



## THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

### THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

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

#### 66<sup>th</sup> SITTING – SECOND MEETING – FOURTH SESSION: FIFTH ASSEMBLY FIFTH ASSEMBLY (Under Rule.10(2))

Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025

*The East African Legislative Assembly met at 9.50 a.m. at the Parliament of Uganda Chamber, Kampala, Uganda.*

#### PRAYER

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

*(The Assembly was called to order)*

#### ADMINISTRATION OF OATH

**The Speaker:** Honourable members, good morning. I rise to notify you that Hon. Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol, the Minister of East African Community Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan 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 takes the 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 Hon. Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol to bring him to the Table and present him before me to enable me administer the oath of allegiance.

Welcome, honourable minister. This is EALA. I now invite the Members who know you to present you.

9.53

**Mr Gideon Gatpar Thoar (South Sudan):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to introduce Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol, the Minister of East African Community Affairs from the Republic of South Sudan. Gen. Pieng Deng holds a Master's degree in Security and Strategic Studies from the University of Juba, a Postgraduate diploma in Economic Principles at the University of London, a Diploma in Military Science and Instruction from the SPLA Officers'

College and Kuben Revolutionary Centre and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering.

Hon. Pieng Deng Kuol is a full General in the army in the South Sudan Defense Forces. He is a distinguished career public servant in the Republic of South Sudan, particularly in national security. He served as an Inspector General of South Sudan Police Forces from 2013 to 2016 and a Deputy Chief of Defense Forces of South Sudan from 2009 to 2013 and the Director of Operation for the SPLA from 2005 up to 2009.

During the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, Gen. Pieng Deng was a member of the Sudanese Ceasefire Political Commission and the Joint Defence Board, and also served on the SPLA negotiating team for security arrangement.

Gen. Kuol, during our liberation time, was the Commander of the headquarters of the SPLA. He was also the administrator of refugees and also the administrator of the Red Army, which I am part of.

Hon. Pieng Deng has been instrumental in promoting the growth of South Sudan, especially in the private sector, particularly agricultural transformation. He was the founder of the Freedom Farm in South Sudan – a very good model farm there. He is currently the deputy chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Agricultural Bank of South Sudan and a member of the Board of Directors of Dr John Garang Memorial University in South Sudan.

He is a member of the Police Experts' Network Worldwide based in Norway, focusing on research and policy of

reforming policing. He is currently the Minister of East African Affairs of the Republic of South Sudan. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** The honourable minister can now take the oath.

*The oath was administered to:*

1. Hon. Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol

**The Speaker:** Please sign. You can come this way. (*Hon. Pieng Deng Kuol approached the Chair.*)

Honourable minister, I have two important gifts for you. This one is the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community; it is like our Bible. This red one contains all the rules and procedures that this Assembly follows every day; they will help you. (*Applause*)

Honourable minister, let me give you the Floor. You need to engage with this Assembly. I will give you five minutes or less than that. If you have something to share with us, we are ready.

10.02

**The Minister of East African Community Affairs, South Sudan (Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and all honourable members. I greet you in the name of our Almighty. As an ex-officio member of the East African Legislative Assembly, I would like to assure you of my utmost cooperation on the legislative mandates.

I am happy to inform you that on 27 November 2025, the South Sudan National Legislative Assembly passed the

East African Treaty Bill, which affirms the commitment of South Sudan people to the East African shared aspirations. *(Applause)*

As a minister of East African Affairs, I will exert much of my effort to coordinate and urge the implementation and execution of East African organs, directives and resolutions.

Once again, I reiterate the commitment of South Sudan to the integration agendas of our region. May the Almighty and our ancestors bless you all. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you, honourable minister. You can have a seat.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

**The Speaker:** Honourable members, we have more than 30 guests today. I will start with His Excellency, Paul Malong Akaro. Paul Malong Akaro is the Ambassador of the Republic of South Sudan to Uganda and also a non-resident Ambassador to Burundi and Rwanda. Please recognise him. *(Applause)* He can stand up, so that we see him.

We also have partners from AEPI, Netherlands; Mr Brendan Howlin and Mrs Marion Verweij. Mr Brendan is the President and Mrs Marion is the AEPI representative. They can stand up, so that we can – they are not yet here.

We have students coming from - which school? Galaxy? They are students from Kampala, but I wish you could remind me of the names of the school they are coming

from. It is Galaxy International School in Uganda; I will start with the teachers. We have:

1. Ms. Marvian Kaddu
2. Ms. Gertrude Walusimbi
3. Mr. Andrew Jjuuko

They can stand on that side. Thank you. We also have 31 students from that school

1. Mr Abdulrahim Mustafa
2. Mr Akshay Chakraborty
3. Mr Alex Buyinza. When I announce your names, stand up and we will recognise you later
4. Ms Andinda Martha Katana
5. Mr Deng Ngor Chol Bul
6. Ms Desire Ajibo
7. Mr Emmanuel Bol Kiir Mayardit
8. Mr Emmanuel Musiitwa
9. Mr Ismail Abakar Omer Haroun
10. Ms Jeriel Mulungi
11. Mr Jonathan Talemwa Mugabi
12. Mr Joseph Craig Mugerwa Ddungu
13. Mr Joshua Mekalilie Benjamin
14. Ms Loy Melanie Mugisha Akankunda
15. Mr Mahamadou Maiga
16. Mr Marius Junior Gatta
17. Mr Mark Santos Kasojo
18. Mr Muhaiminul Gul Muhurto
19. Mr Muhammet Talha Kut
20. Mr Musab Furkan Dal
21. Ms Nicknora Lueth Ngor Lueth
22. Mr Nolan Noronha
23. Ms Nyika Nankya Kiberu
24. Mr Shawn Karuhanga Asimwe
25. Ms Sina Yohannes
26. Ms Syeda Mariam Fatima
27. Ms Taj Fadhilah Sooma
28. Mr Tevin Jacob Kasirye
29. Ms Tyra Afoyorwoth Abok
30. Ms Yaniga Olivia Swangin Eluzai
31. Ms Zoe Kayegi Laker Wodulo

Thank you. I apologise to those whose names have not been read. I had difficulty pronouncing some names, but I tried. *(Applause)* You can sit.

We will now go to the Progressive Young from Uganda in their vacation, with the interest of understanding the roles of the EAC. We have Daniel Siranda. Are they there? They are not yet there? Maybe, in the afternoon or when they come in, I will acknowledge them.

Before we proceed, I have to inform this House that Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December was International World AIDS Day and today is also the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. I invite our colleague, Hon. Sankok to take two minutes to talk about this special international day today, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Two minutes, Hon. Sankok; there is a reason why I give him the Floor

10.10

**Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and may God bless you abundantly for recognising Persons with Disabilities.

Today is the International Day for Persons with Disabilities which is observed on third of December every year by the United Nations. This year's theme is "Fostering Disability Inclusive Society for Advancing Social Progress".

Mr Speaker, we rarely remember these days and that is why we honour you today for remembering us. Persons with Disabilities at times are neglected and I am sure many Members did not know that today is the day to celebrate them, but we remember Environment Day, Children's Day, International World AIDS Day and

all other days, but Persons with Disabilities are rarely remembered.

In short, Mr Speaker, as Persons with Disabilities, we seek for opportunities not sympathy. We seek to be included in society and to be treated with dignity without stigma. I may have lost my ability to walk but not my momentum. I may have lost my hearing ability but not my understanding. I may have lost my eyesight but not my vision. I may have lost my skin pigment but not my beauty.

We need the society to understand us, give us space and make the environment to Persons with Disabilities as friendly as possible. There are many laws and I urge this House to also accommodate Persons with Disabilities in their legislative work because disability matters cut across. In education, there are children with disabilities. In hospitals, we also require services as any other person.

Mr Speaker, many a time, we do not see the person; we, first of all, see the disability. When I enter the house and walk on the streets, people see my walking style. They do not see me as a medic. They see my disability, not my ability. They do not see that I am a father, a son and a husband. They see my walking style; they see my skin pigment, for those with albinism. We call upon not only this House, but the whole world to treat Persons with Disabilities with dignity and make laws.

In Kenya, Persons with Disabilities do not pay taxes so that they use the taxes to buy crutches and wheelchairs because these are our legs. You did not buy your legs, so in Kenya, they do not pay taxes so that they can buy their legs. You can walk

four or five kilometres, but that person in a wheelchair will need a car, not as a luxury but as a necessity. In Kenya, they import duty-free vehicles.

With those very many remarks, Mr Speaker, I appreciate the time you have given me and we will remember you forever as one of the Speakers of Parliament who have recognised Persons with Disabilities, specifically on the International Day for Persons with Disabilities. May God bless you. May God bless this House. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** We also have Hon. Siranda who wishes to talk about International World AIDS Day, but please use two minutes as your colleague did.

10.14

**Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. As you may be aware, every 1<sup>st</sup> of December is World AIDS Day. We are unlucky that on Monday 1<sup>st</sup>, we were not in the House. We were undertaking an outreach activity in Namunkekera in Kapeeka. I appreciate you for finding it within your wisdom, during your opening remarks, to make a statement on World AIDS Day.

Uganda and the rest of the East African Community have joined efforts in fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Of course, many of us might have lost loved ones such as relatives, community members, siblings or within our inner circle. The AIDS is a serious pandemic but of course, it is associated with a lot of issues of discrimination that still exists. It is associated with people who still think you are bewitched and has a direct implication, in terms of our economy and how people can be supported.

Mr Speaker, as the Assembly, I believe it is very important for us to join the world in overcoming the disruption and transforming HIV/AIDS response as a region. It is important that as we sit here, we must appreciate that across the world and region, the burden of HIV/AIDS remains a substantial burden to our governments.

Over 8,800 people were newly infected and approximately over 50,000 people died in HIV-related complications in the last five years. Over 3.5 million people in the region have either been contracted or challenged with HIV/AIDS in the respective aspect that I have mentioned.

It is important, as we speak here, that we join our governments, the region, all the other parliaments and the international community in commemorating the World AIDS Day. Mr Speaker, I beg to submit.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Dr Black. I am informed that the EAPI friends have arrived in the gallery. Before we proceed, I will go back to our EAPI visitors.

Mr Brendan, who is the President of EAPI, please stand up. *(Applause)* I met Mr Brendan last year and we had an interesting meeting in my office. We had coffee together and signed an MOU. We think that you came to find a way to implement it. Thank you for coming. *(Applause)*

We then have Ms Marion who is a representative of the EAPI. I remember you; you are welcome. Do we have other guests? Which ones? Have the students arrived? Oh, good; so let us go to them, our young students from Uganda. Hon.

Siranda, one of your sons is there. Is Daniel your son? (*Dr Siranda: Yes*) That is why you were insisting.

1. Mr Siranda Daniel Gracious Junior
2. Mr Ashaba Oscar
3. Mr Tusiime Jacob
4. Mr Ssekumba Jeremiah
5. Mr Kyeyune Joram
6. Mr Aliyo Prince
7. Ms Nakato Noryn
8. Ms Kufuga Darym
9. Ms Nayiga Patricia
10. Mr Auhsor. He or she can stand he or she can stand. Maybe the name – Auhsor – I do not know, I am sorry.
11. Odinga Nerimah
12. Nabagereka Becky
13. Galiwango Michael
14. Ampaire Mercy
15. Nelson Shaun
16. Agaba Brian
17. Genevivan Gramia
18. Kigozi John Paul
19. Musoke Anthony
20. Wasswa Abraham
21. Nalubwama Cathy
22. Stacy Robbinah
23. Melanie K.
24. Namatovu Abigail
25. Katende Calvin
26. Ssenyonga Ronald
27. Muliika Gerald
28. Blick Lucy.

Thank you for coming. Now we can proceed.

## LAYING OF PAPERS

### (I) THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY ANNUAL REPORTS FOR THE PERIODS: 2021-2022/ 2022- 2023/ AND 2023-2024

**The Speaker:** Honourable members, regarding this East African Community annual report for the periods 2021/22 and others, I propose that we proceed with it in the afternoon so that we can give a chance to our Council member to be inducted on how to proceed, so that he can lay it. We can go to the next item.

### (II) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, TRADE AND INVESTMENT ON THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY STANDARDISATION, ACCREDITATION AND CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT BILL, 2023.

10.22

**The Chairperson, Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (Ms Francine Rutazana):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to lay the report of the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment on the East African Community Standardisation, Accreditation and Conformity Assessment Bill, 2023. I beg to lay.

**The Speaker:** Proceed. Thank you.

(III) REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE, TOURISM  
AND NATURAL RESOURCES ON  
THE ACTIVITIES CONDUCTED IN  
COLLABORATION WITH ALLIANCE  
FOR FOOD SOVEREIGNTY IN  
AFRICA (AFSA)

**The Speaker:** Hon. Gideon, chair of the committee, lay the report.

10.24

**The Chairperson, Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (Mr Gideon Gatpan Thor):**

Thank you, Mr Speaker. I rise to lay the report of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources on the activities conducted in collaboration with Alliance for Food Sovereignty in Africa from July 2025 to November 2025. I beg to lay.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION  
OF THE ASSEMBLY URGING  
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
TO ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY  
AND ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND  
AFFORDABLE FOOD

**The Speaker:** Hon. Dr Woda Jeremiah, move the motion.

10.25

**Dr Woda Jeremiah (South Sudan):**

Mr Speaker, I beg to move a motion for a resolution of the Assembly urging the Council to enhance food security and access to adequate and affordable food. I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Do you have seconders?

You are seconded by Hon. Dr Hasnuu Makame, Hon. Gideon Gatpan, Hon.

David ole Sankok, Hon. Francine Rutazana, Hon. Dr Gabriel, Hon. Dr Aisha Nyiramana and others.

**Dr Jeremiah:** Thank you. A motion for a resolution of the Assembly urging the Council to enhance food security and access to adequate and affordable food moved under the Articles 49(2)(d), 59(1), 105 and 110 of the Treaty and Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly.

*“WHEREAS under Articles 105 and 100 of the Treaty, Partner States undertook to cooperate in the agriculture sector to achieve food security within the Community by ensuring food sufficiency, maintaining strategic food reserves and sharing information on the state of food nutrition in the Community;*

*AND WHEREAS the right to food is entrenched in international legal instruments such as Article 11 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights which obligates states to ensure access to adequate food and freedom from hunger, and the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the Malabo Declaration which reinforced commitment to food security and nutrition;*

*AWARE THAT Partner States face persistent food insecurity challenges due to climate shocks, population growth and policy gaps;*

*APPRECIATING the Council for developing and – (Interruption)*

**Amb. Ndangiza:** Point of procedure, Mr Speaker. Maybe the relevant staff can assist, otherwise we are not following.

**The Speaker:** Please, Clerk, we can proceed but quickly bring this motion to the Members.

**Dr Jeremiah:** Should I proceed, Mr Speaker?

**The Speaker:** Yes, you can proceed.

**Dr Jeremiah:** Okay.

“... *APPRECIATING* the Council for developing and the Partner States for implementing several policies and strategies to promote agriculture and food security, including the EAC Agriculture and Rural Development Policy, the EAC Food and Nutrition Security Policy, and the EAC Food Security Action Plan, which have incorporated principles that align with agro-ecology such as diversified food production, improve soil fertility, reduce dependency on external inputs, adoption of climate smart agriculture and enhance resilient to climate shocks;

*ACKNOWLEDGING* the efforts of networks and stakeholders such as parliamentary alliances in advancing model laws of food security and nutrition and social production;

*RECOGNISING WITH APPRECIATION* the initiative put in place by the Community including the EAC Agricultural and Rural Development Policy, the EAC Agricultural and Rural Development Strategy and the EAC Regional Food and Nutrition Security Strategy whose objective is to harmonise agricultural policies, promote food security and ensure sustainable production across Member States;

*CONCERNED* that food insecurity remains high due to climate shocks, population growth, conflicts and rising food prices with vulnerable groups, including women and children;

*FURTHER MORE CONCERNED* by the limited regional harmonisation of food environment policies, weak data system for monitoring food sufficiency and nutrition and insufficient social safety nets for the most vulnerable population;

*INVOKING* the provision of Article 49(2)(d) of the Treaty which empowers the Assembly to discuss any matters pertaining to the Community and make recommendation to the Council;

*NOW THEREFORE* be it resolved by this Assembly as follows:

*THAT* in accordance with the Articles 49(2)(d), 59(1) and 110 of the Treaty, the Assembly urges the Council to:

- a) *Ensure legal recognition of the right to food and integrate it into national development plans;*
- b) *Implement policies and measures that integrate food security international strategies covering nutrition, education, food safety, access to land and social protection for vulnerable groups;*
- c) *Invest in soil restoration, ecosystem management and climate resilient farming;*
- d) *Direct Partner States to abolish export bans and reduce non-tariff barriers to stabilise food markets;*

e) *Expand social protection by implementing target programmes for vulnerable groups, including school feeding programmes.*”

I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Proceed with the justification.

**Dr Jeremiah:** Mr Speaker, the right to food is one of the topics that embodies the principles of human dignity, equity, and sustainable development. The right to adequate food, as a basic human right, was first recognised in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948 as part of the right to a decent standard of living.

In Article 25, everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for health and the well-being of himself and his family, including food. It became legally binding when the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights entered into force in 1976.

According to the United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the right to adequate food is realised when every man, woman and child, alone or in community with others, has physical and economic access to adequate food or means for its procurement.

At the continental level, the African Union has developed several legal policies and frameworks that support the realisation of the right to adequate food. The most important and legally binding instrument for African countries regarding the right to adequate food is Article 16, which is the right to health. As I read earlier, EAC

also has many policies, strategies and laws which govern this sector.

However, Mr Speaker, when it comes to food security and nutrition, our Partner States are not doing well. Most of our children have stunted growth and our young girls and women are anaemic. Most of our regions are suffering from hunger, though our region is bestowed with natural resources and fertile agricultural lands.

Despite all these legal policies, East Africa is currently not on track to meet the set target. There is still much to do by translating the policies and financial commitments of the governments into actions and achieve sustainable inclusive agricultural-led growth and food security for every East African.

The most affected countries – and I have the statistics but I will not read them because they are really not nice. Let me start with the countries affected by my country: South Sudan, Somalia, DRC, Burundi, Kenya and Uganda.

On a positive note, recent data from the EAC Strategy highlights a notable increase in crop production between June 2023 and June 2024, accompanied by growth in livestock and fisheries output from June 2024 to June 2025. These developments have made a constructive contribution to the region’s overall food security landscape, singling progress amidst ongoing challenges.

Finally, Mr Speaker, the right to adequate food is not merely a humanitarian concern. Rather, it is a constitutional and political commitment. Legislators across the EAC have a pivotal role to play in ensuring that

the right to food is put to legal frameworks, strategic resource allocation and vigilant oversight.

The leadership of the Members of Parliament on this issue lay the foundation for a future where dignity is nourished and no citizen is left behind. It is really a shame, as I always say, when we say we are leaders but we are leading hungry people or hungry communities.

Let this Assembly be the voice that transforms the aspiration into access, the resolution into policy, and the right to food for all the East Africans. Together, let us nourish East Africa, not only with food but with justice. I beg this august House to support this motion which advocates for very basic human rights. Mr Speaker, I beg to move. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Dr Woda.

**Dr Jeremiah:** Mr Speaker, I am honoured to move this motion when Galaxy School is in the gallery. One of my children goes to school there and is present in the Chamber today. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** That is what I was going to say. Thank you very much. Your son has been following you. Well done.

Honourable members, it is time to contribute but we will start with the seconder of the motion, Hon. Françoise.

10.35

**Ms Françoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda):** I thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for this great opportunity to contribute to this important motion that is urging the

Council to enhance food security and access to adequate and affordable food with no one left behind.

I congratulate the Council member, Honourable Minister Pieng Deng Kuol Alor, the Minister of EAC Affairs from the Republic of South Sudan. You are most welcome on board this Assembly. We are happy to have you here as the motion is being moved by a Member from South Sudan and as a seconder, I am a good friend of Hon. Dr Woda. We are happy to have you today. Thank you very much.

I would also like to congratulate the mover, Hon. Dr Woda Jago Jeremiah Odok – those are her four names that some of you may not know – for bringing this important motion for debate to address a fundamental human right that lies at the heart of human dignity and survival.

Mr Speaker, the right to adequate food is not just a privilege, it is a human right, a legal obligation and a parliamentary concern. Today, in Africa where millions face hunger and malnutrition, this right is not just a legal principle. It is a moral and political imperative and this august House plays a critical role in transforming this right from aspiration to reality.

Indeed, Mr Speaker, when we talk of the right to adequate food as defined by the FAO, it ensures regular, permanent and unrestricted access to food that is quantitatively and qualitatively sufficient, culturally acceptable and supportive of a dignified life. Actually, this motion could have got even another word in its title; to enhance food security but also food sovereignty.

In 2023, it was noted that 20.4 per cent of Africa's population faced moderate to severe food insecurity with East Africa being particularly hard hit due to droughts and conflicts that are still ongoing.

Mr Speaker, when we talk of the fourth biennial review under Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) budget allocation; at least 10 per cent that is to be implemented by Partner States, it shows that countries non-compliance remains a great issue.

EAC continues to struggle with non-tariff barriers such as inconsistent sanitary and phyto-sanitary standards and infrastructure gaps that are hindrances to the right to food implementation and also access to food. We also have data gaps and limited trade and food security data hampers monitoring.

Mr Speaker, how can we get there? Because we want to get there. We want to have no one left behind as a Parliament and I am going to summarise a way we can get there because we have the Committee on Food Security voluntary guidelines on the right to adequate food that were endorsed by all Partners, EAC countries being part of them in 2004. These provide practical guidance for UN states to realise this right.

These guidelines, rooted in human rights principles emphasise equality, non-discrimination, participation, and accountability. You know this is one of our roles. Through legislation, if we refer to these guidelines, we can continue to urge Governments to enact frameworks and laws to ensure access to resources like land and water and promote inclusive policies.

Mr Speaker, the CFS Vision reaffirmed in 2009 calls for a world free from hunger where countries implement these guidelines to achieve the sustainable development goal of zero hunger. We also have the African Union Agenda 2063 that positions CAADP as a flagship initiative to transform agriculture, eradicate hunger, halve poverty, and triple intra-African Agricultural Trade 2025 as per the Malabo Declaration, the CAADP Strategy and Action Plan 2026-2035 and the Kampala Declaration of January this year, aimed to triple intra-African agri-food trade by 2035, increase agri-food output by 45 per cent and reduce post-harvest losses by 50 per cent.

This House already approved a motion on reducing losses in agriculture and also production. The East African Community comprising eight Partner States advances these goals through trade facilitation and policies that are aligned with adequate food.

We also have the Customs Union Protocol of 2005 that promotes trade among EAC Partner States by reducing tariffs and non-tariff barriers, allowing subsidies for development under Articles 17 and 18 and aligning with CAADP trade goals.

As I wind up, Mr Speaker, a lot can be talked about, but we cannot just ignore the role of EALA. The EALA is uniquely positioned to translate these global frameworks into tangible outcomes through our core functions: legislation, oversight, budgeting and representation.

To be more concrete, as far as the legislative role is concerned, we must enact laws that explicitly recognise the right to adequate

food. For instance, the Pan-African Parliament's model law on food and nutrition security adopted in November 2022 is a landmark tool. Remember, this motion is also acknowledging the efforts of networks and stakeholders such as parliamentary alliances in advancing model laws on food security and nutrition and social protection.

When it comes to oversight, EALA must hold governments accountable for implementing food security policies through oversight, monitor compliance with international commitments like the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) and the AU agenda as mentioned. The relevance to this motion is that we promote safe and sustainable food under the guidelines of FAO and agro-ecology that promotes sustainable locally adapted farming practices aligned with FAO guidelines on local food production that this House can also emphasise.

As a call to action, Mr Speaker, guided by CFS recommendations, FAO guidelines, and building on existing EAC frameworks, this House will continue to act decisively. Through legislation, we can enshrine this right. Through oversight, we can ensure accountability. Through budgeting, we can urge the Council to fund solutions and through representation, we can empower our people.

We can enact school feeding laws, for instance, strengthening programmes to provide nutritious meals to millions of school children by 2035, improving access to safe, nutritious and adequate food. We can monitor nutrition labelling laws to fight obesity rates by 2035. EAC

can use its oversight role to ensure EAC governments implement food security commitment, such as CAADP at least 10 per cent budget target. Let us commit to making hunger a thing of the past.

Next year 2026, Mr Speaker, Africa will host the Global Parliamentary Summit Against Hunger and Malnutrition after Spain and Chile respectively. This House participated in the Chile Summit and together with the entire world, we will celebrate the International Year of the Woman Farmer which will be launched tomorrow in Rome, Italy.

Mr Speaker, as the seconder of this motion, I appreciate the efforts and involvement of the House under your leadership. I congratulate you and I beg to submit. I second the motion.

**The Speaker:** Honourable members, the motion on the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to urge the Council of Ministers to enhance food security and access to adequate and affordable food. Debate is open.

We have Hon. Sankok, Hon. Sadia, and Hon. Musamali. We will start with Hon. Sankok.

10.45

**Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. On the onset, I support this very important motion by Dr Woda.

Mr Speaker, before I make my contribution, I want to inform you that our media team will be traveling back to Arusha by the 5<sup>th</sup> and we need them to cover our games. Mr Speaker, you are the Chairperson of the

Commission and you can do something about that.

An angry community is full of hungry people and a hungry community is full of angry people. Probably the Gen Z uprising that we are seeing is because sometimes we are not able to provide enough food to our society. Therefore, this motion has come at the right time and we need to up our game because the East African Community economic block is blessed more than any other economic block. We have 1.4 billion acres of land and when I talk of 1.4 billion acres of land, it is arable land.

We do not have a desert and our land is good for forestry, agriculture and livestock rearing. How then is it that we can't feed our population? This is something that we need to do something about.

Mr Speaker, we are so dependent on rain-fed agriculture, which is a thing of the past. With East Africa blessed with 38 freshwater lakes and thousands of rivers that can be able to support irrigation, it is no longer tenable to only depend on rain-fed agriculture.

This East African economic bloc is also blessed to have a very favourable climatic condition. We do not have any extremities; we do not have winter or summer. Our trees rarely shed their leaves, meaning we can plant throughout the year. Our days and nights are almost equal.

Mr Speaker, our temperatures are not that extreme. There is no single time that we have freezing temperatures that do not support agriculture. Therefore, our environment and climate can support

agriculture and livestock rearing and we can be a food secure community.

Mr Speaker, it is high time that we also looked at other sources of food, other than agriculture alone. 70 per cent of the world is water and East African Community economic bloc is blessed with 6,500 kilometres of coastline. Therefore, we access 70 per cent of the landmass of the world, which is water and there is a lot of food inside our ocean. There is a lot of food inside our 38 freshwater lakes. There is a lot of food inside our rivers.

The Congo River is the seventh largest river in the world in terms of water volume. The Nile River is the longest in the world and all of these rivers are found in East Africa. I really do not know why we are food deficient.

Mr Speaker, I think it is the right thing that Hon. Dr Woda, moving this motion. Now that we have a member of the Council of Ministers from South Sudan here – I hear that fish from South Sudan is more delicious than any other and that they have more fish than any other country within East Africa. I think it will help us. This motion should be cascaded to the Council of Ministers so that we implement whatever Hon. Dr Woda is trying to do in this motion.

Mr Speaker, with those very many remarks, I support a hundred and one percent.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Sankok. Let us hear from Hon. Sadia.

10.50

**Ms Sadia James Sebit (South Sudan):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable

members on all sides. I would like to congratulate Dr Woda and Hon. Françoise, for the wonderful motion.

Mr Speaker, as citizens of East Africa, when you move around – I normally like travelling by road – seeing around this vast land and everything, you wonder why we are food insecure.

It is really a question of, you know, we have all the legislation in place, the policies and everything, the documentation is huge, but no action in place. I remember one time my Chinese professor asked us, the African students, why is it, could it be the policy design or the policy implementation that you people are having, as Africans. You could have a well-written document, but when it comes to actualisation, it is really zero.

Hon. Françoise, while seconding the motion, was saying about a school feeding programme: when we talk about school feeding programmes, what are the action points? For instance, imagine if all the schools had agricultural farmland, that would be a practical way to go.

When we talk about the contribution of our prisoners, what are they doing? Like in my country, those days they would be useful – those days when we were one country, as Sudan, when I was young, I could see how the prisoners could contribute to the nation. They were very useful. Also from the experience of Rwanda; because they contribute to road construction.

Our problem is also the network; the infrastructural network. You could be having food in one area, but to be transported to another area is always a

problem. What are our prisoners doing? Let us try to look at it from that angle, for us to be practical, because we cannot have recommendations but with zero implementation.

Mr Speaker, our Member of the Council of Minister is here. It is really an issue of concern. It is a shame. We should be the ones exporting food. Countries, like South Sudan, and DRC, when you look at the data, it is very embarrassing. You have the land and you don't have water? The action point for me is that we should be more practical because we all have the legislation and the documentation, and so, we need to walk the talk, right away from the Executive to the schools.

The Ministries of Education should have a programme. How do we ensure that the children who go to school are well fed? There has to be intentional effort. If we do not have intentional efforts, we will talk and have all these legislations in vain. For us legislators, our pride would be to see that whatever we legislate here, is implemented on the ground. However, when we talk, we do everything here, and there is zero implementation, that hurts our pride, as legislators.

We urge the Council to take it up very seriously. This is a matter of concern because it is embarrassing us – let me bring it to the attention of the Council member. Last week we visited a farm, but it was just agroecology, no synthetic fertilisers used, yet the owner produces. So why not to go that way, because we have to ensure a sense of ownership in what we eat. As Africans, we have to ensure that – we do not need those synthetic fertilisers. We can grow our food naturally with organic fertilisers. Why not to go that way?

I really urge that we take it upon ourselves, as individuals, as citizens of East Africa and/or as youths of East Africa, to ensure that we can address this issue. Look at Africa, we should not be here talking about food because when you look at China; why are they progressing? It is because they have well-fed citizens; citizens who can think.

Otherwise, if you are not well-fed, how do you think about developmental things to a nation? For sure, it is a pity, and, so we have to take it upon ourselves to urge our Council that it should be a serious issue of discussion for it. We hope that the implementing mechanisms will be put in place, and for us to move around the partner states to see that something is happening.

Mr Speaker, I beg to submit. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Sadia. Now next is Hon. Musamali.

10.55

**Mr Paul Mwasa Musamali (Uganda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I thank you, once again, for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to this very important motion.

However, Mr Speaker, before I make my submission on this motion, I would like to request that you give me one minute to make a submission. I tried to catch your eye, but I was unable to do so at an appropriate time shortly after the taking of oath by the Hon. Minister, and the submission which was made by the Hon. Sankok – just one minute, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** You have the Floor.

**Mr Musamali:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Let me take this opportunity to congratulate the honourable minister, Gen. Pieng Deng, the Council member from the Republic of South Sudan, for joining this august House. You are welcome, honourable minister.

Honourable minister, you are coming at a time when the Assembly and East Africa at large are going through serious challenges. As a Council member, you are supposed to work with your colleagues to ensure that we address these challenges. I will not go into that so much; I am sure you have already been briefed.

Our work, as EALA Members, is to pass Bills, which you sponsor as the Council. We also bring Private Member's Bills, which you are also supposed to forward for assent by the Summit.

However, the challenge we have had is that we pass Bills but those Bills are suffocated at Council level, even when they are being sponsored by the Council itself. For example, we have a problem now in as far as implementing the laws or passing the laws of the monetary union is concerned. We passed the East African Bureau of Statistics Bill, 2018. However, to date that Bill has not been assented to yet it was sponsored by the Council.

So, honourable minister, we have a problem, and that is just an example. We request that you add value to this House and to this Community by ensuring that the Bills we pass are fast-tracked and are assented to, so that all can pass to boost the implementation of the integration agenda.

Honourable minister, you come from the Republic of South Sudan, which is the second youngest country in the East African Community because Somalia has joined after you; you are no longer the youngest; you are the third youngest - I am being corrected - thank you.

Anyhow, as I was saying, you are no longer talking of being the youngest, because every time there came a member from South Sudan, they would say “the youngest,” you are no longer young now.

Honourable minister, in South Sudan, there are domestic laws that need to be ratified such that they can comply with the East African laws for us to integrate smoothly without hindrances. Therefore, I request that –

**The Speaker:** Hon. Musamali, could you speak for one minute?

**Mr Musamali:** Okay, this is just 30 seconds now. Honourable minister, I am just giving you an example, that some time back, there used to be a law in South Sudan that stipulated that every alien, when they went beyond 72 hours in South Sudan, they would pay a fee yet East Africans are no longer aliens in South Sudan. I do not know how far you have gone with that law but I wanted to bring it to your attention, honourable minister.

We thank you, the Republic of South Sudan, for joining the one network area but we also want you to implement the East African Passport system as well as the national ID system, so that when our local people travel to South Sudan they do not need passports but national IDs and the rest.

Mr Speaker, the other one is just a reminder. All of us – on the issue of the day of disability - are potential candidates for disability because as I talk now, there are things I used to do when I was at the age of these young people who have come to follow this debate but right now I cannot do them. That means I am already progressing towards disability.

We passed a resolution in this House to create the East African Disability Council. However, ever since we passed a Bill to support that resolution, that Bill has not been assented to, and now it has been saved and brought back to the committee.

Hon. minister, we want to request that when this Bill is processed again, please pass it because it is not only for the likes of this geopolitician; it is for all of us, including yourself, honourable minister. *(Laughter)*

Lastly, you see the challenge we have – these ministers – we were supposed to have a minimum of eight ministers. Now there is only one minister in the House and probably he has come because of the swearing in. Please, even after swearing in, come back and attend to the business of the House.

On the issue of the motion, Mr Speaker, I support the motion from the word go and I will also take 30 seconds on it. On the issue of food security; there is no debate about it because it is about our lives. The issue of food security – East African partner states should take it very seriously. We are just lucky because in East Africa, even birds can plant food and seeds and they grow. In countries where there are serious problems – you are all aware that

the government in Sudan was overthrown because of food and bread. That there was no bread in Khartoum, and so the Government was overthrown. After the overthrow of the Government of Bashir, up to date, Sudan has not had peace.

This means that if we do not handle the issue of food seriously, we can create – I mean cause a lot of insecurity and instability in our partner states. Therefore, we should come up with all mechanisms and all laws to ensure we promote food security.

When I was growing up, this is the last example, we used to have traditional silos. They were called granaries and they would keep food. Even the local chiefs would come and say, “you are supposed to grow food for yourself and for government.” They used to call it food for government. Anyhow, the granary would be there for security; they called it security, in my local language but now I have learned that it was for food security. We used to have food security yet today we are struggling when there are modern ways through which we can promote and keep – have food for ourselves and even for commercialisation.

Mr Speaker, I want to propose an amendment on the motion. This is on the prayer (d), which says that we direct partner states to abolish export bans and reduce non-tariff barriers to stabilise food markets. I want to move an amendment, if I am supported by the mover, that we replace the word “reduce” with the word “abolish” so that it reads thus: “...we direct partner states to abolish export bans and abolish non-tariff barriers to stabilise food markets.”

Mr speaker, the moment we use the word “reduce” it will mean we are encouraging those non-tariff barriers. People, partner states can still introduce it because we will have just asked them to reduce it. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Musamali. I now give the Floor to the honourable minister if he is willing – oh, we still have members to contribute. Oh, very good. Honourable minister, maybe you can hold on.

I now give the Floor to the other three – Hon. Kachwamba, Hon. Caroline and Hon. Kering. Please, be brief, we have a long way to go today.

11.06

**Mr Ansar Abubakar Kachwamba (Tanzania):** Mr Speaker, half a minute will be enough for me. Thank you, for giving me this opportunity to contribute on this very important motion. I think if we chose to talk about the importance of food security, we can talk up to the next day because everyone is aware of this. If we want to talk about the security and stability of any country, food security is the heart of every country under the sun. We all agree that food is the basic need of every human being.

I support the motion, but with the precaution that its implementation will not be an easy task, because with food, you talk about the final product almost in the production chain. There is a series of other bodies regulating the same thing. You are talking about nutrition. We have policies about nutrition in our countries. We have policies about agriculture in our countries. We have policies about agroecology in our

countries, and so many things behind. We even have SGR in Tanzania - SGR does not mean anything else but Strategic Grain Reserve; it is all about food.

Therefore, this motion starts at a place where there are lots of regulations before going to the food itself. That is my precaution; that it is not going to be an easy task. Maybe for information, honourable members, and I am giving an example of Tanzania – 80 per cent of Tanzanians are employed in the agricultural sector. When you talk about food, you are talking about the heart of the stability of our countries. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Caroline.

11.09

**Ms Caroline Rwivanga Kayonga (Rwanda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to also contribute to this debate. Hon. Kachwamba has said what I wanted to say. When I saw the motion from the Hon. Dr Woda, I really want to thank her and Hon. Françoise, the seconder, I asked myself, what new thing we would be talking about. Are we urging our partner states or the Council because this is something very obvious? Food security is important to every country.

However, and the other thing that I was looking at is that it is very clear that, and as Hon. Kachwamba has said, every country has these policies. Every country has measures to integrate food security into their national strategies. If you look around, you will notice that even the youngest member states, as they were saying, Somalia, I was looking – they have all these measures. South Sudan, as

you mentioned, even if there are problems, they have measures.

We agreed as partner states, and everybody who signed up to this Treaty agreed on the Articles that she referred to, 105 and 110, to cooperate in the agricultural sector and in order to achieve food security – we all signed up to this, including ensuring food sufficiency and maintaining strategic food reserves and sharing information. He has talked about it. We all have strategic food reserves, but yet we have problems of food insecurity.

We still import a lot of food in spite of the huge expanses of arable land that Hon. Sankok has talked about. Today, food prices are going up. We first said it was due to COVID 19. Then we said it was due to the Ukraine war; food prices are still skyrocketing, and they are not about to go down. The issue is not the lack of policies. The issue is not the lack of knowledge or whatever; it is the implementation. Implementation, implementation, implementation! And that is what Hon. Dr Woda and Hon. Françoise, the seconder of the motion, are calling for.

We have talked about challenges, although slightly differing from you, as Hon. Sankok said, climate change is a big problem. We are still relying on rain-fed agriculture.

We have all these water bodies. We should invest in climate-smart agriculture. However, the issue is, where is the funding coming from? Do we commit - the Malabo Declaration has called for 15 per cent – 10 per cent of the budget. But look at all the budgets of our partner states. We have failed to achieve the target. So, we are calling upon and urging the Council of

Ministers – you are very welcome, Hon. Council, to this. This is an opportunity for you to understand what is happening here and the responsibilities. We are calling on you to take this very seriously because we have all the policies, EAC has all the policies and strategies, your country has all of the policies, but we are urging you to implement them. I submit, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Yes, Hon. Zipporah.

11.12

**Ms Zipporah Jesang Kurgat Kering (Kenya):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity to support this very important motion from our sister, Dr Woda, who has always been so persistent about food security. At some stage, Mr Speaker, I named her “the Malabo Declaration,” because since I first entered this parliament, that is what she has been consistently talking about.

Mr Speaker, like my sister has spoken about it, the issue in this Parliament is just implementation. The Council of Ministers, that should be seated here, hearing all these very good sentiments and means and ways of implementation, is never here.

I want to congratulate the Minister from South Sudan. I came in after his name had been said, but Luke has told me he is called Hon. Gen. Pieng – (*Interruption*) – yes, let me use his first name – and I was asking him, like my colleague said, maybe he is coming in for the first time because of the swearing in. However, Hon. Luke has assured me that he will always be here

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**The Speaker:** For South Sudan, you can just say, Deng.

**Ms Kering:** Thank you, for helping me, Mr Speaker.

Hon. Deng, Hon. Luke has assured me and the rest of us here that he will be consistent and that he will be here always for all the plenaries that will be there; we will be here to see that.

Mr Speaker, food security is a shared regional burden. More than 50 million East Africans face food insecurity due to climate vulnerability, post-harvest losses, market disruptions and socioeconomic vulnerabilities.

We have frameworks in place and that is why we are talking about implementations here. The EAC Vision 2050, Agricultural Transformation Pillar, we have that one, Mr Speaker. We have the Food and Nutrition Security Strategy – that was 2015-2022, though extended. We also, of course, have the famous Malabo Declaration on ending hunger by 2025. You can imagine, the time that we are supposed to be ending hunger, is the time we are bringing the motion on ending food insecurity.

You realise that there is a gap between us here and the Council of Ministers who are supposed actually to implement what we talk about in this House. This motion is very urgent in that food prices have risen by between 20 to 60 per cent across partner states, undermining welfare, education, productivity and stability.

We have available instruments with us here. When you look at the EAC Customs Union Protocol on promoting seamless

movements of goods and services, you notice that we also have the Common Market Protocol that is ensuring the free flow of foods, labour and services.

Kenya's regional perspective is that Kenya's food system is highly integrated. We rely on grain inflows from Uganda and Tanzania. Around the months of June and July, Kenya does not have grains because that is the time our maize is green. However, that is the time Ugandans are harvesting. We get the inflows and we do not get the gap of actually missing any food, and of course from Uganda.

Mr Speaker, as I support this motion, I want to state that this motion is consistent with the existing EAC and AU policy frameworks. It calls for partner states to harmonise food policies, build a shared food reserves, develop resilient agricultural systems and enhance data and early warning mechanisms and improve pastoral mobility. These interventions, collectively, strengthen regional stability, economic growth and end hunger in our region.

I submit, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Zipporah. Now, honourable minister, you have the Floor.

11.18

**The Minister of East African Community Affairs (South Sudan) (Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity. I am very unfortunate to be the only minister here and yet this is my first time to be in this House. But let me try to answer some of queries or questions.

First of all, I would like to really support the honourable member here who talked about disabled people; it is really very important. *(Applause)*

As somebody who has been in charge of disabled people, especially war disabled people, I really support what he said and for sure is one of –

**The Speaker:** Honourable minister, you should stay in line with the motion.

**Gen. Kuol:** Okay

**The Speaker:** The Food Security motion.

11.19

**Gen. Kuol:** Concerning the motion, food security and access to adequate and affordable food. It is very important for me to attend this motion today because it is one of the areas where we, as leaders, are supposed to be serious and committed to making it workable.

I support the Motion. I hope that my colleagues in the Council will also take it seriously and with commitment. For sure, this motion is one of the responsibilities that any Government should target and implement. As it is said by Members, in any Member State, there are policies, but the implementation is the one hindering all this.

I hope in South Sudan, even if other challenges are facing this area- I want to say that I am one of the farmers, as it was said here, and even up to now, I am a committed one - *(Applause)*- and I want my country to take it as one of the most important source because as you know, South Sudan is oil dependent but it has

a large agricultural area, more than any other country in this region.

It has a lot of water; the Nile and many rivers, but we are not benefiting from all this. I hope that we are going to develop it soon. Otherwise, other questions were raised by the Members, and I hope that I will answer them later on. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you, honourable minister. Now I give the Floor to the mover.

11.22

**Dr Woda Jago Jeremiah (South Sudan):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am overwhelmed by the contribution of my colleague, honourable members. On the onset, I congratulate the new Council Member, our minister from South Sudan, Gen. Pieng and also acknowledge the presence of- though I think he left our Ambassador Paul Malong.

I take in the amendment given by Hon. Paul Musamali, which is to abolish the non-tariff barriers, but I will also add “within East Africa” so that it should not just be taken that other countries from other partner states can bring without.

Otherwise, I acknowledge the Members who really contributed well and gave justice to this important motion. Hon. Françoise, my seconder, the former Chairperson of ATNR, Hon. Dr Sankok Ole, our great farmer, Hon. Sadia James, Hon. Paul Musamali, Hon. Kachamba, Hon. Caroline, Hon. Zipporah and finally, the Hon. Minister Gen. Pieng Kuol, who is also a great farmer. I thank you all. I submit. Thank you. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Hon. Dr Woda. Food- if we do not give food to our militaries for two, three, to five days, what will happen? They will shoot. If we do not give food to our police officers, how will they react? If we do not give food to our countrymen, if they are hungry, how will they react?

I remember a song we sang when we were 20. It was a reggae song from Bob Marley that was- I remember, “a hungry man is an angry man”. Do you remember that? Maybe some of you were not born at that time. Now I understand what it means.

Honourable members, with this, I now put the question that this Assembly do resolve to urge the Council of Ministers to enhance food security and access to adequate and affordable food.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Motion adopted*

**The Speaker:** Next item.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF  
THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDING  
TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS  
TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL  
FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING  
AND EVALUATING LOGISTICS  
PERFORMANCE TO STRENGTHEN  
REGIONAL TRADE FACILITATION,  
SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE, AND  
HEALTH AND SAFETY

**The Speaker:** I call Hon. Dr Gladness Salema to move the motion.

11.26

**Dr Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for this opportunity- *(Interruption)*

11.26

**Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda):** Mr Speaker-

**The Speaker:** Yes, honourable.

**Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda):** I rise on a point of procedure.

**The Speaker:** Yes, Hon. Mary Mugenyi, you have the Floor.

**Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda):** Hon. Dr Salema, you will excuse me, but I have two resolutions here. One that we are about to listen to by Dr Salema and another one by Hon. Kadogo. These two motions are in print, but there is no prayer. Actually, there is no resolution here, unless there are other documents.

What are these motions praying for? What is the resolution that we are- because I went through it repeatedly, and I can see that the motion really does not have any prayer or resolution? This is the document that I have. These are the documents that were passed out. What is the prayer for these motions? Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Clerk, do you have them? Circulate them. I am told that they are circulating those documents. Hon. Dr Salema, you can proceed as they are circulating them. Please circulate those documents.

**Dr Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania):** Mr Speaker, I think there was a mistake from the printing office, and

in that case, I would like to use-

**The Speaker:** Dr Salema.

**Dr Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania):** Yes, Mr Speaker, I am going to use my own copy.

**The Speaker:** They can give you a copy. They are circulating them.

**Dr Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania):** Okay, thank you.

**The Speaker:** Honourable members, I see they are not ready. Are you ready? We cannot stay sitting here doing nothing. If you are not ready, we should go to the next item. We will go to yours after that.

Clerk, call the next item on the Order Paper.

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF  
THE ASSEMBLY, URGING THE  
COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND  
PARTNER STATES TO DEVELOP A  
REGIONAL POLICY AND LEGAL  
FRAMEWORK FOR PROTECTING  
DONKEYS AND REGULATING  
DONKEY SKIN TRADE

**The Speaker:** Good. Hon. Veronica, you are there. Move the motion.

11.31

**Ms Veronica Babirye Kadogo (Uganda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me this opportunity.

I beg to move a motion for a resolution of the Assembly urging the Council of Ministers and Partner States to develop a regional policy and legal framework

for protecting donkeys and regulating the donkey skin trade. I beg to move.

**The Speaker:** Do you have seconders?

*(Members rose)*

Seconded by Hon. Dr. Hasnuu Makema, Hon. Gideon Gatpan, Hon. Francois Uwumukiza, Hon. Mashaka Ngole and Hon. Dr. Gabriel Arol.

You have seconders. You can proceed.

**Ms Veronica Babirye Kadogo (Uganda):**

The motion is moved under Articles 49(2) (d) and 107 of the Treaty and Rule 26 of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly:

*“WHEREAS the Community agreed in Article 107 of the Treaty to develop a common regulatory framework for livestock multiplication and trade with the objective of achieving food security and national agricultural production within the Community;*

*AND WHEREAS donkeys are a cornerstone of rural livelihood across the Community, providing affordable transport, access to water and support for agricultural activities and are indispensable for millions of households, particularly women and children who rely on them for daily survival and income generation;*

*RECOGNISING that donkeys are vital for smallholder farmers, enabling transport of water, firewood and farm produce and whose loss forces households to resort to costly alternatives, deepening poverty and food insecurity;*

*AWARE that each donkey contributes to an estimated monthly income of approximately \$110 to rural households through transport and trade in East Africa. The depletion of the donkey population threatens millions of livelihoods who are obliged to families to hire motorbikes or walk long distances, increasing poverty.*

*CONSCIOUS that women and children in the donkey-keeping communities are the most affected by the donkey loss, as they assume heavy manual labour previously done by donkeys, including walking up to 10 kilometres daily to fetch water and firewood;*

*RECOGNISING that the escalating demand for donkey skins, primarily driven by production of ejiao, a traditional Chinese medicine, has triggered widespread slaughter and trafficking of donkeys across Africa, which poses severe socioeconomic, environmental, public health and animal welfare challenges for the Community;*

*COGNISANT that in February 2024, during the 37<sup>th</sup> AU Summit, the African Union adopted a 15-year moratorium on donkey slaughter for skins, prohibiting the slaughter of donkeys for skin across all 55 AU Member States and urged Member States to integrate donkey welfare into national livestock policies, address transnational organised crime linked to trade in donkeys and mitigate zoonotic diseases risks;*

*GRATEFUL to the Republic of Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania that have been donkey slaughter hotspots in the region for imposing temporary bans,*

revoking slaughterhouse licenses and closing donkey abattoirs in specific places;

CONCERNED that the donkey skin trade is a developing crisis, not just an animal welfare issue and without urgent action to implement the AU ban and develop EAC appropriate policies, enforcement and community support measures, the Community risks losing donkeys that sustain millions of rural households;

FURTHER CONCERNED that the AU moratorium is not fully integrated into Partner States' national laws, and yet weak enforcement due to porous borders continues to enable smuggling and bush slaughter, which contaminates water sources;

DEEPLY CONCERNED that donkey slaughter, a not well-regulated skin trade, is leading to a loss of livelihood in donkey-keeping communities, contributing to decreasing donkey populations, increasing donkey theft, illegal bush slaughter and illegal cross-border movement of donkeys;

CONVINCED that there is a need for urgent action to protect donkey populations and the communities that depend on them, considering the impact of the donkey skin trade on the livelihoods of donkey, donkey-dependent communities, the environment, sustainable development and animal welfare;

AWARE that Article 49(2) (d) of the Treaty, the Assembly may discuss any matter pertaining to the Community and make recommendations to the Council;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS FOLLOWS:

THAT in accordance with Articles 49(2) (d) and 107 of the Treaty, the Assembly urges the Council of Ministers and the Partner States to:

- i. develop and implement a regional policy and law that regulates the donkey skin trade and provides for the protection and welfare of donkeys;
- ii. integrate donkey welfare into national livestock policies and strategies;
- iii. implement the Pan-African Donkey Strategy: breeding programs, disease surveillance, and sustainable value chains; and
- iv. establish the EAC Donkey Protection Task Force with the mandate to ensure digital traceability systems for donkey movement, developing and overseeing the implementation of community support programmes, especially in the donkey-keeping communities within the region."

I beg to submit.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Now you can justify it.

**Ms Veronica Babirye Kadogo (Uganda):**

Honourable members, the demand for donkey skin is due to the production of the traditional remedy known as *ejiao*. 5.9 million donkey skins are needed annually by China and the demand for donkey skin cannot only be met by China but it can only be met by the whole world, especially Africa and East Africa.

East Africa, especially Kenya, which has the highest number of donkeys (1.1 million), Tanzania, 650,000, South Sudan, 365,794 donkeys and Uganda, 8,000 donkeys. The donkeys being slaughtered in Kenya per month was 833, and the donkey slaughters were five times higher than the donkey population rate of 4.5 per cent.

The donkey price was Ksh 17,500, which is low compared to what it takes to raise a donkey, and it cannot substitute the work the donkey does in rural areas. The donkey population is small, and any loss is catastrophic to rural transport.

The gestation period is 11 to 14 months, and it takes three to four years for the next conception.

#### Gender impact

Women and children bear the burden of donkey loss as they assume the heavy manual labour previously done by donkeys. This undermines the progress towards the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 1 of no poverty and SDG 5 of gender equality.

The issue of donkey skin is a development crisis, not just an animal welfare issue. Without urgent action to implement the AU ban and development of EAC appropriate policies, enforcement and community measures, East Africa risks losing species that sustain millions of rural households.

I beg to submit.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Kadogo. I give the Floor to the seconder of your motion, who is Hon. Gideon.

11.41

**Mr Gideon Gatpan Thoar (South Sudan):** Thank you, Speaker. I rise as a seconder of this motion, and I fully support my sister. We worked together on this motion.

A bit of the background of the crisis of donkeys in the East African Community is found in the engagement that was made by the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources and the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investments in 2018 in Arusha, Tanzania.

The two committees had a joint meeting that was later attended by the Tanzanian Animal Welfare Society, called TAWESO, which had petitioned the East African Community to intervene by investigating the conditions of donkeys in the East African Community region.

As a result, both committees carried out a joint assessment in the region. It was divided into two, but later on it was completed, and this assessment resulted in real findings about the countries or the partner states in the region that have a good population of donkeys and those that do not have.

So, one of the aspects is that we have at least two countries known in the region that do not have a donkey population, but the rest of the countries have a huge donkey population.

Based on those studies that were done by the two committees, it was found that in 1999, the government gazetted that donkeys became part of the meat that can be eaten; it gazetted donkeys as meat. That

was the genesis of the approach to slaughter donkeys, later on to be commercialised.

In 2016 and 2018, the abattoirs or the slaughterhouses for donkeys in Kenya grew to four serious slaughterhouses, and then per day, they were slaughtering not less than 8,383 donkeys per day in Kenya. That was a serious one. That caused a major outcry from the animal welfare groups, and they petitioned the Government of Kenya. Later, the Government of Kenya banned the slaughter of donkeys for commercial trade in 2020.

Coming to the example of the United Republic of Tanzania, which also produces donkeys, it has a big population of donkeys, following Kenya. The trade in donkeys started in 2014 and from 2014 to 2022, Tanzania had already slaughtered over 62,325 donkeys. As explained by the mover of the motion, raising a population of donkeys is very tricky and complicated. With this rate, you can be sure that this region is not going to have donkeys. They will face extinction or serious decline.

That is a worry because we have communities, for example, in South Sudan, we have the Toposa Community, the Turkana in Kenya and the Samburu, the Karimojong in Uganda and the people around the region of Kinyanga in Tanzania and Dodoma and all those areas. These are East Africans and they are a donkey-dependent community. Their livelihood is totally put into crisis and they are living in fear because they are so attached to the donkeys.

As explained by the mover, trade in donkeys is being spearheaded by China, purposely because of manufacturing a

traditional medicine called *Ejiao*, which is used in food, as food, drinks and beauty products. It is anti-ageing, enriches the blood, stops bleeding, improves blood circulation and is used to treat anaemia, insomnia, and improve the human immune system.

That makes it very marketable, especially when people hear that it is anti-ageing. People want to live long, and then it attracts a lot of market. Things to do with blood circulation; it also has a rejuvenating effect. My people know better about this. It is marketable, and China is clearing the population of donkeys in Africa and around the world so that they can maximise the use of this medicine.

In our previous debates in this Parliament, we had some challenges in terms of what we really do to have a legal framework or a regional policy that can be able to address the decline and serious extinction of the donkey population in the East African Community to take care of the interests of donkey-dependent communities in our region.

One of the recommendations in our previous debates was that the Council of Ministers should come up with a common policy in the region and a law governing donkey utilisation in the East African Community.

We also talked about conducting more research on how to increase the population of donkeys, if *Ejiao* is something that we can also produce in East Africa. But, let us control of our own population; all those were forwarded to this House.

However, Mr Speaker, as mentioned by my predecessors in talking, implementation is a challenge. Up to this point, the Council of Ministers of the East African Community has not initiated a process to develop a policy or a law governing the donkey population in East Africa. We call on our Council of Ministers to take action by creating a ban first to save the donkey population. This time, we are calling for a ban so that we save the donkey population. At least we should have a population that we can now grow. Otherwise, if we take time again, we may not have donkeys in our region, and those communities will be highly affected. Mr Speaker, I beg to second the motion and submit. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Honourable members, the motion on the Floor is that this Assembly do resolve to ask the Council of Ministers and the Partner States to develop a regional policy and a legal framework to protect donkeys and regulating the donkey skin trade.

The debate is open. We have five Members who want to contribute, Hon. Siranda, Hon. Francoise, Hon. Sankok, Hon. Mary Mugenyi. Please try to be brief because we still have other businesses today. Thank you.

11.51

**Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for the opportunity granted me to make a contribution on this very important motion. From the onset, I want to appreciate the mover of this motion, Hon. Veronica Kadogo and the seconder, Hon. Gideon Gatpan.

Mr Speaker, the East African Community is about people, and the people we are

talking about are not only we who live in the cities, but also the people of our Community who live in our villages. I think, over 70 per cent of our population that live on the good laws that we make are in the villages. As a very humble and proud village boy, I believe that this motion speaks for the people that are like me and those that come from the villages and all the way depending on the good initiatives like for the donkey transportation in our farms, fetching of waters, transporting of our produce, going from market to market, and using it to also cultivate.

Mr Speaker, this motion is today speaking for the East Africans that are unprivileged that depend on initiatives like this. People that cannot afford cars or transportation of their goods through trucks. People that cannot afford either boda bodas or motorbikes and all those.

Mr Speaker, 99.9 per cent of the donkeys live in the rural community, and on the African continent, they are found in undeveloped countries. Africa has about 54 million donkeys. Out of 54, about 13 million are found in Eastern Africa, including Ethiopia. Ethiopia accounts for about 10 million of the donkeys within the African continent, while the East African Community accounts for about 3.9 million donkeys.

Of course, the population in Kenya in 2009 was about 1.9 million, but that number has reduced to about 500, yet Kenya had the majority. Of course, the number in Tanzania has also dropped. The good thing with Tanzania is that last year in 2024, Tanzania implemented a ban. Borrowing a leaf from the African Union of slaughtering donkeys.

Of course, the mover and the seconder have mentioned it well, *ejiao*, apart from being a traditional herb in China, it is also used in Pakistan, and also used as a cosmetic, Mr Speaker, for anti-aging, and skin diseases. In men, it is said to be a game-changer, specifically for men above 40. You remember I have turned 41. I should be a candidate qualifying for this.

However, that does not take away the great initiative's contribution to our economy. Mr Speaker, when you speak about the Common Market, free trade, non-tariff barriers, the donkey should also be an important initiative to help our local communities to be in a position to access these markets by transporting the goods from wherever they have been manufactured or from the gardens they have been cultivated.

Mr Speaker, the importance of this motion is that we will be in a position to harmonise policies from within the region. For instance, you have seen the challenges of how it is dropping in Kenya. You have seen that Tanzania has come up with a resolution to have a ban, and the African Union has also taken a moratorium to ban. Maybe as a region, it will also be important if we take an initiative so that we can now design a policy that is harmonised from within the region.

We should also find out how many we have, Mr Speaker, because we do not have data around it, and we do not even know which country has specifically which one. We rely on researchers, but because you do not have an initiative intended to make sure that you know how many numbers, it is difficult. Therefore, this will help us first to harmonise so that we have a common

policy and also borrow a leaf from whatever the Partner States' individual initiatives have done.

The Council of Ministers, Mr Speaker, will be in a position now that we have this so that we not only talk about how many, because the question that comes when you talk about it is, "What are you talking about and how many?" I want us to know that this is a very important initiative. When you look at our countries like the Republic of Burundi, the Republic of Rwanda and the Republic of Congo, and now Somalia, we do not even have the data. Specifically, because there is no right initiative to understand how many people are using this as a way of business, but also as a means of transportation.

Mr Speaker, if you have your vehicle for special hire or a truck for carrying sand and all that, you can use donkeys for exactly the same. You only need to design a carrier, tie it to the donkeys, and they will do exactly the same. We also have testimonies of people who say they have been in a position to feed their families, to educate their children and change their way of life as a result of using donkeys to make sure that their families survive.

Mr Speaker, Ethiopia has a well-stated legislation and policy in terms of how to grow donkeys and maintain them. They even have a law on mistreatment. Most of the time, these animals are mistreated. They are overworked, and they are not properly fed. In areas that are dry, there is no grass, and yet there are other means of planting if you have little land. What is done is to use up all the land by growing food, forgetting that the donkey will be used to transport the food that is grown.

Mr Speaker, this motion will also help us to design strategies on how to make sure that we deal with issues of mistreatment. In most instances, if you mistreat a donkey, it can pay you. They can also kill. They are very dangerous animals as well. We are keeping them at home, but we do not have a law like we have laws governing domestic animals. This will be an opportunity for us to integrate it into animals that are kept at home. I believe that this motion is timely for us to respond to the needs of our people within East Africa.

Finally, we are counting about 3.9 million, but in Kenya, research has shown that it has been reduced to about half a million. Research further shows that in the next 15 years, it will have reduced to less than 100,000. The total number in East Africa shows about 54 million, but the way it is being slaughtered because of the skin and all that, it is likely, in 15 years, to reduce to about 14 million from 54 million. However, there is no strategy on how to rear, nurture, and grow these numbers.

Mr Speaker, I believe and heartily second and support the motion by Hon. Veronica Kadogo and seconded by Hon. Gideon Gatpan. I beg to support the motion.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Siranda. Next is Hon. Uwumukiza. Try to be brief.

12.00

**Ms Francoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, Sir, for the Floor once again. I will try to be brief because you know it is the same narrative. We are almost repeating the same thing, but with different words.

Donkeys play a vital role in the livelihood of millions. These are citizens, rural and pastoralist communities across the EAC. They are really essential for transporting goods, water, and even children to school. Their role is paramount, and they also support farm produce, particularly in arid and semi-arid areas where mechanisation is not advanced.

However, the region continues to face this *ejiao* product, cosmetics. We all want to remain young, especially women, the way we want to look good, but it cannot happen at the expense of slaughtering donkeys, because they have to be protected.

Their population has declined, and extinction is at risk. Africa's donkey population has plummeted by over 50 per cent in the last five years. Mr Speaker, I am saying this because I was part of the donkey team, Members of Parliament who have been engaged with the donkey sanctuary from the UK. They are partners of this august House of EALA, and they have been frequently engaging us and through the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources and the Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (CTI).

I would also like to highlight issues related to illegal trade and slaughter because the donkey skin trade is lucrative but inhuman. Also, the way they are transported. Donkey welfare needs to be taken care of. They are put on trucks for long cross-border journeys without food and water because they are just like tilted, leading to high mortality rates on the road.

This is unacceptable. We are lucky that Kenya banned donkey slaughter and skin

exports in 2020 followed by Tanzania's closure of its two slaughterhouses in 2021 due to welfare violations, and a 10-year ban on the trade in 2022. Uganda has also imposed restrictions, which is good, but despite these measures, smuggling persists with skins rerouted through informal channels to ports in neighbouring countries for export to Asia.

My appeal here is to urge this House to urge the Council of Ministers to continue to monitor this illegal smuggling of donkeys, and the few that remain, so that we can continue to engage with the welfare and health challenges of donkeys and also recover their use.

As a House, we have the powers to enforce legislation and oversight, but we also represent people. As you represent the people, you also have to talk about their welfare. We can initiate legislation and policy harmonisation across countries. In Rwanda, we do not have donkeys. At the time they were doing research, we realised that in Rwanda there are no donkeys, and in Burundi there might be a few. That is why we do not have data.

However, we can enact a regional ban and regulations through the Council of Ministers to make sure all the EAC protocols banning donkey slaughter and skin exports are taken care of under standards and penalties for violation. Mr Speaker, with these few remarks, I beg to submit, and I second the motion.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Francoise. Hon. Sankok?

12.04

**Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya):** Mr Speaker, from the onset, I rise to oppose this motion- (*Interjection*) – yes, donkeys may be useful in transport, but there are cheaper alternatives to transport, for example boda bodas.

Mr Speaker, without giving alternatives to that farmer with one acre to be able to protect that donkey, and how to feed that donkey, just for the sake of it, because - I believe if I find it more advantageous to use it as a means of transport, I will maintain it. We are in an open market society. If I find it more advantageous to sell it as meat or in whichever way that I will sell it and earn a living, you cannot gag me on how I will use my property, Mr Speaker, without proper ways of telling me the alternative.

Mr Speaker, one donkey in most of our countries requires two acres as fodder. Where do you get that? I have my cow that I get milk or beef from, yet you tell me not to sell this donkey but maintain it within that one acre. What is my alternative source of income?

Mr Speaker, I want the House to imagine 1,000 donkeys pulling carts within the streets of Kampala. Let us be realistic. I want the House to imagine 100 male donkeys mating in the streets of Kampala and a female donkey producing pheromones. You can imagine the chaos that will be within the streets of Kampala or any other place.

We cannot say that we move the world and the world is becoming industrialised, and we are going back to what our forefathers used to use as transport. If you continue making these laws, very soon we will be

told we used to wear garments from the skins of cows, goats and sheep, and we make a law to force people to wear those things. We cannot force people to use a means of transport. Where they have an alternative and find the alternative more profitable than what we are giving.

We are here to make laws for prosperity. We are here to make laws that are convenient and will assist our populations. If our people find the donkey medicinal, we should make the law to increase the prices so that our people can reap from the market in China. We cannot be creating markets and closing other markets. Mr Speaker, I beg to oppose.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Sankok. You did not support this motion. We go to Hon. Mary Mugenyi followed by Hon. Kennedy Musyoka, and then we close debate.

12.07

**Ms Mary Mugenyi (Uganda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Unlike Hon. Sankok, I rise to support the motion. I would like to focus mainly on resolution (c) if colleagues can look at that, which says, implementing the Pan-African Donkey Strategy, breeding programmes, disease surveillance, and sustainable value chains.

This issue of donkey trade, particularly by the Chinese people, has been coming up on the Floor of our Parliament a number of times. This is not the first time we have debated it. I thank Hon. Veronica for putting it in a resolution. There seems to be a campaign -

**The Speaker:** Check your microphone. May be you...

**Ms Mugenyi:** It is on. Mr Speaker, I thank Hon. Kadogo for putting this in a resolution, so that we move on and do not come back to this issue of donkeys again.

Mr Speaker, point number (c) is telling us to breed more donkeys. We need breeding programmes. There, I agree with Hon. Sankok by saying, let us have more donkeys so that we can take advantage and leverage our donkey availability on the continent of Africa, particularly in East Africa.

I know the donkey population is not the same across our countries, but if we find that they are useful, there is no reason why we cannot increase their availability, breed them, so that we capture this important market. This medicine happens to be important. I was looking up on Google this Chinese medicine, and I believe it is even here in our markets. It is not just about the beauty of women; that is really demeaning to women. Even men want to look good. Actually, if you look at the properties of this medicine, it is generally good for the health of human beings. That is why the Chinese traditional medicine discovered it a long time ago, and they continue to produce it. The collagen, for example, is good for our blood, is good for our bones, it is good for anything, everything, for our immunity, and so on.

Therefore, probably, and not even probably, I am sure, the world needs this medicine. What is the way forward? The way forward is for us, as East Africans, to leverage this privilege that we have and produce more donkeys rather than trying to go against the sale of donkeys. Why should we not sell donkeys if there is a market for them?

We have to be aware that, actually, donkeys are not well looked after. Otherwise, we can breed them. They are needed for the smaller farmers. Mainly people who own donkeys, except myself because I can afford a boda. However, I own donkeys; I have four of them. The colleagues who visited me, must have seen donkeys around. I have donkeys and I know they are necessary, they are useful. You do not have to provide fuel, and they eat what the cows and goats are eating. Just treat them the way you are treating other animals of the farm and breed them. These donkeys can be useful.

Therefore, colleagues, let us go for breeding more donkeys, protecting them, looking after them in terms of their health, and capturing the Chinese market. I encourage those countries that do not own donkeys, and even regions of our country, like my region, Western Uganda, and particularly the south, where we do not have donkeys. It is a new thing that has come to us. When we discovered them, we discovered that they are useful.

The one-acre owner cannot maintain the fuel, maintenance or repair of a boda, but he can be able to look after a donkey. Even if you find them browsing everywhere, so we cannot say that we do not need them. It is until we reach that time, that level where we can say even our smallest farmers can afford mechanised equipment, then we can say we breed them for the market of sale rather than using them – (*Interruption*)

**The Speaker:** There is information. Will you take it?

**Ms Mugenyi:** I will take the information.

**Mr Ansar Abubaker Kachwamba (Tanzania):** Mr Speaker, Sir, I would like to give information to the speaker that in logistics where the donkey can go, other means of transportation cannot go. *Boda bodas* cannot go there, neither can the car or any other transport. Donkeys are the basis of logistics in the world. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Ms Mugenyi:** Thank you, honourable colleague. Actually the information is not to the speaker, it is to me because I am the one on the Floor speaking. The Speaker has given me the Floor. It is actually me. Thank you for adding that and on that note, I wish to support the motion and particularly point number (c) and encourage East Africa to protect and breed more donkeys for the market that is available. I thank you, Mr Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Mary Mugenyi. Now, Hon. Kennedy?

12.14

**Mr Kennedy Musyoka Kalonzo (Kenya):** Thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the Floor. I will try to be very brief. Let me start off by saying I support the motion. I am really holding myself back from responding to my very good colleague, Hon. Sankok. I will look for him and inform him from outside. I just want to mention three very important things.

It is estimated that every day we lose about 150 different species, right? These are species we will never see again. It is also information we have that once upon our time, Lake Victoria used to have 47

different types of fish. We only now have three.

Why am I mentioning this? For us, in Kenya, we recently lost the last white rhino that used- was even almost as guarded as the President with a whole battalion of GSU. Why am I mentioning this? If we do not do something, history will repeat itself much to our detriment. We must do something to ensure we do not lose this species that is an opportunity for our people to rise out of poverty. With those many remarks, I submit, I support the motion and I ask my other colleagues to do the same. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Now, I give the Floor to the honourable minister. If you do not have remarks, I give the Floor to the mover.

12.16

**The Minister of East African Community Affairs (Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol) (South Sudan):** Thank you, Mr Speaker. I do not have much to say, but I see that there is no objection to the four points which have been recommended by the mover are all for the protection of the donkey and is not denying its trade. This is what I have understood, so there is no problem about that. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, honourable minister. Hon. Kadogo, you have the Floor.

**Ms Veronica Babirye Kadogo (Uganda):** Thank you, Mr Speaker and the honourable members for supporting the donkey motion. Honourable members, what is very important to note is that when we leave the donkey species to be depleted,

the women and the children will replace the donkeys in the donkey-dependent communities.

Therefore, it is important that we support and urge the ministers to develop a policy, and also a regional legal framework to protect and regulate the donkeys.

Honourable members, I stand here to support the motion and to thank the Members who have supported the motion. *(Applause)* The honourable members who have supported the motion are: Hon. Gideon Gatpan; Dr Gerald Siranda; Hon. Francoise Uwumukiza; Hon. David Sankok; Hon. Mary Mugenyi, and Hon. Kennedy Kalonzo Musyoka. *(Applause)*

Honourable members, thank you for supporting the motion. I also thank the honourable minister for supporting the motion, and I request that you take our prayers to develop the legal framework, and also regulations to protect the donkeys. I beg to submit. *(Applause)*

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Veronica. I now put the question that this Assembly do resolve to add the Council of Ministers and Partner States to develop a regional policy and legal framework for protecting donkeys and regulating the donkey skin trade.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Motion adopted*

**The Speaker:** Let us go to the next item. We will go back to item five on the Order Paper.

MOTION FOR RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY RECOMMENDING TO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS TO ESTABLISH A REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR MONITORING AND EVALUATING LOGISTICS PERFORMANCE, TO STRENGTHEN REGIONAL TRADE FACILITATION, SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE, HEALTH AND SAFETY

**The Speaker:** This is the motion we had put on hold. Hon. Dr Salema, you have the Floor to move your motion.

12.21

**Dr Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania):** Mr Speaker, thank you so much for this opportunity to submit this important motion that I believe is not only topical, but we are actually late to have such a framework in the region.

Mr Speaker, at this time at noon, I would like to move the motion for resolution of the Assembly to recommend to the Council of Ministers to establish a regional framework for monitoring and evaluating logistics performance, to strengthen regional trade facilitation, supply chain resilience, health and safety:

*“WHEREAS the Partner States made several commitments under the treaty to facilitate trade and the movement of goods and services, and have undertaken the Customs Union Protocol and the Protocol on the Establishment of the EAC Market Protocol to operationalise these commitments through various regional initiatives;*

*AND WHEREAS integrated logistics ensures a comprehensive approach to*

*managing the entire supply chain and logistics process as a unified system, focusing on coordinating and optimising all activities in the movement –(Interruption)*

**Dr Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania):** Was the motion seconded?

**The Speaker:** No, she has not been seconded. Do you have seconders?

**Hon. Members:** Yes.

**The Speaker:** It is the entire House. You can now move the motion.

**Dr Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania):** Thank you.

*“AND WHEREAS integrated logistics ensures a comprehensive approach to managing the entire supply chain and logistics process as a unified system, focusing on coordinating and optimising all activities in the movement and storage of goods, information and resources from the point of origin to the final customer;*

*ACKNOWLEDGING that integrated logistics and transportation are critical forces behind sustainable development in the East African Community, directly enabling trade competitiveness, regional integration and the reliable delivery of essential goods, including medical commodities such as vaccines, medicines and emergency supplies;*

*RECOGNISING that integrated logistics improves efficiency by eliminating redundancies through integrating processes, companies avoid duplicated efforts, enhancing visibility through real-time tracking of goods and data to enable*

*faster decision-making and problem solving, optimising resource utilisation, reducing lead time through coordinated scheduling and inventory management, speed up delivery times and cost savings through lower transportation costs, reduced stock outs, and better supplier coordination lead to significant savings;*

*CONCERNED that regional statistics indicate that logistics performance varies significantly between Partner States, with persistent gaps in customs efficiency, infrastructure and timeliness across the region;*

*FURTHER CONCERNED that logistics inefficiencies remain a major challenge of the Community, leading to high transport costs and delays that undermine trade competitiveness due to high costs of doing business;*

*CONVINCED that a harmonised Regional Logistics Performance Assessment Framework and coordination of national assessments will generate comparable diagnostics to prioritise investments, harmonise procedures and measure progress, and move from ad hoc solutions to a data-driven strategic approach when we are solving our logistics problems;*

*FURTHER CONVINCED that by improving logistics systems, the Community can ensure that goods and services, including pharmaceutical products, reach their destinations in a timely and safe manner, thereby contributing to better health outcomes and attainment by Partner States of the Sustainable Development Goals;*

*AWARE that under Article 49(2)(d) of the Treaty, the Assembly may discuss any matter pertaining to the Community and make recommendations to the Council;*

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS FOLLOWS: That in accordance with Chapters Eleven, Fifteen and Seventeen of the Treaty, and Article 49(2)(d) of the Treaty, the Assembly recommends to the Council of Ministers to:*

- (a) Establish a regional framework for monitoring and evaluating logistics performance to strengthen regional trade facilitation, supply chain resilience, health and safety;*
- (b) However, to see the benefits of (a), it is important that the Council of Ministers promotes green logistics by providing incentives for low-emission vehicles and renewable energy use;*
- (c) Adopt and implement regional electronic logistics platforms and ensure interoperability of existing electronic systems across Partner States to cut down on physical paperwork and delays;*
- (d) Promote Public-Private Partnerships for infrastructure financing and develop a pipeline of bankable logistics hub projects such as dry ports and multimodal facilities;*
- (e) Enhance development of human capital through training programmes for logistics professionals, including in supply chain management and digital systems;*
- (f) Enhance transport corridor security through coordinated patrols and surveillance, and harmonise regional insurance schemes for cargo and logistics assets and jointly establish*

*security initiatives for the logistics infrastructure.”*

I beg to submit. (*Applause*)

**The Speaker:** You can now justify your motion.

**Dr Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania):** Mr Speaker and my fellow Members of Parliament, I am coming up with this motion, believing that it is a hidden solution we have not yet been able to exploit.

Having this robust and fully integrated logistics performance index or measurement framework for our region is not just about scoring or ranking our logistics performance, but is a critical economic diagnostic tool that is supporting the other initiatives that we have in the region.

For example, the protocol on the Customs Union, the Common Market Protocol, the One-Stop Border Posts, Vehicle Road Control Acts, the EAC Customs Management Act, the Single Customs Territory and the elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Act.

Having this particular framework or – if I can say - particular measurement is very important for us to realise the objectives that we have already set and passed in this able Parliament. This is also supported by the EU Agenda 2063 and particularly aspiration No. 2, which emphasises on integrated infrastructure networks for railway, road, air and maritime transport to boost trade.

Mr Speaker, today, globally, companies do not compete on their own. Companies compete as supply chains. If we want to enforce regional competitiveness, we can never ignore logistics and our supply chains.

Having this particular Performance Measurement Framework, which is trying to establish our performance across the region, will help us to make comparisons between Partner States, so it is very critical that we also learn from each other and prioritise on our development projects.

Globally, we have the World Bank, which has the Logistics Performance Index and this is a globally renowned framework. It has about six areas where they do measurement on timeliness, tracking and tracing, logistics competence and quality, international shipment, infrastructure, customs and border management. So, these are the key components that are being measured there.

As you are aware - hoping you are aware - some of the countries in the region have been measured under this World Bank framework, for example, Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda and recently, DRC Congo and Somalia. But it is not that every time they do the measurements, we are all included. Unfortunately, I did not see South Sudan; I saw Sudan.

It means it is not all of our Partner States that have been captured in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index, and there are several reasons for that. One is access to data. If you look at the World Bank Performance Index 2023 assessment, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya were not measured.

We understand that if we talk about bigger players, as far as trade is concerned in the region, these are the countries. This means that our countries in the region will be globally invisible because all investors will rely on such scores to see whether they should come for investment or not, whether we are attractive or not.

Mr Speaker, it is high time that as a region with a population of more than 300 million people, we need our own performance index, so that we can have consistency and continuity, as far as measuring our logistics performance is concerned. This framework is key to supporting integration at the logistics level.

When I talk about logistics, I mean the flow of materials, people, services, money, information and anything that has to do with a flow, which we should include. We can never be able to achieve integrated logistics if we are not able to understand our performance and keep relying on the World Bank to do this performance assessment.

It is critical that we have our own performance index and do not rely on the World Bank. We can borrow from the World Bank and customise it, based on our context. Why am I saying that? The World Bank is measuring the country's logistics performance, for example, on customs management, logistics competence and quality, but at a country level. But we know that in the region, we are organised more on the logistics corridors. The World Bank does not capture the logistics corridors aspect.

If we rely on the World Bank index, we are actually limiting ourselves to

understanding what is actually happening. For example, if Uganda is using the port of Mombasa in Kenya and there are problems at the port, Uganda will definitely experience inefficiencies. So, if you measure the performance, you will see Uganda scoring low. It is because of the corridor; it is because of what happened at the port of Mombasa. If we really want to integrate, we must understand our context and come up with a proper Logistics Performance Index.

Another factor is that currently in our region, logistics is almost 30 to 40 per cent of the cost. When I talk about logistics, I am talking about storage, distribution costs, inventory costs and transportation costs. It is not only about the roads; this is about the multi-models that we have.

We have air transport, railway transport and all these kinds of things. The thinking in the region now is that we need to have them integrated, but you can see that we are still very expensive. So, we cannot be competitive. If we want to establish it, where is the cost emanating from? Where is the source of costs?

We cannot do that if we rely on the World Bank. Its performance index does not capture that because for countries like Germany, they are already at a minimum. While we are saying we are at 30 to 40 per cent of the value of goods, those countries, including in Europe and Asia, are actually at single digit. We are at double digits. In that case, this is not a global priority but is a priority to us in the region. So, we need to find a way of having this kind of index.

At the same time, as I said before, we are talking about this index; the scores are

actually marketing tools for the region. This is where we tell our story on whether we are doing good or not, and for the global forces to understand. If we are not able to capture ourselves properly, then we will not be visible globally, and that impairs the investments that we expect.

So, we have a lot of plans at the national and regional level to attract investments across Partner States, and also from foreign investors. However, we will not be able to achieve that if we do not make sure that we are very effective.

At the same time, there is data. In the World Bank's 2023 report, most of our countries were not captured because the World Bank has changed. They are not just using the survey to ask people, like they used to do. They now want to rely on the big data that is available. In our region, most countries did not have that data available. So, this is an opportunity that we should do housekeeping to make sure that we have the data that is supposed to be there, including the global instruments to use.

As I said, this instrument will support the Single Customs Territory because this is about the movement of goods. We will be able to see how we are performing in terms of our customs performance and border management. We have been hearing stories. We had a presentation from the Women's Caucus, which was mainly about border performance, and we still see that there are a lot of critical issues; Different borders at different Partner States. Who is going to capture that so that we actually have a holistic understanding of the performance?

I thought this was very important to share, Mr Speaker, to justify that we now have no option but to embark on having our own performance indexing, and I could say that we will not be the first. In the EU, they have their transport scoreboard, and they are doing the same. That is also an economic regional bloc, the same as us.

In ASEAN, they also have - So we are not the first. We can learn from the other regional economic blocs, and if we have the EU and the ASEAN doing it, and I can say these are global leaders as far as trading is concerned, who are we not to borrow a leaf from those who are doing well?

Mr Speaker, I would like to bring this motion to the attention of the honourable members to make sense out of it. If we talk about having universal health coverage, we will not succeed if we do not do this. If we are talking about the integration of our regional value chains, we will not succeed. It is high time now that we don't just sit in an office and imagine we have a problem. We should use data to tell us where exactly the problem is, and given that most of our countries have scarce resources, we cannot do everything. We need to prioritise, and we need to have the regional prioritisation.

I believe that with the Vision 2050 that we have, if we do not have a common North where all countries are looking at, we will not be able to achieve that vision. Every country will be doing their own thing, and we are going to miss the leveraging of our contribution in the regional economy.

Mr Speaker and dear Members of Parliament, this is a diagnostic tool that will tell us exactly what is happening,

and I can ask you one question. I know honourable Members are doing business. If you have to transport your goods from Dar es Salaam port, let us say they have arrived from China and have to go to Burundi, maybe not Bujumbura, but a certain remote area, how easy is it for the goods to move? I am not talking about customs clearance. Yes, you have been cleared. What models do we have? What is it that is missing? We are investing in the SGRs, and now countries are going to connect. Where are the hinterlands to make sure that we have the goods?

When we talk of logistics performance measurement, we need to develop an effective and efficient ecosystem that will support. We have ICT systems, but do they communicate? Is there connectivity? Who is going to tell us where there is no connectivity? Who is going to tell us where we need to connect?

We have the strategic plans. Are they aligned with the logistics plans? We can never achieve all of this, if we are not informed by data. Now it is about data. It is about a digital EAC, but it can never happen if we do not have data. We need data and this is the way to go. We are not going to dream in Parliament, I think it is enough passing legislations, policies, and whatever, which are not informed by evidence. We need evidence.

Mr Speaker, with this motion, I request for support from my fellow honourable members. I hope they have understood, and I believe they see sense. I beg to move this motion. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you. Do you have a seconder? Who? Hon. Sankok? Today

is your day, Hon. Sankok. You have been seconding everyone for all the motions.

**Dr Abdulla Hasnuu Makame:** Point of procedure, Mr Speaker. I am rising under the provisions of Rule 36, which speaks about the limitation of debate. The rule says, *“The House may, on any motion made by any member, order or impose a limit to the motion or the contribution made by the members on that particular motion by allotting a limited period of time for that motion or for the contribution made by members on that motion or by imposing the time limitation to both the motion and contribution by members.”*

Mr Speaker, because the members of the subcommittee of F&A are having a meeting after this plenary sitting and because we are having another plenary session in the afternoon, I humbly ask the Assembly to limit the contribution of the Members, and we leave here at one. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Are you really seconded? Honourable members, I put the question to the motion.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

**The Speaker:** We will have only one contribution. I give the Floor to Hon. Sankok. However, I will also give the Floor to the Minister, if he has some remarks to make.

12.47

**Mr David Ole Sankok (Kenya):** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I rise to second this very important motion by Dr Gladness Salema. She has done justice to this particular motion. She has justified; thank you for that wisdom.

Mr Speaker, we now see the need for this motion. Gen. Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, the *king* of Africa, told us, when we met him last, that integration, especially in terms of transport and market for East Africa is not only important but it is for our own survival. It is about life and death, Mr Speaker. We produce, in certain pockets of regions and communities, meat – (*Interruption*)

**Mr Musamali:** Clarification. Thank you, Mr Speaker. I just want to clarify one thing from our colleague. To make the record clear, President Yoweri Museveni is not the *king* of Africa but he is an African patriot. He is a supporter of Pan-Africanism and the unity of Africa. Being a visionary for African unity does not make him king. I want this to be on record and very clear. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Thank you.

**Mr Sankok:** Thank you very much for that correction. Gen. Yoweri Museveni is a Pan-Africanist, and I think I have corrected it accordingly.

Mr Speaker, in terms of how much we need this integration and free movement of goods, it is about life and death. I want to add that with the market of 350 million people, a market bigger than United States of America, because United States of America only has 330 million people and we have 350 million people, we need to reach our people in every corner. How do you reach our people in every corner?

Mr Speaker, one way is by geo-fencing the transport corridor so that goods are secure and they move efficiently. Thinking about the modes of transport, I spoke earlier and

talked about the rivers and lakes that we have. An example is Kisumu City beside Lake Victoria. While we are in Kisumu City, you can easily transport goods and people to seven other cities, including Kampala using water transport and that is the safest and cheapest mode of transport, but we rarely utilise it. We utilise Lake Victoria for washing cars, Mr Speaker. We do not utilise it as the safest and most efficient mode of transport.

Mr Speaker, a vessel that will cost \$ 1 million can transport cargo that can be transported by 40 trailers. That means 40 engines, 40 emissions, while we would have had only one engine and one captain transporting all those goods along Lake Victoria.

Mr Speaker, during demonstrations, they can block highways and roads, but they can never block the lake. So we will still be efficient with or without campaigns and post-election violence or all these demonstrations.

Mr Speaker, I have just talked about Lake Victoria. The River Nile is one of the longest rivers in the world. The Congo River is also good for transport. Lake Tanganyika borders five countries and is the deepest lake in the world. It can hold any kind of vessel.

Therefore, I think it is high time that we think about how we can move all these goods efficiently. Dr Gladness Salema has elaborated on the importance of this motion. I urge Members to support this motion so that we can move and do business efficiently.

Lastly, Mr Speaker, without implementing the Monetary Union Protocol to have a single currency, we still have hiccups in the transportation of those goods. For me to buy maize in Uganda as a Kenyan, I have to first convert Kenya shillings to dollars at a fee. Once I am in Uganda, I convert the dollars into Uganda shillings at a fee.

USA is reaping from where they have not sown. *Pilipili usiyoilala inakuwashia nini?* I am the Kenyan buying maize from Uganda. I should either use my Kenya shillings or Uganda shillings or if God allows us to have the Monetary Union, we will have the East African *Pesa* which will make all these market protocols very efficient.

Mr Speaker, with those very many remarks, I urge the whole House to support this timely motion.

Thank you, Mr Speaker, and I second.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Sankok. The mover, you have the floor - Honourable Minister, do you have some remarks to make or can we proceed?

**Gen. Pieng Deng Kuol:** Thank you, Rt Hon. Speaker. Mine is only one to confirm my support to the motion. Thank you.

**The Speaker:** Hon. Dr Gladness -

**Dr Salema:** Mr Speaker, at this moment, I just need to appreciate the support from all members of this honourable Parliament, the seconder, Hon. Sankok, and our minister. It is highly appreciated and we believe it will be executed because we do not have a problem with bringing

in ideas and strategies but our problem is on the execution. So, having you here, we believe that this one will be taken to heart and it will be executed on time.

With these few remarks, I humbly appreciate all your support and thank you so much, Rt Hon. Speaker.

**The Speaker:** Thank you, Hon. Dr Gladness, for this motion. I now put the question that this Assembly do resolve to recommend to the Council of Ministers to establish a regional framework for monitoring and evaluating logistics performance to strengthen regional trade facilitation, supply chain resilience, and health and safety.

*(Question put and agreed to.)*

*Motion adopted*

**The Speaker:** Honourable members, I adjourn this House to 2.30 p.m. this afternoon.

*(The House rose and was adjourned at 1.00 p.m. until 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025 at 2.30 p.m.)*