



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

1st SITTING – SECOND ASSEMBLY: FIRST MEETING - FIRST SESSION:

Tuesday, 5 June 2007

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. at the Chamber of the Assembly, Ngorongoro Wing, Sixth Floor, AICC Complex, Arusha

(The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr Justin Bundi) Presiding)

PRAYER

(The Assembly was called to Order)

PAPERS

The following Paper was laid on the Table:-
by the Clerk of the Assembly:

The list of Members of the Second East African Legislative Assembly

ELECTION OF SPEAKER

The Clerk of the Assembly (Mr. Justin Bundi): Honourable Members, this is the First Sitting since you were elected to the Second East African Legislative Assembly. Under provisions of Rule 7 of the East African Legislative Assembly Rules of Procedure, our first business is the election of the Speaker.

Rule 7(2) reads as follows:

“No business shall be transacted in the house other than the election of Speaker at any time the office of the Speaker is vacant.”

At the moment, the office of the Speaker is vacant. Therefore, our business is to elect the Speaker.

Further, Rule 7(3) provides that:

“The names of candidates for election to the office of the Speaker shall be entered upon nomination papers obtained from and handed to the Clerk at least

forty eight hours before the time appointed at which the House is to meet to elect a Speaker and shall be accompanied in each case by the signatures of two Members who support the candidate, and a declaration by them that the candidate is willing to serve.”

Hon. Members, at the close of nominations on Sunday, 3 June 2007 at 2.30 p.m., I had received one candidate duly nominated, and that was the hon. Abdirahin Haithar Abdi - (*Applause*). Therefore, proceeding under the provisions of Rule 7(8), I declare the hon. Abdirahin Haithar Abdi, elected Member from Kenya, Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly - (*Applause*).

I request the proposors of the hon. Abdirahin Haithar Abdi to identify him to the House and guide him to this end of the Chamber so that we can administer the Oath of Member and the Oath of Speaker to him.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Oath of Member and the Oath of the Office of Speaker were administered to:

Mr. Abdirahin Haithar Abdi

ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

The Speaker of EALA (Mr Abdirahin Abdi): Hon. Members, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to you all for electing me Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly. I feel proud for the confidence and trust you have expressed in me, more so that I was elected unopposed. It is with utmost

humility that I accept the responsibility you have bestowed on me to lead this Assembly - (*Applause*). In accepting this responsibility, I would like to confirm that I will uphold the dignity of this House at all times, and that I will apply the rules of the House without fear or favour - (*Applause*).

We have a challenging task ahead of us to legislate and represent a community whose activities and membership is expanding rapidly. I have no doubt, however, that we shall be able to deliver on this challenging mandate because this House is composed of Members with the necessary experience and competences to do so.

I also pay tribute to the former Speaker and Members of the last Assembly for laying a solid foundation and establishing structures to allow for smooth functioning of this Assembly.

I was in the last Assembly, and with all the pride say that as the pioneer East African Legislative Assembly, we inevitably faced a lot of challenges, but because of our steadfastness and clear understanding of what our role was, we managed to place this Assembly in its rightful position, a position of respect, a position of distinguished and focused articulation of issues, and a position that always ensured that whatever was done was in the interest of the people of East Africa. Our challenge is to pick from where they left and to continue, not only to promote the ideals of our mandate of widening and deepening the integration process, but also to ensure the growth and development of this institution.

To succeed in this onerous task of building the Community, we will require the support and assistance of other

organs and institutions of the Community, and the National Assemblies of the Partner States. We should, from the onset, strive to build good and conducive working relations with each of them.

This Assembly is a major player in the whole process of integration. The East African Community as an institution has done a lot, yet the perception prevailing out there among the ordinary *Wananchi* is that the East African Community has too little to show for all these years of its existence. To answer this call, the East African Legislative Assembly, more than any other organ, has been able, albeit within its limits, to market the Community to all the people of East Africa through its tours and outreach programmes. This strategy has proved useful, and it is my pledge that it will continue to be one of our major activities in the legislative calendar of this Assembly. As a political organ, we must be visible at all times and we have to keep in constant consultations with the people we represent.

This Second Assembly has a rare opportunity to consolidate the integration process. We join at a time when the critical debate on whether to fast-track the process is on going. The negotiations for the next stage in the integration process, of the Common Market, will soon be under way. The membership of the Community has expanded with the admission of Rwanda and Burundi, and soon this House will grow in number as well. As the representative organ of the people of East Africa, our stand on these issues must be unambiguous. In a nutshell, I would like us to take the lead in all these major debates and ensure that only pro-

people policies are adopted. That is an immense task, but I am sure we shall be equal to it.

The performance of this House will no doubt be watched by all East Africans with eagerness and anticipation, if the anxiety that followed events related to our elections is anything to go by. I have no doubt that at the end of the next five years we shall look back with pride and be able to tell East Africans about our contributions and achievements. But to be able to accomplish as much, we need to work in total unity. There is no challenge a united House cannot overcome. On my part as your Speaker, I promise to uphold the dignity of the House at all times and give undivided attention to issues placed before me.

With those few remarks, honourable Members, I submit myself to the will of the House, the supremacy of the rules, and I lay claim to all the powers and privileges of the Assembly and its Members. I thank you – *(Applause)*.

SUSPENSION OF PROCEEDINGS

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I now suspend the Business of the House for a few minutes to enable me to robe.

*(The House was suspended 3.10 p.m.
and resumed at 3.15p.m.)*

(On Resumption_)

*(The Speaker (Mr Abdirahin Abdi) in the
Chair)*

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

The Oath of Office of Member and of Allegiance to the Treaty was administered to:

Mr. Akhaabi Gervase
 Dr. Bilal Gharib Said
 Dr. Kabourou Walid Aman
 Ms. Kamba, Sylvia Kate
 Ms. Kanabahita Byamukama Dorah
 Mr. Karan Clarkson Otieno
 Mr. Kidega Dan;
 Ms. Kimura Catherine Ngima
 Mr. Lotodo Chemonges Augustine
 Dr. Masaburi John Didas
 Dr. Masha Lwanyantiko Fortunatus
 Ms. Mmari Deo Janet
 Mr. Mulengani Bernard
 Maj. Gen. Muntu Mugisha
 Mr. Mwinyi Ali Hassan Abadía
 Mr. Nakuleu Christopher
 Dr. Nangale Francis George
 Ms. Nassor Sebtuu
 Mr. Oyondi Reuben Onserio
 Mr. Sebalu Kennedy Mike
 Ms. Talaso Bonaya Sarah
 Ms. Tiperu Nusura
 Ms. Tsungu Safina Kwekwe
 Mr. Wandera Ogalo Daniel
 Ms. Wanyoto Mutende Lydia
 Ms. Zziwa Margaret
 Mr Kaahwa T. K. Wilbert
 Mr. Kategaya Eriya
 Mr. Koech John
 Dr. Msabaha Ibrahim

today. I therefore adjourn this House until tomorrow at 2.30 pm.

(The House rose at 4.00 pm and adjourned until Wednesday, 6 June 2007)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I just want to announce that after we are through with our business here, there is a photo session for Members down at the court yard.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Honourable Members, that brings us to the end of our business