



## **EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

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### **IN THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)**

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

#### **73<sup>RD</sup> SITTING - SECOND ASSEMBLY: THIRD MEETING – THIRD SESSION**

**Tuesday, 9 February 2010**

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2.30 p.m. in the Chamber of the Parliament of Uganda, Kampala.*

#### **PRAYER**

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

*(The Assembly was called to order.)*

#### **The Uganda National Anthem**

*(Played by the Uganda Police Brass Band)*

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#### **COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR**

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, I rise to make the following communication:

Firstly, on behalf of the East African Legislative Assembly, may I take this opportunity to thank His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Uganda; the Rt. Hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, and indeed the Government of the Republic of Uganda for having accepted to host us here in the Parliament buildings for the next two weeks! *(Applause)*

May I, on your behalf, record our appreciation for the warm reception we have received since our arrival in Kampala, Uganda! *(Applause)*

I wish to particularly thank His Excellency the President for accepting to address this House this afternoon. I also thank the Speaker of Uganda for all the excellent facilities that he has extended to us so far to create an environment that is conducive for working. Hon. Edward Ssekandi has on every occasion when called upon, supported the operations of the East African Legislative Assembly.

Your Excellency, gathered here for EALA's sessions are Members of the Assembly who always cherish the opportunity to conduct affairs of the Assembly here in this serene city of Kampala. We appreciate all the assistance the Government of Uganda continues to accord us as we legislate for the East African Community. I thank you. *(Applause)*

### PROCEDURAL MOTION

**The Chairperson, Legal, Rules, and Privileges Committee (Mr Abdullah Mwinyi):** Mr Speaker, I beg to move\_

That this House, pursuant to the provisions of Article 55(1) of the Treaty, and Rule 11 of the Rules of Procedure, do resolve to have sittings in Kampala in the Republic of Uganda.

**Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda):** Seconded.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**Mr Mwinyi:** Mr Speaker:

*"WHEREAS Clause 1 of Article 55 of the Treaty provides that the Assembly shall be held at such times and places as the Assembly may appoint;*

*AND WHEREAS Rule 2 of the Rules of Procedure provides that the seat of the Assembly will be at Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania;*

*AND WHEREAS sub-rule (7) of Rule 11 provides that the Assembly may, on resolution adopted by the majority of its Members, decide for one or more sittings elsewhere within the Partner States other than its seat;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, we do resolve as follows:*

*That pursuant to the provisions of sub-rule (vii) of rule 11 cited above, the Assembly shall have sittings in the Chamber of the Parliament of Uganda from today, Tuesday, 09 February 2010, up to Thursday, 18 February of 2010."*

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*(Motion adopted.)*

**The Speaker:** Hon. Members, amidst us today is His Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni; President of the Republic of Uganda. I have, in accordance with the provisions of Article 54 of the Treaty, invited him to address this Assembly. *(Applause)*

I would now like to make the following proclamation to welcome the presence, in the Assembly, of the President of the Republic of Uganda:

### 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 His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda is desirable in accordance with the business now before the Assembly;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, it is with great pleasure and honour, on your behalf, hon. Members, to welcome the presence of the President of the Republic of Uganda in this Chamber.”*  
*(Applause)*

### WELCOME REMARKS

**The Speaker:** Your Excellency, President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; the Rt Hon. Edward K. Ssekandi, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; the Rt Hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; Hon. Dr Diodorus Kamala, the Chairperson, Council of Ministers of EAC; the Hon. Ministers and Members of the EAC Council of Ministers, Members of Parliament and Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Secretary-General of the East African Community, Members of the diplomatic corps; distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen; I have the distinguished honour to warmly welcome Your Excellency to today’s special sitting. *(Applause)* I call it a special sitting mainly because this is the first time Your Excellency will officially open and address a formal session of the Assembly here in Uganda. *(Applause)*

I thank you very much, Your Excellency, for not only accepting my invitation to address this august House today, but also for your Government accepting to host us here for the next two weeks. Uganda has always been a very good host to the East African Legislative Assembly. *(Applause)*

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 as one of the pioneer leaders, but you have also continued to play a pivotal role in its development. Your Excellency, at the time of the Tripartite Commission, you envisioned that what East Africa needed was to reinforce closer ties amongst the countries as was previously the case with the old Community. You believed that a united East Africa would create better opportunities for its citizens. This has come to pass, and we can now see all these advantages as more and more countries yearn to join the EAC. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we take pride in you and in the members of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State for taking a bold step to sign the EAC Common Market Protocol on 20 November 2009 in Arusha, Tanzania. *(Applause)* The Assembly, having regard to your decision to establish the EAC Common Market, organised a seminar for all EAC national assemblies on the theme, “The EAC Common Market Protocol: Prospects, Challenges and Opportunities”, in Bujumbura, Burundi. As we all know, the EAC set itself a timeframe of 2010 to enter into

a Common Market arrangement. May I, on this account congratulate you and the Summit of the EAC Heads of State for successfully signing the Common Market Protocol? *(Applause)* It will go down in history as a big achievement for the EAC region. We are sure, Your Excellency, that EALA will do all it can to enact the necessary pieces of legislation to operationalise the Protocol. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, this House is proud of your continued wise leadership of this country. Those of us who know you or have read about your achievements are aware of these qualities, which began to manifest in your childhood years and at school where you assumed prominent leadership positions. Your qualities were further nurtured when you joined the Public Service of Uganda, both in the civil and military capacities and excelled in your work. In all this time, you have looked unto Uganda to foster its development and those of her people. *(Applause)*

Your commitment to the cause of the poor was shown early in your presidency when you began the wealth and poverty eradication schemes for the rural poor, a policy you strongly hold onto up to now. We also wish to recognise your efforts in the quest to modernise agriculture, to improve household incomes and access to markets.

Your Excellency, we are also proud of your commitment to the cause of the education sector in Uganda. It is evident that you were one of the pioneer leaders who embraced the Universal Primary Education (UPE), and since then many countries have followed suit and have come to learn from Uganda's experience. As if that was not enough, you also introduced Universal Secondary Education, revolutionised the university education system by making the environment conducive to establish private universities, promoted girl-child education, promoted education of persons with disabilities, promoted school construction even in the hard to reach areas of Uganda, just to mention but a few. Your Excellency, because of these education opportunities, Uganda is increasingly becoming a regional hub with students joining all the way from Burundi, Rwanda, Tanzania and Kenya. On behalf of all these students, I wish to register our gratitude and commend you for your vision in the education sector. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we also commend you for your astute political ethos. You boldly took a decision to promote the involvement of minority groups in politics and decision making, especially at parliamentary level where, for example, every district is now represented in Parliament by a woman Member of Parliament. *(Applause)* The same goes for the youth, the workers of Uganda, and persons with disabilities, as well as the Army. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we also thank you, together with the Minister of EAC Affairs and the Minister of Finance for fulfilling your contributions to the EAC within a record time. *(Applause)* Uganda has consistently paid up all her dues in the first half of the financial year. *(Applause)* The country continues to be a reference point for timely contributions.

We also thank Your Excellency for the memorable trip you conducted for us in December 2008 in the districts of Mbarara and Kiruhura. *(Applause)* Not only did the trip provide an excellent opportunity for EALA to know that part of Uganda, but it was also an outstanding lesson on how a society can be transformed by engaging in modern methods of animal husbandry. *(Applause)* I would also like to thank you, on behalf of EALA and on my own behalf, for hosting us at your country home in Rwakitura. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, since its inception, the Second Assembly has passed a total of 15 legislations, which have been assented to or are in the process of being assented to. Apart from the laws passed, the Assembly has also, in its representative role and in keeping with its mandate, adopted so far twelve resolutions covering several matters affecting the Community and the operations in the Partner States.

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 resolutions and questions are used to press for action from the Council of Ministers or the Partner States on Community matters.

Your Excellency, during the two weeks in Kampala, the Assembly will conduct its plenary and committee sessions. Notable business for consideration will include: debate and passage of the EAC Tourism Management Bill and EAC Elections Bill, debate and adoption of committee reports, questions to council; and motions and resolutions.

Lastly, I wish to report to Your Excellency that this Assembly is dedicated and committed to its role as the Legislative organ of the Community. We pledge our unwavering support and commitment to work closely with Your Excellencies in your individual capacities, the Summit of the EAC Heads of State, the Council of Ministers and other organs and institutions of the Community until we realise the EAC dream of a united East Africa. *(Applause)*

Finally, Your Excellency, before I call you to address this gathering, I would like to recognise some important personalities here with us today. We have ambassadors and high commissioners, if they could stand up for recognition. *(Applause)*

We have Members of the Parliament of Uganda; they are in the Chamber but strangers this side. *(Applause)* Your Excellency, I think it is also good that we can know some of the Members from EALA, if they could stand, by countries. I request the Members from Kenya to stand up for recognition. *(Applause)* We have Members from Rwanda. *(Applause)* We have Members from Burundi. *(Applause)* We have Members from Uganda -*(Applause)*- and we have Members from Tanzania. *(Applause)* We also have the Council of Ministers of EAC and ex-officio Members of EALA, please stand up. *(Applause)* It is with great pleasure and honour that I execute my humble duty to welcome you to address this august Assembly today, Tuesday, 09 February 2010.

I was going to say Ministers of the Uganda Government but they stood up as Ministers of Uganda Parliament and so we already recognised them. We also have the Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda. *(Applause)*

Last but not least, we have the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, hon. Edward Ssekandi.

Finally, Your Excellency, it with great pleasure and honour that I execute my humble duty to welcome you to address this august House, today, 09 February 2010. *Karibu mweshimiwa raisi! (Applause)*

**The President of the Republic of Uganda and Member of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State (Mr Yoweri Kaguta Museveni):** Mr Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Rt Hon. Speaker of the Ugandan Parliament, the Rt Hon. Deputy Speaker of

the Parliament of Uganda, the Hon. Ministers of East Africa and the Ministers of the Ugandan Parliament, the Hon. Ministers of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Members of the Parliament of Uganda, ladies and gentlemen; I greet you all and I welcome the East African Legislative Assembly to you. (*Applause*) *Karibu nyumbani!*

It is my pleasure to welcome you to Uganda for your session of the First Sitting of the Third Meeting of the Third Session of the Second Assembly.

As somebody who has spent more than forty years in the struggles for the freedom of this area, I am quite gratified to see that the East African Community, the Community of the people of East Africa was revived and has now taken shape.

It is a shame that this Community had been interrupted in 1977 when it broke down. To show importance of this economic union for the people of East Africa, last year inflation in Uganda went up to 14 percent. This is the first time in many years that we had inflation going into double digits. Some people were worried about this. I had some people running around worried that there was a problem.

I myself was not worried because I knew that some positive factor had contributed to this inflation. What was this positive factor? It was increased or greater demand in the regional market. The market had grown, there were more people to supply, apart from the East African market, the market of Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi.

There was market in Southern Sudan, which was a new market because in the past that part was shut off from us but now there was market, even in Western Congo. There was market in the Central African Republic. This expanded market was a great stimulus to the economy of East Africa; demand for more food, more cement, more steel bars, which we call *mutehimbwa* for building, and many others.

Now this increased demand forced prices up because the market was big but the supply wasn't as big as the demand. That is why the prices went up. As I said earlier, some thought this was a bad thing. I, however, knew that it was a good thing. It was greater demand and that is what I told the people here in my speeches. Some of the people were running around the radios as usual telling lies, *Kama mutoto anawona iyo nimbaya*. The people of Uganda responded to this big demand by increasing agricultural production. These high prices of commodities stimulated people to produce. Consequently we got a bumper crop of maize. Maize production went up to about 1.3 million tonnes, and as a result prices have now come down. Headline inflation in Uganda came down to 8.8 percent, from 14 percent, and the underlying inflation, and that is to say inflation without food, came down to 5.4 percent.

We are now worried because of too much maize, that its price may now collapse. If the maize price goes too low, that would force many farmers to exit maize growing in the next season, which would now create a new problem. The government is taking urgent measures to cope with the situation of plenty and also to sustain the high production of maize and other crops. We need to deal with the storage and processing of maize. Storage and processing will give maize a longer shelf life so that farmers do not desperately sell during the time of plenty because that is the problem. When there is too much food then the farmers sell. When there is a lot of maize around or other foods then they sell at lower prices and when they sell at low prices then next time they will not grow but go to something else and start growing cabbages

and things like that or *kamurali* or something that may have some more money but not as important as maize or cotton; some of these basic crops.

When we create and expand the storage capacity and also process, they can store the grain or the maize flour and sell when the price is better. In Uganda we were trying to introduce - and I don't know how far it has gone - the warehousing arrangement where somebody can go and put his food in the warehouse and is given a receipt and if he needs money he can go and cash the receipt. We had introduced that system but I don't know how far it has gone.

With better storage and processing, the farmers can be more relaxed and sell when the prices have improved. Moreover, processing maize into flour and animal feeds also expands demand. Once we process maize into flour and animal feeds that means that we are no longer producing maize for only human beings, because that is what we had been doing. But now we shall produce maize for chicken, pigs - sorry about the Speaker who does not - (*Laughter*) - I also don't eat some of these things but I encourage them. I even don't eat fish, as you may know, because in my area they call fish some other name - (*Laughter*) - but in our local language we say, "*Ezim bire akatama tezibira ezindi kurya*". This means that if a cow has got a swollen mouth, it may not eat grass but the other cows, which have no problem, eat the grass. So, Mr Speaker, you don't have to worry about the pigs; somebody else will eat them on our behalf - (*Laughter*)

So, once maize is no longer just food for human beings but becomes food for chicken, pigs, and cattle, then the demand will be bigger because now we are producing not just for the human beings but also for the other consumers. That is why I have directed the Minister for Finance and the Minister of Agriculture to ensure that they distribute these maize mills and food mixers. (*Applause*) These are the machines that mix the different ingredients to make animal feeds all over the country.

This is because when you go upcountry, like to Sembabule, you will find somebody there rearing chicken, then she will tell you, "We must get the animal feeds all the way from Kampala", and that makes their operational costs higher, yet they are growing maize in their area. Therefore, if they have a maize mill nearby and also an animal feed mixer nearby, then everything is there and they will not have to go very far.

So, I am glad that the Ministers for Finance and the Minister for Agriculture are here. In fact we have already talked about this, so they should ensure that we - I know you politicians are fond of democratising power, but I think we also need to talk of democratising maize mills, animal feed mixers and processing machines to process all these little things, which the people are producing. Democratise rice hullers as well and let them be available to all these groups, which are growing rice. Let the fruit growers also have all these little machines for making juice. That is part of the democratic movement also, not just human rights and so on, but also the rights to maize mills. (*Applause*)

I think we should have rights to a maize mill. A community should demand this as part of their human rights, that, "We need a maize mill, rice huller, or juice extractor here". This is democracy, economy and business. In so doing, this maize which looks much will be too little; it will not be enough even for the internal demand. So, we shall have to grow more to deal with the internal demand of the human beings, the chicken, the pigs, the cows, and then also deal with some of the regional and international demand.

However, what I was saying is that the initial stimulus was caused by the region. This bumper crop which we have in Uganda now was really caused by the region. This is the main point, and I am standing here to salute the region for waking up Ugandans. (*Applause*) There is wealth on which they are sitting and which they don't know. They need spectacles to see, and the region has provided some of the spectacles because, like the market of Southern Sudan has really woken up many Ugandans. The demand there has shown us that, "You are sitting on gold but you don't know it". All this means a bigger market.

Apart from the regional market, the varied uses that are unfolding in Uganda will make the market wide. Those of you who remember our Ten-Point Programme would remember point number 5; "Building an independent, integrated economy." So, when you have the food sector linked with the animal sector, which is also integration by the way - the maize is feeding not only the human beings but also the animals. In fact it is amazing to find European countries importing grain from Africa to feed cows in Europe when cows here are starving. We lost a lot of cows during the last dry season. I also lost quite a number of cows because of lack of integration. The cows have no food yet there is too much maize here. Why can't you convert the maize into food for the cows? There is no linkage; the cows are starving here and maize is rotting! Even grass! Cows were starving in the West when grass was being burnt in the East. Grass is food for animals!

I think in Africa people have not heard of the food chain. We need some teachers to come and teach us about the food chain to know that a cow eats grass and then it is eaten by the human being. Now when you burn the grass like they do in Teso and Karamoja and in some other places, you are actually destroying the food of not only the cow but of the human being also.

So, this problem we had woke us up, and we told our people, "Why don't you look for baling machines - the machines to bale grass?" Baling is just an extravagant word that just means "tying". You cut the grass, tie it and then transport it from Lango, or Soroti or Karamoja or from wherever it is being burnt and then sell it – (*Applause*). That is integration! Therefore, even this price of maize will stabilise.

All this, however, as I was saying, was triggered by the bigger regional market, for which we have only salutations. (*Applause*) What is true of maize is also true of other agricultural products such as milk, bananas, fruits, beef et cetera. It is also true of industrial products.

Last calendar year, Uganda exported to the regional market goods and services to the tune of US\$1.6 billion. To supply this market and also become more competitive globally, we need to deal with certain factors, especially electricity, road transport, the railways and ICT. In the whole of East Africa, we need to tell it as a matter of life and death. When I was in Tanzania in the 1970s when we were fighting Idi Amin, around 1974, *Mwalimu* launched a campaign of what he called "*Kilimo Kya Kufa Na Kupona*". This is because there had been some problem of famine or something like that. So, the development of infrastructure in East Africa is really a matter of survival. If we don't do it, we are going to get into a lot of problems in future. We need improved infrastructure, especially electricity and transport.

We need to lower costs of production and costs of doing business, and this will attract more local and foreign investors. It is amazing how planners in Africa, including civil servants in Uganda, do not pay attention to infrastructure. To awaken Ugandans, I have been using the concept of kilowatt hour per capita. This is a concept that I found missing here among our



planners. You know there are people who are called planners; I don't know whether you have heard of them. These planners here had not heard of kilowatt hour per capita, so you wonder how they were planning. If you go on the Internet, hon. Members of EALA and of our Parliament, and you look at the kilowatt hour per capita - because that information is there - of the world, you will be amazed. Africa, including East Africa, has a very low kilowatt hour per capita.

In the United States, the kilowatt hour per capita is 14,000. In some of the European countries like, Norway, it is even higher, but I think that in one of the African countries, it is as low as 12. In the United States the kilowatt hour per capita is 14,000 and some of the countries in Africa have got as low as 12. How then will you develop? What magic are you going to use to develop without electricity? *Utatumia uchawi, utatumia nini?*

Here in Uganda we had big trouble with some groups here fighting electricity. They don't want it! You want to build a dam, they fight it. They bring some crazy villagers who say that there is some spirit here which doesn't want a dam there! (*Laughter*) That notwithstanding, actually the main problem we were having there was because of depending on external funding. But now, we are liberated from that.

We started our own energy fund here in Uganda, and each year we put in money. (*Applause*) So we no longer listen to all that rubbish. If we want to build a dam, we shall build it. If there are some people who are saying all that rubbish, we will just remove them and say, "You go away; we want to build a dam here". After a lot of quarrels and wasting time, we are now aiming at generating about 17,000 mega watts in the next 15 years. This will give us a kilowatt hour per capita of 3,000 at that time. You can imagine, we are already far behind. Even in 15 years, if we do everything on time without wasting time, we shall reach a kilowatt hour per capita of 3,000 when United States today is 14,000! But at least let us start and the wasting of time will be over in Uganda. (*Applause*)

I would want to appeal to the regional partners to also look at this issue of energy because it is very crucial. There is no way...I normally go to these United Nations meetings, and there is something called Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that we are supposed to achieve by 2015, but you do not see how they are linking these MDGs with production. They say "We want to cut infant mortality by so much by this...but how will you do it? You are not talking about electricity; how will you do it? The last time we were there they said, "It seems we are not going to meet the MDGs". I stood up and asked them, "How were you supposed to meet them in the first place? You don't talk about electricity!" Anybody who does not talk about electricity is not serious!

So, here in Uganda, with the Energy Fund we are moving. When they try to play games with us we say, "Okay, if you don't have money...in one of our languages we say, "*Etajugire nyoko bakuha ekirengye nakyo n'otwala*", which means that the cow which is not your mother's bride price, even if they give you the hoof you say, "Thank you very much". (*Laughter*) So, with our Energy Fund we will move, and we are moving. We have wasted a lot of time, but we are moving now.

Building railways is another area where Africa has wasted a lot of time. Again, here I have now directed the concerned sectors in Uganda to use the army engineering brigade to develop capacity for railways building. If private groups can build the railways, then there is no problem. If, however, they cannot, then the army engineering brigade will do so. Building railways is not space technology; it is clear and ordinary civil engineering.

The British built a railway line from Mombasa to Uganda using *karayi* and potters. How can Africans fail to build the railways when we have engineers, earth moving equipment et cetera? When the British built the railways from Mombasa to here, they didn't have caterpillars and machines. They just used human beings. How can Africans sit here *mwaka nenda mwaka rudi mtu kuja kutujenga railway*? If he doesn't come, it is as if we are pushing him. *Kama hawatajenga tutajenga wenyewe!* So I discussed it with our army engineers and said, "Look here, can't we build this railway?" They said, "Of course we can." So we are now busy working on this.

When I introduced it to some of our funding partners they said, "No, for us we don't fund things, which involve the army." When did that start? As far as I know, all the railways in the United States were built by the army! I said, "Oh, *hii rukwasa amani*." Now things have changed, but for us we are still backward, so we may have to use the army to build this railway. I have mentioned this to some of our regional partners and they seemed to like the idea, but we are moving, and we are going to work on this.

In spite of our happiness with the speed of realising the East African Common Market, I cannot forget to remind you of the need for the East African Federation to be fast-tracked. *(Applause)* By 2012 we need to agree on the way forward. We agreed on the setting up of a committee of advisors to look at the issues and a time table again in our last summit in Arusha. When we last met in Arusha, we agreed on this committee - I don't know whether it has been set up; the committee to study this and report. I think it was supposed to report within six months.

The East African Federation is the insurance policy for Africa. I normally get amused when I see Africans insuring everything, like houses, cars...I hear that some people even insure dogs. Is it true? I have never insured anything; the only insurance policy I have is Uganda. If Uganda is peaceful then I am insured. *(Applause)* But my wonder is: how can you insure everything else but not Africa and your future? How can you fail to insure your future as a people and as a race? The East African Federation is the insurance policy for Africa's future.

The present 53 states of Africa cannot guarantee the future of the Black race and the other Africans any more than the African chiefs of the pre-colonial era could have guaranteed our sovereignty.

You know when the Europeans came, they started at the coast, and our ancestors got information. We had a prophet here but he has not been written about. I think I will have to write about him. He was from Karagwe in Tanzania, and his name was Kakara Kashagama Kamango Katonda Gira Karukunyo. Those were his praise names – *(Laughter)*. He prophesied that one day this part of the world would be taken over by foreigners. He was telling these little kings who were ruling around here.

He said many things, but one of the things he said was that "*Bahindakazi enyungu kwerisya yatukura akabunu muryagiteruzyaki?*" He was talking to the princesses - the spoilt palace girls of those chiefs. He said, "You princesses, how will you remove a red hot pot from the fire? What will you use to remove it?" And then he said, "*Obunaku butarya obwo, ensi eryatwara aba tetonderwa*", meaning that in the future, this part of the world will be taken over by people whom you will not be able to introduce yourselves to because they don't

know you. You cannot come to him and say, “I am Yoweri Museveni, son of Kaguta”, and he recognises you because he is from a totally different group.

This man prophesied, and other people were prophesying but our chiefs were sitting here, just running around, full of themselves, and the Europeans came and took over the place. That prophet Kakara Kashagama prophesied “*Abagyendera heiguru*”, people who fly through space.

Those chiefs could not guarantee our sovereignty because they were not well organised. I am glad that there is consensus on this issue in the whole of East Africa. More should be done to sensitise the East Africans about this issue.

The 13 colonies in North America showed the route for unity and produced the mighty United States that has three times rescued the Western world in the last 100 years: during the First World War, the Second World War and in the battle against Communism. That West would not have survived if there was no United States. (*Applause*) Hitler was going to swallow them up. There are these countries like Belgium, Switzerland, UK, and France, which are developed but small. They could not have survived the onslaught of Hitler if they did not have this anchor or centre of gravity, which was the United States!

The USA has been the guarantor of the Western system in the last 100 years. The USSR, or Soviet Union, was the main force that destroyed Hitler in the Second World War from the East. On the other hand, the Spanish colonies in Latin America did not see this point. They were all colonies; the British colonies were in the North and the Spanish colonies were in South America. The British colonies saw this wisdom and started that union of theirs; starting with 13 states until now they are 50. They created that very powerful unit called the United States, but the Spanish colonies on the other hand did not, and they have been a weak part of the world for a long time. It is only now that Latin America is coming up, mainly because of Brazil, which is in itself a very big state approaching USA in size and population.

Who can guarantee the future of the Black race and other Africans today or in the future? It is very important to emphasise this point. Inter-state infrastructure should be promoted, the railways, especially.

With these few remarks, I wish you fruitful deliberations in this Third Meeting of the Third Session. Thank you very much. (*Applause*)

#### VOTE OF THANKS

**The Speaker:** Your Excellency, before I call hon. Karan, the mover of the vote of thanks, I would like to recognise some members that I did not recognise earlier. I recognise the former Members of EALA from Uganda; could you please stand up for recognition as well? (*Applause*)

**Mr Clarkson Otieno Karan (Kenya):** Your Excellency, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, President of the Republic of Uganda; the Rt hon. Edward K. Ssekandi, Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; the Rt hon. Rebecca A. Kadaga, Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda; the Rt. hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, hon. Ministers and Members of the East African Council of Ministers led by hon. Dr Kamala who is the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers, Members of the East African Legislative Assembly,

members of the Cabinet of the Republic of Uganda, Members of Parliament of the Republic of Uganda, members of the diplomatic corps, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen;

Your Excellency, it gives me great pleasure to be given this opportunity by the Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly to move a vote of thanks to a senior member of the Summit of the EAC Heads of State. Your Excellency, you are the only member of the Summit who was there at the time of initiating the Second East African Legislative Assembly. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, you have a vision for this Community, because at the time of starting the Second Assembly, you must have had a vision for it and you knew what was good for it. So, there would not have been a better person to address this Assembly other than you, Your Excellency.

In your speech you have demonstrated a wealth of experience from which Members are going to benefit. I would want to remember that during our initial visit to this country, we visited you at the State House in Kampala, and at that time you referred to us as members of the Customs Union. We did not understand what you meant at that time, but we now gather that during that time, the Customs Union was what the Partner States had reached an agreement on, and our legislative work was basically on that. I want to say that today there is an agreement on the Common Market, and we will do our work as legislators to ensure that we legislate positively for the development and promotion of the Common Market. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, yesterday when I was watching the Uganda Broadcasting Corporation Television, I saw you in the frontline urging Ugandans not to sell their produce as they are but to sell them as finished goods. You have taken the lead in advising Ugandans, and I think all Members of Parliament should follow suit to tell the people of East Africa that within the Common Market they will benefit if they are prepared for it; and that is our work as legislators. *(Applause)*

You have said that issues of infrastructure are a matter of life and death, and that we must ensure that energy is properly taken care of in the East African region. It is our duty as legislators and planners for this region to ensure that proper mechanisms are put in place to develop this region. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, your policies have promoted education in this country, and a number of students are coming in from Partner States. It is because of the good education policy you have in the country. *(Applause)*

I want to remember that when we gave you a memorandum as members of the East African Legislative Assembly from Kenya on some issues, which were affecting our students then, because of your leadership, which is on top of things, you ensured that the problem is sorted out. I want to report to you that it is no longer a problem. *(Applause)*

Yesterday when I was crossing the border coming into Uganda, it was easier crossing the Busia border than it was ever before. This would indicate that the direction and policy that your country is pursuing is to ensure that East Africa becomes one region, where movement should not be a bottleneck. *(Applause)*

Your Excellency, we want to thank you for giving us an opportunity to visit you in your home district. We came as Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, and I want to assure you that the treatment we got when we visited your place was something, which we could not have imagined. This was because our hon. Speaker was visited by the number one citizen of Uganda when he was taking a back seat. I know even the Speaker of Uganda might not have got that treatment; or members of the Cabinet. *(Laughter)* But you treated us well when we came there, and we were happy to visit a number of projects in which you are personally involved. I think this is the way to go in the East African region because we are all workers for our country; we are not just leaders.

As the President of the Republic of Uganda, you have demonstrated by action that you are on top of things, and that you want to ensure that East Africans benefit from the region.

Your Excellency, when I visited this country as the Chairman of a select committee on some issues in our Assembly, I was amazed that members of your Cabinet were ready to give us an opportunity at short notice to listen to our problems. Bureaucracy in other states makes it very difficult for problems to be sorted out, and I want to thank you very sincerely, Your Excellency, for ensuring that your Government is operating and you are on top of things. *(Applause)*

I want to especially mention that the then Minister for Finance, who was a lady, together with the Ministry for East African Community, gave us attention on issues that we had.

Your Excellency, when you were the Chairperson of the Summit, you wanted the East African political federation to be fast-tracked, and when this issue was taken to the Partner States, there were some people who were still not seeing it in the same light, but because of democratic beliefs in you, that matter was laid to rest so that people could come at a time when they all believed that it was necessary to go for a political federation.

I want to say that from the speech, which you have given us here, the East African Community will move if we fast track the political federation because the issue of sovereignty is still a challenge. It makes things not to move in the right way that they would have otherwise. If we could fast track the political federation, it would sort out the issue of sovereignty, and East Africans would move to enjoy the benefits of a common market as envisaged for the people of East Africa. *(Applause)*

Because of your experience, you have told us how grass and maize can be integrated so that animals do not suffer when we have maize and grass available in one region and they are taken to other regions that need them. This is out of your experience, and this experience should be used for the benefit of the people of East Africa. *(Applause)*

The quarrelling and wasting of time, which is quite often in all our African states, is something that we must sort out. This is because no quarrelling state can be able to sort out its problems. If we stop quarrelling in East Africa as a region, we will develop at a faster pace than we are developing now. Because of your position in the Summit, I think this is a subject that should be discussed there and embraced by the people of East Africa. *(Applause)*

The issue of energy cannot be over emphasised, because you have said that no country can develop without energy. Because lack of energy is normally referred to as the dark years, no development can take place. It is upon this premise that we, as states of East Africa, must

take these issues and be able to ensure that proper policies of providing energy within the East African region are properly taken care of. *(Applause)*

On your advice to Ugandan to ensure that she goes as far as having the military build the railway lines, this should be extended to the other Partner States. We have mechanisms and the personnel but we are not using them, so don't limit this advice to Ugandans only. Because of your position in the Summit, this good advice should be extended to all the Partner States in East Africa so that we can all move on a similar arrangement. *(Applause)*

Regarding the political federation, as I have said, this is an issue that could be the key to most of the problems we are experiencing in East Africa, if consensus could be built on it as early as possible. It is an issue of sovereignty, and because you want to move ahead, it becomes a big challenge. Sometimes you would want to legislate on areas, which are beneficial to the people of East Africa but when it comes to the issue of sovereignty, you will find that many people will take a back seat. We can no longer, at this point in time, leave these issues to take the back seat because it would indicate that we are not interested in the development of East Africa.

Your Excellency, your speech has demonstrated to the Members of the East African Legislative Assembly that they stand to learn a lot from your advice, and we would want you to always open your door to us, as you have always done, so that when we are in the country, we can visit you at short notice, by our representatives or all the Members. This is because we would want to seek advice from you as much as possible because you have the vision by which you three senior heads of state first decided to ensure that the East Africa Community comes back again. *(Applause)*

The ordinary *wananchi* of East Africa believe that the Community is the way to go, but whatever problem that may be there is out of leaders. But we wanted the second East African Community to be people driven. Leaders have seen that people want to take the process of the East African Community. It is our request that the leaders should ensure that processes are put in place so that the people of East Africa move the Community for the greater and better benefit of the people of East Africa. *(Applause)*

Long live Uganda; long live the people of the East African Community! I thank you again for getting time to come and address this Assembly because I know, like all East Africans, when they are heading for elections, they never get time for issues like this. For you to have got time to be able to come and address us...I really thank you for getting time to come and address us. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Honourable Members, I am surprised that the strangers are talking in the House. I would say order but - *(Laughter)* - I think we have come to the end of our business for today. I just want to say thank you very much to His Excellency, again, for having found time to address us here in this Chamber, and also to the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda and the Members of Parliament of Uganda for allowing us use of this facility.

#### ADJOURNMENT

**The Speaker:** I now adjourn the House until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m.

*The Uganda National Anthem (Two Verses)*

*(The House rose and adjourned until Wednesday, 10 February 2010 at 2.30 p.m.)*