



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

FIFTH MEETING– SECOND SESSION – THIRD ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 27 March 2014

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:41 p.m. in the EALA Chambers, EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Ms. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I wish to welcome you to today's sitting. I have one very important message of appreciation to deliver to you from the Katikkiro of Buganda, hon. Peter Mayiga, *Owekitibwa*. He would like to express his deepest appreciation for the contribution of US \$ 5,725, which is equivalent to Uganda Shs. 14,854,000, which you contributed towards the very noble cause of rehabilitating the Kasubi Tombs. *(Applause)* He appreciates that gesture and says, "Thank you for being East Africans and you are welcome again to Buganda; you are welcome again to Uganda and keep supporting this noble activity." Thank you.

PAPERS

Mr. Peter Mathuki (Kenya): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on table the Report of the East African Legislative Assembly, Kenya Tour held between 19th February to 15th March, 2014. I beg to lay.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Peter Mathuki. We thank the Kenyan Chapter for the good coordination and for looking after the Members during their visit to Kenya. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

MOTION

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

The Minister of State for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Mr Shem Bageine): Madam Speaker, I beg to move that this House do commend the Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State for the concise exposition of the EAC policy contained in the State of the EAC Address to this Assembly on Tuesday, 25 March 2014. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconded by hon. Leontine Nzeyimana; hon. Minister, proceed.

Mr. Bageine: Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this moment to justify the motion I have moved. From the outset, I take this opportunity to thank you and the rest of the Members of this august House for keeping the flag constantly flying as you discharge your noble responsibility, which is well provided for in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community.

Madam Speaker, as I stated yesterday, it was important that in accordance with Article 55 of the Treaty and the Rules of Procedure, you deemed it important to invite H.E. the Chairperson of the Summit to deliver the State of the EAC Address within our integration Parliament. This is because this is the time when this august House is preparing itself to consider the budget for the Financial Year 2014/2105. This Address is bound to give this august House insight into appropriately addressing pivotal matters of integration.

Madam Speaker, from a broad perspective, H.E. the Chairperson gave a broad, knowledgeable and insightful outline of the Community's principle reviews, priorities and areas of focus. This was well in tune with the responsibility of the Summit to give general directions and impetus as to the development of the Community.

His view on the general progress and focus of the Community reflects what the entire Summit has consistently advocated for, focusing on the destination of the integration process for fast, balanced and sustainable development of the EAC Partner States.

Madam Speaker, it is critical that we consider the challenges that H.E. the Chairperson has thrown, and rightly so, to the organs and institutions of the Community. I agree with him that it falls on us to manage our natural gift, we must learn from best practices pioneered elsewhere, and adopt them to our circumstances. In this regard, it is critical that all organs and institutions play their role in:

- (a) Consolidating the EAC Common Market Protocol;
- (b) Commencing the implementation of the Monetary Union Protocol on 1st July, 2014 as agreed;
- (c) Pursuing the agreed steps towards the model structure, road map and action plan for the East African Political Federation;

- (d) Addressing the perennial problem of Non-Tariff Barriers to trade and movement of goods, persons and services in the region, a primary aspiration of the population in the perception of the integration process;
- (e) Continuing interaction with COMESA and SADC as we advance towards concluding a tripartite free trade agreement area which will be a precursor to establishing an African Community Market long envisaged under the Lagos Plan of Action;
- (f) Intensify the implementation of all outstanding policy decisions; and
- (g) Finalizing the institutional review.

Madam Speaker, as we debate this all-encompassing Address, let us reflect on our roles as a regional legislature. It is critical that we ponder into what we can do by way of legislation and outreach to continue supporting the implementation of the Treaty. Unless we do this, the importance of the State of the EAC Address will have been lost on us.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, I pledge not only total commitment to play our key role as the policy organ but I also undertake to ensure that the challenges presented to us in the Address will be followed up with a view to enhancing our performance. Madam Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Chairperson, Council of Ministers, hon. Shem Bageine standing in for hon. Phyllis Kandie on that very important motion.

Hon. Members, the motion on the floor 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, 25 March, 2014. Debate is open.

Mr. : Procedure, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes, hon. Mbidde.

Mr. Fred Mukasa Mbidde: Madam Speaker, the debate on the State of the EAC Address is a very important matter. Rule 13 of this august House is very explicit on Quorum of the House. Madam Speaker, I am raising it that we are out of procedure to proceed. With your guidance, could you take us through the procedure to ascertain whether we have quorum, especially regarding Uganda? Do we have quorum to conduct business. I beg to move. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Sergeant-at-Arms, could you please give me the attendance list?

(The Sergeant-At-Arms handed over the Members attendance log to Madam Speaker)

The Speaker:

REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|---------|
| 1. | Hon. BUCUMI Emerence | Present |
| 2. | Hon. MOSSI Hafsa | Present |

3.	Hon. NDAHAYO Isabelle	Present
4.	Hon. NDARUBAGIYE Leonce	Present
5.	Hon. Dr NDUWIMANA Martin	Absent
6.	Hon. NENGO Emmanuel	Present
7.	Hon. NGENDAKUMANA Jeremie	Present
8.	Hon. NGENZEBUHHORO Frederic	Absent
9.	Hon. NSABIMANA Yves	Present

REPUBLIC OF KENYA

1.	Hon. ABISAI Nancy Kabeyeka Lung'ahi	Absent
2.	Hon. ABUBAKAR Zein Abubakar	Present
3.	Hon. BONAYA Talaso Sarah	Present
4.	Hon. MATHUKI Peter Mutuku	Present
5.	Hon. NG'ARU Mumbi Agnes	Present
6.	Hon. NKANAE Saole Ole	Absent
7.	Hon. OGLE Abubakar D. Abdi	Present
8.	Hon. OMBASA Joseph Kiangoi	Present
9.	Hon. PARENO Judith Nayiai R.	Present

REPUBLIC OF RWANDA

1.	Hon. BAZIVAMO Christophe	Present
2.	Hon. HAJABAKIGA Mugorenejo Patricia	Present
3.	Hon. KABAHAZA Celestine	Present
4.	Hon. Dr. NDAHIRO James	Absent
5.	Hon. NDIKURYAYO Straton	Absent
6.	Hon. NYIRAHABINEZA Valerie	Present
7.	Hon. Dr. NYIRAMIRIMO Odette	Present
8.	Hon. RWIGEMA Pierre Celestin	Present

REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

1.	Hon. BHANJI Shy-Rose Sadrudin	Present
2.	Hon. KIMBISA Adam Omar	Present
3.	Hon. KIZIGHA Angela Charles	Present
4.	Hon. MURUNYA Bernard Musomi	Present
5.	Hon. MWINYI Abdullah Ally Hassan	Present
6.	Hon. Dr. NDERAKINDO Perpetua Kessy	Present
7.	Hon. NYERERE Charles Makongoro	Present
8.	Hon. TASLIMA Twaha Issa	Present
9.	Hon. YAHYA Maryam Ussi	Present

REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

1.	Hon. BYAMUKAMA Dora	Present
2.	Hon. KIDEGA Daniel Fred	Present
3.	Hon. MUKASA Mbidde Fred	Present
4.	Hon. MULENGANI Bernard	Present
5.	Hon. NAKAWUKI Susan	Present
6.	Hon. OPOKA-OKUMU Chris	Absent
7.	Hon. SEBALU Mike Kennedy	Present
8.	Hon. TIPERU Nusura	Present
9.	Hon. ZZIWA Margaret Nantongo	Present

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

1.	Hon. KANDIE Phyllis	Absent
2.	Hon. BAGEINE Shem	Present
3.	Hon. NZEYIMANA Leontine	Present
4.	Hon. SITTA Samuel	Absent
5.	Hon. MUHONGAYIRE Jacqueline	Absent
6.	Hon. Dr. ABDULLA SAADALLA Abdulla	Absent
7.	Hon. Amb. SEZIBERA Richard	Absent
8.	Hon. KAAHWA Wilbert T.	Present

The Speaker: From the quick count, Burundi is seven; Kenya is seven; Rwanda is seven; Tanzania is seven; and Uganda is four. Hon. Mbidde, I think we have the quorum.

Mr. Mbidde: Most obliged, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Debate is open. Hon. Zein, proceed. You know, I remembered when I visited Mombasa how those elders were really appreciating your representation.

Mr. Zein Abubakar (Kenya): Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker. I would like to right from the onset support the motion by the Chair, Council of Ministers, and also say that the directive principles of State policy or community policy that is contained in H.E.'s speech is something that should occupy this House in terms of reflection.

First and foremost, Madam Speaker, allow me to appreciate the mention by H.E. the President of the efforts that have been made by the Summit and governments of the Partner States in removing non-tariff barriers, and specifically removing police roadblocks along the EAC transport corridors. (*Applause*)

Madam Speaker, allow me also to point out that the policy is visionary in the sense of articulating the evident truth that our countries can no longer depend on only exporting primary products. H.E. the President has called upon us and has made a clarion call that we must dedicate our time and efforts to adding value to the primary products.

As the Chair of the Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution Committee, Madam Speaker, I am acutely aware that there are studies that have been published and the figures and facts demonstrate that comparatively, countries that produce more than primary products tend to be more stable and tend to have less conflict. But those countries that depend on the vagaries of markets of particularly primary products tend to be more prone to instability than those which add value and increase economic activity of their people.

Allow me also to say that when the President talks about reflections that our integration should be centered in the hopes of our people as we promised that it would be, it is a reminder for us that this integration process is supposed to be people centered. So, it is absolutely critical for us to hasten to listen when the Chair of the Summit reminds us that we should do all that is possible in order for us to make the people of East Africa the centerpiece of the integration process.

Fourthly, Madam Speaker, allow me to touch on H.E. the President's comments on the deepening of our cooperation in defence and security and the progress being made in enacting the Protocol on Cooperation, Defence, Peace and Security, and his promise that the Summit is determined to bring into force important peace and security instruments so that we can establish a security framework that will help us establish peace and security in our region. But more importantly, Madam Speaker you will recall that the President who is also the Chair of Summit is of one mind with this House on the protection of wildlife and natural resources in our region. *(Applause)* And in harmony with a resolution passed by this august House, he re-dedicates our attention to the protection of our natural resources and out wildlife.

Lastly, Madam Speaker, allow me to talk about an issue that he touched on which is close to my heart. This is the recognition that the Treaty has served us well up to this time but there is no Constitution made by man or woman that is foolproof, and that the advantage of time is that it always allows us to see new perspectives and to consider new issues that we should include in the supreme instrument of our integration. So, I take courage and I am particularly glad that he has pointed out that we should start reflections about reviewing the Treaty.

When we are talking about reviewing the Treaty, as a parliamentarian, I will be interested as a Member of this august House, to generate ideas on, one, how to make the people the centerpiece of our integration; two, how we shall put into practice some of the philosophical groundings of this Treaty, which is good governance, by looking at the organs and institutions of the Community in order to create a balance between them.

Specifically, I am thinking about how we can develop ideas to strengthen this Assembly and the legislative function of the Treaty, including, Madam Speaker, with a lot of respect, the fact that currently the architecture of this Treaty is Executive concentrated. From the Summit, you have the Council of Ministers, and then you have Sectoral Councils, and then you have the Secretariat, which is guided by the Executive. So, I will be looking at how to create a balance of power between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary, and specifically looking at strengthening the Legislature and the Judiciary, including what we have been paying some attention to, though I don't believe that it has been enough, namely the expansion of the jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice. I thank you very much, Madam Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much. I will take hon. Leonce.

Mr. Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): Thank you very much, Rt. hon. Speaker for giving me the floor. It is with pleasure that I support the motion presented by the Chair, Council of Ministers. I want to make some few comments about the very good speech that was made by H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta of the Republic of Kenya, and Chairman of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State.

When we talk about removal of non-tariff barriers, for someone coming from this side of the Community like Burundi, you cannot imagine how it has been before. It has been like a torture to get goods from either Dar-es-Salaam or Mombasa. There could have been fewer non-tariff barriers for a country like Uganda, but when you talk about Burundi, whose goods go through three countries; Kenya, Uganda and Rwanda, we are so relieved today to have a lot fewer non-tariff barriers. *(Applause)*

When he talked about the foundation of the political federation that we desire, it touches all of us, and especially those who are a bit older because we would like to see it in our lifetime. And as he correctly said, for political federation, the cooperation among the five Partner States is definitely the foundation of our federation.

When we compare with the European Union, for example, Minister Shuman initiated it in 1950 in Rome. It is now 63 years and they have not yet become a federation. I hope we can become a federation in a very short time for the benefit of all our people.

When you talk about security, I found something very special coming from Burundi where we have experienced several coup de tat. I think it is a message to any one that any foolish man who could be thinking of doing something like that should know that he will have the whole Community against him. That is very good news for us.

Lastly but not the least, I have been in East Africa for the last few years and I enjoy travelling all over the region very much, and of course the Kenya tour was a very good opportunity to learn. The Chair said that Kenya would organize another tour very soon. We are very grateful. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Leonce. I will take hon. Kiangoi.

Mr. Joseph Kiangoi Ombasa (Kenya): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker for the opportunity. I on the onset wish to state that the President's speech was very encouraging; was motivating to us, and it is good that it came at a time that we are beginning this session, particularly considering the events that have been going on in our region lately.

Madam Speaker, on the East African resources, the Chair of the Summit did say that we need to utilize our resources properly. The world is competing for resources. The Scramble for Africa that we read about in history was all about resources. Today, we have resources that God secured for us in the form of minerals. It is very important that the exploitation of these minerals ensure that we get enough money resources for development.

Madam Speaker, the other issue is about trade. The trade that we can undertake amongst ourselves because of the market that we are because of our population is also of importance. More often, we think of exportation of our cash crops to other markets but if we could exploit our potential internally and trade amongst ourselves, we should have enough business to create enough wealth for our Partner States. It is hence important that the Chair of the Summit and his colleagues ensure that they remove all the obstacles that hinder that trade.

Madam Speaker, on integration, I noted with appreciation that the President is committed to continue to ensure that it is finally achieved. That is why he was saying that it is not an event but rather a process. His promise that we shall not tire from integrating the peoples of East Africa until we complete the process was very encouraging.

Madam Speaker, on the Common Market, the President did remind us of our duty as an Assembly to guard our gains so far achieved, and that it is important for us, as we continue with our work, to ensure that we have put in place legislations that will ease the way we do our business in the region so that the Common Market Protocol is fully realized.

Madam Speaker, on protection of wildlife, I saw the President wear a sad face while mentioning this aspect. The elimination and almost extermination of our elephants and rhinoceroses in the wild to get ivory that is smuggled to foreign nations for selfish benefits is what we should guard against as a region, and it is our duty, even as this Assembly, to also pass legislation to ensure that it is curbed.

Madam Speaker, I fully support the President and this motion.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Kiangoi. I will take hon. Dora Byamukama.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker for giving me this opportunity to contribute to this debate. I would like to state from the onset that I support the motion to pay tribute to H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta, the President and Commander-in - Chief of the Defence Forces of the Republic of Kenya.

I would like to hail the people of Kenya for electing such an illustrious son of Africa. I also say this with the conviction that his new vigour and his new ideas will definitely take us in the right direction as regards the EAC integration.

Madam Speaker and hon. Members, I would like to allude to three areas. The first is the issue of political federation. Madam Speaker, on page 3, I would like to quote where the President stated that *"I know a committee of this Assembly has already expressed its views on the revised draft model structure road map and action plan for the East African Political Federation."* I would like to thank the Minister in charge of East African Affairs for relaying the information on the work of the Assembly. I would also like to thank your office and draw it to the attention of Members that we do actually have an activity as a follow-up of the report that was debated on Monday, next week from 2.30 to 5.00 p.m. We shall be having a joint meeting on this issue of political federation, and we hope to interface with the Secretariat, as well as the Council of Ministers, on this very important matter. So, in essence, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta has his finger on the pulse of what is happening here, and we are very grateful for this.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, I would like to point out the fact that in this particular speech, we had new ideas coming up. For example, apart from the economic integration issues such as non-tariff barriers and issues of security, he also pointed out the issue of the illegal trade in ivory and rhino horns. This was very refreshing – on page 4 - to note that even at the Summit level, we are concerned about the depletion of our natural resources, and especially the wildlife which brings us a lot of dollars through tourism and otherwise. I believe that this new idea will catch fire, and it will be able to be given the due attention that it deserves.

In the case of rhinos, we are all very aware that these rhinos are getting extinct as many people, in the hope that it can cure several diseases as well as energize people in various ways, usually seek after the rhino horn. So, this particular issue is very important and I am glad that he picked it up.

I would like to conclude on the issues that he raised, especially the fact that he continuously repeated the issue of abolishing poverty. I think this is very touching because when you abolish poverty, it means that the standards of living will rise, and this is our major concern as an Assembly. He also illustrated his concern for the youth, which is very important. These are issues, which we have been handling over a period.

On page 2, in conclusion, Madam Speaker, he referred to the issue of human rights and freedoms. I hope that with this comment, we shall be able to move and make some progress on the Human Rights and Freedoms Bill, which has been pending. I believe that this will give us a foundation on which to make progress and ensure that we protect all our people wherever they are in the East African Community.

Madam Speaker, I was made to understand that I was counted absent. I had gone to the bathroom. I am glad that hon. Patricia Hajabakiga gave the information. I had actually left my bag around, which clearly showed that I was around. I am very vigilant and attentive. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Byamukama. We had the quorum, so don't worry.

Secondly, I want to take the opportunity to remind Members that on Monday there will be a very important workshop on political federation. Initially this activity was destined for the Committee on Legal, Rules and the Committee of Regional Affairs, but any Member who is free can actually attend because we are all responsible to support the process of political federation. Thank you very much. I will take hon. Ogle.

Mr. Abubakar Ogle (Kenya): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. From the outset, I would also like to support this motion. And as an East African from Kenya, it gives me extreme bragging rights to say that the current Chair of the Summit is as dynamic and as progressive as his predecessor, who has lived through the East African Community of the yester years, former President of Kenya, hon. Mwai Kibaki.

Within a very short time of his presidency, in the last one year he has made such a remarkable contribution to the East African integration and the region generally that one might tend to think that he has been around for the last 10 years.

The fact that just one month after his election he was able to give a directive that the about 38 roadblocks between Mombasa and Malaba be removed is a story in its own self.

He also ordered within that very short time – I think the first two months of his presidency- that Customs officials and revenue authority personnel from the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of Rwanda would henceforth be stationed in Mombasa to ensure that goods are cleared very quickly. And for that action, the period of transport between Mombasa, Kampala and Kigali has been dramatically reduced.

Madam Speaker, I would like to point out two particular issues that the President raised during his address. One is on the increased menace of poaching. We are not dealing with poaching as we used to understand it in the past. We are dealing with more daring and very bold poachers. The current crop of poachers is going to well protected national parks. There have been incidences of three or four rhinoceroses being killed in Nairobi National Park; the only national park in this world which is just within the capital city, and which is very well protected. Just last week, poachers went to Nakuru National Park, a relatively peaceful and protected area, and killed two very precious white rhinoceroses. And one other dangerous thing that is possibly encouraging poaching is the fact that the price of the horn of the rhinoceros and the tusk of the elephant is higher than an ounce of gold and other precious gems. This is what is encouraging this activity so much.

The fact is that the market for this item is very demanding in the East, and especially in areas towards China, Vietnam, and all those places. I am glad that the moving of this motion in this Assembly will increase and enhance the protection of wildlife, to which the President referred.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the President also pointed out that we are not an island, and the incidences of terrorism and insecurity are really going to compromise so much of our economic social affairs in the times ahead.

For a long time; for the past two and a half decades when a country called Somalia was in trouble, the country called Somalia was just a neighbor. Nobody really bothered. It is true that we in Kenya were the immediate neighbors to Somalia; we were able to receive and host hundreds of thousands of refugees from Somalia, but beyond that, because there was no concerted international attention to address the problem of Somalia, very soon Somalia became a neighbor to the world because of the incidences of piracy. It was not until they attacked the ship of “Uncle Sam”- the United States of America – that the world realized that Somalia was indeed a neighbor to the world.

Now, these terrorists called *Al Shabaab* may be attacking Kenya regularly. They also attacked Uganda at one time, and that is not a Kenyan or Ugandan matter. Our insecurity in Kenya and Uganda is insecurity that is affecting the entire region. So, I think it is very important that as a region we are able to develop immediate and concerted efforts towards confronting this menace. I am glad that the President was able to point out that the insecurity in one country is an insecurity that can engulf all of us.

With those few remarks, Madam Speaker, I beg to support. Thank you.

The Speaker: You see, I always thought that the Chairperson's microphone could remain on but now I can...thank you very much, hon. Ogle for your submission. I will now take hon. Dan Kidega.

Mr. Dan Kidega (Uganda): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I support the motion. I just have three points I consider important to raise in this debate. First of all, I would like to start by appreciating the stature and the demeanor of President Uhuru Kenyatta and his people centered approach to power. The free mingling with the Members, the free interaction, and the flow of a relationship with humanity, I think that kind of leadership is very important. (*Applause*)

When you are close to the people you lead, you exactly reflect and do the things they feel because you touch the exact pulse of their needs. So, I would like us to salute the President for that kind of free wheel of interaction with people, and the kind of time he gave to the Members and the media. I think that was great, and, I thank him for that.

Madam Speaker, three quick points. The President raised the issue of the optimum use of our natural resources. Much as he centered on the elephants, the point was broader than that. Africa is a virgin continent in the world. Today, most parts of the world are tending towards exhaustion of their natural resources, and the rest of the world is looking unto Africa for natural resources, from animal resources, to mineral and hydrocarbon resources and several other things, and they package them as if they have so much love for Africa and the people of Africa. I don't think it is true. They actually love our resources; they don't love us.

The words of Mahatma Gandhi, "*I love your Christ, but I hate your Christianity*" means that the Christians are not reflecting exactly what Christ is to him. That is what he meant. So, these people do not reflect exactly the love that they should give us. They are extremely interested in our natural resources, and so we in the leadership stream must reorganize ourselves in such a manner that we position ourselves in terms of policies and in terms of technical expertise to manage our natural resources optimally for the betterment of our people. And that I applaud from the message of the President.

Secondly, Madam Speaker, the President was very categorical on the issue of the importance of the young population. "*If you are planning for a year, you can plan rice; if you are planning for ten years, you can plan trees, but if you are planning for the future, you develop human resources.*" That is a paraphrased Chinese adage.

I think a leadership or any political system that wants to perpetuate itself must invest heavily in the young people. Investment in the young people is not just tokenism - giving them positions of leadership – it is absolute empowerment in terms of development of their human resources and reorientation of the minds of the young Africans to reflect the needs of Africa today. So, as leaders, we need to amplify the sentiments of our President to ensure that we invest in the young people and give them the right mindset.

For some of us, the old people, our mindsets are very difficult to change. The Africans say that it is very difficult to teach an old dog new hunting tricks, but we still have a virgin opportunity in the young people to develop their minds and reflect the needs of Africa.

Finally, Madam Speaker, the question of political federation. If all these gains of our political integration process are supposed to be galvanized and held together, we need a political federation on which all these gains shall stand. It has been my consistent view that all these other stages of integration must rely on a politically federated region. I believe the political integration is an integral process of the entire integration process. It should not be a stage.

If you want to manage our Common Market, Customs Union and Monetary Union well, we must have a unitary leadership with a unitary political voice that will command how actors should behave in the integration process.

Madam Speaker, with those few words, I would like to support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Kidega. I now take hon. Christophe Bazivamo.

Mr. Christophe Bazivamo (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt. hon. Speaker. I rise to support the motion by the Chairperson, Council of Ministers. I would like to take this opportunity to really thank H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, who is also the Chairperson of the Summit, for his achievements in such a short time.

Having followed attentively and read his speech once again, I have found each part very important and containing many wise messages to our House, in as far as our contribution is concerned in the integration process, especially in the Common Market Protocol implementation and the Monetary Union.

I advise the House to take H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta's speech as highlights to be contained in the House's planned activities for fast tracking activities for the planned integration. And of course in addition, the House should request the Council of Ministers to put in place appropriate mechanisms to fast track the implementation by, among others, adequate monitoring and regular evaluation of these achievements so that you ensure that this speech is followed and not forgotten in the process of our proceedings. We should regularly revisit it to see that what the President requests for has been implemented. And, in case there are some challenges, we should take appropriate measures to find solutions.

What I have found is that every word of this speech is full of wisdom and is calling on us to accomplish our tasks before our mandate expires. So, on the side of the Council of Ministers, they should also deliver. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Bazivamo. I will take hon. Sebalu.

Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. I would like to join my colleagues in supporting this motion. And in doing so, I was just wondering if there could be anyone who can stand on this floor to oppose this kind of speech. I would simply recommend that such a person be taken to a sanatorium.

Madam Speaker, the President of the Republic of Kenya who is also the Chairman of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State is a very dynamic leader on matters of Kenya in particular, but also the East African Community in general. He is very dynamic, and once he takes a decision, he makes follow ups to ensure timely implementation. This has been especially with weighbridges

and roadblocks, and thereby creating an enabling environment for those in the hinterland to reduce very drastically the days spent between Kampala, Kigali and Mombasa respectively. That is something to write home about.

He has been steadfast in his actions. He is indeed much focused and result oriented. With that impetus within the Summit, I believe his tenure of duty as Chair, Summit of the EAC Heads of State is going to be very productive, and we are going to see a lot of leaps in terms of implementation of decisions of the Summit, the Council, and the Legislature because he also expressed commitment to ensure that laws passed by EALA are implemented in good time.

Madam Speaker and hon. Colleagues, the speech of the President was timely, for he was responding to his obligation as Chair, Summit to deliver the State of the East African Community Address. It was important that he did so, just like all his predecessors. And it is very encouraging that ever since this idea was put in place, none of the Chairpersons has omitted to do so. So, for him to fulfill that requirement was a way of consolidating that achievement on the part of the Assembly.

Madam Speaker, the President on page 2 raised the issue of complete harmonization of Community laws and regulations on the exploitation of natural resources. I just want to take it beyond the natural resources so that where we have signed protocols and there is a requirement to have the laws harmonized, we need to borrow from this expression of the President with regard to natural resources so that we get harmonized laws across board. This cause allows for easy implementation of the laws.

Regarding the natural resources, however, the Committee of Agriculture, in a number of interventions, already expressed commitment to this kind of arrangement to be put in place. Moreover, there are laws that were passed in this regard that the Summit has not assented to. I pray that the competent authorities could maybe be bring it to the attention of the Chair that there are even laws that have been passed in this regard and they have not yet seen the light of day in terms of assent.

Madam Speaker, on page 3, H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta raises the issue of political federation. I was particularly happy with his statement regarding a committee of Parliament already being in the process of doing some work. That shows that the Chair is proactive. He is even overseeing what we are doing, and I think that is very complimentary on his part to appreciate that EALA has put in motion a process to deal with this very important subject.

Also of importance is the fact that we should start now looking at possible models of the integration that we want to undertake as a region. You will appreciate that there are many models available, but we need to design one that is most suitable for our situation, basing on the realities on the ground. Therefore, having it, as a subject of debate for our people, is what will increase its visibility and the whole idea of why we are integrating. Wherever we go, the integration of East Africa is a common question that features, and in particular, the type of federation that we are pursuing because there are many models available.

So, if we start debating and narrow it down to the model we want to undertake, in a way, we shall be helping our people to appreciate which way to go. And in this regard, I think the

Committee of Legal and that of Regional Affairs have a critical role to play in leading this process within EALA, the Community and with other stakeholders in the region.

Madam Speaker, on page 4, H.E. raises another important aspect to do with deepening our cooperation in defence and security. We have signed two protocols on Cooperation in Defence, and in Peace and Security, which we are expecting to come into force this year.

We are also establishing a panel of eminent persons, which, together with the early warning mechanisms, will complement our capacity to respond firmly and quickly to potential conflicts in the region. I hope these instruments will be finalized before the end of the year.

Now, this means serious work cut out for the Committee of Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution to give oversight to this process because the process is on, but we can't sit back to wait for the natural process to guide itself. The President has put a specific timeframe - before the end of the year. So, it should inform our way forward in terms of the work we are planning as a committee to engage the processes and ensure that they meet demands of the Chair to the Summit in terms of timeframes. I believe that with the able Chair we have in this committee, we shall be able to do that. That is now a responsibility directed by the Chair, Council, and so the relevant departments of the EAC Secretariat have to take note that this is a very important aspect.

Finally, Madam Speaker, on page 6, the Chairman, Council also raises a very important aspect in terms of reviewing the Treaty, and, therefore, having it amended to reflect the realities of the Community. We all appreciate that the Community has grown both in scope and in terms of depth of the work that we are doing - even in terms of numbers.

If you look at the East African Legislative Assembly, the nine Members from each Partner State, the kind of work, the committees that we have, and the sectors that we are meant to oversee, it shows clearly that the Treaty needs to be reviewed in order to get the numbers that can be able to deliver optimal results at the level of the Assembly. However, even in other sectors, definitely there are many developments that have come up, which require the amendment of the Treaty to take into account those realities.

Our Legal Committee has done some work on this, and as an Assembly, we have made suggestions. We have given input to these processes but we need to oversee the process of ensuring that this directive from the Chair of Summit is followed to the letter.

Madam Speaker, with that I just want to say that it was good to have the President around. We had time with him, and, definitely, his interaction with Members and the staff is another milestone that needs to be taken to another level. I do support this report, I join my colleagues to say, let us have it passed, and we appreciate the president for the good work he did in our midst.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Sebalu. I will take hon. Tiperu and hon. Makongoro and then the Minister will respond...I thought I saw hon. Makongoro standing up? (*Inaudible interjection*) In that case after hon. Tiperu the Minister will respond.

Ms Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you, Madam Speaker. I didn't want to say anything today, but I think it will not be fair for me and my country if I don't say anything on such a key motion which involves the State of the Community Address by H.E. Uhuru Kenyatta.

Madam Speaker, as members of this Assembly, indeed, we were pleased to receive H.E. President Uhuru Kenyatta. As Members of this Assembly, you and the rest - I don't want to speak for them - I think his presence was highly appreciated. You could see the anxiety in Members and the manner in which they received the President.

Madam Speaker, the President in his address was clear when he said he appreciated the principle of the Assembly interfacing with members of the Summit. In that regard, I wish to appreciate the Second Assembly under the leadership of none other than the hon. Abdi for initiating the interface of members of the Summit with the Assembly. (*Applause*) From then, Madam Speaker, it has been a good tradition and this being a young Assembly, I think when you introduce such traditions, which are ideally new, it is always good for people to see something innovative with Parliament.

Madam Speaker, this process has given us a lot of interaction. I must say that when President Uhuru came here, we were able to witness many of the things that had been said about him from afar. In him, Madam Speaker, I saw a great man; I saw a Pan Africanist in his presentation; I saw a true East African; a people leader; a dynamic leader; a servant leader; a leader who cares about women.

When I looked at his entourage and I saw Minister Amina of Foreign Affairs, I said aha, that is a President who cares about women and always moves with them in his entourage. He even demonstrated that to us when he gave us a woman Minister for EAC.

Madam Speaker, in him we saw somebody who cares about the problems and challenges of East Africans and who is committed to working with the rest of the members of Summit to ensure that the challenges faced by East Africans are taken to a logical conclusion.

In him, I saw a leader, and I heard it from his mouth when he said clearly that we needed to work as a team to ensure that we work as East Africans, especially on the issue of management of our natural resources. I was very proud of his insight and about the protection of animals, which are the pride of this region.

Madam Speaker, when he was speaking, I could see somebody who says something and follows it to the letter. He made mention of the Kenya Tour. As parliamentarians, we are very appreciative of President Uhuru for enabling this Assembly to tour Kenya, and we urge the rest of the Presidents to follow suit because from what we were able to see in Kenya, I believe if that is done by the other Member States, as parliamentarians, we would be speaking with authority because we would have been on the ground.

Madam Speaker, on that note, I would like to thank the Governors we met during the tour, like Governor Kingi, our own, Governor Kidero, Governor Joho of Mombasa, the Governor of Machakos, and all the hon. Members of the respective councils during the process. As I speak now, I feel richer after the tour. I appreciate the concerns of the Kenyans more, and I feel proud when I am speaking about East Africa and Kenya at large.

Madam Speaker, in the President's speech, you could see a team builder, a person who was working in consultation with his colleagues. Indeed, I am not surprised as to why the members of the Summit felt that he was the best placed to head them at this critical moment. In that regard,

therefore, I would like to commend the Summit members for deeming it fit that he heads us during this millennium, and that all East Africans should work hard and offer him all the necessary support towards ensuring that we come out of poverty and many other factors.

Madam Speaker, I was excited when he mentioned that he is going to ensure that emoluments and salaries of the staff of the EAC are going to be put into consideration. It is embarrassing to note that EAC has become a fishing ground for most of the regional bloc because it is believed that our policies, as far as the staff are concerned – our pay is not commensurate with what they offer, and they are demotivated and thus slowly leaving EAC. So, for the Chair of Summit to take note of that critical issue made me proud, and I would like to say kudos to President Uhuru. I would like to urge the Council of Ministers to work closely with him to ensure that something is done as far as the staff policy and their pay is concerned.

Madam Speaker, I wish to conclude by congratulating the President once again for making mention of the issue of terrorism. The President was very firm on terrorism when he said, *“When there is a problem with my neighbour, then I too have a problem”* and made a quotation to that effect, but I won’t go into that because it can be got in his speech. He was passionate about the issue of regional peace and security. It is our duty to support him in ensuring that our region is peaceful.

So, I would like to thank my colleagues, and once again say that in President Uhuru we indeed have a true African, Pan Africanist, a dynamic leader that one would describe as magnetic because he attracts attention; he attracts people, and we wish the people of Kenya a successful period during his term. *Asanteni sana*, Madam Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Tiperu. I now invite hon. Shem Bageine to respond.

The Minister of State for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Mr. Shem Bageine) (Ex-Officio): Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and I would like to thank the hon. Members for the various comments they have made while supporting this motion. I thank hon. Zein, hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye, hon. Kiangoi, hon. Dora Byamukama, hon. Ogle, hon. Dan Kidega, hon. Bazivamo, hon. Sebalu and hon. Tiperu.

Madam Speaker, as Members observed, the President’s speech was all-embracing, and it touched on a wide range of sectors in our Community.

Madam Speaker, while appreciating the comments made by the various Members who spoke - and I know that even those who did not speak are in support of this motion - let me make a few observations.

First, East Africa as a Community of five Partner States continues to be a net importing economy, which means that we continue to support the economies from which we import. Unfortunately, in some instances our businesspersons concentrate on importing substandard goods into our Community.

Madam Speaker, a situation where a country is a net importer means it continues to get negative balance of trade and payments, and this is primarily the reason why our currencies continue to perform poorly against other currencies such as the dollar. It is, therefore, important that our

business community look at ways and means of improving what we export, as the President pointed out, adding value to what we export. We are a blessed region with many natural resources; a lot of arable land, and we could easily turn our economies round into net exporters and hence improve the performance of our currencies.

The Governments of the Partner States have endeavoured to create conducive atmospheres in which our business people can operate. Their mindsets of importing to make quick profits must change into productivity. This is a role that all of us have to try to play in impressing upon them the need to change their business etiquettes.

Madam Speaker, I also wish to comment on this issue of the institutional review. Madam Speaker and hon. Members, you know this issue has been going on for a number of years now. This institutional review has been at the back of slowing down reviewing issues like emoluments and so on. I am pleased to state that progress has been made in this regard, and the Council of Ministers will be reporting to the next Extra Ordinary Summit on what is proposed in terms of institutional review.

I don't know whether this House has had an opportunity to debate this, but we have some information that I will ask the Secretariat to pass around. Even if you don't have formal meetings, your views can be incorporated because we are proposing a radical change in the Treaty and the institutional review. It is important we do so because when you critically read the Treaty, there are contradictions, which do not enable us to move as fast as we would wish to.

We have a Secretariat, for example, which is not empowered to do certain things. Constant references to the Partner States for comment on certain issues, some of which never come, have not helped us to enhance our progress. So, this is important, and we hope that the Summit will approve the proposals so that we can move ahead and have the Treaty amended to incorporate these new changes.

Madam Speaker, issues have been raised on the implementation of a number of protocols, mainly the Common Market Protocol. I admit that there has been slowness in implementing this protocol. Many laws are still in place that fight against the smooth movement of goods, people, capital and so on in the various Partner States. We are working on this in order to ensure that we remove these obstacles so that trade, investment and movement of people within the Community can be eased. It is important that we do not merely talk about these issue but we must act and act today other than waiting for tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, the other interesting issue has been on the fast tracking of the Monetary Union. As you know, this Protocol was signed during the Summit that was held on 30 November 2013 in Kampala. The Protocol is supposed to be ratified by June this year, 2014. I know we are putting in place measures to do this so that we can start the process of implementing the Protocol, including passage of laws to institute various organs and institutions that are going to manage this Monetary Union.

As you are aware, a roadmap of ten years has been set before we achieve the single currency, but it is my hope and desire that we could do this earlier so that we achieve that very important goal of the Monetary Union.

Madam Speaker, a lot has been said about political federation and the President was very specific in addressing this august House yesterday. He did say that this political integration is not an event but a process. I do entirely share that view with him and all those others that do.

Madam Speaker, over the years, teams of experts have studied the issue of the political federation and made reports, identified concerns and challenges, and even fears et cetera. Now as we speak, and I am happy that there will be a workshop next week to talk about this very important subject, we have received comments from all the Partner States on the proposed structure of the federation, on the roadmap and action plan, and they are varied.

My saying this, however, should not throw fears into the Members of the Assembly because these are proposals, which can be discussed, and as leaders of the Community, hopefully we can agree on the type of federation we would like to have for our Community. I am confident that we shall do so.

Madam Speaker, another issue that has been raised, and which the Council of Ministers has asked to look at, is that of the employment and remuneration of the staff of the Community, which I admit has been ignored for a very long time. Information that Council was given in the last quarterly meeting was that staff remuneration was set in 2006, and since then it has remained static.

Madam Speaker and hon. Members, the quarterly meeting discussed this issue along with the issue of the institutional review, and one modest decision was made that we immediately reinstate the annual percentage increase of the workers - the staff - while we consider further this question of remuneration.

We are aware that our staff have not been looked after properly and encouraged to do more work than they have been doing, and we are hoping that we shall soon come to a decision so that we improve their remuneration in relation to other rates within our African area. *(Applause)*

Madam Speaker, having said that, I once again thank Members of this august House for their very encouraging remarks and support of this motion. The Council of Ministers looks forward to working together with this Assembly, and particularly more so when, hopefully, the role of EALA is reviewed alongside the other organs and institutions so that they can play their role in building the political future of our Community. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Shem Bageine, who is representing the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers.

Hon. Members, the motion on the floor is that *“This House do commend the Chairperson of the EAC Summit of the Heads of State for the concise exposition of the East African Community policy contained in the State of the EAC Address to this Assembly on Tuesday, 25 March 2014.* I now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, before we conclude, I would just like to remind you that tomorrow at 10.00 a.m. we shall have a workshop on Africa Peer Review, kindly attend.

With that announcement, I would like to thank you for today's participation. The House stands adjourned up to Tuesday, 1 April 2014 at 2.30 p.m.

(The House rose at 4:09 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 1 April 2014 at 2.30 p.m.)