



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY,

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

84TH SITTING - SECOND ASSEMBLY: FIFTH MEETING - THIRD SESSION

SPECIAL SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 25 May, 2010

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 10.00 p.m. at Old Chambers of the Parliament of Kenya, Nairobi

(The Speaker in the Chair)

PRAYER

(The Assembly was called to Order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable Members, amidst us today is His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. In accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty, I have invited him to address this Assembly. I would now like to make the following proclamation to welcome the presence, in the Assembly, of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS Clause (1) of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to

attend the Assembly notwithstanding that he or she is not a Member of the Assembly; if in his or her opinion the Business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable.

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania is desirable in accordance with the Business now before the Assembly.

NOW THEREFORE, It is with great pleasure and honour, on your behalf Hon. Members to welcome in this Assembly, the presence of the President of the United Republic of

Tanzania who is also the Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State.

- (Applause) -

**ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER OF
THE KENYA NATIONAL
ASSEMBLY**

**Welcoming Remarks by the
Speaker, EALA**

The Speaker: Your Excellency, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State; Rt. Hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly; the Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers; Hon. Ministers; the Secretary-General of the EAC; Hon. Members of EALA and the Kenya National Assembly; Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

Once again, I warmly welcome the Rt. hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly to today's Special Sitting of EALA, and to make welcome remarks on this occasion when His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and the Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State, will give this Assembly the State of the EAC Address. *(Applause)*

The Rt. hon. Marende has given EALA all this time out of his busy schedule to be part of this Special Sitting, and for this honour, we salute him. *(Applause)* His commitment to the cause of EALA is a source of inspiration to all of us, and clearly points to the closer ties that EALA has with the Kenya National Assembly. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, the Rt. hon. Marende is the first post-independence Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly to preside over a coalition Parliament. I would like to assure you that he has excelled in his role as Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, and will undoubtedly leave behind a great legacy for the number of precedents he has put forth, which, I am sure, will enrich the parliamentary practice and tradition of the Commonwealth Parliamentary system.

As I conclude, permit me, Rt. hon. Speaker, to extend, on behalf of EALA, our utmost appreciation for your generosity and all the courtesies you have accorded to me and the Members during our stay here at the Kenya National Assembly. *(Applause)*

Finally, allow me now to welcome the Rt. Hon. Speaker to address this Assembly. Welcome, hon. Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly (Rt. Hon. Kenneth Marende): Asante sana Mheshimiwa Spika kwa hayo maneno ya fadhili ambayo umeongea juu yangu. *(Applause)* Mheshimiwa Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania, ambaye pia ni Mwenyekiti wa Baraza la Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki; Spika wa Bunge la Afrika Mashariki, Mheshimiwa Abdirahin Abdi; Mwenyekiti wa Baraza la Mawaziri la Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki; Mheshimiwa Waziri wa Kenya wa Jumuiya ya Afrika Mashariki; Waziri Msaidizi; Mawaziri wote walioko hapa leo; Waheshimiwa Wambunge; Katibu Mkuu wa Juimuiya ya Afrika Mashariki; Waheshimiwa Mabalizi waliofika mchana huu; Itifaki zote zimezingatiwa; Mabibi na Mabwana;

Nilipokuwa natafakari nitakavyotoa hii hotuba, niliwaza kuwa niitoe kwa lugha ya Kishwahili. Lakini nilikumbuka kwa haraka sana kwamba Mhe. Rais wa Jamhuri ya Muungano wa Tanzania ni msemaji wa Kiswahili sanifu na nikaogopa kukosolewa. (Laughter)

Kwa hivyo Mhshimiwa Rais, naomba uniruhusu nitoe hii hotuba kwa Kiingereza. (Laughter)

Your Excellency Mr. President, it is my pleasure, privilege and honour to welcome and address you during this auspicious occasion of the East African Legislative Assembly sitting in the Chambers of the Kenya Parliament at Nairobi today, and from the 27th May to 4th June at the Municipal Council Chambers in Mombasa.

I thank you, hon. Speaker, for inviting me, and for according me the opportunity to welcome His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, who is also the Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State. It is an exclusive and singular honour to the Kenya Parliament to have Your Excellency grace this momentous occasion, most significantly as the Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State. *(Applause)* This occasion will go down in the annals of the Kenya Legislature in bold letters because you are the first Head of State from without to attend and – presently - to address an Assembly of legislators in the precincts of the Kenya Parliament. *(Applause)*

Rt. hon. Speaker, hon. Members, the EALA as inaugurated by the Heads of State of the EAC Partner States at its first sittings in Arusha, Tanzania on 30 November 2001 is an independent legislative arm of the Community under duty to act in concert with the

objectives set out in the Treaty for the Establishment of the parent body. Some of these objectives are: The strengthening of economic, socio-cultural, political, technological and other ties between the Partner States to facilitate fast, balanced and sustainable development; the establishment of the East African Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and ultimately a Political Federation.

As Members deliberate on the agenda before the Assembly, it is my very honest and passionate plea that they fast-track legislation that will go to the improvement of the socio-economic welfare of the people of East Africa, and leverage on the Common Market to, inter alia, actualize sustainable utilisation of Lake Victoria and the establishment of a political federation. *(Applause)*

Honourable Members, as I have previously submitted, for those of you who were at the Pan African Parliament meeting in Johannesburg, you will remember this. We have no business getting on the verge of war over Migingo Island or other similar misadventure instead of expending our energies on the bigger picture, like, for example, putting more fish in the lake, enough for all of us. *(Applause)*

Rt. Hon. Speaker, for our economies, we should undertake market based reforms, and institute more incentives that will trigger enhanced multiple local and foreign investments, and entrench the transition from agricultural and commodity based economies to medium industrialised, if not value added, production that will see a flow of finished goods, competitively priced and of internationally accepted quality from our region. We must jointly tap into our God-given beauty, grow our

tourism and simply make more money.
(*Applause*)

What can we not do with a population of over 110 million people and a productive working class of over 40 million? We must conceive and deliver a political federation that provides the bigger voice in the global arena and leads to greater economies of scale, better management and utilisation of shared resources for the common good of the people of East Africa.
(*Applause*)

Your Excellency, hon. Speaker, and hon. Members, the East African Legislative Assembly plays an important role in representing the views of the East African citizenry who have actively demonstrated in a plethora of ways that they want greater integration, economic empowerment, efficient infrastructure and political stability in the region. (*Applause*)

It is your responsibility, as the legislative arm of the Community, to bring these issues to the Council and the leadership of the Community, and to initiate legislation that will result in the realisation of our aspirations and expectations, including support and protection for the vulnerable and under-privileged in the Community.
(*Applause*)

We want to see the Assembly grow in strength to the levels of its counterparts in other regions that embrace better practices. We should reap from the benefits of having one regional security network that will stand up to regional challenges that may arise. We are apt to consign to history destabilisation by rebel groups armed by terror organisations attempting to impose their will illegally upon the East African people. We should be adequately equipped to go out and

quell not just East African problems, but other African crises that may come by because we will have far more capacity. (*Applause*)

Your Excellency, hon. Speaker, finally, the Kenya National Assembly will, through structured engagement, continue to facilitate and support the Assembly where applicable in order to ensure that it achieves its mandate. Together as one people with one destiny, our standing together in solidarity as God, by divine design, intended, will be our strength.
(*Applause*)

Your Excellency, I beg to re-emphasise this by stating as follows: That, the Tanzanian citizen has no choice but to embrace the Kenyan citizen as his best friend. The same applies to the Kenyan having no choice but to embrace the Ugandan as his best friend. Similarly, the Burundian must embrace the Rwandan. The converse is also true in each of those cases. (*Applause*) We cannot talk about unity or love if we cannot have it between and among ourselves. We must begin from here because, after all, they say charity begins at home. It did many centuries ago; it still does even today.
(*Applause*)

Your Excellency, once again, I welcome you to the Parliament of Kenya. On behalf of the honourable Members and staff of the Kenya National Assembly, I wish you fruitful deliberations.

Thank you and May God bless you.
(*Applause*)

ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA AND CHAIRPERSON OF THE SUMMIT OF THE EAC HEADS OF STATE

Welcome Remarks by the Speaker, EALA

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I was glad that hon. Marende did not continue in Kiswahili because, I think hon. Massaburi was trying to catch the Speaker's eye on a Point of Order. I would not have known how to rule the Speaker out of Order. *(Laughter)*

Your Excellency, President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of Summit of EAC Heads of State, Rt. hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, hon. Ministers, Secretary General, East African Community, Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, Your Excellencies, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

It is with great pleasure that I rise to welcome Your Excellency to today's special sitting of the Assembly. Thank you very much Your Excellency for accepting my invitation to address this August House. We wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you, though belatedly, for your election, once again, as the Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State in such a short time after you became the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, in your short tenure in office as President of the United Republic of Tanzania, you have managed and continue to preside over and maintain this great country as the

most stable and peaceful nation in the region; to demonstrate strong leadership on issues of good governance, and especially in the fight against corruption; and to continue to maintain Tanzania's commitment to the EAC integration agenda. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, two recent decisions by yourself, or indeed the government and the people of the United Republic of Tanzania stand tall and give unambiguous testimony of the commitment of the United Republic of Tanzania to the EAC integration agenda. First, we salute you and take pride in you and in the Members of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State for taking the bold step of signing the EAC Common Market Protocol on 20 November 2009, well within the targeted time frame as set out in the EAC Development Strategy. *(Applause)*

Secondly is the landmark decision by the United Republic of Tanzania to grant citizenship to over 160,000 fellow East Africans of Burundi origin, hitherto known as refugees. This is unprecedented in the region, and EALA has nothing else to say but to feel proud and to strongly thank you, and through you, the people and the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania for walking the talk of integration and for implementing the Common Market Protocol well ahead of time. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, the current meeting of the Assembly is mainly dedicated to the processes of approving the EAC Budget for the next financial year. In the course of the next two weeks, we shall mainly engage in debate on the EAC budget proposals. But, as a political Organ, we have also decided that we will use every opportunity

when we are in any Partner State, to take EALA to the people. For this reason, we shall, on Wednesday, travel to Mombasa and continue with the rest of our programme from there. While in Mombasa, we expect to engage as many stakeholders as possible in all spheres of life with a view to explaining the objectives of the Community, the successes so far attained and the benefits to follow.

Your Excellency, the speech you are about to deliver is what has now become commonly known as the State of the East African Community address. This will be the third in a row. EALA demanded for this address for mainly two reasons: One, it provides an opportunity for the Assembly to be officially notified of the major decisions and future plans of the Summit and the Council of Ministers; and, two, it also provides an excellent opportunity for the people of East Africa to get to know and thereby probably trigger debate about the developments in the Community.

Lastly, I wish to report to Your Excellency that this Assembly is dedicated and committed to its role as the legislative Organ of the Community. We pledge our unwavering support and commitment to work closely with Your Excellency in your individual capacity, with the Summit of the EAC Heads of State; the Council of Ministers, and other organs and institutions of the Community until the EAC dream of a United East Africa is realized. *(Applause)*

Finally, Your Excellency, the people of Tanzania will this year go into general elections to choose their leaders. We wish the people of the United Republic of Tanzania peaceful elections, and assure you that the people of East Africa are with you. We pledge to do

everything possible to support you in this noble cause. At a personal level, if you choose to stand, Your Excellency, this August House and I wish you the very best of luck and success. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, it is now with great pleasure and honour that I execute my humble duty to welcome Your Excellency to address this August House today, Tuesday, 25 May 2010.

- *(Applause)* -

The President of the United Republic of Tanzania, and Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State (H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete): Rt. Hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly; Rt. hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of the Kenyan Parliament; Honourable Chairperson of the Council of Ministers; Honourable Members of the East African Legislative Assembly; Distinguished Guests; Ladies and Gentlemen.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for inviting me the opportunity to address this august East African Legislative Assembly, on the State of the East African Community. I also thank the Speaker of the Kenya Parliament, hon. Kenneth Marende, for the warm words of welcome, and for the gracious hospitality in allowing the EALA to use this historic chamber of his Parliament. *(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker, I applaud and congratulate you for the wise decision to institutionalise the annual State of the East African Community Address to be made by the sitting Chairperson of the Summit of the Heads of States of the East African Community Partner States. *(Applause)* I am here today because of that noble decision of

yours, and I pray that we maintain this tradition. May I suggest that in future we try doing two or three things; one, there should be a specific written report on the state of the Community to be tabled by the Chairperson before this House for discussion and, then the Chairperson delivers a speech - a brief one - in the House presenting that report. I am suggesting this because very many important things happen in a year that cannot be covered in the limited time of the Chairman's address - (*Applause*). The other thing is about when to deliver the speech. Is it at the beginning of his term or at the completion of his term of office?

Let me hasten to say that the East African Community is a vibrant and very strong regional integration organisation. It is ever growing from strength to strength with each passing year. Thanks to the commitment and steadfastness of the people of East Africa, their governments, and to us their leaders, including you, Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, for the lofty gains made so far. I look to the future of our Community with a great sense of optimism for even greater achievements.

Honourable Speaker, the past year has been very eventful for our Community, and our integration agenda. We celebrated the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the East African Community. Indeed, it was a decade of great progress as we successfully navigated our way from cooperation to integration.

As you may remember, the charter of the Establishment of the East African Community stipulates that the Customs Union will be the entry point in our integration roadmap. 31 December 2009 marked the successful

completion of the five-year transition period of the East African Customs Union. Beginning 1 January 2010, East Africa became a fully-fledged customs union region. Since then, all goods produced in East Africa, which conform to the agreed rules of origin principle, move across the borders of the five East African Community Member States duty free and without non-tariff barriers. I am not sure if we do not have the encumbrance of non-tariff barriers, but at least they move duty-free. I am not sure about the absence of non-tariff barriers.

Honourable Speaker, the Customs Union has had a positive impact on the economies of the Partner States, contrary to the original fears that it could be otherwise. Trade has increased tremendously, and all nations have benefited equitably. By comparison, between 2005 and 2008 intra-East African Community trade increased from USD1,847.3 billion to USD 2,715.4 billion. Government revenues, which it was feared would drop have not and, instead, there is evidence of increase. (*Applause*)

The Customs Union has worked well for all of us so far. I am aware that there is need to do some more work to smoothen matters so as to enable it to attain optimal operational status. Fortunately, we all know what we need to do in this regard. I have no doubt in my mind that we will surely do the needful and get where we want to be. The only thing that is required of us is continued commitment and dedicated service to make things happen the way we want them. (*Applause*)

Honourable Speaker, there are three things, among the several others that I would like to highlight. I mention these because I consider them to be matters that need to be given special attention.

The first one is about how to fully integrate Rwanda and Burundi into the East African Customs Union. These two sister countries are latecomers, and they are relatively smaller economies, compared to the three original East African Community countries of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. I am sure there is need to give them specific attention in some areas. Which ones are they? It is a matter for them to say, and it is a matter for all of us to sit down and consider. *(Applause)*

The second is how to deal with evasion of tax that by some unscrupulous importers in the name of transit goods, which we could avoid. Maybe we need to explore ways of making East Africa a single customs territory, whereby the collection of duties is done at the port of entry for imported goods. I am aware that elaborate systems should be put in place so that the revenues that are due to the nation where goods are destined are expeditiously and duly remitted by the collecting nation.

Honourable Speaker, the third thing that I would like to mention is the removal of infrastructure related barriers, both physical and non-physical. This is critical for the smooth flow of trade and the people of our region, who are the main actors and objects of the integration project. Good physical infrastructure such as roads, railways, ports, inland waterways, airports, energy and telecommunications are essential for a well functioning customs union and common market.

Despite the huge challenges, I am happy with our commitment to overcome them. I know and applaud the many plans and programmes to address each of the infrastructure deficits. I don't know any of the

infrastructure elements that don't have a plan for something to be done about them. What I am simply saying is that let us stay the course. If we want an East African power master plan, let us have it. If we talk about East African road networks, let us do it. If it is civil aviation, inland waterways – for all these are things that have programmes and plans in place, we need to stay the course. *(Applause)*

We also need to do a lot more in terms of using our own resources where possible, and mobilising donor support, where feasible, for infrastructure development in East Africa. It is not possible for our nations to realise the full benefits of regional integration when there is no reliable infrastructure. For sure, the markets will not be accessible, hence rendering all of our efforts and exercise futile.

If you cannot sell your goods from Dar-es-Salaam to Gulu, and you talk of a customs union, which one? You are a customs union if you can move your goods across the borders, not within the country. Within the country is already a customs union, since there is duty-free movement without non-tariff barriers. However, the issue is how to move goods across the borders. Infrastructure is critical. Roads are important. If you do not have the roads or inland waterways, and if the railways do not function, then you cannot access the markets. That is why I say that these are critical things for us. They are not the only ones; here are several that we need to look into; I am just highlighting some of them.

The Common Market

Honourable Speaker, another major milestone last year in our integration process was the signing of the Common Market Protocol on 20

November 2009. That act alone propelled the East African Community into the most advanced regional integration organisation on the African continent - (*Applause*). No other organisation has reached that stage. People are just talking about it. People are talking about a customs union. We are the only ones that are there. We have completed the transition phase. We are the only ones who have taken the next step to go into the Common Market. I am glad to learn that all member states have started the process of ratifying the Protocol. I am also aware that some have done so already and some have even gone further and deposited the instruments of ratification with the Secretary General of the East African Community. I am quite confident that come 1 July 2010, the East African Common Market will be in place. (*Applause*)

I am also happy that work is underway on the Draft Protocol on the Establishment of the Monetary Union. I hope the negotiation process will go as anticipated and be completed within the set time frames.

Honourable Speaker, we should also view the significance of the EAC Common Market in the context of the emerging COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite arrangement, whereby the three Regional Economic Communities are working towards the establishment of a grand Free Trade Area from Cape Town to Cairo, later a customs union, and eventually their merger into one huge economic community. I would like to commend the Secretariats of the three RECs for the good work done so far. Consultations are now underway to hold the Tripartite Summit during this year, when the Heads of State will pronounce themselves on the exact date for the commencement of the

FTA. This is no small achievement. (*Applause*)

Let me add, Mr Speaker, that through the Tripartite Arrangement, a unique collaboration has emerged to address regional infrastructure challenges. COMESA, EAC and SADC are now working jointly on mobilizing resources for the development of the major transport corridors in our now expanded region. The corridors include the following: the North-South Corridor, linking the port of Dar-es-Salaam and the port of Durban; the Northern Corridor linking the Mombasa Port with Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC; and the Central Corridor, linking Dar-es-Salaam Port with Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Eastern DRC.

Under the Tripartite arrangement, plans are being made to hold an Aid for Trade Conference to identify potential resources for the development of these three corridors. A new Corridor is also under development linking the new Port at Lamu with Juba in Southern Sudan, and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. I am aware that the Kenya Government is at an advanced stage in securing funding for the implementation of this important corridor.

Drought and Food Security in East Africa

Mr. Speaker, despite the successes we have attained in the integration process, the past year has been a very challenging one for the economic wellbeing of our countries. Firstly, there was the worst drought our region has encountered in many decades. The drought and its resultant food insecurity exposed our region to its most vulnerable state. Crops failed and pastoralists in some parts of Kenya and

northern Tanzania lost a lot of their livestock. Some lost up to 60 to 70 percent of their herds, while some lost everything. They became completely impoverished.

Many of our people had to suffer the indignity of begging for food as their means of livelihoods were destroyed. This year, the rains are good, and in some parts they have been in excess, thus causing floods and their resultant damages. There will be good harvest in many areas that suffered the drought. However, the adversities we faced during 2009 were a grim reminder of our vulnerability. We need to improve on our disaster preparedness, ensure food security and pay greater attention to the environmental threats and its direct effect on the quality of the lives of our people. *(Applause)*

Honourable Speaker, the EAC will have to place high priority on food security, agricultural development, and environmental management. Following our decision at the last November Summit, the first EAC Special Summit on Food Security and Climate Change will be held this year. The Summit will focus on how best to expand agricultural production and improve agricultural productivity within our national and regional framework, as well as setting out effective measures to adapt and mitigate the effects of climate change.

The other challenge, which proved to be a major threat to the economic wellbeing of our countries and people, was the global economic and financial crisis and slowdown. None of our countries was responsible for this problem, but we suffered adversely and continue to suffer from its effects. We have suffered from declining demand and low prices for our export, as well as low tourist arrivals and low revenues as a result. GDP growth

declined to less than projected. We were faced with the daunting responsibility of rescuing and assisting the affected sectors and businesses, a matter that we could not do much about. We could not mount stimulus packages as responsive as the ones that the developed countries were able to mount with regard to the problems in their economies. There is some glimmer of hope, but the great challenges remain ahead of us. We have to remain watchful. I suggest that we, in the East African Community, need to find time to discuss this problem and agree on a common course of action for going forward. *(Applause)*

Politics and Democracy in East Africa

Mr. Speaker, this year is a very important one for politics and democracy in our region. Within the coming 10 months, Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda will be holding elections. Kenya will be involved in a constitutional referendum and so will Tanzania and Zanzibar. This is both an exciting and challenging time for our region; exciting because we have an opportunity to demonstrate to the entire world and to our own people that democracy reigns and democratic values are taking root in our Community.

It is challenging because we have to ensure that the elections and referendums are conducted in a manner that they will be free, fair and peaceful. Experience has shown that many countries in Africa have degenerated into political crises and violence after elections. This is partly precipitated by flaws in the management of the electoral processes, but also because some people are yet to embrace the

culture of accepting defeat and acknowledging winners. *(Applause)*

Honourable Speaker, entrenching democracy, democratic values and democratic culture in our region are critical for ensuring smooth integration as well as peace and prosperity. I congratulate this House for its strong advocacy for democracy in our region. *(Applause)* We have to make all efforts to build the administrative capacity and muster political will to conduct free, fair and peaceful elections. I understand that over the years the EALA has participated in election observation in the Partner States and contributed to the quest for strengthening democracy in our region.

I have been made to understand that the EAC Council of Ministers will examine an Electoral Observation Manual for EAC. This is a good initiative, which I fully support. In addition to that, let me say that I think time has come for the East African Community to consider developing common principles and guidelines to govern democratic elections in our region, and to ensure their observance. *(Applause)*

If we have common principles and guidelines for democratic elections, when you go to observe elections, you have a guide. It is not the question of a manual. What is this manual? A manual is about what you do where. But what you are actually doing has got to be based on certain principles and guidelines, which the EAC must now develop and promulgate. *(Applause)*

Critical Issues, Challenges and the way forward

Mr. Speaker, before I conclude, allow me to highlight some of the challenges

facing the Community today, and how we can work together to address them. The first relates to the need for a reliable and sustainable financing of the Community. *(Applause)* This is a long standing issue. It assumes greater importance today because deeper integration requires higher levels of resource availability. Apart from perennial appeals to Partner States for timely remittances of contributions, it is imperative that we develop alternative mechanisms of funding the EAC. The Summit is keen on getting concrete proposals on this important matter. *(Applause)*

The second critical challenge centres on better planning and implementation of regional programmes. It is opportune that we have just embarked on the preparation for the Fourth EAC Development Strategy (2011-2016). We need to ensure, therefore, that the Strategy focuses on well-selected objectives, which are SMART; that is to say, they should be Simple, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-bound.

Sometimes our resource deficit is compounded by our strategies, which are very broad and unfocused. The late Mwalimu Julius Nyerere taught Tanzanians one good thing about that problem. “*Kupanga ni Kuchagua*”, which literally means that to plan is to choose. You have many competing needs and demands and you cannot do or meet all of them at the same time. You have to choose which ones to do when, and how. This is what planning is all about. Let us be guided by this mantra in developing the Fourth Development Strategy. *(Applause)*

Last but not least, we need greater political will and popular participation in the Community. This involves a multi-variety of interventions by the

broad spectrum of EAC stakeholders on aligning national visions, activities and strategic plans to regional integration objectives and goals. The overriding principle of a people centred integration demands that the East African regional integration process be owned by the people for it to have relevance and a chance of success. As we move into the Common Market, a number of challenges will emerge requiring broad-based stakeholder consultation. Our Community is people-cantered so, let us make sure that we pursue broader participation in every step of the way. (Applause)

Mr. Speaker, in posing these challenges, I am also making an appeal to this Assembly to ensure that it examines these issues, and comes up with ideas, strategies and programmes, which can be shared with other EAC organs and institutions to make the EAC a more effective organization. The EAC mission is definitely clear and ambitious: to maintain the momentum and build on our strengths and successes to realise higher levels of integration. We have established high goals in our regional integration agenda and let each one of us play his or her part properly in realizing these goals.

Guard Against Reversals

Honourable Speaker, the successes we have attained are so precious that we must make all efforts to protect and sustain them. We must guard against reversals, and for us who have the experience of a community collapsing in 1977, we have to be extra vigilant. I must acknowledge that so far we have done well in trying to avoid the mistakes of the past, which brought down the previous community. I call upon all East African political leaders,

journalists, opinion leaders and commentators to be measured in their actions and words. We must avoid taking actions or making utterances that would antagonise another Partner State or their leaders and people. Such things will erode mutual trust and confidence, which are critical for a successful regional integration project. (Applause)

We should realise that it is inflammatory words as much as deeds that finally broke the back of the former EAC in 1977. *Kuitana nyang'au*, man eats man society. *Hayo maneno yakamaliza hiyo Community yetu*. In fact, it is the lack of mutual trust and confidence among the Partner States that ensued which precipitated the demise of the former East African Community. We must guard against repeating those mistakes. I know that there may arise differences among us, but let us find better ways of working them out. And, the best way is to sit down and talk about them. We should avoid making public statements against each other, which will poison the goodwill and kill the existing spirit of brotherhood and cooperation. We must know that we cannot move forward this integration project in an atmosphere of bad faith and mistrust. (Applause)

Honourable Speaker, also, as partners in a joint endeavour, we should not rejoice at, or partake in engineering the setbacks of our fellow members. And, we certainly do not have to be despondent at, or downplay the triumphs of our fellow members. If we let these things take hold, we will just move with our integration on paper, but we will have left behind the hearts and minds of our people and of our own. We will have failed as leaders because we will weaken the noble institution we are trying to build with

dire consequences. We cannot afford to fail this time around. We should all say; Never and Never Again". *(Applause)*

Mr. Speaker, in concluding, I must thank my Brother, H.E President Mwai Kibaki for the usual warm reception and hospitality and the usual cordial understanding. We had a good discussion before coming here. We in the EAC wish him and the brotherly people of Kenya every best wishes and God speed in the forthcoming Constitution Referendum.

Mr. Speaker, I once again thank you for your invitation and wish you and esteemed Members of the East African Assembly well as you continue to serve the interests of the East African people.

I thank you for your kind attention! *(Applause)*

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr. Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): I thank you very much hon. Speaker, for giving me the Floor to move this vote of thanks to His Excellency President Kikwete for coming here to address this Assembly. Your Excellency, I think we have many reasons to be happy and to thank you. But our first reason to be proud is you. We are proud that you were a Member of this august Assembly. This may give some dreams to those who are young, but definitely not me. *(Laughter)*

Your Excellency, you have done much for this Community and the neighbouring countries. We are aware of so much you have done for Burundi, Rwanda, Kenya and Uganda. When there was violence after the elections here in Kenya, you personally came to

oversee the agreements between the Kenyan leaders. Thank you very much for that. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, you have been in the politics of Tanzania long enough to know the plight of the Burundi refugees for so many years. Recently, you and your government took the bold decision to accord nationality to 162,000 Burundi refugees in Tanzania. Thank you very much, Sir. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, Tanzania is a role model. There were refugees from Rwanda who lived many years in Tanzania, including one of our Members here. *(Laughter)* That is true. In fact, two or three Members lived there as refugees; even including me. *(Laughter)* Your Excellency, there are refugees from Uganda as well. They went back home and now they are building the East African Community knowing how close we are as people of East Africa. Thank you very much, sir. *(Applause)*

Tanzania is also a role model as a land of peace, harmony and stability. We can borrow a leaf as the larger East African Community to be as stable as Tanzania has been for the last 49 years of Independence. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, you have given words of wisdom to this House that we will follow. We are making history. Actually, we happen to know that there are some words that are close to your heart and philosophy. These are "*Kasi Mpya, Hari Mpya, Nguvu Mpya*". We shall apply them while conducting the affairs of the EAC, and we ask you to apply them so that we can fast track the federation of East Africa. I thank you very much. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: I thought hon. Ndarubagiye would request His

Excellency to be part of that 160,000.
(*Laughter*)

Honourable Members, I think we have come to the end of business today, and before I adjourn, Your Excellency, I would like to mention a few people whom we have invited to this Assembly. I wish I had done it earlier, but I can do it quickly now. First and foremost, I would like to recognise the staff of the East African Community; if you could please stand up. I think they are the ones who did all the preparations. Please stand up. (*The Members of Staff stood*) (*Applause*)

We also have heads of institutions of the EAC. We have the Deputy Secretary-General, the business community represented by the East African Business Council, Dr. Kipyego Cheluget, former Deputy Secretary-General of the EAC but now an Ambassador to Zambia, former Members of EALA, Members of Parliament from Kenya, Ambassadors and High Commissioners, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of East African Community from Kenya who has been very helpful in as far as this session is concerned, and finally the Clerk of the Kenya National Assembly together with his staff. (*Applause*)

Finally, Hon. Members, I would like to say that we are going to have a group photograph after this session right at the steps. I think we will follow the same process like we did yesterday at the Parliamentary Gardens. You have also been invited to a State Lunch by His Excellency President Mwai Kibaki in honour of His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, which will happen right after the photo session. I would also like to tell you that we depart for Mombasa tomorrow morning at 8.a.m. I repeat, 8.00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now adjourn the House until Thursday at 2.30 p.m. in Mombasa.

(*The House rose at 12.10 p.m. and adjourned until Thursday, 27 May 2010*)