



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

The Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly 135TH SITTING - THIRD ASSEMBLY: SIXTH MEETING – FOURTH SESSION SPECIAL SITTING

Thursday, 31 May 2015

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 3:50 p.m. in the in the Chamber of the
Assembly, EAC Headquarters, in Arusha, Tanzania.*

EAC ANTHEM

PRAYER

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

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable members, amidst us today are Their Excellences, Mama Ngina Kenyatta, former First Lady of the Republic of Kenya and Mama Miria Obote, former First Lady of the Republic of Uganda.

I have, in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty, invited them to address this Assembly. I now would like to make the following proclamation to welcome their presence in the Assembly.

PROCLAMATION

“WHEREAS Clause 1 of Article 54 of the Treaty provides that the Speaker of the Assembly can invite any person to attend

the Assembly notwithstanding that he or she is not a member of the Assembly if in his or her opinion, the business of the Assembly renders his or her presence desirable;

AND WHEREAS in the opinion of the Speaker, the attendance and presence in the Assembly of the former First Ladies of the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uganda is desirable in accordance with the business before the Assembly;

NOW THEREFORE it is with great pleasure and honour, on your behalf honourable members, to welcome the former First Ladies of the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Uganda in this Assembly.”

WELCOME REMARKS

The Speaker: Your Excellency Ngina Kenyatta, former First Lady of the Republic of Kenya, Your Excellency Miria Obote, former First Lady of the Republic of Uganda, the Chair and members of the Council of Ministers, the honourable members of EALA, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, all protocol observed, good afternoon.

Let me take this singular opportunity to welcome you all to the second and last week of the Sixth Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Third Assembly.

I am particularly grateful to the founding First Ladies of this great region, Their Excellences, Mama Ngina Kenyatta and Mama Miria Obote for gracing EALA at this unique occasion, which is a first for the Assembly since its inauguration 15 years ago.

Today presents a special occasion for the Assembly to benefit from the collective experiences of the region's founding first ladies. Looking through this Chamber, a few of the members here today may have witnessed your work back then. Some of the members of the Assembly were yet to be born, including me while others were perhaps too young to comprehend and only read about your deeds later in history books.

In this regard, we therefore feel truly privileged to have the opportunity to listen to your wise counsel this afternoon. A few political analysts have in the past contended that back then, it was the duty of a wife to a head of state to merely interest herself in whatever her husband was involved in and agree to travel the long and sometimes lonely road and for the husbands who are not merely ordinary presidents but freedom fighters, the road must have been very rough, long and lonely.

Eleanor Roosevelt, the longest serving First Lady of the United States of America, who served between March 1933 to April 1945 discounted the theory when she said, "As life developed, I faced each problem as it came along. As my activities and work broadened and reached out, I never tried to avoid issues. I tried never to avoid an issue. When I found I had something to do, I just did it."

I associate this quote to these great ladies seated here. In many ways, you opted not to be contented to take your place by the fireside and simply look on. Instead, you took your place in society and opted to go above and beyond the call of duty. You took time to midwife and nurture the foundational processes of building the young Partner States and the then EAC.

We acknowledge your instrumental contribution to the birth of the East African Community in 1966 and the several hours you logged in beside Their Excellences *Mzee* Jomo Kenyatta, *Mzee* Apollo Milton Obote and *Mwalimu* Julius Nyerere to ensure the realisation of the first East African Community.

Today we celebrate you. You are walking encyclopaedias in your own rights and repositories of information who, despite aging gracefully, still credit, follow the development of this great region, and are supportive to the EAC unto this day. We wish you longer life and a healthy life.

Late last year, for example, *Mama* Ngina Kenyatta met with the EALA Kenya chapter in Gatundu in Kenya, while in August 2014 a group of EALA women members paid a courtesy call on *Mama* Maria Nyerere in Dar-es-Salaam. *Mama* Obote, on her part, is still involved in the political spheres in Uganda and continues to follow the development of EAC closely from Uganda and in Kampala. She was the first Ugandan lady and East African lady to be the President of one of the oldest

political parties in Uganda; the Uganda Peoples' Congress.

She did not stop there but contested for the highest office in the land. We congratulate you.

The Assembly, at its Fifth Meeting of the Fourth Session on March 16, 2016, passed a resolution recognising the role you have continued to play in galvanising East Africa in the integration process and in the service of East Africans as informal institutional memory.

We are happy that you still show leadership in your own right and continue to be involved in numerous humanitarian causes throughout the EAC region, much akin to your active and prolific years when you worked for political and social justice and advocated for a wide range of human rights issues.

Your Excellencies, honourable members, I am obliged to briefly state the history of integration in order to bring the perspective of this day into focus.

East Africa is credited with one of the longest experience of regional integration predating the colonial state. As early as 1900, Kenya and Uganda had agreed to establish a Customs Union between them. Tanzania, then Tanganyika, joined the Customs Union in 1922.

Integration arrangements were achieved early in the dispensation including the East African High Commission 1948 to 1961, the East African Common Service Organisation of 1961 to 1967 and the East African Community 1966 to 1977. At the time of its collapse, the Community had made great strides and benefits to the people were immense including free movement of people, opportunities for employment and viable institutions that provided effective and efficient services to the citizens of the region.

Indeed, in retrospect, the collapse of the Community in 1977 was sad and catastrophic. A great loss in opportunities and a setback for the region but today, I stand here convinced that the step we have taken as a Community since its re-establishment are fundamentally underpinned on the Treaty for the establishment of the EAC and we are on course for full integration of the region.

Integration continues to proceed at a pace with major achievements recorded during the entry of Rwanda and Burundi in 2007 and that of South Sudan this year. We enjoy a fully-fledged Customs Union, are implementing the Common Market and there is a desire to ensure that the Monetary Union is achieved.

Your Excellences, my assurance to you is that the African dream is alive. As EALA, we are supportive of the integration pillar and are linked between the institution of EAC and the people of East Africa.

Excellences, distinguished members, ladies and gentlemen, as the region progresses towards a Political Federation, the role of the Assembly shall be to close ranks with the stakeholders to ensure that the dream of the East Africans becomes a reality and the unity of the African people.

Today we engage one of the unique category of stakeholders, whose supportive role they played in the independence of our respective countries and later in the formation of the first EAC maybe unqualified or qualified but we as an Assembly truly acknowledge the role these great daughters of Africa have played.

Excellences, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, let me therefore take this opportunity once again, to sincerely thank you, the First Ladies and to invite you to share your insights with us. We shall again begin with *Mama Miria Obote*. I take this

humble opportunity to invite *Mama Miria Obote* to address this august Assembly. *Mama*, you are welcome.

ADDRESS BY FORMER FIRST LADIES

The Former First Lady of Uganda (Ms Miria Obote): The Right honourable Speaker, honourable members of the Assembly, all our distinguished visitors, all protocol observed,

We are delighted, humbled, and honoured to stand before this august East African Legislative Assembly representing our founding fathers of the East African Community.

These are our comrades - Dr Julius Kambarage Nyerere, *Mzee* Jomo Kenyatta and Apollo Milton Obote.

As far as the Obotes are concerned, we are true East Africans because of the long experience of living, studying and working in East Africa.

Dr Obote lived and worked in Kenya in the 1950s when the Mau Mau struggle was taking place and had the golden opportunity of meeting the legendary freedom fighter Dedan Kimathi.

When political activities were banned in Kenya, the focus shifted to social clubs and Dr Obote went on to head the Kaloleni social club. Later, the ban on political parties was lifted and Dr Obote, together with other Kenyan nationalists went ahead to found the Kenya African Union.

Dr Obote was even elected chairperson of the new party and he led the successful campaigns for the late Tom Mboya's entry into the LEGCO. I am equally a product of the East African spirit and Kenya.

My late father, Blasio Kalule was an employee of the Kenya-Uganda Railways

and we lived in Kenya for some time as well as Uganda.

With the advent of exile in 1971 to 1980, we lived in Tanzania and during our second exile 1985-2005 we lived in both Kenya and Zambia. Our children lived in both Kenya and Zambia. Our children also studied in Tanzania, in Kenya and Uganda thus, our association with both the old and the new East African Community.

I need to inform you that my late husband, Dr Milton Obote, had his view of the African Union. Before we got married very many years ago, he asked me where I wanted to go for the honeymoon. I told him that you are a new leader of a new nation. Why have you not been to other African countries? I heard another story of a friend from Ghana that I met in America. He visited East Africa and went to Uganda so when he came back, I was excited because I wanted to know how he liked my country. He said, "Uganda is not an African country". I asked, why and he said, "It is too clean".

Before I got married, after telling my husband that he should visit other areas of Africa, I said please, could we go to West Africa? Let me see the West Africa that we hear about. That is how we agreed to go for our honeymoon in Ghana with Nkrumah. We also went to Nigeria with the late Tafawa Balewa and we ended up in Ethiopia with the late Haile Selassie. That was our first introduction to the Western part of Africa.

We then went to the North and touched Ethiopia. From there we moved to the African Union.

My husband embarked on a strong move to develop Uganda very quickly after independence. His achievements were so good that the President of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, after one of those Commonwealth Heads of State meetings

had to fly to Uganda to learn and take the blue print of our development plans, which he wanted to copy for Singapore.

In fact, Singapore copied our education programme. Our first priority programme was to build one nation with one people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank in particular and appreciate the governments of Tanzania, Kenya and their peoples as original members of the East African Community who truly understood the social, political challenges of Uganda. They welcomed us, they sheltered, and they catered for our people as political refugees. This spirit of togetherness was extended to Rwanda, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo and now the new South Sudan.

Not only for receiving and hosting refugees but also for walking the extra mile and facilitating peace talks, for example, the Moshi conference of Ugandan exiles in March 1979, the Okello NRM peace talks in Nairobi in 1985, Rwanda peace talks in Arusha, Burundi peace talks in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi. Thank you, our brothers and sisters of Kenya and Tanzania.

I have also mentioned that South Sudan also had peace talks in Naivasha and Nairobi.

We thank you for your good neighbourliness. As the saying goes, a friend in need is a friend indeed. *Asanteni sana. Mungu awabariki.*

Historically, the need for integration in East and Central Africa has been there. The area that was rapidly exploited was long distance trade as it used to be called. The Sudanese visited East Africa for trade. The Nyamwezi of Tanzania connected the interior with the coast. The Kamba of Kenya used to link up with Banyoro and Baganda traders. All this was mainly in the pre-colonial times.

With the eventual colonisation of East and Central Africa, a new momentum towards integration was ushered in. The Germans embarked on the construction of the Central railway of Tanganyika. The British started on the construction of Uganda Railway from Mombasa to Uganda. That is why I am a child of the railways because my father worked there.

The British South African Company also moved ahead with the railway from South Africa to Northern Rhodesia, which is now Zambia.

By 1917, a Customs Union was formed between Kenya and Uganda, which Tanganyika joined later in 1927. The then East African High Commission operated from 1948 to 1961 and subsequently, it was upgraded into the East African Common Services Organisation from 1961 to 1967, which finally gave birth to the East African Community in 1967.

Early in the 1950s, a British official talked of the formation of an East African Federation similar to the Central African Federation. Unfortunately, the Buganda Kingdom overreacted at such a proposal and demanded the assurances that it would never be brought up again. The main issue of the Buganda kingdom's concern was the possibility of the secular politics of Kenya taking root as the white supremacist policies had in South Africa and Southern Rhodesia.

As the independence struggle advanced, Tanganyika, under Comrade Julius Nyerere delayed their *Uhuru* to enable Kenya and Uganda to come on board resulting in Tanganyika gaining independence in 1961 and the union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar, now Tanzania in 1964, Uganda in 1962 and Kenya in 1963.

The founding fathers that we are honouring today accelerated the level of talks towards the East African Community that

eventually was born in September 1967. Working on their common historical heritage, the sphere of East African integration extended to cover a wider range of areas. Arusha was the headquarters of the East African Community and that is why we are here today. I remember with nostalgia the East African Airways headquartered in Nairobi, East African railways and harbours were headquartered in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and the East African Posts and Telecommunications in Kampala, Uganda.

Other areas that brought a sense of oneness were the East African Examination Board and the East African Court of Appeal, the East African Flying School in Soroti, the East African Library Board, the East and Central African Challenge Cup in football, among others.

The advent of Idi Amin's coup in 1971 destroyed the spirit of the East African Community and led to its eventual collapse in 1977. It has to be recalled that by 1971, Zambia was seriously considering joining the East African Community. By then, the giant steps of the East African Community in the development of the region as explained by the late Dr Apollo Obote thus, "This leads me to another endeavour in the field of economic cooperation. East Africa, that is in partnership with the East African Community, have succeeded to negotiate with the European Economic Community, an agreement whereby the three East African states have been accorded associate status in the European economic Community sometimes called the common market. This is from the communication from the Chair of the National Assembly by Dr Obote, the President of the Republic of Uganda on the occasion of the ceremonial opening of Parliament on the 20 April 1970."

The early 1980s combined the issue of compensation and reopening talks for a revival of the East African Community that

was later fully re-born on 30 November 1999.

Dr Obote reflected on the experience that, "The demise of East African Community will no doubt go down in our history as a great tragedy. As soon as the situation has been stabilised and once normalcy returns to Uganda, I shall even as a private citizen, take the initiative in approaching our two former partners in the East African Community and the government of Uganda to meet in the cause of re-establishing the old relationship." This was in his speech at Kololo airstrip in Uganda on 7 June 1980.

Today, we meet for a re-energised and fully functioning East African Community. It is an absolute necessity with the growing challenges of the times. For example, security matters are high on the agenda with global terrorism a major concern.

There is also the issue of economic investment for projects like oil refineries, oil pipelines, the standard gauge railway, agricultural research, food security and climate change etc.

Mr Speaker, we are very grateful for the East African Community and the East African Legislative Assembly for recognising the contribution of our founding fathers: Comrade *Mwalimu* Julius Kambarage Nyerere, *Mzee* Jomo Kenyatta and Dr Milton Obote and we are also thankful to the Almighty God for having kept us alive as former First Ladies of the independent East Africa. You see *Mama* Ngina here; she is still a young lady, still beautiful, still walking. You know, it is very important for us to see that we are still on our feet; we have not come here in wheel chairs. Isn't that something? We thank God for that.

With regard to what the East African Community must achieve or my cherished aspirations, we have to encourage all

measures that will improve on our communications and transport networks - (Applause).

We also need to improve on our telecommunication network and transport. It should be easy to send or receive mobile money from East African Community countries to another without any problem - (Applause). This will have a huge impact on economic growth.

Suppose I want to have some *korosho* from Tanzania, I can use my mobile phone and say, Mama Maria, please send me a *debbe* of *korosho*. If I want something from Kenya, I can just pick up my phone and say, *Ndugu*, please send me something quickly without going through Western Union to send money in the bank and what not - (Applause).

Today, some Europeans have developed a system where money can be sent and received from abroad to East Africa. I have received some money from the UK through my Airtel telephone just like that. Why don't we do it among ourselves in East Africa? Can't we develop our own system so that we do not have to go through all the trouble of sending money from one state to another? We are brothers and sisters - (Applause).

We need to move much faster to have an integrated syllabus and curricular. This would stabilise the labour market within the East African Community as it was in the days of the East African Examination Board.

For example, Ugandans have never learnt to speak proper Swahili; Swahili bora. We speak or Swahili, which is watered down, we do not have that language of telling people, *ebu mujomba*, *ebu tafadhali*, *ebu njoo*. We learnt the army or security Swahili of *kuja*, *kwenda*. We do not know how to say, *ebu njoo*, *ebu fanya nini* - (Applause).

You cannot believe that we did not know the difference between *kupiga* and *kupika*. We would say *kwenda piga chakula*. We did not know that there was *kupika* but we are learning. My grandson is already learning Swahili in school. I think the language alone is going to bring us together. Do not laugh at us, we are hidden right inside the heart of Africa so by the time the Swahili leaves Mombasa or Dar es Salaam, it is diluted and mixed up with other languages and it is not the Swahili bora that I know but we are getting there - (Applause).

We are tasking the new East African Community to work extra hard to create more employment opportunities, especially for the youths in the region - (Applause).

This can be achieved through joint or common East African Community investments such as the on-going projects between Uganda and Tanzania for the proposed pipeline; Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya for the standard gauge railway; Kenya, Ethiopia and the new South Sudan for the Lamu port.

The clear call should be an intensification of efforts across various fields to make our region more integrated.

We also need to encourage not only domestic tourism but also inter state tourism in order to help our people to get to know each other and learn how they live in other East African countries. We go into a lot of trouble to attract tourists from America and abroad to come and visit us. Why don't we start with our own? Charity begins at home. Encourage Ugandans to visit Kenya and Tanzania, let Kenyans also go and see how Ugandans live. Let them come and eat a bit of *matooke*. For goodness' sake, we are all East Africans. This is what I want to stress; let us promote inter state tourism - (Applause) - before we go to look for *wataali* from abroad.

Finally, I would like to end with a historic message in form of advice. Although it is normal to think and talk of one's own country because of the greater knowledge one has of that country, it is far nobler to transcend this temptation for purposes of achieving the aims and objectives of our efforts in building the Community.

Mr Speaker, honourable members, we are now very old; we do not have to hide our age. When we were young, we used to say, I was of age a couple of years ago. Now we are old enough to say how old we are - (Applause).

Mr Speaker, I am going to be 80 years on 18 July this year - (Applause). I was sharing with that birthday with the late Madiba Mandela. Therefore, Mr Speaker, this is an advanced birthday present. What more do I want? Even if I do not celebrate it, this is my birthday. Thank you. *Asanteni sana. Mungu awabariki wote. Shukuran* - (Applause).

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Mama Miria Obote for the insights. You took us up, we became emotional, our faces became wet but we thank you for giving us the message.

I now would like to take the opportunity, the singular honour to invite Mama Ngina to come and address the Assembly. She will say a few words.

The Former First Lady of Kenya (Mrs Ngina Kenyatta): Mr Speaker wa Bunge ya Afrika Mashariki, Wajumbe wa nchi zetu tatu ya Afrika Mashariki, ningetaka ku sema jioni hii ni ya kuwa niko na furaha isio na kifani - (Applause).

Furaha niko nayo ni nyingi sana. Nikiwa hapa mbele yenu. (Applause)- Kwasababu wakati ule wa kwanza kabisa nilipozungumza maneno ya Afrika Mashariki, nilikuja hapa wakati hawa rais watatu walikuwa wanajadiliana kuhusu

kufanya kazi pamoja wakiwa Afrika Mashariki. (Applause)

Nahapa huu mkutano, ati herisirasi yandugu yako. (Applause)

Furaha yangu nikuona wakati mbegu ya namba hio walikuwa wanazungumza kuwa wakifanya kazi pamoja. Na kwasababu sasa kwa hio mazungumzo waliofanya ndilo sababu mukawa hapa kama vile mnafanya kazi pamoja. Furaha yangu ni hiyo. (Applause) Furaha yangu ni nyingi kwasabu iyo ni tayari mmetumia. Ile nilitaka kuniuliza ile plan au maono walikuwa nayo. Mwendeele kuwa na huo umoja na kufanya kazi pamoja mkiwa ndugu na dada. (Applause)- ndio muone hizi nchi zetu tatu zinaelekea kuyatimiza kila jambo zote, nilikuwa nataka hawa President watimize waono hio mwendeele kufanya kazi pamoja. (Applause)

Lile lingine nilitaka kusema, nikurudisha shkurani nyingi nyingi. Kwa vile muliona, ni vizuri kutupatia hii honour tukiwa mabibi wa hawa President wa kwanza; President Nyerere, President Kenyatta and President Obote. (Applause)

Mukaona ni muhimu mutupatie hii honour. Nataka kushukuru mungu kwa sababu sisi wa tatu tuko hai. (Applause)

Tumeona hiyo heshima mmetupatia. (Applause)

Tukitoka hapa tuende mahali walipoenda, tutakwenda kuwaambia ya kuwa munatimiza yale mlikuwa mnataka watimize. (Applause)

Kwa hivyo, speech yangu itaendelea nilikua nataka tu kuwaambia kwa mdomo yangu ati mimi niko na furaha sana nilikuwa hapa mbele yenu kuona vile mnatupatia heshima kubwa - (Applause).

Kwa hivyo my daughter ata continue my speech na ngeniwaomba mwendeele tukuwe watu na nguvu kwa sababu kuna

musemo unasemwaga “ukipenda kazi na kidole moja haiwezi kuua chawa” kwa hivyo tushikane pamoja ndiyo tuwe na nguvu nyingi tukisema kitu tunasikilizwa mahali popote tunasema. *(Applause)*

Kwa hivyo asanteni sana. Mukuwe pamoja. Thank you very much Mr Speaker - *(Applause)*.

The Speaker: Honourable members, I now invite the daughter of Her Excellency Mama Ngina to continue with her speech and conclude it.

Ms Kristina Pratt: Thank you Mr Speaker. Your Excellency, Mama Ngina Kenyatta, Your Excellency, Mama Miria Obote, Members of the East African Legislative Assembly. I was going to stand here and read this speech on behalf of Mama but having listened to the two ladies, they speak from their hearts - *(Applause)*.

They were the ones who were there when it all begun. Therefore, anything that I may read from this official speech will only dilute what the two ladies have said - *(Applause)*.

Therefore, with a great deal of respect, Mr Speaker, I would like to say *ile wa Mama wote wa wili ile wa mesema ni mambo ya muhimu, ni mambo yiko na utamu wingi nayi natocha. Kwahivyo mungu awabiriki na abariki ki nyumba na kazi ya mikono yenu. Asanteni sana. God bless you - (Applause)*.

The Speaker: Thank you so much. Excellences, the founding First Ladies of the East African Community.

At this juncture, honourable colleagues, allow me to convey the apology of Her Excellency, Mama Maria Nyerere. She is indisposed and on a sad note, she just lost her sister a few weeks ago. I invite you to put her in the hands of God for strength and

God permitting, she will also come and have this conversation with us.

Before I go to introduce the various delegations that are in this Chamber this afternoon, honourable colleagues allow me to request all of us to rise to give one moment of silence to give respect to the founding fathers of this Community. May we rise.

(The members stood in their places and observed a moment of silence.)

The Speaker: Your Excellences, honourable colleagues, before I introduce the various delegations, I would like to join you to assure our special guests this afternoon that this Assembly deeply recognises the role played by women in development of Africa. *(Applause)*

This is the basis of our respect to you on behalf of the women of East Africa. I am sure His Excellency Jomo Kenyatta, His Excellency Mwalimu Nyerere and His Excellency Dr Milton Obote are turning with happiness in their graves.

Allow me now to introduce the delegation led by Her Excellency Mama Ngina Kenyatta. I request that you rise when I mention your name. I will start with Mrs Jane Mumbi Kiano, Joan Njoki Ndugi, Mrs Wambui Christina Pratt, Mrs Elina Pratt, Mrs Serina Pratt, Mr Paul Gathega Mhoho, Wanjiru Kimani, Ezekiel Nganga Kolia, and Mrs Margret Jambi Magugu. Ms Anna Saida Pratt. If there is anybody that is not captured in this list and is part of the delegation, may you please submit the name to Clerk so that I recognise you? *(Applause)*

May you also allow me recognise the delegation led by Her Excellency Mama Miria Obote. I start with Hon. James Akena. He is a Member of Parliament in Uganda National Parliament and a son to

the late Dr Milton Obote. Ms. Dianah Karugaba accompanied them - (*Applause*).

At this juncture, I should have moved to introduce the delegation led by Her Excellency, Mama Nyerere but on a special note, I would like to introduce one of our own, Hon Charles Makongoro Nyerere. He is the son of Mwalimu Nyerere.

There are other delegations from the Parliament of Kenya that have accompanied Her Excellency Mama Ngina Kenyatta and they include the following: Hon. Florence Kajuju, Hon. Wanjiku Matia, Hon. Sarah Korahe, Madam Alice Tuwo, staff of the National Parliament. If there could be other members that may not have been put on the list, please somebody help me to approach the Clerk's desk so that I can recognise them as well. There is a team of delegation from Central Kenya who I am not sure whether they are here yet but immediately I am notified that they are here, I will announce their presence.

I would like to introduce the delegation from the United Republic of Tanzania and the Members of Parliament from the National Parliament who are here in solidarity with the Assembly and Her Excellencies, the First Ladies they are; Hon. Kaki Kaptibu Kaye, Hon. Cecilia Paresoni, Hon. Kiswaga Besteli, Mr Daniel Okotya Erifo. Thank you so much.

Honourable Members, allow me to take this opportunity to introduce the Council of Ministers that serve us as an Assembly. They are unique and special guests. Members of the Council of Ministers please rise for recognition. The secretary General of the Community, the Counsel to the Community. Allow me introduce the Members Chapter by Chapter. Members from Burundi. Members from Rwanda, Members from Uganda; Members from Tanzania; allow me to introduce the staff that made this Assembly...oh sorry, Members from the Republic of Kenya. I

beg your pardon members from the Republic of Kenya. The Staff of the EAC, who are here inclusive of the staff of EALA, may you all rise up together for recognition.

I will endeavour to introduce the Kiambu County Executive for Education, Madam Esther Ndirangu. I would also like to take a special occasion to introduce the mayor of Arusha who is with us here. Please rise up for recognition. If there are delegations who I have not introduced who have graced this important occasion, I will find time to make sure I do so immediately I am notified by the office of the Clerk.

Excellences, we as an Assembly are more than honoured to have benefited from the wisdom that you have expressed this afternoon. We are privileged, as the Third Assembly, to have had this occasion. I do not have many words to express our appreciation as a parliament but rather to request one of our colleague to come and express our appreciation on our behalf. I invite hon Nusura Tiperu to do it on our behalf - (*Applause*)

VOTE OF THANKS

Ms Nusura Tiperu (Uganda): Thank you *Mheshimiwa* Speaker. On behalf of my colleagues seated here, I wish to take this opportunity to thank the first ladies who we are honoured to have amidst us - (*Applause*).

Mheshimiwa Speaker today is a historic day. Parliament is a different mood. The ambiance is very different. The praises of our mothers in the House yet has given us another historic moment. I have no proper words to describe how excited my colleagues and I are. Just allow me to tell our mothers that today this House feels privileged to host legends of the region - (*Applause*).

I am glad that the House is filled to capacity, and the gallery is filled. It is the first time I am seeing the mayor of Arusha. These are indications that good things are about to happen to the region. For we have touched base with our history and so we now know where we are heading Mr Speaker, Sir.

Mr Speaker, Sir, today we honour Mama Maria Nyerere - *(Applause)*.

We honour Mama Ngina Kenyatta and Mama Miria Obote. We thank God that they are all still alive - *(Applause)*.

Today, we set history as a parliament of East Africa to be the first parliament with in the region to have hosted the First Ladies of the Founding Fathers - *(Applause)*.

Today we also go in history for having four children of the founding fathers having stepped in this Parliament. *(Applause)*

We had our own President Uhuru Kenyatta when he came here as the Chairperson of the Summit. We have own Hon. Charles Mokongoro in the House today - *(Applause)*.

Hon. Speaker, we have my former colleague, whom I am so proud of to mention, Hon. James Akena, seated right at the back - *(Applause)*. We also have the First Daughter, Madam Christina Pratt who is seated here. Four of the Children of the Founding Fathers are here. That is the story Mheshimiwa Speaker - *(Applause)*.

Mr Speaker, Sir, allow me to congratulate you for touching our hearts. For making our mothers the fountain of honour for East Africa proud. When Mama Miria said today is her Birthday, When Mama Ngina said she's excited you touched their hearts and you did none other than using your discretion to say that this time the House holds a special sitting where we will be recognising the contribution of the First Ladies of the Founding Fathers.

Congratulations Mr Speaker. You have set precedence that can never be challenged.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this House is very proud because the First Ladies we are hosting today are first ladies with a difference that stood firm but supported their husbands to lead this region towards the independence. *(Applause)*

They are first ladies at a time when life was difficult. At a time when our founding fathers were in and out of prison but the ladies seated here stood firm. *(Applause)*-supported our presidents to lead the countries to independence and towards poverty eradication and they are still firm today. We thank them for what they did. *(Applause)*

Rt. Hon. Speaker, I am sure Mama Maria would have loved to be here, even though she is not we feel her presence. *(Applause)*. We are always happy to be in her country, her contribution to the struggles of Mwalimu Nyerere are known. The support that she offered him in ensuring that Africa is liberated, when you look at the liberation of Mozambique; the struggles in Burundi, South Africa, Uganda my motherland. We recall the contributions of Mama Miria and even if she is not here, this House is indebted to her and I hope the people present here will express our gratitude when they meet her. We pray that she recovers very soon - *(Applause)*.

Rt. Hon. Speaker, back home, every time the President of Uganda, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, speaks, he will always mention how these Founding first Ladies hosted East Africans in their respective homes - *(Applause)*. Today, from their presentations, we have been told clearly that they indeed hosted our people without discrimination an indication that they were hopeful for an integrated East Africa - *(Applause)*.

Hon. Speaker, I want to thank Mama Miria for her presentation and this house is very happy with the fact that she has reminded us of the contribution of the Late Milton Obote towards the integration. From her highlights, she gave us some of the projects that were dear to her, like the East African Railways, the East African Posts and Telecommunications, the Soroti Flying School in Uganda, the Utali School and the East African Ports Authority, among others.

Her presentation was rich and, indeed, we shall borrow leaf from all the remarks that she made especially touching on the aspirations that she expressed today Mr Speaker.

Mr Speaker, Sir, this House wishes to thank Mama Miria yet again because we know that she has made struggles towards women empowerment. Today we brag about a large number of women in Parliament but she knows during their days like in Uganda we had only two women in parliament but now the number in the parliaments of East Africa is remarkable - (*Applause*). We want to thank her for having led the women's struggle and for continuing to do so.

Mr Speaker, she has also nurtured many East Africans like Prof Anyang Nyong of Kenya. When you speak to Prof, he always makes mention on Mama Miria, Raila Odinga, former Prime minister of Kenya, our brother Ndugu Ruhakana Ruganda is always making mention of her and of how she nurtured him. There are many East Africans whose hearts she has touched and she continues to touch Hon. Speaker.

Today, when we have Mama Ngina in this House we feel different. We are looking at a mother; a legend. The founding mother of Kenya. We are looking at a mother of one of our own, a member of the Summit, His Excellency Uhuru Mwigai Kenyatta - (*Applause*).

Therefore, we look at her in a special way. When you look at the contribution of President Uhuru and how he has been able to transform Kenya to what it is today, I look at all those as her achievements - (*Applause*) - an indication that she and the Late Jomo Kenyatta had a dream. They lived it and today his son continues to live in their dream.

Mr Speaker, today when we have Mama Ngina in amidst us, the East African Business Women are celebrating. We look at her as a role model as far as women in business are concerned - (*Applause*.)

Mr Speaker, her presence today is an indication that parliament is going to look at the issue of women in business in East Africa as a very critical area henceforth. I have enjoyed most of the products from her companies and I am sure other East Africans have had about the Brookside and many others. *Asante sana* Mama Ngina - (*Applause*). We want to thank Mama Ngina as parliament for her contribution towards education of a girl child through the donations that she has been giving to many universities in Kenya and East Africa. We also thank her for her role as a girl guide and as a Patron of the Girl Guides.

Hon Speaker, there is a lot that we can say about the ladies seated here but we want to thank them as women of East Africa in general for uplifting the standards of women - (*Applause*).

The role of the first ladies is not clearly defined but the character of the lady gives out her contribution in society. I want to affirm that this House is grateful for the kind of character that is inbuilt in you Mama Miria and in you Mama Ngina. (*Applause*)- Your characters finish all roles the first ladies can do in Africa. Today we have the East African Community and looking towards having a United Africa, a contribution that was started by none other than yourselves.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to conclude by saying that this House is very humbled and we pray that you have journey mercies back home. We want the First Ladies to know that we love them - (*Applause*).

Mama Miria we love you. Mama Ngina we love you - (*Applause*). We have no words to express how much we love you but we only want to thank the speaker yet again for giving us this opportunity to express our love towards our mothers. Indeed, you are our mothers. Ahsanteni sana - (*Applause*).

The Speaker: Thank you so much Hon. Nusura Tiperu for expressing our gratitude to our gallant mothers.

Hon Members, Excellencies, I want to recognise amidst us part of the delegation that we were waiting for. They are Women leaders from Central Kenya. May you please rise up as I read your names: Mrs Kilimeda Kadogo, First Lady Kiambu County, Gladys chania, Kiambu County. Faith W Gitau, Ndarua County, Beth Nguyu, Kirinyaga County. Rahab Wairimu, Nyeri County, Mercy Kamau, Nairobi County, Esther Ndiragu EEC Kiambu County. I also want to note to hon. Colleagues that Esther Ndirangu is representing the Governor of Kiambu this evening - (*Applause*).

I would also like to announce the presence of other guests the *Mountain Muwes*, this is a faith based Movement led by Canon Fred Olena who is in the gallery. May you all rise up for recognition.

I would like to recognise our good friends, the students from Arusha Institute of Accountancy in the gallery. We will continue recognising our guests as they arrive. Hon colleagues, we are proceeding to the next phase of our recognition of our gallant mothers. We are going in a session of presentation of gifts.

As the gifts arrive, may I invite my sister the First Daughter to lay on the Table the speech of Mama Ngina to be part of the records of this House? (*Applause*)

(*Ms Christina Pratt laid Mama Ngina's speech on the Table*)

The Speaker: The gifts we are going to receive for our gallant mothers are in two categories. The first gift is the resolution of the Assembly that gave birth to this meeting this afternoon - (*Applause*).

The second gift is your appreciate inscribed on a good material to them on the appreciation of their service to the Community. We will start with Mama Miria Obote and then come to Mama Ngina. We start with the inscription - (*Applause*).

(*The Speaker presented gifts to Mama Miria*)

- (*Applause*) -

The Speaker: I will invite hon Makongoro to receive on behalf of her Excellency Maria Nyerere and then we move to the next.

(*The Speaker presented gifts to Charles Makongoro*)

- (*Applause*) -

The Speaker: May I now take the opportunity to invite her Excellency Mama Ngina to come and receive her gift as well.

(*The speaker presented gifts to Mama Ngina Kenyatta*)

- (*Applause*) -

The Speaker: Excellencies, hon Colleagues, we are coming to the end of this sitting. We will have a photo session to document this for posterity and the Sargent-at-Arms will guide us where we always take our photographs. I am sure we have put

on our Sunday best for these historic pictures that we are going to have.

I would also like to announce that tomorrow, Wednesday in the morning at 7:30 a.m. we shall be having a special fellowship and it is going to be dedicated to Her Excellencies. We are going to pray for them for their good health and long life. We shall be joined by Mountains Muwes led by Canon Fred Olena during this fellowship. Therefore, Members please turn up at 7:30 a.m.

Finally, after the photo session we have invited you for a cocktail with our mothers where we will have a big opportunity to shake their hands and have close contact with the engagement. The staff will direct the process. I thank you so much Your Excellencies for gracing this day. I thank you so much hon. colleagues. I thank you so much our guests. House stands adjourned to tomorrow 2:30p.m.

EAC ANTHEM

(The House rose at 5:20 p.m. and adjourned until Wednesday, 1 June 2016 at 2.30 p.m.)