



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

9TH SITTING - THIRD MEETING – FIRST SESSION: FOURTH EALA

Tuesday, 13th March 2018

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 2:30 p.m. in the Chamber, EALA Wing, EAC Headquarters, Arusha, Tanzania

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Mr. Martin K. Ngoga, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE
CHAIR**

The Speaker: Honourable members, welcome back to this plenary. Last time when we had a Special Sitting, I said I had some announcements or communication to make. However, I could not make the communication at that time because we did not have enough time for that. Now I think I am in a position to make some communication but before I do that, I want to announce and recognise the presence of very important visitors that we have with us today.

**VISITING DELEGATION OF MPS
FROM PARLIAMENT OF UGANDA**

Some of you may have met them outside or in meetings. I want to officially recognise them here in the Assembly. We have the honourable members from the Parliament of Uganda, Committee on Commissions, Statutory Authorities and State Enterprises led by hon. Hood Katuramu. *(Applause)*

I want to recognise you one by one. Hon. Hood Katuramu, you are most welcome. Hon. Mwine Sheila, hon. Aleper Margaret, hon. Agnes Kunihira, hon. Itungo Nathan and hon. Mbabazi Jennifer. They are accompanied by some members of staff: Kagoro John Bosco and Lamunu Jackline.

VISITING DELEGATION OF MPS FROM PARLIAMENT OF KENYA

We are also honoured to have today visitors from Parliament of Kenya who belong to the Committee on Regional Affairs led by hon. Senator Janet Ongera. Together with her are hon. Memusi Kanchori, hon. Ali Wari Obuyo, hon. Kassim Tandaza, and a member of staff, Ms Ellen Ekaderi Lokowum.

Honourable members from Uganda and Kenya, it is an honour and privilege to have you around. Thank you for coming to benchmark with us. I think we have had very good and constructive meetings and I believe we will continue to have engagements. This is the way to go. You are our constituents. You vote for us to come here. We owe you a duty to report back on what we are doing and when you are the ones coming here, it is even a bigger honour for us. Thank you very much.

VISITING DELEGATION OF STUDENTS FROM INSTITUTE OF ACCOUNTANTS/ARUSHA

We also have visitors from the Institute of Accountants in Arusha. Students, are you around? Thank you. These are young East Africans who are here to see how this regional Assembly transacts business. I can assure you that you are very well represented in this Assembly. We have a good number of young people like you. Thank you.

VISIT BY THE SPEAKER TO TRANSITIONAL PARLIAMENT OF SOUTH SUDAN

Honourable members, while you were away undertaking a tour about which we shall have time to discuss in the coming

days, I had an opportunity to represent you to some other engagements. These are notably, my visit to the Republic of South Sudan where I was honoured to meet with His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Sudan and the two Vice Presidents. I also met the Minister responsible for EAC Affairs and chairpersons of Standing Committees of the Transitional National Assembly of South Sudan.

We had a very good reception – I thank hon. Thomas and hon. Kim Gai who accompanied me. We had very good engagement with the leadership of the Republic of South Sudan. We undertook that visit mainly because South Sudan is the newest member of this Community. We wanted to assure them of our willingness and readiness to work with them.

This visit happened at a time when the peace process was going on in Addis Ababa. Therefore, we reiterated our support to that process because it is when the Republic of South Sudan enjoys full peace and security that the people of that country will enjoy the full benefits of integration.

Therefore, I thank the authorities and the leadership of the Republic of South Sudan for that engagement. We are looking forward to be there, all of us as an Assembly, to conduct our business in the coming days. *(Applause)*

ATTENDANCE BY SPEAKER TO SUMMIT MEETING IN KAMPALA/UGANDA

I also had the honour to be accompanied by hon. Mary Mugenyi to the Summit in Kampala. It was very successful. There were two important retreats, one on health and another one on infrastructure. There was a launch of the EAC plan of action. Therefore, it was a very successful Summit. I believe you have seen the communiqué. If

you have not, it can be distributed to you. I was there to represent you although I did not have an opportunity to engage fully with the principals. However, the presence of EALA was noticed. Thank you very much.

EALA TO HOLD PLENARY AT THE PARLIAMENT OF TANZANIA/DODOMA

I also want to announce that we have just got confirmation from the United Republic of Tanzania that the Rt hon. Speaker of the Parliament of Tanzania has accepted our request to conduct our next plenary in the City of Dodoma. I think we had somehow indicated that we would have wanted to be in Dar es Salaam but in their wisdom they think we should be in Dodoma because the national Parliament will be convening in Dodoma at the same time. They want us to engage with the national Parliament and I think that is quite appropriate.

Therefore, given some logistical challenges that may arise for us to travel to Dodoma, I will be calling a meeting of the Commission sometime this week to see how we can address this. However, we are looking forward to be in Dodoma for our April plenary.

Thank you, those are the announcements I wanted to make.

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

THE MINISTER FOR EAC AND
NORTHERN CORRIDOR
DEVELOPMENT/KENYA: HON.
PETER G. MUNYA

The Speaker: Honourable members, we have three ex-officio members who are supposed to be sworn in today but it happened that our rules bind us such that we cannot have two of them from one Partner State together in the Assembly at the same time. Therefore, we have asked for their

magnanimity so that we can swear in one member from the Republic of Kenya and we can have another one being sworn in tomorrow. We appreciate the fact that they have accepted that.

I also note that the honourable member from Uganda is not yet here. Therefore, I will invoke my powers to rearrange the Order Paper such that when he comes in, we shall get him sworn in as well.

Honourable members, I rise to notify you that His Excellency Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya has appointed hon. Peter G. Munya Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Northern Corridor Development.

The Cabinet Secretary is present and would like to take his seat in this Assembly. However, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of this Assembly, he cannot sit or participate in the proceedings of the House until he has taken oath of affirmation of allegiance to the Treaty as a member of the Assembly.

Rule 5(5) specifically states that,

When a member first attends to take his or her seat other than at the first sitting of a new House, he or she shall be brought to the table by two members and presented by them to the Speaker who shall then administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to him or her.

I therefore request any two members who know hon. Peter G. Munya to bring him individually to the table and present him before me to enable me administer the oath of allegiance.

Oath of Allegiance was administered to:

Mr. Peter G. Munya, Cabinet Secretary,
Ministry of EAC and Northern Corridor
Development/Kenya.

The Speaker: Congratulations, hon. Munya, upon your appointment as Cabinet Secretary for EAC and Northern Corridor Development and your being sworn in as an ex-officio member of the Fourth EALA.

Honourable members, I personally heard about hon. Munya before I joined EALA a few years back. By the time I came, he had left the portfolio he held. Therefore, he is coming for the second time to hold the EAC portfolio. Although by the time I joined hon. Munya was no longer with the EAC Ministry, his record was speaking for itself. *(Applause)*

Even for us who had not met him, we heard a lot about him and about his impeccable performance and achievement in his responsibilities. Therefore, it is an honour and privilege that this Fourth Assembly has an opportunity to serve with you again and we believe that it is against that impressive record you have that the appointing authority has decided to reappoint you to come back here.

We commend His Excellency President Uhuru Kenyatta for reconstituting the EAC Ministry such that it is a stand-alone ministry. That is what the Treaty requires and now the Republic of Kenya is in full compliance. Other Partner States can take note. Thank you.

MOTION

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE
PRESIDENT/ REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA AND CHAIRPERSON OF
THE EAC SUMMIT OF
HEADS OF STATE

Exposition of EAC Policy

*(Resumption of debate interrupted on
Thursday,
8 February 2018)*

The Speaker: Honourable members, you may recall that when we had a Special Sitting in the City of Kampala, we had an honour of being addressed by the Chair of the Summit, His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni. Following that address, the Chair, Council of Ministers had moved a motion that this House do commend the President of the Republic of Uganda and the Chairperson, EAC Summit of Heads of State for the concise and clear exposition of the EAC policy contained in his address to the Assembly on Tuesday, 23 February 2018.

You may also recall that this debate was interrupted for the reasons that are properly on record. Now according to the rules, this debate is still open and we are going to resume it. However, I would like to remind you about the provision of rule 37(8) that prohibits members who had already debated the motion from doing that again.

Therefore, I would like to remind those of you who may not recall whether you had debated or not that by the time we closed, hon. Fatuma Ndingiza, hon. Mary Mugenyi, hon. Oburu Oginga, hon. Abdukadir Aden, hon. Pierre Celestin Rwigema, hon. Jean Claude Barimuyabo, hon. Josephine Lemoyan, and hon. Paul Musamali had taken their turn. For the rest, debate is open. I think the *Hansard* has been distributed for you to have a recollection of what the President told us.

Mr George Odongo (Uganda): Mr Speaker and colleagues, I spent the whole of this weekend trying to recollect the Speech that was made by the Chairman of the Community who also happens to be my President.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank His Excellency President Museveni for his consistency. If you have followed President Museveni for the past 40 years, there is one consistent message that has come across right from his youth up to now when he is

President of the Republic of Uganda and this is the quest for the integration of East Africa and by extension, the integration of Africa.

He has always mentioned the integration of East Africa in the same line as the integration of Africa. I think that exposition was made very clearly during this address in February.

Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the President for, first, articulating the vision; what we would call the policy behind the East African Community integration. This vision surely crystallises the idea behind this integration process. I call it the DNA of the East African Community integration.

For sure, the Speech by the President emphasised four key areas. One, the spirit of oneness of Africa and how our cultures and traditions are intertwined and why therefore, this integration process is not an alien process. It is an integration of a people who have a common tradition and culture, an aspiration that is built on one common understanding that we have a future together. That we fall and rise up together and we are destined in the same direction.

The other issue that the President articulated very clearly was the question of how we should enhance trade as a vehicle of integration. Indeed that is captured in our Treaty, which says that the East African Community is going to be people-centred but private sector led. Indeed, for our integration to be sustainable, the focus of this integration should be to enhance the capacity of our people of East Africa to trade but also to be sure that this trading is not an exclusive trading arrangement. It should be trading that has a trickle-down effect.

We can only have a fully integrated Community when all of us share in the benefits of integration. Therefore, our integration should have an inclusive

mechanism. I am not excited about just the numbers or the expansion of territories. I am more excited about the impact that integration had. Therefore, this should not be an integration of poor people. We need to integrate out of poverty. We are here to see that we debate and pass laws that enhance the incomes of our people so that they move out of poverty.

The other key pillar of the President's Speech was the issue of peace and security. Indeed, it is important that as a region, we look at peace and security as an essential ingredient in our integration.

In this respect, therefore, I am calling upon the Partner States to fast track the idea of creating a peace and security mechanism not only to protect our boundaries but also to scale up the defences of peace and security within our Partner States. Peace and security is the reason why everyone wakes up and dreams. It is the reason why East Africans are dreaming again. Therefore, we must be jealous about the attainment of peace and security.

That said, I would like this to go on record. That, the East African Community citizens must interest themselves in the situation in Southern Sudan. The East African Community must interest itself very robustly in the situation in Burundi. We cannot sit here comfortably and pretend that we are a comfortable Community when parts of our Community are not waking up very well. It is our duty and responsibility. All the organs of the Community must begin to put at the heart of their discussions, at the centre of the debate, the question of peace and security in South Sudan and in Burundi.

Dr Abdullah Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): On a point of information, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Do you want to take information, honourable?

Mr Odongo: I will entertain information, thank you.

Dr Makame: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and thank you very much, hon. Odongo. I am one of the members who were fortunate to be in the Central Corridor touring Tanzania and Burundi, which ultimately culminated in Kigali. I would like to testify to what we witnessed in Burundi, much as it was in a few days. We witnessed harmony so I am not sure whether it was reported that there are issues of lack of peace in Burundi. For that reason, Mr Speaker, I would like to beg hon. Odongo to consider maybe going to revisit and see whether the situation is the same because when we were there, it was a bit different. I submit, Mr Speaker.

Mr Christopher Nduwayo (Burundi): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not think hon. Makame –

The Speaker: Hon. Christopher, because you are not debating, indicate whether it is information or clarification.

Mr Nduwayo: It is clarification.

The Speaker: Hon. George, are you taking the point of clarification? Thank you.

Mr Nduwayo: Mr Speaker, I just want to ask hon. Makame not to be a spokesperson of Burundi because I am a Burundian and I know what is in Burundi. We all know that we have His Excellency President Museveni as a peace mediator of Burundi. Therefore, how come we have a peace mediator who is our chairperson for the Burundi peace process yet someone who is not Burundian comes here and says that all is well in Burundi?

I just want to ask hon. Makame to withdraw his statement. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Could members resume their seats so that I guide? Hon. Christopher, hon. Makame has made his point and you have made yours. None is offensive to another so maybe a withdrawal may not be necessary. Hon. Odongo is still substantively on the Floor.

Mr Odongo: Mr Speaker, my intentions are very clear. They are that peace is an essential ingredient in the stability and prosperity of this region. If, indeed, Burundi is at peace, congratulations. However, if Burundi is not at peace, let me tell you something; peace is not the action of the sound of bullets. Peace rests in the minds and hearts of people. We have to transcend the superficial definition of peace and begin to address the substantive issues and that is what I am talking about.

This region is full of pretence and it is time that we got down to serious business and addressed the questions that are pertinent about our people. I congratulate you, Burundians, if you are here and you think there is peace in your country. I am jealously guarding the peace of this region and it is in my interest, like the interest of any other person that if any part of this East African Community is in danger, I am in danger. If Kenya today rises up and says we are in danger, all of us are in danger. The same applies to Uganda. It is in that respect. I would like to enjoin my colleagues from Burundi to appreciate where I am coming from.

Let me not dwell on that so much, my point has been taken. The East African Community needs re-booting. From a software point of view, we need to start re-thinking the whole ideology behind integration. I think that is an essential element that the President was trying to articulate. I think we need to spread this across the region so that we begin to appreciate where we are rooted, what inspires us to come together. In the absence

of that rebooting, we are going to be pulling in different directions even when we pretend that we are together.

This world is 80 per cent covered by water and 20 per cent is covered by arrogant leaders. This is the question that we must begin to address as a Community. As long as there is arrogance in this region, we are not moving anywhere and it is the duty of this Assembly to address this. Thank you so much.

Mr Mathias Kasamba (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to support the motion. However, before I do so, allow me to thank the Assembly for having celebrated Women's Day last week. It was a very positive gesture to recognise the bigger population of the world who are aspiring to get gender parity. Today is not about gender parity but I want to bring it to the attention of everybody that we should work towards gender parity.

Allow me also to congratulate hon. Munya who has joined us. We look forward to a very industrious and energetic Council which will put a difference in making sure that integration goes to another level.

Allow me to thank is Excellency the President and the Chairman of the Summit, who is also my President, for the very well endowed, mostly off the cuff Speech. He is an encyclopaedia for the region. We want to thank him for the words of wisdom he gave us to kick start us as the Fourth Assembly and we look forward to making sure that some of the historical documents he presented to us, when the founders of this integration in 1963 were aspiring to see the *Federal* status of the region.

Today, we are still grappling with fears, uncertainty and it is our turn to contribute. It is our time in the next 10 years to see the *Federal* status of East Africa.

He dwelt a lot on saying that East Africa is one. When you look at people of Northern Uganda and those of South Sudan, we are virtually cousins and brothers. When you look at the border of Kenya and Uganda, you find the Teso in Uganda and the Teso in Kenya are brothers and sisters. Actually when we were inspecting the border post of Malaba, the MP of Kenya mentioned very vividly the Teso community on the Kenyan side and how they are brothers. When we see the Oburus of Bondo and you look at the Japadhola of Uganda, it is for sure a shame for us to sit here as leaders and we still struggle to maintain borders. The booths, which were put in place by our colonial masters – so we are perpetrators of the balkanisation of Africa.

Let us make a difference as East Africans to make sure that we work towards facilitating people to cross borders, facilitating people to marry across borders, facilitating people to buy things across borders. This is the gist and the cry of the Chairman of the Summit. He mentioned how he enjoyed milk in Kenya way back in the 1960s. I am glad that companies are coming up in Uganda and that Uganda is now a big producer of milk. We are producing over 2 billion litres of milk annually, which was not the case about 20 years back, but we are enjoying the market of Kenya and of the region. However, there are still a few non-tariff barriers (NTBs) which we should work upon to make sure that goods cross in a faster and better organised way and we even mobilise our people, the communities to make sure that they benefit from these volumes of their sweat.

He mentioned hunger still grappling various parts of the region and you find pockets of other parts of the region with bumper harvests. A case in point was mentioned; over 4 million tonnes of maize in Uganda while Kenya and parts of South Sudan are faced with symptoms of hunger and people not accessing food in adequate quantities and quality.

It is upon us to make sure that we facilitate exchange of goods, facilitate transfer and distribution of commodities without hindrances. There are some countries, which are still asking for phyto-sanitary standards. It is this House to harmonise. Let us request the Council of Ministers to bring a compendium of laws, which need to be harmonised so that free movement of goods and services can be facilitated without any hindrances.

My last point is about the young generation. East Africa is made up of almost 70-80 per cent of the people we are representing being below 35 years. Let us put a mechanism whereby the education system, the labour market and especially the language – my colleagues who went to the Central Corridor found the Kiswahili Commission grappling on how we can facilitate the speaking of Kiswahili in the region. Why can we not put a mechanism in place to facilitate teachers from Tanzania to move to Uganda where Kiswahili is still a challenge so that we put it into the education system to facilitate students who will become labourers in the region to compete favourably with labour opportunities in Tanzania and Kenya?

Equally, why can we not have teachers of English transferring to Tanzania and Kenya to make sure that we facilitate the English language because we know that English and Kiswahili are the predominant languages we are going to carry forward in the next 10-20 years and communication is a major factor in business and labour opportunities?

Therefore, English and Kiswahili will be the predominant languages among the young generation. Therefore, if opportunities are going to be facilitated, we must make sure that we put an enabling environment. I want to appeal that as we deliberate in the upcoming one to two years, financing the integration approaches should be given a cardinal agenda. As we

speak, the remittances to make sure that the functionality of the institutions of the EAC are effective should be looked into to make sure that the dreams of realising the Monetary Union and Political Federation are crystallised by commitment of resources, of people who are willing to work together and make sure that integration becomes a reality. I rest my case, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Kasamba.

Ms Oda Gasinzigwa (Rwanda): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. First, I want to congratulate the honourable minister from Kenya. You are welcome. I would like to add my voice to the previous speakers, here and in Kampala by thanking His Excellency, our Chairperson of the Summit, President Museveni for his address during our session in Kampala.

I would like to remind our colleagues that I think this was a great opportunity for us because as you remember, we were just coming from electing our Speaker and from swearing in as Members of Parliament. This being our First Session we sat in Kampala and we got an opportunity to be addressed by His Excellency.

You all remember very well that he said he is in support of our Assembly and that he was going to continue helping and advising on the way we should conduct our business.

I want to go back to a very important point he raised during the session concerning prosperity of our people. This is something I took seriously and I think, as it is mentioned in our Treaty; it is something we need to look at again.

Mr Speaker, he also mentioned issues of our common resources, issues of security as my brother hon. Odongo mentioned, and I think I also want to support him on his statement because this is a very important area of our integration. If we do not have

security then there is nothing much we can do with our integration. I believe he meant well when he was putting out his recommendations that whatever we are doing, we need to go back and look into issues of security and we should not avoid talking about reality and what is happening in our region because today is one country and tomorrow is another country.

Therefore, if we do not face it, as members of Parliament elected by people from our communities, then we shall not be fair to our Community. I think it is high time we changed the way we do our business as people who have been elected to speak for our Community. We should make sure that we have a secure environment and a secure region for the betterment of our Community.

You may recall that was the point that His Excellency the Chairperson of Summit mentioned when he started talking about the prosperity of our people. How do we achieve prosperity for our people if we are not talking about all these issues?

Another thing in his statement was emphasised when we had our on spot assessment. Mr Speaker, I do not want to pre-empt the report of the assessment but I want to inform this Assembly that what we saw – if we are not going to be firm and revisit our commitment towards integration then we will be wasting the resources of this Community. We will be wasting the time of the people and the Community, which elected us because the implementation is at a very slow pace.

When we talk about the commitments in the political arena, in the speeches, we seem to be on track but when we go down to the projects, when we go down to the implementation, we find that we still have a long way to go. Are we really doing it? Are we really answering the needs for integration? Are we really answering the voices of our people? We should not sit here

in different portfolios and discuss about integration and yet we do not want to talk about the gaps we have, especially regarding political will. When we talk about political will, we say we are there to do it but in fact, when we go to the commitment, which you evaluate when you see the implementation, you find that we still have a long way to go.

My plea is that as the Fourth Assembly, we need to take the speech of His Excellency very seriously. If we need to achieve the integration, we need commitment and implementation, which should go together. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Dr Makame: Thank you very much Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this motion. I am rising here to support it.

Before I proceed, I would like to commend and congratulate hon. Peter Munya for being appointed by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Kenya to the position of Cabinet Secretary responsible for East African Community Affairs and Northern Corridor Development. Many congratulations.

Secondly, I would like to also reiterate what has been said and thank His Excellency the President of Uganda and the Chairperson of the Summit of Heads of State of the East African Community, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for his landmark Speech that he gave us and for always availing himself for EALA matters.

Actually, it did not surprise me that His Excellency President Museveni availed himself for EALA in Kampala. It never surprises me when President Museveni avails himself for any East African integration issue because President Museveni is a veteran politician in East Africa. He is the longest serving member of Summit.

He was there when the Permanent Tripartite Commission was being established in 1993. He was there with President Moi and his counterpart President Hassan Mwinyi in 1993. He was there in 1996 when they commissioned the Permanent Tripartite Commission to develop the EAC Treaty with President Moi and President Mkapa. He was there when the Treaty was being signed in 1999. He was there when the Treaty entered into legal force in 2000. He was there when we made our first step of integration when the Customs Union Protocol entered into legal force on 1st January 2005. By then the President of Kenya was President Kibaki.

He was there in 2009 when the Common Market Protocol was being signed and ultimately when it was ratified. This was with the President of Tanzania, His Excellency Kikwete and the President of Kenya, His Excellency Kibaki. He was there again when Burundi and Rwanda were accessing the Community in 2006. He was there when they were negotiating accession. He was there when South Sudan – So he is an experienced and very knowledgeable leader.

The Speaker: Honourable member, you seem to have been there also. (*Laughter*)

Dr Makame: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. You know, he educated us a lot. He spoke about the issues of 1963, which my brother, hon. Kasamba mentioned and he shared with us, a book, '*Sowing the Mustard Seed*'. Each member got that book.

Mr Speaker, my request to you is to send a special note of thanks from the Assembly on behalf of all members to His Excellency President Museveni for his commitment and availing us those materials when he came to deliver the State of EAC Address in Kampala.

Mr Speaker, the story of Kenya Cooperative Creameries (KCC) milk – he

said it in a very light way but they were very big. In integration, we need each other. There is no one who is self-sufficient. We have collectively what we call synergy so the slogan of EAC 'One people one destiny'. If we want to move far then we should move together as we are moving now.

Mr Speaker, President Museveni mentioned prosperity and I cannot remember the Ugandan word he used to talk about wealth but he mentioned *mali* because no one wants to be poor. The spirit of the East African Community, the spirit of integration – and that is why we have these four pillars of the Customs Union and Common Market gradually, that way. Why did we start with the Customs Union? We started with the Customs Union because we want people of the East African Community to benefit economically, to trade, to produce, and to engage in productive sectors.

Now when we are talking about Customs Union, you will recall in 2009 when we were in the implementation of the Customs Union that the East African Community developed and the East African Community Food Security Action Plan that was approved by the Summit. They also developed the East African Community Climate Change Policy in response to drought happening somewhere near the Horn of Africa and some parts of North Eastern Kenya where a lot of cattle died causing great losses in the region.

It would be in order, Mr Speaker, if we request the Council or even maybe the Secretary General – not today but in future – to brief us on the implementation of the Food Security Action Plan and Climate Change Policy at the EAC because these documents and issues were developed. They were not developed for being shelved but they were developed for Partner States to implement and actually make milestones.

Regarding the issue of Customs Union in relation to trade, talking about productivity, we know that more than 80 per cent of the population in East Africa is rural based and depends on agriculture. Therefore, we want to have real productivity there and we want to be food sufficient but we are seeing that we have still not achieved that.

Mr Speaker, the East African Community again has what we call the Industrial Policy and Strategy in which the Community is aspiring to develop its industrial capacity and particularly take the raw materials from the agricultural products, develop them and add economic value. Therefore, we are seeing that the Community is aiming for prosperity and that is the message we received from His Excellency President Museveni.

He also mentioned about us moving towards the Monetary Union and in this very Assembly, we are now preparing towards that. We are considering some of the Bills, which will achieve the Monetary Union. However, Mr Speaker, if we refer back, history is always a good teacher. We had the East African shilling and there was an East African Currency Board. We were more integrated in 1963 than we are integrated now. We need to go back, integrate more than we were integrated before. We need to integrate our policies but also as my brother, hon. Kasamba mentioned, we are integrating even socially and the social integration is the most important. This is because when we integrate socially, it means that we are becoming hooked and more connected. That is what we should encourage East Africans to do; break the social barriers.

The issue of borders is known. These borders were created by the imperialists who came here to colonise us. As you will note, Mr Speaker, when you announced that our next session will be in Dodoma-- Coincidentally we will be in Dodoma on 26 April and that is the Union Day. The United

Republic of Tanzania is a union of Tanganyika and Zanzibar and that is why it is called the United Republic of Tanzania. That is where the name came from.

The effort of uniting Tanzania by the founders of the union of Tanzania is anchored from the Pan Africanism spirit. It is a demonstration that as Africans, we have to defy the colonial borders and maintain the borders that were there. You know the borders of Africa- the Indian Ocean, the Pacific Ocean, the Mediterranean Sea and the Red Sea. We had no borders; we were integrated.

Mr Speaker, I beg to support the motion and I beg to submit. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Makame. You mentioned the book by His Excellency the President. However, members will recall that he had actually taken time to even do a compilation of newspapers so that we could have the proper recollection of the history and the journey we have travelled as a region.

(Hon. Members stood up on their feet to catch the Speaker's eye.)

Please, if you could resume your seat for a moment, honourable members, you know when there is a senior citizen waiting, I cannot have the audacity to proceed before I attend to the matter about him. I understand that Rt hon. Kivejinja is around. Therefore, I am re-arranging the Order Paper to administer that particular oath then we can proceed with the debate.

(Debate on the Speech by His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni was suspended)

ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

THE SECOND DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER/MINISTER FOR EAC
AFFAIRS, UGANDA, DR A.M
KIRUNDA KIVEJINJA

The Speaker: Honourable members, I rise to notify you that hon. Dr A.M. Kirunda Kivejinja, the Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs of the Republic of Uganda is present and would like to take his seat in this House.

However, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 5 of the Rules of Procedure of this Assembly, he cannot sit or participate in the proceedings of the House until he has taken oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Treaty as a member of the Assembly.

Rule 5(5) specifically states that:

“When a member first attends to take his or her seat other than at the first sitting of a new House, he or she shall be brought to the table by two members and presented by them to the Speaker who shall then administer the oath or affirmation of allegiance to him or her.”

I therefore request any two members who know Dr A.M. Kirunda Kivejinja to bring him individually to the table and present him before me to enable me administer the oath of allegiance.

Oath of affirmation was administered to:
Dr A.M. Kirunda Kivejinja

The Speaker: Rt hon. Dr Kirunda Kivejinja, congratulations upon your being sworn in as an ex-officio member of the Fourth EALA. It is an honour and privilege that we continue to have you amongst us as our historical and a custodian of the memory we need to push forward the integration agenda that we are entrusted with.

We are steering the Community, which was previously formed, developed and collapsed due to political circumstances that we are duty bound to avoid so that we can succeed in our present endeavour.

For history to be of useful purpose to us, surviving voices of reason with first-hand accounts is of paramount importance. Right honourable, you belong to that group and this Assembly shall treasure you for that. We shall have that in mind as we work with you. We thank His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni for trusting you with this important docket. I wish you all the best. *(Applause)*

*(Resumption of Debate on the Speech by
His Excellency
President Yoweri Museveni)*

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
UGANDA AND CHAIRPERSON OF
THE EAC SUMMIT OF HEADS OF
STATE

The Speaker: Thank you. Honourable members, the motion is still the same; debate is resumed. Please, we do not have all the time. I do not want to stop anyone but please consider that many members would want to speak.

Mr Kim Duop Gai Ruot (South Sudan): Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable members. I do support the motion for His Excellency President Kaguta of the Republic of Uganda and Chair of Summit.

Before I move to my submission, I would like to thank the Uganda chapter, which gave us good hospitality in Uganda. I also would like to welcome honourable members from the Republic of Uganda who are with us in Arusha.

Mr Speaker, when we are talking about the issue of peace in the EAC, we should be grateful that this year we have His Excellency hon. Paul Kagame who is the Chairperson of the AU. We know the history of what happened in Rwanda 20 years ago. To achieve peace in South Sudan, we should know that members of the EAC are the members of IGAD and South Sudan is a member of the EAC.

Peace is very important for South Sudan. You should see what is going on now, people are suffering. Over 1 million people are in Northern Uganda and there are still more refugees in Kakuma since, 1983. We should also thank the Republic of Kenya because they are still hosting South Sudanese.

Look at the history of the peace in South Sudan, back to 2005 when IGAD intervened in Sudan. The comprehensive peace agreement was signed in 2005 and peace came in Sudan. That is when South Sudan became independent in July 2011. That means that when EAC organised themselves and focused on one voice, peace came to South Sudan.

Before 2013, there were over 1 million employees from Uganda working in South Sudan. This is the largest number of Ugandans that was working outside their country. There are also Kenyans working in South Sudan. When we entered into a crisis in 2013, the country totally collapsed and now if you read the report of the AU and the international community, they are saying that there are EAC countries fuelling the war in South Sudan. This is unacceptable because the EAC should support the peace in South Sudan. That peace does not belong to anybody either the government or the opposition.

I thank Kenya for what happened. They have built a big bridge, which should last in South Sudan. Therefore, I urge this august

House, particularly the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution, to form a sub-committee to meet the AU chairperson and His Excellency Paul Kagame with regard to the issue of South Sudan so that peace is restored. The Chair of Summit is also important for peace to return to South Sudan.

These are our own. Because we are an oversight legislature, we should focus on peace. If you look at the data of South Sudan, over 1 million Ugandans are working in South Sudan. Over 1 million Kenyans are working in South Sudan and all of these are losing their jobs. This is the only country in the EAC, which produces oil, and it is plundered. We are not doing anything in South Sudan.

In the speech of His Excellency Kaguta, he talked about integration. It is good hon. Peter is with us from Kenya. President Kenyatta made a statement at his inauguration as President of Kenya last year. He said that all citizens of the East African Community should enter Kenya without visas. What happened later? Nothing.

It is good that the minister is here and he should answer this question because the President made an order.

(Mr Peter Munya stood up at his place)

The Speaker: Hon. Kim, there is a way we send questions to the Council. The idea is taken and the procedure could be explained to you.

Honourable minister, when it is a point of order, it is mandatory that I listen to you.

The Minister for EAC and Northern Corridor Development (Mr Peter Munya) (Ex Officio): Mr Speaker, is the honourable member of EALA from South Sudan in order to say that nothing has happened when the President made a major policy

intervention for all East Africans to travel to Kenya without any pre-conditions; to settle, buy property and even to marry?

Mr Speaker, it is a policy announcement that is being implemented. It is not implemented instantly. Once it is announced there are institutions that take over to carry out the modalities of the implementation and the immigration department and other departments have been ordered to work out the modalities of implementation and that process is on-going, Mr Speaker.

A major policy like that cannot be implemented once it is announced. This is not the same as when God was creating the earth, where he said, let there be light and there was light. Human activities are not like God's activities. We require time.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I the member should be informed properly that what the President of the Republic of Kenya announced is policy. It is on course and is being implemented.

With a lot of respect, let him not mislead the House. Mr Speaker, is it in order for him to mislead the House on such an important issue that affects all of us?

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable minister. The honourable member made a phraseology that he was seeking the clarifications you have given, so we are all in order. Proceed.

Mr Duop: Thank you, Mr Speaker for answering my question.

The Speaker: No, you do not qualify the statement of the Speaker.

Mr Duop: I thank you for your answer to my question. This question will go to honourable, the Second Deputy Prime Minister in Uganda.

Rwanda has three, Tanzania three, Burundi three but if you look at Uganda and South Sudan, majority of the people are in two countries, which is Uganda and Kenya. My family for instance is in Uganda, I fall number 10 with my colleagues from Uganda chapter. My son studies in a Ugandan university but they are paying fees as international students and here we are talking about integration of the EAC.

Mr Speaker, in conclusion, I will say that the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution should form and meet His Excellency Paul Kagame and the Chairman of the AU regarding peace of the Republic of South Sudan. That is very important for all South Sudanese whether you are in the ruling party or the opposition. There should be inclusive peace in South Sudan and the EAC should go forward on South Sudan. This is the only thing that should happen. If there are some countries in EAC fuelling the war, they should be stopped and they should focus on peace. Therefore, this committee should take this and lobby for peace in our region.

I beg to support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Kim.

Mr Dennis Namara (Uganda): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I would like to first congratulate the Rt hon. Kirunda Kivejinja for having been sworn in as an ex-officio member of the Fourth Assembly. In the same spirit, I also congratulate hon. Peter Munya for having been sworn in also as an ex-officio member of the Fourth Assembly.

I move to support the motion on the Address by His Excellency the President. I commend him for the address he gave to the Fourth EALA when we were in Kampala regarding the East African integration.

As hon. Dr Makame put it but in another way, indeed, his Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda and the current

Chairman of the Summit has vast experience as far as the East African integration is concerned. Indeed, he is extremely passionate as far as being one people in East Africa is concerned.

He always articulates very diligently and passionately the need to have bigger resources; to pool our resources together as the people of East Africa and to put together what we cannot do as one country.

Take an example of the Renaissance Dam of Ethiopia. If we do not pool resources, no single country can pull it off. Therefore, we need to integrate.

He talked about very important principles of integration. I will talk about two of them and one of them is the facilitation of trade to increase the volumes of trade amongst our people. It is, indeed, the most important aspect of integration. We are talking about an East African Community of over 170 million people with a combined GDP of over US\$150 billion. Therefore, what is our responsibility as an Assembly? It is to facilitate the people of East Africa to benefit from this very big population and this combined GDP by ensuring the free movement of labour, persons, right of establishment among East Africans.

Indeed, some of these Protocols have been signed but unfortunately, when you go into the practical bit of it that is not the case. I remember when I was moving from Kampala to here. I came by road but I can assure you that I did not have a very easy way through. I asked myself, if I can take three hours at a border when I have a diplomatic passport, my vehicle being checked here and there and being stopped at each and every point, how long would it take for a truck to move from one point to another?

Therefore, we must move away from talking integration and actually act integration by facilitating the removal of

tariff barriers and non-tariff barriers. We must fast track as East Africans to ensure that the infrastructure projects that were put in place, for example the standard gauge railway are, indeed, completed.

I commend the Republic of Kenya. Indeed, you are moving very fast. When I was moving on the road, I saw the speed at which you are moving. We want all the countries – even Uganda on our part, to ensure that we move at the same pace with Kenya. I can assure you that as members of the Ugandan chapter together with the members of Parliament from Uganda, we are going to follow up with our country to ensure that we are moving at the same pace.

We must be able to facilitate a one-area network. We are talking about communication. It is extremely difficult to do business without communication. I commend the four countries that have put in place the single network like Kenya, Rwanda – (*Interruption*)

The Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs / Uganda (Dr Ali Kirunda Kivejinja) (Ex Officio): On a point of information, Mr Speaker, Sir. I would like to inform the honourable member that all we are waiting for is the synchronisation. Everything is lined up but if we start the railway then it will be done. We are going to coincide things so that by the time the railway reaches Malaba, it will also have gone a good distance.

Mr Namara: Thank you very much, Rt honourable for that very important information. That is why you are a wealth of knowledge when it comes to integration and these aspects.

Mr Speaker, I also want to work very fast because the President was extremely passionate about trade. The aspect of single currency is extremely important. If you move with US\$100 across the borders of East Africa and you start with Uganda, by

the time you come back to Uganda, you will have US\$50 because of the exchange rate. That means that we are losing a lot of money in foreign exchange.

If we are able to out together and have one currency as we are targeting, it will help us to facilitate trade amongst our people.

Very importantly is the issue of removing the social barriers and actually promoting people relations amongst the people of East Africa through cultural and socialisation of our people and activities. This is the fabric of integration. You cannot integrate without people. You can put the infrastructure and everything you want, including all the laws but if the people are not integrating socially then we are likely to face a very big challenge. Therefore, we must move forward to facilitate the people-to-people relations to remove the cross-cultural and cross boundary barriers that impede on the promotion of the social fabric of our people.

I therefore beg to move and support the motion that, indeed, we commend the President of the Republic of Uganda for his address to the EAC. I thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Denis Namara.

Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Thank you so much, Mr Speaker. Before I support this motion, allow me to congratulate the honourable member from Kenya for being sworn in and being appointed as a Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Development of Northern Corridor.

I also want to congratulate the Rt hon. A.M. Kivejinja for being sworn in as an ex-officio member of this Parliament. Welcome to this Parliament. Please join us in our debates.

From here, allow me to move and support the motion on the presentation and address

of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of the Republic of Uganda when we were in Kampala. Indeed the President spoke a lot and he spoke out of a wealth of experience. Many speakers before me have spoken and have added their voice to this. Allow me to also tell hon. Makame that I was there when President Museveni became a President so he could have added me also to that list.

He talked about four pillars and in those, allow me to speak only about the two pillars that he talked about: integration in strategic security. I think many speakers have spoken about security and I also want to add my voice that when he was speaking he said, he likes President Donald Trump of the United States of America when he said that African leaders are very weak and Africans should start owning their own problems and solving them.

I say this because it is other people financing and working to bring peace to this country. Nevertheless, they impose their own conditions and come out with their own timetables, with their own things. That impedes the integration of the East African Community countries. This very much affects how we move on.

I would like to say that in his address, he said that Africans should hold and definitely solve their problems because then we will see change. I therefore say that the East African Community should at least take over the peace process of South Sudan because that is not the way it should be going because we will continue to waste our resources in Addis Ababa, we will continue to do a lot of things and yet we will come back to square one.

Therefore, the East African Community itself should be able to take up the peace process in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa.

I also want to talk about when he said prosperity in terms of integration, people should be bigger in terms of numbers. I think he foresaw- I was reading yesterday that the continent had signed a Preferential Free Trade Area in the Rwandan capital of Kigali. That is the way to go. Much as the continent has signed that, it also comes to the point that we have our own protocols and things that we have signed and then we do not implement. When that PTA is taken to the next summit of the African Union, all the Heads of State are going to sign. No one is going to refuse but when it is something about the East African Community, some of them will be absent, dodging to sign that. That will not solve anything.

Therefore, I suggest that in his wisdom, we try to look at how we can own our own things, move forward on our own and that when we do our things, we do them in the spirit of integration and oneness and not in the spirit of trying to look at the differences that exist in each and every Partner State in the East African Community.

Thank you so much, I stand to support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Kennedy Mukulia. Please let us try to be brief so that everyone can get an opportunity to speak.

Mr Fred Mukasa Mbidde (Uganda): Much obliged, Mr Speaker. I equally associate myself with the submission by those honourable members. One, I thank the President of Uganda for his presentation on the day reflected in the motion and two, I welcome the Right honourable minister from the Republic of Uganda and the honourable minister from the Republic of Kenya for having joined us today.

Mr Speaker, I will begin by guiding honourable members. When they are confronted by a motion of this nature, their debate must be pursuant to Rule 46 of the Rules of this House. The motion is specific

on the policy exposition contained in the speech of the President. Therefore, clearly, our submissions should be hinged to the policy expositions as they were, the imponderables that the President spoke about notwithstanding.

In my opinion, then you will not now run a risk of inciting some of us into the obvious that we would be able also to confront you in terms of antagonism during your speech.

Mr Speaker, I agree entirely with the chronology cited by my friend, of all the events that took place right from 1993 to 1999 and clearly pointing to the presence of His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda, President Museveni.

The policy expositions were premised on Article 5 of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community, one of them being prosperity. The essence of integration would be, in effect, to cause prosperity to the people of East Africa.

Contained therein, what should the honourable members suggest in effect? How can we have a prosperous East African Community where prosperity now refers to all the people and not some of the people? Economics sometimes becomes a problem when one assesses it only in reference to those models that are established for assessment. For example, if one calculates prosperity in terms of economic growth, in terms of per capita income, in terms of growth domestic product, then one fails to interpret properly the average human development index of the people of East Africa.

If you begin to assess by merely having the national economy divided among the populations of those countries and creating averages and you arrive at per capita income, the meaning is that you are creating division on paper and practically your own paper and pen without the substantial division tricking down to the average East

African. Therefore, assessments will be wrong.

What we are looking at now in East Africa are a few people developing and the rest of the population not developing at all. We are faced with a situation where the one creating analyses is looking at – if honourable members have been introduced to parasites like jiggers, we have jiggers in East Africa. Some of us have faced them while we were young –

The Speaker: Being introduced to them or if they know them? That needs re-phrasing.

Mr Mbidde: Mr Speaker, for all those that have faced them during their childhood, all those that have read about them, Mr Speaker, there is a specified characteristic when a jigger enters your foot. It swells. For somebody looking at the foot, he can clearly think that actually you are gaining weight. It is only you with the problem who is aware that actually you are suffering because of the jigger that has entered your foot.

Assessing economics by way of per capita income is to fail to recognise that there is a jigger in the foot. Therefore, you are only stipulating that because there are several buildings and developments then the people have developed and are therefore happy. Because of the jiggers, people look happy but the buildings belong to the same people and the real average person in East Africa is still suffering.

The Assembly needs to now look at the qualitative analysis of economic development and prosperity of the average East African and not the mere assessment by way of types that we can now regard East Africa as developed. Mr Speaker, that is one of the analyses that I have created in one of the policy statements and suggestions made by the Chair, Summit.

Secondly, Mr Speaker, because you have limited me, I will skip number two and go to number three, which I will definitely address as my final point. The President suggested that security is paramount if integration is to continue, if it is to flourish and if East Africans are to enjoy it. We have also now been introduced to a chronology of events that created the establishment of the East African Community that also collapsed in 1977 and therefore the establishment of a new one that we are enjoying right now.

One thing we need to know – of course, the East Africans now, particularly our leaderships, have created a joint protocol on peace and security, which is yet to be implemented to the dot.

Number two, what is security? My brother hon. Makame has stated that the President was here during all the chronology of events. He was present in person. Other people were present indirectly. There are those who were present as their political parties; present and leading like Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM). There are those that were present and are still present as their own families are still leading like in Kenya. There are those who were not present but are now working closely for purposes that they will be present now forever like the other new Partner States.

Mr Speaker, if this is also not addressed; again, we shall have a collapsed Community. Therefore, when I speak, when I stand here, I would like the Assembly to adumbrate in such a manner that we can be able to be a solution than the kind of Vaseline that we are applying to a swollen wound.

When I recollect the Organisation of African Unity as it then was, it had a charter which had the infamous provision under Article 3(2) which clearly created a protective wall around all Partner State leaders or State party leaders to the extent

that no Partner State is allowed to enter into what is referred to as internal matters of a state party. That was Article 3(2). That was a protective wall established to protect the then dictator against any possible intrusion.

They did not know that the dictatorships that had been harnessed were again to collapse the organisation itself. When the Constitutive Act was established for the African Union, we know that the protocols and the charter itself were in good faith. They were established, they are the best but there are provisions that are not being followed to the extent that people can be given freedoms.

We have the Protocol for the Establishment of the African Court on Human and People's Rights and Article 34(6) provides for freedom of Africans to obtain their freedoms before the African Court. The Protocol was entered into by the state parties, the court was formed but state parties withheld the provision of depositing declarations to allow their citizens to sue if they have grievances on human rights.

Here in East Africa, only Tanzania did. The rest of the East African Partner States are not doing so. Why do you not want to provide freedoms to your citizens if indeed you want their prosperity, their freedom and their lives to continue?

Mr Speaker, freedom is paramount. You can create the standard gauge railway but those discontented will burn them because freedom is better. The term we use in Arabic is *shabaab*. When you know that the young people are actually unemployed and not free, they can create existences of outfits that are calculated to again negate you from enjoying the freedoms you have created for yourselves. There are people referred to as Al Shabaab. When I look at it, it represents the youth.

For me I know that freedom is better. If you want to taste how better freedom is, visit the

zoo for wild animals. Even if they are given mangoes, bananas, pieces of meat, if you want to taste what is better, free any of them. They will run away despite the services that they obtain every day. Therefore freedom is immaterial, it is key and it is the alpha and omega of integration. I thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Mbidde.

Ms Florence Jematiah Sergon (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I would like to join my colleagues in congratulating the new members, His Excellency Munya – I call him Excellency because he was a governor – and our young member, hon. Kivejinja. Of course, he must now be the youngest in the House.

I would like to say that I was privileged to meet His Excellency the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni at close range and I was privileged to greet him. I must say that he carries the spirit of the Community. He is one person whose passion you can point out on how he expressed his feelings and expectations especially from us the members of EALA and especially EALA four.

I will go straight and point to one thing that he put as a first priority. His message was concerning the election of the speaker of this House. I want to remember very well how it came about and of course, all members in the House remember that. One thing that His Excellency Museveni gave us as a duty, as members of EALA, was above all, leadership was a key factor in management and good spirit of the growth of the Community. I liked the way he put it so passionately when he was describing how we were not able to elect until we elect our Speaker.

Honourable members, we all know that leadership is a key factor for us to grow the Community. The matter of the Speaker

came about, it took a very critical stand, and even as we speak today, we are yet to resolve it because it is before court. For us to grow well in the Community, the spirit of understanding, the spirit of giving one another a chance is what we need the Community to grow.

I might not say so much because it is before the court. I would like to inform the relevant chapter; Burundi, that we all believe in sovereignty. If in good spirit and good development of the Community, I will take the opportunity to ask that we let that matter rest for us to work together for the betterment of EALA.

I would like to talk about what my colleague, hon. Mbidde, espoused in the integration and growth of the Community as per the speech of His Excellency Museveni. Everything depends on how we look at things. East Africans work too hard but everything boils down to how the leadership carries the day and I want to thank every member, especially His Excellency, the Chair of the Summit for giving us the guidance and I believe that is what is going to take us forward. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Florence.

Mr Jean Marie Muhirwa (Burundi): Thank you very much for the opportunity. I stand to commend the address or the statement of His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the Chair of Summit. Before that, allow me, Mr Speaker, to join my voice to that of others to congratulate our two ex-officio members; Rt hon. Dr K. Kivejinja and hon. Munya from Kenya.

Mr Speaker, this address of His Excellency Museveni regarding the integration of EAC is very strong and serious enough when you go and scrutinise it. This speech is summarised in four major points. One is prosperity of the region, two is security, three is the better use of our natural

resources and the fourth one is *undugu*; *ujamaa* to mean the good neighbourliness among East Africans.

Permit me to start discussing this issue regarding prosperity. This integration of East Africa is the integration of our local citizens, as I understand it. This Community is a people-centred one but to reach that point, we have to have the political will of coming together as leaders.

Speaking about prosperity means the well-being of our local citizens; of East Africa. In order to have this prosperity as a reality, we have to witness the full implementation of different protocols that have been agreed on to move forward as far as integration is concerned.

We have recently undertaken a tour within East Africa. One team went to the Central Corridor and another to the Northern Corridor. We were assessing the level of integration as far as Common Market Protocol and the Customs Union implementation are concerned.

We are all aware that the level of implementation of these key pillars is still very low. We have to stand up as a House, be one and urge our leaders so that the implementation of these two protocols is a reality. By so doing, our Community will become very prosperous.

Second is about security. Security is the engine of a Community. Without security, we cannot achieve anything. All of us have to dream about security in East Africa and in our dear continent of Africa. We have to enjoy security from our homes and therefore enjoy security in all of East Africa, Africa and worldwide.

As an East African citizen, I am very proud that security is a reality in our region. Let me provide the evidence. I am sure that the Police and military forces from Rwanda are helping outside East Africa to restore peace.

The police and military forces of the Republic of Burundi are helping to restore peace in Somalia, in Haiti, in Cote D'Ivoire, in Northern Sudan and in other parts of Africa. Therefore, we give what we have.

The Republic of Uganda is helping in Somalia and elsewhere. The United Republic of Tanzania is helping to restore peace in Congo via UN Stabilisation Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO) and other countries are helping. The same applies to Kenya. This is the pride of East Africa; to go and restore peace in those different parts of Africa and outside Africa. This means we give what we have. We have cleaned our homes and they are very safe and are enjoying peace, stability, and security. Yes, we still have some political and social challenges and that is very normal. Go to America, you will find such differences. Go to Asia or Europe.

What I can give today is, we as East Africans, staring with us the members of this House, let us stand up as one and try to teach our citizens and politicians because these tensions and political differences are sometimes observed during the electoral process.

In Burundi, there is peace, security, and tranquillity. That is why I am here. In Kenya we have been witnessing such political differences. The same applies to Uganda. However, it does not mean that there is war. I appeal that this Community – it is high time we had the Council of wise men so that by the time, we have these political, social and economic challenges, we stand together as East Africans and build our safe hub. We have to pursue unity and harmony within our Community.

The other issue is about the better use of these natural resources. This item reminds me that it is high time that we, East Africans, woke up. We need to stand up and identify the common threat and serious enemy of East Africa. The strong enemy of

East African is the climate change. This region is very rich but recently we have been witnessing these challenges related to climate change. It is high time that this House and all organs of East Africa made issues of climate change a priority. We need a strategic plan to face this climate change.

This region is very rich. It has been a gift that we have been given by Almighty God. This region is very rich in its nature; in gold, diamonds and other minerals. Let us, as East Africans, be the masters of our riches. Let us not allow guests to come and pass through our richness to bring quarrels among East Africans. Let us master our richness, let us manage it for better use in our Community.

His Excellency Museveni, as a veteran East African, as an experienced man with his know how said that East Africans are one. When you got to Rwanda, to Sudan, to Kenya, to Tanzania, to Uganda, you will find some people who share the same social background. Therefore, we have to have one common channel of communication. It is high time that we acknowledge that Swahili becomes a common language used by our local citizens. Thank you, Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Jean Marie. Honourable members, bear with me. We will finish the first speaking order and then we appoint another one.

Ms Wanjiku Muhia (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Allow me to first congratulate our minister, His Excellency hon. Munya. On the same note I congratulate the bench in front of us, the Council of Ministers. We are delighted to have you today and how I pray that this bench can be present on Thursday afternoon as we table our report of the Northern and Central Corridor. We do not take it for granted that you are here with us –

The Speaker: Thank you honourable for emphasising that because it is very rare that we have a full front bench. Therefore, we hope that it is going to continue like that.

Ms Muhia: Thank you, Mr Speaker. That is why I am saying that I do not want to take it for granted. We are delighted and grateful and we know that through this debate you are able to capture some of the issues that can help East Africa to grow.

Mr Speaker, from the onset I support the speech by His Excellency Kaguta Museveni in Kampala. From what has been said by the members, much has been said and without being repetitive, I wish to mention three things.

First, we have spoken a lot on strategic security, which was also expressed by President Museveni. When we speak of strategic security, I would like to urge members that we should not only look at the security threats in our countries emanating from bullets, political atmospheres but we should be wise and look at strategic security in East Africa. Particularly, I would like to draw the attention of members on the youth. We are all aware of job creation as an urgent item in East Africa. The growing youth in numbers who are idle is a sitting bomb to East Africa, possibly to Africa and the whole world.

Mr Speaker, as hon. Mbidde was trying to put a case across through Al Shabaab. We may not have Al Shabaab in EAC but we may have threats from the youth by possibly another name. Therefore, as we continue deliberating issues of East Africa, as President Museveni expressed that the benefit from what we debate and discuss is to go to the common *mwanaanchi*. I would like to draw the attention of members that we may want to say that the protocols already assented, are not implemented but that is not the only thing. They may be implemented but the common *mwanaanchi* is not aware of them.

As we went round, we realised that most members of our Partner States are not even aware if EAC exists. This is a fact. They are not aware if there is integration yet they are members of these Partner States.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Council of Ministers and the Assembly and any other Partner State that we need to preach the gospel of integration, sensitise our people and let them know the benefits because if we have the Common Market today and common visas, our youth can be able to traverse from country to country but if they do not have that information, it will be a force in futility. Information is very important and we have to be strategic in this.

Overall, I see a big threat to the economy of East Africa. Considering that, integration is a key component to prosperity, who is the beneficiary of this prosperity? Our parents are growing old, we are also growing old so the bottom line is, how are we thinking of these youth in Kenya, in South Sudan, in Kampala, in Nairobi? What are we thinking about them? How are we intending, as EAC, to assist them?

President Museveni's passion that was expressed during his speech cannot be over emphasised. We are aware that he is a veteran in this field but being a veteran is not enough. How are we going to tap and reap the benefits from his experience? I am sure that this can come through the Council of Ministers. His wisdom can be carried and practically implemented for the gain of our people.

Mr Speaker, I would like to add that several protocols that are assented to are implemented but still remain Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs). We realise in some of the borders, without pre-empting the debate that some trucks can stay in a one-stop border post (OSBP) for six days. These are our drivers who have families, they have

not showered, they are staying there, they cannot be cleared yet we are happy speaking of integration.

Finally, the President of Uganda mentioned how integration has grown, he quoted how goods used to travel from Mombasa to Kampala in 28 days, and yet today it only takes six days. With the infrastructure development that we intend to put in place like the railway gauge, this may even be shorter.

In Kenya, previously we have been travelling for eight hours from Nairobi to Mombasa. Today we take only four hours. Therefore, we may not want to go hon. Mbidde's way with this railway gauge and all that. We need them, we need this infrastructure because as much as we are thinking of the youth, we will not only think of them without tangible infrastructure that they will use. The youth have no capacity to create the roads or health facilities. They do not have the capacity to do the railway gauge so it is the work and responsibility of the government to create this railway gauge so that the youth can do business easily.

Without much ado, I would like to say that as members, particularly in the Fourth EALA, we are ready and equal to the task to move integration to very high levels. However, we want to request the front bench to assist us by implementing all the assented protocols and doing more by informing our members. The Office of the Secretary General, we are happy to see you today although we missed you in Kampala. We also want to ask your office to continuously be present so that whatever deliberations we are putting on table can be able to be filed by your desk first hand.

Briefly mentioning food security, Mr Speaker, when we were traversing the countries, I saw countless bananas from Zanzibar, Bujumbura, Kigali and I was wondering why we have a surplus of food in some parts while other parts are

suffering. These are some of the issues that we need to find solutions. President Museveni spoke of Africans solving their own problems; we are at an era where we have to continue getting food from abroad. We have enough food; it is only the mathematics of which areas are suffering and which areas have surplus. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Muhia.

Dr Jeremiah Woda (South Sudan): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I would also like to join my colleagues to congratulate the new members, our senior Rt hon. Dr Kivejinja – Rt. honourable, forgive me if I am not able to pronounce the name. I would also like to congratulate – (*Interruption*)

Dr Kivejinja: I think we should be able to pronounce African names at least. Is it in order for the honourable member who knows that there is a town called Jinja and only needs to add 'Kive' – to fail to pronounce it properly?

The Speaker: Thank you Rt honourable. The honourable member will be able to pronounce it properly.

Dr Woda Jeremiah Odok (South Sudan): Thank you very much, Rt hon. Kivejinja. I would also like to congratulate hon. Peter Munya upon his appointment.

Mr Speaker, I would also like to add my voice and commend the motion raised upon the address by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda and the Chair of the EAC Summit of Heads of state.

I am one of the fans of His Excellency Yoweri Museveni. I like him when he speaks because he speaks words of wisdom. He really reminds me of my late hero and the hero of our liberation, Dr John Garang. We may all understand why because they come from the same school.

His Excellency Yoweri Museveni talked about the four pillars, which my colleagues have also talked about. However, I would like to emphasise on two topics. The first one is the prosperity of the members of the area, which is East African Community. He said that this prosperity should be people centred and not about leaders. I really liked that sentence because most of our African leaders think mostly about themselves. I am sorry to say this but they are not thinking about the citizens of their countries.

I really would like us to copy what His Excellency said and apply it in our region. I would like to complement the leaders of Kenya for what they did - they left their differences aside and came together for the benefit and interest of their citizens.

The other area in which I would like to comment is strategic security. We know that without security there can be no investment and no development. Without security, there is no real integration. Most of our regions are suffering from insecurity especially where I come from. I am a South Sudanese and since I was a child until now, I have had that problem in my country.

Therefore as a region, I would like us to press for progress. I am quoting from the theme of the International Women's Day. I would like to thank the region because they have stood by us but I would also like to say that if we do not press, there would not be progress. As women, when you are in labour, if you are not pushing hard, the baby will not come out. Therefore, as a region, I would like us to push hard so that we have peace in the region.

In addition, we were privileged when we were in Kampala to witness the 37th celebrations of the Ugandan Peoples Defence Forces whereby we saw all our army forces together. I was proud when I saw all of them parading together. I am a person who is usually not comfortable

around army forces and you may know why. However, that day I spent the whole day, maybe eight hours – Rt hon. Speaker, you were there with us – and I really wished that I had a seat in front so that I could enjoy the parade and all the shows that were there.

Finally, I would like to second the motion once again and encourage integration because as hon. Munya said, we have been touring the region and we have seen how rich the region is. If we do not integrate, we will not benefit and it will remain that we have good natural resources but we have to integrate to turn these resources into wealth. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Dr Woda. Rt hon. Kivejinja, we are practising our names. We are still doing induction in that area.

Ms Leontine Nzeyimana (Burundi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on this debate. First, I would like to welcome and congratulate my honourable elder brother hon. Kivejinja – should I say brother or father? Because we have been together on the Council, I have worked with him and I enjoyed doing so.

I would like again to congratulate my honourable brother and friend, hon. Peter Munya, who has been reappointed as Minister on charge of EAC. When I was appointed minister he was there and he really has been there for me. I was not surprised when I heard that hon. Munya has been reappointed as the Minister of EAC because he is really an able minister I can assure you.

Mr Speaker, as others said, I was not very surprised to see that His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda Yoweri Kaguta Museveni accepted to come to address our Assembly because this has been his way of doing things. He never

refuses the invitation of the Assembly and he really is a good friend of this Assembly.

Mr Speaker, His Excellency Kaguta Museveni has always been a supporter of the activities of this Assembly and he constantly talked about the challenges faced by Africans as a whole and East Africans specifically and ways how we can address these challenges.

Last time he talked about 10 bottlenecks. Every time we used to go to listen to his speech, we would wait to hear about the 10 bottlenecks faced by Africa and these were very significant. It showed how much he is deep in the integration, not only East African integration but also African integration as a whole.

I am not going to take long, Mr Speaker, because my other colleagues have mentioned all the points that were raised by President Museveni. However, the President of Uganda is really a treasure to this Community. As he said, even if you wake him up at midnight and ask him any question about integration, he will give you answers and this is true.

President Museveni talked about prosperity. I am not going to repeat all he said. On prosperity, he urged us to think bigger and not to think about small issues; our differences or our small benefits or interests. Let us think big about big projects that will unite our people and that will benefit our people.

The second point is he mentioned integration as a certainty. This is very important. If we feel that there is certainty among ourselves, this will make our way of doing things harmonious. Certainty will harmonise our work, ways of thinking and doing things.

The third point he mentioned was about strategic security, which is very important. He said that in order to survive in this

world, you need to have security. If you do not have security, everybody will come and step on you. We have been seeing this in the Republic of Congo, which is a very rich country. Unfortunately, it does not have security and this has allowed anyone to go and get whatever they want from that country. Foreigners are acting as if they own that country; the Europeans and Americans and this is because of the lack of strategic security in our region.

Finally, he mentioned the better use of our common natural resources. Mr Speaker, our region is very rich and the only thing we need to implement is the policies. If you look at the policies, Bills, and protocols of this East African Community, if we implement them, we will overcome poverty that we see here and there in the region.

Finally, I would like to commend the address of His Excellency the President Kaguta Museveni and I beg to submit. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Leontine.

Ms Susan Nakawuki (Uganda): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. Allow me to also add my voice and congratulate the members of the Council who have just been sworn in: hon Peter Munya and hon. Kirunda Kivejinja. In fact, I would like to commend the Council today; the front bench looks so good. I am certain that you can even have a Council meeting today and they will make resolutions because the CTC is there, the SG is there, all the ministers are present. I wish it would continue like this. You know in the Third Assembly we had a challenge. There was one minister who only appeared three times in the five years. We even kept googling to find their name but I know that with this spirit and good will, things will be okay and we will not be looking for the ministers.

Allow me to also use this opportunity, now that Council is fully represented, to tell them that Partner States have not made remittances. The budget that you passed for the Financial Year 2017/2018 – we are now going into the last quarter of the financial year and only 40 per cent of the budget has been remitted. Chair, Council, there is a big problem here. Please help us, with the ministers who are here today – unless you want the Community to collapse and chock on debts. You need to do something.

Mr Speaker, through you, I will come up with a substantial question for oral answer. The Chair Council should tell us the status of how much Partner States have contributed so far. However, I know it is very little.

The Speaker: I think the Council will make it easier for you and attend to that problem and provide any information you need without going through that lengthy procedure.

Ms Nakawuki: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, especially now that the Chair, Council is here and I know he is an encyclopaedia himself. He is even able to give us the figures off cuff, for the benefit of the Assembly.

Mr Speaker, back to the item on the agenda, I also want to add my voice and thank the Chair of Summit, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for that very important lecture that he gave us. In fact, he was like a father. He handed all issues that were prevailing at that point in time. If everyone listened to him the way I did, I am sure we would not have any other problems, especially as the Assembly because he emphasised the reasons as to why we are here.

Mr Speaker, the President kept talking about the need for African integration. He kept telling us the reasons as to why we are trying to integrate as the East African

Community. I am happy that I can freely associate with the East African Community, which is one of the fastest growing regional economic blocs. I know this is a consolidated effort by all of us, including the Council, the Secretariat, the Summit, and the Assembly among others.

I know we have made significant progress as a Community although a lot still needs to be done. Mr Speaker, the challenge right now is for us to deliver on the big agenda of the Community. The Community's agenda is indeed big and if we are able to deliver on every commitment, I know we are going to integrate and achieve the objectives of the integration.

His Excellency referred to four important pillars including prosperity, fraternity, strategic security and better and rational use of natural resources but I will just contribute on two of those pillars that he mentioned because my colleagues have canvassed the rest of the pillars that were talked about.

The key pillar that he talked about is the issue of prosperity. Mr Speaker, when you look at the vision of the East African Community, it is to the effect that we intend to attain a prosperous, competitive, secure and politically united East Africa.

Mr Speaker, it is the same with the Treaty under Article 3(a) and (b) which is all about regional integration and prosperity.

Mr Speaker, when the President was talking to us, he actually mentioned that in 1965 when he went to Mbarara, he took milk that was branded KCC from Kenya. That was in 1965 and even today when you look around in the different Partner States, you will find this very milk. Recently in Kampala when I went to the supermarket, I saw a new brand of milk and that is the Brookside milk. In my heart I was thinking, where does this milk come from? I later learnt that this milk comes from Kenya. When we went to

Zanzibar, we found this very milk and I started appreciating the fruits of integration.

When you look around our supermarkets, you are going to find Azam products; wheat, juice, name it. I understand these products originate from the United Republic of Tanzania.

Mr Speaker, you will also find products from outside the region in our supermarkets and this leads me to my issue right now. For example, you are going to find Nescafe in the supermarkets. Even when you go to the different restaurants near here, they all have Nescafe. At the same time, we have East African farmers who grow coffee. How are we going to talk about prosperity for the people of East Africa when we are not encouraging our local farmers, when we are not supporting them?

I appreciate the fact that today there is growth in cross border investment especially in the services sector like the banks, insurance companies, there are so many mergers and acquisitions but are we able to support our own domestic industries? You find that even in our Partner States, when they are giving tax waivers and tax holidays, they look at the foreign investors but they forget about the local investors.

I find that there is need for us to support our local investments. For example, when you go to Uganda, there is Quality Chemicals Limited. This is a company that is locally owned and which manufactures anti-malarial drugs and ARVs. However, if we go into the medical stores of all the Partner States, you are going to find anti-malaria drugs and ARVs from India and elsewhere. We prefer to support other countries other than our own and this is something that Council needs to look into. If you all have to go and procure these medicines from elsewhere, why do not support our own local industries?

I find it a shame like today we have to go out there in China to buy bulbs because you will find every household having, on average, six bulbs but we still have to import them from China. If there was a policy that if one Partner State opens up such an industry, all Partner States will only source the lights from that industry. Definitely, we would then attract local investment, as everyone would run to invest in such a venture. In that way, we shall be bringing prosperity to our people because such factories will employ all the youth that hon. Mbidde was talking about who are turning into Al Shabaab for lack of what to do.

Mr Speaker, allow me to say that it is important for us to contribute to the prosperity of our farmers if we are going to buy local coffee for example. None of our houses should be seen with Nescafe. Let us buy the coffee that is made by our people and that way, we will encourage value added production. If people see that there is market for their coffee that they can produce locally, they will continue adding value and they will benefit more than when we sell raw coffee to other countries.

I was challenged last year when I took a visit to Disney World. As we were being taken around, I had to pay US\$ 150 to enter that park; the animal kingdom. Among the things they were exhibiting was the Ankole cow. They were even bragging about the horn and how it is resistant to diseases and so on. Back home where the Ankole cow comes from, we are praising the exotic cow. Well they give so much milk but they are not resistant to those diseases and our farmers end up losing.

Therefore, we need to encourage our people more and maintain what we have as a region. We should encourage people to keep the local cattle as much as they can also keep the exotic ones alongside.

In addition, we have a challenge of the GMOs. I would like to thank the President of Uganda that after Parliament passed the GMO Bill, he sat and said, wait a minute, I cannot rush into signing this Bill. I see that this also poses a challenge. In fact, there is need for us at the regional level to legislate on the issue of genetically modified seeds. Our farmers are concerned. Out there, people are fighting so hard to have organic food. They will pay whichever amount of money to have organic food while here; we who are still lucky to have organic food are saying no, we should go GMO. People are dying of cancer and we are saying this is the way to go, let us embrace this. I think that is a big challenge.

If we are to achieve the prosperity that the Chair, Summit was talking about, I would like to request Council to also look critically at the issue of non-tariff barriers. We had a chance to go around as the Assembly doing on spot assessment but the traders we found were decrying the issue of non-tariff barriers. They appreciate that we are doing something. When we take away four tariff barriers, we reintroduce them in another form and that is a challenge.

Let us make sure that as we remove the non-tariff barriers, we do not add others. Then we will be able to deliver on the promises that we made to the people of East Africa.

Regarding the issue of infrastructure, I know that the Community has good will. We have projects – now we look at the standard gauge railway. I would like to thank the Republic of Kenya that acted quickly. In fact, our traders from Uganda now do not have to go all the way to Mombasa to clear their goods as they are brought by railway to Nairobi and this reduces the distance. However, Chair, Council, I am wondering what happened to the project on the Ugandan side because we started at the same time. Other people are already enjoying themselves while in Uganda I do not know what is happening. I

have to travel to Nairobi to go and enjoy the railway to Mombasa even if I have nothing to do there yet we can have the same in Uganda.

When we went to Malaba at the one stop border post, the Kenyan side had worked on their road very well and even on the bridge. As you stand on the bridge, they would tell you this is the Ugandan side but that one kilometre road is a disaster. It is also a non-tariff barrier. I would like to request the Chair, Council to take it up with your colleague the Minister of Works to ensure that they do that one kilometre stretch because Uganda National Roads Authority was saying that they do not have money in the budget to construct that stretch and yet that road brings in a lot of revenue to the country.

There is also the statement made by the President: ‘Go and fight for opportunities for the people of East Africa who are engaged in production’. That is why we are here; to fight for the people of East Africa and not to fight for ourselves. If we fight together, I know we will be able to achieve all this.

Regarding the issue of fraternity that he raised, this issue touches all of us because we are linked by culture, language and so many things. In fact, when you go to Bukoba and I start hearing the names they are using like Kamukama, Kamugisha, I wonder whether we are in Uganda already because they are the same.

The President referred to hon. Moody Awori in Kenya and his brother Aggrey Awori in Uganda. Even in Uganda, the former IGP Kale Kayihura has a cousin brother in Rwanda. That means we are one and the same. However, as we talk about the fraternity of the people of East Africa, I ask myself whether the fraternity exists in the Assembly. This is something we should work on with immediate effect. If there is anything we need to do as an Assembly, it

is to forge a way of how we can work together.

One scholar said, what has to define us as people is not our lack of challenges but our ability to overcome these challenges and pave a way forward together.

Chair, Council, we have some challenges in this Assembly, which are brought by some outsiders but we want to work together as an Assembly. I know that united we will stand. When we move as one voice with all the members on board, with Council entirely on board, with the Secretariat on board, I know we are going to achieve a lot for the people of East Africa.

One challenge we faced when we were doing the on-spot assessment –
(*Interruption*)

The Speaker: Please try to wind up.

Ms Nakawuki: Yes, finally. As we were doing the on-spot assessment, I was shocked when I saw some of my colleagues having to pay for visas. I remember when we reached a certain border post, which I do not recall now; my colleagues from South Sudan had to pay for visas.

The Speaker: Which border was that?

Mr Kim Gai Duop (South Sudan): Nimule road between Uganda and South Sudan and the border between Kenya and South Sudan.

Ms Nakawuki: Yes, that issue of the visa fees for our colleagues from South Sudan – not only our colleagues but also the people of East Africa – I am requesting the minister from Kenya to fast track the directive of the Summit so that such encumbrances are removed and we continue as one people with one destiny. I beg to support.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Susan.

Mr Chris Opoka (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me the opportunity to speak to this motion. I support the motion but before I do so, I would like to congratulate the minister from Kenya, hon. Peter Munya and Rt hon. Kirunda Kivejinja, minister from Uganda for having joined the Assembly today.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate the front bench. It is my first time in my life in EALA to see it constituted. I hope this is an omen for a better future of this Assembly and of the Community.

Mr Speaker, I would like to commend the President of the Republic of Uganda, His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni for the concise exposition of the integration policy in his speech that he gave us in Kampala. I will only concentrate on one aspect of what he mentioned. He said that when you talk about integration, the fourth virtue of integration is its ability to manage our common natural resources together and uniformly so that they can serve us.

Mr Speaker, the President was talking about what is happening in our very own eyes about the pollution, de-silting and the likelihood of Lake Victoria, which is a trans-boundary natural resource, dying. The President mentioned that Kagera River used to be a blue river. Now it is dirty and brown. Why? Because of a lot of soil erosion that is happening and filling the river. The river is coming, bringing it to Lake Victoria. He showed rare knowledge of what is going on in Lake Victoria, how pollution is actually causing the death of fish in Lake Victoria.

This exposition by the President is in line with what is in the Treaty. Under Article 111, the Partner States agreed on environmental issues and the protection of natural resources. We should use concerted effort to foster cooperation and joint and efficient management of sustainable

utilisation of natural resources. They undertook, through environmental management strategy, to cooperate and coordinate the policies and actions of protection and conservation of the natural resources and environment against all forms of degradation and pollution arising from developmental activities.

They also undertook to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the environment. They undertook to ensure sustainable utilisation of natural resources like lakes. Therefore, the issue is, if we do not protect Lake Victoria, if we do not protect the environment, if we do not protect and clean up the rivers that flow into Lake Victoria, they will silt Lake Victoria like Lake Rudolf – I do not know what they call it now in Kenya- that has died because of lack of protection.

Lake Victoria is a very important trans-boundary natural resource for East Africa as it serves almost all the East African countries. It feeds River Nile that goes and serves other countries including North Sudan and Egypt. Therefore, it is very important that we protect Lake Victoria. We must have concerted efforts to protect the lake otherwise if it dies, it will also cause a very big challenge to our existence especially since we are an inter-lacustrine area around Lake Victoria.

Mr Speaker, I do not want to take much time on this but this is a very important issue. If you look at the President's speech on page 10, you will notice his concentration and his warning to all of us to make concerted effort. Thank you very much, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Opoka.

Mr Gabriel Garang Alaak (South Sudan): Thank you, Rt hon. Speaker. I stand to contribute to the debate of the address of His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, which he gave us in Kampala.

Before I comment and support the motion, I would like to thank President Uhuru Kenyatta for appointing hon. Peter Munya as the Minister for East African Affairs.

Secondly, I also congratulate President Yoweri Museveni for appointing hon. Kirunda Kivejinja who was there that time when the East African Community was being established. I think it was really a good step by the President to have appointed a real Pan Africanist. I take President Yoweri Museveni as a real Pan Africanist. We are guided here in Arusha by the fate of Mwalimu Julius Nyerere who really helped in the establishment of the East African Community.

It is good to have some of the historical people like Kivejinja to be with us and we are happy that he is attending today with us. We hope that this will push forward the East African Community.

Coming to the address of His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni, I support the motion and do commend the address. In that address, he really articulated very well the division of the East African Community by mentioning four points: prosperity, fraternity, strategic security and management of our common resources. I think the vision was set that day and we all listened to it.

When we were in Kampala also, we got many lectures from some of the people who have been there before in the Third EALA or from the beginning and after that, we made a tour of East Africa, which really enriched us. We saw the real benefits of East Africa coming together.

We have East African institutions like EALA, the Council of Ministers and all the structures. What is therefore important is to pay attention to those issues that made East African Community collapse in 1977

because if we do not focus on that, we could make those same mistakes.

To summarise three of the mistakes that led to the collapse of the East African Community in 1977, one was the then leaders of East Africa, some of whom had different ideological orientations. Two, there was a question of insecurity. Idi Amin started aggressing Tanzania so *Mwalimu* was offended and they went to war with Uganda. Three, there was the question of an approved budget and lack of funding. If we take those, three as lessons and we do not repeat them again then I think East African Community will move forward.

If I take the first one; the question of different ideological orientation by then, at this moment, do we have different ideological orientations? The world is not divided again into the Eastern and Western world, it is one world. East Africa is one region. It is a question of us having good governance in our countries. If we have good governance and the rule of law and human rights, I think our ideology is one. Therefore, we cannot be going around again saying that we have different ideological orientations. What we need in our countries is really peace and this brings me to the second point; the question of security and peace in the region.

This sitting of today kicked off well when hon. George Odongo talked about peace in the region because without peace, we cannot move forward. He mentioned two countries; South Sudan where I come from and Burundi. His Excellency President Museveni had mentioned these two countries and he said that the problems that are going on in South Sudan – we tried to help but we are on the side; we are not able to work together fully. The same refers to the issues in Burundi.

Hon. Odongo mentioned about Burundi – it was not his creation but it was part of the speech of the President. Therefore, when

hon. Makame intervened, I think that was not in place. Hon. Odongo was right but that is not an issue. There is relative peace in Burundi but in my own country of South Sudan, peace has been eluding us for the past four years. Therefore, I join some of the honourable members that have suggested before that it is better that the five East African countries put their weight on IGAD so that peace is attained in South Sudan.

IGAD has been battling with this peace process, it has not achieved anything, the AU is behind it but I am also suggesting that the five countries put their weight on IGAD so that peace is achieved.

Thirdly, the issues that contributed to the collapse of 1977 was the question of the budget. What is the question of the budget? Yes, the budget that is prepared here by the East African Community is divided into six countries. When the countries do not send this money to the East African Community, that causes a problem. We have to address this issue.

If there are difficulties in the Partner States paying this money, we must adopt the WAKO Commission Report, which says that we must take a percentage from the customs and imports of commodities of the Partner States and fund the institutions of East African Community. If we do not do that, for sure we are going to have a problem in going ahead with the East African Community because these institutions are the ones that are going to guide the moving forward to achieve the vision that was articulated by His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni.

Therefore, we need to focus very much on this aspect of the Budget because there seems to be a problem in the Partner States. I have learnt that the United Republic of Tanzania has paid fully; Uganda has paid 75 per cent. Kenya has paid, the same thing with Rwanda but South Sudan and Burundi

are still lagging behind. What do we do? We are convinced that East African Community is the way forward to achieve this vision so we need to push forward for the funding of the programmes of these institutions because they are the ones that are going to pull East Africa to continue to be together. We need to use these funds to go and create awareness in the Partner States, influence legislation and even talk to the common person.

Therefore, I urge this House that we really focus very much on those issues that made the organisation collapse in 1977 and these three issues are that we have no ideological differences now so we have to govern our countries with good governance, rule of law and human rights. Second, regarding the question of peace, we need to attain it in the six countries. Thirdly, is the question of the budget.

Mr Speaker, I stand here to support the motion and commend His Excellency President Yoweri Museveni for articulating the vision of the East African Community. What remains is for us to move forward. The leadership has done their best, they have articulated their vision. What we need to do is really to bring this vision down to earth. I am here to register my voice that let us learn from lessons of the past. If we do not learn from the past, we will never go forward.

Mr Speaker, I think I will stop here. I stand to support the motion, thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Garang.

Ms Pamela Maasay (Tanzania): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me join my colleagues to congratulate the two members of Council, hon. Kirunda and hon. Peter Munya. We are very happy to see you joining us here and we are sure that you are going to support us because we have been hearing a lot about you two honourables. I

am very sure that you did a lot and that is why we have been hearing your names.

I am here to support this motion of the address which was given by His Excellency Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. He really gave us points to note. I am just going to highlight some points he mentioned from his presentation. Although he mentioned four areas, which he highlighted, I will go specifically to the two.

One is the issue of integration. When the President mentioned integration, I think he meant proper integration. When we are discussing about integration, we really need to understand what it means. Are we trying to talk about the word integration simply or we are talking about practical integration?

Having practical integration means we need to have commitment from all stakeholders. We need to have faith in one another. We need to have love and political will from all Partner States.

Regarding the issue the President highlighted on strategic security, we all understand that in this region there are some areas where security is not good. We might be talking here that some member countries have good security but in the real sense, when security is mentioned, we are talking about peace. Peace comes from inside the heart. When we say peace, it does not mean looking around and not seeing people moving with guns or machetes. Peace comes from inside the hearts of people. If people are not well satisfied with what they are getting from one another, if they are not involved in the distribution of their resources, if people are not getting employment, if they are not involved in their education system that means that there is no peace. If there is no peace, security is not there.

It is my call to all honourable members that as we are part of this Community, we have a task to ensure that all things we are trying

to address in this House are taken and practiced. We do not need to come here and start saying things that we are not practising. If we do not love each other, if we are not trying to show love to one another within this Parliament, we cannot go outside and talk about love, peace and distribution of resources. If we do not join hands and speak one language –

For example, if I talk about Uganda, I do not need to say these are Ugandans. Instead, I should say, this is an East African. We cannot reach that stage if we have country issues. If we can sit here and talk about Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda and whoever, we will not reach there. We need to show our commitment from this House. We need to show a serious stand in this House. If we come here and make presentations and leave them on the *Hansard* and go to our Partner States and say that we were debating, that is not real integration. Integration will start with this House; it will start with members of EALA.

In addition, I will speak on the issue of sharing of natural resources. This will come and succeed if all of us allow those people from the grassroots to be empowered from what they have in their environment. For example, people coming from the mining centres. How are they being empowered? How are we supporting them? If we do not talk that language, we will never succeed. We will never get people from Kenya coming to Tanzania to put their investments at Mererani if the people surrounding Mererani area are not supported. The locals will not allow them and even if we are going to put security, there will still be some barriers.

We are talking about non-tariff barriers and other barriers. These are the barriers, which we need to remove internally from our Partner States. Those are the big barriers. Therefore, we need political will as well as this organ spreading awareness of why we need that.

Lastly, I would like to comment as an environmental stakeholder on the point raised by hon. Opoka that if we want to conserve the environment, we need to support people surrounding that area. We need to go around all the places that we think have natural resources and raise awareness. We may have people from different committees coming up with things, which can empower those people. We need to support the people surrounding all those places so that at the end of the day, we can conserve the environment.

I beg to submit my highlights and I support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Now the young people in the gallery can confirm that they are properly represented here.

Mr Gideon Gatpan Thoar (South Sudan): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I take this opportunity to commend the extra ordinary speech that was given by His Excellency President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the President of Uganda and the Chair of the Summit.

Before I go ahead to share my views, I would like to congratulate Rt hon. Kivejinja and hon. Peter Munya. Rt hon. Kivejinja is a living encyclopaedia in this East African region so we can always benefit from his writings.

Mr Speaker, I will speak on two areas. One will be the area of economic prosperity and cooperation. His Excellency President Museveni actually emphasised the size of our markets. There are 170 million East Africans and he gave the example of the Economic Partnership Agreement (EPAs) with the European Union.

I like his approach because the globalisation forces are so powerful and we are witnessing another era of scrambling and of a different kind of trade in the world.

Unless we come together as a region and bargain further as a region with that market tie, we cannot get much better than we can do in our own Partner States. That is one thing I would like to commend the President for.

Secondly, on strategic security, I am in the Committee of Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution and I always call it the best committee, not negating other committees but it is because it is my passion. I am passionate about it and I am a serious politician and I know that when this committee delivers, we will realise lasting peace in the region.

President Museveni was very particular about South Sudan and Burundi and before I emphasise that point, I would like to encourage my colleagues, the honourable members of East African Legislative Assembly originating from Burundi that this House is doing things in the context of the region, it is not in the context of our various states. I cannot stand here as an honourable member of this Parliament and decide anything on South Sudan. I was elected in South Sudan but took oath in this House as a member of the Parliament and I do things in the context of the region. That is how we shall realise our potential to change the region for the better.

In this regard, I would like to emphasise that when the first speaker, hon. George Odongo mentioned South Sudan and Burundi, it was not in bad faith. We are one body; the six countries in East Africa are just one single body. If my hand is paining, it means the whole body is paining. Sudan is burning and Burundi experienced almost the same. They have peace now but that peace can only be realised when it is transformed; when the conflict is resolved, when transformation has taken place, when the people who have been affected are offered restitution, when compensation and rehabilitation are effected and when people begin to heal and accept one another.

We must exploit and utilise the presence of President Paul Kagame of Rwanda and the presence of President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni. These two presidents in our region – President Museveni is the Chair of the Summit and President Kagame is now the Chair of AU but they have transformed their countries. They have come from the same background that South Sudan is in but they have transformed their countries. Why can we not use them? We need to use them.

When President Museveni talked about the problems in South Sudan he said, “We have tried to help but we are on the side.” He again said, “We are not able to act together fully.” When you read those statements from him, something has to be internalised. What is it that is making the whole effort of the region to be aside? Why should the region not act fully?

One of his theories that I always appreciate is, he always says, for the good of the country, the Community and the people, look for what you want to do and let them begin to think of who can do that based on these things that you have highlighted to be done rather than going for the position when you do not know what to do. This theory is very important in our times.

South Sudan as a nation has been challenged globally in the face of the world. Its leaders are facing a big challenge in the world as well. Our people are shying away from colleagues in the region and in the world at large just because their conflict has been persistent and protracted for almost five years and we cannot bring a solution. When President Museveni emphasised the statement of President Trump about Africa, I fully agreed with him. This is a wakeup call for Africans because we have to put our house in order. If we cannot put it in order, we cannot expect anybody from outside to put it in order.

Before I conclude, I would like to say that as a nation of South Sudan, and as the East African region, we need to sort out our own issues internally. We do not expect much from outside. Because South Sudan is already part of the East African Community and it is one part of the body, we should not allow the fire to go out. We have to put it out. We have to begin to encourage the cease-fire to start properly. We have to work towards sustainable peace. We have to begin to realise peace and harmony in South Sudan and that is when we will be able to move together as a region.

When we were in Mombasa, we were informed that South Sudan is the third largest importer in the region. It should be, in the new future, the biggest exporter because of the potential that it has. Therefore, if we have a country with that comparative advantage in terms of natural resources and they cannot be explored for the betterment of the region, why can we not act together?

I will conclude by saying that the whole region has been empowered by the speech of His Excellency the President of Uganda and all the organs of East African Community have been empowered. In particular, when this speech was delivered by the President, under the good leadership of our able Speaker, we were also told to go for an on spot tour. We combined the knowledge that we got from him with this powerful speech, we can now move to influence decisions in the region, and we can move to legislate laws that can better the region. Thank you very much. I rest my case and I support the motion.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Gideon.

Mr Kennedy Kalonzo (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for this opportunity. Before I make my simple remarks on the speech by His Excellency Yoweri Museveni, allow me to take this opportunity to welcome the new ex-officio members; Rt

hon. Munya and Rt hon. Kivejinja. We welcome you. I hope that we will see a lot more of you and it is my request that you make time to attend the sitting when we table the report because many of the issues that deal with this speech are captured there and some of them will require your immediate attention.

I also want to thank my voters who made a long journey from Nairobi. At least they can see that their votes were not wasted.

The Speaker: And indeed, they were not.

Mr Kalonzo: Thank you. This speech by His Excellency President of Uganda and the Chair of the Summit is very difficult to make comments on because it was almost a blue print for the region. It is almost like if we are to actualise what he has raised here then what we want to achieve as a Community may happen a lot sooner rather than later.

I think most of the issues have been raised by my honourable colleagues. I will be brief and just touch on the issue mentioned in the speech on the oneness of our Community. I have to confess that prior to this appointment, I would watch speeches by *Mwalimu* Nyerere and he would talk about Rwanda and Burundi being one people. I did not know how true that was until, to my surprise, and I congratulate them on their integration although they are not using Kiswahili. I discovered they in fact speak one language so I want to encourage the rest of us to really look at the issue of the Kiswahili Commission that will then drive integration because we will be able to communicate. Hon. Kim Gai will tell you of the challenges we had as we were trying to integrate but there were language barriers.

To my surprise, I discovered that Luganda is very similar to the language spoken in Burundi so it is my humble request to the Council to look into this issue to create

awareness for the EAC and this Assembly. Maybe the Council can sit and perhaps designate a day as a public holiday to show case what we do, the different things available in our Community. I think this will go far in bringing awareness.

Overall, I support and commend this motion and this speech and it is my prayer that we will actualise most of what President Museveni mentioned. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Kennedy, another young member of the Assembly. Hon. Kivejinja, this request coming from the youngest member must be taken seriously. Thank you.

Mr Lawrence Mporu Aburi (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate Rt hon. Kivejinja from Uganda and hon. Peter Munya. I have known hon. Munya since 2002, he comes from my clan and he was my MP for 10 years and my governor for five years. I am 100 per cent sure that he will deliver to our Community. He is a man of the people; he is the National Chairman of PNU Kenya.

Let me also take this opportunity to contribute on the speech of the President. Mr Speaker, you remember very well that I was near the President when he was speaking. The President said, 'You MPs are the minds and brains of the Community. Take care of this Community; take care of your people who brought you to this Community. Do not separate the people; just unite them so that you can work together with them. There is no difference between Kenyans, Burundians, Rwandans, Ugandans, Tanzanians and South Sudanese. We are the same people and that is why I am saying as the President, please unite your people. Do not fight your people. If somebody is fighting you, just get him, sit down with him, reconcile and work together.

I listened carefully because the President of Uganda is a man of the people, down to earth. He is a *mzee*; an old man who has advice for people. He advises me and tells me many things. When we were seated there, he said, the people of Uganda are crying because of maize; that Kenyans have invaded their stalls. Then he said, we Ugandans take milk from Kenya and have promoted their trade. That is why I am saying that I support the spirit of our President Museveni, the leader of this Community.

When we went for a group photo, I talked to him and asked him, do you know this man called hon. Mbidde? He said, I know him and when I retire, I will hand over my power to Mr Mukasa Mbidde. That is why I am saying Your Excellency the waiting President of Uganda, Mukasa Mbidde, if you go there, please do not forget those leaders. I support the motion, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you. There is a provision in our rules that you take responsibility for your statements.

Mr Simon Mbugua (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for the opportunity. Before I go on, I would like to thank hon. Peter Munya for the appointment and Rt hon. Ali Kivejinja- I think I got it right – who is the youngest member of the House. On a light note they normally say that, do not regret growing older because it is a privilege denied to many.

Indeed, they say you are an encyclopaedia and I think you are and you are going to help this House towards realising itself because it is as if we are on a fighting mode.

Mr Speaker, I would like to support the motion that is on the table and, indeed, the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni is a good politician, a Pan Africanist and he is the man who told us when we were in Uganda that local problems could only be solved by local solutions. That a very heavy

statement taken for granted because our own problems, like the problems that we have in this House, are not going to be solved by people outside this House. They are only going to be solved by us.

Mr Speaker, we must open our hearts for each other. We must talk to each other. We must understand each other for us to realise integration.

My sister hon. Pamela talked about love. When she spoke of love, I saw many people looking at each other. It is not the love that you think about. It is the love for each other as brothers and sisters; the brotherly love.

As we were integrating – hon. Kalonzo has put it very well that as they were integrating in Burundi with hon. Kim, it was very difficult for them to talk to other people. As the President said, we need to learn our languages because they normally say; our diversity is also our strength. We need to learn other languages like Kiswahili, Kinyarwanda, Kirundi so that when one of the Burundians is there and they are backbiting you, you will tell them no my brother, do not say whatever you are saying, we are brothers and sisters. Therefore, we need to learn and support each other for the good of integration.

Rt. hon. Speaker, President Museveni talked about fast tracking integration, which means the movement of people, goods and skilled labour. He said it casually but his speech was well meant for the Community. He said, for us to benefit as a Community, we need the people. Integration is not about leaders but about the people. This process is about the people and we are here because of the people we are here because we represent the people so this process is for the benefit of our people.

The President also talked about the small fears that we have. We need to eliminate the small fears of integration; fears that if we are to integrate, what is going to happen to

us as Tanzanians, as Kenyans? These people are going to come and steal our cows and our land. Those are the fears but we must look at the bigger picture if we want real integration. We must cast our nets wide and we must talk to each other so that at least there can be proper integration.

Mr Speaker, what touched me about the President and the Chair of the Summit is when he talked about EPAs. He said that there are 170 million East Africans and he said that they did not sign the agreement as countries; they want to sign the agreement as East African Partner States. When you are 170 million people, you bring in more trade so there is no country in the world that will not be attracted to the East African Community because we are many and when we are many, we are stronger.

Therefore, when he said that they did not sign that agreement as individual countries, it was very good for me because in my other world, I am a businessman and it makes a lot of sense for them to go and bargain as 170 million East Africans other than going as a country to bargain. It makes a lot of economic sense and no country would fail to be attracted to such a population because it is like some people fighting for a beautiful woman. East Africa is like a beautiful woman.

The Speaker: Beautiful woman or man.

Mr Mbugua: It is a lady because it is productive – (*Interruption*)

The Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Ex Officio) (Dr A.M Kirunda Kivejinja): I would like to inform hon. Mbugua and the House that Shakespeare said that among women, there is no woman old and among men, there is no man ugly. (*Laughter*)

Mr Mbugua: I stand corrected; the encyclopaedia has said it rightly.

Mr Speaker, lastly I would like to say that the speech was very enriching for the East African Community and for Africa in general. He indeed stated, about resources, that our resources are our backbone. We should use them well because they support the East African Community.

Lastly, I would like to make an appeal to this House. The Chairman of the Summit has dedicated his time for the East African Community. My appeal is most probably when you meet as a Commission, to give him a medal of honour for always being there for EAC. That particular day when he came to give his speech, there was no speech at all but in his own wisdom, he created a speech. I saw him asking, what have I come here to do? Where is the speech? There was no speech but in his wisdom, he came up with a speech, which turned out to be better than those written speeches, which are written for days.

Therefore, my appeal is for this House to honour the Chairman of the Summit for always supporting and dedicating his time for this House I support the motion, thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, hon. Simon Mbugua.

Mr Jean Claude Barimuyabo (Rwanda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. I stand to move a motion. Given the importance of this motion tabled on commending the speech made by His Excellency Kaguta Museveni and referring to Rule 30(c) and Rule 36 of the Rules of Procedure that provide limitation of debate, I beg to move a motion of adjourning this debate. Thank you.

The Speaker: I think I missed some of the provisions you cited. Which provisions are you relying on?

Mr Barimuyabo: Referring to rule 30(c) that allows me to move a motion without notice, I move a motion for adjournment of

debate and considering also the fact that every member here wants to contribute to the motion, given its importance, I beg to move.—

The Speaker: You are moving that we adjourn.

Mr Barimuyabo: Yes, that we adjourn the debate.

The Speaker: When every member still wants to debate and we still have time?

Mr Barimuyabo: Considering the limitations of time —

The Speaker: Hon. Claude, are you intending to suspend the rule on time limitation? Is that what you have in mind? Okay, hold on. I think the member intends to move to suspend the rule that limits us to close at 6.30 p.m. such that more members can have an opportunity to contribute.

However, I also want to remind the House that I am informed that the Northern Corridor team has a meeting immediately after this debate so I would like to be advised whether what we may have to do is actually to suspend the debate at 6.30 p.m. and resume after or we can make some effort so that by that time the important ideas will have come out.

Honourable members, we do not have an opportunity to speak all of us on every subject but I think when we have dedicated a substantial amount of time like the one we have done, we have given fair justice to this particular item. I think we can observe time and do some other important matters as well.

Mr Adan Mohammed Nooru (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I think this motion is continuing until tomorrow afternoon because there are a few members who have not yet spoken and could get an opportunity tomorrow afternoon. Even if we extend time that is not

the end of this motion so I think let us allow other business to take place.

The Speaker: Let me consult my team briefly. I am going to allow hon. Rose Akol then I will invite Council to respond to the motion and we will dispose it off.

Ms Rose Akol (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for giving me this opportunity to debate this very important motion. Before I do that, I would like to join my colleagues in welcoming our ministers; hon. Peter Munya who is an ex-officio member of this House and has been sworn in today. I also want to welcome Rt hon. Ali K. Kivejinja to this House. You are most welcome.

I would like to thank God for the life He has given you and it is because of that, that you are being referred to today as our encyclopaedia because you have been there. You were there when the first East African Community existed and now you are here to give us wisdom with regard to the progress of our integration. We are very grateful to God for having given your life to be here for us today. Thank you so much.

Mr Speaker, I stand to support this motion when we debate the address given to us by His Excellency the President of the Republic of Uganda who is also the Head of Summit for the East African Community. This address was given to us while we were in Kampala on 23rd January.

Mr Speaker, as a member put it, the Head of Summit who is also the President of the Republic of Uganda is very clear in his mind in what he wants to see happen in this integration process in order for us to ultimately achieve Political Federation.

A member here said that the President said even if he woke up at night and you asked him among the things he would talk about, it would be integration of the East African Community and he would repeat the very points he told us that day. He made himself

very clear on issues of fraternity, prosperity for our people; strategic security and also putting into good use our natural resources that are of common benefit to all of us. He was very clear and he did not have to prepare a speech for that. Today we are debating these matters and we are only trying to add our voices to what he meant.

On the issue of prosperity for our people, perhaps what we should first talk about is the strategic security. Without security, as members have put it, it is the basic ingredient. If you want to achieve any positive direction in the development of your people, in the prosperity of your country, security is a prerequisite.

Therefore, when I hear my brothers and sisters from South Sudan and colleagues here talking about the lack of security in Burundi and all that, it is a lack of security for all of us as East Africans. This is because when your neighbour's hut is burning, definitely, if you do not give a hand in putting out that fire, ultimately even your hut will burn. You know, we live in grass-thatched huts, which are a common factor in all our East African countries. You are your neighbour's keeper and that is why in the Bible God said, Love your neighbour as you love yourself.

This is the reason why President Museveni, the Chair of Summit, decided, when everybody seemed to be castigating to ensure that we ensure that we sacrifice resources to ensure that there is security in South Sudan, we took our army there. By then I was a Member of Parliament and we were all castigating why the permission of Parliament was not sought. We should have been given the opportunity to debate this matter before the President took that decision but it is because of this; the very reason why we are debating this speech today.

Security is a prerequisite. You cannot claim to have security in your country when there

is insecurity in your neighbourhood. Therefore, as East Africans, I would like to add my voice to what colleagues have said here that we must make sure that there is security in South Sudan as the Community of East Africa. We must make sure that there is security in Burundi and in Somalia if we are to have prosperity for our people in our region. That is very key; strategic security for the reason that if we do not have it then we will not have any other positive factor that we will be able to implement in our region.

At this juncture, I want to salute the gallant sons of East Africa who have been able to offer their lives for the sake of security in South Sudan, in Somalia and in our countries. Some have lost their lives, their families are living in very difficult circumstances but it was for the benefit of all of us.

On the issue of prosperity, I would like to say that the East African Community has made many strides in trying to achieve the objectives for which this East African Community was formed. It is now our responsibility as members of the East African Legislative Assembly to go out there and sensitise our communities on the opportunities that are available to them in order to improve on their household incomes and standards of living.

When we talk about prosperity for the 170 million East Africans, it actually starts with us first sensitising them on what has been achieved so far and the opportunities that are therefore present now that we have made many strides so far.

It is also our responsibility therefore to have the integration process concluded. That means we have to fast track the Monetary Union to become operational in accordance with the time lines that were given.

We also have to ensure that the Political Federation is achieved. I believe that is the

responsibility that rests on our shoulders as the Fourth EALA.

On the issue of protection of the common resources that we have, the President talked about River Kagera, Lake Victoria and the pollution that has taken place so far. I remember when we were moving, trying to understand and appreciate the achievements so far and the challenges faced when we were traversing the East African Community by road. I was on the Northern Corridor team.

When we were at Kisumu, we met with the Governor of Kisumu, Prof. Anyang Nyong'o and the immediate point he raised to us was, you members of East African Community, if there is anything I want to see you people do, is to address the issue of pollution that is currently taking place in the lake and he meant Lake Victoria.

He even went ahead to tell us that what he has been told so far – I think there was a conference there – is that within 50 years, this big fresh water lake, the biggest in Africa and I think the whole world will be dead. I would like us to put this into perspective that Lake Victoria has died. What does it mean when he says that the lake is going to die? One, there will be no fish at all and this is because of pollution.

When you fly over Lake Victoria, at the extreme border point, you will note that the water is green. This is because there is a lot of pollution. The industries along the lakeshores – Mr Speaker, I think this Parliament needs to constitute special committees to move around Lake Victoria and River Kagera to see what goes on. The industries that are situated along these water bodies are actually causing a lot of damage. There is a lot of waste that is being pushed to the river without treatment and this is the reason our fish is being polluted and getting extinct.

Lake Victoria used to have various species of fish but now I think they are only three; the rest are extinct. The same applies to River Kagera.

The Speaker: Try and wind up, honourable.

Ms Akol: The same applies to River Kagera. I watched on television one time the communities around that river also lamenting that the number of fish that they harvest in the river has actually dwindled and this is due to pollution. The President gave us the task to go and see for ourselves what is happening at River Kagera. That gives us a challenge, as members of Parliament, that we should take time to go and see what goes on around Lake Victoria and River Kagera and try to see how we can address this challenge.

Mr Speaker, as I conclude, I would like to thank His Excellency the President and Chair of Summit for the precise policy direction that he gave us as EALA. I want to say that I believe this is the agenda he was giving us that apart from our usual business, this is the core policy direction he wants us to take in our five-year term.

Therefore, as members of EALA, we have an agenda before us to fulfil and this is the policy direction that His Excellency the Chair of Summit gave us. I beg to submit, Mr Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, hon. Rose. Honourable members, I think where we are going, we will need to have technology that will help us to manage time because from where I am seating, it becomes very difficult to cut you short but technology can do that much better and much more efficiently.

This has been a very important item that everyone wanted to speak about and we have spent our time very well. I will invite Council to respond but I do not want to

constrain them in their response so hon. Kasamba, can you help us to put us in proper procedure for that?

(Interruption of Debate)

MOTION

EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

Mr Mathias Kasamba (Uganda): Mr Speaker, looking at the time and mindful of rule 11(1), I beg to move under rule 30(d) that this House do resolve under rule 84(1) and suspend rule 11(1) to enable this House to dispose of and exhaust this important matter. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Seconded? Hon. Maghembe, hon. Rose. I think the justification is clear; we want the Council to be able to exhaust their response.

The motion before the House is that we suspend rule 11 to give enough time to the Council to provide their response. I put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Resumption of Debate)

The Speaker: Council, take the floor to respond but time is not open ended even after we have suspended the rules. Thank you. When we started the debate, the newest member was not yet in the House and hon. Peter Munya was holding brief for the Chair, Council. Should you feel the need to speak, you will have an opportunity as well. It is for you to manage amongst yourselves.

The Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Ex Officio) (Dr A.M Kirunda Kivejinja): We were exchanging notes and I was telling

him that since he was the one who was here, he should please answer then I just wind up.

The Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Northern Corridor Development (Kenya) (Mr Peter Munya): Thank you, Mr Speaker and Mr Chairman. I thought I misunderstood you a little bit so I will just respond to some of the issues and the Chairman of the Council will take over.

Mr Speaker, may I thank the House for the welcome and the kind words you have had for us new members who have just come in; the youngest member, the Chairman of the Council, hon. Kirunda Kivejinja and myself.

Mr Speaker, I am very happy to be back in this House after a long recess that took me to Meru. I also want, on the Floor of this House, to take this opportunity to thank my President for the honour and privilege of serving in his Cabinet and serving in this House as an ex-officio member.

Mr Speaker, I also want to thank the members for their contributions that were very rich. In fact listening to the members contribute, you would think that they were serving their second term in this House. You would not think that they are new members because of their wide understanding of the issues of integration and understanding of the region.

I think the tour that took members across the region may have contributed a lot to their understanding of the region. I think because the tour was obviously short, other tours organised later should make them go to other areas they have not gone and this will go a long way in making them more grounded in terms of understanding the issues that they have to debate here because what we debate are real life issues affecting our issues. You cannot understand them by only reading but by interacting with the people, by travelling within the region, by interacting not only with the policy makers

but also with ordinary citizens to be able to have in-depth understanding of the issues that will enrich debate when you come here.

Therefore Mr Speaker, mine is to just respond to some of the issues raised by the members but at the same time, being also a member, I would also like to point out, just like the members have pointed out, how rich, informative and educative the speech by the Chairman of the Summit was. The Chairman used his usual style; very easy going and flowing style that is not too formal. He is widely sweeping; when he is speaking, he does not stick to one issue. You may even think he is actually getting out of topic but you realise that he is actually speaking very widely and contributing to the theme that he started with when he was speaking. His usual humorous style, use of folklore, use of African proverbs and anecdotes are very enriching and make his speech worthwhile and interesting to listen when he is addressing you.

In this speech, he did not disappoint us. This speech is also similar to the one he gave to the Summit when it was sitting in Uganda. He emphasised the key tenets of integration and diving them into four things; why we want East Africa to integrate, that integration brings prosperity to us. The issue of the ties that bind us as people of East Africa, being one people, speaking one language or many languages that are quite close - In fact he likes to call them dialects like the Bantu languages which he says is one language but with many dialects. He also looked at some of the proverbs he used, which I can read and understand even though I am not from Ankole but a Mumeru. However, when I look at the first proverbs he gives, '*yija turye*', '*rumwe*' – it is very close to what we say in Kimeru.

As I asked my brother to explain to me, I already understood what *Mzee* was talking about; 'come we eat together'. Therefore,

our languages are very similar because we are really the same people with cultures that are very close and with a shared history of struggle against colonialism and against many challenges that affect our region. This is what brings us together and therefore makes us one people that should be able to face challenges of the future together and even face enemies together. He emphasised fraternity.

Regarding the issue of security, he is always taking about security in a bigger way. Going back to our history, the reason why we were colonised in Africa is because we did not understand or have one identity. We could not see ourselves as one; not because the *wazungu* were necessarily stronger but because we did not have solidarity and wide understanding of our identity as African people. So when they come with sweets and clothing, they give one of us and say, you go and fight your brother. That is why he was emphasising security in terms of us coming together and understanding that we succeed as one and we fail if we divided and security in terms of understanding the current challenges that we have.

The fact that we were colonised does not mean that that was the end. There is also neo-colonialism and it is real; neo-colonialism can turn us into a market. We should be able to build ourselves together, industrialise together, and be able to protect ourselves from those external influences that weaken us. That is how he was talking in terms of our common security.

There is also the issue of us belonging to many different organisations that could sometimes be contradictory. How do we address that? You want to have a security pact together but you also have a security pact with other people who may even turn out to be your enemies in future. What do you do? How do you address that?

For example, you may have the issue of a dispute over River Nile but you still belong to some organisations that have some contradictions. Those are the issues that the Chairman of the Summit was talking about.

Of course there was also the issue of how we manage our common and shared resources to create a bigger market, how we negotiate together as a market for us to take advantage of that. How can we have a strategy of industrialisation together?

In a nutshell, Mr Speaker, the Chairman's speech touched nearly on everything. The members also, in their debate, clearly showed a very deep understanding of the issues that were raised by the Chairman.

Mr Speaker, without going into the specific issues because of time, I hope my chairperson will go into some of them and underline them but I remember some of the key areas that the members were telling the Council to address. We want to emphasise that we will be addressing them and we will put our energies in addressing them.

Most of the members talked about NTBs and how we can deal with NTBs that are making our trade difficult as well as new ones that keep emerging. I would like to assure you that as a Council, we are alive to these issues. We also want to tell you that over time, the situation was worse a few years back and it has now improved. We have been able to address very many NTBs along the way and I am sure we can be able to also deal with the ones that are there.

There are always frequent scheduled meetings of Council that look into specific NTBs and what to do to deal with them. We are very alive to this particular challenge that makes trade difficult in our region.

Most members also emphasised issues of security and especially those dealing with Burundi and South Sudan and why, as a Community, we need to be proactive and

engaged in dealing with these issues. I wanted to say that we are also involved in both countries. In fact in the last Summit, the Chairman of the Summit who is also the mediator in Burundi briefed the Summit on what is happening there and what we need to do and the facilitation that is required to continue the Community's engagement in resolving those issues in Burundi. The Summit was briefed on that and it was able to make decisions that will help in improving the security situation in Burundi that has already improved, if you ask me. The facilitator who was appointed by the Summit was also there; the retired President of Tanzania *Mzee* Mkapa.

The Summit was also briefed by the President of South Sudan who attended. You know that the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), which is the body that is mandated by the Security Council to deal with issues of South Sudan, is very active, and the member states of East Africa are part of IGAD. Therefore, we are engaged and we will continue being engaged in these two member countries to make sure that the situation returns to normal.

It is also important to know that peace is a very delicate process and sometimes very complicated. There are no easy solutions to some of those problems and therefore, sometimes when you see slow movement, perhaps that slow movement is what will guarantee long-term security for those countries. Therefore, do not be in a hurry to rush into situations that can even escalate. You want to use a hammer to bring it down on people and then you mess the situation further. Therefore, we have to deal with the situation with the brotherly love that we have for our brothers in Burundi and South Sudan.

The other issue I saw members emphasising is the need to fast track infrastructural projects that are very transformative and especially the standard gauge railway.

Council is again reporting that there is a lot of progress being made in this New Year. These projects are very expensive and money, at times, may not be forthcoming but the Member States, the Summit and the Council are busy looking for money to make sure that this extremely important infrastructure is developed so that East Africans can trade and goods can move quickly and so that we continue contributing to the prosperity of East Africa, creating jobs and making our region richer.

I also heard members emphasising the same point that even as we build infrastructure, we also need to put a lot of energy into industrialisation so that when the trains are going to Dar es Salaam or Mombasa, they are not going there empty only to come back with goods from China and other places. On their return trips, they should go with goods for sale in those other countries.

Mr Speaker, what I got from all the speeches made by members is the spirit of integration being re-energised; people wanting us to move forward. It is the speech of the Chairman of the Summit that catalyses that spirit. I am quite happy with the way the Chairman opened his speech; by pointing out the controversy that surrounded the election of the Speaker and using that to redirect us and make us look at the bigger picture so that we do not become parochial. We should not look at integration as what the individual can get from it. We should look at the bigger picture.

Mr Speaker, we are not integrating so that you can become Speaker or somebody else can become, even though that is not bad because we require a Speaker. We are integrating so that the people of East Africa; the real owners of integration can benefit and therefore, when we are interacting, we should never lose focus of that bigger picture.

I also heard members raising the issue of this matter going to court and could feel that the member who was speaking was almost saying, why could you not withdraw the matter from court? That is the sense I got. Mr Speaker, I want to disagree with that member because we created these courts to do what they are doing; so that if there is a member who is unhappy, who feels that an issue has not been resolved to their satisfaction, they have an option of going to court. Therefore, there is nothing negative about somebody going to court.

In fact, going to court shows the faith you have in the institutions that are created by the Treaty to resolve disputes between members, between citizens and even between institutions. Therefore, it is up to the member. If he feels he wants to withdraw, that is okay but he should not withdraw because there is something wrong with going to court. No, that should not be the way to go. If he feels, he wants to continue until the court rules on the matter, the better. That leaves the Community strong – *(Interruption)*

Mr Mbidde: Mr Speaker, of all the members in this Assembly, there is no member who has gone to court. Is the current speaker in order to insinuate that members of this Assembly have gone to court?

The Speaker: I think that the bigger message is understood. He may not have had enough details of who is in court against who but I think he is emphasising that anyone can go to court. It can be me or you or anyone who feels comfortable going there. Therefore, I think that is the point.

The Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Northern Corridor Development (Kenya) (Mr Peter Munya): Mr Speaker, I think the member jumped the gun a little bit because when I said member, I meant member state. As a member of the

Council, I meant member state – *(Interruption)*

Mr Mbidde: Mr Speaker, the procedure of this House is that when the Rt hon. Speaker rules on a matter, that matter is presumably ruled on and any debate thereon is extinct. Is the speaker, therefore, procedurally correct to continue to debate the same matter you have ruled on?

The Speaker: Well, let us conclude this so that we can proceed. I think it was a clarification and it was an assistance to put it in perspective. It is not contradicting my guidance so I think we can proceed.

The Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Northern Corridor Development (Kenya) (Mr Peter Munya): Thank you, Mr Speaker for your kindness and understanding. My chairman may not have been there throughout – Mr Speaker allow me to mention on his behalf the members who have contributed to this motion and commend them for their contribution to this very important motion: hon. Fatuma Ndangiza, hon. Mary Mugenyi, hon. Dr Oburu Odinga, hon. Adan Abdukadir, hon. Pierre rwigema, hon. Jean Claude Barimuyabo, hon. Josephine Lemoyan, hon. Paul Musamali, hon. Makame, hon. Kasamba, hon. Gasinzigwa, hon. Kim Gai Ruot, hon. Dennis Namara, hon. Mukulia, hon. Mbidde, hon. Florence Lematia, hon. Muhirwa, hon. Wanjiku, hon. Dr Woda, hon. George Odongo, hon. Leontine, hon. Nakawuki, hon. Opoka Okumu, hon. Garang Alaak, hon. Pamela Simon, hon. Gideon Gatpan, hon. Kennedy Musyoka, hon. Mpuru Aburi, hon. Simon Mbugua, hon. Jean Claude and hon. Akol Rose.

The Speaker: I think the challenge has always been in pronunciation so I am not sure the note will help that. The member is hon. Susan Nakawuki. Thank you.

The Cabinet Secretary for East African Community and Northern Corridor Development (Kenya) (Mr Peter Munya): Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the correction. Mr Speaker, she was reminding me about the members' contributions. There are many other issues that I could not respond to because of time but I wanted to say that as a Council, we are doing our best to make sure that all the contributions are up to date and I can assure you that the Community will never run bankrupt. *(Applause)*

The Community is a growing concern and it will never fail to carry out its mandate because of the challenges of contributions. I would also like to point out that whereas we accept that there are challenges in some member countries because of certain challenges that we have already talked about, the Council has been engaged very deeply on this issue of how to fund the Community long term and that discussion is still going on. We are looking at other ways, apart from member country contributions.

Indeed, some of the suggestions that have been raised by members on imports – a percentage of the tariffs on imports to directly fund the Community or a percentage of the GDP or a combination – of both are already being discussed and it is at an advanced stage of discussion before a decision is made to come out of the problem of equal contributions. This is a challenge to the Community and we want to assure you that the Council is engaged on this matter and a solution will be found that will positively contribute to the long term sustainable funding for the Community. Thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Ex Officio) (Dr A.M Kirunda Kivejinja): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As it is my first day here, I thought I would not be able to present my maiden speech. It was my trick that I allow my colleague to come

in so that he begins and listens to each and every contribution so that I can come in to wind up. I think he has done the job very well.

As it is my first time, I need to thank the members who were able to elect a very able Speaker. *(Applause)* Some people congratulate the Speaker without acknowledging those whose wisdom was able to put the right person in the right place.

I would also like to congratulate the Speaker for having accepted to guide us in this important task. I must express my own satisfaction that the Summit gave me a Secretary General from Burundi and you complemented by also electing a Speaker from Rwanda. Therefore, anybody who talks nonsense that there is any difference between the two, let them see it in EALA.

He also told me that the members of EALA are going to tour the whole of East Africa. This made me remember the saying; '*ekigere k'yomulimi nekigimusa ekisooka mu nimiro*'. In other words, the foot of an agriculturalist is the first fertilizer of the garden. Without you going and touring these countries, you would be here giving us myths that we cannot hold a meeting in Burundi with another country saying no. you saw it yourself so you are not going to debate otherwise.

I think that my job will be very simple. It has been brought by my grandfather Kalonzo because as you know, it is the young ones who name the old ones so automatically, he is the one to name me so he becomes my father.

As my colleague has said, the standard of debate on this presidential address has been exemplary. *(Applause)* I think it is because of the knowledge or the fertilizer you put to the garden of which you are the guardian. You went there and wherever you passed,

you planted fertilizer and therefore the seeds will grow.

I was suggesting that as a model of operation, we should have more tours instead of locking ourselves here in the Chambers and talking. *(Applause)* sometimes we talk obscure things because we do not know what is on the ground. In addition, let this be the EALA that is anxious to understand East African and Africa.

The Speaker: Right honourable, maybe you can use this microphone because the indication from the booth is that they are not getting you. I think this is better.

The Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Ex Officio)(Dr A.M Kirunda Kivejinja):

Thank you very much. I hope I will not appear as if I am lecturing but I wanted to participate in my seat like any other member. Since children are normally very short and need to be seen, it is better if I stand here so that everybody can see me.

We need a group of people who understand East Africa, integration, the plight of Africa and the solution. I have the misfortune of having participated in all the struggles of Uganda and of Africa. When Kenyatta was in jail, we were students and very active in India. We participated as a joint African struggle. I am happy that one of the sons of Odinga is also a member of EALA.

When we were struggling for Independence before Kenya, I was next to Oginga Odinga in Moshi in the Afri-Asian solidarity arguing for the Independence of Kenya. Therefore, I have not only been preserved but I have participated in all. The aspirations of Africans coming together, on reflection one can say, I think it was too early for us to appreciate.

I can tell you that by the time the black people understood immediately after the so-called abolition of slavery- we need to struggle and the formulation of Pan-Africanism as a method of liberating the black people was spearheaded by black intellectuals.

The first conference of black people trying to determine their fate was held in 1974 in Manchester. It was mainly dominated by intellectuals from the West; West Indies and America especially Africa was represented by only two Africans; Kwame Nkrumah and Jomo Kenyatta. It was in that conference when they resolved – because the slaves had been freed because of economic conditions that were prevailing and not because the people were enslaving them had woken up to know that it was an evil.

They said that there are two ways that we will be able to fight for our rights; we in the diaspora are not going to agitate for being returned to Africa because we do not know where our homes are. Two, slavery that took 400 years when there was no better commodity of trade than the black man- how can you imagine that you are going to transport all that traffic back? So they said, the black men in the diaspora must fight for their human rights because they contributed to what is in the West. For the Africans; Kenyatta and Nkrumah, they said, they were representing the people in Africa. Go back, agitate, and throw away the British. That is the Pan African philosophy.

I think we should therefore spend more time in seminars so that we create a nucleus of Pan Africanism in East Africa. This is because unless we understand, you cannot be able to fight any situation.

It is not my intention to lecture you on that because this is the wrong fora and according to revolutionary methods, if you raise problems in the wrong fora, you become subversive. I do not want to go

there, except to tell you that we need to tour and we need to understand. I cannot say why East Africa failed because everything moves by intellectual leadership. When Kenyatta came from the bush, the *wazees* like Kaino- who was the Minister of Trade and a graduate, and some other fellows – Nyerere got Independence and he had only one medical doctor; Dr Kyagula. That is why he concentrated on creating the nation and not other things.

Therefore, we have reasons that are preventing us from understanding the greatest treasure of East African integration and I think when we move, we should be able to understand. I will be available because it is useless for you to say I am an encyclopaedia and you do not come and refer to it. I will be available here – fortunately, I have begun writing so definitely you are all invited to take advantage of my presence here. The President gave me a mission that at least the people have agreed to that East Africa is okay and it is on four pillars. We are trying with the Common Market- we cannot achieve everything we want. The Customs Union is already being done. The Monetary Union is also proceeding but the most important thing is federation.

I am here to help the people of East Africa, to encourage you to know that actually, that is the way forward to all our problems.

The Speaker: Right honourable, if you can help us to wind up, there is another –

The Second Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs, Uganda (Ex Officio)(Dr A.M Kirunda Kivejinja): He said, if we had earlier – that is a wish and was not done because there were few East Africans who could understand but now you are here; intellectuals and there should be no excuse for failure to realise what you want. Thank you very much for the debate and the conclusion. I also thank my colleague for ably doing his job. I can

undertake, on behalf of my colleagues, that this time we are going to be with you. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Honourable members, I think the remaining item will be carried forward. I now want to put a question that this House do commend the President of the Republic of Uganda and Chairperson of the EAC Summit of Heads of State for the concise and clear exposition of the EAC policy contained in his address to the Assembly on Tuesday 23 February 2018.

(Question put and agreed to.)

The Speaker: Thank you very much, honourable members. I think it has been one of the best debates that I have ever attended for the time I have been with EALA. I think we have started on a very good note.

As I said earlier, the Northern Corridor team, I am informed – Has it changed? Okay, you will sort it out amongst yourselves.

The remaining item on the Order Paper will be carried forward to another day. I adjourn the House until tomorrow at 2.30 p.m. House is adjourned.

(The House rose at 19:10 p.m. to reconvene on Wednesday, 14 March 2018 at 2.30 p.m.)