



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

67TH SITTING – SECOND ASSEMBLY: SIXTH MEETING – SECOND SESSION

Thursday, 28 May 2009

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber of Deputies,
Burundi National Assembly, in Bujumbura.*

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Mr Abdirahin Haithar Abdi, in the Chair.)

The Assembly was called to order.

MOTION

FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE SECOND SESSION OF THE SECOND ASSEMBLY WAS SUSPENDED, AND THE TREND OF THE FINANCIAL REMITTANCES FROM PARTNER STATES TO THE EAC FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2007/2008 AND 2008/2009

The Chairperson, Select Committee (Mr Otieno Karan) (Kenya): Mr Speaker, allow me to lay on the Table, a signed list of all the members of the Select Committee because the list that was attached to the Report I laid on the Table was missing one signature.

Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, let me also take this opportunity to thank the Government and the people of Burundi, especially the EALA Burundi Chapter, and those who worked with us on the tour to enable us witness for ourselves Burundi as a nation and the Burundian people. We have learnt a lesson on the principles of decentralisation and taking services closer to our people from some of our members. I

want to thank hon. Frederick Ngenzebuhoro for his activities within the community. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I have read through the Select Committee report, and I was also fortunate to meet the Select Committee in Kigali where we sat and discussed at length about the causes and consequences of stopping EALA from conducting its normal business. We touched on different aspects; those that relate to EALA as an organ, to EALA members and to the image of the Community at large. It is inconceivable that an organ of the Community could be reduced to a level where people start doubting whether it is a genuine entity or not. We thought that was uncalled for.

Apart from looking at those consequences, we also looked at the causes. You will agree with me that decisions are not always correct. People, while making decisions, are not always mindful of the effects and consequences, and I think that is the challenge of humanity. We always make good or bad decisions, sometimes consciously or otherwise.

The report of the Select Committee demonstrates the weaknesses that prevail within our Community; weaknesses in different organs and by different officials, which calls for action. This demands that sometimes we have to go back to the drawing table and share the vision of the Community. Where is my focus? Where is your focus? What are you supposed to be doing? Where is your limit? Where is my limit? As people working together towards integration, we should continue comparing notes and challenges, and helping each other to make better decisions. One man's decision sometimes brings consequences like those I have mentioned.

I think that leaders of this Community had foreseen such a situation before it arose. When people sat and thought of convening a meeting like the one that took place in Kigali, which we keep on referring to as the "Kigali Spirit", although most members of this Assembly were not privileged to attend that meeting, I want to assure them that when they receive the report of that retreat, they will appreciate the words of wisdom in it; they will appreciate that the Community needs to take a different approach in solving problems. The Community requires people to interact. Actually, it appeals to all decision makers not to create islands. The Community is not made up of islands; it is made up of organs and institutions, headed by different people who can make brilliant decisions, and also wrong decisions, sometimes.

After reading through the Select Committee report, Mr Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for the work. You must agree with me that they have done a brilliant job. If you asked me now whether we have a good report, I would say yes. If you asked me whether we have a report that this House can adopt, I would say yes. And if you asked me whether we can fix some issues here and there, I would also say yes. But in line with Article 46 of our Rules of Procedure, I would like to propose some amendments to the Report.

Mr Speaker, if you go to recommendation number four, we understand and appreciate that the Community is not fully involved business transactions. It does not make profit, and it does not invest in different portfolios. It is only charged with the responsibility of the financial management of the Community's resources. I would wish to suggest that we

change the words mentioned there to the effect that we establish an investment policy. I think that it would be prudent enough to establish a financial management manual.

Secondly, the Community does not invest. What we have read in the Report and what we have seen as actions of the Secretariat is placement in banks. Instead of saying “investment” or “investing”, we would rather use the word “placement” because that is in their mandate; placing of funds in fixed deposit accounts. That is in line with financial management and within their mandate.

If I may move to recommendation 11, I appreciate that the Select Committee was looking for possible causes, but principles of natural justice demand that we give someone a chance before we condemn them so that they may explain what they were supposed to do and did not. And looking at the document, I never saw anywhere where the Select Committee managed to meet the auditors from our Partner States. It would be unwise for us to go ahead and label them as ineffective.

I would suggest that since we did not manage to meet them, this issue of the Auditors-General should be deleted from our records and from the *Hansard* because it would not be good for the Auditors-General to find that we have condemned them. Even if what we are saying is right, it is not wise for us to say they have been ineffective. We would be required to take a different approach, or to have a meeting with such eminent personalities before we arrive at such a conclusion.

I would like to touch on recommendation 12. As I explained before, the Community is not an island. In the “Kigali Spirit” we should encourage and lift each other up and make sure that we fight and work together towards integration in harmony and in the spirit of comradeship. If you look at the recommendation, although I appreciate that it is the mandate of the Select Committee to seek for such an action, it is always good in management to give a second chance. A second chance does not mean that somebody is being cleared and that he or she did not do anything wrong. It simply means that although this has happened, we can continue together.

Unless you demonstrate that you are unable to change, or that your ability to change is questionable, or that you are not willing to change, then an action like this can be taken. My appeal is that for the betterment of our Community, this specific article of the recommendation should be deleted so that we move towards the integration process in harmony and in the spirit of this report.

One of the recommendations of this report is to encourage inter-organ relations so that people can get down and speak or dialogue. A dialogue between two organs or institutions or between two people can bring solutions before decisions of a certain magnitude are taken. If you agree with me, we should delete this, not only in the report, but also in the *Hansard*, so that we lay a new foundation, move together and achieve our integration.

The other one is recommendation 14. I appreciate the role of the Speaker of this Assembly. I appreciate that the Speaker has done his part and has played it very well, even beyond the Assembly. I would urge the Council of Ministers to take up their

responsibility. Instead of recommending that the Speaker puts together a mechanism, let the Council play its part.

With those observations, I would request that these amendments be adopted as we continue our debate. I thank you very much. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, hon. Ndahiro has proposed some amendments in writing and given them to the Clerk, as required by our Rules. He has four amendments to this report as follows:

1. In recommendation 4, delete the expression “an investment policy” and replace it with the expression “a financial management manual”.
2. In the second line, delete the word “investing” and replace with the word “placing”.
3. At the end of the sentence, add the words “in fixed deposits.”
4. Expunge from all records of EALA the entire recommendation 11.
5. Delete the entire recommendation 12 and expunge it from the records.
6. Delete the current recommendation 14 and replace with the following new recommendation: “The Council of Ministers should update the House at the Assembly’s next session on the progress realised in implementing the recommendations.”

Mr Karan: Mr Speaker, I want to thank hon. Ndahiro for the amendments he has proposed. I want to say that for the first amendment where he is saying we should replace the words “investment policy” with “financial management manual”, I have no problem; I concede. Secondly, it is true that the Select Committee did not meet the Auditors-General of the Partner States, so I agree with him that it would be unfair for our report to classify them as ineffective. I concede to that amendment as well, but I want to say something on his proposed amendment to recommendation 12.

The Secretary-General appeared before the Select Committee, and I was amazed by the humility and politeness he demonstrated before the committee. It is only that he did not take the opportunity to apologise to the committee, but his appearance itself was an indication of somebody who had seen that there were some issues, which were wrong. So, I have no problem. In the Kigali spirit, in the spirit in which the Assembly ended yesterday, and to give an opportunity to this Assembly to move ahead, I concede to that amendment as well. We still have another three years in this Assembly in which to work very closely with the Secretariat. If there are issues to clarify, we will still get an opportunity to comment on them. So, I concede to this amendment. However, I have an issue with his proposed amendment to recommendation No. 14.

I know that honourable members are coming from different backgrounds and different parliaments, and that there are different scenarios in those parliaments. In some parliaments, they have implementation committees that oversee issues concerning recommendations. It is in that spirit that this recommendation was made. I know that in

some parliaments the Executive has the prerogative of bringing progress reports. During our discussions as a committee, we heard of situations where the Parliament is on top of things and the recommendations of Parliament are followed up. That is the spirit in which the committee recommended that the Speaker could think of having either a sub-committee or a committee, which would follow up on these recommendations and ensure that they are implemented.

Mr Speaker, I would like to leave the Floor to honourable members of the Assembly to decide on this proposed amendment because I know they come from different backgrounds. If they accept that we go the Executive way, I have no problem. If they accept that the Assembly should take up the matter, I will fully concur with them. I thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, before I allow you to continue with debate, I would like to put the question to these amendments so that this can guide debate on this matter. This is because when an amendment proposes that we delete and expunge from the record some parts of the report, it means that we don't mention those issues in subsequent debate.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Mrs Catherine Kimura (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the Floor. Let me first of all thank the Select Committee for the report that they have given this House in accordance with the terms of reference that this House had approved. At the same time, I thank hon. Dr Ndahiro for those good words, and for the amendments that he has brought to the Floor.

Mr Speaker, I just want to comment on two areas: one is on recommendation 8, which is a recommendation that this House should assist the Council of Ministers to "formulate debate and recommend to the Council regulations governing the appointment, supervision and disciplining of the Secretary-General." I find this to be rather inconsistent with the provisions of Article 67, under which the Secretary-General is an appointee of the Summit. I am just wondering how an institution that has not been involved in the appointment guide in the discipline of that appointee. Unless we are recommending that this Article in the Treaty is amended in line with that recommendation. I stand to be guided.

I also want to comment on recommendation 10, which is urging the Council of Ministers to recommend to the Partner States that the funds of the Community should be "a first charge on their respective consolidated fund accounts, and should be remitted directly from their treasuries and central banks." On this matter of charges to the consolidated funds of the different Partner States -I don't know about the others, but in Kenya, drawings from the Consolidated Fund are clearly spelt out in the Constitution. So, we need to be very careful that we respect the national constitutions, unless we want to ask Partner States to amend their constitutions in this particular regard. I would hesitate to support that particular recommendation because we do not know what our partner state procedures are in terms of remitting money. When you start talking about remitting directly or having a first charge to the Consolidated Fund, then we are, in my view, stepping in waters that are not very clear.

I appreciate that the Select Committee took time to analyse the number of days that the various senior officers of the Community were spending out of the station; we have a full brief on them, but whereas I commend interrogation into the affairs of the Community, I think that the fundamental issue would be whether these journeys made were a part of fulfilling their respective mandates. Were these journeys made far and beyond the budget that was allocated? If indeed the money was allocated and it was in line with the activities that had been approved through the budget process, I find it very difficult to question the number of trips that have been made, because the number of trips one makes -even by us the members of the Assembly- is dependent upon our work schedule and the activities that we have spelt out. The fundamental issue would therefore be to see whether indeed these travels were outside the mandate of the officers.

When I look at the schedule, for example of the Secretary-General, almost 90 percent of those travels are within the Partner States. We have five partner states, and those journeys are clearly spelt out. The same goes for the Directorate of Customs, the East African Court of Justice...most of them are within the partner states, with clear objectives to be achieved. So, I would rather that we look at these trips and question them from a budgetary point of view, or scrutinise them when we are approving the budget and make sure that there is no unnecessary travel.

When the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose read out her report, I was glad that there were recommendations there concerning the cutting down of the number of days that should be spent out of station. To me, that is the right way to go; cut these trips during the budget time so that we do not start questioning them later.

I think that there are questions that were not part of the select committee's work. I am not very clear on how that particular aspect of listing the travel schedules came in. I am not quite sure because it is not listed in the report. We need to be very careful that we do not give people jobs and empower them through the budget and then tie their hands behind their backs when it comes to performing the work approved through the budget.

Having said that, I am happy that out of the work that was done by the select committee, the news we are hearing is that there is now a definite commitment from the partner states to forward their contributions on time. It is important for our partner states to realise that they have commitments, which they have to honour in good time.

Finally, as a caution to the Assembly, the Secretariat and to all of us in the Community, there is need for consultation. If there had been consultation, the issue of cancelling this meeting, which led to the appointment of this select committee, would not have arisen. The very mechanism under which the meeting was reinstated would have been used, and a solution arrived at if there had been consultations prior to cancellation. May I urge that the Kigali spirit permeates through our activities and we consult before taking such drastic actions? With those remarks, I beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

Dr Sabine Ntakarutimana (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to comment on this report. First of all, even if we are on the last day of this

plenary, I would like to welcome you all and wish you a good stay here in Burundi. *(Applause)*

Since this is my first time to speak in this Chamber, I want to welcome you, once again, to Burundi, a country of milk and honey. *(Applause)* As we say in our local language, I hope you have felt like you are in your own homes.

Mr Speaker, let me remind the House that I am a member of the Select Committee, and I am glad to congratulate our Chairperson, hon. Karan, and all the members for the work that we have done, despite difficulties in accessing all the information on the causes of the suspension of the 4th Meeting of the Second Assembly.

Subject to the amendments made by Dr Ndahiro, I fully support this report because it has shown the kind of relationship and weaknesses within the Community that need to be corrected. *(Applause)*

Article 14(3)(a) of the Treaty provides that the Council shall make policy decisions for the efficient functioning and development of the Community. But when we were doing this work, we found out there is lack of political supervision, and this was the main reason for the suspension of the EALA meeting.

As it is stated in this report, when the meeting was suspended, a lot of information was released to the media, leading to a wrong conclusion that the EAC has no money, and people's confidence in the EAC integration process was shaken. This was very bad for the Community. In other words, this august House is aware that the Summit is the highest Organ of the Community. What we saw on the ground is that the Summit gave a directive, but there was no implementation until recently. This is mentioned in our report, as you will read it.

Summit directions should be given serious attention by the Council, the Secretariat and all the organs. This is in order for us to progress positively in our Community. If we don't implement Summit directives quickly, the integration process will suffer, and you can see what can happen to the Community.

What we also found out was that the way the accounts of the Community are kept shows that there is lack of capacity, and sufficient attention should be paid to strengthening of the Secretariat and other organs of the Community.

I will not conclude without suggesting that we have to revisit the method of funding the Community to ensure that all the programmes of the Community are carried out. With those remarks, I beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

Mr Mike Kennedy Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also want to join my colleagues in thanking the select committee for a very good report. Since this is my major contribution during this meeting and as we are leaving, I would like to thank our colleagues from the Burundi Chapter. We are ready to come back, given the very good hospitality that we have enjoyed during our stay here. *(Applause)* I also want to thank the President and the Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly, who graced the

opening ceremony with their presence, and were kind enough to share their experiences with us upon your invitation, Mr Speaker.

I just want to make one brief comment on what I have noted throughout this meeting. It has been a very engaging and productive meeting, given what we have gone through: the budget process, the debate yesterday, the work done by the Committee on General Purpose and the spirit that was able to give us the gains that were made in the budget. *(Applause)*

When you look at the report of the select committee, it also brings out the same Kigali spirit. The Kigali spirit is one, and for us to enhance it, we need to consult and move in unison. I think that is something that we really need to look at. Consultation should form the basis of the way forward. However, in the event that we try to duplicate the Kigali spirit into other spirits, we will have problems, because the outcome may not give us the critical masses, the common understanding and appreciation that we want to get.

My contribution is basically to say that, with the Kigali spirit translated into all our activities as committees, as organs and as a Community, Mr Speaker, you will see us move forward. Long live the Kigali Spirit, and let us all keep it in mind. I beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

Ms Jacqueline Muhongayire (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for according me this opportunity to contribute to the debate before the House. Let me also start by thanking the government, the Parliament of Burundi, EALA Burundi Chapter and the people of Burundi for the hospitality they have accorded to us since our arrival in this beautiful country and the city of Bujumbura. *(Applause)* After the Burundi tour, I discovered many opportunities for this country in the region. I wish to encourage our sisters and brothers from Burundi to continue working hard together for peace and security, which is the foundation for sustainable development. *(Applause)*

I would also like to thank the partner state leaders and officers, the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat in general for being available to meet the select committee, and for providing all the relevant information to the committee. I also wish to thank you, Mr Speaker, for the technical support and facilitation you rendered to this committee in its investigative work. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, the committee had no negative intention to target anybody. I want to thank hon. Dr Ndahiro for his very constructive direction in terms of his amendments. Let us adopt a constructive approach to try together and find a sustainable mechanism to help the integration process move forward to achieve a prosperous Community for the benefit of the people of East Africa.

Mr Speaker, on page 14, in the last paragraph of this report about financing options, we have explained how the Community budget is funded through recurrent and development budgets. As was said yesterday, there is very high donor dependency. If you look at the Community's Strategic Plan 2006/2010 and the executive summary on page 10 concerning sustainable financing of the East African Development Strategy, paragraph

one states that there is need to explore alternative sources of sustainable revenue for this Community.

Paragraph two explains that after having assessed the advantages and disadvantages of the financing options available, it has been recommended that financing the Community be pegged to a percentage of partner state Customs collections. I think it was 1.5 percent. It has also been demonstrated that this option requires other decisions to be taken, including the amendment of the Treaty, and specifically Article 132(4), which specifies equal contributions by Partner States.

As hon. Ndahiro was proposing yesterday during the debate on the Budget, he did raise the idea of the East African private sector supplementing the Community's budget. This alternative is also provided in the Community Strategic Plan. Mr Speaker, this afternoon I was informed that two years ago the Council of Ministers commissioned a study on this matter. The report of the study was presented to the Summit for consideration and has been subjected to the Partner States for implementation. The deadline, if I am right, was 31st December last year. But six months later, nothing has come up.

On the issue of the Float and the General Reserve Account that is mentioned on page 12 in the last paragraph of this report, the fact is that the source of the Float has been the late remittances from the Partner States at the end of each financial year. These funds were allocated for planned activities but because they are late remittances, they are subsequently removed from the planned activities to fixed deposit accounts in different banks, with different maturity dates. Later, this General Reserve Account is used for purposes other than the planned activities. The Float has been operated under this General Reserve Account. The committee was informed that that there was no float, but the General Reserve Account was operating like a float; it was just a different name or terminology. I think the problem is not the existence of this special account. The problem is that there is no policy, as hon. Ndahiro said, for managing this special account, and there was not enough transparency and accountability.

I was also informed that even now, officers of the Secretariat are foreseeing a financial crisis. There is a warning sign that in June or July, we could also have a financial crisis because there is no guarantee that remittances will be made on time. This is why I was wondering why no mechanism has been put in place, along with the budget process, in order to solve such a crisis whenever it occurs. It is an issue that should be addressed, and I think the existence of a special account within the budget can be justified, but under a clear mechanism of management.

Mr Speaker, please let me, once again, take this opportunity to thank hon. Ndahiro for the amendment concerning this investment policy. I think it was lack of proper terminology concerning the placement of EAC funds.

I would like to thank all members who have contributed to this debate in a constructive manner and if we continue like this, we shall achieve more.

With those remarks, I beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

The Secretary-General of the EAC (Mr Juma Volter Mwapachu): Mr Speaker, I stand in humility to thank hon. Karan and the members of the select committee for the report, which the honourable Chairperson, Council of Ministers will be responding to. What I want to say is that I have been very touched by the contributions of the members, and particularly by the kind words that hon. Karan, as the Chairperson of the select committee, said with regard to my temperament when I appeared before that select committee. Indeed, this has not been a happy moment for me, and it would not be a happy moment for any Secretary-General. I think, as hon. Dr Ndahiro has said, humanity sometimes comes before these kinds of situations. You may find yourself faced with the enormity of such a financial problem such that you take a decision that you regret later.

Mr Speaker, following that incident, you know very well that I have sought to be very close to you, to consult every time you are in Arusha, and I believe that the Kigali spirit has reinforced this new relationship and that it will be consolidated. *(Applause)* I want to make a commitment before this House that I will not be found wanting as a Secretary-General. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to congratulate the Republic of Rwanda for having paid its full contribution for this financial year, including the full contribution of its share for the Republic of Burundi. I think this is a fantastic model of leadership on the part of the Republic of Rwanda. As it chairs the EAC at this stage, Rwanda has been able to project itself as a role model. *(Applause)*

I also want to convey some information from the Republic of Kenya. Following the passage of their supplementary estimates yesterday, we now have information that by the end of next week, all the monies that are due from the Republic of Kenya to the East African Community will be remitted. *(Applause)* So, I believe that there is a silver lining for us, and that maybe, *Insha Allah*, starting next year, we may not face the kind of financial problems for which we use to ameliorate through the float because we no longer have the float. We will be able, I think, to utilise the funds that will be remitted by the end of June to cover and shore us up in terms of our needs for those first three months of July, August and September, when ordinarily, going by the previous experiences, we would not be receiving any funds from the Partner States that apply the Vote on Account system. So, I just want to give comfort to the members of this House that given the programme, which has just been circulated for EALA for the month of August, we will be able to steer through without much difficulty. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I thank you very much for the guidance that you have shown in this particular debate. Once again, I want to thank all the members who have made a contribution, and I want to reiterate my stand that I will be working very closely with this august House. I thank you. *(Applause)*

Mr Dan Wandera Ogalo (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity. After listening to what has been contributed on the Floor, I would not wish to interrupt the good atmosphere, which is prevailing here except to point out some clarifications for our benefit so that we do not go away with the wrong impression.

The first correction I wish to make is about an issue that was raised by hon. Kimura, and this is in regard to Article 67, where the Summit is mandated to appoint the Secretary-General. The question was: how do we come in to make this recommendation of assisting the Council to make regulations? The clarification I wish to make here is that the spirit behind this recommendation was that there is something lacking since there is no one, no authority or regulation, which governs the way the Secretary-General carries out his duties. If he does not do so properly, what are the consequences...and so on! In other words, staff rules and regulations should also include the office of the Secretary-General. Now, the spirit behind this recommendation is that these regulations are lacking. There is appraisal and discipline in respect of the deputy secretaries general but the rules are silent in respect of the Office of the Secretary-General.

Mr Speaker, considering that Article 14(3) (g) of the Treaty reads: “*For the purpose of paragraph (1), the Council shall (g) make staff rules and regulations and financial rules and regulations of the Community*”, we thought that the Council would have to ask to amend these rules under this Article so as to fill this lacuna because even the deputy secretaries-general are also appointed by the Summit. But at least for them, there is a procedure on how they can be disciplined if there is something that has gone wrong. That is all we are saying here, Mr Speaker. I do not think that because an officer is appointed by the Summit, we should say there should be no legal framework for the management of that office. That was the reason behind this.

The other clarification I would like to make is on recommendation 10. Hon. Kimura raised a question on whether we can place a charge on the consolidated fund. How can we start putting it here when our partner states manage their own consolidated funds? We are only making a recommendation to the Council. It is not us telling the partner states to place a charge on their respective consolidated funds and to make sure that the money comes to Arusha. We are making a recommendation to the Council. If the Council deems it wise, or if it sees that this makes sense, the Council is the one, which will take it up with the partner states. We have no mandate or power to order partner states to do anything.

In making that recommendation, we are exercising our powers under Article 49(2)(d), which reads: “*The Assembly shall discuss all matters pertaining to the Community and make recommendations to the Council as it may deem necessary for the implementation of the Treaty.*” That is what the Article says, and we are now recommending to the Council that if you deem it fit, take it up!

Finally, hon. Kimura raised the question of how the Secretary-General’s travels ended up in this report. It is this House, which set the terms of reference and one of those terms was, what were the causes of the suspension of the House? We thought we should look for reasons as to why that happened. I want to draw the attention of the members to the list of annexes.

The journeys we have quoted there are not only in respect of the Secretary-General. It should not be made to look as if this was against the Secretary-General. We have provided in this list of annexes all the journeys made by the three deputy secretaries-general, the journeys made by the Registrar of the Court, the Director of Trade, the

Director of Human Resource, Executive Director of CASSOA, Director of Finance and also our own Counsel to the Community - *(Interruption)*-

Ms Kimura: Mr Speaker, I did mention the journeys as listed of all – *(Interruption)* -

The Speaker: Do you have a point of order, Ms Kimura? Continue hon. Ogalo.

Mr Ogalo: Mr Speaker, I want to draw the attention of the honourable members to the fact that we provided the journeys of all top officials in the Secretariat, not just the Secretary-General. This was to show that if there was a problem, such as the one we had, and most of the officers were not at station, there would be maladministration.

Mr Speaker, those are the clarifications that I wanted to make. I thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I was going to call upon the Chairperson of the select committee to reply, but being a Manchester United supporter, I cannot miss the Minister. So, I will call the Minister to say something.

The Minister for East African Community Affairs, Burundi (Ms Hafsa Mossi) (Ex-Officio): Mr Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to contribute to the motion on the report of the select committee. I also wish to register my sincere apologies to you and this august House for having been absent during the last few plenary sittings. This has been occasioned by indisposition on my part. Allow me also to express the sincere apologies of the Chairperson, Council of Ministers and other members of Council who are not able to attend this plenary session. This is on account of other official commitments in which they are engaged.

Mr Speaker, I thank you, this august House and the Burundi Chapter of EALA membership for enabling the Assembly to hold its Sixth Meeting in Bujumbura. This development is in line with Article 55 of the Treaty and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure. It also serves to enhance a sense of belonging among the people of Burundi whose commitment to regional integration is total. *(Applause)* In the same vein, I applaud the Speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi and the government of Burundi for making our session convenient and successful.

Mr Speaker, I congratulate this august House on its approval of the Budget of the Community for the Financial Year 2009/2010. The successful deliberations by the Assembly on the budget go a long way to show the Assembly's support of the Council of Ministers and other organs of the EAC in matters of financing the Community to enable it to implement the Treaty and the development strategy. *(Applause)*

Turning to the report of the select committee, I wish, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, to thank the select committee for discharging its enormous task in accordance with the terms of reference, and within the context and intent of Rule 80 of the Rules of Procedure. I am therefore obliged to acknowledge the effort put in by members of the select committee jointly, but namely: hon. Clarkson Karan the Chairperson, hon. Muhongayire, hon. Ntakarutimana, hon. Kabourou and hon. Ogalo. I also wish to thank the members who have contributed to this motion before me. Their contributions have enriched the debate on the motion. *(Applause)*

The Council of Ministers appreciates the importance of the report of the select committee. I have carefully read the report and its attachments, and with particular reference to the select committee's observations on the causes and consequences of the suspension of the Fourth Meeting of the Assembly; the status of contributions from the partner states to the EAC Budget; the implementation of the directives of the Summit on Burundi's contribution to the EAC Budget; causes of delayed remittances; project financing; loans; the float fund; the partnership fund; the gratuity fund; prioritisation of remittances to the Community and other financing options to the Community, as well as the findings and recommendations.

The Council of Ministers appreciates the importance of this report, and will further study and consult on the important and pertinent recommendations of the select committee, with a view to agreeing on an effective and appropriate way forward. It is my sincere belief that this development has opened a new chapter in inter-organ collaboration, consultation and dialogue.

Finally, I wish to congratulate hon. Straton Ndikuryayo upon being blessed with a baby, and hon. Patricia Hajabakiga upon being blessed with a grandchild. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, on a sad note, however, I extend my condolences to hon. Amason Kingi who has lost a cousin, and to hon. Manasse Nzobonimpa, whose family has been hit by a tragedy involving the loss of two relatives.

I thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: I now call upon the Mover of the Motion to reply.

Mr Clarkson Karan: Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would like to thank all honourable members who have contributed to this motion. I want to assure them that their contributions will go a long way to enrich the report. I want to thank hon. Dr Ndahiro, hon. Kimura, hon. Dr Ntakarutimana, hon. Sebalu, hon. Muhongayire, hon. Ambassador Mwapachu, hon. Ogalo and hon. Mossi. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I do not want to talk about the issues, which were raised by hon. Ndahiro because they are issues, which we have agreed on and they are now part of the report. I want to thank him very sincerely for bringing those amendments, which have changed the tempo and the spirit of the report.

I want to thank hon. Kimura, but I also want to make some clarifications on the issues she raised. I am happy that hon. Ogalo made a number of clarifications, so I will not go into the details. I want to say that the work of this select committee was given to it by this Assembly, which hon. Kimura is part of, and we never went out of that mandate. The committee has discharged its duty diligently. We met the Budget Committee of the Kenya National Assembly as well as a number of people, and as such, we are talking about issues that we came to terms with when we were meeting these delegations. What we have put in this report are recommendations, and there are no demands to partner states to do anything.

Hon. Ogalo has clarified the issue on the frequency of travels. We were looking for what is making a number of issues weak, and absence was one of the reasons, and I think it was also within the mandate of the committee.

I am very pleased that hon. Mwapachu does not look at these recommendations as being about him as a person, but rather about his office. I hope honourable members will also see these recommendations as such. Ambassador Mwapachu may not be there in the next session but the office will be there, and any recommendation that this committee made was to enable the Assembly work without any problems. I am pleased by the comments made by Mr Mwapachu, and I want to say that his comments have made my work very easy. *(Applause)*

In that regard, I do not have further issues to raise, but only to move that the report of the select committee be adopted. *(Applause)*

(Question put and agreed to.)

Report of the Committee adopted, with amendments.

MOTION

For A Resolution of the Assembly

Ms Sarah Bonaya (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I beg to move:

“THAT this Assembly do resolve to ask the EAC Summit to delegate its powers and functions to the Council to enable members of the EAC Council of Ministers take specific portfolios.”

Dr Sabine Ntakarutimana (Burundi): Seconded.

Ms Bonaya: Mr Speaker_

“WHEREAS Article 6 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community provides that good governance and adherence to principles of accountability shall be one of the fundamental principles of the Community;

AND WHEREAS under Article 7(2) the partner states undertook to abide the principles of good governance;

NOTING that Article 9 of the Treaty establishes organs of the Community and empowers each of them to perform the function conferred upon it by the Treaty;

COGNISANT of the fact that under Article 9(2) of the Treaty, the Summit is mandated to establish such bodies, departments and services as institutions of the Community,

AWARE that under Article 11(5) of the Treaty, the Summit may delegate any of its functions to the Council of Ministers;

FURTHER AWARE that the Assembly enacted the Summit, Delegation of Powers and Functions Act, 2008, which stipulates the procedure through which the Summit can delegate its powers to the Council of Ministers;

NOTING THAT Chapters 11 to 26 of the Treaty provide the areas in which the partner states presently cooperate in order to promote the achievement of the objectives of the Community set out in Article 5 and in furtherance of Article 2 of the Treaty;

FURTHER NOTING that the areas of cooperation constitute a wide range of activities touching on day to day activities and welfare of East Africans;

AWARE that this wide range of activities can be classified in the areas of:

- (a) Trade and investment, private sector, movement of persons and labour, monetary and financial cooperation*
- (b) Cooperation in infrastructure, investment, industrial development and quality assurance*
- (c) Agriculture, food security, environment, natural resources and tourism*
- (d) Science and technology, health, social and gender development,*
- (e) Cooperation in political, regional, international relations as well as legal and judicial affairs*

CONCERNED that under the present arrangement, this wide range of areas of cooperation is all heaped on the Chairperson, Council of Ministers to oversee;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the heavy load on the Chairperson, Council of Ministers who is not even resident at the seat of the Community in Arusha leads to slow progress in the integration process;

CONFIDENT of the capabilities and capacities of each member of the Council to discharge any functions that may be assigned to him or her;

CONVINCED that for the efficient and timely dispatch of the affairs of the Community, it is expedient to allocate functions to each minister;

FURTHER CONVINCED that the technical Arm of the Community being the Secretariat requires guidance in order to meet the challenges it constantly encounters;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Assembly, mindful of the obligation to the people of East Africa:

- (a) Do resolve to urge the Summit of the East African Heads of State to delegate its powers and functions under Article 9(2) of the Treaty to the Council of Ministers to restructure and allocate responsibilities to individual members of the Council on such terms and conditions as it may deem fit.*

(b) Do urge the Chairperson, Council of Ministers to bring this to the attention of the Summit at its November, 2009 sitting and;

(c) Do urge the Chairperson, Council of Ministers to report to the Assembly at its first meeting after the Summit meeting the progress in the implementation of the resolution.”

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

(Question proposed.)

Dr Sabine Ntakarutimana (Burundi): Mr Speaker, I strongly support the motion because the mover, hon. Bonaya, has expressed the contents of Article 6(d) about good governance, the rule of law, accountability, and transparency and so on, very well. Accountability requires that if one organ like the Secretariat reports to the Council of Ministers, the Council must review all decisions to ensure that things have been properly done. In this case, the Council of Ministers does not have enough time to review all the decisions. It means that there is no accountability as envisaged in Article 6. In other words, that means that one of the fundamental principles of the Community has not been implemented.

Mr Speaker, there cannot be good governance if there is no transparency, because what we see is that the Council of Ministers does not have enough time to oversee all decisions or implement activities undertaken by the Secretariat. Without this examination, the principle of good governance provided for in the Treaty, will fail.

In recognition of the power of the Summit, you know that the Treaty empowers the Summit to delegate some of its functions to the Council of Ministers, and this motion seeks to request the Summit to delegate its powers under Article 9(2) to the Council of Ministers so that they can create sectors or departments and allocate them among themselves.

The motion suggests sectors into which the activities of the Community can be divided, as an example. The Council can change it or go ahead if they appreciate it. Without this allocation, all the work is heaped on the Chairperson, Council of Ministers, which will lead to slow progress of the integration process.

The intention of this motion is also to achieve the principle of division of work among the members of the Council, and as you know, division of work has a lot of advantages like efficiency.

In conclusion, I urge my colleagues to join the mover of the motion by supporting it. I beg to support the Motion. *(Applause)*

Ms Lydia Wanyoto Mutende (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would like to congratulate hon. Sarah Bonaya upon moving this long-awaited motion, and for the strong secondment it has received from Dr Ntakarutimana. I rise to support this motion, and I hope that at the end of the debate it will receive resounding support from

the whole House, including the Council of Ministers present here today, and that it will be adopted.

This motion should have come yesterday, or it should have been the first thing to be done when the Community took effect in November, 2001. The Treaty I have has 120 pages. At one time, in the First Assembly, I attempted to count how many times the Council of Ministers is mentioned in this 120-page document. I failed to continue because it is mentioned literally on every page of the Treaty. On every decision of the Community, there is a recommendation, "*As Council shall determine or decide.*" So, in every page of this Treaty, there is something about the Council of Ministers. It defeats one's understanding, therefore, that one organ of the Community can be empowered so much, and yet it is open-ended; it is without any clear assignments or portfolios.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I would like to thank hon. Bonaya -and the wisdom of this Assembly- for making sure this motion finds its way on the Order Paper so that the Assembly pronounces itself on this critical matter, which has been long over due. I have a few examples as to why this issue should have been addressed yesterday.

In the Budget estimates that we have just finished analysing, this Assembly has approved funds for a consultancy to profile and document Council resolutions and decisions. That is because, somehow along the way, when Council has either lost count or lost their documentation of the decisions and resolutions that it has been taking, and we are now hiring a consultant to collect them from wherever they are, profile them and look at them in terms of priority, and see whether they are overdue or not. Can you imagine that?

Since we have approved this money, we hope that while the consultant will be doing his work, there will be sector division of labour so that the work of the consultant is not in vain, so that they can share this responsibility and are able to have their own resolutions implemented, so that they don't pile up somewhere and so that this Assembly comes back one day to approve a budget to review Council resolutions and throw away those that have outlived their usefulness, whatever the decision may have been, as per the analysis of the consultants.

That is one issue I thought was really absurd in the work methods of our Council, and I was wondering what we can do, as an Assembly, to put pressure on the Council to do their due diligence with regard to resolutions and recommendations in furtherance of the integration process of the Community. If we had portfolios per sector for each minister, we would not have spent the money we are going to spend in the next financial year on hiring a consultant to profile Council resolutions and decisions.

Mr Speaker, the other issue that has been heavily discussed by my colleagues, and which has also been mentioned in the debate of the budget is recommendation number six of the select committee's report, which we have just adopted. This recommendation talks about a Summit directive to the Secretariat to propose alternative financing mechanisms, different from the current one of equal contributions from the Partner States.

If we had had a minister, under the arrangement of Council of Ministers, who is in charge of the financing sector, there is no way this Summit directive would still be hanging

somewhere in the ministries of our governments for consultations. The minister would have followed it up and he would be asked to report; but at least there would be work in progress. I am not sure that the Council of Ministers present and absent here have any idea of whether there is any progress made on that Summit directive, either in their respective partner states or even collectively. Why? Because nobody is specifically charged with the follow-up of the day-to-day progress of the Summit directive on the financing of the Community! *(Applause)*

So, I hope that this resolution will be adopted, and that somebody will be charged, at policy level, to ensure the implementation of this long overdue Summit directive of putting an end to this kind of financing modality, which is causing us problems. We have structural problems of funding; we are having conflicting arrangements, but they are seated there, quiet! There is nobody to hold responsible for this very critical directive from Summit. *(Applause)*

In our consultations with the Council of Ministers during the budget process, I asked the minister who appeared before the Committee...I was drawing his attention to some of the glaring issues in the document and I said, "How can you...I value my signature so much and I think everybody should. I was asking him, "How could you append your signature to an MTEF document that has such glaring issues here and there?" And you know, he was candid enough to tell us, "You see that is not my signature; it is the signature of one of our officials"! Can you imagine...a budget document that comes to Parliament and even that power of the Council has been delegated? *(Applause)*

So, Mr Speaker, this resolution will go a long way to hold our ministers accountable for specific responsibilities. Can we have a minister responsible for EAC budget; specifically to follow up our issues on the budget appending his or her signature on the budget and who will be held accountable for the errors and issues on the budget? Because, it is the Council of Ministers that brings budget documents to the House! But, as things are now, they can get away with it. If the Chairperson is not around and he or she has delegated, the one who is there claims they are only representing the Chairperson and says, "you cannot ask me details; and that is not my signature anyway"!

Mr Speaker, these are some of the issue that I am personally very passionate about, and I think these are examples that our ministers should take in good faith. The Secretary-General has already given an example that you need to take things in good faith and move to deliver the expectations of the East Africans. *(Applause)*

I have only one more issue as a critical example to show how much we need portfolios for the ministers. We also asked about critical core activities that are being implemented in our partner states because, as you know, we are always told that the mandate of the EAC is to coordinate and that of the partner states is to implement. So, we ask, okay, if you are coordinating, can you attach the activities that you are coordinating? Can we have annexes of what is being implemented in the partner states in relation to areas of cooperation? You know what we were told by these ministers? That there is no framework or mechanism of tracking implementation at partner states level.

Now, can we have a minister responsible for tracking the mechanisms of what is being implemented in the framework of integration in our partner states so that we know? (*Applause*) Otherwise, everything will just continue to be on paper. If you go to Kampala and ask to see the EAC projects, there is nothing. So, we need to have someone to account for the projects in our partner states, which are being implemented in the framework of the EAC integration so that we are able to also make an account.

In the next financial year, US\$54 million will go down as spent, but there is no mechanism to track projects being coordinated by the EAC and being implemented at partner states level. If you ask our ministers, they will not give you an answer; they cannot touch on a project that they have worked on, except for the Arusha-Namanga-Athi River Road Project, which they are now hanging on to and are very proud of. It has taken eight years, but we have to thank God it has worked. I don't know which minister is responsible for that, but there must be a visible link and portfolios must be assigned. (*Applause*)

As I conclude, the experience I have had working as a Member of EALA is that things don't come easy. We should support this Bonaya motion with passion. We should not tire because we shall achieve it. As I sit down, I want to share an experience with you.

When we began the Assembly in 2001, the Ministers responsible for Foreign Affairs in our partner states were also responsible for EAC matters, and you would never, as day follows night, get them for Assembly work. They never used to come to the Assembly. The only semblance of the Executive in our Assembly was the Secretary-General. We had so much frustration that we would fight with the Secretary-General, pull him down, until we said enough is enough, let us go to our Heads of State and ask for ministers specifically responsible for the EAC. I was part of that loud campaign. Many of us were labelled as being too ambitious, and that we were looking to be appointed ministers. I said, "I have no problem being appointed a minister; don't I qualify to be a minister?" (*Applause*) We took it positively, and we were lucky that our Heads of State listened to us and appointed Ministers responsible for the East African Community. (*Applause*)

Although none of us from the First Assembly did benefit from that portfolio, we want to thank God that there are East Africans who are Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs. I want to put it on record that the issue of EAC Ministers in our countries is a product of the First Assembly. We adopted a resolution; it took us time but we have achieved it. Now, today and yesterday, we have had a minister in the Assembly. It is such a big achievement because this was not the case in the first Assembly. (*Applause*)

There was a minister who came to the first Assembly for one hour in the entire five years. He came and was sworn in. We thought he had gone to take water but he never came back! He just took the next flight back! (*Laughter*) I am saying this because some of these things may look impossible but if we have decided as an Assembly that we push for the issue of portfolios, we will achieve it if we want to. (*Applause*)

In that regard, I would like to propose an amendment to this motion -and I hope hon. Bonaya will accept it. In one of the classified five areas, I would like to include a portfolio of "management and crosscutting issues", which will be directly under the

Chairperson, Council of Ministers. This is because these management issues and those that are cross-cutting are very critical in the administration and day-to-day management of the EAC organs. We don't want anybody to escape this responsibility when we have issues to do with management.

Mr Speaker, I thank you and I support the motion. (*Applause*)

Dr Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I want to thank the government and President of Burundi for this opportunity we have as members of EALA to hold our meeting in Bujumbura. (*Applause*)

Secondly, I want to support the motion moved by the hon. Bonaya. It is very important to know the responsibility that you have to achieve. When the Ministers for EAC Affairs are here with us, they are also members of this Assembly, even if they are ex-officio members. However, they sit and listen, and generally the work is thrown to the Chairperson, Council of Ministers. So, we therefore understand why this past year, we have not been able to have a report.

Mr Speaker, honourable members will remember that when we were in Kampala, we discussed a document that was given to us, which had a format of a press release, and yet it was supposed to be the report of the EAC activities for the year 2006/2007. We asked the Secretariat to avail to the Assembly the report for the year 2007/2008, and we are still waiting for it, leave alone the one for 2008/2009, and we are coming to the end of the financial year. It is very important that ministers be given responsibilities within EAC so that they know what they have to do. (*Applause*)

I remember when President Museveni was handing over the chairmanship of the Summit to President Kagame, he said that he would propose that each Minister for EAC be given clear responsibilities, but that has not been done so far. If we had a minister in charge of a sector, like the sectors that have been defined – hon. Wanyoto added another one concerning crosscutting issues, which could be gender, ICT...all this can be reviewed. The Council of Ministers can sit down with the EAC Secretariat and decide on which sector each minister would be appointed to. This would greatly ease our work as committees of the Assembly.

For example, in the Committee on General Purpose where we have the social sector activities, if we know which minister is in charge of the health sector or education, we would work closely and even give our input to the strategic plan. But as of now, this is impossible. As EALA, we cannot work with ministries in our partner states, so it is important that all of us here support the motion and make sure that at least at the beginning of the next financial year, the Summit will take a clear decision on this and I urge the Council of Ministers to submit this resolution to the Chairperson of Summit as soon as possible. I support the motion. (*Applause*)

Ms Margaret Zziwa (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I also want to take this opportunity to thank hon. Bonaya and Dr Ntakirutimana for this very important motion. I rise to support the motion on the principle and basis of good governance. The practice in the Partner States is obvious: Respective ministers are responsible for

respective portfolios and sectors, and that in itself helps to improve the delivery of services, and to oversee the performance in these respective sectors. For us in the EALA, we also operate on the principle of these sectors by way of standing committees, and that has helped us to take on specific areas, study them better and derive some level of specialisation.

As we move towards political federation, which is the ultimate goal of this integration process, it is prudent that we also see to it that the process, which is going to enhance integration, is also facilitated. I think the allocation of portfolios for supervision by ministers is one such activity, which is going to enhance improvement in service delivery or in the implementation of the decisions of the Assembly and the Summit.

Mr Speaker, I want to echo the words of hon. Wanyoto, by way of an example to underscore this point. In our Accounts Committee, at one time we were reviewing the Mount Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Programme (MERCEP), which was in the partner states. Now, due to the inability of the Secretary-General, many things were going wrong with these projects. It took a report of the Auditor-General to show what was happening. The Secretary-General, together with his deputy in charge of projects and programmes, did not know how these projects were performing. It was as a result of that challenge that we had to look for the minister from that particular country to visit those projects. And just like what hon. Wanyoto said, that minister said that that was not his area of supervision, and yet this was the partner state minister in charge of that sector!

So, that also points to the fact that there is lack of direct linkage between the work of the sector ministers and the work of EALA. For that reason, if we had respective ministers appointed in specific sectors or portfolios, it would enable them to move into other partner states where projects and programmes of the EAC are being implemented and actually take the responsibility of knowing what is going on, and even supervising them!

Mr Speaker, you will appreciate that Article 14 of the Treaty empowers the Council to establish sectoral committees. These are very important working committees, which in some instances may have to report to the Secretary-General, but these are the ones who actually do the technical work. In most cases, they are many and as they come to report to the Secretary-General, all the work is converged onto the Secretary-General. At times it becomes difficult for the Secretary General or the Council of Ministers to follow up on all the sector areas, which at times are specific. In that respect, many of the recommendations end up falling by the wayside. So, it is important that ministers are allocated specific sectors so that they have specific roles regarding monitoring and following up on those areas, and they would be able to report back directly to the House.

We have also had other situations, for instance, where committees of the House have had the opportunity to build capacity in respective areas. In some of those activities we would wish to have a minister with us, not necessarily to tell us what is happening in the Council per se, but to follow up on what we are doing. You will find in some instances absence of the Counsel to the Community because he has a lot to deal with, yet we would also need his direction. In most cases, we end up having many workshops or meetings without any member of the Council yet they are also members of this august House.
(Applause)

Some people have asked what would happen if we tied specific sectors to specific ministers. I want to say that, that can be tackled within the principle of rotation. As it is, even for us, the members of this Assembly, we serve on committees for a specific time, two and half years, and then we rotate. We could use the same practice for the Council of Ministers to make sure that at least there is consistency in following up on the issues of the Community. *(Applause)*

With those remarks, I want to thank hon. Bonaya for bringing this long awaited motion. I also want to plead with the Council and the Secretary-General to take this motion in the Kigali spirit and forward it to the Summit so that it is implemented. I beg to support the motion. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Hon. Members, before I call the mover to reply, I will allow the minister to say a few words.

The Minister for East African Community, Burundi (Ms Hafsa Mossi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I wish to thank hon. Bonaya for bringing this motion. I have also internalised the contributions from all members of this august House. I can assure this august House that I will bring this resolution before the next Council of Ministers prior to the resolution being tabled at the next Summit. I thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: I will now call on hon. Bonaya to reply.

Ms Bonaya: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I would like to thank this august House for unanimously supporting this motion, which, as has been stated, is long overdue. The need for this motion has been expressed at different fora, and namely at the Summit meeting when the Chairperson of Summit, His Excellency Paul Kagame, was taking office. He expressed the need to have specific functions for ministers. Several members of the Council also felt the need, and many members, previously and as of now, have also expressed this need.

I would like to thank members who have contributed to this motion: Dr Ntakarutimana, hon. Wanyoto, hon. Zziwa, hon. Mossi, Dr Nyiramilimo, and many others who have not had the opportunity to add their voices to the debate, which, I am sure, support the motion. *(Interjection)* I am told it is only ladies who have supported this motion. May be it is so because they are very articulate; they like putting things into perspective and are very realistic. *(Laughter)*

Mr Speaker, as we have all heard, this is a very important motion. Dr Ntakarutimana, while supporting the motion, raised issues of accountability, transparency and good governance, which are key issues to any institution's progress and development, especially at this time in our integration process when we are on the threshold of the Common Market. I think our institutions are growing and so are our responsibilities in scope and depth. So this calls for tighter management and supervision.

Hon. Wanyoto brought up many issues. She stated that the motion is long overdue and should be supported. As we all know, the Council has been entrusted with numerous roles by the Treaty. They have a huge burden to shoulder on behalf of this Community, and unless we give them specific areas of supervision, I think whatever we are doing will be

in vain because of their vast roles. She also indicated the need to hold ministers accountable and responsible, which is also very crucial in overseeing different areas of cooperation. She also stated that there is need to assign portfolios to ministers, as is the case in the partner states – *(Interruption)* -

The Speaker: Hon. Bonaya, just to help you, I think all the members who spoke supported the motion. There was only one who proposed an amendment. May be you can talk about it.

Ms Bonaya: I thank you, Mr Speaker. The motion has been supported overwhelmingly. There was an amendment proposed by hon. Wanyoto to add another area of oversight to read: (f) “financial and administrative management within EAC organs.”

Mr Speaker, I accept the amendment, and I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, there is only one thing I wanted to clarify. When we accept to add (f), it means that there are six portfolios. Are you saying there are six ministers, or do you anticipate all of you to be made ministers as well to cater for the sixth portfolio? How do you do it? *(Laughter)*

Ms Wanyoto: Mr Speaker, I did mention in my amendment that this particular one should fall specifically under the Chairperson, Council of Ministers because it is a cross-cutting issue and an administrative matter.

The Speaker: First of all, I will have to dispose of the amendment, so I will put the question to the amendment.

(Question to amendment put and agreed to.)

(Question on the Motion put and agreed to.)

Resolution adopted.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I think we have come to the end of our business for today. We have also come to the end of this plenary session in Burundi. But before I adjourn the House, I would like to thank His Excellency Pierre Nkurunziza, the President of the Republic of Burundi, the government and the people of Burundi for the warm welcome and hospitality we have received since we arrived here two weeks ago. Hon. Members, you must agree with me that we have not received this kind of hospitality in the other partner states. I think we saved the best for last. *(Applause)*

I would also like to thank the Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly for allowing us to use this Chamber and all the facilities of this Parliament. I think we literally took it over. In fact, some of the staff members here were saying that it is good that EALA came because they have seen a lot of improvements. *(Applause)*

I would also like to thank the Minister for East African Community, hon. Hafsa Mossi, for the warm welcome she has given us since we arrived here. I know she has not been feeling well for the last three days, but she has really worked hard behind the scenes to make sure there is every success for EALA here in Bujumbura. *(Applause)*

I would also like to thank the members of the Assembly from Burundi. I think they went out of their way to make us feel welcome. Some were stuck at the airport up to midnight even though they have grey hair. (*Applause and Laughter*) I would like to say, *Asante sana* on behalf of the Assembly.

I would also like to give special thanks to the Secretary-General and the Secretariat. I think in the spirit of Kigali, we should continue working together in this manner and with that we can make a big difference to the East African Community. (*Applause*)

Having made those few remarks, I would like to remind you that the Burundi Chapter is still not tired. They have again invited us to a cultural evening. I think you have to come with your dancing shoes and be ready for a long evening because tomorrow we are resting. So, please come prepared to enjoy the evening.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now adjourn the House *sine die*.

(The Assembly rose at 4.45 p.m. and adjourned sine die.)