



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

1ST SITTING FIRST ASSEMBLY: FIRST SESSION - FIRST MEETING

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

Thursday, 29 November 2001

The East African Legislative Assembly met in the Simba Hall of the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC)

PRAYER

(The Acting Clerk of the Assembly (Mr Murumba Werunga) Presiding)

(The Assembly was called to Order)

The Clerk (Mr Murumba Werunga): Honourable Members, on this occasion of the First Sitting of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) here in the Simba Plenary Hall of the Arusha International Conference Centre (AICC), I would like to acknowledge in our midst the presence of the following: His Excellency the Right Honourable Frederick Sumaye, Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania. Honourable Frederick Sumaye is also the Leader of Government Business in the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania - *(Applause)*.

Also present with us on this occasion are the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, the Honourable Edward Ssekandi, and the Speaker of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, who is also the Chairman of the Commonwealth Parliamentary

Association (CPA), the Honourable Pius Msekwa – *(Applause)*.

Also in our midst, Honourable Members, we have the Chief Justices, the Honourable Bernard Chunga of the Republic of Kenya, and the Honourable Benjamin Odoki of the Republic of Uganda. I am sure they are accompanied by a number of judges from those countries. Thank you. You are welcome – *(Applause)*.

Also in our midst, honourable Members, we have the Judges and the Registrar of the East African Court of Justice; please kindly acknowledge them – *(Applause)*.

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk (Mr Murumba Werunga): Now Honourable Members, this being our first sitting

since you were all elected to serve in the East African Legislative Assembly, under Rule 7 of our Rules of Procedure, we are supposed to begin our business by the election of the Speaker. Rule 7 (2) reads as follows:

“No business shall be transacted in the House other than an election of the Speaker, at any time the Office of the Speaker is vacant”.

As of now, the office of the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly is vacant and, therefore, our first business is the election of the Speaker - *(Applause)*.

Rule 7 for the Election of Speaker provides as follows:

“Nominations to the office of Speaker shall be entered on nomination forms to be received from the Clerk, and endorsed by two proposors with an indication that the person they nominate is willing to serve, and they must be returned to the Clerk at an appointed time”.

As Honourable Members are aware, we had a bit of a difficulty with this rule because it required 48 hours before the sitting at which the election was to be held. And circumstances which all Members of this Assembly are aware of required that we make a suspension of the requirement of 48 hours to enable us proceed with the business of this day. Therefore, that Rule having been suspended yesterday, I was permitted to receive nomination forms up to this morning at 10.00 O'clock. That is the first requirement.

The second requirement is that, if there were more than one Member

nominated, there would be a contest. That is provided for in Rule 7. As of this morning, honourable members, I had prepared a ballot box because I did not know whether there would be more than one validly nominated candidate. I have a ballot box but at the close of submission of nominations, I had only one candidate duly nominated. And therefore, pursuant to the provisions of Rule 7, I received in my office on the Sixth Floor of Kilimanjaro Wing of the AICC this morning only the name of Abdulrahman Omar Kinana. Therefore, proceeding under the provisions of Rule 7, I hereby do declare the Honourable Abdulrahman Omar Kinana, elected Member of the Assembly from the United Republic of Tanzania, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly - *(Applause)*.

PRESENTATION OF THE SPEAKER

The Clerk (Mr Murumba Werunga): I therefore accordingly direct the proposors of the hon. Abdulrahman Omar Kinana to identify him to the House - *(Applause)*.

(Proposors of the Hon. Abdulrahman Kinana identify him before the House)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS

The Clerk (Mr Murumba Werunga): Hon. Abdulrahman Omar Kinana, how would you like to take the Oath of Office, I have before me the Holy Bible and the Holy Quran?

Mr Abdulrahman Omar Kinana: I will take the Holy Quran.

The oaths were administered to _

Mr Abdulrahman Omar
Kinana

ACCEPTANCE SPEECH

The Speaker of EALA (Mr Abdulrahman Omar Kinana): Mheshimiwa Waziri Mkuu, Waheshimiwa Majaji Wakuu, Waheshimiwa Mawaziri, Waheshimiwa wageni waalikwa, mabibi na mabwana, honourable Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, I stand before you with humility and joy. I want to say *Ahsanteni sana*.

I thank each one of you and all of you for the trust and confidence you have bestowed upon me by electing me the Speaker of this august body unanimously. This is a time and day of its kind in the life, not only of the East African Legislative Assembly, but also of our East African Community - *(Applause)*. Today we complete the process of constituting the Assembly and begin the real work of our calling.

In expressing my gratitude for the great and singular honour you have bestowed upon me, I wish in the same breath to urge that we rise to the great demands of our calling in an exemplary manner never before seen in our part of the world. Ours is a small legislature, but which represents the constituency whose boundaries are international. And within those boundaries there is a great diversity of all kinds. Our calling is therefore very high.

Dear colleagues, I know that I am your servant, and it goes without saying that my intention to be true and faithful to the call of office is irreversible, as I have stated in the Oath of Office, "to serve to the best of my abilities". I have no doubt that in that service I will count on your constant support and advice. And now, in keeping with the tradition of Parliaments, I lay claim to

all the privileges that have been enjoyed by predecessors over centuries wherever Parliaments have existed. In making such claim, it is not because we as legislators of the East African Legislative Assembly want to transform ourselves into a special group, but we believe and know from experience going back many centuries that the trusts vested in us could only be well served under the cloak of privilege. Finally, I submit myself to the will of this House. *Ahsanteni sana* - *(Applause)*.

SUSPENSION OF SITTING

The Speaker (Mr Abdulrahman Kinana): Honourable members, now I suspend the business of this Assembly for ten minutes to enable me go and robe. I request you to remain seated in the meantime.

(The Assembly was suspended at 12.35 and resumed at 12.45 and on resumption)

(The Speaker, Mr Abdulrahman Kinana, in the Chair)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Speaker: I now call the House to Order. Honourable Members of the Legislative Assembly, we now resume our business and we begin by swearing in all Members of the East African Legislative Assembly. I request the Clerk to call the names of all the Members of the Assembly in alphabetical order, and they should move forward and get sworn in.

The Oath of Allegiance was administered to the following Members:

1. Hon. Mahfoudha Alley Hamid
2. Hon. Said Bakari Jecha

3. Hon. Kate Sylvia Magdalene Kamba
4. Hon. Mabere Nyauch Marando
5. Hon. Dr. Harrison George Mwakyembe
6. Hon. George Francis Nangale
7. Hon. Ambassador Isaac Abraham Sepetu
8. Hon. Beatrice Matumbo Shellukindo
9. Hon. Sarah Nanziri Bagalaaliwo
10. Hon. Capt. Ddudu Richard Baker
11. Hon. Med Sozi Kiwanuka Kaggwa
12. Hon. Kanyomozi Bankobeza Yonasani
13. Hon. Sheila Kawamara Mishambi
14. Hon. Irene Ovonji-Odida
15. Hon. Ogalo Wandera Daniel
16. Hon. Lydia Wanyoto Mutende
17. Hon. Major General Mugisha Muntu Oyera
18. Hon. Lt. General Aden Abdullah
19. Hon. Abdirahim Haithar Haji Abdi
20. Hon. Prof. Margaret Jepkoech Kamar
21. Hon. Jared Benson Kangwana
22. Hon. Ochieng Gilbert Mbeo
23. Hon. Calist Andrew Mwatela
24. Hon. Rose Wairimu Waruhiu
25. Hon. Maxwell Shamala;
26. Hon. Mohammed Abdalla Zubedi
27. Hon. Col. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete
28. Hon. James Francis Wamboko Wapakhabulo
29. Hon. Kipyator Nicholas Kiprono Biwott
30. Hon. Nuwe Amanyanya Mushega
31. Hon. Wilbert Tibanzindwa Kasaija Kaahwa.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Honourable Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, distinguished guests, I have one announcement to make. After adjourning the Sitting, I request all members of the Legislative Assembly to assemble outside this building for a group photograph. Assuming there is no other item, I adjourn this House *sine die* - (Applause).

(The Assembly rose at 1.30 p.m. and adjourned sine die)