



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

66TH SITTING - SECOND ASSEMBLY: FIRST MEETING – THIRD SESSION

Friday, 7 August 2009

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Karimjee Hall, in Dar-es-Salaam.

NATIONAL ANTHEM OF THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA

(Played by the Police Brass Band)

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Mr Abdirahin Haither Abdi, in the Chair.)

(The Assembly was called to order.)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable Members, amidst us today is His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania. *(Applause)* In accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty, I have invited him to address this Assembly. I would now like to make the following proclamation to welcome the presence, in the Assembly, of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania:

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 His Excellency the President of the United Republic of Tanzania is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is with great pleasure and honour, on your behalf, honourable Members, that I welcome into this Assembly the presence of the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. (Applause)

WELCOME REMARKS

The Speaker: Your Excellency, President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Rt Hon. Speaker of the Tanzania National Assembly, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, hon. ministers, the Judge President of the East African Court of Justice, the Secretary-General to the Community, the former Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, Members of the EALA, Your Excellencies Ambassadors and High Commissioners, His Worship the Mayor, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

It is with great pleasure that I rise to welcome Your Excellency to today's special sitting of the Assembly. Thank you very much for accepting my invitation to address this august House. This is indeed a momentous occasion for this Assembly because not only did you play an active role in the revival of the East African Community, and for that matter this Assembly, but also because the time of your election to the high office of President, you were a sitting member of this Assembly. *(Applause)* It is indeed a very special day for me personally, and for a few other members, who served together with you in the First Assembly. We congratulate you, though belatedly, for your deserved election to that high office.

Today's sitting is also special for two other reasons, your Excellency:

Although we are based in Arusha, this is the first time this House has held its meeting in Dar-es-Salaam, the commercial capital of the United Republic of Tanzania. It is also the first time for the President of the United Republic of Tanzania to deliver an address to the plenary sitting of this House, since its inauguration in November 2001. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we are proud of the excellent leadership that you have provided to this country since your election. Those of us who know you are aware that these qualities -though some may say you inherited from your grandfather and father- you nurtured during your illustrious career in the public service, both in civil and military capacities.

You showed your commitment to the cause of others as early as your student days at the University of Dar-es-Salaam, where you were at the forefront in bringing awareness and activism about liberation and anti-apartheid politics within the university community. You all stood up for liberation of the African continent with this mirror image of the national political vision of this country. Your Excellency, through you, we salute this great nation for standing on the frontline for the sake of independence, liberty and freedom for all nations, but more so for its sister countries of East Africa. *(Applause)*

You also demonstrated your commitment to the cause of the poor by your choice of what you decided to do at your early stages in life. Upon graduation with a degree in economics in 1975, while your peers opted for more illustrious jobs, you opted for a low paying job as an executive functionary of the then ruling party (TANU). This is because you wanted

to work with the grassroots in the rural regions and districts of Tanzania. Your current pro-poor policies, such as heavy investments in health and education, and employment for the youth are a glaring example of your lifelong held passion for social justice for all and the need to uplift living standards of the less privileged of our society – *(Applause)*.

Your Excellency, you have been part of the central Government of Tanzania since your appointment as minister in 1988, where you served in two ministries until 1995. However, you are probably best remembered in the decade 1995 to 2005, when you became Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation. During this tenure, Tanzania, and indeed you played a leading role in the process of rebuilding and revamping the East African Community, where you served, not only as the Chairperson of Council of Ministers, but also as an ex-officio member of this Assembly. *(Applause)* The Community has since grown to become a Customs Union, expanded into five *Partner States*, and will soon move into a common market.

You also played a role in bringing about peace in the Great Lakes region, particularly in Burundi and in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Burundi has since become a stable nation and a proud member of the East African Community. *(Applause)* You played a role in revamping the Organization of the African Union into the African Union with new structures and mandates, and in many other international processes, including issues of globalization and democracy.

Your Excellency, in your short spell in office as President of the United Republic of Tanzania, you have managed to preside over and maintain

this great country as the most stable and peaceful nation in the region. *(Applause)* You have also managed to demonstrate strong leadership on issues of good governance, and especially the fight against corruption. You have managed to push for new investments in Tanzania in agriculture, industry, tourism and in people through education in order to create employment for your people. You have continued to maintain Tanzania's commitment to the EAC integration agenda. *(Applause)*

On the international scene, we as East Africans were proud of your election as Chairperson of the African Union in January 2008. Of great significance and notable success as Chair of the African Union, you helped bring to an end a two-month political crisis in Kenya by brokering a power-sharing deal between the two disputing parties. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, since its inception, the Second Assembly has passed 15 legislations, which have all been assented to. These are:

- The Lake Victoria Transport Management Bill, 2007;
- The East African Joint Trade Negotiations Bill, 2007;
- The Summit (Delegation of Powers and Functions) Bill, 2007;
- The East African Customs Management (Amendment) Bill, 2007 and 2008;
- The East African Community Appropriation Bills, 2007, 2008 and 2009;
- The East African Community (Supplementary) Appropriation Bills, 2007 and 2008;
- The Inter-University Council for East Africa Bill, 2008;
- The East African Community Emblems (Amendment) Bill 2008;

- The East African Community Budget Bill, 2008
- The Acts of the Community Act (Amendment) Bill, 2008.

Apart from the laws passed, in its representative role and in keeping with its mandate, the Assembly has also adopted so far ten resolutions covering several matters affecting the Community and operations in the partner states. These resolutions are used to press for action from the Council of Ministers or the partner states on matters related to the Community.

Further, in its oversight role, the Assembly has as of now asked the Council over 30 parliamentary questions relating to the operations of the Community. These questions are varied in nature, and they are used to press for information from the Council of Ministers and they form the bulk of the basis of the Assembly's oversight action.

Your Excellency, during the two weeks in Dar-es-Salaam, the Assembly will conduct its plenary and committee sessions. Notable business for consideration will include:

- Debate and passage of the EAC CASSOA Bill and the EAC Customs Management (Amendment) Bill;
- Debate and adoption of the report on Extractive Industries in East Africa;
- Debate and adoption of the report of the study tour of the EAC customs boarder points;
- Debate and adoption of the report on gender main streaming in EAC;
- Debate and adoption of the report on Economic Partnership Agreements between EAC and the European Union;
- Questions to the Council; and

- Motions and resolutions.

Finally, it is now with great honour and pleasure that I invite Your Excellency to deliver an address to the Assembly. *Karibu Sana*, Your Excellency. *(Applause)*

**ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF
TANZANIA**

The President of the United Republic Of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State (H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete): Rt Hon. Speaker, Speaker of the Tanzania National Assembly, hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, Chairman of the East African Business Council, invited guests, ladies and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to be back on the Floor of the East African Legislative Assembly this afternoon - *(Applause)*. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for inviting me and for according me the opportunity to address this august Assembly. First, I thank you for being so generous to give me the opportunity to speak on anything.

At the outset, allow me to welcome you to Tanzania, and Dar-es-Salaam in particular - *(Applause)*. I understand this is the first time the East African Legislative Assembly is sitting in Dar es Salaam, the commercial hub of Tanzania. I trust that you will find it a haven of peace, befitting its name, and that you will transact your business in a comfortable and hospitable environment.

Mr Speaker and distinguished members, as most of you know, I was an ex-officio member of this legislature since its inception until I became President of my country in

December 2005. I continue to hold dear my role as a member to this esteemed body. I recall with fond memories our work in this Assembly during the challenging formative period when EALA was trying to establish its feet on the ground. *(Applause)*

I am happy to note that since its establishment in 2001, EALA has lived up to the expectations of the East African people - *(Applause)*. Back then, when we were discussing the establishment of this Assembly, some doubting Thomases predicted its failure. They were saying that the time was not ripe for the EAC to establish a legislature with the mandate and authority encapsulated in the Treaty establishing the Community. Those sentiments of apprehension have been proved wrong. Indeed, and in a very fundamental way, those sentiments smacked of a gross misconception about the nature and character of our regional integration endeavour. *(Applause)*

Rt. hon. Speaker, it was the vision of the founding fathers that the East African Community shall be a people centred regional integration organisation, an organisation owned by the people of East Africa, responsible to them and responsive to their needs and aspirations. They envisioned that the ideals of democracy, underpinned by consensual decision-making would drive the East African integration process. In this respect that the East African Legislative Assembly was established as an organ of the East African Community to give expression to these democratic ideals in the Community. Therefore, with its representative-ness, as well as the mandate and authority it carries, this Assembly is a true embodiment of these ideals and, indeed, an important

and principled instrument in our integration process.

Deliberately, the East African Legislative Assembly was given legislative and oversight roles, which has made this Assembly a properly functioning regional parliament - *(Applause)*. To this extent, the East African Community is unique on the continent. *(Applause)* I do not know of any regional integration arrangement or community that is a parliament like this one.

Mr Speaker, I dare say, without hesitation or reservation that the EALA has done well as far as the discharge of its mandate and authority is concerned - *(Applause)*. You have done a commendable job in your oversight role about the Community's programmes and activities. In many ways, this has helped to ensure that the Community effectively fulfils the mandate vested in it, and that it is accountable for its work.

In addition, the EALA has acquainted itself admirably in the legislative function, thus giving legal effect to several EAC policy decisions. As we deepen our integration, the EALA would necessarily experience an increase, not only in the complexity of the issues it has to handle, but also in the magnitude of your legislative activities. Given your achievements so far, I am confident that you are prepared to meet those challenges - *(Applause)*.

Furthermore, EALA's outreach programmes, even in the face of limited budget resources, have also contributed in no small measure to the sensitisation and education of the broad East African masses on our integration agenda. You have also educated our people on the

achievements made and challenges ahead of us. I wish to take this opportunity to commend you, Mr Speaker, and all the members of this House, for your leadership and your commitment to the goals and ideals of EAC – (*Applause*).

In November this year, the East African Community will be celebrating its 10th anniversary. Ten years in the life of an institution that is involved in complex regional integration issues is too short a time to make an objective assessment of its performance, but we are obliged to reflect on where we have come from, where we are now and what we still have to do in the light of our vision and mission.

It is my hope that in November my colleagues, the other EAC heads of state and I will have the opportunity to address the East African people on these broad issues. However, since I have the opportunity today of addressing this august House, I feel the urge to kick-start a reflection on some of these issues of critical importance to the success of our regional integration.

As you are aware, regional integration efforts in East Africa have a long history. There is the pre-colonial part of this history when the seeds of integration were sown. There is the post-colonial part when there was a chequered history - consolidation, break-up, and now reinvention. I would like to limit myself to the post-colonial period when, as independent nation states, we shared responsibility for the success and failure of the integration process in East Africa.

As you may recall, at independence the three East African countries then, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika, inherited the East African Common Services Organization (1961–1967).

This was a successor organisation to the East African High Commission, the initial regional integration arrangement established by the colonial governors of our three countries in 1948.

In 1967, the three independent states decided to transform the East African Common Services Organisation into the East African Community. The East African Community could not survive for long due to challenges posed by divergent and conflicting nation-building projects pursued independently by member states. In addition, because of inherent weaknesses imbedded in the East African Community structures and operational modalities and mechanisms, it painfully collapsed in 1977, a mere decade after inception.

We all share responsibility for that bitter memory. However, a bitter memory as it is, we should not allow it to be a source of weakness, but rather a source of courage, strength and commitment toward realising our integration goals under the current arrangements. (*Applause*) That is what the founding fathers of the current Community did. The spirit guided them.

It took sixteen years before President Ali Hassan Mwinyi of Tanzania, President Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya and President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni of Uganda signed the Treaty to revive the East African Co-operation. The three heads of state signed the Treaty for the East African Co-operation in Arusha, Tanzania, on 30 November 1993, and in March, 1996, established the Secretariat and Tri-partite Commission for the East African Cooperation to set in motion the integration process we are currently enjoying or experiencing.

Since then, we have done a lot of work with remarkable success on building co-operation on the core areas as agreed in the 1993 Treaty. Several protocols have been signed to give effect to the co-operation agenda. These achievements have paved the way for the re-establishment of the East African Community through a treaty, which the EAC heads of state signed by on 30 November 1999 and came into force on 7 July 2000. The Treaty identified the customs union as the entry point for the East African integration process. A common market, a monetary union and ultimately a political federation would follow this.

Indeed, the EAC Customs Union commenced on 1 January 2005 with a five-year transition period to give effect to the principle of asymmetry. Under the Customs Union, internal tariffs and non-tariff barriers on intra-EAC trade were removed, and a common external tariff was introduced for goods from outside the Community. This Assembly enacted a common customs management law to that effect and from the report, you have since upgraded it. The process of integrating the economies of the EAC Partner States began, and the transition period will be ending this year. By 1 January 2010, the East African Customs Union will be fully-fledged. *(Applause)*

It is heart warming, indeed, that as we are about to complete the transition period of the Customs Union, our negotiations for the establishment of the common market are on track. This is a very healthy sign that we are making steady progress in our integration process in East Africa. *(Applause)*

It is important, however, for the EAC Partner States to make an evaluation of the EAC Customs Union to assess its impact, strengths and weaknesses, and to use the outcome of that assessment to consolidate the strengths and rectify the shortcomings for the benefit of our integration process. Such an assessment should enable us to determine if there has been a change in the structure and direction of intra-East African Community trade.

Commodities from abroad dominated the structure of intra-EAC trade prior to the commencement of the customs union and trade had a skewed direction towards non-EAC countries, implying that we were trading more with the rest of the world than we were trading among ourselves. It is therefore important to determine if there has been an improvement in these areas, and to take corrective measures where desirable. *(Applause)*

As we work towards the conclusion of the negotiations of the Common Market Protocol - by November 2009, we will sign the Protocol - we should understand that we expect the Protocol to deepen our integration, widen the scope of our co-operation, and usher in new opportunities and challenges. *(Applause)*

Some of the opportunities and challenges are going to be crosscutting, while others are going to be country specific. We should always bear in mind that nations and peoples join regional integration groupings with the hope of benefiting equitably. Each expects to maximise benefits while the others benefit too. It is a win-win and not I win, you lose. In fact, this is the essence of regional integration, and the designers and negotiators should always keep this in mind. Failure to do so defeats the purpose and keeps the

foundation of our undertaking very weak and vulnerable.

The Common Market, for example, will add more areas of co-operation, including labour and capital mobility; facilitation of the movement of persons; right of establishment; co-operation and harmonization of policies and strategies on social-economic, cultural and scientific fields; macro-economic stability and financial management. These additions are going to affect each country differently.

A poorly managed liberalisation of the intra-regional labour market may lead to increased unemployment in some Partner States and cause resentment in those nations. Similarly, if we are not careful, in the liberalisation of the capital markets we might face capital flight and balance of payments problems. The Wako Committee Report clearly captured these fears and worries of the people of East Africa.

Mr Speaker and honourable Members, as you are aware, on 28 August 2004, the East African Heads of State and Government met in Nairobi and agreed to establish a committee, the Wako Committee, to examine ways and means to expedite and compress the process of integration, so that the ultimate goal of a political federation is achieved through a fast-track mechanism.

The Committee submitted its report to the heads of state at the 26th November 2004 Summit in Arusha. The Committee recommended that the East African integration process should be fast-tracked, and that the transition to political federation should start by 2010. These are time bound benchmarks. The Committee also underscored the centrality of ensuring

that each country benefits equitably in all the arrangements that we make, and that the concerns of individual member states are given due attention.

With regard to Tanzania, the committee's report stated clearly that the people of Tanzania have serious reservations about the issue of free movement of labour and land becoming an East African property. The Wangwe Committee, which was our internal process, searched for the opinion Tanzanians on fast tracking the East African federation, came out with similar findings. Unfortunately, the views expressed by the people of Tanzania have widely been misunderstood to mean that they are against the East African federation. This is not the case. In fact, more Tanzanians supported the federation than any of the three East African countries. *(Applause)*

The statistics showed that 96.7 percent of Tanzanians supported the East African federation - *(Applause)* - but fewer Tanzanians supported fast tracking it; 75 percent said "no" to fast tracking. On the federation, they said "yes" but on fast tracking, they said "No, let us be cautious". They are cautious about hurried integration. Since the fears are real, we should not downplay, ridicule or ignore them. We should take regard of them and seek ways of allaying those fears. Failure to tackle fears and concerns of member states is one important lesson to draw from the failures of the defunct East African Community. *(Applause)*

As we negotiate the Common Market Protocol, it is important, therefore, to take into serious consideration the worries and concerns of the peoples of each country without being baffled into propaganda. Enemies of our cause are too anxious to downplay our East

African Community achievements, - *(Applause)* - exaggerate our differences to the extent of becoming suspicious, and making them to appear as if there are hostilities within the Partner States. Differences of opinion are not acts of hostility. We should be on guard and remain focused on our integration priorities. We should not allow such distractions to derail us from our noble course. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I mentioned earlier on that the collapse of the former East African Community had serious implications for the negotiations of the Treaty for the establishment of the new Community in 1999. Of particular interest then were the lessons of the past, to avoid the mistakes made then. I was part of the negotiating team. I remember the first meeting we held in Arusha led by Zakaria Onyonka; I think the minister from Uganda was there, he will remember what I am referring to. Zakaria Onyonka, the Kenyan Minister, said in very clear terms, "East Africa has an experience of a community that died. As we endeavour to revive our cooperation, we should never lose sight of that fact. If that one died, then this one can die".

What he was saying was that first, we must avoid a stillbirth; we must negotiate and come up with an arrangement that will survive. It should not die at birth. He also said we must create structures that will make this institution survive. These are the senior leaders. When Zakaria Onyonka was a minister in Kenya, I was still a student but when I became a minister, we were together trying to handle East African matters. However, we learn from experience. The strong message is that when we are trying to build something, we should avoid a stillbirth and create something that is going to be sustainable. What he was simply

saying was that we should avoid the mistakes of the past and learn from that experience. Why did that Community die? How are we going to make this one survive? If we ignore that history, we may end up with a stillbirth, or create an institution that will be short-lived.

Of course, in particular we learn from the lessons of the past to avoid mistakes in future. The idea is to avoid those mistakes to create a viable, sustainable and everlasting regional integration grouping. Besides, the issue of making the new EAC people-centred rather than leader-centred was taken as a fundamental factor. The old one was leader-centred. The leaders decided to integrate, and the same leaders decided to kill it. So, make this one people-centred; make it difficult for Kikwete to kill the East African Community. *(Applause)* If he tries to do it, tell him, "Please, this is not yours; this is ours".

I will also comment on a few other issues of concern. The 1999 Treaty took into account some of the weaknesses, which were embedded in the institutions and processes of the former East African Community. The principle of asymmetry became one of the guiding pillars of our new integration, and it formed the basis for the formulation of the Customs Union. Because we are at different levels of development, the bigger economy should share a bigger burden than the weaker economies. Kenya was a bigger economy than Uganda and Tanzania therefore, at the inception of the East African Customs Union on the 1 January 2005, goods from Tanzania and Uganda entered the East African Community duty free –non-tariff barriers- but goods from Kenya entered the East African market with tariffs that would diminish gradually until 31

December 2009. There is going to be zero tariffs then. So, come 1st January, goods from Kenya will also enter the East African market at no tariff. *(Applause)* It was a cardinal principle.

The other problem with the past Community was that there were problems of lack of compensatory mechanisms. This created a situation where some felt that some were benefiting more while others were losing out. It created the weaknesses that led to its collapse. These provisions are critical for the creation of a win-win situation, which is the very essence of regional integration in East Africa or anywhere else.

It is in this spirit that when the East African Customs Union came into force, those provisions were applied, and as mentioned earlier, from January 2010, all goods from Kenya will start enjoying the same treatment as goods from Tanzania and Uganda do now. Rwanda and Burundi who joined only a year ago will benefit like all other countries. We should congratulate ourselves for these achievements. *(Applause)*

The second issue that I would like to mention is that experience from the former EAC indicates that one of the contributing factors to its collapse was inadequate provision for participation of the private sector and other stakeholders in shaping the Community. The current EAC Treaty (1999) has drawn from this experience, and has therefore placed greater emphasis on fostering regional development that is private sector driven and internationally competitive. The Treaty thus places private sector development at the heart of the EAC strategy for accelerating regional growth, creating wealth, reducing poverty and enhancing international

competitiveness. The East African Business Council representatives have permanent observer status within the decision-making organs of the Community. Now I am told they are asking for more! *(Laughter)* *Tutaangalia - (Applause).*

In this respect, it is important to emphasize that the thrust in promoting and developing the private sector should be through improved business environment, institutional and human capacity building that spurs increased trade and investment on one hand, and the productivity of the private sector firms on the other. These issues should be on top of the common market agenda. *(Applause)*

The spirit of the Treaty towards the realization of its goals is progressive or incremental. It is the favoured factor. The progressive and incremental integration approach, as enshrined in the Treaty, is intended to strengthen and regulate co-operation in a harmonious and balanced manner. Each stage of co-operation reinforces the next stage of integration and hence leads to a sustainable regional integration process. The founding fathers seem to have realised this as Article 76(2) of the Treaty on the Common Market testifies: *“The establishment of the Common Market shall be progressive and in accordance with schedules approved by the Council.”* This approach has worked very well in some of the re-known regional integration organisations, including the European Union, which is one of the most successful and progressive economic integration arrangements.

All these lessons and many more embedded in the current Treaty have contributed immensely to the achievements the EAC is experiencing

now. As we appreciate these achievements, let us not lose sight of these lessons. In fact, they are more important now than ever before as the EAC integration process is taking place at a time of immense global financial meltdown, which is already affecting our economies negatively. The projection is that the impressive growth rates of our economies witnessed in the last decade will decrease. This situation implies that we will not attain some of the goals that we set ourselves according to the original schedules. This means that Partner States will have to work harder in order to compensate the loss in the gains that we had accumulated in the last decade and attain the pre-crisis development trajectory. Your contribution in this endeavour is critical, and we would be highly appreciated.

Mr Speaker, allow me to use this opportunity to reiterate Tanzania's readiness to face the challenges of the envisaged EAC Common Market. We believe that the collective efforts of the Partner States and their continued commitment to the EAC integration agenda will lead to more prosperity for the region because of the immense opportunities associated with a common market. Have no illusions, Tanzania wants the common market. *(Applause)* There are issues concerning fears about consensus, which we want our partners to note. Accommodate us as we proceed. *(Applause)*

As I conclude my speech, allow me to reiterate the fact that the integration process is an ongoing process. There are many challenges ahead of us, many issues to negotiate, including the common market, and these negotiations are a process in both statecraft and diplomacy. Diplomacy derives its legitimacy and morality

from patience, understanding, courtesy, empathy, civility and tolerance. It is important that our negotiation process, and indeed our journey towards our ultimate goal, is guided by these virtues and lessons learned from our experience on the integration process.

All of the Partner States have signed into this project voluntarily and with a clear belief that the EAC objectives will serve the interests of their people. No one wants integration more than another does, and no one wants integration less than another does. We are all in this together. *(Applause)*

I urge other entities in our region, particularly the media in our respective countries, to help inform and educate our people about these issues and not to stroke emotions and create a storm in a teacup. *(Applause)* The major challenge for all of us remains how to strike a balance between regional and national interests in the negotiation process. I believe we can strike that balance. We are already on the verge of that. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker and hon. Members, allow me to end my remarks by thanking you once again for holding your session in Dar-es-Salaam, and for giving me this honour to address you. I hope you will find time out of your tight schedule to explore the beauty of Dar es Salaam and to enjoy the hospitality of the Tanzanian people. *(Applause)* I think Dr Masaburi will help you to do that. I wish you fruitful deliberations and a pleasant stay in Dar-es-Salaam. I thank you for your kind attention. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I would like to call upon hon. Sebalu to move a vote of thanks on our behalf. However, before he comes, his Excellency has

reminded me that the East African Business Council is an institution of the Community and yet I did not recognise the Chairperson of the East African Business Council. Could you please stand up for recognition? *(Applause)*

Hon. Sebalu, please come and say something on our behalf.

Mr Mike Sebalu (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Your Excellency, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, Rt Hon. Speaker of EALA, Rt Hon. Speaker of the National Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, My Lord Judge President, Chairperson of the Council of Ministers and all ministers here present, Secretary-General, hon. Members of EALA, hon. Members of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania, members of the diplomatic corps, all distinguished invited guests, ladies and gentlemen - and in a very special way I would like to recognise the Speaker of EALA emeritus in our midst - *(Applause)*.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of your good office, my colleagues, the honourable Members of the Second Assembly, all distinguished invited guests and the entire fraternity of the East African peoples, allow me to thank His Excellency most sincerely for having found time off his very busy schedule to honour your invitation, Mr Speaker to grace this occasion of the official opening of the First Meeting of the Third Session of the Second Assembly with his amiable and physical presence. You are most welcome, Your Excellency, and we are very happy to have you in our midst. *(Applause)*

Furthermore, Mr Speaker, allow me, on behalf of the Second Assembly, to congratulate His Excellency, a member

of EALA emeritus, for having assumed the highest responsibility of managing and directing the affairs of state of the United Republic of Tanzania - *(Applause)*. Your Excellency, we do appreciate, as an Assembly, the roles you have played in your official capacity and the different assignments that you have got within the region and on the continent, which you have competently and ably executed. They have made us proud as East African peoples. We congratulate you for those achievements. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, you may wish to note that the Rt. hon. Abdi with whom you served in the same Assembly has also since assumed the higher responsibility of managing and directing affairs of the regional Assembly because of which he is playing host to you this afternoon. *(Applause)* We would like to thank him for the very good leadership and the new direction and impetus he has given in this Assembly, with very creative and innovative ways of doing our legislative business. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, I would also like to thank the Government and the people of the United of Republic of Tanzania for the warm reception accorded to us since our arrival in this historic city of Dar-es-salaam. We have been treated to traditional Tanzanian hospitality, and many of us have since put on weight - *(Laughter)* - given that almost every other day we get an invitation for a reception. This development is making the process of integration much more interesting - *(Laughter)*. When we come to a place like Dar-es-salaam and we get all these courtesies and hospitalities extended to us, these kinds of interactions indirectly create a savings for us, which we then extend to other East Africans through our

magnanimity - *(Laughter)*. You will therefore find many people always talking about the need to come back to Dar-es-salaam because when you come out to Dar-es-salaam, things are always better. *(Laughter)*

Your Excellency, I would like to give special thanks to our host, the Speaker and the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania for the hospitality, courtesies and the excellent facilities that they have put at our disposal since our arrival. It is making our work very easy, and we are enjoying our stay in Dar-es-salaam, courtesy of their magnanimity. Thanks also go to the Mayor, whose city has given us an enabling environment to do our business in a cordial and friendly manner. *(Applause)*

Mr President, allow me to pay a glowing tribute to our colleagues, members of the East African Legislative Assembly from the United Republic of Tanzania. They are a competent and committed team of legislators whose contribution is immensely valued at the EALA. Indeed, we can largely attribute the success of this meeting to their unity of purpose. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, allow me to thank members of the staff of EALA, of the East African Community in general and of the Parliament of the United Republic of Tanzania who have done tremendously well in co-ordinating all processes and activities of this meeting. They have made it what it is and what it is going to be - fruitful and successful in the historic city of Dar-es-salaam. *(Applause)*

Mr President, allow me to thank the media. They have exhibited a high degree of East African-ness. This they have done in the way they have given visibility to the activities of EALA

through a wide coverage of our activities since our arrival in this very beautiful capital. *(Applause)*

I want to conclude by emphasizing the very important statements that you have given to us. We are indeed very grateful for your wise counsel, for the good ideas that you have given, for the caution that you have given and for the unity of purpose that you have indicated in your statement. The trust and confidence that you have exhibited by physically being with us today, and the statements that you have made, are indeed very encouraging to us.

We are proud to have you in the Summit, since we believe you provide useful institutional memory when issues to do with the East African Legislative Assembly are brought before the Summit. In you, we have an ally in the Summit - *(Applause)* - and we trust that we will always get our way to make sure that EALA does not lose sight of its strategic role in the integration process - *(Laughter)*. We can always rely on you to give wise counsel to your colleagues to understand EALA in the proper context - *(Laughter)* - because we are out to do a good job for the region.

Your Excellency, we appreciate the fact that you appreciate where EALA has come from, where it is and where it intends to go. With you at that level, we believe that we should be able to fulfil our historic mission of contributing to the integration process using legislative diplomacy. *(Applause)*

You have ably taken us through the dynamics of the integration process, the Wako report, and you have ably clarified the position of Tanzania regarding the integration with very useful statistics. The press should be able to capture and disseminate this

information correctly because it is true that many Tanzanians supported integration, a point that does not seem to come out very well. Therefore, I would call upon the media to bring this out so that the East Africans get to appreciate the integration process in perspective. *(Applause)*

Your emphasis on a win-win situation is something we have taken very seriously, and the involvement of all stakeholders is something we have always stood for as a parliament. We believe that any single organ of the Community can never deliver the integration process. It is only through collective effort that we can deliver this to the East Africans. Your highlight of that important issue is something that we need to use in our daily work.

Tanzania's readiness and commitment to a successful common market is something we highly appreciate as a legislative Assembly. The use of diplomacy as we negotiate these delicate issues of integration is something we need to apply as stakeholders in this process.

Mr President, no amount of words can ably give a proper thank you. Therefore, I will do three things: I just want to say thank you as the first item, thank you as the second and thank you as the third to show that we are happy that you are here with us. Thank you very much. *Asanteni sana raisi - (Laughter)*.

The Speaker: Hon. Sebalu, I think you needed some help in the last statement - *(Laughter)*.

Your Excellency, I do not have anything more useful to add to hon. Sebalu's statement, but only to say, *asante sana*.

Your Excellency, since you left us in the last Assembly, we have some new faces, new dress styles, new sizes and new people. Because you have not met some of these members before, with your permission, I would like to introduce to you the members of EALA. I will introduce by country, and they will stand up so that you can see the new faces in this Assembly. I would like to start with the members from Burundi, followed by the members from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda.

(Members of the Assembly stood in their places for recognition by country)

The Speaker: I can see the ex-officio members looking at me and wondering whether I should tell them to stand up - *(Laughter)* - but the President knows you, so you do not need to stand up.

Before I adjourn the House, I would like to make a few announcements. First, our invited guests please proceed to the car park for the cocktail after we adjourn.

Secondly, there is going to be a photo session. The people who are going to be in the group photographs will be the Members of EALA, the Ministers for EAC and ex-officio members, the judges of the EACJ, and staff of EALA. The Sergeant-at-Arms will lead you to where the photographs will be taken.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: With those few remarks, I would like to adjourn the House until Tuesday at 2.30 p.m.

(The Assembly rose at 4.29 p.m. and adjourned until Tuesday, 11 August 2009 at 2.30 p.m.)