



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

156TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING – FIFTH SESSION- THIRD ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 29 November 2016

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 11: 35 a.m. in the Senate Chamber, Parliament of Kenya in Nairobi, Kenya
(EAC Anthem was played)*

(The Kenya Anthem was played)

PRAYER

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

(The Assembly was called to order at 11:35 a.m.)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable members, amidst us today is Rt. hon. Ekwee Ethuro, Speaker of Kenya Senate representing His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya. I have, in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty, invited him to address this Assembly.

I now would like to make the following proclamation to welcome his presence in the Assembly.

PROCLAMATION

“WHEREAS Clause 1 of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to attend the Assembly, notwithstanding that he or she is not a member of the Assembly if in his or her opinion, the business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable;

WHEREAS in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of the Rt hon. Ekwee Ethuro is desirable in accordance with the business now before this Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE it is with great pleasure and honour on your behalf, honourable members, to welcome Rt. hon. Ekwee Ethuro in this Assembly.” (Applause)

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER OF EALA

The Speaker: Rt hon. Ekwee Ethuro, Speaker of the Senate representing His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya, Chairperson, Council of Ministers, honourable Ministers, members of the Council of Ministers, honourable members of the East African Legislative Assembly and the Parliament of Kenya, Ambassador Liberat Mfumukeko, Secretary General of the East African Community, Excellences, ambassadors, members of the diplomatic corps, Speaker emeritus, members of the former EALA Assemblies two and one, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Sir, I am delighted once again to welcome you to the special sitting of the Third Meeting of the Fifth Session of the East African Legislative Assembly. EALA is indeed indebted to you for consistently prioritising it in your agenda and for all the courtesies that Government of Kenya has extended to us over the last two weeks, making our stay here comfortable.

I wish to thank you, sir for you and your government’s total commitment to the East African integration. At this session, which commenced on 21 November 2016, the Assembly has deliberated on key notable business. One, passed key resolution of the House and posed questions to Council of Ministers. The Administration of the East African Court of Justice Bill, 2016 sailed through the First Reading and was committed to the relevant committee, debated three key reports and these are the Audit and Risk Committee report, report of EALA sensitisation activities and key committee on an oversight activity on harmonisation and

approximation of national laws to the Acts of the Community.

Two key Bills on polythene material control 2016 and Gender Equality and Development Bill, 2016 will be discussed in this Assembly before conclusion of our duty as the Third Assembly.

Right honourable representing His Excellency, you may recall that the Heads of State of the then three EAC Partner States formally inaugurated EALA at its First Sitting in Arusha Tanzania on 30th November 2001 with hon. Abdul Rahman Kinana as the first Speaker. As we commemorate 15 years of service, we are committed towards actualising the dream of the EAC’s founding fathers on strengthening integration.

EALA shall strive to fortify its place as the legislative organ of the Community as it serves the East Africans.

Immediately after the sitting here, EALA shall hold the 10th Inter Parliamentary Relations Seminar anchored on the theme, “Good governance and poverty reduction.” The seminar, also known as the Nanyuki series, synonymous with the location where the first seminar took place a decade ago, brings together legislators from EALA and the national assemblies or parliaments of the EAC.

To sum up our activity, the Assembly shall proceed to Mombasa for the seventh Inter Parliamentary Games tournament. The tournament brings together all Partner States Parliaments and the disciplines include football, netball, golf, athletics and tug of war including volleyball.

Sir, EALA regularly consults with citizens in doing their work. Over the years, two fundamental points keep coming up. One, the EAC citizens are keen to see a united region and secondly, the demand of a progressive

environment with real tangible benefits of integration to them.

Under the Customs Union, citizens prefer to see products freely sold within the ambit of the protocol, non-tariff barriers totally removed and evidence of an attractive operationalization of the Single Customs Territory.

Sir, I can confirm that the Assembly is often inundated by citizens' concern to see the Common Market agenda become a reality. It is especially important that we open our East African markets to the African people and beyond to create jobs and opportunities.

Likewise, we must avoid situations where we export jobs and allow cheap goods from outside the EAC to permeate our local market, which we are working hard to organise.

The second EAC Common Market Scorecards 2016 launched last month reveals a number of reforms that have to be undertaken since 2014. However, the scorecard still depicts non-conforming measures when it comes to trade liberalisation of services and compliance to the tenets of the protocol.

Fundamentally, it seems that there are many fears and suspicions that hamper the total free movements of persons and the right of establishment as envisaged in the protocol.

A time has come for the Summit of EAC Heads of state to take a firm stand on the matter if it is to instil confidence in the citizens of our region.

Sir, permit me to bring to your attention some additional issues for your consideration and that of the Summit for the EAC Heads of States.

One is the desire by the stakeholders to see the EAC Treaty amended to reflect the status

of implementation of our integration. EALA for example passed a resolution to make Kiswahili one of the official languages of the EAC, a move that can only come to fruition when the Treaty is amended. Integration is a living object and the process of amendment of the Treaty should as well be a living one.

This Assembly has forwarded to the Summit through the Council of Ministers, its views and recommendations for the amendment of the Treaty.

Secondly, funding constraints need to be urgently addressed, sir. To date, the level of contribution to the EAC coffers for the Financial Year 2016 is very worrying. I say this with such humility, aware of the fact that the entire globe, to which we belong, leave alone the EAC, is struggling against harsh economic times. While the liquidity challenges are short term, we need to look for a long-term alternative funding mechanism as a solution for the stability of our integration. We cannot leave our integration process to be funded by non-EAC entities or in the hands of foreigners.

Key to this is enhanced discipline on the part of Partner States with regard to timely remittances of dues. Sir, the budget performance last year at this time or for the financial year stood at 65 per cent. Today, as at half way the financial year, the amount stands at almost 30 per cent, which is worrying. Ideally, the Assembly and other organs and institutions are going to be affected if the remittances do not come in time to allow us implement the Appropriation Act as passed by the Assembly.

Thirdly, the desire to see assent to Bills at the Summit sitting, a matter that we have raised with you and for which it received great support from you, sir and from all the other members of the Summit. We now plead to you to see this position implemented in the

next sitting of the Summit; to see Bills being assented to in the next Summit.

Fourth, the fight against corruption needs to be taken a notch higher in the Partner States. At the regional level, EALA is on the verge of enacting a Bill on whistle-blowers and on anti-corruption thereby putting in pace a legal framework to report instances of corruption to authorities given the fact that the vice knows no borders.

Fifth, the approximation of the national laws in order to create uniformity within the Partner States in line with Article 126(2) (b) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC is fundamental. EALA adopted the report at this sitting showing the Republics of Rwanda and Uganda have each approximated 10 pieces of laws each, the Republic of Kenya six laws, the Republic of Tanzania six laws and the Republic of Burundi, three laws.

Right hon. Speaker representing the President, our integration agenda will not be easily realised if the municipal laws and not in tandem harmonised or approximated to the regional laws for ease of implementation.

Lastly, peace and security matters continue to be of paramount important to the region. I appeal to the Summit of EAC Heads of State to do all that is in their means continuously to ensure tranquil in the Republic of Burundi, Republic of South Sudan and the entire EAC to allow our citizens enjoy peace.

In addition, the fight against terrorism must be sustained and warned for the progress of our regional integration.

Concerning Kenya, EALA is proud of the economic growth attributed to a number of factors within the infrastructural sector. The progress of the standard gauge railway shall transform the region and promote intra-regional trade.

It is important for other Partner States to stick to the work plan and hook their infrastructure to the standard gauge railway. The tremendous development of road network is another. Only recently, the Chairperson of the EAC heads of Summit, His Excellency Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli and yourself, sir, commissioned the Southern by-pass that opened to the Northern corridor. This is great progress and we salute it.

In the energy sector, EAC is proud of the world's largest geo-thermal plant commissioned in Naivasha, which adds 140 megawatts of power to the national grid. Congratulations, sir. Energy is a strategic game changer and such investments goes a long way in providing employment and transforming the lives of our people.

On matters of elections, sir, EALA is cognisant of the fact that in August next year the Republic of Kenya will elect new leadership across the levels. EALA wishes the Republic of Kenya peaceful elections. We salute you for showing leadership in the reconstituting of the IEBC in readiness for the forthcoming elections. This was a bold and brave move by the government and stakeholders of the Kenyan politics to show readiness for the elections. We salute you for that.

At the end of the day, devoid of all political affiliation, there is only one country and that is the great Republic of Kenya.

Sir, before I invite you to address this Assembly, permit me to reinstate that the terms of the Assembly ends in June 2017 next year. I wish to congratulate the Republic of Kenya for sending to the East African Legislative Assembly a team of committed, dedicated members. I congratulate them for their great performance.

While the rest are still legible for re-election to the Fourth Assembly, you may wish to

know, sir, that one of your own daughter of the soil, hon. Sarah Bonaya has successfully completed her tenure of duty. She has gracefully done the 10 years of her work as a legislator at that level. I congratulate her for her excellent work.

Sir, the rest of the eight, depending on their choices, are legible for re-election. It is our deep-seated concern that this great republic consider continuity and institutional memory when they are electing members of the Fourth Assembly.

Permit me, if you will, to introduce briefly to you some of our dignitaries who we have invited to be part of this opening. We have former members of the Assembly led by my good friend and brother, Rt. hon. Abdirahin Abdi, Speaker emeritus - (*Applause*). Rt. hon. Abdi bears a permanent emblem and mark of the regional Assembly wherever he goes and we thank him for everything.

Hon. Gerald Benson Kangwana, you are most welcome and thank you for all the contributions you made while a member. Continue to host us and we are very grateful for your hospitality.

Hon. Catherine Kimura, mummy you are welcome. We are forever indebted to you for the great work you did as Chair of the Committee on Communications, Trade and investment and being a mother to all of us while we were working together. We are very grateful.

Hon. Gervase Akhaabi has been a member of our Assembly. We thank you for the great work and we continue to condole with you upon the loss of your dear wife. We stand with your family. Thank you for the great work you did while in the Assembly.

Hon. Ochieng G. Mbewo was a member of the first EALA. We thank you in absentia for the great work of giving us a firm foundation

as an Assembly. Other members of the former assemblies, one and two have put in their apologies.

We have representatives from the private sector. Amb. Denis Awori, East African Business Council, Kenya chapter chair, you are most welcome. The private sector is our main stay as an integration, Mr Kelly Kilo, EABC Ambassador, Ms Rita Kinvashé, EABC Director, Zinakaye Rujanganga from EABC, Ms Carol Kiruki, CEO of KEPSA, Ms Phyllis Wakiaga, CEO Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Mr Patrick Tunwi also from KEPSA.

Present on my right is the very distinguished hon. Amos Wako, Senator Busia County and former Attorney-General of this great republic. We salute you sir, thank you for coming. He is also an eminent person on the fast tracking of the EAC Federation. He did a great job to deepen the integration of the Community.

Our good friend, Senator Moses Wetangula, Bungoma County. The honourable senator proudly told us when the integration is eventually realised that this Community will be the biggest Community in this region. We thank you for being an East African.

We have the leader of Ford Kenya and he is also the leader of the minority in the Senate. We wish you the best in everything you are doing.

Finally sir, it is now with singular honour that before I invite you, I introduce to you the Front Bench of our Assembly, which is the Executive. I will start with the Chairperson, Council of Ministers, the honourable Minister Maganda from Uganda; the Cabinet Secretary for EAC Affairs, the Secretary General of the Community, the CTC, our very good friend the Principal Secretary to the EAC Ministry or department, Madam

Betty Minor. We are indebted to you, thank you for everything you are doing.

Your Excellency, it is now my honour and responsibility to invite you to address the Assembly. You are most welcome sir – Oh, my apologies. We have the members of the Assembly. I will start from the Republic of Burundi to rise up, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and our host, the Republic of Kenya.

I also would like to, in a very special way, recognise the presence of the Deputy Secretary General Finance and Administration, hon. Jessica Eriyo. Thank you for gracing our opening ceremony.

ADDRESS BY THE SPEAKER OF THE KENYA SENATE

The Speaker, Kenya Senate (Mr Ekwee Ethuro): Honourable Members of EALA, Speaker emeritus, my good friend Rt hon. Abdi, distinguished invited guests, honourable Senators representing the political leadership of the Senate and we have heard all the great names that have been committed to East African affairs, ladies and gentlemen, *hamujambo?*

When the Speaker asked me to sit again, I was reminded of the last time we had a joint Assembly when our own President was addressing. We also had to request him to sit severally in order to allow a few whistle-blowers to finish with their business. Therefore, I seem to be representing my head of state in all manner of ways.

I am therefore pleased to address this session of the Third Assembly of the East African Legislative assembly in our own chamber. I am in two positions; one as the Speaker of the Senate I want to take this special opportunity to welcome you to our Chamber and to our Parliament and that we are always ready and

willing to host you. In fact, our concern is that you are not abusing the hospitality that we have extended to you.

Secondly, as representing the head of state who was willing and ready to be available but because of other national commitments, he could not make it today and requested me to hold brief on his behalf.

Allow me therefore, from the onset to warmly welcome you to Nairobi city; the green city in the sun. We are always proud to host you in this city. It is a gateway to East, Central and the larger Great Lakes region as well as the horn of Africa so welcome home, *karibuni sana*.

This particular session you are holding in our country comes at a very critical moment for our region. This week alone, we are dealing with how parliaments can also be effective in strengthening the global development partnerships that we are hosting at the same time.

We are doing this when the pace of integration has gained momentum with the implementation of the Customs Union in 2005, the Common Market in 2010 and the coming process of the Protocol for the establishment of the Monetary Union last year.

I note the substantial progress that you have made in the implementation of the East African Community projects and programmes. Indeed only in March this year, we were able to welcome our newest member, the Republic of South Sudan to the Community. Although we may not have their representatives yet in the Assembly, this means that you remain committed to expanding and deepening our union.

Honourable members, the Assembly is a key organ of the Community whose primary mandate is to legislate and to provide

oversight. I will note with appreciation the legislative achievements that this August Assembly has been able to accomplish as enumerated by your Speaker.

I also note the three things that you are doing in this session in Nairobi. One is the deliberations in terms of processing Bills, the second is to participate in the Nanyuki series and I think for this particular episode, it is about good governance and poverty and that makes all of us that legislative business shall not be in vain. We are supposed to ensure that our people realise tangible gains, especially in the alleviation of poverty.

All of us as members of the respective parliaments will be assembling in Mombasa in the first week of December to engage in the East African games and these games make a real contribution in terms of bonding and in ensuring that the spirit of East Africa is alive in all our respective countries.

Your achievements therefore go a long way to deepen and widen the integration process that the founding fathers of our Community gave unto us. In this regard, the people of East Africa have a lot of expectations especially in ensuring that this process is not only on course but is realised sooner than later and that it meets the aspirations and the expectations of our citizens.

The East Africa citizenry want nothing short of a Community that works for all and is effective. They are desirous to see that this integration is bringing positive changes to their lives; a Community that works to unite the people, a Community that puts available resources into optimal use for the benefit of all. That is the Community that we, who have the great honour and privilege to serve in this Assembly, need to work together in building it.

There is therefore need to ensure timely and effective implementation of the EAC projects

and programmes that have been prioritised for boosting the intra-East African Community trade, enhancing our regional competitiveness as a bloc and in easing of the movement of goods and services across the region.

Mr Speaker, you alluded to the visit by our neighbour, the President of the United Republic of Tanzania and indeed that was one activity that we wanted to visualise in order to confirm that our relationship can only get stronger. In fact, in his words he used a very good example. He said, "The historical ties of the members of East Africa are there. Our job is to be catalysts." I think that is a greater responsibility to member of EALA in terms of bringing catalysts.

This is therefore an occasion to laud the EAC achievements. I note with appreciation the progress that the Community has made to date. 11 years ago, we established the EAC customs union and it has generated very positive results. This is clearly demonstrated by the increasing trend of intra-EAC trade over that period.

For instance, the value of the total intra-EAC trade rose from USD 1.8 billion in the year 2004 to USD 5.1 billion in the year 2015. This is a significant growth by any standards of over 190 per cent in only a decade. A closer look at both exports and imports of each one of the Partner States reveals similar upward trend. We therefore continue to enjoy greater integration of our region through the Customs Market and we look forward to harnessing our union with the many strides that we have taken towards the Monetary Union in the year 2024.

Our desire is to cement this in greater cooperation through the Political Federation. We look to augment and strengthen our ties with all partners of EAC within the continent and friends from beyond the continent. My residency has been able to encourage inter-

Africa trade especially within the East African Community and again you can confirm between Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya that each one of us is almost a leader in terms of trading in each of our countries.

Our business community represented by the East African Business Community leadership today had also been a keen partner and the driver of our integration process. I sincerely commend them for these efforts in boosting the investment profile and in partnership with creating jobs. We are therefore duty bound to support them in addressing the challenges they face in conducting and expanding business across the region. Your legislation will go a long way to improve the ease of doing business amongst the member states.

There is still however a considerable number of trade restricting measures that are hindering us from the actualisation of free trade in our region. Among the obstacles are long clearing procedures, roadblocks and the changes in applicable regulations, which together contribute to impact trade negatively. This we must tackle.

While I note the progress made in bringing the Community Non-tariff Barriers Act into force, this is also another critical area that needs the concerted efforts of all of us in bringing a long lasting and sustainable solution to resolving that particular problem.

The Summit remains committed to our emergence as a very competitive region. Indeed significant budgetary allocations our infrastructure. We have every reason to take pride in what we have achieved in Kenya. We have commenced the work on the standard gauge railway line which Mr Speaker, you alluded to and we expect it to be operational by the middle of 2017.

On-going development works on the port of Mombasa where we have turned around the time that the ships spend under cover and

increase the capacity to handle more cargo. This confirms our commitment as a country to building and achieving sound infrastructure, not only for our country but also for the greater benefit of the entire region.

While keeping up our focus on infrastructure developments, we also need to ensure that the goods that are carried on these roads and on the railway are made in East Africa. Towards this end, we all need to re-double our efforts in ensuring greater industrialisation and in boosting agriculture in particular so that the direction of trade can be reversed with greater volume from the East African exports.

Our people have the necessary will and capability of producing enough for our own consumption and surplus for the other markets. It is our responsibility and I urge all of us to take up this challenge.

Mr Speaker, to achieve the set objectives of the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC and to address the challenges facing the Community, the contribution of all organs, institutions and stakeholders is very paramount and this must be discharged with dignity, integrity and excellence. The EAC cannot achieve its vision of a dynamic, progressive and prosperous region without a strong oversight body to guide its healthy development and to hold it accountable on behalf of East Africans.

On this call, I must admit that the Third Assembly has indeed risen to the occasion. For example, among the notable achievements of this Assembly is included the passage of over 20 Bills cutting across various areas of integration. The Assembly's legislative priority and performance in the last four years has indeed exhibited keen appreciation and understanding of matters that are of great relevance and urgency in deepening and widening the EAC integration.

Honourable members, on facilitating the Assembly's legislative role, you will recall in my last address to this Assembly and I feel honoured and privileged in the year 2015 that we committed to support the proposal of a review of the processing of assenting to Bills to shorten the period it takes to bring this into force. This definitely, as you have stated, we will continue ensuring that it is actually implemented.

Let me also hasten to add that as the finalities for the operationalization of the decision are made, there will be need to ensure exhaustive consultations and engagement with all the stakeholders on the regional laws enacted by the Assembly in order to reflect the interest and the general ... of the East African citizens.

Related to this process, I would also like to urge and encourage EALA members to strengthen the stakeholders' consultation on the legislative process including engaging the Partner States national assemblies as envisioned under Article 65 of the Treaty.

It is worth noting from the examples that you have already given of the activities during this particular session in Kenya alone that EALA has actively been participating on public sensitisations on the EAC integration. This is very important for us so that our citizens own the process and so that they do not see it as an elitist process.

A significant proportion of the EAC population is still not adequately informed on the benefits of the EAC cooperation and on how they can effectively participate in the same. As the Third Assembly completes its term, it would be a great legacy to entrench the on-going sensitisation initiatives in the programmes for the next Assembly. Such programmes serve to promote a people centred integration process effectively as per the objects of the Treaty.

Equally important is the fact that EALA must continue to take lead in ensuring that the resources of our Community are prudently utilised. As we continue to invest public resources in the integration process, which places enormous responsibility and calls for noble stewardship role in all organs and institutions that undertake oversight to put the budgetary resources to proper use in order to achieve the intended objectives.

I have taken your concern, Mr Speaker, about the financing of the budget and we will make the necessary presentations to ensure that that situation is reversed. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker and honourable members, as I conclude, I would like to reaffirm the commitment of the government of Kenya to the EAC integration process. We are certain that this is an effective vehicle for economic development and prosperity of the people of East Africa. Indeed, one commentator has said, if the wildlife can migrate between our countries, who are we the human beings not to learn from them?

We shall therefore give priority to the Community agenda in the operations of our government.

Finally, I wish the EALA members who have completed their second and final term, the best in their future endeavours and particularly recognise the contribution of our sister hon. Sarah from Kenya. I can assure you that the President of the Republic had a hand in ensuring that she is a member of EALA.

I also want to appreciate the contributions that all the members have made especially the Kenyan delegation of EALA because once we recognise that effort, that will go a long way and when you campaign, you can use it as authority from the Speaker.

For those of you seeking re-election to the Fourth Assembly, I wish you well. I thank you all for your kind attention. God bless our Community, God bless Africa. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Rt. hon. Ekwee Ethuro, in your own right as the Speaker of the Senate, I would like to thank you so much for all that you have offered to us as an Assembly, and for your support. We thank you so much for ably representing His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta, the President of the Republic of Kenya, him delegating you to come and address us is the confidence he has in you. We thank him and extend to him our appreciation and great support to him and his government.

To allow the vote of thanks to come very handy, I would like to invite one of us, hon. Kessy Nderakindo to move a vote of thanks to His Excellency on our behalf.

VOTE OF THANKS

Ms Kessy Nderakindo (Tanzania): Rt. hon. Ekwee Ethuro, Speaker of the Kenya Senate, Rt hon. Speaker of EALA, Daniel Kidega, honourable Chairperson, Council of Ministers, Dr Susan Kolimba, honourable members of the Council of Ministers, hon. Secretary General, honourable Deputy Secretary General, hon. Counsel to the Community, honourable ministers from all Partner States who are present, Your Excellences, Ambassadors, Rt.Hon. Speaker emeritus of EALA Two, hon. Abdirahin Abdi, distinguished invited guests, members of the press, ladies and gentlemen.

I am humbled and honoured to be given this opportunity to raise my voice on behalf of my colleagues, members of EALA, to give a vote of thanks to the R. hon. Ekwee Ethuro, Speaker of the Kenya Senate who delivered the President's speech.

I will declare that this is a challenge for me. When I stand, my clock as a professional teacher tells me that I have to talk for 15 minutes. The Speaker gave me a challenge today to speak in five minutes.

Rt. hon. Ekwee Ethuro, your presence here today is a sign of your commitment of the slogan, 'One people, one destiny'. It truly shows that you believe we are one as we are created to be one and therefore, that is why we have the agenda of integration to go back to where we were created.

It is in this integration that we are carrying the dreams of our fore fathers that we want African to be one. We have a lot to do in accomplishing or implementing the agenda of integration of East Africa. As you noted, we were silent. This room was filled with silence and this is to show you that we are four and a half years into our five-year term so we are almost graduating as being good students of listening to speeches.

In concentrating, I would say that I could see that many did not write but many turned their faces to listen to you. I could see that many nodded when you mentioned about using the available resources to all in equal measure to improve the lives of our people in this region.

Many nodded when you talked about expanding business across the borders and within the Partner States. That was concerning the NTBs and concerning corruption in our region. Many nodded on the strength of friendship within our Partner States of which it was also noted of my President *Mheshimiwa* John Pombe Magufuli visiting your country but the relationship of our countries with East Africa and in Africa will show that we are going through what we want to be one as we were created to be one.

Many noted also on the issue of making our region competitive as a sign of showing the world that Africa wants to go back to where

it was created and it is a symbol of *umoja ni nguvu*. It is also implied in our EAC anthem that *umoja wetu ndio nguvu yetu*. Many nodded also in achieving the objectives of the Treaty with integrity in carrying our duties.

I congratulate you, Rt. hon. Ekwee Ethuro for your work in bringing the new IEBC for the next election.

Many nodded that our integration is people centred and therefore, you congratulated us in our programme of sensitisation. I would also like to mention that this is due to our robust leadership of our Speaker in making sure that this programme works and that is going to be our legacy.

I now come to the challenge. I thank you for your commitment in making sure that the financing of our budget in EALA is achieved so that we can carry out our duties, as you said, in an integral manner.

Last, I will ask my colleagues and the whole House to show that we were really concentrating on the speech by applauding the delivery of the President's speech, Rt hon. Ekwee Ethuro. Thank you for listening.
(Applause)

The Speaker: Thank you so much, hon. Nderakindo Kessy. It could not be anybody better than you could. I thank you for effectively representing us in moving the vote of thanks.

Honourable members, before I adjourn, I have two announcements to make. The first one is that we shall be going for a photo session with our chief guest. The Sergeant-at-Arms shall direct where the photographs shall be taken. After the photo session, we shall have a cocktail in which I encourage you to interact with His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya represented by the Rt hon. Speaker of the Senate.

I thank you so much, House stands adjourned sine die.

(The House rose at 12:20 p.m. and adjourned sine die.)