anthem. This is inspiring them. So, let us go out and have quick fixes.

Hon. Dora calls them low hanging fruits. The anthem is a low hanging fruit which anybody can pick in terms of building synergy and concretising the agenda. I beg to support the Address by His Excellency President John Pombe Magufuli on the State of the Community Address. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

(Interruption of Debate)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

VISITING DELEGATION OF STUDENTS FROM MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Mike Sebalu. Honourable Members, before we move on, allow me to recognise students led by Ms. Ruth Nachanzi all the way from Melbourne,

Australia. They have come to study the EAC integration.

You are most welcome. (*Applause*)

(Resumption of Debate on Motion)

Mr. Martin Gongga (Rwanda): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Sir. First of all, let me condole with all those who lost their loved ones and also congratulate the Secretary General.

Mr. Secretary General, I promise that I will help hon. Shy-Rose to pronounce your name correctly. I will do that effective from today.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to thank the United Republic of Tanzania for the way it organised the Plenary we had in Dar es Salaam. They did it the Tanzanian way and we were not expecting less. Thank you. This was wonderfully organised and we enjoyed our time there.

I want to join others who spoke before to congratulate the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for the Speech and the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister who clearly delivered the message as it had been intended.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, someone noted before that the new leadership in Tanzania is very refreshing. It is, indeed, refreshing. We can infer this from this Speech. The President's Speech captured very well what we have achieved so far. However, it was also bold to tackle the challenges that we are facing, for instance, what we have to do differently so as to make a difference. It is a requirement that if you want to make a difference, you must do things differently not because you have been doing things wrongly but because you want to search for new ways and methods that can help you move faster. This is what we have

to do. It is what we are challenged to do by the Heads of States or Members of Summit every time they address us. Now comes the question that we need to probe further. There seems to be a mismatch between the political goodwill that we always hear about; which is available every time we listen to Members of the Summit and the speed at which we move to realise our targets. There seems to be a mismatch. This is where there are issues that we need to take time and address.

Hon. Zein spoke about foot soldiers. We are the foot soldiers. We are possibly the ones who are the cause of this slow speed and we have to correct that. Actually, I do not believe that sovereignty or nationalistic sentiments are a problem as such. This depends on how you define that. Integration is squarely in the national interest of every Partner State. So, you are not offending sovereignty or national interests by living to the promises of the integration agenda as we agreed upon.

Therefore, we have to carry out a bit of diagnosis. Yes, we have achieved a lot but there is also a lot that we have not achieved. We have tried to move faster but we have not been moving fast enough. It is time and the Speech is essentially challenging us to take stock and to act in a different way.

One of the issues that the Speech highlighted, which stands in our way of the integration process, is corruption among other issues. We also need to have proper understanding of where all this is happening. As managers of the Community, we have to live by example, provide inspiration and to clean our house so that we have audacity to challenge others. The corruption referred to here is in our daily processes across our structures in our Partner States. This is not about corruption in Arusha or any other capital. This is what we do daily in our structures of governance in our Partner States. This is

about tackling corruption from the grassroots to the higher levels of our governance system is what is being referred to here. This is not in terms of how we manage the budget for the Community or the organs of the Community. That could be one of the issues. I am not accusing anybody but it will be a good idea if we also looked into that. I think the President wants us to fight corruption and face it without fear. We should not shy away from talking about the magnitude with which it is eating into the future of our countries. It is only when we acknowledge the magnitude of the problem that we will confront it and deal with it. We hope that the inspiration that is coming from this Speech and the new measures that the government in this country is taking will spread over the region and that together we can walk at the same speed and deal with challenges which stand ahead of our integration process.

With those remarks, I support the Motion.

Hon. Agnes Mumbi Ng'aru (Kenya): Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I would like to thank God that we are happy to be back here. We condole with all those who lost their loved ones.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, you sent me to represent you and the Assembly at the burial of the former first lady, Mama Lucy Kibaki. I delivered your message. Most of us have lost relatives and, therefore, as a family, we need to condole with one another. The good thing is that once we pray for one another, somehow God gives us the comfort to bear it all.

Before I come to the State of EAC Address by the Chairperson, Summit, allow me to congratulate the new Secretary General, Ambassador. Coming from my culture, his name is difficult to pronounce. So, allow me

to call him Ambassador. That makes things easier for me.

Welcome to the august House. I hope that you will enjoy our company. As one of the speaker's before me said, we are very good at congratulating and welcoming but we are equally good in saying when things are not alright. Therefore, you will have to balance our emotions. When we are happy, we are completely happy but when we are disappointed, we get completely disappointed and we do not hide it.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I also want to congratulate the Summit Member from the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his election and for being sworn-in. That process of getting through an Election and waiting for about 30 days or more to be sworn-in is a very trying time. From an experience we have in our country – I am an East African from Kenya – I find it very interesting and comforting that a process can wait to be completed for up to two months and a country is still at peace. That is something to admire.

On the same note, I request that this House also looks at itself from a different angle. This nationalism or whatever it is – Hon. Mike Sebalu referred to it as sovereignty buy I do not have a name for it – at times makes us selective and at times we do not congratulate some Members of the Summit because we think they have not done a good job. Let us come to terms, as EALA, with the fact that a Summit Member is a Summit Member and it does not matter how they came in. I happened to be in the Kenyan delegation when the new Secretary General was appointed in Arusha. My three colleagues and I were in the Kenyan delegation as we had been requested by our President. We saw our Summit Members loving each other and even covering each

other and I hoped and prayed that the same can be replicated in this House.

When the President, Chairperson of the Summit talked about corruption, he did not just talk about it in passing with regard to Partner States. He was categorical. He mentioned the EAC. He said that he hopes that the one year extension will send a message to the EAC, which we are part of. There are things he has heard about it. *(Applause)*

He talked about corruption and said that he will deal with it. He said that he would not entertain it. He was very clear in his mind. We were there. We were seated at Ngurdoto. I was with hon. Zein and that is why he was very passionate about the issue. Hon. Ogle and hon. Nancy Abisai was also there as the Kenyan delegation which was requested by our Summit Member, His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, the State of EAC Address, is something we have been listening to for three or four years now. I remember, His Excellency, Hon. Museveni talking to us in Kigali. He took us through the bottlenecks that make us get stuck in the mud. I appreciate the way he brings out issues. Later, His Excellency, President Uhuru Kenyatta read the State of EAC Address in this Assembly where he also brought out the issue of the Bill that had been shelved. Thank God that after two years and some months, the Bill was enacted.

That taught me something. I am speaking as a Member who went through that experience. We need to sit with our Members of the Council. Although they take oath of allegiance with us, they are more loyal to their Partner States more than this House. When that Bill was being passed, I did not see

any amendment being moved although it had been on hold for almost two years.

As hon. Mike Sebalu said, how can we have sovereignty when it comes to disaster in our Partner State? We need to interrogate and address ourselves to such issues.

There is also another issue regarding the Council of Ministers and EALA. This is the issue of sensitisation that is captured very well on page 9 of the Speech. We have been talking about sensitisation. Your predecessor guided us regarding sensitisation. We do not know where all these efforts get lost. This has again come up because of a policy in the EAC Address. How can we congratulate the Commission as if we do not know what has been happening behind the scenes? We have been pushing for sensitisation because we knew that some people in our Partner States do not know what we have been doing. We have been asking this question for long. Kenya took the lead and started sensitisation programmes even before EALA. We have been going round Partner States. I would not be contradicting myself if I said that you copied this from us. However, this is good. This is now a policy statement from the Chairperson of the Summit. We will not feel guilty again about carrying out the activity. You will not also feel as if your hands are tied and that you cannot talk about it. Forcing it in the last budget, if you remember, was difficult. I hope that the Committee that dealt with the budget captured this issue. That time, it was a big thing to talk about the issue during the budget process. I remember the amount that was allocated which was just like a token; a drop in the ocean.

I appreciate President John Pombe Magufuli because his Prime Minister delivered this Speech without raising any confusion. I hope that we will take the issues seriously.

I also want to say without any fear of contradiction that the Arusha we have been coming to, for the past four years, is not the same. I have seen, in the past one week, that there is some order. The town is clean and somebody, from the top, must have done something.

There is a community which lives around the lake which has a saying that goes; fish rots from the head. If fish rots from the head when a country is facing problems, then let us look at the leadership which is the head before we criticise those at the tail end of the processes.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now that you are the head, I challenge you to lead from the front. Make sure that this House does not rot from the head because it will be very sad. I implore on you to be a foot soldier. When Members speak, they are not criticising anyone. They are trying to make us better every day. When somebody criticises your leadership, you should self-evaluate yourself. You should know that you are at the head and when things go wrong, you will not be spared. I support this Motion and would like to thank the Chairperson of the Summit.

Mr. Frederic Ngezeuhoro (Burundi): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. First of all, allow me to congratulate Amb. Liberet Mfukeko for joining this family which is the EALA. (*Appaluse*)

The name is pronounced as “Libera” and not “Liberat”. When you pronounce it as Liberet, that makes is a female name.

Mr. Zein: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am corrected and I apologise. That was not my intention. It was due to lack of understanding.

Mr. Ngezeuhoro; Mr. Speaker, Sir, I congratulate His Excellency John Magufuli especially for this address through which we

have received a lot of advice. This Speech is a good reference for us especially regarding our upcoming activities.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in your communication, you congratulated Members for the sensitisation activities that were undertaken in Partner States. I would like to thank your office and the Commission for allowing us to carry out such activities. I must confess that it is the first time that we have had such an activity since I joined EALA eight years ago. I am sure that our physical presence on the ground has shown that the EAC is vibrant. We had discussions with stakeholders, for instance, universities where we met young students. This proved that integration is a reality. It is, indeed a reality because we discussed many issues.

In his Address, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency, John Magufuli said, in page nine;

“As leaders, we need to intensify sensitization and awareness creation among our people for them to realise the full benefits of the integration process.”

I am convinced that sensitisation for us, as EALA, is a task given to us by the Heads of States. This is a duty we must realise. We must reach the grassroots. I would like to urge the Council of Ministers to avail enough funds so that we reach everybody. The issue of funding is a problem and we cannot hide it.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, lastly, I would like to thank you for organising the sensitisation activities. I hope that we will carry out the activities very soon. I suggest that the sensitisation exercise should become one of the compulsory activities of this Assembly.

Ms. Judith Pareno (Kenya): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity. I rise to support the Motion. However, I first want to congratulate the new Secretary General. We ask you to feel at home. We would like to welcome you to this Assembly.

I would like to make a small contribution towards the State of EAC Address. I want, first of all, to appreciate that; yes, we have made progress in the implementation of the Single Custom Territory. I however, sometimes feel and we get lots of communication from East Africans regarding this issue. As much as we may say that we have implemented the Customs Union and other issues which we have agreed upon on the Common Market Protocol and on the non-tariff barriers, we still receive a lot of concern from East Africans. Despite the progress that has been noted, we still have a lot of problems in terms of implementation.

Rt.Hon. Speaker, Sir, we have severally engaged East Africans and especially the Kenyan Chapter while sensitising Kenyans. We have received many questions especially regarding the border points. The question we received most of the time is; are you serious that integration is working? They tell us that they do not move freely as we keep on saying.

A case in point are two cases that were reported at the Namanga Border. We visited traders, had an engagement with them and sensitised them. They then told us that the Certificate of Origin that we talk about is not recognised once they cross the border. They told us once they cross the border, law enforcement officers confiscate them and destroy the certificates right in front of them. They then suffer as if they have never had Certificates of Origin. Those are some of the complaints we have been receiving from East Africans. There is some disconnect between what we communicate up here, as the State of

the EAC and what is being practiced by our law enforcement officers. This is a case that shows that we still have a lot of homework to do. We still must have some enforcement units to check or to oversight the law enforcement officers to make sure that East Africans enjoy free movement. These complaints are received especially at the Namanga Border, between Kenyan and Tanzania.

We have members of the same families that were separated at the same border point. Some women who were married on one side were separated from their husbands and their children. You wonder whether East Africans are feeling what we think they are feeling when we talk about these issues. East Africans are not feeling what we are saying in our papers.

Another case in point in the State of EAC Address is that His Excellency the Chairperson of the Summit talked about the non-tariff barriers. We appreciate because roadblocks have been reduced. Sometimes, I wonder whether we have only reduced roadblocks at the ports and not in the other entry points.

A case in point is when some of us travel from Kenya by road to Arusha. The last time I checked, personally, I was stopped more than eight times from Namanga up to this headquarters. Every time I was stopped I had to say that I am a Member of Parliament. Could we see your identification? I would then identify myself. I had to keep on saying, *naenda Bunge* Arusha. At one point, hon. Leonce helped me. He had to remove his card so that every other time, even before they ask us, they see the information on it. If we are talking about free movement of persons, goods and labour, if I have to explain myself as a Member of this House, ten times, between Namanga and Arusha and I have to

produce my identity card ten times, what happens to the small trader who comes to trade between the two countries? This is very serious. Something is not happening. We are making good policy statements up here which have good directives but the implementation is poor.

This Speech has brought out the will to have integration by our Summit Members. However, there is a challenge that must be addressed by all of us.

As the Kenyan chapter, we visited the Kenyan and Tanzania border points. We visited the Horohoro-Lunga Lunga Border point. I have seen, in this Speech, that this is one of the ones said to be complete but not operational. I have already presented a question to the Council of Minister and I hope they will give us adequate answers because what we say was pathetic.

We found a border point – I do not know whether the CTI committee had visited it because this is the first time we visited it as a chapter – that had leaking roofs and it was good that it rained on that day because this gave us evidence. The ceilings were hanging loosely and, in fact, on that day, the computers were all destroyed and could not work. There was water all over the floors and yet this is one of the border points where the Community has spent money. It is also one of those projects indicated here as complete. As if that is not enough, we were taken round and was shown an old building that was supposed to have been renovated. There was a new building but the renovation of the old building was part of the contract. However, there was no renovation that had been done. We asked why renovation had not been done and they told us that the contractor had left the site.

We moved again and we were shown a room that was supposed to hold a scanner. However, because specifications had not been met, the scanner had not been bought. Without a scanner at the border points, you may be doing zero work since all trucks moving from one country to another other must be scanned. We moved again and were shown a parking lot which was supposed to hold several trucks. However the contractor had done half the job and, therefore, the work had not been completed. We then moved on and were shown a warehouse. They told us that there was no access road to the warehouse which was supposed to be an offloading area. Owing to that, the warehouse could not be used.

Finally, we moved to the animal quarantine. They told us that they were supposed to have a ramp which would be used to offload cattle to the quarantine area but this did not exist. So, everything had been done wrongly. The question is; why? A question has already been sent to the Council of Ministers. However, this shows that work at some of our border points is not complete. We need to have the right information passed to the Summit so that we communicate to East Africans lest they hear us saying that the work is complete when it is not. That is a question which needs to be answered so that East Africans can get better services.

We were told that the contractor said that all those issues had been overtaken by events. I do not know how contracts are overtaken by events. As a lawyer, I know that once you sign a contract, you must fulfil the terms of the contract unless the contract is revised.

Rt. hon. Speaker, Sir, on the issue of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR), I am happy that this is one project that is progressing very well. We are really impressed with what is

going on. Some of us are privileged that the railway will go through our parcels of land.

The other day as I was coming for this session, I went through Sultan Hamud where it passes. We saw great progress because the distance between Nairobi and Sultan Hamud is about 100 kilometres while from Sultan Hamud to Mombasa is about 300 kilometres. That tells you that it has done 300 kilometres. I saw the rail being laid as we were passing. I also saw grass being planted on the sides and this is one project that I know we will be proud of only if at the completion we can give a certificate of “no corruption.” We should, at the end, say that it was corruption free. I thank the Summit for fast tracking the work that is going on.

I have also seen a lot of compensation being done to the citizens who have been affected by this project. A lot of compensation has already been done. Once you acquire land compulsorily then you must compensate those whom you affect. The only area where you will find a complaint is at the underpasses are very far from each other. The way the underpasses have been set up makes me think that you are blocking an entire community from crossing to the other side. Kenyans, being the people they are, protested and at the end of the day, that is being corrected. These are projects that some of us have seen being done and we are proud of them.

Finally, Rt. Hon. Speaker, I really appreciate the sentiments from our Chairperson, Summit regarding the sensitisation programme. In fact, in his own words which I will quote, he said:

“I urge you to do more of this all over East Africa. This is the way to go. This way you will increase people’s awareness and enhance the relevance of this Parliament and the Community to them.”

This to me, in short, validates our sensitisation programme. We have over and over heard from the previous Chairpersons Summit, that East Africans need to be sensitised about EALA, the integration process and about the benefits of the integration process. This validation is another strong message that we should continue with the sensitisation programme. This is one programme which I think was very successful and which we are proud of as an Assembly. Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker. I support the Motion.

Mr. Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda): Thank you Rt Hon. Speaker, Sir for this opportunity. Let me also begin by congratulating the new Secretary General Liberat Mfumukeko for his new appointment and also for the swearing-in ceremony he has just gone through.

Most importantly, let me comment and congratulate His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli for his State of EAC Address by the Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa. The State of EAC Address rightly highlights the implementation of the Single Customs Territory, development of one-stop border post, intra-trade, non-tariff barriers and infrastructure programmes among others. The Speech also highlights the main challenges and proposes the way forward for the Community in terms of integration process.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, at this juncture, I would like to request the Council of Ministers to fast track addressing the challenges that have been identified. This also goes to the EAC Secretariat in general.

I also think that EALA, through its standing Committee, CTI should put more emphasis on oversight of these issues especially when challenges have been identified so that

relevant authorities do what they are supposed to do. If possible, the House should request the Council of Ministers to report regularly on these issues so that we are well informed about what is happening in all areas.

The EAC is very rich when it comes to fertile land and natural resources. We know that our economies depend highly on agriculture and natural resources. Unfortunately, we know that investment especially in agriculture is still very low. Investment in natural resources, with regard to value addition is also very low. We know that the contribution of agriculture into our GDPs is below 35 per cent. We would like to urge the Council of Ministers to put more emphasis in that area. It will be important for our Partner States to invest in agriculture. We have the Comprehensive African Development Programme. We should make sure that the Malabo and Maputo Declarations of allocating 10 per cent of the GDP to agriculture have been achieved in all Partner States. It will be important to follow this up and ensure that it is effected in all Partner States.

Recently, the World Economic Forum was held in Kigali. One observation that we made was that we are moving into another revolution. Considering that in Africa and here in East Africa, intra-trade is just about commodities and especially raw material. It is very important we look deeper into what we want in future and strategise. We should consider transforming natural resources as a priority. We cannot rely on trading on raw materials because it is not sustainable.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I think the Council of Ministers should ensure that we have investments in the agricultural sector. We should transform raw materials so as to include value addition.

With those few remarks, I support the State of the EAC Address by the Chairperson of the Council. I hope that this House will play its part in following up with the implementation of the issues that have been mentioned so that we move ahead in this region.

Mr. Benard Mulengani (Uganda): Thank you very much Mr. Speaker, Sir for the opportunity to add my voice to what has already been said. First, I would like to welcome the Secretary General, Liberat Mfumukeko. I also want to add my voice to that of those Members who have applauded the State of the EAC Address by His Excellency Dr. John Magufuli, through the Rt. Hon. Kassim Majaliwa.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as we debate on the Address, we should remember that there are directives which are silently written. Through resolutions and Motions of Parliament, Motions and our recommendations, urged the Council of Ministers to ensure that they implement. I am happy to note that the Summit is equally informed and it is fighting for the implementation of all these issues together with the Assembly. What beats my understanding, therefore, is that even the head of the Summit is aware that we must resolve and do away with non tariff barriers. This is general knowledge and I think in his statement, he is giving Council directive that the non-tariff barriers that still exist should be resolved urgently.

In his Address, again, he reminds us of issues which we have always told the Council that the EAC Competition Authority has already been established. Council must appoint Commissioners. The Summit is very clear on this and it is directing the Council to know that appointment of Commissioners from Partner States in accordance with section 38 of the Act should be implemented soon. As a

Member of the Assembly, I am requesting the Council to expedite this particular activity because it impedes on trade.

The Chairperson, Summit also observed on page 5 when the Common Market Protocol was signed and eventually came into force. The Chairperson is reminding us of what we know; that the Common Market Protocol is at the heart of East Africans. This is the answer to the question of movement of people, capital and services.

The Chairperson is reminding us that there need to fast track its implementation. These are not new issues to the Council. We want to congratulate the coming in of hon. Mfumukeko who has come out vehemently to talk about positive directions in ensuring the implementation of some issues. You will have our support as some of our colleagues have already said. These issues regarding the Common Market Protocol are the things that make people see and believe that integration is on course. The Summit has hinted on that. I think this is a directive. We need to start moving further. We, as an Assembly, need to start identifying people and forwarding them to the Summit. I believe that the actions of His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli, some of these technocrats will have to pull up their socks. Some of these issues are sat on by technocrats in fear of losing their jobs because of holding onto sovereignty. The Summit has mentioned this in his address and we should not take things lightly.

He goes further on page 7 and 8 to talk about the challenges in the implementation of the Common Market Protocol. One is the slow harmonisation of national laws into the EAC context. This has hampered the implementation of the Common Market commitments. The Summit is urging Council to implement the challenges which we are facing in terms of making the common

market a reality. They must be worked upon immediately. These are issues of domestication of national laws to conform to the Common Market Protocol. There is nothing new that this Parliament has not told Council. I do not know whether Members of the Council, after sitting in this House, when they go back to their Partner States report what we debate in this House to their Parliaments. We do not get any feedback regarding their sitting in this House. What do they relay back to the national parliaments? We need to get feedback of the take of our colleagues in the Parliaments back home. This is another challenge that we need to bring forward to His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli for the representation of Council and how serious they take the business of this House.

Lastly, Members have spoken about the issue of sensitisation. I will not repeat what they have said, in the interest of time. However, I would like to note one thing. This particular directive has been spoken about by all the former Heads of Summit. However, when you look at the budget that we are yet to pass, you will find that there is not enough allocation for this exercise.

Hon. Members, Budget time is the only tool that Parliament uses to achieve its aspirations. If the Budget framework that is about to come before us has not taken these items under consideration, then we need to amend it to include sensitisation or we keep quiet for life.

Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the new Secretary General and to welcome him to this House.

I would also like to take this opportunity to refer to your communication. We stand with

our colleagues who lost their loved ones and we wish them strength to endure the pain which is not easy to bear.

In Kinyarwanda they say, *amagambo aryoha asubiwemo*. That means it is good for you to repeat what others have said. This brings about a lot of emphasis. This is because most of what I wanted to say has already been said by hon. Mulengani. However, let me repeat some of the issues. I have been in this Assembly for eight years and I have listened to about eight State of EAC Addresses. If we take stock of all the State of EAC Address of all Heads of States, you will see that all call upon us to do many things. However, some of them are the issues pertaining to the implementation of the Customs Union, Common Market Protocol, fighting corruption, sensitisation and many other issues. If you take stock – and we can ask our Clerk to give us copies – you will see that they all brought out these issues. That makes me wonder who is in charge of the EAC if Summit is lamenting regarding non implementation of a number of issues especially under the Common Market Protocol. We should not be calling upon the Council of Ministers to direct them to finalise the implementation and yet we know that harmonisation of laws is a responsibility of Partner States and not the EAC as the headquarters in Arusha. Who is in charge? Who is supposed to be doing it? This is a big question that we should ask ourselves.

When you look at page 7, you will find that there are about three issues that have been identified although I know they should be more. The Head of the Summit calls upon the Council of Ministers to address these challenges urgently so as to make the East African Common Market a reality.

Hon. Speaker, recently, we were in the field for the sensitisation exercise. I would like to

thank you because what we saw was an eye opener. Hon. Pareno and other colleagues raised a number of issues. There are a number of challenges out there.

We are told that non-tariff barriers have been removed including at the port of Dar es Salaam. Do you know I imported a car the same time with hon. Odette? The vehicle arrived at the Dar es Salaam Port on 18th April but only came out yesterday. This is a vehicle which is duty exempt and should only go through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for registration. The exemption by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs only took a day. I was in Dar es Salaam to follow this issue.

All that time, the vehicle was parked and there were issues between the port and the customs authority. I am saying this because at times what we hear in the pronouncements is not actually the reality on the ground. When you go to the port, you will realise that this is not the situation. They keep on telling you they will open the container tomorrow and that you should go back at 10.00 a.m. When you go back the following day at 10.00 a.m, you are asked to go back in the afternoon. The afternoon turns into another day. Those are the non-tariff barriers we are talking about. These people do not ask for money but probably they ask for it in a different way. Hon. Zein came out very clearly regarding this issue. Therefore, we may have good statements having been told that things are working but they may not be working as we may think.

I did not even talk about hon. Kalinda and hon. Stratton's vehicles stayed in that port for over two months. This is something that is happening to Members of this House. I wonder what happens to the rest of the citizens of East Africa. What happens to them? That was just an example.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Mulengani raised an important issue regarding the State of EAC Address. The Chairperson, Council of Ministers was called upon to implement the EAC Policy. This has to be implemented. They all talk about outreach, sensitisation, reaching out to citizens of East Africa.

I do not want to pre-empt the Budget Speech which will come on Thursday. However, having perused through the Budget, I only saw USD79,000 earmarked for the sensitisation exercise of this House. Tell me how we can reach all the citizens of East Africa with USD79,000? How do we get there? That is not even enough for us to buy air tickets. I hope that something will be done. That does not mean that we have not made any progress. There is a lot of progress. We applaud the EAC Headquarters here in Arusha and the Partner States. So much has been achieved. Once again, I would like to congratulate the Chairperson, Summit, His Excellency, Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, and the President of the United Republic of Tanzania for addressing this Assembly and for giving us this policy statement.

Ms. Nancy Abisai (Kenya): Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity. Just like my colleagues, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome the new Secretary General for his new appointment and for being sworn in, hon. Mfumukeko Liberet. He is coming in at a time when this Community needs a lot of guidance and I know it will not be easy. I join the rest of my colleagues and say *karibu*.

I belong to the General Purpose Committee which deals with the Budget. When we had an interface with you in the Budget Committee, we saw that you had started a good precedence of looking at issues as they are and gave a very good insight of the general outlook of the Community. That was an important precedence and I think we

should follow it. I would also like to thank the Chairperson of the Summit, John Pombe Magufuli. He has changed the way Speeches are done at the EAC. The Speech addresses the issue that are being done and the challenges which I think is the way to go.

Time has come when we should move away from empty rhetoric to positive action and change. That will not be achieved by making statements and sugar coating issues every time that we meet.

I would like to speak to two issues because my colleagues have talked about many other issues which I do not want to belabour. First is the issue of the slow implementation and domestication of national laws. I think we should start looking at our relationships with the national assemblies. To what extent do Members of our national assemblies know and understand what laws we have passed in this assembly and how the laws affect them. How many times do we interact? This is important because some Members from national assemblies complain about some laws which we have discussed and passed and what we are talking about in this Assembly. Some of them even claim not to know what we are doing. It is important that we must change the way we relate with our national assemblies. I do not think that we are relating very well with them. If we do not come into a truce about this, we will not move forward. I do not know why I should be begging for a law to be passed in this House and why I should be thinking whether it will be assented to and whether a certain Partner State will accept it. If we had a very clear relationship, that is not even an issue we would be discussing. We would have left the issue to our Partner State to know that it is in their interest that these laws are being discussed. However, as long as we have this fluid relationship, our Bills will continue to be tabled in our different assemblies and left at that. Some Members do not even know

what EALA does. Some of them have even asked me; what are you doing in EALA? This is not just about one Partner State but all Partner States.

We have interacted with Partner States---
(*Interruption*)

Mr. Mulengani: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir.

Ms. Abisai: I will take the information.

Mr. Mulengani: Thank you Ms. Abisai for allowing me to give you information. The information I want to give you is apparently live in this House. If the Council of Ministers is not seated in this House, how do you expect, under the circumstances, some of our views to be presented in our national parliaments? Yes, I know that they double sit both in EALA and in our Partner State parliaments.

Ms. Abisai: Thank you for that information. It is true that we do not have a clear feedback mechanism. Once we do not have that, we need to come to a realisation that something must be done. When we talk about moving from empty rhetoric to positive action and change then we must start examining ourselves so that we see whether what we are discussing is being taken on board.

We have a Bill that we are discussing now. When we tried to get views from key stakeholders, one of them asked us: Do the national assemblies know about this Bill? I now that some Members in our Partner States wonder why we are legislating on some issues because they already have laws at the national levels. Therefore, we need to see how we can fast track these issues.

Secondly, if what I heard from the Speech by His Excellency President Magufuli is anything to go by---- I will give an example. When we were at Ngurdoto, in his Speech

while he was accepting the Chairmanship of the Summit, one of the things he was not happy about was that we were meeting in premises where we were spending USD45 per heads when we should have been spending USD15 to USD20. I think we were close to 1,000 people in Ngurdoto. If that is anything to go by, then that says a lot regarding how we should be handling our business. This is a people driven Community. He talked about the challenges regarding peace and security. Right now, Kenya is at pains convincing the United Nations Security Council why it must close the Daadab Refugee Camp. Kenyans have died due to terrorist attacks from Al Shabaab. On the other hand, we have refugees who are suffering. In this Community, are we serious about peace and security issues? Look at the slow pace in which we have implemented the Burundi peace issues. Whilst we close camps in some countries, we have refugees coming up in other areas. This is a peace and security concern in the region.

We need to agree on what the Summit and all the organs of the Community doing. This is a security risk issue. When we say that we have progressed in terms of the Common Market Protocol, you should look at the income per capita and the GDP and how all these translates to the ordinary citizen. This only becomes meaningful when the ordinary citizen can gain from it.

Finally, we talk about challenges of food and security. This is a region well-endowed with resources. In the 21st Century, we have places in this region where people are dying of hunger and starvation. This is shameful, unacceptable, and unorthodox and it is not something that we should be talking about. People should not be dying of hunger in such a well-endowed region like the EAC. We have the facilities and what it takes. I think we can come up with programmes, both at the

regional and national level and ensure that our people do not die of hunger. I thank you and support the report.

Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. Let me also join others in welcoming Ambassador Dr. Mfumukeko to this House.

You are most welcome.

Hon. Members, it is very encouraging when the Chairperson of the Summit gives directives. We all know who should implement the directives. I just want to add on to the list of challenges. We are equally concerned, as a House, about the very many recommendations to the Council of Ministers in putting things right. I cannot say that we are discouraged but I would like to call upon the Council of Ministers to prioritise the integration of this Community. We initially thought that by our Partner States creating Ministries in charge of East African Community, a lot of change. These have ended up creating Cabinet Ministers back home but they have delegated their duties in Arusha to the coordination committee. It is unfortunate for us to think that we will make changes. Nothing will change if the supervisory role of the Council is not stepped up.

We have a reason to celebrate in this Community. The reason is that in the Speech, the Chairperson Summit informed us that our cross border trade or interstate trade has moved from 12 per cent to 23 per cent. That is a very big indicator. It took the European Union more than 30 years to reach a threshold of 30 per cent. We are told by people who conduct research that in order to attain monetary union, you need to at least attain 30 per cent of interstate trade. We moved from 12 per cent to 23 per cent. The reason why we gave ourselves 10 years to attain proper

monetary union is because we were trying to achieve the magic number of 30 per cent.

Actually, the European Union attained its monetary union when the trade between the European Union Partner States was at 32 per cent. We are now at 23 per cent and are remaining with 7 per cent. With all the enthusiasm, I am sure that in another two to three years we will attain the magic number. That is a reason to celebrate.

The other reason to celebrate is that the people of East Africa are enthusiastic. They want this integration to take place like yesterday. Unfortunately, many East Africans are crying. One, because they are faced with the problem of getting work permits and residence permits. This is bad to an extent that an individual is charged USD3,000 in some Partner States to get a work permit and a residence permit. They have to pay this money every two years. Is that for or against integration? If we mean what we say, then we should look at the small issues that make it difficult for East Africans to enjoy the promises in these protocols.

We requesting the Council of Ministers to look into the harmonisation of taxes. We have never received any feedback on whether there are bottlenecks that we cannot get rid of or whether the issue has been harmonised.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, we need feedback from the Council of Ministers. These are not issues that are alien to us. Most of the issues in the Speech have been in one way or another been worked on by this Assembly and specific recommendations have been put in place. However, East Africans, nonetheless continue to look for opportunities in the region. They are extremely excited especially those people that we met during the sensitisation exercise and the traders in this

region. The traders in this region can now see the benefits of integration.

The Chairperson of the Summit has brought up a new paradigm. He said that integration is linked to how we conduct ourselves and how we do our work. He says; *hapa kazi tu*. We should always think about that slogan and embrace it in everything that we do. Integration is about me or you. It is not also about a particular organ or institution. It is about all of us. Everybody should play their role and put integration first.

I am extremely excited that our Chairperson, Summit, after being sworn-in as a Head of State of the United Republic of Tanzania, he was invited to five international engagements but rejected all of them. He chose his engagement in the East Africa Community. That is how important he considers integration. That is how he wants to lead us. We should continue to give him support in terms of the integration process.

The issues of Common Market Protocol are challenging. We have illustrated this in different meetings. Operationalisation of the Common Market Protocol was given a time frame. That time frame was to stretch from the time it was signed up to December, 2015. This time has elapsed and yet we have more than three schedules to the Common Market Protocol that are still waiting to be negotiated and concluded. What should we expect? Whom should we ask? As we conduct our oversight role, how can we address this type of challenge?

This issue goes back to our regional set up. No wonder we have spoken about institutional reforms many times. Mine is to congratulate His Excellency John Magufuli but again to inform him that we are faced with challenges. We can see that he faces frustration but we equally share the same

frustrations. The Council of Ministers should help us to operationalise the protocols and to look into institutional challenges or demands.

We have talked about amendment of this Treaty for over eight years now simply because a lot of issues in the Treaty have been overtaken by events. When the Treaty was being put together, people had a different analysis of the situation. The current situation now demands a different approach. Every institution should provide areas or inputs that can benefit the Sectoral Council of Legal and Judicial Affairs.

The Speaker: Hon. (Dr.) Ndahiro, move towards summarising. We are time barred and yet there are a few members who want to make contribution.

Dr. Ndahiro: I was saying that the Treaty requires amendments. We have asked and requested for it and we are still waiting. A lot of challenges within this Speech will be resolved in that process; when the Treaty is amended.

Ms. Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir. Most of my comments he been made by hon. Dr. Ndahiro and others. However, as my sister, hon. Patricia said, emphasis on some issues is good.

I would like to begin by congratulating President Magufuli for making it possible for us to share his views which were presented by the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. I believe that these were his views although he used the medium of communication that he did.

I would also like to congratulate President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni who at that time was President elect. Now, he is the President of the Republic of Uganda from 2017 to 2021. I would like to say that we are very proud to have him back in the EAC Summit

because as we all know, he is a champion of the East African Federation and a very strong pan Africanist.

I would also like to add on to the fact that President Museveni has given a lot of time to EALA. There are some Members like hon. Shy-Rose, hon. Hafsa, hon. Kiangoi, forgive me if I leave you out, who were privileged to be driven in his car by him. This is his character. He is a person of great magnanimity, humility and has lot of goodwill.

I would like to congratulate and welcome the Secretary General Amb. (Dr.) Mfumukeko Liberet. I have the opportunity to speak now and I am also privileged to say it right. We had an opportunity to interact with him in Zanzibar. He is not new to us. Our only hope is that he will do things differently. If I remember correctly, in the Second Assembly, there was one particular Member who kept on reminding us that when somebody keeps on doing the same thing and expects different results, then the person is insane. I hope and pray that he will do things differently and so should we as an Assembly.

I would like to congratulate, with your permission, Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, the Speaker of the Parliament of the Republic of Uganda who was recently elected. She is our very great friend and supporter. We were privileged to be there when these issues were going on. We were happy to endorse her. She has made it and we acknowledge her as one of the great women not only in the East African region but also in Africa and the world because she also chairs the Commonwealth Parliamentary Women Association.

Let me go quickly to the content because of time. Number one, I would like to congratulate President Magufuli for the

format that the State of EAC Address was presented. It is different, clear and specific. More importantly, it gives us critical information on each Partner State. I think this is a very good format which has enabled us to pick up very critical issues easily.

I would like to move, very quickly, to an issue which has been alluded to by hon. Ndahiro. This is on page 2. The theme of my Speech today is contradictions. I have been reading books about dialectical materialism. The issue of contradiction, for example, appears when you look at the fact that trade is now at 23 per cent over and above the intra African trade figure of 12 per cent. There has been 300 per cent increase in the value of trade from USD2 billion in 2005 to USD6 billion in 2014. You wonder as to why we, the East African Community get stranded when it comes to the issue of funding. When you are planning – I believe that with this figure – the EAC can be branded as a star and also as a cash cow. If this is a star and a cash cow, how can we starve the very cow which is giving us this income? This is a contradiction. I am glad to note that there is a move to have some sustainable financing mechanism for the EAC. However, before this plenary ends, with your permission, I would like to bring up a Motion to urge for its urgent implementation. You cannot have these figures in reality and at the same time you starve the very institution that has enabled you to realise the figures.

Connected to this is the issue of facts, figures and statistics. We have been urging for the strong establishment of a strong office to collect information. I believe that this is the time for us to ensure that it is done. When we were carrying our sensitisation, one of the huddles that we had was that if we were asked about certain information, how would we respond authoritatively? It is important that this is highlighted.

My second point is on the issue of the code of conduct and ethics which was presented by the East Africa Business Council. What is this? Where is this? Could the Council of Ministers table it so that we look at it? There is a disconnect between what is happening with regard to the Council of Ministers and the Summit. This is especially when they submit such documents to the Summit and yet the Assembly is not aware. If we were to meet the business community and they asked us for this information, what would be our response?

I would like to move on quickly to the issue of the East African Community Competition Authority which has been established. This has been established 12 years later. This was noted under the law which is on SQNT something to do with quality meteorology and testing. It has taken 12 years to have this Authority in place. Was this law not necessary? I would like to urge this House to put a time frame for implementation of laws and policies. I know it may sound awkward and weird but at the same time, it does not make sense for us to have this in 2004 and yet it is being implemented this year. Likewise, the sustainable financing mechanism was an idea that came up in 2005 by the audit commission based on the financial year of 200/2004 and yet we are still talking about it. There is something that is not being right. Change is necessary.

I would like to move on very quickly and talk about some aspects which have been highlighted. Permit me to say that when you consider non-tariff barriers you should include the funding for the Community. There is a lot of talk but when it comes to the real action, there is a problem. I am glad that we now have President Magufuli. I hope that he will energise what is happening alongside

his colleagues as the Chairperson of the Summit.

I would also like to note that when you look at what was highlighted as challenges, for instance, the issue of issuance of electronic certificate of origin. When this issue was brought up in Uganda, we even proposed that this should be amended to be an East African Certificate of Origin. This is because if you have a Joint Trade Negotiations Act, how can you trade with goods from Partner States and yet they are labelled as products of Uganda when you want to market them as products of East Africa? We need to consider all these things.

When you look at the issue of mutual recognition agreement, the challenge is that if this is between one law society and another one, how can it be binding? Who will enforce it? This is contingent on Ministers making regulations. Will this still be a law? We need to have a law on services. Like my colleagues have said, even when time frame was set as 2015, this was not adhered to.

On the issue of cross border legal practice, you will find that you have all these challenges coming up. I would like to say, on a good note, that the architects have moved on. The architects are training together, giving each other awards in recognition and presenting certificates of origin jointly as East Africa. So, in practice, things have moved on. I would like to conclude and say that in my humble opinion as much as we may amend the Treaty and do whatever else we want to do, unless we do things differently and more power is moved to the centre, we will not move. We are made to understand that there will be an *ad hoc* service commission. Why is it *ad hoc*? At one time, in 2012, I believe, hon. Dr. Masha brought here a Bill called the East Africa Service Commission Bill. This was repulsed on the

basis that he was trying to create an institution and yet it was subject to the Council of Ministers gazetting it. So, these are contradictions. If at one time we could think about it and now three years later, they are talking about *ad hoc*, that is all right but I think we can coordinate it better.

I would like to conclude by saying that if you give the Council of Ministers – such a very big body – only two meetings in a year, how much can they effect? There is no way that they can achieve all the things that we want them to do.

My humble plea, finally, as it was said by Mr. Mike Sebalu, is to ask for an interface. We would like to have an interface with the Chairperson of the Summit. We would like to have a written document showing what we have said today so that we have dialogue together with other people who can help us so that we change the way we do things.

I believe that since the mantra for EAC is *hapa kazi tu*, there will be change and we will address all these issues which we all know about and yet we do not tackle.

With those few comments, I thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable colleagues, you will realise that this is a very important part of our integration. We are dealing with issues of policy directive from the Summit. We must give time to this State of the Community Address. That is why I have given time to you to debate so that you thrust through the issues.

Mr. Abdullah Hassan Ally Mwinyi (Tanzania): Thank you hon. Speaker, Sir for giving me an opportunity to say a few words in relation to the State of EAC Address by His Excellency President Magufuli which

was read on his behalf by the Rt. Hon. Prime Minister, Kassim Majaliwa.

On the outset, I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating His Excellency Ambassador who is potentially extraordinary, Dr. Liberet Mfumukeko for having been appointed to what I believe is the most challenging role in the East African Community integration process. The role of the Secretary General of the EAC is at once political, diplomatic, technical, regional, national and international. This is a clever balance of all those aspects that will determine the success or otherwise of his tenure.

I have every faith that you, Hon. Mfumukeko, will distinguish yourself. You have the full support of your colleagues in this Assembly including myself.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you mentioned, this is a very great opportunity to debate the State of the EAC Address as it is a policy impetus for the next financial year and should lay the ground for the priorities we need to carry out in the next financial year.

My friend, hon. Zein, at inception stated that this is a point in time when we need to reflect where we came from, where we are and where we are going. A lot of what I am about to say has been touched by different Members. However, I would like to bring in a different view and touch in a different way the other most critical interventions that we need to take in order to attain what we seek to attain.

In reviewing, we must look at where we are. Unfortunately, I believe that although we have made a lot of progress, in some ways, we have moved some steps back. I say that humbly but I believe that when I was sworn in, for the first time, as a Member of this

Assembly, the trust and goodwill amongst Partner States was much greater than it is today. It is without question that there is creeping mistrust taking place within the EAC. It is imperative and I call upon the Council of Ministers to look into this and to ensure that we build the trust. Without trust, nothing else can be attained. That is an imperative area which we need to look into and to work on.

Secondly, I am a little bit disappointed that there were some initiatives that were brought in by the first Assembly that have been taken back. I am talking about the exclusive position of the Minister of the EAC. In the first Assembly, the Ministers representing the EAC were the Ministers for Foreign Affairs. They looked at the matter and how ineffective it was because as a Foreign Minister, you have a huge docket and you cannot give justice to the very important work at the EAC.

There was a Treaty amendment that was pushed by this august House, the first Assembly that resulted in ensuring that there were specific Ministries of the EAC. First, unfortunately, the Republic of Kenya combined the two and now the United Republic of Tanzania has done the same. I felt that was a dangerous precedence and I hope and urge the Summit to reconsider this and to ensure that we have separate independent Ministries of EAC to ensure that integration process proceeds.

Mr. Sebalu: On a point of information, hon. Mwinyi. When you go out there in the different integration arrangements like ECOWAS and others, you will see that one of the best practices that they always point out in terms of the success stories is the fact that EAC has Ministers designated specifically to deal with integration matters. So, any backtrack on that denies us that best practice.

Mr. Mwinyi: Thank you for the information. This should be a strong message from this Assembly to the Summit to reconsider the Partner States that have combined the EAC role---

The Speaker: Honourable Mwinyi, would you wish to bring a Motion to that effect to this Assembly?

Mr. Mwinyi: It will be my pleasure hon. Speaker. I will do so. Hon. Members, those were general comments. I will go into more specifics. As an inception, the starting point of our integration process is the Customs Union Protocol.

The Customs Union has three major landmarks. The first is the Common External Tariff. The second is the Single Customs Territory and the third is the Single Customs Authority. These are the three fundamental objectives that have been placed in the Treaty. The first one in 2005 was put in place and is fully operational. The Single Customs Territory although effective today is in a watered down version and not in the initial spirit of the Treaty in which it was envisaged; where all trade would take place at the point of entry which is supposed to be in Dar es Salaam and Mombasa.

This is the little mistrust that I am talking about that has distorted what was envisioned to be a very effective Single Customs Territory not to be as effective as it today. Finally, I have had the opportunity of speaking to the technical people who run our revenues authority. I am a Member of the Communication, Trade and Investment Committee and we had an interface with the people managing the revenues authorities; each one of them, the head of Rwanda Revenue Authority, Uganda Revenue Authority and the Kenya Revenue Authority

and the Tanzania Revenue Authority. At that time, we did not have any from the Republic of Burundi. However, every single one of them was fully convinced that a Single Customs Authority would be effective, can be managed and if there was any fear, today's technology is such that the revenues of each Partner States would be distinct and completely safe. Every single technical person is in agreement with this. The problem lies with the fears of the political class.

I urge that in this financial year, due to the importance of market integration, in order for everything else to work, our markets must be integrated. For our markets to be integrated, this is the foundation that this can work. I urge this Assembly to support this idea. I urge the Summit to ensure that a process towards having a Single Customs Authority is pushed in this financial year.

With regard to the Common Market Protocol, if you look at the Speech, on page 9, the first paragraph which talks about the East African Court of Justice and the extension of its jurisdiction on matters related to trade and investment and the East African Monetary Union. It is glaring in its submission of the Common Market Protocol. The heart of our integration process is the Common Market Protocol. If we do not make any steps towards implementing the Common Market Protocol, none of these will take effect. Our biggest challenge today is the fact that there is minimal implementation of the Common Market Protocol.

Why is this? I would like to combine this with the issue of sensitisation. Members here today talked about the importance of sensitisation and raising awareness of what is happening in the Community. What is very clear in the work that we did is not only the fact that the public is unaware but also the fact that parliamentarians have absolutely no

clue. They have zero awareness. They do not know what is going on at the EAC.

I will give you an anecdote. Three years ago, I spoke to the Deputy Minister, at the time, Kassim Majaliwa, who was the Minister of Local Government dealing with education. I introduced myself to him at that time and he asked me; what do you people do at the East Africa Legislative Assembly? That was three years ago. This is not only the case in the United Republic of Tanzania. It is the same in Uganda, Kenya and everywhere else. In order for the Common Market Protocol to be implemented, the work under the protocol must be implemented by the Partner States. We need the Partner States parliaments to be fully informed. Therefore, as an Assembly, we need to target sensitisation and prioritise the parliamentarians of our national Partner States.

That is not to say that other Members should not be sensitised. The Budget with the current austerity measures do not allow us to go into every single part of the country to sensitise people. However, we need to sensitise smartly and target where we think is most effective. I put it before you, hon. Members, that it will be effective for us to have a much closer interface and sensitise Parliaments. We need to take time out and do presentations. We need to raise issues of this nature to parliamentarians for them to understand and to assist us in the implementation of the Common Market Protocol. Why? This is because it is within their purview and not within our purview, unfortunately.

With those few remarks, I beg to support.

Mr. Adam Omar Kimbisa (Tanzania): Thank you Mr. Speaker for giving me the Floor. I also take this opportunity to congratulate the Chairperson of the Summit

for a Speech which was not only very encouraging but which was the epicentre of the integration agenda.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Africa had its own share of misery starting with the time of slavery where our able bodied people were enslaved and created values somewhere else at the expense of our continent.

Africa passed through the second stage of colonialism whereby our countries were a source of raw material but also a market for manufactured goods of other countries. We did not benefit from our raw materials and our labour. The infrastructure created at that time was lopsided. The infrastructure created was to haul the raw materials and to ensure that the ports we had only allowed in manufactured goods from wherever. As if that was not enough, we passed through the cold war. We had nothing to do with the cold war but we were highly affected because people were scrambling for the spheres of influence. They were scrambling for gas and oil and for everything.

Africa, somehow, found itself cornered with the Britton Woods financial institution and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) coming up with something called the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) which was painful, miserable and had nothing to do with us. It was like somebody was being operated using a pair of scissors instead of using medical equipment.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Africa also fell into the situation of debt burden. We kept on paying debts at the expense of the health of our children, education and the like. We, as Africa, were balkanised as pocket handkerchiefs states. These pocket handkerchiefs states did not make economic sense whatsoever. They were only good for themselves. This had an impact; cultural,

economic and social impact. Now, can we keep on lamenting? We could not continue to cry and had to do something. Someone somewhere, sometimes has to do something. We, as a region, have to do something and hence, the Speech of the President on the issue of integration.

One, we have to build balanced economic infrastructure in our region because what was built by the colonialists was only for transporting raw materials as well as to import manufactured goods. This time round, we have to concentrate and build balanced economic activities like roads, ports and railways among other things. On top of that, we need to increase agricultural products. It would be a shame if our region, fertile as it is, when God has favoured us with good climatic conditions, to see some pockets of the region suffering from hunger and disease. Indeed, we need to create agricultural products. We need to process them and to add value. In so doing, not only will we sell the goods among ourselves but we will also create employment in our region.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Partner States on their own cannot do anything. So, the only salvation is our integration. Economic integration can be facilitated by leaders of our region either coming collectively or by having bilateral agreements like President Magufuli did recently in Rwanda and Uganda. This was very good. I can cite, for example, of a President in Africa, President Felix Bienne who stayed in power for 33 years without visiting Ghana, his neighbour country, and yet the people of the two countries have ethnic relationships. When he was asked why he had not visited Ghana he said; Ghana changes leaders every time and, therefore, I am waiting for them to settle down. For how long will he wait for them to settle down? At that time, he was selling products from Ivory

Coast to outside markets without conducting any business with Ghana, the neighbour.

The leaders in our region, apart from the official meetings, should create a chemistry to visit one another. If you cannot trade with your neighbour and yet you are busy trading far and beyond, that becomes unthinkable.

I beg to support.

Mr. Chris Opoka-Okumu (Uganda):

Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. First of all, as my colleagues have done before me, I would like to welcome to the House and to congratulate the Secretary General, Dr. Liberet Mfumukeko. It is difficult to pronounce that name. I knew I would get entangled in the pronunciation. That happens.

We welcome you, Sir, to the House and we hope that as we welcome the Summit Chairperson into the Community, the two new brooms will sweep very well.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like also to condole with my colleagues and staff who lost dear ones. We were with them in spirit and prayed that God gives them all the protection and guidance so that they can bear the burden well.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, His Excellency, John Pombe Magufuli, President of Tanzania has become a household name in East Africa. Everywhere you go in East African and in the countryside, you will hear people asking about President Magufuli.

An hon. Member: Even in drinking joints.

Mr. Opoka-Okumu: This happens even in drinking joints as my colleague has said. Why has this become a household name? This is because he has demonstrated that speaking alone will not create change and transform society. It is speaking and

implementing what you are speaking about or against. For that reason, the *hapa kazi tu* has become a mantra that is spoken all over East Africa.

We congratulate the people of Tanzania for voting in a President who looks like he will change Tanzania. On the State of the EAC Address, there are very many policy statements and a lot of guidance. As hon. Ogle said, I would have wished that President Magufuli himself made the Address in the Assembly. That would have had very great impact. It would have given opportunity to Members of the Assembly to meet and rub shoulders with him. Nevertheless, this is a Speech that is very valuable.

I will refer to page 8 where President Magufuli, through his Prime Minister, stated that ours is a people's integration. He moved away from people centred to being a people's integration. That is a very important statement to me. If we have the people of East Africa integrating, why is it that at the Partner States level, integration of the Common Market Protocol is being dragged? If this is a people's integration, we should not be dealing with visas and other NTBs which restrict our people? We should not be having residence fees being imposed and so forth. We should be promoting people's integration. We should allow our people to move. We are not talking about buildings, organisations, trees or animals. People should move because they are the same people. That is a very important statement which I call upon the Council of Ministers to work hard to promote it so that the full realisation of the Common Market Protocol is felt.

The other point that was made and which was commented on by my colleagues is sensitisation which the President talked about. A lot of comments have been made regarding this issue. We have already started sensitisation and as my good friend, hon.

Mulengani pointed out, I hope that the Council of Ministers have taken note that in the coming Budget, we will not have an allocation of USD79,000. This is very important and the Chairperson of the Summit came out to commend the Assembly. The Assembly, according to the statement by the President is at the heart of the integration. If it is at the heart of integration and it is supposed to carry out sensitisation, it should be allowed to do so. Sensitisation should not only be limited to the Assembly going out. There should be sensitisation within the EAC itself.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, when you asked me to represent you at the East Africa Business Council meeting in Kampala, I was surprised to find a lot of documentation concerning work that is being done by the Secretariat and yet we, at the Assembly not know about it. It will be very important that at the beginning of every sessions, there is one day devoted for interaction between the Assembly and the Secretariat. The Assembly should be updated on what is happening by the Secretariat so that we know what the Secretariat is doing. We should factor all these issues in legislation resolutions. We are the heart of the integration process. The President acknowledged this. This is very important. There are very many documents.

Ms. Byamukama: On a point of information, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I just want to give information to my brother, Chris Opoka-Okumu, that we had a practice whereby on the first Monday or on one Friday we would have an interaction with the Secretariat in the form of a brief. This would have, definitely, have bridged the gap. This is a practice that we could revisit so that we have flow of information rectified.

Mr. Opoka-Okumu: Thank you hon. Dora for that information. There is dire need for

that. The left arm of the Community must know what the right arm is doing. So, the Assembly needs to know what the Secretariat is doing. The Assembly is the heart of the integration process and the voice of the people of East Africa which was acknowledged by the Chairperson of the Summit.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, somehow, I do not know whether it was a slip of the tongue when the President talked about commitment to sovereignty. I really did not understand that very well. When you are committed to sovereignty, then how do we work towards integration? I do not know whether this was a slip of the tongue but it is there in the conclusion of the Address. Overall, the President came out very strongly on issues which this Assembly has to accomplish. The Assembly should be allowed to accomplish these issues as the voice of the East African people.

With those remarks, I support the Motion.

The Speaker: I had given hon. Kizigha and then hon. Valerie. We have 30 minutes to end our debate as per our Rules of Procedure.

Ms. Angela Kizigha (Tanzania): Thank you Mr. Speaker, Sir for giving me the Floor. Before I proceed, allow me to join my colleagues in welcoming the Secretary General in this august House.

I concur with what hon. Mwinyi has said. Without the Common Market Protocol within the region, we will be doing nothing. Awareness is still very important. Sensitisation to our Partner States and government institutions is very important. I also concur with hon. Maryam in what she has said regarding the initiative taken by the Government of Tanzania through His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli to ensure that primary schools, universities, the private sector, regional administration, local

government officers fly the EAC flag as a requirement as a part of educating and promoting the EAC integration among the youth.

Whenever there is any official event being held, the National Anthem of the country will be sang as well as the EAC Anthem. This is a very big achievement for the United Republic of Tanzania.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, this move is in line with the implementation of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC Section 7(a) which requires the public in all member states to be part and parcel of the Community including being informed about the different steps being taken by the Community.

I know that some countries have already started this. However, as Tanzanians, we are happy about the steps that have been taken by His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli. Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, coming back to the Speech given by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, on behalf of His Excellency Dr. John Pombe Magufuli, this Speech gives and shows positive integration within the Community. It also shows, in the remarks to the Assembly, that we are moving forward in a very good way.

His Excellency talked about all the laws that have already been assented to and also talked about the pending issues and Bills which had not been assented to. He also talked about the challenges facing the Community including the NTBs. This is positive and also negative. In some areas, you can see that there are NTBs while in some other areas there are no NTBs. Some areas already have a one stop border post. Some of the areas earmarked for this have not implemented this means that the infrastructure has not yet been laid down.

He also talked about the issue of Vehicle Load Control Bill which is still facing challenges in some areas where weigh bridges have been introduced. In some areas, these weigh bridges have not yet been introduced. He encouraged us to ensure that all these issues have been put in place. Issues of work permits are also a problem in the Community. The challenge is still being faced. Some countries still expect people to pay money for these permits while some countries have waived the work permits.

The issue of a Single Customs Territory was also mentioned and the progress that has been made on the standard gauge railway. The Common Market Protocol, as hon. Mwinyi said, has already been put in place but has not yet been implemented. He also talked about the private sector, customs and trade within the region, peace and security, stability, intra-EAC trade and how we can move forward towards a political federation and monetary union.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I believe that the slogan; *hapa kazi tu*, which was introduced by His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli here in Tanzania, within ten years will change the Community to become people oriented and not leaders oriented.

Allow me to request the Council of Ministers to embrace the East African Community Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2015, because people living with disabilities are just as human as we are. Personally, I agree with the inputs in that Bill. We hope and believe that the Bill will be brought to this House, passed, and eventually assented.

Ms. Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda): Thank you very much Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir for giving me this opportunity. Let me first add my voice to that of the Members who have spoken before me in congratulating and

welcoming the new Secretary General, hon. Mfumukeko. I want to welcome him to this House. We pledge to work together with him for the betterment of East Africans.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, let me also sincerely thank you because you have chosen to put this item on the Order Paper today. This Speech of His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania contains very important policy directives. I also take this opportunity to sincerely congratulate him upon the progress he has made so far since he took the office of being the top leader of the great Republic of Tanzania.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I will go straight to the Speech. Let me quote His Excellency, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli. Page one of his Speech, the last paragraph says;

“When the Community was revived in 1999 we committed ourselves to integrate stage by stage basis beginning with the Customs Union through the Common Market Protocol, Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation.”

We are wondering whether our top leadership knows that we made a strong commitment to integrate stage by stage. Of course, as it is highlighted again on page 2 of his Speech, the Customs Union is the first pillar of the EAC integration. It is noted that it is heart-warming, indeed, to note that implementation of the Customs Union which started in 2005 has been a success. He is also quoting many examples which show that the implementation of part of the Customs Union has been successful. We are right to say this. I congratulate him because not only are the provisions of the said protocol being implemented but also the main activities that were planned for according to the said protocol. They are also being implemented

and also coordinated. We were told – because we were not Members of the first EALA – that Members of this very august Assembly called upon the top leadership of the EAC and through the Council of Ministers to think about a structure or institutional mechanism that can help in implementing the Customs Union Protocol. A department in charge of Customs and Trade was established within the Secretariat.

I happen to be a Member of the General Purpose Committee. We interacted strongly with the technocrats from the said departments and also other technocrats working in the Secretariat and other entities which are under the Secretariat. Everybody was applauding this move and said that the leadership of the EAC should be thanked for the wise decision of establishing a specific unit which will help in implementing the Customs Union Protocol. We are not just lamenting. However, those who have been given opportunity not only to interact with Partner States but with many other people here, have seen that the implementation part of it has always been difficult. This is mainly due to the fact that many activities under the said Protocol are scattered and are implemented within different departments either at the regional level or even by the different Partner States.

There is need for an urgent call for a department to be established within the Secretariat so that we have coordination of activities provided under the Common Market Protocol to run smoothly.

Mine was to call upon the top leadership of the EAC. I would like to thank some of my colleagues who proposed that if possible we should engage the top leadership of the EAC so that we present our problems before them. Probably if we interacted with them, something would be done. Different Committees; the Committee on

Communication Trade and Investment, Legal, Rules and Privileges and all other Committees, have been coming up with different reports which this House has adopted. We have asked the Council of Ministers to think about an institutional mechanism that can help in implementing the Common Market Protocol but up to now, nothing has been effected.

Lastly, let me also say a few things about sensitisation exercise. Recently, I visited an event which was organised by the Ministry in charge of EAC in Kigali. Students from institutions of higher learning were holding an essay writing competition about the EAC Integration Process. I was shocked to see how students were interacting amongst themselves. Some of them were challenging others about how integration is shaped and the benefits of the integration. When we visited some universities, some problems were identified. As my colleague said, we should identify or work on a package of information to be given to them so that they not only benefit from the integration process but also for them to serve as our Ambassadors as far as integration is concerned. I will not dwell much on that because it has ably been developed by many of my colleagues. I hope that the Council of Ministers has heard and that something will be done as far as the coming Budget is concerned so that we reach out to people in East Africa so that they know exactly what integration process is all about and the benefits.

The Speaker: Thank you honourable Members for the good debate. I deliberately gave time to this debate. In our Partner States, the State of the Nation Address is always debated, at times, for weeks because it takes a deep journey in exposing the level of development of a country and that is the kind of importance we attach to this Address. I now invite the honourable Minister.

The Minister for EAC Affairs (Burundi) (Ms. Loentine Nzeyimana) (ex-officio Member): Thank you Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir. I would like, first of all, to thank all Members who have contributed to this debate. First of all, regarding the Protocol and extending the jurisdiction of the EACJ, as a Council, we will direct the Secretariat to follow this issue up so that countries deposit the instruments of ratification before the Summit by November.

On the issue of harmonisation of laws, the Council of aware that without harmonising our national laws, all the commitments we are making here will be theoretical. For us to implement the commitments we make here, we have to align our national laws to the EAC context.

In Burundi, we realised that Rwanda and Uganda had harmonisation of laws commissions. We are trying to put in place the same so that we fast track the process. I am sure that Kenya and Tanzania have the legal framework required for this. This is very important because if we do not harmonise our laws, we will talk, decide but we will not implement anything that we discuss here.

Regarding the Certificates of Rules of Origin, hon. Shy-Rose talked about the challenges that Tanzanians are facing in accessing these certificates. I think in Burundi, we face the same challenges. In our Partner States, we are facing challenges of how to decentralise the authority that issues the Certificate of Rules of Origin. This matter will be transferred to the Sectoral Council in charge of Trade and Industry so that they can deal with it and make it available to all East Africans wherever they are.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the issue of the Common Market Protocol, I agree that this is the heart of integration. We have a national committee

in our respective countries which deal with elimination of NTBs. We have the National Oversight Committee which deals with implementing the Common Market Protocol. This is work in progress because as times we eliminate NTBs today but tomorrow, we are faced with others. This is ongoing work and we are trying, in our respective Partner States, to see that this problem is solved.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I personally appreciate the sensitisation activity that Members of EALA carried out in their respective countries. I heard *Mheshimiwa* Mwinyi say that there was time he had a discussion with Prime Minister Majaliwa. This happened to me in 2012. You had the Nanyuki series in Bujumbura which I attended. I challenged EALA and in few months I was nominated Minister. When I came here, Rt. Hon. Speaker, Abdi told me; it is your time now to respond to the questions you were asking. Therefore, the sensitisation activity is very important. This was assigned to the Council. I know that in our respective countries we have these activities. However, now that the Assembly has come in, I am sure we will do this better and our people will get to know what integration is about within the EAC. *(Applause)*

I would like to thank all the Members who have contributed to this debate. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. Before I finish, I would like to congratulate the new Secretary General. You are welcome, Mr. S.G. You have the support of the Council and the Council needs your support as well so that we move forward. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you, Chairperson, Council of Ministers. Hon. Colleagues, the Motion before this Assembly is:-

“THAT, this House do commend the Chairperson of the EAC Summit

Heads of States for the concise exposition of the EAC Policy contained in the State of the EAC Address in this Assembly on Tuesday, 8th March, 2016.”

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Report was passed and adopted)

I would like to congratulate this House for taking the journey through this very important exercise. I would also like, in a very special way, to extend, on your behalf, our deep appreciation to His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli for his Address to this House. *(Applause)*

We have taken the tone of his message very clearly leave alone the content that we will take as guiding principles and policy directive to this Assembly. With His Excellency, John Pombe Magufuli, it will not be work as usual. Things will change. The change will move through this region for the betterment of our people. There are good stories being told in this region. You have seen that in some parts of this region, all people, women, the youth in rural areas are accessing medicine and blood delivered to them using drones. These are great things happening in this region.

With that kind of tone, we will take this region to where it is supposed to be.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Speaker: There will be fellowship tomorrow at 7.30 p.m. at the same place. Lastly, the will of this House to have interaction with His Excellency John Pombe Magufuli will be delivered to him. I will work hard to make sure that with the help of the Minister, who is also the Chairperson,

Council of Ministers, His Excellency will address this House and interact with us.
Thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Hon. Members, this House stands adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, 25th May at 2.30 p.m

The House rose at 6.25 p.m. and adjourned to Wednesday, 25 May 2016 at 2.30 p.m.