



THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

46th SITTING - SPECIAL SITTING OF THE ASSEMBLY (VIRTUAL) - FIFTH ASSEMBLY (Under Rule.10(2))

Tuesday, 29th April, 2025

*The East African Legislative Assembly
met at 4.13 p.m. at Onomo Hotel,
Kampala, Uganda*

PRAYER

*(The Speaker, Hon. Ntakirutimana
Joseph, in the Chair)*

(The Assembly was called to order.)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Hon. Members, it has been long since we last had a formal Sitting of the Assembly. If I can recall, we last held our plenary sitting on 12th November, 2024 in Kampala – Uganda. I therefore welcome you to this Special Sitting of the Assembly being held virtually in line with our Rules of Procedure.

I now wish to make the following communication-

Since we had not met yet, I wish all of you a belated happy new year and pray for your good health and prosperity. Due

to liquidity challenges, EAC Organs and Institutions postponed all their activities falling under Partner States contributions. The situation has not improved much except for payment of salaries. I held interactive meetings with the French and Italian Ambassadors who came to Arusha to present their credentials to the Secretary General. They wished us well.

I met with the AEPI President and his delegation to discuss matters of mutual recognition to support initiatives of EALA. We concluded an MoU to work together under the auspices of the East African Parliamentary Institute.

I held interactive meetings with the new Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tanzania and some MPs from Uganda and Kenya. We exchange ideas on how to enhance the EAC integration agenda.

To our Catholic Brothers and Sisters, we sympathize with you upon the demise of our beloved Holy Fr. Pope Francis, who was a symbol of compassion, humility, love, peace, forgiveness; a true servant of God!

Amb. Juma Volta Mwapachu, who was the Secretary General of the EAC (April 2006 – April 2011), who passed away on 28th March, 2025. We also lost Mr. Leonidas Mbakenga, 2nd Consular of Burundi in Tanzania and Liaison Officer to the EAC, who passed on 5th April, 2025. I request that we observe a moment of silence in honour of the deceased. May their souls rest in Eternal Peace!

(Honourable Members stood in their places and observed a minute of silence.)

I now conclude by making the following Proclamation in accordance with Rule 10(2) and Rule 3 – that I approve a virtual Special Sitting to be held in a Virtual Chamber in all the EAC Partner States through a video link with all the conditions as set out in Rule 3 of the Assembly Rules of procedure for virtual Meetings.

Next Order.

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) THE EAC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE CONTAINED IN THE EAC SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2024/2025

4.22

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provision of article... Pursuant to the provision of Article 49(2)(c) of the East Africa Community...

The Speaker: Honourable Chairperson of the Council, you have to wait for me to call you.

Go on.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provision of Article 49(2)(c) of the East Africa Community Treaty and Rule 26 of the Assembly Rule of Procedure, I beg to lay on the table the financial statement for EAC supplementary budget for the financial year 2024-2025.

Mr. Speaker, the total supplementary budget will be added to the EAC budget for the financial year 2024-2025. I therefore beg to lay the financial statement for the supplementary budget which includes the following organs and institutions...

The Speaker: Honourable Minister, just lay the document on the table.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, I beg to lay.

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provision of article Article 49(2)(c) of the East Africa Community Treaty and Rule 26 of the Assembly Rule of Procedure, I beg to lay on the table the financial statement for the financial year 2024/2025.

(The Chairperson of the Council laid the document on the Table.)

THE SPEAKER: Honourable Minister, proceed to lay the next document.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development (Kenya):

Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provision of article 49(2)(c) of the East Africa Community Treaty and Rule 26 of the Assembly Rule of Procedure, I beg to lay on the table the financial statement for the EAC supplementary budget for the financial year 2024/2025.

Mr. Speaker, the total supplementary budget will be added to the EAC budget for the financial year 2024/2025.

(The Chairperson of the Council laid the document on the Table)

4.26

MS ROSE AKOL (Uganda): Procedure. Mr Speaker, Sir, the Honourable Minister, Chairperson of the Council, has laid the budget. However, in accordance with what we have on the other paper, there is no differentiation. She has laid the same paper. It's laid supplementary.

But here we have supplementary one and supplementary two. There should be clarity. She should be clear that she is supplementary one and then supplementary two. That is in accordance with what we have here on the Order Paper. Thank you. That's the clarification that I am seeking for her to make.

THE SPEAKER: The Chairperson of Council meant to lay supplementary budget one and supplementary budget two for financial year 2024/2025. That is what she has just read.

(II) THE EAC FINANCIAL
STATEMENTS OF REVENUE AND
EXPENDITURE CONTAINED IN THE
EAC SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET
-NO.2 - FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR
2024/2025

4.26

Ms Rose Akol (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker for your clarification. However, in accordance with the Rules of Procedure, it is the Chair Council, to make that clarification. Because it is her who is tasked with the responsibility of laying the document on the Table. For the record and for the HANSARD, let her clarify.

The Speaker: The Chairperson of Council, am I right that you laid document No. ii as listed on the Order Paper?

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development (Kenya): Yes. Thank you.

The Speaker: Let us proceed to the laying of the document listed No. iii on the Order Paper.

(III) THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
OF REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE
CONTAINED IN THE EAC DRAFT
ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2025/2026

THE CHAIRPERSON, EAC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the provision of Article 49(2)(c) and Rule 26 of the Assembly's rules of procedure, I beg to lay on the table the financial instruments for EAC budget expenditure and revenue for the financial year 2025/2026. The draft estimates include the following votes and amounts.

The total proposed budget that the council approved for the next financial year is U.S. dollars 1,009,338,151. I beg to lay.

(The Chairperson of the Council laid the document on the Table.)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, three papers have been laid. I refer all the three Papers to the Committee on General Purpose.

4.31

Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Procedure. The Chairperson of the Council has just laid down the papers. Until the Chairperson moves a motion and it passes, that is when you can refer it to the Committee on General Purpose (GP). At this point, the Chairperson is just laying papers. We have to proceed until the Chair of Council moves the Motion.

4.31

Ms Rose Akol (Uganda): Mr Speaker, Procedure. I am sorry that we are intervening all the time.

My procedure is that when the Council lays documents on the Table, it is for the information of the Assembly. By the Time the Council is doing that, all of us as Members of the Assembly should have copies of those documents. We do not have copies of the documents that have just been laid down not even in our emails. How do we proceed as an Assembly? We require the documents but we do not have them. What is the purpose of laying document for the information of the Assembly when we do not have the documents? By the time documents are being laid on the Table, they should be in our possession.

The Speaker: Thank you. The Office of the Clerk will circulate those documents. Let us proceed. Next Order.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
THE ASSEMBLY SEEKING LEAVE TO
INTRODUCE A PRIVATE MEMBERS
BILL ON ELIMINATION OF FEMALE
GENITAL MUTILATION

4.34

Ms Jacqueline Amongin (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I stand under Articles 49(1), 59(1) of the Treaty and Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly to seek leave of the House move a Private Member's Bill on Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation.

The Speaker: Do you have seconders?

(Seconded by Ms Iman Falhada, Dr Siranda Blacks, Ms Caroline Kayonga, Ms Francine Rutazana, Mr Clement Musangabatware, Amb Fatuma Ndangiza)

Proceed.

Ms Jacqueline Amongin (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that-

WHEREAS partner states committed in Article 6 (d) of the Treaty to adhere to the gender equality as well as the recognition, promotion and protection of human rights in accordance to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights as fundamental principles of the Community. WHEREAS the female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is recognized as recognised internationally as a harmful practice with no health benefits which violates the rights of girls and women.

AND WHEREAS Article 181(b) of the treaty Personal status and attributes to abolish legislation and discourage the custody of girls are discriminatory against women Requiring that under Article 5(b) of the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and People's Rights, or the rights of women in Africa, partner states agree to prohibit through legislative measures, backed by sanctions, all forms of female genital mutilation, medicalisation, and paramedicalization of female genital mutilation, and all other practices in order to eradicate them.

AWARE that partner states have enacted specific legislations prohibiting FGM, such as the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act in Tanzania, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act in Kenya

and Uganda, and specific provisions of the Penal Code in South Sudan.

GRATEFUL to the Council of Ministers for highlighting the dangers of FGM as one of the harmful practices in the EAC Gender Policy of 2018.

RECOGNISING that FGM violates civil rights in respect of girls and women, including the right to health, the right to be free from violence, the right to life, and physical integrity, the right to non-discrimination, and the right to be free from cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

CONSCIOUS that today, although the Senate Assembly has passed an EAC prohibition of female genital mutilation bill in 2016, the bill has not been processed by the Council, and there is no need to update the measures contained in that bill to improve the emerging trends of medicalisation and cross-border FGM.

CONCERNED that, despite the laws enacted by the partner states, studies indicate that the prevalence of FGM among women aged 15-49 in Kenya is 15 per cent, in Somalia is 98 per cent, in South Sudan 1 per cent, in Tanzania is 8per cent, and in Uganda is 0.2 per cent.

NOTING that medicalisation and cross-border FGM have emerged as new trends among the practicing community, in order to avoid constitution with the border communities, registering a higher prevalence rate than the national averages. FURTHER CONCERNED that, although the global target according to Goal 5(iii) of the Sustainable Development Goals is to eliminate FGM by 2030, the statistics

indicate that the Community will not meet the global target unless further regional and national measures are implemented.

CONVINCED that it is necessary for the community to urgently enact a regional law to complement the efforts of the partner states in eliminating FGM, to deal with the medicalisation and cross-border aspects of FGM, protect girls and women at risk, and require partner states to facilitate the provision of necessary support in victims of harmful practices through basic services such as health services, legal support, emotional and psychosocial support.

AWARE THAT under Article 59(i) of the treaty, any member may propose any motion or introduce any Bill in the assembly.

RECOGNISING THAT the Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly requires that the private member's baby shall be introduced first by way of motion to which shall be attached the proposed draft of that baby.

Right Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, Now the provision is resolved by the Assembly as follows that, in accordance with article 49(i) and 59(i) of the Treaty and Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Assembly grants leave to Ms Jacqueline Amongin and Ms Iman Falhada, to jointly introduce a bill entitled the East African Community Elimination of FGM Bill, to provide for the elimination of FGM from the Community.

Right Honourable Speaker and Honourable Members, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the matter on the Floor is that the Assembly resolves to grant leave to Ms Jacqueline Amongin to introduce a private Member's Bill aimed at eradicating FGM. The debate is open. We will begin by Honourable Falhada who is the seconder of the Bill.

4.41

FALHADA DEKOW IMAN (Kenya): Mr Speaker, Honourable Amongin and I attended training on elimination of FGM. We met so many stakeholders to actually deliberate on the, how to come up with the regional laws, policies and procedures. Even though we have our national law on the revocation of FGM, we are here to bring this, to have a harmonised law of the region, because now we are being governed by the borders, especially the region where I come from. I border with Somalia, where during the holidays, the girls will be taking us on holidays, but then the practice happens over the border, so we need to come up with the framework, laws, procedures, on how to govern all these harmful practices.

I beg to second. I thank you.

MOTION FOR CLOSURE OF DEBATE
PURSUANT TO RULE NO. 48

4.43

DR. ABDULLA HASNUU MAKAME (Tanzania): Procedure, Mr Speaker, Sir. It is not that I am going against the idea of debate.

I rise pursuant to Rule 48, because this matter, is straightforward. It is a matter affecting a number of partner states, to an extent that we are seeing two ladies from two different environmental states

partnering to spearhead this process. These members, I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, all agree that we grant them leave. Thank you.

The Speaker: In that case, let us proceed. I will put the question.

Honourable members, I now put the question, that...

4.45

Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya): Procedure, Mr. Speaker, Sir. When a Member moves a Motion under Rule 48, you have to put a question on it. After they have resolved that they have decided that I can put the question, you can put the question.

The Speaker: That is what I am doing. Let me proceed to put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Let us move to the next Order. Proceed Ms Francine Rutazana.

BILLS FIRST READING

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY MEDICAL PRODUCTS BILL, 2024

4.46

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, I beg to move that-

The East African Community Medical Products Bill, 2024 be read a first time.

(The Bill was accordingly read for the First Time.)

The Speaker: Next Order.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO DELIBERATE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF APPROPRIATION ACT OF THE COMMUNITY BEING AN URGENT MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

4.47

Ms Jacqueline Amongin (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I have a procedural Motion.

I rise pursuant to Articles 49(1), 59(1), 132 of the Treaty and Rules 30(L), 74 of the Procedure of the Assembly) to move a Motion without a Notice for the House to deliberate on implementation of appropriation act of the community being an urgent matter of public importance. I beg to move.

The Speaker: Do you have seconders?

(Seconded by Dr Makame Husnuu, Mr David ole Sankok, Mr Paul Musamali, Mr Kennedy Mukulia)

Ms Jacqueline Amongin (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I would like to thank the Members who have stood up to support this motion.

WHEREAS Article 132(4) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community provides that the budget of the Community shall be funded through equal contributions by the Partner States, and the same Treaty and other applicable laws of the Community enjoins the Partner States to honour their financial contributions by the 30th day of December of each financial year.

RECOGNISING that the Treaty under Article 143 provides that a Partner State which defaults in meeting its financial

and other obligations shall be subject to such action as the Summit may on the recommendation of the Council of Minister, which sanctions are further amplified under Article 146 of the same Treaty.

AWARE that at its meetings held in the months of March and April 2025, the Council of Ministers directed the Partner States that had not made good the contributions to the EAC to do so as per their commitment, and despite this directive, none of the concerned Partner States has honoured its outstanding financial obligations to the Community for the current financial year, yet The Federal Republic of Somalia – the youngest Partner State has since paid up part of her contribution despite her not having any of her citizens in the service of the EAC.

WHEREAS, the financial contributions of the Partner States to the EAC Budget for the financial year 2024/2025 stands at 57 per cent as at 25th April 2025, and it is only two months to the closure of the financial year, which leaves most of the planned programs and activities unimplemented, and this greatly impends the progress of our integration process.

CONCERNED that the Council is processing another budget for the financial year 2025/2026, and has also processed two supplementary budgets for the financial 2024/2025 while a significant number of the activities to be funded therein were also budgeted for and resources provided in the EAC Appropriation Act the current financial year - 2024/2025.

FURTHER CONCERNED that owing the current precarious financial situation, the EAC can only afford paying salaries to the staff and other officials in the service of the Community, with the East African Assembly being among the most affected Organs of the Community which cannot discharge its core function of oversight, legislation and passing the budget.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS FOLLOWS -

THAT.

- 1. The Chairperson of the Council of Ministers commits to avail funds to implement the pending programs and activities of the EAC Organs and Institutions, including the statutory ones of EALA's Committees, Plenary, budget scrutiny and approval effective immediately;*
- 2. The Assembly stays the scrutiny and approval of the proposed EAC Budget Estimates until the Council of Ministers provides the requisite funds for this purpose; and*
- 3. The Speaker may consider exercising his discretion of extending the period for the consideration of the EAC Budget as per the provisions of Section 12 of the EAC Budget Act, 2009.*

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Sir, I beg to move. (Applause)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the Motion on the Floor is that this House deliberates on the implementation of the Appropriations Act of 2024/2025 being an urgent matter of public importance. The debate is open starting with Hon Sankok then Hon. Akol followed by Hon James Milya.

4.55

Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya): Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker. I stand to support the proposed motion by Honourable Amongin.

Honourable Speaker, there are statutory obligations once a country joins the EAC that have to be met. The issue of contributions should not be over-emphasized.

Honourable Speaker, I would like to amend some sections of Honourable Amongin's motion as I support, that what we will do will not postpone passing of the budget, but we will try to be stringent to our... *(Interruption)*

The Speaker: Order Members!

Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I support the motion as it is *(Applause)*. I am very pleased that the Council of Ministers, the Chair, provides the funds for us to be able to carry out our activities. For the EAC to survive, there must be funds for the EALA to conduct its activities. For the EAC to survive, the EALA must carry out its activities of oversight, legislation, representation and budget making. I therefore support this Motion as is. The Summit and the Council of Ministers needs to realize that we will not pass the budget until we get funds for our activities as per the Treaty *(Applause)*

4.57

Ms Rose Akol (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I rise to support the Motion. We are all aware that the Assembly has been non-functional for quite some time especially after the games in Mombasa. We were supposed to have held committee sittings in order to

generate business for the House. We were to have plenary in March but that has not happened to date and we have not been told why.

Mr Speaker, we are aware that you have held several meetings with the Secretary General with regards to this matter. All we have been receiving are salaries. We receive our salaries and stay seated in our homes. We are supposed to be doing oversight but there is no information. Members are seated at home not doing any work but we are paid salaries. That is wrong. We are supposed to work and be paid for the work that we do. *(Applause)*

It is on record that the Council of Ministers has several times refused to pay the Assembly for the virtual meetings held so far. Let me give an example. There was a time that the Fourth Assembly had to sit and reconsider a budget that they had already considered when the Council refused to accept the appropriations bill that had been passed in a virtual sitting. The budget had to be reconsidered by some members in Arusha while others were online.

Through the Office of the Clerk, there were various attempts by the EALA to ask the Council to pay Members for the work they had done. However, to this date, the Council has never paid the Members for the work that they did. The Council said that there is no policy to guide them on virtual sitting. This is a virtual sitting. I am already reliably informed that this Assembly is supposed to consider the budget of the FY 2025-2026 virtually. Which policy document is Council using to require the Assembly to do that, that we consider the budget virtually, yet they

don't have a policy, yet they upset the precedence by not playing the Assembly for virtual meetings. That is where we are. Mr Speaker, the Council should clarify here, today how we are going to proceed.

This Assembly, believes that we must consider this budget in Arusha, all of us, and it is the responsibility of Council and the Secretary General to find resources for that activity. It is their responsibility. If they can find resources for other activities of the community, why not for the Assembly, Honourable Speaker? So here we are demanding that Council finds resources for the Assembly to sit in Arusha to consider this. Besides, we are looking at many documents.

The Committee on F&A has spent three months looking at these documents yet I am told that we are supposed to consider these documents in four days, which is wrong. These are documents of over 1,000 pages each and there are over three documents. Besides, they also include supplementary.

Honourable Speaker, in support of this motion, we require the Council to come clear on the flagging of the activity of the Assembly, which was budgeted in full and was approved with their presence in the Assembly, because they are ex-official members of the Assembly. That is what we require, Honourable Speaker.

I beg to submit.

5.16

Mr James Millya (Tanzania): Honourable Speaker, I thank God for this blessing of meeting in Uganda once again, after such a long period of six months, it is indeed a

blessing and a privilege to see you, colleagues, once again. I am fully integrated, when I first came to the Community, I did not know you. However, I now know you. I love seeing your faces and to know that you and your families are okay. I am a socialist, I therefore love to be associated with you.

It touches my heart when I am told that Parliament is not going to sit for six months. It pains me. Honourable Speaker, it is a new normal, really, to chair the Parliament, so you cannot do your own mandate, simply because one person or several institutions have failed to do their duty. The duty to fund raise is not the duty of Parliament, but the Secretariat and the Council of Ministers. But now, they want to shift the blame back to Parliament, simply because they have failed to do their job. *(Applause)*

Honourable Speaker, this Parliament should not accept this. I have had experience serving in the Tanzanian National Parliament. There is no way, at any point in time, that the Executive can tell Parliament that you cannot work and that we should only debate the budget and then leave and go home. There is no way that can happen. We all have experiences. These Ministers have experience too. They should not mislead the Community. That is one.

Two, I flew to Kampala on Sunday. By coincidence, Honourable Colleagues, I found my Honourable Speaker also boarding the plane. I was very surprised that our Speaker was flying in economy class while the Council to the Community (CTC) was flying in business class. *(Shame)* I took that to mean that this Parliament is disregarded and not respected. This is

done by design. We have a few pieces of advice for the Council of Ministers and the Secretariat.

One, there is a saying that you cannot have your cake and eat it. There are two options. I would advise the Parliament and also advise the Council of Ministers who are listening. Ask the non-paying member states to diplomatically pay. Two, if they cannot pay, ask them to kindly leave the Community. Three, if they think that the framers of our EAC Treaty were wrong in establishing an institution called Parliament, let them do away with EALA. If they think that Mwalimu Nyerere, President Obote and Mzee Kenyatta whose ideology we stand on today made a mistake in forming a regional parliament, to oversee the functions of the Secretariat and the functions of the EAC, then do away with this Parliament.

Those are the three clear options that you have. You cannot have an easy way out. As a Secretary General, you cannot enjoy the privileges accorded to the post and then sit home and say that it is easy to not call Parliament because we do not have finances. SG, that is wrong. You know we voted against the former SG Mathuki in Nairobi because what he was doing was not right. *(Applause)*

Mr Speaker, I support the Motion that has been moved by Honourable Amongin. I ask with kindness that you should call the Executive to respect the Parliament that you are leading. We cannot stand to see this Parliament to die right before our eyes.

I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Do we have some members who are following the sitting virtually? If there are Members online who would like to speak, kindly bring their names to my attention so that we give them the floor.

I will now give this opportunity to Honorables Dr Makame, Mary Mugenyi and Dr Siranda Blacks. Honourable Mary Mugenyi, you will have the Floor, after the two gentlemen.

5.08

Dr Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): I would like to thank my sister, Honourable Jacqueline, for coming up with this Motion. It is a timely motion. It is a motion which is very topical and very important. It is a matter of public importance.

Mr. Speaker, recently in one of our partner states, the Republic of Kenya, there was a process of finding electoral commissioners to fill in the position of the Commissioner for the Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission (IEBC). One of the aspirants to that was interviewed for the position of the Chairperson of the IEBC was a former judge of the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) Justice Nyachae. And upon him being queried on why he left the Community, maybe he deserted the job, he said no, he just felt that it was not proper for him to continue consuming salary while not doing any job.

The community is paying salaries, but the activities are not being executed. I am a member of the committee for the budget, we've been talking about facilitating the East African Court of Justice (EACJ) to execute its mandate and to clear the backlog of cases which date back to 10 years. Justice Nyachae decided to vacate

the job at EACJ, not because he did not want the job but because he felt that he is consuming the money for East African without doing any necessary work.

Mr. Speaker, as an Assembly, there was an action taken to rectify a statement given by our member of staff, the SPRO to the public that the Assembly had suspended activities that was released, I think, somewhere in February, due to financial liquidity challenges. That member of staff sent out the information, that was correct, because we have not done any activity since.

Mr. Speaker, our SPRO was just to raising the awareness that this is what is happening. We decided to stay quiet, and we've been quiet, expecting that the Council is going to see the magnitude of the matter and intervene. Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, that has not happened. despite the directive of the Summit. The Summit in its sitting, directed the Council to present before it proposals on implementation of Article 143 and 146. However, the council went on and sat on the direction of the Summit. If the Council is not even implementing the directives of the Summit, what can we do, Mr. Speaker? The Council, in its meeting, decided to go more diplomatic rather than look at the Treaty. In the Council's meeting, they decided to direct partners, directing themselves, to make good their contribution, as the motion is clearly specifying. The country which had outstanding payments and made good its contribution, by more than half of what was owing, is the federal Republic of Somali.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Republic of Somalia has no member of staff, and has no member of Assembly. However, it just

made good, because it committed to the treaty, it supports the treaty, it made good that. So, what we are really requesting, and we really want to see here, is that the council, by seeing the spirits from the partners of the republic of Somalia, should also encourage, and actually, if it is not encouraging, then should see how these articles cited in the Motion are going to be implemented. We really need to move according to the laws which we all agreed to move with.

Mr. Speaker, I would assume that now we've had this discussion and deliberation in this chamber, that the Council is going to consider this matter as a very serious matter, and will act accordingly, and they will also get an opportunity, after we conclude the deliberation, to respond to the motion, so that we know what the council is thinking with regard to this matter.

I beg to submit.

5.14

Dr Siranda Gerald Blacks (Uganda): Right Honourable Speaker, I beg to support this Motion. I would like to inform this House that I am a full-time politician. It is all that I do to survive. The Parliament of Uganda and by extension the people of Uganda sent me to Arusha to do this job.

Mr Speaker, I think, intentionally, some people are trying to castrate this parliament. *(Laughter)* You see, you can have all the privileges, and put on a trouser and a shirt, and move around and people will think, really, it is a full-person moving. However, when you are castrated, there are certain things you cannot do, in fulfilling the obligations that you are supposed to do, as a human being.

The Speaker: What is your point of order?

5.16

Mr James Milya (Tanzania): Mr Speaker, our HANSARDS are read far and wide. Our children and grand children will also read the HANSARD. I beg that you guide our colleague to use parliamentary language. We should have respect for our Parliament.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Right Honourable Speaker, that is called the act of communication. You do not judge before you say what I say. You listen. Right Honourable Speaker, I want to insist, to build my point, when you are castrated (*Consultations*)

Right Honourable Speaker, some groups or individuals are trying to curtail the, first of all, the assigned mandate and duties of this parliament. Every organ that I have engaged with, of this community, all their eyes and focus, in terms of serving the community, is on this parliament. We start today.

Right Honourable Speaker, I have always said, if whatever is in the parliament does not agree with each other, and you develop diarrhea, the solution is not to block the passage where it will pass. The solution, is to look for the medicine, prescribed proper medicine, and the prescription we are doing today, is what the Honourable Jackie, in this motion, has assigned.

The people that are assigned a mandate of making sure that all the members of this Community, all our partner states, respect and fulfil the obligation, is the Council of Ministers. And Right Honourable Speaker, I think, either intentionally, or knowingly

or unknowingly, I think that certain jobs, or their mandate, or roles, is not being done. Either some people are in comfort zone because they know.

For instance, the very powerful Speaker of the EALA, the number two or three of the Community, is moving in economy class while the person he supervised is moving in business class. That is a clear sign that something is wrong. I know you are a very humble man, Right Honourable Speaker, but that is a clear sign on how they weigh this assembly, that we are just a rubber stamp, that we are going to look at the processes of being where you own a rubber stamp, and yet the Treaty is very clear on our role in terms of how we appropriate, design, debate, and approve.

Right Honourable Speaker, what are we going to do? We do not want to lie ourselves that even the budget is passed last year worked. We are left with three months or two months for it to expire or for us to move to a new financial year. But we have not even done a quarter of what we set out to do.

Right Honourable Speaker, my proposal is that we can borrow the good ideas. First of all, implement the Treaty and the decisions of the Summit in terms of, first of all, how the contributions are made as well as sanctions. When you take your children to school, by the way, they can study, but it is not a must that they do exams.

We believe that the Council, and the Secretary General who the HANSARD shows that everybody supported is not doing her work. We are being forced to think that she has not done even a quarter of the roles that she should do. The engine

of the Community is money. When you do not have the money, then it is important that you rather say close the shop, go home, and rethink whether we are in the right track on this question of the community.

I beg to move, Right Honourable Speaker, that we unanimously agree entirely with the prayers in this motion. Unanimously agree, because all of us are going to be eaten by the lion that is confronting this Assembly. Because we are tired of answering questions on whether we work or what we were voted to do and all that. The solution is to get the right medicine so that we go for curing rather than playing around and hiding and fearing to go down and pee, yet the stomach is not at peace with the content that we are inside.

Right Honourable Speaker, I beg to move, I beg to support the motion and entirely agree that it is over. We should have done this yesterday.

The Speaker: Honouble Mugenyi, you can proceed followed by Honourable Musamali. Try to be brief.

5.22

Mary Mugenyi (Uganda): Mr Speaker, Sir, I never put up my hand. I am sorry. This is Mary Mugenyi, Uganda, I did not really put up my hand because I do not have much to contribute on this motion. We have said the same thing over and over again.

Mr. Speaker, I support the motion, but I do not have much to contribute. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

5.23

Mr Paul Musamali (Uganda): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice on this very important motion. From the onset, I want to inform the House that I support this motion with all of my energy and all of my... *(Laughter)*

Right Honourable Speaker I have put all of my support on this motion. I just wanted to augment a few things that were said by colleagues, just to show that we are not in the normal situation. I want to bring to the attention of Council that for EALA case, for example, Council itself sponsored a number of bills. They are before us, and we have failed to process them because we are unable to see it. As you may be aware, the Monetary Union is supposed to be operationalised by 2031. I call it the new roadmap, as it was brought to us. Remember, earlier it was supposed to be 2024 which is now behind us. The Council came up with another roadmap.

If we continue on the path that we are on, it means we cannot achieve this Monetary Union. Right Honourable Speaker, there are a number of amendments that we need to make in terms of the Customs Union protocol is concerned. As you may be aware, as the first pillar of integration, it still has challenges.

we need to make amendments to ensure that those challenges are addressed. That is the responsibility of this House. If we are to continue moving at this pace, and by the way, I think it is a slip of the tongue for me to say that we are moving. We are not moving, we are stationary. If we remain stagnant like this, then that means

we are not going to be able to execute this mandate as the EALA.

Right Honourable Speaker, the last one, the issue we are talking about, and this one should be very clear to Council, it is not about EALA alone. Even other organs and institutions of the Community are not functioning optimally. It should not be seen by the Council or somebody else that it is EALA alone because they are not sitting. It is not. All organs and institutions are not working. There is a problem. The Council must come up with a solution. Not just there and then come up with the fire brigade approaches that now EALA sits for two days or three days, we shall have solved the problem. That is a lie. They are lying to themselves.

If I may borrow the words which were used by the Honourable Dr Siranda. (*Laughter*). He used many words but I will just pick out one. He talked about internal organs when they are thrashing the man. When you are attacked by the diarrhea. None of us, even if they attack ten of us, none of us will require permission to get out. You will get out by yourself. This is the problem we have.

I will give another analogy to those who think they are okay. There is a small story which is going to be told in one minute. There was a cow, there was a rat, there was a snake, and a human being. The rat, the cow, and the snake, the rat, the snake, they were all living together, and they were having a problem. The problem came, in fact there was also a goat. The problem came when the rat was being terrorized by a snake. The rat goes to a cock, says, "I have a problem, this snake is going to kill me. He will eat me. Please come and

help so we attack the snake." The cock says, "No, I have no business with you, because it is up to you to not attack me." The rat again goes to the goat with the same problem. They say, "No, it is not my problem. How can a snake eat me, I am so big." The rat then goes to the cow and says, "I have a problem." Now, what happens this time?

After that, the snake goes and bites and kills the owner of the house. The man. Who was also involved there. It kills who? The owner of the house. Who is surrounding all of these things are? Now what happens? According to African tradition, before they buried the person, they started with slaughtering the cock. The big person has died. They slaughtered the cock. The cock went. Then, on the vigil, they came for the goat. When they are finished burying the big person, it was now time to celebrate the last funeral. The last thing to be slaughtered was the cow. The cow went. Who remained? It was the rat.

The ones who are there are uncomfortable thinking that the Secretariat is operational are wrong. This thing is going to eat them; one by one. The end result will be the collapse of the Community. We want to call upon the Council of Ministers that they should not normalize abnormal situations. (*Applause*)

The Speaker: Thank you very much. Thank you, honourable members.

I think that the Chair of the Council will can now speak. I invite her to say something, to make a statement. After all these contributions, this debate, which was supported by all the members. The Chair

of the Council, do you have something to say about this? You have the floor, Chair.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development (Kenya):

Mr. Speaker, I have listened to the conversation and the concerns from the members. It is never an agenda for the Council alone. I mean, as the Chair. We have been conversing this, and you know very well. Of course, with your effort as well. There was a time you also came with your delegation to Nairobi office to talk to me on the matters of members of the Assembly. You had your proposals as well.

When I came to Arusha on 17th of this month, last week, to your office, we discussed a bit again on this matter. The challenge we have, which we may now need to call the whole Council to speak into it, is the case of some partners state not remitting. I think we said as much in the Council that we held in February. It was tough for us. We even had to push some matters that prompted some of the partner states to pay. That was within the measure and the means of a partner state. You know very well that report is there, and whatever they were remitting is still there. I think we all need to sit together and put our heads together on the partner states that are not paying.

The weakness that is also befalling us as Council is because we have not put sanctions within the Treaty on those that are not paying. Sometimes we talk, consult, they go in the name of, and you know the so-called sovereignty of every state being given a privilege in this. I think if there are

matters that really need urgency for that matter, the Council then need to converge on this matter with the proposal going forward, and then with you people being in EALA, will also help us in putting these things together. It is not the making of the Council on their own. Sometimes we push, but again, some member states, for whatever reasons, say they cannot afford because of the economic challenges. Some are also having their own internal challenges. You know, all these things are the ones adding to why we are not been making a lot of progress in this matter.

I submit, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Chair of Council.

Honourable Amongin, you may now reply.

5.34

Ms Jacqueline Amongin (Uganda): Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not know if I am going to remember all the Members who contributed. I am going to mention their names one by one; Honourables Sankok, Dr Makame, James Millya, Dr Siranda Gerald Blacks, Mary Mugenyi, Paul Musamali and the Chairperson of the Council. I commend all the Members of this House for supporting this Motion.

Mr Speaker, this basically goes to the minister, Chair of Council. I know that when there are challenges, it is the tough people who stand up to be counted in particular situations. We have full confidence in your leadership as the current Chair of the Council. It is not the role of Members of Parliament to go around member states to fund raise. The member states are mandated the ministers

in their partner states to make sure that they pursue the interest of the member states. I am sure if the ministers address the problem in getting these member states to obey their obligations, I am sure they will be able to act. The Treaty is very clear on the remedies. Minister, we believe that you, Chair of Council, are ready to get a way forward on how we are going to immediately resume the budget process and ensure that the EAC moves forward as our forefathers had desired.

Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Amongin. I will now put the question.

(Question put and agreed to.)

MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT UNDER RULE 30

5.38

Ms Rose Akol (Uganda): Mr Speaker, Sir, I rise under Rule 30(b) of our Rules of Procedure to move a Motion for the adjournment of the House.

The Speaker: Do you have seconders?

Ms Rose Akol (Uganda): Mr Speaker, Sir, yes, I do.

(Seconded by Dr Abdulla Makame, Mr David ole Sankok, Mr Gideon Gatpan, Mr Paul Musamali, Dr Gerald Siranda and Ms Jacqueline Amongin)

The Speaker: You can now move to justify your Motion.

Ms Rose Akol (Uganda): Mr Speaker, Sir, my justification is as follows. Having

deliberated extensively on the Motion that was moved by Honourable Amongin and this House having resolved to support the issues that were put forth by the Motion moved by Honourable Amongin. It is rightly in order that we no longer have any more business until the Council reverts back to us on the issue of funding of activities of the EALA for the FY 2024/2025

Mr Speaker Sir, I beg to justify. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Kindly help me to formulate you Motion again.

Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya): The Motion is already done.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the Motion on the Floor is that we adjourn the House. The debate is open now. *(Loud Consultation)*

I am told this Motion does not require debate so I will proceed to put the question. Pursuant to Rule 30, I now adjourn the business of the Assembly until the Council reverts to us.

(Question put and agreed to)

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable Members, I now adjourn the house *sine die*.

(The House adjourned sine die at 5.42 p.m.)

