



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

FIFTH MEETING– FIFTH SESSION – SECOND ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 31st May 2012

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:30 p.m. in the Chamber of the Assembly, Ngorongoro Wing, Sixth Floor, AICC Complex, Arusha, Tanzania.

PRAYERS

(The Speaker, Mr Abidrahin Abdi, in the Chair.)

The Assembly was called to order.

LAYING OF PAPERS

The Speaker: Hon. Nzobonimpa

Mr. Manasse Nzobonimpa (Burundi): Mr Speaker, I beg to lay on Table the report of the House Business Committee.

The Speaker: Seconded.

The Chairperson of Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee (Mr. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the report of the handover of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012.

The Chairperson Communication, Trade and Investment (Mr Gervase Akhaabi):Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on Table a handover report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment for the period July 2007 to June 2012.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms. Safina Kwekwe): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on the Table the handover report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources for the period July 2007 to May 2012.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Mr. Abdul Karim Halerimana): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay the handover report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution for the period July 2007 to June 2012.

The Speaker: While the hon. Halerimana is laying this, somebody from Accounts Committee, I think hon. Ogalo you can lay on behalf of the committee though you should hold on until you are called upon. Just prepare yourself for that.

The Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose (Ms Lydia Wanyoto): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to lay on Table the handover report of the Committee on General Purpose for the period July 2007 to June 2012.

The Chairperson of the Committee on Accounts (Mr. Dan Ogalo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. On behalf of my Chairperson of the Committee on Accounts, I beg to lay on Table the handover report of the Committee on Accounts of the activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF HANDOVER REPORTS OF COMMITTEES STARTING
WITH

I

The Chairperson of Legal, Rules and Privileges Committee (Mr. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro):

Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this House do adopt the report of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012. I beg to move.

Mr. Augustine Lotodo: Seconded.

Mr. Ngenzebuhoro: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with rules 78, 79 and 81 of the Rules of Procedure, the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges of the Second Assembly was first constituted in July 2007 and reconstituted again in December 2009 to among other things undertake the functions bestowed on the Assembly that the Treaty and specifically those stipulates in Annex 5 of the rules.

For the last five years, it has carried out this mandate to the best of its ability in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty, however, at the time of the Second Assembly is coming to the end on 4th June, 2012. We have documented the work done by the committee in the last five years and also highlighted a number of important issues for follow up by the Assembly and specifically by the Members of the Third Assembly who will make it to this committee.

Mr Speaker, Sir, the report has already been tabled and circulated to the Members. I, therefore, beg to move that the report be adopted and passed on to the Third Assembly.

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that the House do adopt the report of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012; debate is open. I now put the question that the House do adopt the report of the committee.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

II

The Chairperson Communication, Trade and Investment (Mr Gervase Akhaabi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. On behalf of the Chair of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment, I move that the House do adopt the report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment on the activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012.

I beg to move.

Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga: Seconded.

Mr. Akhaabi: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with rules 78, 79 and 81 of the Rules of Procedure of this House, the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment of the Second Assembly was first constituted in June, 2007 and reconstituted in December, 2009 to among other things undertake the functions bestowed on the Assembly by the Treaty and specifically those stipulated in Annex 5 of the rules.

Mr Speaker, for the last five years, the committee has carried out this mandate to the best of its ability in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty.

Aware that the term of the Second Assembly is coming to an end on the 4th of June, 2012, we have documented the work done by the committee in the last five years and also highlighted a number of important issues for follow up by the Assembly and specifically by the Members of the Third Assembly who may make up a similar committee.

Mr Speaker, the report is already tabled and has been circulated to all the Members. I beg to move that the report be adopted and passed on to the Third Assembly of this House. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that the House do adopt the report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012; debate is open. I now put the question that the House do adopt the report of the committee.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

III

The Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Ms. Safina Kwekwe Tsungu): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that the handover report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012 be adopted. I beg to move.

Dr. George Nangale: Seconded.

Ms. Kwekwe: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with rules 78, 79 and 81 of the Rules of Procedure of this House, the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources of the Second Assembly was first constituted in June, 2007 and reconstituted again in December, 2009 to among other things undertake the functions bestowed on the Assembly by the Treaty and specifically those stipulated in Annex 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

For the last five years, the committee both on its own initiative and in partnership with different actors has carried out this mandate to the best of its ability in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty.

Aware that the term of the Second Assembly is coming to an end on the 4th of June, 2012, we have documented the work done by the committee in the last five years and also highlighted a number of important issues for follow up by the Assembly and specifically by the Members of the Third Assembly who will make it to a similar committee.

Mr Speaker, the report is already tabled and circulated to the Members. I beg to move that the report be adopted and passed on to the Third Assembly. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that the House do adopt the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012; debate is open. I now put the question that the House do adopt the report of the committee.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

IV

The Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (Mr. Abdul Karim Halerimana): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move that the handover report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012 be adopted. I beg to move.

Amb. Richard Sezibera: Seconded.

Mr. Abdul Karim Halerimana: Mr Speaker, Sir, in accordance with rules 78, 79 and 81 of the Rules of Procedure of this House, the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution of the Second Assembly was first constituted in June, 2007 and reconstituted again in December, 2009 to among other things undertake the functions bestowed on the Assembly by the Treaty and specifically those stipulated in Annex 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

For the last five years, the committee both has carried out this mandate to the best of its ability in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty.

Aware that the term of the Second Assembly is coming to an end on the 4th of June, 2012, we have documented the work done by the committee in the last five years and also highlighted a number of important issues for follow up by the Assembly and specifically by the Members of the Third Assembly who will make it to a similar committee.

Mr Speaker, the report is already tabled and circulated to the Members. I beg to move that the report be adopted and passed on to the Third Assembly. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that the House do adopt the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012; debate is open. I now put the question that the House do adopt the report of the committee.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

V

The Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose (Ms Lydia Wanyoto Mutende):

Thank you, hon. Speaker. I beg to move that this House do adopt the report on the Committee on General Purpose on the committee activities for the period July, 2007 to June 2012. I beg to move.

.....: Seconded.

Ms Wanyoto: Mr Speaker and hon. Members, in accordance with rules 78, 79 and 81 of the Rules of Procedure of this House, the Committee on Committee on General Purpose of the Second Assembly was first constituted in June, 2007 and reconstituted again in December, 2009 to among other things undertake the functions bestowed on the Assembly by the Treaty and specifically those stipulated in Annex 5 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

For the last five years, the committee both has carried out this mandate to the best of its ability in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty.

Aware that the term of the Second Assembly is coming to an end on the 4th of June, 2012, we have documented the work done by the committee in the last five years and also highlighted a number of important issues for follow up by the Assembly and specifically by the Members of the Third Assembly who will make it to a similar committee.

Mr Speaker, the report is already tabled and circulated to the Members. I beg to move that the report be adopted and passed on to the Third Assembly. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that the House do adopt the report of the Committee on Committee on General Purpose on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012; debate is open. I now put the question that the House do adopt the report of the committee.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

VI

The Chairperson of the Committee on Accounts (Mr. Dan Ogalo): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir. On behalf of my chairperson I beg to move that this House the do adopt the report of the Committee on Account on the committee activities of the activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012. I beg to move.

Ms. Nusura Tiperu: Seconded.

Mr. Ogalo: Mr Speaker and hon. Members, rules 78, 79 and 81 of the Rules of Procedure provide for constitution of committees of this House. Pursuant to those rules, the Committee on Accounts was constituted in June 2007 and again in December, 2009. It thereafter embarked on its functions as prescribed in the Treaty and in Annexure 5 of the rules of the House.

The committee has diligently and exhaustively carried out its mandate to the best of its ability in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty.

The committee being aware that the term of the Second Assembly is coming to an end on the 4th of June, 2012, decided to document the work it has done in the last five years and also highlighted those issues which it felt were of utmost importance so that the members of the Third Assembly may be able to follow up on those matters.

Mr Speaker, the report is already tabled and circulated to the Members. I beg to move that the report be adopted and passed on to the Third Assembly. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that the House do adopt the report of the Committee on Committee on Accounts on the committee activities for the period July 2007 to June 2012; debate is open. I now put the question that the House do adopt the report of the committee.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

MOTION ON CULTURE

Mr. Straton Ndikuryayo (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do resolve to support promotion of culture as a lever to raise the East African identity especially in regard to the following paragraphs.

The promotion of cultural activities including the fine arts, literature, music, performing arts and other artistic creations and the conservation, safeguarding and development of cultural heritage of the Partner States including historical materials and antiquities; the promotion of indigenous languages especially Kiswahili as a lingua franca and any other activities aimed at promoting an East African identity.

Mr Speaker, Sir, *WHEREAS pursuant to Article 53 the Community shall ensure the strengthening and consolidation of the long standing political, economic, social, cultural and traditional ties and associations between the peoples of the Partner States so as to promote a people centred mutual development of these ties and associations.*

THE UNDERTAKING of such activities calculated to further the objectives of the Community as the Partner States may from time to time decide undertake in common.

NOTING the fact that most developed and emerging countries rely on the culture as a major component of the development process;

ACKNOWLEDGING the case of Japan and the Dragons of South East Asia, as a very practical demonstration of this fact since it is widely believed that they have made such astonishing progress because they have remained true to themselves; to their culture; to their history and traditions.

AND convinced that a deeper route cultural foundation is a condition to achieve a genuine development and harmonious and sustainable regional integration;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Assembly do resolve as follows:

(i) That this Assembly is aware of the importance of the culture and recognises it beyond its mere entertainment function but also as:

(a) An important way to federate East Africans to create a lasting awareness of a common East African identity and foster a feeling of East African citizenship;

(b) An important tool to shape a new East African society and ultimately to change the shape of people's minds to smoothly evolve towards a political federation;

(c) A significance of EAC growth implement and once it is labelled as a sector field with wider social and economic opportunities to be developed along with the traditional sectors to achieve a harmonious and balanced EAC development.

(ii) Is committed to disseminate the awareness of the cultural dimension in the regional integration process and to advocate for its inclusion in the EAC programmes and projects;

(iii) Is committed to support all cultural actions aiming at promoting EAC integration;

(iv) Urges the Council of Ministers to endorse this motion and take up this with the relevant EAC organs in order to provide for a framework to its implementation thus allow the Community to celebrate its cultural diversity and enhance its shared cultural heritage and further more to harness the potential described under (i).

In the purpose to fulfil the above mentioned, urges the Council of Ministers to look at means and ways to ensure for a one year period and a rotational basis to designation of EAC capital of culture whose assignment shall be to prepare and host a programme of cultural activities on a specific topic chosen for its clear regional dimension involving various stakeholders operating in the cultural field.

I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to support promotion of culture as a lever to raise an East African identity and as an asset to the East African social and economic integration. Debate is open.

Mr. Augustine Lotodo (Kenya): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to support the motion on the floor regarding the culture of the East African Community. East Africa is a very rich Community with diverse cultures, tribes and traditions, which is recognised by the fact that we do have national holidays. Within the East African Community we have great social events such as harvesting; we know of weddings; we have songs, dances and folklores; we have naming ceremonies and we have circumcision.

It is important that we recognise our historical aspects. I do remember, Mr Speaker when this Assembly sat in Zanzibar sometime in 2008 and there was an urge by the then President Karume who told us that actually we do need to establish a museum here in Arusha whereby we can celebrate our cultures in the East African Community. They actually boasted to be the people with the culture and history of the East African Community and I feel that it is important that this idea be brought here.

Mr Speaker, foods that we eat in East Africa are also very important and it is cultural. It is important that we organise ourselves such that we celebrate food festivals within our countries and we hope with this resolution, such a kind of issue should be brought on board.

Mr Speaker, when we talk about dressing, as you can see in this House, we are all dressed in the Western style and it is important that we dress in the East African way like hon. Kwekwe and hon. Oyondi.

(Applause)

I remember when South Africa got independence, and they insisted that we should dress in the African way. Also in Kenya, Mr Speaker you remember that last year when we had our new Chief Justice, he stopped using the wig. So, it is this on the basis of this issue that we need to be ourselves; we need to identify ourselves and this is actually practiced by several countries.

Ms Wanyoto: Thank you, hon. Lotodo for giving way. Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise on a point of order; is it in order for hon. Lotodo to tell us to dress African wear when in the Rules of Procedure are very clear on the dress code and particularly where I come from, when you are talking about my cultural African wear, you don't dress upwards, even down. So, is he in order that he wants to amend the Rules of Procedure so that when I come here in my cultural dress it is centrally to the Rules of Procedure?

Mr. Lotodo: Thank you very much, hon. Member.

The Speaker: Hon. Member, I don't think he was trying to tell us to dress in that way; he was just suggesting. But I would also like to ask, I don't know whether hon. Safina made those clothes herself or they are made in China or Germany?

(Laughter)

Mr. Lotodo: Thank you, hon. Speaker. Actually this is the motion that we are discussing such that when it is adopted by the House, I am very sure the House will find a way of amending and doing the way hon. Lydia Mutende is proposing.

Mr Speaker, being proud of your culture is something that we do need to take cognisance of- *(Interjections)* – Mr Speaker, we need to take consideration of the language; it is a big issue.

(Laughter)

The Speaker: It will be difficult for all of us to understand and for courts.

Mr. Lotodo: Thank you, hon. Speaker. I just want to say that being proud of our culture is a very important element in this world. It is very sad that not only should we drop our language but also drop our dressing. I want also to mention something about the Indian people who have their own dressing and they are proud of their language. The same applies to the Chinese and other cultures in the East. We need to go back and see where we got it wrong.

The last point I would like to bring up is about tourism promotion, which is the main aspect whereby tourists visit Africa in general and East Africa in particular is to the amazement that we have a strong culture, traditions, very good songs and they would like to identify with us. So, in support of this motion, I will urge the House to stand up and defend the African culture; the African traditions and our way of life. I beg to support.

(Applause)

Ms Margaret Zziwa (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, Sir. I would like to support the motion raised by hon. Ndikuryayo and I would like to thank him for bringing this very important motion.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I have served on the Committee of General Purpose and on one of the field visits when we went to meet the youth, women and other personalities involved with the issues of culture. We were authoritatively informed that the area of culture is so vital to the people of East Africa that we need to take it up and raise it to a higher pedestal in terms of physical activities to be undertaken by the EAC so that the East Africaness is sounded in addition to the other official instruments like the other East African Passport.

In addition to other official ceremonies, they insisted that we need to support activities like art and music, which give an opportunity to exhibit the diversity of our music; the diversity of our dance; the diversity of our artefacts and the diversity and beauty of our dress code.

I am supporting this motion because these facts of music and culture are highly intertwined in our daily lives. And in most cases we tend to relegate them to our homesteads. In most cases when we come to the formal set up, we leave them behind including our languages. But I know that if there is this opportunity, and the Council has raised this important assessment of our cultural activity, we shall be able to appreciate why, for instance, the Masaai dance while going up and we would see the similarity between the Masaai dance and the Ankole or Nyarwanda dance with hands up.

Mr Speaker, that talks volumes about their way of life. Living with cattle, for example, may be one of the most significant aspects looked at from different perspectives; you may imagine that they are totally different. But when you relate them when you relate them with a cow, then you will see how similar these people are and what you are driving at is developing or enhancing the similarity of our Africaness or East Africaness so that we are able to integrate further.

I would like to salute the musicians like- I will quote those I know – Jose Chameleon from Uganda, whom is one of the local artists who sing some of those songs that if you went to any part of East Africa whether in Dar-es- Salaam or in Mandela, you will hear young people singing or dancing to those tunes even though they don't know the words. And that in itself is a very important signal to show us that we need to take advantage of this to integrate our people. Through this kind of arrangement, we shall be able to promote this culture of East Africa.

Mr Speaker, I also want to add that the African dress code is so rich. You are able to tell when you go for international conferences and meetings when an African walks in putting on a *kitenge* you will immediately tell that this is an African. And we know very well that there are many diverse – (*Interjections*) – *kitenge* is maybe an English word or maybe an African word to mean the batiks made from fabric that African women mainly put on. But there is a common factor or denominator in most of these African wears, which I think, it is important that when we start the African culture, we shall also be able to promote what I will call the East African fashion.

Every other time we see the European cut walk in may even feel offensive when we look at it without explanation. I would like to say that when we promote the East African culture in form of dress, we shall actually put out all the values which we see in our dress code. I know very well that many of our dress codes emphasise what I would call covering - (*Laughter*)- the size of the dress may not matter but beauty within the African dressing is about the vastness of the dress covering- yes, I will repeat it- one's self so that it is presented in all this regalia which do not seem – (*Interjections*)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I know hon. Zziwa is exciting you but please, let her finish.

(*Laughter*)

Ms Zziwa: So, Mr Speaker, I would like to support the fact that if this East African cultural year and week is arranged, we shall be able to see all this diversity and start getting convergence in some of these areas where we have strong points.

I would like to conclude by saying that this arrangement when raised to the level of the Council of Ministers will give the Council the obligation to allocate funding to this activity. It will give the Partner States obligation to plan for these activities; it will be an opportunity for the Partner States stakeholders both in the field of culture to be able to exhibit what we call best practices and in this way, we shall be able to build a common East Africa.

I want to salute the efforts of having the East African Anthem. I want to share with you that over last week when we were holding our national elections to the East African Legislative Assembly, I took the opportunity to sing the East African Anthem to my Parliament - (*Applause*) - that in itself brought the East Africaness which in most cases is missing. I want to see many more of such activities being promoted at the regional level so that we are able to forge a common East Africa with common values and a common backbone. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now put the question that this Assembly do resolve to support promotion of culture as a lever to raise an East African identity and as an asset to the East African social and economic integration.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

MOTION ON AID EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to ask that this Assembly adopt the resolution of the Second Assembly on aid effectiveness and partnership for effective development cooperation. I beg to move.

Mr. Gervase Akhaabi: Seconded.

Dr. Nyiramilimo: Mr Speaker, Sir, *WHEREAS the high level forum on aid effectiveness in Paris, the Accra Agenda for Action and the Busan Partners for effective development cooperation are significant in addressing the challenges in meeting the MDGs;*

AND WHEREAS, the high level meetings that have been held came out with binding resolutions such as the Paris Declaration, the Accra Gender For Action, the Busan Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, which have provided a platform and, therefore, an opportunity for the world leaders, parliamentarians, technocrats, civil society, private sector, academicians etcetera to effectively participate in the search for solutions to the world related poverty problems that MDGs are trying to alleviate;

AND WHEREAS, the East African Legislative Assembly has been effectively represented at the high level forums and indeed is held in high esteem due to its quality presentations;

AND WHEREAS, the East African Legislative Assembly Members have also been participating in all these forums in their capacity as members of the Executive Committee of the network of African Parliamentarians on Aid Effectiveness;

CONVINCED that the East African Community and her people stand to gain due to the rich expertise and deep sense of knowledge from these international meetings, which eventually become subjects of debate in the Assembly culminating into very good recommendations on policy proposals to the EAC Council of Ministers;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Assembly do resolve that the handover report attached to this report is adopted and do pass. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to adopt the report on aid effectiveness and partnership for effective development cooperation. Debate is open.

Mr. Gervase Akhaabi (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Hon. Members, for a very long time aid has been used as a tool for development. However, its effectiveness has not been felt over all the years that it has been advanced as a tool for development. It was because of this realisation that there have been a number of conferences culminating in the conference in Paris resulting in the Paris Declaration and the one in Accra, the Accra Agenda for Action (AAA).

Mr Speaker, Sir, I thank you and the Assembly for nominating hon. Dr Odette and myself to attend the Busan Conference on Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation. One of the most momentous outcomes of this conference was the inclusion of parliamentarians in these consultative undertakings. It was realised that the exclusion of Members of Parliament in negotiations leading to agreements on aid in our Partner States has not helped in ensuring aid effectiveness and in that conference, it was resolved that it would not just be aid effectiveness but development effectiveness.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we as an Assembly are extremely lucky and indeed we command a position of respect in the region and in the world for having been very active under your guidance in this consultative forum.

The effectiveness of aid in development cannot be measured without an effective oversight role and this effective oversight role can only be assured through Parliament. It is, therefore, extremely satisfying that at Busan, Parliament was incorporated in these forums. And it is for this reason that we are urging this Assembly to adopt the report that has been presented which gives the way forward so that the Members of Parliament, both the regional Parliament like ours and national Parliaments, are actively engaged in matters relating to aid and how that aid is used

to stimulate development and sustain it. I, therefore, urge the House to support this motion and adopt the report.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Ms. Jacqueline Muhongayire (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir for according me this opportunity to contribute to this motion. I wish to thank the mover of the motion, hon. Nyiramilimo and I have a few comments on aid effectiveness.

Regarding aid effectiveness from the Paris Declaration to the Accra Agenda for Action, African Partner States committed themselves to work within the main five pillars including ownership, alignment, harmonisation, managing resources for results and improving decision making for results and meet accountability where development partners must be accountable for development results and meet assessment reviews.

Mr Speaker, as hon. Akhaabi said, Members of Parliament have a critical role and responsibility in ensuring ownership of development processes. Yesterday, the Assembly approved the budget of the financial year 2012/13 where more than 70 percent of the budget is donor funded and allocated to development projects and programmes of the Community. But, one of the problems of aid inefficiency and inefficacy has been shown that it is the result of non-involvement or little involvement of parliamentarians in the whole process of aid at all levels. Therefore, the Council of Ministers, the East African Community Secretariat and EALA should work more closely for the benefit and welfare of the people of East Africa.

EALA Members as representatives and the voice of the people of East Africa, we should ensure that the East Africa Community development policies, projects and development programmes are implemented efficiently and effectively. EALA should be informed on all aid flows from the negotiation processes, policy, project programmes and preparation to the ratification of agreements.

All development projects and programmes should be properly audited and value for money carried out. Therefore, there is need to strengthen the monitoring and evaluation mechanisms at the EAC Secretariat and at EALA level financially and logistically specifically for the donor funds.

As parliamentarians, we are the future of the East African Community and the East African Community integration process is in our hands. So, with these few comments, I beg to support the motion. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now put the question that this Assembly do resolve to adopt the report on aid effectiveness and partnership for effective development cooperation.

(Question put, and agree to.)

MOTION

Mr. Clarkson Otieno Karan (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that this Assembly do resolve to urge the Summit of EAC Heads of State to intervene and resolve the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan and relate matters. I beg to move.

Mr Leonce Ndarubagiye: Seconded.

Mr. Karan: Mr Speaker, “*WHEREAS Sudan and South Sudan became two separate countries on 9th July, 2011 when South Sudan attained her independence making the newest independent nation;*

Whereas the separation into two independent nations provided a beckon of hope to the two countries to work together peacefully and co-exist as separate entities since the war they fought from 1983 until the time of the negotiated peace agreement was more about a war of independence and, therefore, with the independence this concern appeared effectively resolved and all other concerns are well documented in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;

Whereas the East African Community Partnership were in a celebratory mood cratered by the independence of South Sudan because they for the first time realised that peace would reign at the borders of the East African Community on the side of South Sudan while at the same time craved for the economic opportunities between and amongst the people of the East African Community and those of our neighbours in South Sudan.

Considering that this House translated the joy of East Africans on the attainment of independence into a resolution which was acclaimed both regionally and internationally congratulating South Sudan and urging all stakeholders including the East African Community to work together to build the economic, political, social, security and other forms of livelihood support for this new nation while at the same time helping it to unlock its vast economic potential.

Concerned, however, that since the separation of the two countries their relationship has been volatile culminating into among others occupation of territory, economic blockage especially in the transportation of South Sudan crude oil through the pipelines running through Sudan and levying on high tariffs for transportation of oil, disputes above the rights of the two nations;

Further concerned that the returns on trade for the East African Partner States and her people have greatly declined causing misery to our traders in South Sudan who have even urged their separate governments to intervene;

Aware that several continental and international efforts especially from the AU, UN, EU and respective Partner States are all trying to resolve the problem between the two countries;

Now, therefore, this Assembly do resolve as follows:

(i) Urge the East African Community through the Summit of the Heads of State to bring the two countries to the ongoing negotiations to conform to the requirements of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement;

(ii) Urge the East African Community to fast track the admission of South Sudan into the Community in accordance with the requirements of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community;

(iii) Direct the Secretary General to transmit this resolution to the Chairperson of the Summit of the East African Heads of State for further action.” I beg to move.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to urge the Summit of the EAC Heads of State to intervene and resolve the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan and related matters. Debate is open.

Mr. Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I have been on a mission initiated by you, Rt hon. Speaker to South Sudan thrice. The first time I was in a mission led by hon. Abdul Karim Halerimana for a fact finding mission and we saw how eager the people of South Sudan wanted to be independent. I again returned there under hon. Halerimana as the team leader when we were supervising the referendum for independence and finally as member of the delegation that you, Mr Speaker led to Juba for the independence celebrations.

I developed a kind of sympathy for South Sudan for a very simple reason that they have gone through something similar to what Burundi went through. They were given to Sudan as a present in 1956 when Sudan became independent like we were given by the winner of the World War I to the Belgians for having participated in the Congo-Belgium/ Rwanda-Burundi War; can you imagine how painful such a situation is?

South Sudan has been fighting for its independence for many years. The first Anyanya War lasted them 20 years; the second liberation war- SPLM/A lasted from 83 to the time of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on 6th January, 2005. The two wars took about 3 million lives.

When we went to see the Rt hon. Speaker of South Sudan Parliament, James Wani Igga, he told us that although they knew there were some issues that had not yet been resolved, they were ready to face independence even before they agreed on certain specifics like the borders, wealth in South Sudan and what we are seeing today that South Sudan is being attacked, is like what we see in a country that is rich though weak. Those who are stronger think that they can take it by force.

South Sudan used to be an Anglo –Egyptian condominium together with Sudan but was separate. They put them together in 1956, as I said before. Those people have been fighting for independence for so long that they really need our support and need peace.

For anyone who has been to South Sudan, you can imagine that you are landing on another planet. Modernisation never got there; they are still in thatched huts without tarmac roads that even the Belgians left in Bujumbura. But there is nothing in South Sudan. It is really a pity that people who are ready to work and develop their country which has a lot of wealth are being left in abject poverty. Those people need a rest after a long time and only work on their economic development. I, therefore, fully support the motion and beg the House to pass it.

Ms Safina Kwekwe (Kenya): Mr Speaker, let me start by thanking hon. Karan for consistently moving motions that led to the state of South Sudan. I would also like to thank you for giving this House the opportunity to debate this sort of matters, which are at the heart of our region.

Mr Speaker, hon. Ndarubagiye has given the history of Sudan and South Sudan very eloquently and whereas on 9th of July South Sudan became an independent state, prior to that as part of the larger Sudan, it holds a very key spot in the history, not only of the Sudanese and South Sudanese, but of the Africans. And we as the region of East Africa have a lot correlation and relationships with both the Sudan and South Sudan.

The issues of contention that have been advanced are the issues of access to Port Sudan on the Sudan's Red Sea; the issue of abuse of the refinery infrastructure in the Sudan and how to share the costs of refining the oil that comes from South Sudan; the issues of who owns what from the proceeds of oil but hon. Speaker, these are, in my view, issues that can be dealt with because the areas of convergence between Sudan and South Sudan are so numerous and immense, for example, both countries are agro based. If you look at Sudan as a country, 39 percent of its GDP is from agriculture. And agriculture is the third most powerful economic sector though the major foreign exchange comes from oil and the same applies to South Sudan.

But the similarity of these two countries is that both of them are precariously reliant on oil revenue to fund their budgets. Therefore, this precarious nature of their revenue sources in itself should be a means or a catalyst to bring these two countries together so that they can be able to think of how to diversify their economies. 98 percent of the budget of the Government of South Sudan is from oil revenue whereas 61 percent of the budget of the Republic of Sudan is from oil. So, both of them are precariously dependant on oil revenue and, therefore, should be able to find a common ground on how to diversify their economies because oil is a finite resource.

Mr Speaker, Sir, when you look at the opportunities that pertain between the Sudan and South Sudan, they are very rich in as far as natural resources are concerned. Over and above petroleum, you have iron ore, copper, chromium, gold, diamonds, hard wood, hydro power from the River Nile and other tributaries. So, these two countries can actually work together; exploit the natural resources to the mutual benefit of both countries. It is only putting emphasis in the areas where

they have differences is in my view a futile agenda and a futile cause. They have so much that they can work together in common to build the economies of the two countries and of the region.

The cost of this conflict if it is to escalate into a war, Mr Speaker and hon. Members, we know it will be enormous. Other than destruction and loss of property, the loss of lives, displacement of persons, draining of the resources, not only of the two countries, but also of the neighbouring countries through settlement of those refugees, providing of medical care of refugees, providing for education and all the other social amenities that the people who are running away from this conflict need will rest with the region. So, the region is a key stakeholder and is a party that should be interested, and of course it is interested, but should be more interested in settling the conflict that is in the offing between Sudan and South Sudan because the cost of that conflict will be heavily felt by the region, in my view, more than the two countries.

So, Mr Speaker, South Sudan and Sudan also have one area where they have a common interest; they both share an external debt of \$ 38 billion, which has been accumulated over the last five decades. They should be thinking of how to settle this external debt instead of creating more turmoil that will increasingly usurp and drain the already constrained sources of the two countries. So, it is upon the region and its leaders to look for all means and ways of solving this conflict. I beg to support the motion as moved. Thank you, Sir.

Mr. Eriya Kategaya (Uganda): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. Hon. Speaker and hon. Members of the House, I was involved in the issues of Sudan since 1987. I have been forced to contribute because of what my sister, hon. Kwekwe has talked about.

I think there is a fundamental difference in Sudan which cannot be resolved by saying the two countries should work together. Khartoum believes that the government, the laws and the regulations must be Sharia based. This is the biggest problem that is in Sudan. In our efforts, we had tried to convince Khartoum that Sudan should be a secular state recognising all the religions of the people in Sudan.

The second problem is that Khartoum believes Sudan is an Arab state and we know that the people in South Sudan are definitely not Arabs, if you look at them. They are actually “blue” and not “black.”

(Laughter)

Even when the late John Garang was starting his struggle, we supported his line of saying, “I don’t want Sudan to be divided; I want one Sudan but a reformed Sudan, which recognises that there is a diversity in Sudan like most African countries.”

Secondly, we thought that Sudan would be a bridge between what we would call “Arab Africa” and “Black Africa,” but Khartoum was not listening to this type of thing. So, for me the breakup

of Sudan was just logical; there is no way a Southern Sudanese could remain in that arrangement.

As some of my colleagues have said, South Sudan is rich in agriculture; it is rich in oil but there is hardly any development. There are no roads, no schools, no health centres; the Southern Sudanese are just living like in those days when God created that area- (*Laughter*) - natural way. So, if we had intelligent leadership in Khartoum, if I may use the word, is to really address the grievances or the people of Southern Sudan to make sure they are equal in the Sudan.

Mr Speaker, I may quote you an example, I met one of the leaders who is now Vice President in Khartoum and we were talking about a secular state and he told me that it is unthinkable that there could be a non Muslim as Head of State of Sudan. In fact I asked him that supposing a Muslim girl falls in love with a non Muslim man, what would happen. He said, “The man must convert or the girl should be killed.” (*Interjections*) Yes he is now Vice President of Sudan. So, for me the separation was just inevitable. There is no way. What the region should do is just to support the people of Southern Sudan to make sure they are strong enough to defend their identity as people and later on develop. There is no shortcut in that one.

I know the problems of South Sudan will definitely spill over and Uganda knows that problem very well. We have had refugees from Sudan; I remember when I was young in secondary school we had students running away as refugees from South Sudan. In fact some of them went to Makerere as students and were employed in Uganda as Ugandans. There was one very good poet called Ariong. So, it may be difficult; it may be hurting but I think we have to pay the price.

For me the question of South Sudan is a liberation question. Should people lose their identity just because they are weak or should we support them so that they can have their identity and then they can discuss their economic aspects and how to share their resources? But the independence of South Sudan was correct and we should support them to strengthen them so that we can help them to stand on their own and defend their rights. Mr Speaker, I support the motion.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now put the question that the Assembly do resolve to urge the Summit of EAC Heads of State to intervene and resolve the conflict between Sudan and South Sudan and related matters.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

MOTION

Dr. James Ndahiro (Rwanda): Hon. Speaker, I am seeking your indulgence on a matter of presentation. I have asked hon. Muhongayire to present the motion on my behalf.

The Speaker: Okay, hon. Muhongayire.

Ms Jacqueline Muhongayire (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to move that this Assembly do resolve to urge the EAC Secretary General and the Council of Ministers to enhance access for persons with disabilities to the new EAC Headquarters.

I beg to move.

Ms Jacqueline Muhongayire: Seconded.

Ms Muhongayire: Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir; Resolution of the Assembly urging the Secretary General and the Council of Ministers to enhance access for persons with disabilities to the new EAC Headquarters.

“WHEREAS the East African Community is grateful to the Federal Republic of Germany for availing funds required to construct a new EAC Headquarters building in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania;

WHEREAS the construction of the said headquarters is on course and nearing completion and will soon be occupied by Members and officers of the Community;

NOTWITHSTANDING that the Assembly held its sitting on the 24th June, 2012 in the EALA Chamber at the new EAC Building;

AND WHEREAS the sitting of 24th June, 2012 provided an excellent opportunity for the Assembly and its Members to get acquainted with their new home, especially the chamber, the EALA offices and the precincts of the EAC Parliament which enabled this Assembly to immediately take note of glaring omissions that touch on accessibility to the various points of the building by persons with disability, for example, the EALA Chamber is not designed with a gentle slopping panel to aid those in wheel chairs or those with visual impairment;

FURTHERMORE, the EALA Wing, especially the First Floor and the Third Floor don't have the state of the art toilets for people with disabilities;

COGNISANT of the fact that persons with disabilities are expected to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life and, therefore, it is necessary that measures to ensure that they have access on equal basis with others to physical environment, transportation, information and communication, which should generally lead to the elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility in our new headquarters;

AWARE that the EAC Treaty in Article 20 specifically enjoins the Partner States to closely cooperate amongst themselves in the field of social welfare to develop and adopt common approaches towards the disadvantaged and marginalised groups, a specific case in point being, access to various locations at the headquarters for people with disabilities and even the elderly East Africans;

CONVINCED that the Secretary General under his functions stipulated in Article 67(3) can cause the necessary alterations, not only in EALA Chamber, the EALA offices and facilities at the EALA wing, but also the entire building including the offices and facilities in the wing for the Court and Secretariat;

NOW, THEREFORE, this Assembly do resolve to urge the Secretary General and the Council of Ministers to enhance access of persons with disabilities to the new East African Community Headquarters.” I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to urge the EAC Secretary General and the Council of Ministers to enhance access of persons with disabilities to the New EAC Headquarters. Debate is open.

Dr. Ndahiro: Mr Speaker, allow me first of all to move an amendment on the Article-*(Interjections)* - yes, it is Article 120 and not Article 20. Maybe it was a typo.

Mr Speaker, when we moved to the new chamber, I had a chance to move around but the first challenge I met was the stairs. It is very difficult to appreciate that a building built in this modern era of the 21st Century can be inaccessible and not user friendly.

When I went to the washrooms, the distance between the two walls in the corridor is hardly a metre and yet according to the international architectural standards although I am not an architect, I know that washrooms designed for people with special needs at least require a minimum of 1 1/2 meters width.

After observing that, I thought that it is necessary for us to appeal to both the Council and the Secretariat to make sure that they approach the development partners who provided the funds to rectify the situation. But if necessary, the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat should take it upon themselves to mobilise funds and redo all those areas that require demolishing and reconstruction. I am, therefore, seeking the support of the House. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

(Applause)

Ms. Muhongayire: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I have some comments to make on this motion. From the onset I would like to say that I support the motion moved by hon. Dr. Ndahiro.

Regarding the new EAC Headquarters Building and access of persons with disabilities, I wish to note that the East African Community Headquarters Building is for the public and not for EALA Members only.

The EAC has a population of over 100 million. The Treaty establishing the EAC stipulates that: “The Community will be people centred and private sector led.” According to statistics, over 10 million people of the East African Community live with disabilities. Partner States have pledged to closely cooperate among themselves in the field of social welfare in respect to the

development and adoption of a common approach towards the disadvantaged and marginalised groups including the people with disabilities and the elderly through different policies and programmes.

It is, therefore, expected that the Community by now has mainstreamed disability to participate in the EAC integration process. This would have enabled those living with disabilities to overcome the fear of isolation and access to social services and public infrastructure. It is a shame for the Community to have a modern building as its headquarters and yet it cannot be accessed by some of its citizens.

Despite that, I would like to thank the EAC Secretariat for facilitating the Assembly to have a ceremonial sitting in the new chamber on 24th June, 2012 for the East African Community presentation of the budget.

I wish to take this opportunity to express a few reservations regarding the whole issue of the East African Community Headquarters as one of the Members of the sub-committee which was directed to follow up the allocation of the EAC offices from the House Business Committee.

How the building was handled by the responsible officers in the Secretariat, specifically the office in charge of estates; it is apparent that from the time of commencement of the building, not all stakeholders were fully involved as the construction of the building progressed. As a result, a number of anomalies were later detected such as the design of the chamber and public gallery; the design and allocation of offices on the EALA Block. All these designers are not adequately done according to a modern parliamentary setting and need to be redesigned.

However, the efforts by us to have some of these changes made were seriously resisted. Most importantly, we have been told that the design cannot change until a new contractor is hired. We, therefore, call upon the Secretary General of the EAC to take up this issue very seriously.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as a result the following adjustments will be made to the Speaker's Gallery and the Clerk's sitting area, which may include breaking. There is no Hansard wing; what is there is a translation room. This will have to be corrected into a Hansard wing. The initial procession room was within the chamber and another room outside the chamber has been identified. We, therefore, had to reallocate this to Members and staff of the Assembly taking into account our needs as an Assembly. With these few remarks, I beg to support the motion.

Mr. Dan Ogalo (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this motion especially immediately after hon. Muhongayire has spoken. It is clear that there are certain shortfalls but which can be addressed by the Council of Ministers and the Secretary General.

I definitely think that the resolution is very timely and that there is need to look at all this design once again and see how best to accommodate person with disabilities. It is really surprising that we got this far without somebody having seen this.

Let me add something on how the whole thing has been handled to what hon. Muhongayire raised as a member of the House Business Committee. I think this is why sometimes people feel there is bad blood between the Assembly and the Secretariat because there are certain things which are not handled properly and they lead people to believe that.

Mr Speaker, Sir, it is a well known fact that that building has got EALA Wing, a Secretariat Wing and the Court. This has been known all along and even when you look at what has been written there, you will see it written “EALA” on the wing the other side. Now, when it came to allocating the offices of EALA, it would have been prudent if EALA was involved in the allocation.

Mr Speaker, Sir, if you hadn’t intervened, the next Assembly would have found itself in a very difficult position because the Secretariat carried out allocations; the upper rooms are the big ones and the ones on the Ground Floor and the Lower Floor are small. According to that allocation, the small ones are the ones which were left for Members of the Assembly and the Assembly. The good big ones which are up were allocated to principal officers of different departments and so on. The Speaker’s offices are next to a public toilet on the Ground Floor while a senior officer in the Secretariat is occupying the big offices on top.

Surely, this is what normally causes people to think there is really bad blood. Why would anybody think that? Why would anybody relegate the Speaker and Members to these cubicles and then officers of the Secretariat occupy the large offices on the Third Floor in the Assembly Wing?

(Laughter)

Even without consulting the Assembly, at least tell the Assembly that “We are going to give you these small ones and we shall keep for ourselves the big ones.” There one would say that they were at least told.

I am glad, Mr Speaker that you made an intervention; that you were there at the site; that the Deputy Secretary General of Finance and Administration came with his staff and that the matter was eventually resolved.

(Applause)

It is clearly labelled on the doors to show that this office is for the Speaker; this one for a Member and the other one for a Member and we have photographed – *(Laughter)* - so, the next Assembly can be sure that when they come, there is sufficient room.

You know things like a Members' Lounge were not there according to that allocation. Our secretaries were put in what they had called a "typing pool" so that officers of the Secretariat can occupy offices. At least if it was for the Council of Ministers, I would say, yes.

(Laughter)

So, I would want to appeal to the Council of Ministers and the Secretary General that these are the things which cause bad blood and that the Secretary General should ensure that his Estates' Manager is consistent, does not make promises, which he doesn't intend to fulfil because we saw that clearly. He took the Speaker and showed him offices on the Third Floor and so we walked away knowing that the Speaker was on the Third Floor but when we looked at the allocation, the Speaker was on the Ground Floor next to a public toilet.

So, I think that the Secretary General should hold the Estates' Manager accountable. These are the things which cause bad blood and we think it is the whole Secretariat when it is simply an officer causing all these problems. But as I said, at least it has now been resolved, if hon. Members walk there now, you will find on each door in that wing clearly allocated, if it is a Member of Parliament, it is there; if it is a secretary, it is there; Speaker, it is there. And I wish to thank you, Mr Speaker for having done that because I am sure if you had not done that, the new Assembly would come and the Speaker would find himself or herself on the Ground Floor, next to a toilet. Thank you, Sir.

The Secretary General, EAC (Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to contribute to this motion. I rise to support this motion.

(Applause)

And I wish to begin by paying tribute to my predecessors, Hon. Muthaura under whom the conception for this building begun, hon. Amanya Mushega who continued with the work, hon. Juma Volta Mwapachu also contributed to where we are now with this new building.

I pay tribute to them because I know that the construction of these headquarters was long in gestation; it faced a lot of challenges along the way including lack of financial resources and that we are where we are now is due to the leadership of these individuals and members of your Secretariat.

I also wish to pay tribute to the Council of Ministers that made sure that this building is completed on time with some delays of a few months but on budget and in fact, that this is a building which will be completed with no major overheads. It is on budget and this is not something that is common in projects of this size.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also wish to confirm that as far as management and the Secretary General is concerned, there have been no allocations of rooms; none whatsoever. There have been no

allocations of rooms because the building has not been handed over. The building is under construction.

The Speaker: Hon. Secretary General, maybe just to inform you, we were on the site; we were with your Estate's Manager; we were with a European gentleman in charge of - I think the consultant and also your Principal Administrative Officer who actually gave us documents with all the allocations. And they said, "These are the allocations." So, when you say that, we get surprised because I was personally there when we were given those documents with the allocations.

Dr. Sezibera: Rt hon. Speaker, Sir, I wish to repeat on the floor of this House that there have been no allocations offices on that building. That is why hon. Members, when you visit any of the wings of that building, you will not find any names allocated, be it at the Secretariat, be it at the wing of the Court as it stands.

Mr Speaker, the allocation of rooms and space for this building will be done by a committee; there is a committee chaired by the Deputy Secretary General in charge of Finance and Administration that involves other officers of the Community.

Mr. Ogalo: Just to clarify from the Secretary General, he is saying there is no document, would you mind if I just went down and brought you the document of allocation?

Dr. Sezibera: Rt hon. Speaker, I don't know where the documents came from because documents are transmitted by the Secretary General.

The Speaker: Hon. Secretary General, just to help you out, the same Deputy Secretary General you are talking about who is in charge of these allocation was actually there and he confirmed that they were the documents. So, what do we say on that?

Dr. Sezibera: I can tell you that there have been no allocations; I am the Secretary General of the Community – (*Applause*) - and as Secretary General of the Community, I can assure you, hon. Members that there have been no allocations. There might have been wishes of allocations or attempts to allocate but I can assure you; I can assure this House that there have been no allocations of offices in a building that has not been handed over to the Community by the contractors.

Mr Speaker, Sir, as we come to the conclusion of the construction of this building, as in any other building, we are recognising areas that need improvement. Some of them have been dealt with; we found major weaknesses in the Court side in that the building wasn't originally expected to house the Court of Justice. We discovered that there were weaknesses there and working together with the Court, we have addressed some of the weaknesses by having the court rooms designed in a manner that would allow them to serve as court rooms. It is not as good as we would like it to be because of the original design but we have corrected them.

There are weaknesses we have discovered in the wing that will house the Secretariat including partitions that cannot work, offices that are too close to kitchens and toilets that also includes areas where the Secretary General was expected to sit. So, there are weaknesses in that building, which we have identified that we shall be working on.

(Applause)

Rt hon. Speaker, there were attempts to make the building friendly to people living with disabilities. Some of them include identifying areas where ramps should be, designed accessible lifts in that building but it is true that there are other areas where this has not yet been done, and this is why I rose to support the motion to say that these matters will be looked into and over time they will be rectified.

Mr Speaker, I also wish to say that we have been constrained – I thank everybody who has contributed but I should thank in particular our partners, the Federal Republic of Germany for having given us the wherewithal to have our own headquarters.

(Applause)

However, our partners have done what they could within the means they had available for this and, therefore, whatever weaknesses we now discover, we shall now have to look for the resources to address them.

I, therefore, urge hon. Members to bear with us; there is no attempt to belittle hon. Members of this House and indeed it would be unthinkable that such a thing would happen. It would be unthinkable that the Rt hon. Speaker would be placed next to a toilet and I find it difficult to imagine that hon. Members would believe that the Secretariat and your Secretary General would contemplate doing such a thing. I assure you, it is not possible, it won't happen; it was not designed to happen because as I said at the beginning, I was speaking as Secretary General to the Community in addition to being head of the Secretariat. And Secretary General to the Community, I am aware of the needs of EALA and the Court. I welcome then engagement of the House Business Committee as we move into this building and look forward to working with you to have a fruitful and smooth transfer. I thank you for your kind attention.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Secretary General. Hon. Members, I now put the question that this Assembly do resolve to urge the EAC Secretary General and the Council of Ministers to enhance access of persons with disabilities to the new EAC Headquarters.

(Question put, and agreed to.)

MOTION

Ms. Patricia Hajabakiga (Rwanda): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I beg to move that this Assembly do resolve to pay tribute to Rt hon. Abdirahin. Abdi for the excellent, focused, dedicated and determined leadership he has exhibited during the tenure of office as Speaker of the Second EALA. I beg to move.

Mr. Mwinyi: Seconded.

Ms. Hajabakiga: Rt hon. Speaker, before I begin my motion, I wish to request your indulgence because our rules are very weak. You are not to be presiding over your own dedicated motion but since our rules don't provide for a Deputy Speaker or any other form of how we could have done it, we have to do it the way we are going to.

The Speaker: Hon.Hajabakiga, don't worry I will be as unbiased as possible. *(Laughter)*

Ms. Hajabakiga: A motion of the Assembly paying tribute to Rt hon. Abdirahin Abdi for the excellent, focused, dedicated and determined leadership he has exhibited during the tenure of office as Speaker of the Second EALA.

“WHEREAS the term of office of the Second Assembly will come to an end on 4th of June, 2012;

NOTING with pride that the successes of the Second Assembly have been recorded and heard by many near and far;

AWARE that the successes recorded by the Second Assembly are largely attributed to the excellent, focused, determined and dedicated leadership of which Speaker, Rt hon. Abdirahin Abdi;

NOW, THEREFORE, this House do resolve as follows:

(i) To pay tribute to Rt hon. Abdirahin Abdi for the excellent, focused, determined and dedicated leadership he exhibited during his term of office as Speaker of the Second Assembly;

(ii) To wish Rt hon. Abdirahin Abdi good health and fruitful political career ahead;”

Rt hon. Speaker, while I still have the floor I wish to request as you adjourn this House that we could return to the Chamber along with hon. Members so that we can take a group photograph to mark this occasion. With those few remarks, I beg to move.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to pay tribute to Rt hon. Abdirahin Abdi for the excellent work and dedicated leadership he exhibited during his tenure of office as Speaker of the Second Assembly. Debate is open.

Mr. Abdullah Mwinyi (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker. Hon. Members, in my relatively short career, not quite as long as my colleagues, hon. Ndarubagiye and hon. Oyondi-*(Laughter)* - I have had experience in various fields, in the legal profession, in business and my term of office as a Member of EALA, I have had the occasion of working with many effective managers and leaders, however, I have not had the occasion of working with an individual who has both effective management skill as well as leadership skills; there are very few people and fortunately, I have seen that in you, hon. Speaker.

(Applause)

Hon. Abdi, the Speaker has many qualities – I think I will take the entire afternoon if I am to enumerate all of them. But he has the ability to see the strategic issues as well as the meaningful day to day activities- both the distant and the day to day. He has a memory like an elephant; hon. Members, I think hon. Oyondi and Hon Nyiramilimo can testify to that.

Hon. Abdi, in his person is principled; he is consistent; he is courageous; has no problem standing for his beliefs as well as being humble; kind and empathetic to his Members and to society in general.

Hon. Speaker is fiercely loyal to his institution; to his Members; and to his staff. I am sure members of the Secretariat and the Council of Ministers would also testify to that. There is a very senior member of the Secretariat who is known to have said that: “Hon. Speaker is a very nice gentleman but when you talk about the Assembly he goes off.” What that effectively means is that he is fiercely loyal to the Assembly.

There are many achievements that have been made throughout his term office. I believe one of the most important ones is to create space for this Assembly in the Community as well as in the Partner States. There is a truism that hon. Muntu always quotes that: “One never gets what one deserves; you get what you negotiate.” And in this particular aspect, our Speaker has been a master negotiator.

(Applause)

We have asserted our space; for the very first time we have a strategic plan of where we should be going and in our term of office, we have managed to establish a sub-accounting status. This is somewhere to go in our financial and administrative term. As far as our financial issues are concerned, they are all managed internally - administratively including appointment, promotion

of staff of the Assembly are done on the advice from the leadership of the Speaker in the House Business Committee.

There are many issues, many things that we are currently taking for granted; they were not there before the Second Assembly. Maybe I should enumerate one or two; we never had a simple thing like a website but we now have highly interactive website.

The Second Assembly first established an editorial, *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki*, and we have our second or third

TAPE 6 BLANK

Tape 7

Dr. Sezibera: We have had moments where we have disagreed and where we have argued. I would like to assure you that I have taken all those arguments and all those disagreements as part of my growth and development.

(Applause)

I have not believed like Lady Macbeth when she was encouraging Lord Macbeth to kill King Duncan of Scotland that to do a great right, you have to do a little wrong. I have not been doing a little wrong.

(Laughter)

All I have done has been based on a belief that I am doing right for the Community. I may have been wrong but as Lord Denning the Master of the Rolls as he was said, it is always important to believe in what you believe even if you may be wrong but if you believe in it, it assists you to persist.

Mr Speaker Sir, as I conclude, let me draw the attention of this House that in your able leadership, you have been supported by other Organs and institutions. You have been supported by the Summit, by the Council of Ministers, by the Secretariat and by all members of Staff.

I now have the grace to pay homage to members of these Organs and institutions who have made your work remarkable.

Mr Speaker Sir, let me end by saying that if I used the analogy of cricket- I played cricket when I was young. In your career in the Assembly and in your leadership of this Assembly, in your embodiment of the struggles and achievements of the Assembly, you have been a batsman rather

than a player on the outfield. You have been near the wicket rather than on the outfield and I congratulate you for that.

(Applause)

Last but not least, I propose an amendment to the motion and this is in the heading and also in the last two paragraphs; the resolutions. I propose that wherever the name Rt hon. Abdirahin Haither Abdi is written, we add there MGH.

(Laughter)

Rt hon. Abdirahin Abdi was awarded the Moran of the Golden Heart award of the Republic of Kenya and I have always believed that as a Moran, he has carried the Treaty as his spear very effectively and also the Rules of Procedure as his shield very comfortably.

The other amendment I want to propose is in the second resolution where the mover wishes Rt hon. Abdirahin Haither Abdi MGH good health and a fruitful political career ahead. I propose and I believe the House will agree with me that it is necessary to drop the word 'political' because Rt hon. Abdirahin Haither may not be confined only to a political career. His career should be left as wide as possible by this motion.

Lastly and for purposes of record, let me take the information which I got from the House without your permission but I got it that hon. Hafsa Mossi also left and she was succeeded in the House by hon. Nzeyimana so I add her name to that long list of those hon. Members who have since left.

Mr Speaker Sir, I support the motion.

Mr. Otieno Karan (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the motion and I want to say the following. I will be very brief because I know a number of Members want to speak on this motion.

When we were elected as Kenyan representatives to this Second Assembly, you were the only one who had served in the First Assembly, Mr Speaker. I am talking from Kenya and as a Kenyan before I become an East African.

Mr Speaker, I had not known you. I came to know you in the East African Legislative Assembly that is the first time I came across you. When we were coming, there was an attempt to have a government position of who should be elected the Speaker but that never worked. I want to confirm today that you are the best Speaker that the Second Assembly would have ever had.

(Applause)

Mr Speaker, I had never known any human being that would have all positive adjectives on his side because you mention any positive adjective and one will find it in you. You are intelligent, you have answers to questions which have not been asked – (*Laughter*) – you are non tribalistic.

In Africa today, what is destroying our countries is tribalism. You give somebody leadership and you will identify that this institution is being led by this tribe by knowing the people who are working there, Mr Speaker. That was never in you.

Parliaments all over the World have to fight for their space. Under your leadership, the Second Assembly has really fought for its position and we have acquired this position because of your direction.

I would want to urge the Third Assembly, I know some of the Members are here and I also take the opportunity to congratulate those colleagues who have come back that you keep the momentum of what the Second Assembly had established. Though our current Speaker is leaving, I know that he is available for consultation and the ability for a leader to consult his colleagues is a plus so do not decide to consult somebody you think had any knowledge to pass over to you in the Second Assembly or in the First Assembly because that is what leadership is all about.

Mr Speaker, personally I made a friend. I was so touched that a number of times; more than five times you had to come and visit me in the hospital. It is not normal or common with the leadership people who have attained high position in leadership but you found time. Nairobi is a busy place but you found time and more than five times to come and visit us in the hospital.

I am praying for you, Mr Speaker because you are still young. You still have a lot to do for this country known as East Africa and I believe Africans should be able to recognise the talent of colleagues they have or of the resource they have in people. I think any attempt to leave you without anything to do will be doing a disservice to this region and I know everybody including members of the Summit have recognised your talent and you will eventually continue contributing for the development of this region.

Though we will be parting, we will constantly be in touch because there is a lot to learn from you and we will never allow you to rest. If you receive our telephone calls, please answer them as you have been doing always.

Leaders are a bit careless in responding to telephone calls but you are the only one who I have known that you call Abdi. If he is busy the call may ring and immediately after he has finished, he will definitely call you.

(Applause)

Those are qualities which are lacking in leaders. I want to say that I want to join my colleagues who have wished you well, who are praying for you but above all, they normally say that behind

a successful man there must be a woman. Please pass my regards to your wife whom I believe has given you peace of mind to be able to discharge your duty in this Assembly. She has given you room and we have always consulted you even late at night.

I remember one time when you were in the UK I had to call you not knowing the time differences. I called you perhaps when it was time for people to sleep in the UK and you definitely responded to my call. Thank you and may God bless you. Thank you.

Ms Lydia Wanyoto (Uganda): Thank you hon. Speaker. Before I even say I am supporting the motion, I wanted to add on one issue that hon. Karan had just said. We travelled to the European Union as chairpersons of committees and then because it was winter, we missed a flight when we got to Amsterdam. It was around 3.00 a.m. East African time and the first thing hon. Nakuleu could do was to call the Speaker at 3.00 a.m. we all said, what are you doing? I have to call Abdi because we are now stuck. So you can imagine that type of access to your leaders so I thought I could add this as I stand up.

I want to join members of the First Assembly to honour the Rt hon. Speaker because he has done us proud. When we came to the Second Assembly, we were only six members that had made it so the other 21 – Because at that time we were three Partner States. The other 21 were new members of the Assembly and the back bench members.

So we had to convince the 21 colleagues that hon. Abdi would make a good Speaker. I was one of his campaigners and my message was that with team work of the Assembly, he will be able to make it because God has given him the height so he would be able to carry the flag of the EAC.

Therefore I stand here to say that I am honoured as one of those who supported hon. Abdi to you members. We have made him what he is today and we should be proud of ourselves. The Speaker has been able to do what he did because all of you, one by one supported him and I want to thank you. The honour to the Speaker today goes to the Second Assembly and I want to say *asante sana*. You supported him and now we are proud to be an Assembly.

I would also like to support the motion by saying thank you to our colleagues from Kenya. Like hon. Karan has said, it is only hon. Abdi that had been re-elected from Kenya and the rest of you eight were new members but when you got here, like it is happening now, people expressed interests. We had two members from Kenya that were expressing interest behind the scenes but I am proud to stand here today and mention both of them because they have done us proud.

I would like to thank hon. Gervase Akhaabi. (*Applause*) Because behind the scenes outside the nomination forms, he expressed interest from Kenya but we also had had hon. Abdi to lead this Assembly. But we ended up even without an election because the Speaker came unopposed. Hon. Akhaabi took leadership of the Speaker as his own and other members from Kenya. Home is home and the best thing you can ever have is support from home. Thank you, members from

Kenya for giving us an opportunity of a Speaker whom you owned and has been able to give us the pride of the debate this afternoon.

It is an example that our colleagues who are coming in this weekend should pick from. I would like to say that hon. Akhaabi has been able to make his contribution and show us an example that you can actually have interest towards the same goal and you are able to support somebody so that your vision is seen through another because we all appreciate that the Speaker has been able to do what he has been able to do because each one of us has held him in high esteem and now we want to own him.

I would like to go home saying the Second Speaker was part of me and every one of us saying that because we have been able to support him and he has done us proud. I thank all of you, colleagues from Kenya and all the other members.

Hon. Members, I stand to raise issues that have been said in many words but the one issue that the Speaker has done for some of us is he has been able to break the prejudices that many of us suffer when we join politics. He has broken the prejudice of age. In many of our countries especially in the African setting, they will tell you that you will not be able to do this because you are not 50 or 60 but we are here to talk about a man who is not even 45 years.

I want to thank you, Mr Speaker for not betraying the cause of young people that are aspiring to take leadership. For that, I associate with it and I want to thank you. You have not let us down on the prejudice of age.

The second prejudice is the issue of professionalism. Sometimes people carve out positions for themselves and they highlight professionalism. Today he has been able to show that it is character and abilities of values of a person not what you went to school to study. That can only be an addition.

I want to thank you for helping those of us that are not victims of professional jacketing. I thank you for that.

The third prejudice that he has been able to help us break is the prejudice of experience that many of us have suffered. You are intelligent, exposed, a go getter and everything and they say you do not have experience. He came here as a young man, we have made him our Speaker, we stand today to give him tribute because he has worked from here, he has been creative and innovative and tapped from each one of us and we are able to go home and say, look he is not that old to have had all the experience in the world but he has been able to unlearn and make this Assembly what it is today including the Organs.

So we want to thank you for unlearning the prejudice of experience. Anybody who comes after us will know that age is not an issue, it is values and character. It is public relations, it is what you want to get for others.

So hon. members, I stand to see myself that I have been liberated by hon. Speaker being the Speaker of the Second Assembly and doing those things that could have tied around my neck, issues of age, experience, breaking walls and being able to get where you want to get to for the continuity you want to make for the people.

I would like to say that I have been here- You know sometimes people think I am young but I am not young, I am actually an old woman in terms of age and work because I have been here in the integration process for about 13 years. I began as an officer in the Finance and Administration sectoral committee and I used to work under ministers like Rt hon. Kategaya then and some senior ambassadors in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs because we were a committee led by negotiators.

Along my work, I also worked with Ambassador Dr Sezibera along my work for negotiating for Uganda but it is a worthwhile experience that I was able to cross after three years of being a technical negotiator and being able to talk about your small budgets- By then they were small; \$ 3 million and very lean and a Secretariat and all that to be part of an Assembly that has grown for the last ten years and I have also learnt to be a politician who was at that time a technocrat.

So I share this experience of the EAC with passion because unlike Gen. Muntu and others, I do not see myself even now leaving the negotiation integration table. I will have to be part somehow of the integration because this is what I shaped my public life and actually my life after school. I came direct to work and build the Community. Actually the Community is as old as my professional career outside the mainstream university.

I would like to conclude. First of all, I would like to say that it was possible for us to debate this motion without the Speaker in the Chair but the problem would have been- I have been telling the Speaker in the past that he has been there for us when you lose a person or when you have a problem but it is very difficult to reach hon. Abdi when he is bereaved because the speed at which they bury their dead, you cannot manage. You get a phone call after burial so you cannot grieve with him.

And he will tell you that you see in our Community, when somebody dies, even his shoes are more valuable than him and he laughs it off. So it is very difficult to get to him when he needs you but he will be there for you when you need him. So it is good that he is in the Chair so that we speak about what he has made some of us be today and breaking walls for some of us who want to go beyond where we are now.

He has been able to make the Assembly proud and stand out like his own height and to be able to say things that we would never be able to do if he died because for me if I died, maybe they will keep me for a week or two. Hon. Karan can be kept for like a month then you all gather and the speeches are the order. You will never do that for hon. Abdi. If he tries to faint around midday, by 2.00 p.m. you will be gone.

So we will never be able to say nice things so it is good that he is here and we say these things about him.

Let me conclude. Hon. Colleagues, Abraham Lincoln one of the celebrated presidents of the World said that in the end, it is not the years in your life that count. It is the life in your years. We also believe that no matter how many years you have spent in Parliament, it is the life and the work in the years spent that counts.

I want to say congratulations, hon. Speaker. We therefore celebrate with you the victories you have won and the accomplishments you have made since you joined this EALA and what you have led us through. For the mistakes and failures, we pray that you will regret not but instead choose to learn the lessons from them and move on.

Another celebrated leader said, but it is well when he said that it is better to dare mighty things even though chequered by failure than to rank with those poor spirits who live in great twilight that knows neither victory nor defeat. Congratulations hon. Speaker and may God bless you. I beg to move.

Mr. Gervase Akhaabi (Kenya): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker Sir. Hon. Members, I have known hon. Abdi for upwards of 17 years. When I practiced law, there were a number of times when I was in cases in which his father's company was a party either as a client or on the other side. But even at that time, I think hon. Abdi was a student. He was a very focused person, a person who was very trusted by his father. I believe that his father still trusts him.

He was the person actually managing that company as a student and it is really befitting that he came to this Assembly with a clear focus on what the East African Community should be, where the Community should move and how it should move. I think that for the time that he has been in this Community and as a member of the East African Legislative Assembly, there has been a clear demonstration of the vision and focus that he has had for the Community.

My own prayer is that within the Community we could have a few other people with such sincere conviction for the East African Community dream. If we had a few of them like hon. Abdi, I believe that within the next ten years, the East African Community dream will be realised.

(Applause)

When we had our last meeting in Nairobi, His Excellency President Kibaki asked me, have you heard? As has been said here, Mr Speaker you have earned the respect and confidence of the leadership in East Africa.

(Applause)

You have earned it by your dedicated service to this Assembly, to the Community and to the people of East Africa.

It is my sincere hope that after ten years of service, very dedicated and successful service, that the Community as a whole will not let this potential go to waste and that you yourself will make yourself available for even more service to the people of East Africa.

Hon. Members, as the hon. CTC has said, in East Africa today you cannot talk of the East African Community without in the same breath mentioning the East African Legislative Assembly. In fact the East African Community in many people's minds is synonymous with the East African Legislative Assembly.

It is the East African Legislative Assembly that has been the public face of the Community. It is unfortunate that the Secretariat, Mr Secretary General in preparing your budget and the Council of Ministers in considering the budget you never put into account the very important contribution that the EALA makes towards sensitisation and awareness situation and therefore you never budget for it at all. It is unfortunate because if you did, even a quarter or one tenth of what you earmark for sensitisation, if you gave it to EALA, they would achieve a lot more in awareness creation and sensitisation than the many meetings that are held in hotel rooms and board rooms.

The East African Legislative Assembly is much more likely to sensitise the public and create awareness than those other methods that you have used.

Mr Speaker Sir, the fact of her holding the meetings of the Assembly in the Partner States has helped a lot and it was your idea and we thank you very much for this.

Lastly Mr Speaker and hon. Members, hon. Lydia has referred to it. When we came from Kenya joining the Assembly, I was to be a candidate for Speaker but once we reached here and resolved that it was going to be hon. Abdi, I thank the members of the Assembly representing Kenya for the resolution and determination to support hon. Abdi and we have never looked back at all.

We also thank hon. Abdi for treating all of us with magnanimity and with fairness and without remembering whatever differences that there may have been. *Bwana Abdi, tuna kupa nkono wahungera* for your service and we wish you the best of luck in all your future endeavours. I just hope that you are going to join the team that is going to make the new Constitution in Kenya work. I think you should do that. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, we are running out of time so if you please be brief.

The First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of East African Affairs, Uganda (Mr. Eriya Kategaya): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I will definitely try to obey your last orders by being brief.

(Laughter)

Rt hon. Speaker and hon. Members, when I met Abdi for the first time, I tried to discuss with him what he was doing before and his experience. One of the things which he told me about was the transport business of his father and he told me that his transport business was covering the whole region from Nairobi to Kampala, to Kigali up to Bujumbura.

In my mind I said, here is an East African who has an interest in East Africa and he has lived up to that because although he was a nominee of the Kenyan delegation and government, he has definitely not behaved as an agent of the Kenyan government or Kenyan delegation. He has behaved as an East African and as a Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly.

Secondly, as somebody who has survived long on this corridor of the Council, the mortality rate is a bit high, I found Abdi as an institutional leader because I remember the first problems we had with the budgeting. The Council has its own budget, EALA also had its own ideas about the budget and sometimes it would be difficult to have the meeting of the minds.

I remember it was your suggestion and we all agreed that why don't we have a process of budgeting together between the Secretariat and EALA and to me this budgeting process has helped us to remove conflict and confusion within the budgeting process. It has helped everybody and I can budgets now are passed with least heat and conflict.

I also remember that this idea of self-accounting by EALA again was a suggestion by the Speaker because again there was a problem between the Secretariat and EALA; who accounts for who and that has also been resolved by this question of self-accounting and having a staff. These are what I call institution building. I don't think Abdi was doing it because he was a Speaker. He was doing it to see that the institutions of the Community work in harmony and smoothly.

Lastly, I remember the question of residence of the Speaker in Arusha. That one has also been resolved and has given the dignity to the Office of the Speaker of this House.

Abdi I think is an organised person because he is a time keeper and a time manager. It may look a small part but to me it is very important because the problem in Africa is that people think that our days are 48 hours rather than 24 hours. Or we do one incident in a day. That is what I call management but Abdi is there on time and he will make sure that you do what you are supposed to do in time and you go and do other things. I would like to thank you for that.

I hope this habit has been picked up by the members of EALA wherever they go that we keep and manage time because that is how we can develop as far as I am concerned.

Abdi has a sharp and wide ear. When he is sitting in his chair there, he is not only listening to us who are speaking but even those who are whispering.

(Laughter)

I have been a victim of his sharp ear. Sometimes he say, hon. Kategaya, shut up, what are you saying? I said, but I was not saying anything. But he has very sharp and wide ears.

I would like to say that the standards have been set in this House; procedures have been entrenched in this House under your speakership. Anybody who takes after you would really find the procedures and rules clear. In fact sometimes you are sharper than some people who studied law because some of us say, a Speaker must be a lawyer. Is that so? But Abdi sometimes tells us who say that to go and study the rules, you don't know the rules I know them better. I am glad you are a fast learner.

Lastly on two points, you will permit me to say for those who are leaving and those who are coming. My observation is that we have moved a long way till integration but we are coming to a stage where we have to definitely take serious decision.

The East African Community Protocol calls for what people call ceding sovereignty and I can see people hesitating whenever we go to a meeting. I have said that maybe we should work out to remind the Partner States that they signed this Treaty and that under Article 80 I think it is clear that the Acts of the Community are superior to the roles and laws of the Partner States in matters of the Community but we still behave as if we did not sign the Treaty.

Sometimes you got to a meeting and somebody says, we are a sovereign state. I say, yes you are but you signed the Treaty. In fact under Article 8, I think, the Partner States were required to enact a law within their own Parliaments to entrench the Treaty and Protocols and the rest. I would like us to do an audit on that issue; whether all of us have actually enacted laws in our Parliaments to say that the Treaty and its protocols and Acts of the Community are superior to those of the Partner States as far as Community matters are concerned. We need to find out because it is very important.

I think Members of EALA who have been around should help us to sensitise our politicians and bureaucrats in Partner States that there is something called the Community which we are party to. That in whatever we are doing; our programs, plans, our laws must take into account the existence of the Community.

This one I think we can do with authority because we have been here for ten years and you know what laws we have put in place from the Community. Are they obeyed by the Partner States? Is there awareness about these rules and regulations and Acts of the Community?

Lastly, how do we create a quizzical mass of those who believe in East Africa? What I call East Africanness. How many, what following do we have on East Africanness? In Parliament and more in bureaucracy. When you are talking about the famous or infamous F&A, most of these bureaucrats are actually not aware that there is something like the Community.

Mr Speaker Sir, there is a time we went to the border between Uganda and Tanzania and we were talking about this Customs Management Act. Most of the Customs fellows said, we have never heard about the Act. We do not know what you are talking about. Because of that, they are not even thinking East African. They are the biggest causers of what we call NTBs.

So the members who are leaving the House should really help us to continue to organise and see that we have a critical mass of believers of East Africa in our Partner States because the implementation of the Treaty is now still dependant on the Partner States and this means you must pull the politicians and bureaucrats to think East African and to act as East Africans.

Mr Speaker Sir, I join all those who have thanked you for what you have done. I am sure you have done proud this EALA and we must be proud that you have contributed to the historical mission of integration of East Africa. I support the motion.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Lotodo. Please be brief hon. Members. We are running out of time now.

Mr. Augustine Lotodo (Kenya): Thank you, hon. Speaker. I would like to join my colleagues in supporting this motion and I want to say on a personal level that you have been an elder brother to me and I know, hon. Speaker that you have really intervened on some issues affecting us as Members of Parliament.

The issue I want to raise is that I am also privileged to have served in three committees during this Second Assembly by virtue of your being Speaker so me and hon. Sarah Godana were privileged to be in three committee and we have really benefitted and I just want to say in kind that it has been a learning experience on our side.

Mr Speaker Sir, in this Assembly we have really deepened and widened as per the vision of the Treaty. We have really traversed this region and I want to thank you for that leadership.

Last but not least, I also want to recognise all other members who have served in this Second Assembly. We have worked well, networked, bonded and ensured that we are together in passing the motions, Bills and resolutions in this House. I know some of you are party leaders, I know some of you are big people in your governments but I also came as an EALA member and I am also going as a deputy party leader- *(Laughter)*- of my party in Kenya called Na-Kenya.

So Mr Speaker Sir, I want to wish you and your family well. Thank you, hon. Speaker.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the list I have right now so that we can be brief is hon. Sebalu, hon. Tiperu, hon. Odette, hon. Nangale, hon. Oyondi, hon. SG, hon. Munya and hon. Ogalo- It is a big list so if you could please be brief so that we can finalise.

Mr. Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Speaker. There is a story of a man who went and used a mosquito net for fishing. He was caught and given a few strokes of the cane

but later on, someone was explaining his predicament and said that the man did not do anything wrong. He was using the mosquito net for the rightful purpose. That he used it to ambush the mosquitoes at source and the fish that came in thereafter was collateral damage.

We have been with you, none of you has been ambushed at source and you are not leaving any collateral damage without EALA. So we want to thank you for that very good leadership.

I have been wondering here that if someone went mad in this session and stood up and said he opposes this motion, I would imagine what would happen to such a person. I guess he would be lynched and his body thrown in the sea somewhere because that would be sacrilege. You have done us proud and we are very happy for the work you have done. You have taken EALA where it has never been before.

Definitely this is a different level of achievement and you have served with dignity, dedication, diligence and decorum. You have been available for everyone and your office has been accessible, you have been very accountable and a very amiable character. You have left EALA a very vibrant institution and the visibility of EALA is something that we have had problems with.

I was elected yesterday to return – (*Applause*) – but what I went through was not a cup of tea and all along I was saying that should I lose this election, there is only one person to blame and that is the Speaker who has made EALA so visible and attractive and everyone is running for it. Thank God you were exonerated when I got my way back.

Like Mahatma Ghandi said one time, be the change you want to see in the World. Rt hon. Speaker, you have been the change that you have ever wanted to see in EALA and East Africa and also our late President of the United Republic of Tanzania Mwalimu Julius Nyerere once said that it can be done provided each and every one plays their part. It has been possible for us to do what we have been able to do because you have inspired us and made it possible for each one of us to make a contribution however small it is.

I want to conclude by saying that hon. Kamala is a celebrated hero in EALA but little do people know that the real hero behind this state of happiness is the Rt hon. Speaker who created the enabling environment for hon. Kamala to perform the way he performed. This is a challenge to all the hon. Minister in the Council.

Finally I want to thank the hon. Ministers, members of Council. I also want to thank most especially members of the First EALA. The team of members of the First EALA, you have been a very good source of inspiration, institutional memory and how I wish we had a way of recognising each and every one of this team because if it were not for you, definitely this EALA would never have performed the way it has. You have given a lot of useful direction, guidance and we have picked a lot of your brains to be able to do what we have been able to do.

I want to thank hon. Munya who has enjoyed a very interesting state in this Parliament. You know the rate of change of ministers in the Republic of Kenya was quite high and I could look at it as a transit lounge with arrivals and departures but Rt hon. Munya was always there to see them coming and seeing them off. He has been very useful to us because he has been the institutional memory from the members of Council from Kenya.

It has been a wonderful tour of duty. Mr Speaker, thank you very much for a job well done and we wish you well. Definitely the sky is the limit. You have a lot to do and East Africa has a lot to see you do in your lifetime. Thank you very much. (Applause)

The Secretary General, EAC (Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir. I wish to also rise to pay tribute to Rt hon. Abdi. Unfortunately or fortunately as has been said, he is in the seat so I can only call him as Rt hon. Speaker. If it was in a different environment, I would have called him Abdi and pay tribute to Abdi because the first time when I was appointed and turned up for duty, I think the first leader of an Organ who paid me a visit was Abdi. I say Abdi because he did not ask for an appointment, he simply passed on the message that he was coming and then before I knew it, there was this tall man before me seated in my office.

I want to thank the Speaker for being both a leader, human, humble. I have experienced it. When he sat in that chair then, with that humility, he went on to tell me what to do. (*Laughter*) Very frankly he said, you have come, this is where you are, this is what you must do, these are the people you are working with. We are here and I won't go into the details of what he told me lest everybody knows what we discussed. I want to thank him for that.

I also visited him but then the second time he came, sat in the same chair- He has come very many times across this bridge and I said Mr Speaker, I would like to prioritise the removal of NTBs, what do we do? I had all these things that we wanted to do then he said no, let me tell you what NTBs are. He told me exactly how much, who pays what, at which road block, who stands how many hours and which weighbridge and he said no, this is the reality. Do not go into the theories and so on. I was amazed at the breadth of knowledge and detail but also at his commitment to move the programs of the Community.

So I rise to pay tribute to hon. Abdirahin Abdi for his work, for taking the Community where he has taken it, for being a leader. I have worked with him. I also would have to say that we have had very interesting points of disagreement forcefully. We have also disagreed forcefully but even in our disagreements, it has never been- What I have noticed of Abdi is it has never been personal. It has always been about work and the Community and impatience to move the agenda of the Community where it should go.

I wish also on behalf of my colleagues who are in the Inter-Organ Coordination Committee to pay tribute to you, Mr Speaker Sir. My colleagues are not here in this Chamber but I know that all the heads of Organs and institutions have gained from your dedication, leadership and ability to see beyond and to want the Community to move to where it should be.

Members have said that hon. Abdi is fiercely loyal to the Assembly and the members and that is true. But I have also seen Rt hon. Abdi loyal and defending other organs and institutions of the Community.

(Applause)

I have seen him fighting for CASSOA, for Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation, for Lake Victoria Basin Commission, for the East African Development Bank, for Inter University Council of East Africa and for the East African Court of justice with passion and dedication. I wish to pay tribute to him and I support the motion.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the SG has to leave but as you remember, he has invited us for a cocktail this evening. There are also going to be certificates which are going to be given out later on so I hope you can make it back.

Ms Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. I would like my colleagues in paying tribute to you. It is so hard to be so brief when you are speaking about a very tall man.

In 2007, we came here as members of EALA not knowing you, Mr Speaker at all but on arriving here and even before we could get here, we got phone calls from our colleagues, so many words were told to us about you and I want to thank those who gave us those good words like Mama Kate Kamba, hon. Nangale, hon. Lydia, hon. Ogalo and hon. Muntu.

They spoke so well of you that we felt that we needed to have a taste of what they had already had and the only way was to have you as a Speaker.

If the words could only stop from your colleagues, we would think they were lying but from the calls we received from our Partner States especially from people like hon. Bright Rwamirama your friend and others, men whom we respect, we felt that having you as a Speaker, we were in safe hands.

I want to testify today that having served with you for five years; we have had the best of times with you as our Speaker.

Having been in Parliament both national and regional, I have witnessed the behaviour of members during sessions. It is very surprising to find a Parliament where there is harmonious relationship between the Council and EALA, the Summit and the Parliament, the Parliament and the Secretariat. This is a record that must really be remembered in the history of our times. They are all indications to show that the relationship has been good.

When you see members of Council attending sessions with ease, you know that things are good because in other Parliaments, you have to first lobby, whip members and pray that you are not attacked. When you see members of Council answering questions with love and with diligence then you know that the relationship in the House is good.

When you see members of Summit making comments- I want to give an example. Whenever we meet our President he asks, how is the tall man? How is the Speaker? That means you have touched their heart.

Indeed you have made EALA visible. Like hon. Sebalu has said, it made our elections tough I must confess. You have endeared the East African Parliament to the hearts of many East Africans.

Through your efforts, we have had one of the biggest or largest outputs as far as work is concerned and I want to thank you for having had a good team of staff because the work of EALA was computed and sent to all of us as members. We use that as part of what we used to convince our colleagues on what EALA had done.

Hon. Speaker, I want to thank you because you have been a great footballer. You have inspired members of Parliament to play football. If you look at the calendar where you appeared, many people have tried to keep those calendars in their offices reminding them of what a great Speaker and footballer you have been. As we come to the Third EALA, our colleagues are saying they also need netball to be visible at the East African level.

You have been a good head of the family. You have been kind to us, kind to the staff, called us when we are sick, given us guidance, you have even gone to our respective homes. It is rare to find a leader at your level visiting people in their respective homes. That is a very special attribute, hon. Speaker.

You have made friend for EALA. When we visit Southern Sudan, we are welcomed. We get VIP treatment because of your relationship with the President of Southern Sudan, with the Speaker of Southern Sudan. That we thank you because we move with our heads high, a relationship which was created by you. You have served us diligently, you have been a good role model, and you are appreciated not only by Kenya the country you come from. Some people think you are from Uganda, others from Rwanda. Sometimes they don't place you, you have not been tribal. You have lived all East Africans.

I want to give a personal example of how good you have been. Hon. Colleagues, if you want to test the Speaker's kindness, get pregnant.

(Laughter)

You know how the Speaker can be very serious with business. He has been kind to us but very kind to the women.

You have given us opportunity to speak, we have been visible in this House but when it comes to issues concerning women, you have been extra kind. I am speechless when I talk about how you treated me when I was carrying out one of my responsibilities. You made phone calls, you followed to see how I was, you assigned hon. Kwekwe and hon. Sarah Bonaya to look after me. I

want to thank you so much. I wish I had every met your father and mother because I think the person in you should be emerging from the manner in which that great man and great woman raised you.

(Applause)

those two people really must be thanked and I pray that other East Africans emulate the manner in which they brought you up so that we could have children of character, children of value like you. You are destined for greatness, Mr Speaker.

When you look at me or hon. Sebalu, hon Zziwa, hon. Muntu or hon. Karan, know from now onwards you have made permanent friends. We will be there for you when you call us for service. *Asanteni sana.*

The Speaker: Hon. Members, please be brief.

Mr. Reuben Oyondi (Kenya): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker Sir for the opportunity you have allowed me to also speak about you. I am sure you have heard it all from your friends in this House. They have showered praise on you but I want to refer you to one, a book in the Bible called Deuteronomy 15 verse 10 and I would ask the members also to read that. It says, "Give without a grudge or give ungrudgingly and the Lord in heaven will bless you." Not just bless you, Mr Speaker Sir but he says further that, "On anything you put your hand on, it will be blessed." If you want to put your hand on business, Mr Speaker Sir, it will flourish. If you want to go and run for a position in the Kenyan Republic, I am assuring you that you will definitely get one.

Mr Speaker Sir, you have given it all to this Assembly. You have given it all to the Community. If there is anyone who says different things like hon. Sibaru says, then that person be it a woman or a man has something wrong somewhere because Mr Speaker Sir, you have been a person who says what you think is right. You have never wanted to hide something so that you can say it somewhere else and we want to thank you for that.

Some of us are going out of this Parliament and I want to say that once the door has been closed behind you, there is always another door open for you. For those who are going out like myself, I did not want to seek for another position because I feel I have had enough for here. Those who wanted to come back and missed through other- You know, you never can tell, I want to assure you that there is another door open for you, don't cry. Just rely on your God and things will work out well.

For you who have come back, keep the fire burning. Don't let things go down. We are told in the book of Matthew 12 verse 7, "Do unto others as you would want them to do to you." That man sitting there has done it because he will never want to pin you down when he does not want that same thing done to him. That is why we are praising you, Mr Speaker Sir. Keep it up, we will

pray for you and I am now saying to my friends, we are going to part ways maybe another day from now. Please go well. I want to thank all of you people when I lost my dear wife last year in May. Many of you came, many of you wrote to me, many of you sent contributions and I want to thank you for it. God bless you, we hope to meet again on this earth. Let me also say something. Do something to your God, He will add you days. Don't say we have finished because if you finish doing any work then God will say, okay what else are you doing if you have finished? Rest. So always create work for your God and He will give you time to complete that work. Thank you.

The Speaker: Hon. Nangale. Please be brief, we have finished now. I think we have only a few more minutes and then we go.

Dr. Gorge Nangale (Tanzania): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I am sure you know that I am very brief because I have always been brief in the deliberations of the Assembly. Mr Speaker, I want to join colleagues and stand to support this motion of paying tribute to you for the exemplary leadership work you have done for the past five years.

Mr Speaker, you will recall that when we joined EALA together in 2001 and we were very new to this area, we worked together in the same committee. By then I was the Chair of the committee and you were one of the- Let me say that probably most of the propelled work you supported the Trade Committee to do particularly linking the Trade Committee. By then we had just passed the Customs Union Management Act was very e

xemplary, Mr Speaker.

By the end of EALA one, it is the Trade Committee which everybody was envious seeing that it was doing a lot of the work but actually to be frank, most of the coordination was through you, Mr Speaker...

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Mr. Peter Munya: And yet you have already been able to create your own space and independence, you have been able to carry out your mandate properly without any infringement in a relatively short time so that is really the greatest indication of the leadership that has been here in this Second Assembly driven by the hon. Speaker.

It is very dedicated, very forceful and that is really necessary. Assemblies are intended to be forceful and Speakers are supposed to be forceful, they are not supposed to be weaklings. If they are weaklings, then the House also becomes a weakling so the Speaker has been able to provide

that critical leadership that has been able to take us where we are and that has also been able to contribute to the growth of the Community and integration.

Much legislation that have been very useful; many laws that you have passed that have been very useful in the overall agenda of integration. Again under his able leadership, you have kept the Secretariat and even the Council of Ministers on our toes and that is what you are supposed to do as an Assembly.

Mr Speaker, you have also been leading a group of very talented legislators. I am sure if you were the only one who was talented, there would have been a very serious disconnect where the leader is very far and the people he is leading are also very far. So the leader would have to come back and slow down to go and pull his people.

So you have been leading people who are also very talented if you look at the depth of debate in this House and the depth of the issues that are debated here, you will see that really this is a World class Parliament.

(Applause)

I don't want to repeat the visibility aspect. The House singlehandedly has been able to take the Community to the people. Forget about the workshops on sensitisation and all these things. It is the house. When you are sitting in Nairobi, everybody knows you are in Nairobi, the debates are live there, people start asking what is this Assembly about? They are told it is the East African Community Parliament and people start asking questions.

So you have been able to take the Community and the agenda of sensitisation to the people and as you have been saying, I think if more resources could be found to assist you to do more in that area of representative democracy, in that area of making the people aware of what the Community is all about, you will have succeeded in doing more than seminars that we keep doing, sometimes at the national level.

I also wanted to support what hon. Ogalo was saying about the staff of the Community. I remember at one time hon. Kategaya saying at the Council meeting that there is a need to create an independent cadre of professionals who are dedicated to the Community and who do not owe allegiance to their national governments; who feel that they are East African s and they want to work for East Africa.

That is not possible if professionals are only kept here for a short period, they have no opportunities for career progression so this is a training ground to go back to their national countries to work. You cannot achieve that goal that Kategaya was talking about with a career structure that keeps you here for a specific period and then you are on your own and I am told this forces many of them to keep their jobs back home so this becomes like a secondment. You come here and work and then you have to leave.

This needs to be corrected. We need to implement the Community Service Commission so that it can work because the law is there, it has been passed and assented to and what is left now is for the Council to really implement that law so that the workers of the Community can be left to do their core mandate. The Commission can do their core mandate of dealing with staff matters, staff training, career progression- all those things. Employment- The Secretary General can also do his core mandate and all the others so that now that is left to that Commission and I think this is something that the Council must do and implement as soon as possible.

I remember because I also came in here at the same time with this Assembly. I remember even when the canvassing for the elections were taking place and I remember even the first sittings when some members could hardly speak in the Assembly but today they are the best debaters. I remember somebody like hon. Ngenzebuhoro. He is one of the best debaters in this House.

(Applause)

Could he speak those early days?

I cannot pronounce the name very well; hon. Muhonganyire. Those days in the beginning, they were not very able to but they have picked up English so fast and beaten many English speakers; those who have been speaking English very early.

So Mr Speaker, this was maybe good luck, I don't know; a mixture of people full of talent who have also been able to move the Community forward. I will go back to what hon. Kategaya said again. The need for a critical mass of East Africans who are committed to the East African cause. How do we create that critical mass? I think that is the question we did not answer because one we come here and then we leave and go back to what we were doing- The General goes back to be an entrepreneur; well we need entrepreneurs in East Africa for sure but beyond his entrepreneurship we would also want to see him dedicating some time to pushing the cause of bringing East Africa together.

Maybe perhaps what we need to do is start a forum. Those who are no longer either in the Assembly or in the government as ministers or employed, start a forum of East African citizens who can be pushing; a lobbying group so that we know who these people are who do not want East Africa to move forward. We can confront those people and say, no we know you are the obstacle or we know things are not going well because of this and that and we want these issues sorted out so that East Africa can move forward.

So this is another idea that somebody like the Speaker- although I don't think the Speaker even though we are saying we are leaving here, I am sure people of rare drive and talent like him and his youth, I don't think he is retiring. I think this was a training ground for more service from here when he leaves and that I am very certain in my mind.

But we are saying with hon. Kategaya here that a forum like that would be useful where we can now meet, share ideas, give directions, give some support for a cause that is central to the integration of East Africa.

So Mr Speaker with those remarks, I also want to wish all those members who are leaving best of luck, a very good life, good health wherever you are going in the next destination you are going to in the service of the people of East Africa.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Zziwa, one minute please. I am sorry please because we are late now.

Ms Margaret Zziwa (Uganda): Rt hon. Speaker, allow me to make a prayer for hon. Abdi. The Abdi I want to talk about is the Abdi I met in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Kampala that time when he was a dot com legislator from the First Assembly of EALA and I want to put it on record that I had never seen people holding three telephones and changing three lines at the same time talking to Dar es Salaam, Kenya and in Uganda and this is the Abdi I want to say to, thank you very much for aspiring many of us. Thank you very much for the patience of bringing us along, thank you very much for being there for us.

My children say that they had Mummy's birthday in the Indian Ocean and they will always remember that. I want to pray that for the omissions and commissions we have made, we pray for your understanding. I want to add that for the excitement and commotion we have made or generated, we feel good and we would like to say that we pray for the patience so that even the next Speaker would have that patience like you have had.

I want to add that for those desires and admirations, which we have generated in the course of exercising our work, we want to say let them be kept. To you we want to say that for what you have not witnessed, may we enjoy it on your behalf. I thank you.

(Applause)

Ms. Valerie Nyirahabineza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Sir. I will be brief. Rt hon. Speaker, it is not so easy to speak about you especially today. I think it is the last day of this session but having listened carefully to what my colleagues have been saying, one can say that they have picked words from my mouth so allow me to highlight one major issue for which I remember you.

Rt hon. Speaker and hon. colleagues, you know that there is something that I am always speaking about and in some countries it has become a very important slogan; this first ever East African Women's Conference. I remember when I got the idea to organise such an important conference, I talked to some of my colleagues including hon. James Ndahiro and we had an opportunity to chat and I got so many ideas from different other people.

I never came to you, Rt hon. Speaker but when I felt confident, I talked to the clerk Madete who I also thank very much. He tried to help me in his capacity but it was not so easy for me to go to the end. Rt hon. Speaker, as I said I never came to you but in the corridors, you listened to people saying that something is going on. I remember one day while I was entering the lift and I was coming to this plenary room, I was actually lost because I was thinking about so many things and precisely that very conference because I had hurdles and resistance from some people saying, who is she? Why is she organising such a conference? Why not me? So many things.

I entered the lift without knowing that I was with the Speaker until the time I saw somebody holding the door for me so that I can enter. Then somebody said, honourable, come in. then I entered the lift only to see that it was Rt hon. Abdi. He said, honourable because the General Purpose Committee is sitting, you can go and talk to them because I don't think you have many days for you to prepare for that meeting.

Rt hon. Speaker, that day I was healed. I felt counselled because so many things had happened in between. I was even insulted as an MP but it is okay. I came and talked to the General Purpose Committee, my sisters and brothers helped me and everything went well.

Rt hon. Speaker, that first conference on women is mainly attributed to you. Even if I had that idea of organising it, allow me from the bottom of my heart to say that this is the only gift I can give you because you made things happen.

Like hon. Ogalo has said, it has become an annual event and the first conference was held in Kigali. On my behalf I do apologise because I was not the one to invite people and you were not invited to that conference but it happened because of you and all the women in East Africa know that you are the one who made things happen.

(Applause)

Rt hon. Speaker, now that as I was told recently I even had an opportunity to come back to it, now that an implementation matrix has been developed, I beg you indulgence because I will be making some calls even if I never used to do so for you to help us move things and I hope that you will answer and pick the phone and answer our calls.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we have so many things to say about you but all I can end with is to say that myself and many others who have kept so many good memories of you. May God bless you.

(Applause)

Ms. Hajabakiga: Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everybody who supported this motion. It was not my motion, it was our motion and although it has taken long, I think it was worth it that we had to take all the time required to give tribute to you, Rt hon. Speaker. We only hope that the Kenyan government, East Africa and all the heads

of state will get this message that you deserve to get another equally important post so that we can carry forward integration.

Rt hon. Speaker, once again I request that when you adjourn, later on we can come back so that we can have a group photo to mark this occasion. I thank you very much.

Rt hon. Speaker, there was an amendment by the CTC. I agree with the amendment.

(Applause)

Once again, Rt hon. Speaker and hon. colleagues, I beg to move and I thank you all.

(Applause)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now put the question that this Assembly do resolve to pay tribute to Rt hon. Abdulrahin H. Abdi for the excellent focus, dedicated and determined leadership he exhibited during his tenure of office as Speaker of the Second East African Legislative Assembly.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I am humbled. It is difficult to preside- Usually when people say good things about you, it is when you are six feet under and they usually say good things, one minute silence and then they forget you. But I must say that I am humbled that I am alive to hear such kind words from you even though it was very difficult because at the beginning it took me a long time to convince me to put this on the Order Paper because I found it awkward to be presiding over something which was about myself. But I must say thank you, thank you, thank you very much for those kind words.

(Applause)

I must also add like I said the other day that there is no 'I' in 'team' and one thing I have never said is that I have done this or that. I have always talked about the Assembly; we have done this and that.

(Applause)

I think we should continue with that. I think we had a very focused team; a team good to work with. You know sometimes you will find that you will say something and then you will find people who try and- You will find even ministers calling members from their Partner States, you will find the Secretariat starting calling people from their Partner States to try and divide but I must say one thing. Of the five years I have been here, I have never had a situation where we have gone one way and we had people moving in a different direction. We have always moved in one direction and I think that strength has made this Parliament what it is today so I want to thank you all for all the support you have given us.

I must say, hon. Members in terms of quorum, you will find that we have done very well as an Assembly.

(Applause)

I must say one thing. You know in the First Assembly, knock on wood as they say, I never missed a session of any activity in my first Assembly and I must thank God again for this Assembly. I have tried and managed – I think this is our last session as they say to be in every activity and I know some members here, when I look around who have acted likewise and I want to congratulate you and thank you for making this Assembly work at all times.

Hon. Members, I must say that as a First Assembly, we never had a situation whereby we could at least say good bye to each other. We left without knowing, we did not know whether we would come back or not. You know we used to have situations whereby we would meet after four months and you start saying, oh what your name was because you do not even remember.

But now I think as this Assembly, we have a situation where we have an annual calendar which we follow and I think 100 percent activities have been done over the last four years and I want to congratulate you for that.

Hon. Members, even though we have come to the end of business I would like to have a short statement so that at least for the *Hansard* people know what we have done or what you have done so that at least it is recorded and we can pass it on to the next Assembly for them to continue on.

Hon. Members, in this occasion of the last day of the Fifth Session of the Fifth Meeting of the Second Assembly, permit me to congratulate you for your achievements and for going the extra mile to get us where we are today. With a statutory political life of the Assembly ending next week on June 4th 2012, it is only proper that I as Speaker of the outgoing Assembly give credence where due.

I wish to state that the Assembly has realised a number of successes during its tenure. Five years ago, we took oath to defend the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community and swore to deliver on our mandate.

Today I stand proud as we take stock of the achievements of the Assembly. Today EALA is a pillar of the integration process. The Second Assembly within its lifetime passed over 37 pieces of legislation and brought to the august House over 130 priority questions and more than 40 resolutions.

The Second Assembly also realised the following accomplishments, to name but a few:

1. Institutionalised the holding of public hearing workshops on relevant areas of the major stages of integration and on all major legislations.

2. It strengthened the liaison with national assemblies of Partner States with the final outcome being establishment of more inter-parliamentary liaison committees, institutionalisation of the Inter-Parliamentary Seminar; Nanyuki series.

3. Established the Bureau of Speakers. This has created a Forum of Speakers to be informed and to give guidance to their constituents of the regional integration process. Here I must congratulate the Speakers for the good work they have done and to see that we meet twice a year which is very difficult to get hold of Speakers to meet but they have...

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...As positive in the integration process since it has created awareness of the Community.

6. We have increased the budget allocations and financing of the Assembly from 30 days in the First Assembly to the existing days of plenary. In this regard, the Assembly has secured separate funding for committees realised from the EAC mainstream budget and negotiated special funding from the Partnership Fund for oversight activities of our committees.

7. We have negotiated for and acquired accounting status for the Assembly that has led to the improved management of the affairs of the Assembly.

8. We have negotiated and acquired improved working conditions of members of the Assembly.

9. We have moved from having a temporary Speaker to a resident Speaker here in Arusha.

(Applause)

10. As an Assembly, we must also count ourselves lucky to have witnessed the entry of the Republics of Burundi and Rwanda who acceded to the EAC Treaty on 18th June 2007 and became full members of the EAC on 1st July 2007.

11. Participated in a number of outreach programs with civil society, private sector, scholars, woman and youth groups and rural populous thereby taking the Assembly to the people. EALA participated in a number of Community initiatives in the entire region. We can talk of Umuganda and Ibikwaro Rusangi in the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi are typical examples. Such integration did not only bring us closer to the people but it opened up our eyes to reality, gave members the insight and enriched debate in this House.

12. Established collaboration with the regional Parliaments mainly Pan African Parliament, SADC parliamentary Forum, ECOWAS, the European Parliament as well the Magreb and Mediterranean Parliaments.

I am pleased to note that the regional Parliaments in the continent are all studying our model with a view to borrowing the best practices. Here I must say that ECOWAS, PAP and SADC are

actually copying our model and they have actually come up with Rules of Procedure and copied word for word what is in the Treaty so I must say that we are leading the way.

13. We spearheaded the establishments of the East African Parliamentary Institute. The EAPI Act has been assented and I can say that EAPI is now operational after we launched it earlier today.

(Applause)

14. Established a Public Relations Office to enhance the corporate image of the Assembly.

15. Finalise discussions with Trade Mark East Africa to support the Assembly acquire video conferencing equipment so I must say hon. Members of the next Assembly, I think from August you will have video conferencing facilities for the next Assembly.

(Applause)

16. We have also finalised the procurement for live broadcasting equipment. The acquisition of the equipment is to commence any moment. The initiative shall spur more awareness of EALA in the region so hon. Members, in the next House the equipment is already there and it should be coming any time with the support of ACBF.

17. We established EALA website www.eala.org, marketing the Assembly virtually.

18. We have a strategic plan. I think if you look at the other strategic plan of the Community, we always used to have one line about the Community but now we actually have our own strategic plan which we hope the Third Assembly will build on and continue in that tradition.

19. We established the EALA newsletter Bungela Afrika Mashariki last year and we are now embarking on publishing the Fourth edition and I am happy that a lot of members have taken to it to have articles. It does not mean that because you have left that you will stop contributing to Bungela Afrika Maskariki. I think we will continue contributing to it whether we are here or out there.

(Applause)

20. The Assembly was also privileged to play host to the 10th Anniversary celebrations in style. The remarkable celebrations shoes climax was in Bujumbura, Burundi in November 2011 presented an opportunity to showcase EALA's past achievements and its continued role in regional integration.

Here I say I must thank our national Parliaments and regional parliaments who all showed up to that Nanyuki six and I want to thank all the members for all the great work they did.

It also featured a symposium whose theme delved on the Political Federation and Inter Parliamentary soccer tournament, tree planting activities, Nanyuki Six and a cultural bonanza.

Hon. Members, when I talk of the symposium, we had the forefathers of the East African Community who came here in Arusha and I must say that something that really touched me and which I felt was very good was when the former President of Kenya said, for the first time people have really noticed what we did for the Community and have invited us back. They were happy that people recognised the work that they did so I am glad at least that that happened and they felt that as an Assembly we brought them back to the Community so that their achievements could be recognised.

21. Sitting in a new Chamber. I think that is also an achievement even though it wasn't finished. I must say it is an achievement and we as a Second Assembly can say we sat in our new Chamber. So even when the Third Assembly comes, they are sitting in a Chamber not the new Chamber. We already inaugurated it.

Hon. Members, permit me to acknowledge that your debates and contributions to motions individually and collectively were worth the while. I commend you for your worthy contributions, consistent efforts and desire to see EALA succeed through participation in many activities and programs of the Assembly.

Despite the successes, there are many areas where we could have fared better. During the life of the Second Assembly, EALA faced a number of challenges. Permit me to state the main ones or a few of them:

1. The Assembly in its course of duty lacked sufficient funds which cost us the ability to carry out more programs. Though our budget margin kept increasing through constant negotiations and hard battles with the Council of Ministers, perhaps we could have performed much better had we had the adequate requisite finances.

I want to laud our friends the development Partners who stepped in to fill the gap. Allow me to single out AWEPA, the Partnership Fund, WFD, NDI, KCBF and Trademark East Africa with whom we explored the various options for the timely assistance.

Even though I said single out all of them, but I would have to say AWEPA. I think AWEPA has done a lot for us. I know when people talk about AWEPA activities, they know it is different from EALA activities but I must say that AWEPA built this Assembly to where we are today. And also to thank all the members for still coming even though it is different from the EALA activities and it shows your dedication in terms of EALA issues.

2. Another challenge revolves on the issue of publicity. EALA has consistently faced the notion from the public that it is not well publicised. Though the impact of the Assembly has been felt and perhaps the most in comparison with other EAC organs, the fact that we have faced financial

challenges has necessitated cutting down on publicity including the regional excursions such as the Kenya tour and visits to stakeholders.

Here I would implore the hon. Minister from Kenya to try as much as possible and all the other ministers of Council to make sure that the Third Assembly will get funding so that they can carry out country tours.

I think members of the First Assembly will testify that country tours really help this Assembly. I must say that I have been to every corner of Kenya for example, not because I was there before but because of this Assembly and because of those tours. I could say the same even though on a small scale Uganda, Tanzania at least we have gone to the South to Mbea and Eringa but I think there is a lot more we can do as an Assembly if these tours were brought back.

So hon. Members of the Council, please look at this, Secretary General if you can find funding for these tours to happen, please also look for money because they are very important and they take- I think what it does is you go all the way to the small people as they say.

I must say in the First Assembly we had a 13 day tour of Northern Kenya and we went to Garissa for three days where we had a seminar and from there to Bura, from Bura to Wajir, from Wajir to Mandera and we slept with the normal people. Then to Moyale, Marsebet, Lokchoggio, Lodwar- We did not go to Pokot though but I must say that we went to all these areas where people would never go and people were surprised that members from a regional Assembly would come and visit them and stay with them.

So I think you connect with the people so I think we should push for that. When I am saying that, we were actually the First Parliament and hon. Kategaya can attest to this, to actually go to Gulu. When we went there, the Ugandan Parliament followed later.

(Laughter)

So I think hon. Members that it is something that we should do and something that should be encouraged.

3. Lack of a legislative calendar from the Council of Ministers has hampered the Assembly's progress towards enactment of Bill and compelled it to bring a number of Bills through Private Members' motions which unfortunately also have limitations. This is an area the council shall have to address and urgently so in the fullness of time.

Here hon. Members, I must say that even though you look at saying that we passed 40 pieces of legislation, how many of them are from the Council of Ministers other than amendments to previous Bills it is usually appropriations but we do not have real Bills coming from Council. Most of the Bills you will find have come from Members and I would like to congratulate you.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, I would like to say this to those who are coming back and the ones who will be in the Third Assembly. I think it came up in the institutional review and it is also coming up now from hearing – I don't want to say rumours that I am hearing that people want to amend the Treaty to take away Private Members' Bills.

I think if we go that way, you might as well close the Assembly and close shop because of all the Bills that we have done as an Assembly, this Assembly has really moved because of Private Members' Bills. So if that goes- Hon. Members, I am talking to the next group of the Third Assembly, you might as well close shop and go because this Assembly is being pushed by members bringing Private Members Bills.

Even sometimes you will find that Council – Once they see that there is something coming then they move so once that goes, I don't know what we will say about the next Assembly so I say that even though you do not have a role in terms of amending the Treaty, you should guard it jealously and make sure that that does not happen.

4. The engagement of bureaucrats in the decision making process at the EAC owing to the busy schedule of the Council of Ministers in the Partner States and this is as a result of a situation where policies are not properly enunciated and Bills are neither initiated nor submitted on time.

The sole decision making process impacts negatively on how other organs and institutions of the Community function.

5. The mode of reporting also needs to be re-looked. In EALA's understanding of these provisions, the Council is the one under obligation to submit reports on their proposals, actions and decisions to the Assembly for consideration.

This provision has never been put to its meaningful use. It is a provision which when explored selflessly, would ensure the Council and the Assembly work together on major issues with a view of reaching collective decisions.

Hon. Members, the challenges ... EALA of course is indebted to a number of persons who made immense contributions to the success of EALA. Permit me to quickly recognise their efforts.

1. The EAC Summit who time and again put aside their busy schedules to address the Assembly whenever EALA had rotational sittings in the Partner States as stipulated in Article 55 of the Treaty for the East African Community. I wish to personally thank Their Excellences Pierre Nkurunziza, Mwai Kibaki, Paul Kagame, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete for their commitment to the cause.
2. I want to also pay flowing tribute to our pioneer Speaker the Rt hon. Kinana for his stewardship of the First Assembly and all the members of the First Assembly. During his reign, key personnel were recruited and structures begun to take shape akin to other parliaments.

3. The Council of Ministers. I want to thank the Council of Ministers. I don't want to name all of them but they know who they are; past and present. I know sometimes our relationship has not been cordial and people might think that we are fighting but I think it is for the betterment of the Community and at all times we have always come together to guide the Community to where it should go. So I want to thank you for your understanding and for also understanding where EALA was going. It was not about fighting, it was more about bringing ideas together and with those ideas, moving the Community forward so I want to say *asanteni sana*.
4. The EAC Secretariat. I want to laud the staff of the Secretariat under the stewardship of hon. Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera.

(Applause)

There are many titles there; maybe I should have started with His Excellency hon. Amb. Dr Richard Sezibera.

(Laughter)

I urge Dr. Sezibera to move the Secretariat and the Community to greater heights.

I want to say that for the few – I guess I could say year and a bit that we have known each other, like he said you know sometimes people- I don't want to say clash but there have been differences of opinions in certain issues but I must say that- And I always say that for you, hon. Members even though some members sometimes stand up and it is venom and people are wondering, what is wrong with this man? What have I done to this person? But really it ends when you leave that door and it is all for the betterment of the Community and I think we have worked together very well and we will continue to do so.

The thing I have liked with him also is that when he understands where you are coming from then he starts moving towards that direction. Of course you will always find that the Secretariat has always been the big brother and the Assembly has been sort of a department or has been treated like a department of the Secretariat but I must say that things have changed and those days when the Secretariat used to see the Assembly, people used to run and scatter but nowadays I find that people are coming together, they are talking, it is not a big deal that the Assembly is around and people are not stressed out.

I think as time has gone, staff of the Secretariat has found that we are pushing, not for EALA but for the Community, not for EALA but for the Secretariat, not for EALA but all organs and institutions of the Community but at the same time defending our turf as EALA so I want to say that keep up the good work that we have started and make sure that we continue in this

camaraderie and see how we can move the Community forward. I want to thank you for the last year that we have worked together.

I also appreciate the leadership of his predecessors; Ambassadors- Oh, these ambassadors; they are all Ambassadors, honourable, doctor; Juma Volta Mwapachu and hon. Amana Mushega, and Amb. Muthaura, all great men with great vision for the Community for moving and steering the wheels of integration.

5. The East African Court of Justice. EALA has had special relations with the East African Court of Justice. As I always say, we were the first to bring a case to them. I think they were- I don't want to say idle but they were sitting around for I think four years until we brought a case to the East African Court of Justice and again, the second thing they did was they shut us down for six months or eight months. We did not like them much but I must say that they were doing their job and diligently so. I wish them well and I think this Assembly has been the voice.

You know judges usually don't talk but I think we have spoken for them as EALA in terms of increasing their mandate and also in terms of having them resident; the Judge President and the Principal Judge resident in Arusha.

So I want to wish them well and that they may continue with the good work they are doing.

6. The national assemblies of Partner States. EALA and the national assemblies worked closely together. The Assembly has over the years found it necessary to organise annual inter parliamentary seminars the Nanyuki Series to bring together members and those from national assemblies to discuss the functional relationship of the Parliaments and existing structures of communication and information exchange.

Various inter parliamentary committees have been formed and we now have the inter parliamentary soccer tournaments which have now been institutionalised because this year it will be held in Kenya. So the Kenyan Parliament has already offered to host the games this year. And of course somebody mentioned netball as well. So it is these games and I think it is a good way of bringing people and the assemblies together.

But here I must say that in the next Assembly you should try and do more because like they say, politics is local and you will find most of our national assemblies are interested only in local matters and not regional matters and when you go there, they are busy saying that you have not reported to us, we don't know what you have done over the five years but really it is them who are not doing what they are supposed to do.

But I think we have to bring them closer and see how we can work better with the national assemblies.

7. The Speakers, who I have already paid tribute to. I wish to thank the Speakers of national assemblies for owning the integration process. The formation of the Speakers' Bureau contributed a great deal to strengthening the role of Parliaments in the integration agenda.
8. I would also like to thank the Fourth Estate. I want to thank the media for constantly engaging with EALA. I find that a lot of stories that I have seen recently- You know every time we decide on something or discuss it, it is always appearing in most of the dailies within the region and I must point out one or two. I think one that is always there is the New Times in Kigali, The Citizen I find is doing that a lot nowadays, The Guardian is also doing it, Daily Monitor, The New Vision, I will say Nation and Standard so that they don't cut us off but they are not doing as well as they should.

But I must say that our dailies are now getting interested in these issues, and also the East African. I think the East African for a while would be reporting- They used to call it the East African but it would never report anything regional. You would find that they just bring stories from all the countries and then out them there but nowadays you will find that they have a focus on East African which I hope the Secretary General will still move and push these editors to be able to have more stories in our dailies.

9. I would like to thank the staff of the Assembly.

(Applause)

I want to thank the staff for their contribution to the process and for the support in ensuring EALA's activities were carried out professionally, efficiently and effectively. I applaud each and every staff member for their diligence in their roles and for putting in hours sometimes long and winding. I thank them all for bearing with me and all the members.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, at this juncture- You know usually they say that in the Speaker's gallery I would like to recognise the important people. I would like to recognise important people in the Speaker's gallery. If the staff could stand up- the few who are here.

(Applause)

Lastly, I would like to reserve some words for the members. The entire membership of the Assembly consisted of great men and women. I thank them all for their comradeship. I shared special moments with each and every member of the House. It is only fair that I must express gratitude to the Partner States and the political parties for sending individuals of high calibre who were believers in the integration process and who debated astutely.

(Applause)

The fact that we, as an Assembly were able to pass such record number of legislation and resolutions is no mean achievement. I attribute this success to the engagement and support of all the members of this Assembly.

Hon. Members, given the fact that the EAC is deepening and widening and now I hear there is an amendment to the Treaty where they want to add the word 'hastening', the role of the Assembly remains fundamental and crucial, hinged on provisions of legislative service including new legislation. All in the room today shall continue to be relevant.

Lastly, I wish all my immediate colleagues in the House who are retiring with me favour and may the many years ahead be happy ones and may you prosper in any company, organisation or initiative that you are going to be involved in.

(Applause)

On the whole, we recognise that we have a big challenge ahead of us. We are however equally aware and confident that by putting our acts together, we can achieve our set objectives within the time frames that we have provided for or imposed on ourselves.

I feel a deep sense of personal pleasure to have been part of this Assembly and to serve as Speaker of the Second Assembly.

I am today proud of the fact that we leave behind a strong Assembly, one that is unrivalled and yet one that is admired and adored in the region, continent and beyond.

(Applause)

Hon. Members, I wish the Third Assembly the very best of luck and success and the hon. Members who have been elected to that Assembly, I would like to congratulate you and like we said earlier, keep the touch burning. We wish you success. It is very difficult to say good bye but I think we are not saying good bye, we are saying fare well. They say, say farewell but don't say good bye. So we are saying fare well, we will be together and I think we should not forget the Community. We have served here, some of us for ten years, some for five years but we are still part of this Community and we will continue building this Community.

Hon. Members, with those few remarks I would like to adjourn the House but I would like to say while I am adjourning the House that I am adjourning the house *sine die* but you should know that your mandate is still on until the 4th so you might be recalled back before the 4th.

(Laughter)

So you should check your emails also. They might call you back for an urgent meeting before the 4th.

With those few remarks, hon. Members, I want to say I have enjoyed myself in this Assembly, I have enjoyed myself in this Community, I am still in this Community just as all of you are.

With those few remarks, I would like to adjourn the House *sine die*.

(Applause)

(The House rose and adjourned sine die.)