



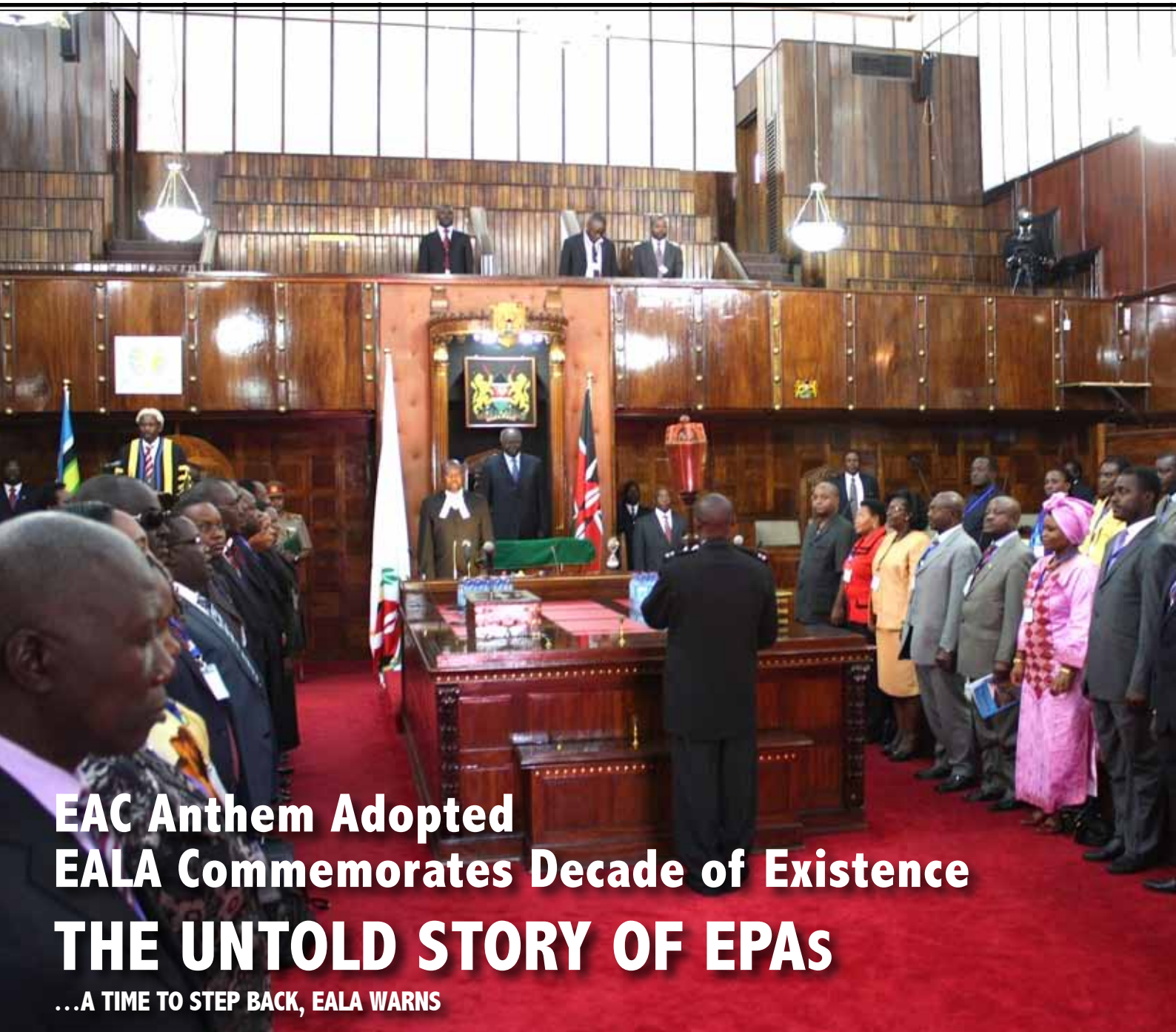
BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EALA

ISSUE 1

APRIL 2011



**EAC Anthem Adopted
EALA Commemorates Decade of Existence**

THE UNTOLD STORY OF EPAS

...A TIME TO STEP BACK, EALA WARNS

REPRESENTATIVE
AUGUST HOUSE MEETS
STAKEHOLDERS

WHO IS YOUR MP
PORTRAITS OF EALA SITTING
MEMBERS 2011

OVERSIGHT
EALA APPROVES BUDGET

TOPICAL ISSUES
EMBRACE COMMON MARKET - EALA
TELLS PARTNER STATES



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ONE PEOPLE. ONE DESTINY

SPEAKER'S CHAMBER



RT.HON ABDIRAHIN ABDI
SPEAKER EALA

All rise... On behalf of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA), I take great pleasure in introducing the first edition of the *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki* Newsletter – the flagship publication of EALA.

Bunge La Afrika Mashariki, which literally means the East African Parliament, is devoted to reporting all things parliamentary in the EAC region. It is as a result of several months of planning and hard work by Honorable Members, staff and stakeholders. I wish to say this is a milestone in the history of EALA to be proud of.

Even though visitors to EALA often remark that its Chamber is much smaller with fewer Members than those of the other Partner States' National Assemblies, its mandate is no doubt enormous. The role of EALA is to enact legislation pertaining to the EAC, provide oversight to the Community as well as to represent the interests of the people of East Africa. The launch of this Newsletter will therefore no doubt, officially mark the beginning of a journey that shall continue to enrich the relationship between EALA and the public.

This edition contains a number of articles and features for your pleasure and reading.

DESK OF THE HON. SPEAKER

The issue of Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) is the main theme of this edition. The region has entered a critical phase with respect to EPAs. However, there are concerns noted by EALA about food security, employment and even the clause on Most Favoured Nations (MFN), all of which may impact negatively on the EAC. It remains imperative for EAC to take full advantage of the safety valves already in existence and provided for under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the General Agreements on Trade in Services (GATS) to safeguard our interests.

The Newsletter also delves into a number of important topical issues that are central to the socio-economic development of the region authored by our very own Honorable Members.

The majority of the oversight functions of the Assembly are carried out through the Standing Committees. Plenty of work goes on in the Committees, away from the Chamber and our Members have many other demands on their time, as they take up matters raised by their East African constituents. Given the importance of the Committees in Parliamentary discourse, this inaugural edition, brings you the main highlights of various Committees.

The edition arrives on the scene at a time when EALA is commemorating a decade of its existence this year. The past ten years has seen significant progress in implementing the various objectives underlined in the Treaty. The celebrations whose climax shall be in Arusha in November 2011, present an opportunity to showcase EALA's past achievements and its continued role in regional integration. Given the fact that EAC is deepening and widening integration, the role of the Assembly remains fundamental and crucially hinged on provision of legislative services – including new legislations and amendment of some existing ones, all aimed at the smooth implementation of the new levels of integration.

Bunge La Afrika Mashariki is your publication as well. We welcome short articles on relevant themes revolving around regional integration. We welcome your suggestions and undertake to integrate the same to make the publication even better and a must read for all East Africans.



MR. KENNETH NAMBOGA MADETE
CLERK EALA

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Union which became fully-fledged on January 1, 2010, has seen a phenomenal rise in intra-EAC trade. The Common Market is on course, with its full realization nonetheless crucially hinged on resolute political will and clear and focused acceptance of the objectives by the Partner States. The negotiations on the Monetary Union which is the third tier of the four-step integration process have commenced in earnest with Partner States committing to fasttracking the same. The Political Federation is not too far off in the horizon.

The role of EALA in the integration dispensation is of essence. EALA is a major stakeholder in ensuring the region realises the objectives and integrative pillars as set out by the Treaty.

The second Assembly whose term ends in June 2012 has shown the highest levels of vibrancy and enthusiasm and remains fully committed to enhancing a wider and deeper oversight scope of the Community in the regional integration process. This is clearly testified by the high number of laws and other resolutions enacted/adopted so far by this Assembly respectively in such a record time.

Serving a region as large and diverse yet with commonalities such as East Africa, is as complex as is challenging. We have every intention of bringing you vital information, facts, figures and knowledge about the EALA and the EAC in general. Our editorial policy shall strive in telling the truth as well as being integral while offering the most educative, informative, entertaining and transformative content.

In our pages, you will find quality analysis and comments on events, trends and milestones in our region.

Welcome to the **Bunge La Afrika Mashariki** and join us on the first step of a great East African journey.

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the **Bunge La Afrika Mashariki Newsletter**. The launch is a major milestone in the history of EALA which, as denoted by the Hon Speaker in the foreword, is celebrating ten years since inception.

It also marks a significant turning point in the ambitious plan by EALA to enhance its image and boost understanding about the Assembly's roles and responsibility among the East African public. In this regard, the inception of the publication takes place few months after the launch of the EALA Website (www.eala.org)

EALA is charged with the legislative function of the Community. Its other main work is similar to that performed by most legislatures in the Commonwealth; including liaising with National Assemblies of the Partner States on matters pertaining to the Community, overseeing the operations of the Community and approving its budget. EALA is also charged with the responsibility of considering Annual Reports of the Audit Commission and all other reports referred to it by the Council of Ministers.

Generally, the EAC has reached an interesting period in terms of progress in its quest for integration. The Customs



EALA TURNS TEN, SET TO COMMEMORATE DECADE OF EXISTENCE



EALA Members with H.E. President Mwai Kibaki at Parliament buildings after the official opening of the Third meeting of the Forth session held in Nairobi

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) is turning a decade old this year. The commemoration whose theme is: **"EALA 10th Anniversary: A Decade of Service towards Political Federation"** shall be observed in all the Partner States. The climax of the fete is scheduled to be held in Arusha, Tanzania, on November 29, 2011.

A number of activities are planned to showcase EALA during the first decade of operations. They shall include among others; an EAC cultural festival and bazaar, EAC Sports tournaments, tree planting activities as well as a number of networking opportunities enabling regional legislators to network and share experiences with the youth, Civil Society and the Private Sector.

Speaking in Nairobi during the Third meeting of the fourth session of the second Assembly, Hon Abdirahin H. Abdi, EALA Speaker, noted that EALA had made significant progress in carrying out its functions, by enacting major acts of the Community, drafting Bills and conducting inter-parliamentary seminars to co-ordinate National Assemblies and establish relationships with their communities.

"The celebrations are thus momentous and the occasion joyous, given the fact that over the years, EALA has successfully established itself into a strong, effective and regional legislature that has lived up to the expectations of the people" Hon Abdi said.

EALA has a legislative function as well as an oversight function over all East African Community matters. The enactment of legislation of the Community is effected by means of Bills passed by the Assembly and assented to by the Heads of State. All Bills that are duly passed and assented to become Acts of the Community take precedent over similar legislations in the Partner States.

EALA evolved from humble beginnings in November 2001 to become a robust Organ of the Community. Established under Article 9 of the Treaty for the Establishment of

the East African Community, the EALA came into being with membership from the original three Partner States namely, Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania.

The Community expanded in July, 2007 with the admission of the Republics of Rwanda and Burundi and new the Members from the two new Partner States took oath in May, 2008.

Under Article 49 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, EALA is mandated to exercise legislative, representative and oversight functions on all matters within the purview of the East African Community. Among the core functions of EALA core are to:

1. enact necessary legislation to implement the necessary provisions of the Treaty
2. debate and approve the EAC budget
3. foster co-operation between the Assembly and the National





THEME: "DECADE OF SERVICE TOWARDS A POLITICAL FEDERATION"

► Assemblies of the Partner States

4. consider annual reports of the activities of the Community, annual audit reports of the Audit Commission and any other reports referred to it by the Council of Ministers.

In terms of oversight, EALA serves to interrogate public policies to ensure efficiency and effectiveness, fairness and equity in their administration or implementation. Such is done largely through the respective committees of EALA.

In its representative role, EALA continues to be the 'voice of the people' in the integration dispensation, informing them about the commitments and policies of their governments to the EAC.

EALA shall thus use the observance



LAUNCHED: EALA Speaker, Hon. Abdirahin Abdi introduces the Strategic Plan

of its 10th Anniversary celebrations to reflect on the various achievements (and challenges) realized over the past ten years and appraise its own effectiveness as a regional Assembly, as it sets the mood for the next decade.



IN THE LAST DECADE:

- EALA has successfully created its own space within the EAC as the legislative organ of the Community;
- EALA has fully supported and spearheaded the integration process of the East African Community with dedication, vigour, zeal and transparency;
- EALA has marketed the EAC to the East Africans, which was evident in the outreach programme and activities that it undertook, whereby the Assembly was able to come into contact with more East Africans than any other organ of the EAC;
- EALA has upheld the principles of separation of powers between the Executive and Legislature on very serious issues affecting the East Africans brought before the Assembly for debate and approval. One of the reasons for withholding its approval of two EAC Budget proposals was the fact that the Assembly felt that it had not been involved in the budgeting process in due time;
- EALA has demonstrated its stability as a regional legislature when the Assembly withheld its approval of the EAC Competition Bill and the Lake Victoria Basin Commission Bill until the Council of Ministers introduced satisfactory amendments; and
- EALA has Found a niche within the regional and international parliamentary forums, which is evident from the invitations that the Assembly received to participate in numerous regional and international parliamentary activities.

Caption: EALA Speaker with Heads of State before and after plenary meetings held in the Partner States

EMBRACE COMMON MARKET – EALA TELLS PARTNER STATES

The EALA is urging Partner States to step-up efforts to ensure effective enforcement and compliance with decisions, laws and regulations of the EAC within the agreed timeframes. The Assembly is further challenging the regional economic community to work out modalities of an effective mechanism for sanctioning non-compliance.

To this end, EALA, National Assemblies, EAC Secretariat and the Partner States have vowed to establish a follow-up mechanism to monitor and provide accountability on implementation of the resolutions of the Inter-Parliamentary Relations seminar - popularly known as the Nanyuki Series.

The sentiments sum up resolutions of the 5th Nanyuki seminar that took place in Bujumbura, Burundi in 2010. The theme of the seminar was **"The Common Market Protocol: Prospects, Challenges and Opportunities"**. The seminar focused on giving regional parliamentarians a deeper insight into the Common Market Protocol; its prospects, opportunities and challenges. It attracted a total of 80 Members of Parliaments from all Partner States and from the House of Representatives in Zanzibar, EALA Members and the respective Partner States' Ministers for EAC affairs. Also in attendance were European Union representatives, EAC Ambassadors to Burundi, Permanent Secretaries, EAC Secretariat staff and renowned academicians from the region.

The National Assemblies were encouraged to establish standing EAC Committees as a means of strengthening linkages between EALA and the National Assemblies and enhancing reporting on the developments taking place within the region. Such an intervention it was stated, would ensure the percolation and trickle-down effect of developments that take place at the EAC, right down to the doorstep of various publics.

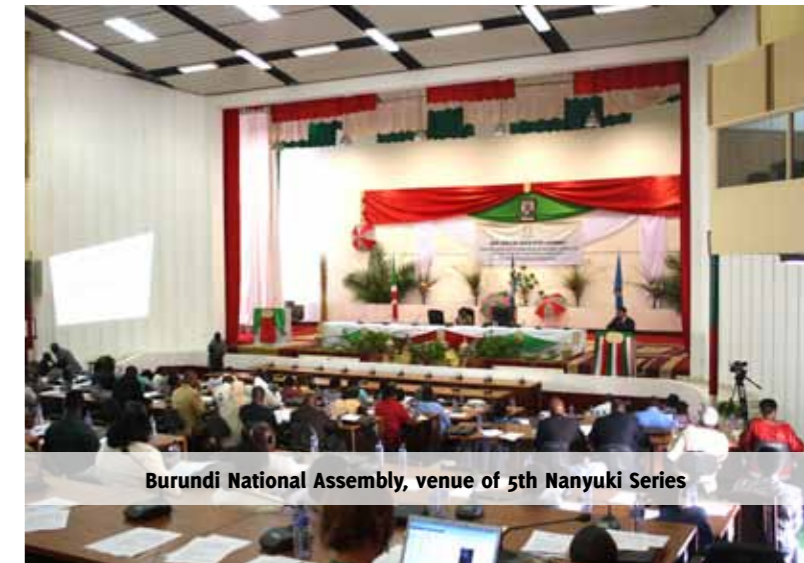
Participants were informed that prospects for the Common Market were enormous for the region and would enhance greater capacity for growth and development and provide strategic platform(s) for competitive industrialization. In addition, by implementing the Common Market, the region stood to gain from competitive industrialization as well as in the diversification of production structures. The Common Market Protocol was adopted/signed on 20 November 2009 by Heads of State and entered into force on July 1, 2010. It envisages the free movement of goods, services, capital, labour and persons. It also provides for the right of establishment and the right of labour.

Other resolutions contained in the Communique include the strengthening of the EAC Secretariat to enable implementation of decisions, undertaking institutional reforms to ensure implementation of the Common Market

Protocol. A number of proposed measures for strengthening the capacity of key actors at regional and Partner State level for the effective implementation of approved EAC Programmes and Projects were also agreed upon.

The Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar idea was conceived in Nanyuki, Kenya, in 2003 and it was resolved then that the important activity be carried out on an annual basis in the respective Partner States. After the Nanyuki Seminar, subsequent meetings were held in Kampala, Uganda; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania; and Kigali, Rwanda.

The Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar (Nanyuki) is one of the avenues through which the EALA fulfils its mandate under Article 49(2) of the Treaty to specifically liaise with National Assemblies of the EAC Partner States on matters relating to the Community.



Burundi National Assembly, venue of 5th Nanyuki Series



RESPLENDENT: Hon. Abdullah Mwinyi and Hon. Margaret Zziwa depart from the venue of the meeting



THE UNTOLD STORY OF REGIONAL INTEGRATION AND THE EPAS

...A TIME TO STEP BACK, EALA WARNS



EALA now wants a more cautionary approach in the yet to be concluded Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) before a deal between the East African Community (EAC) and the European Union (EU) is sealed.

But - Just what are the EPAs and what implications do the negotiations of this complex and attention grabbing subject have for the EAC region? **Bunge La Afrika Mashariki** sought to find out and now sheds more light on the EPAs issue and its implications for the EAC region.

Background

The European region and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) group of countries enjoy a relationship dating back to the 1950's. EPAs are a scheme to create a Free Trade Area (FTA) between the European Union and the ACP group.

Vital facts and figures about EPAs

EAC's main exports to the EU include agriculture (coffee, tea, spices, fish and fish products). They account for over 20% of the EAC total exports to the EU according to an UNCTAD report released in 2008.

On the reverse, EAC's main imports from the EU include machinery, pharmaceuticals and vehicles. This amounted to 60% in the year 2008.

Why the EPAs?

Following the expiration of the Cotonou Agreement, parties agreed to conclude new compatible trading agreements between the ACP and the EU to enhance co-operation in areas relevant to trade. Africa started negotiating the EPAs in four negotiating configurations based on, but not totally

respecting the existing RECs. The groups were the ESA, SADC, CEMAC and ECOWAS. In 2007, the EAC came together, pulled out of the ESA configuration and commenced negotiations as an entity.

Contentious issues

As the negotiations gathered momentum, a number of contentious areas caught the attention of various stakeholders. The six million dollar question then, was whether the EPAs are a threat or an opportunity for the EAC region. The same question still lingers in the minds, hearts and souls of various analysts. Some of the areas under the spotlight include the clause on the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) Treatment and several issues on export taxes.

What does EALA make of the EPAs?

Under Article 49 of the Treaty establishing the EAC, EALA is mandated to carry out oversight and representation functions at the EAC. In accordance with Rule 79 of its Rules of Procedure, the Assembly rose to the discussions on the EPAs, seeking to establish its merits and challenges. On December 15, 2010, EALA's Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (CTI) moved a resolution that was adopted at the second meeting of the Third session of the Assembly in Kampala, Uganda. The resolution moved by the CTI Chairman, Dr. James Ndahiro, urged Partner States through the Council of Ministers to take into account the concerns and recommendations raised in its position paper and the Assembly's previous resolutions yielding to calls for favourable EPAs between the two parties.

The move followed an earlier resolution in May 2010 and an EALA position paper on the matter after periods of engagement with stakeholders involved in the EPAs negotiations. The CTI held the discussions to be better informed on the progress and assess whether the Private Sector and Civil Society interests' were exhaustively covered in the talks.

The position paper as prepared by EALA was succinct and raised a number of pertinent areas in its observations.

High level of liberalization in EPAs vis a vis industrialization

It was argued the extent of liberalization demanded by the EU in the EPAs framework would negatively impact on EAC countries' ability to industrialize since EAC's production capacities are not as competitive as the EU's. Liberalization would thus probably displace EAC's products from its own domestic and regional markets. ➡

Food Security put at risk

Most economies have noted the increase of food imports at a rapid pace in the past two decades, a trend expected to be more pronounced with the EPAs. The food crisis of 2008, the report argued, illustrates such un-sustainability and the imminent possibility of draining foreign exchange.

Concerns about unemployment were raised given the possibility of EU imports pushing farmers out of agriculture, resulting in major consequences for the region.

MFN clause dangerous for trade

The MFN clause is a problematic issue not only to EAC negotiators, but also to African countries negotiating similar EPAs. It has the effect of negatively impacting on trade between Africa and other economies. By offering EU similar terms as that offered to other regions, the EAC stands to reduce the likelihood of other partners signing preferential agreements, much to the detriment of South-South trade, the EALA position paper noted.

Open up many services' sectors and hamper growth

The paper noted that EAC countries should still enjoy the policy space to restrict foreign access to the domestic / regional markets as and when it is appropriate. This may for example, be vital when nurturing the growth of certain sectors. It should also be noted that the GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) Article XXIV which stipulates the conditions of WTO members' FTAs does not require an FTA to include services liberalisation. An FTA can be based only on the liberalisation of goods. In essence, opening too many service sectors was a recipe for hampering growth of service suppliers.

Possibility of curtailing regional trade real

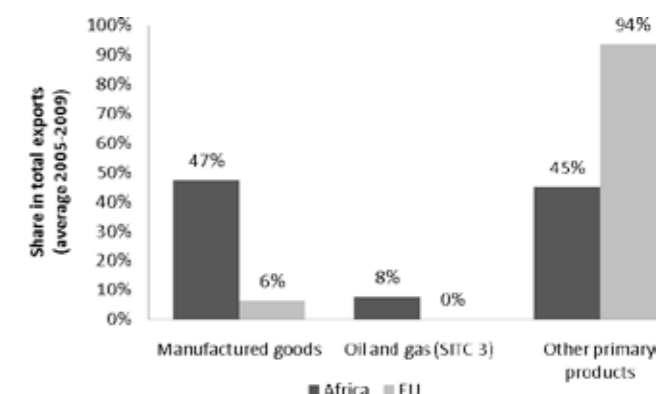
Perhaps the most worrying aspect of the EPAs is possible disruption of the trade integration taking place in the EAC, including that within the Customs Union and most recently in July 2010, the Common Market.

Since 2000, the intra-African market has surpassed the EU market as the biggest export market for EAC countries. EAC's total exports to the EU amounted to USD 2.5 billion in 2008, whilst exports to Africa came to about USD 3.2 billion.

When one looks at EAC's manufactured exports, the importance of the intra-African market becomes even more apparent. In value terms, manufactured exports amount to USD 164 million to the EU compared to USD 1.8 billion to the rest of Africa (UNCTAD stats for 2009 trade). It is therefore clear that for our EAC countries to diversify and industrialise, the internal EAC and African market provides the best opportunity.

The diagram below shows the EAC already has a 'hubs and spokes' trade relation to the EU. Only 6% of our total exports to the EU are in the form of manufactured processed goods, whilst **94% of exports are primary products**. The EPAs arrangement may worsen the trend.

Comparing EAC Exports of Different Categories of Products to EU and to Africa



Source: UNCTAD stats 2009

Which way forward for EPAs?

EALA states it is imperative for the EAC region to prioritise regional integration and regional development, ahead of concluding the talks. This is critical for the growth of EAC, industrial upgrading, export diversification, food security and employment creation.

The caution further stems from the history of de-industrialization experienced when the region undertook structural adjustment policies. The report positively noted the ACP Council of Ministers has already asked for a WTO compatible solution in a bid to support regional integration as EPA negotiations continue.

It remains imperative for EAC's negotiators to take full advantage of the safety valves already in existence and provided for under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and the General Agreements on Trade in Services (GATS) to safeguard concerns.

The report observed that the EAC region was primarily made up of LDCs (4 LDCs and 1 developing country). The Everything But Arms (EBA) regulation which the EU provides to EAC LDCs, giving them duty and quota-free access to the EU market should therefore also be extended to the Republic of Kenya.

"The alternative scenario- where Kenya signs an EPA in order to maintain its preferences under Cotonou, but the LDC countries do not (since these countries already have market access), was not good for regional integration" the Position paper stated.

EALA thus passed a resolution urging the EAC Council of Ministers to intervene and ensure that Community's interests are given due consideration. Liberalization must be a gradual, carefully regulated and dynamic process. Once the Common Market has been firmly established, and when EAC industries have gained additional strength should the EAC countries finalise the EPA negotiations.



PLANS ON FOR PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTE (EAPI)

BY Hon. MUHONGAYIRE, Jacqueline



From Left: Rt.Hon Edward Sekandi, Speaker, Uganda Parliament, Rt.Hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker, Kenya National Assembly, Rt Hon. Abdirahin Abdi, Speaker, EALA, Hon. Abdurahaman Kinana, Immediate past Speaker EALA, Rt. Hon. Pie Ntavyohanyuma, Speaker, Burundi National Assembly.

Plans are underway to establish an East African Parliamentary Institute (EAPI) in the region in a move aimed at nurturing the role of parliamentary institutions at the EAC. Such an institute aims to be a fundamental resource, a hub for information and a forum for exchange of ideas.

The move follows a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the Speakers of the Parliaments/National Assemblies of the Republic of Burundi, Republic of Kenya, Republic of Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania, Republic of Uganda and the East African Legislative Assembly to establish the institution.

EAPI's main objectives shall be to:

- be a Resource Centre for parliamentary information and skills development;
- provide a concentrated and relevant orientation program for new legislators and staff;
- provide parliamentarians, staff, government officials, Civil Society Organizations and other interested parties with an opportunity to exchange ideas in the context of their own experiences, knowledge, procedures and best practices in their legislatures;
- enable legislators to be responsive to global changes;
- link and collaborate with similar institutions globally;
- improve the functioning of parliamentary institutions of Partner States and their role in representation, legislation and oversight;
- improve staff abilities to meet their responsibilities in research, support to Committees and drafting legislations amongst other skills that will enhance their performance.

The EAPI will enable beneficiaries to better appreciate their role and place in the overall context of the Parliamentary system, leading to informed articulation of issues and responses on parliamentary affairs.

Last year, at EALA's 5th Meeting of the 3rd Session-Second Assembly, in Mombasa, Kenya, the first report on "Modalities for the Establishment of the EAPI" was presented by consultants and well received by the Assembly. The project is currently under finalization.

The core functions of EALA include enacting legislation, liaison with National Assemblies of Partner States on matters relating to the Community; debating and approving the Budget of EAC. The Assembly also considers annual reports on the activities of the EAC, annual audit reports of the Audit Commission and any other report referred to it and discusses and makes recommendations to the Council of Ministers among others.

Not all Members elected to the August House have requisite training in legislation, oversight and representation - the core roles of Parliament. The period with which it takes the newly elected Members to familiarize themselves with the procedures and operations of Parliament may also stretch up to two years despite the old adage that says "ignorance of the law is no defense".

The *modus operandi* of the EALA is predominantly based on a Westminster-Commonwealth Model based on the Common law which differs in certain degrees to the Parliamentary system based on the Civil law. The Partner States have in themselves slight differences in terms of parliamentary- political-judicial background.

Although the EALA has many similarities with other legislatures in respect of the role and functions, it remains a unique legislature within the Commonwealth family of nations, for the following reasons:

- it is a supra-national institution;
- its representative character is different;
- it is not constituted along political party lines such as the national legislatures of the EAC Partner States.

In order for EALA and the National Assemblies to succeed in performing their duties properly, their Members of Parliament must endeavour to enhance their knowledge in different disciplines and familiarise with the relevant rules and procedures. Instituting EAPI is thus one of the sure ways of attaining the objective.

SMALL ARMS, DANGEROUS AND LETHAL...

Last year, EALA's Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (RACR) carried out "on spot assessments" on the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) intervention projects in the Partner States' returning a caution for concerted efforts to curb on proliferation of the SALW.

The Committee undertook the assessments in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya and the United Republic of Tanzania on March 9 - 13, 2010, November 7 - 12, 2010 and November 21 - 26, 2010 respectively. The SALW

Members however observed that economic empowerment was key in realizing progress in actions against SALW. It was stated that despite the remarkable political will and involvement of the government authorities in the fight against proliferation of illicit small arms, the need for sustained economic empowerment and sensitization of communities was paramount to contain the situation.

In its recommendations, the Committee called for concerted efforts in economic development and poverty



BLAZING: Illegal armaments being destroyed

projects were initiated under the aegis of the East African Community/German Technical Co-operation Small Arms and Light Weapons (EAC/GTZ-SALW).

The specific objectives of the tour were:

- to comprehend and appreciate project activities in the EAC;
- to understand the functioning of the EAC/GTZ SALW projects;
- to brainstorm on the challenges faced in the implementation of the projects;
- to visualize challenges; and
- to carry out a comprehensive review of the activities and report to the Assembly.

The Committee was impressed by the notable practices on the ground, ranging from multidisciplinary approaches; including awareness raising campaigns, sports, drama and economic empowerment which were termed as 'major incentives' towards voluntary disarmament. These aspects, the Committee noted, contributed significantly to social behavioural change in the fight to contain SALW.

reduction to check the mushrooming of illicit small arms. It called on EAC governments and Development Partners to engage more fully in arms control.

The Committee further urged Partner States' governments to set aside sufficient budgets and management of sensitive security components of peace and security programmes as "home grown solutions", so as not to compromise the future security of the EAC.

"More effort is needed in harmonizing cross-border activities against illicit small arms, such as cross border awareness meetings, information sharing and creation of cross-border anti-SALW community clubs. This will ensure the level of progress in addressing the problem of small arms in border communities shared by two or more countries", the report of the Committee availed to Bunge La Afrika Mashariki Newsletter, said in part.

The Committee noted the importance of extending awareness campaigns on illicit SALW to both primary and secondary schools. This will ensure the involvement of children in information sharing on the problem of illicit proliferation of SALW, the report concluded.



ON THE SPOT: RV JUMUIYA & MERECP PROJECTS

The EALA Committee on Accounts toured western Kenya in November 2010 to inspect the RV Jumuiya vessel and the Mt. Elgon Regional Ecosystem Conservation Programme (MERECP).

The five day visit was called in the wake of a meeting held in Bujumbura, Burundi on September 7 – 13, 2010 that convened to review and scrutinize Audited Financial Statements of the EAC Organs and Institutions. The assessment further reviewed the progress of both projects at the request of the Assembly.

RV Jumuiya is a vessel offered to the EAC for use in Lake Victoria Basin to improve safety of navigation, research and educational related activities on the Lake. The ship had reportedly docked in Mwanza, Tanzania, owing to mechanical problems. The move prompted the Committee to act given the importance of having RV Jumuiya in operation for research and rescue missions in the region. It was on this premise that the Committee paid the site visit to the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Secretariat in Kisumu to verify and ascertain the status of the ship as directed by the Assembly.

MERECP is an EAC regional trans-boundary eco-system programme initiated in response to the conservation and development needs of the Mt. Elgon ecosystem. It spans the border between Kenya and Uganda and has over 180,000 hectares of forest. It is a catchment area for important water systems contributing to the Turkwell River, Lake Turkana, Lake Victoria basin and the Nile River basin via Lake Kyoga in Uganda.

MERECP dates back to 3rd February 2004, when the EAC entered into a financing agreement with the Norwegian government for a grant to support the inception phase of MERECP for the period 2005 – 2009.

Midway the project in 2007, the Accounts Committee met in Kampala, Uganda, where it noted with concerns the views of the Auditors on the weaknesses that existed in the management of the MERECP. The weaknesses included among others, delayed implementation of programme activities, lack of adequate supervision of the programmes and the plough down of *Leuceana* and *Calliandra* seed orchard by the Sironko prison community. ➡



HOUSE TO MISS AMB. JUMA MWAPACHU'S CONTRIBUTIONS



The East African Legislative Assembly will miss contributions of the outgoing Secretary General of the East African Community, Amb. Juma Mwapachu when his term comes to an end in April 2011. Amb. Mwapachu was sworn in as an ex-officio Member of the august House in April 2006 and his tenure ends on 27th April 2011, having served a 5-year non-renewal term as the Secretary General of the East African Community.

Throughout his tenure as ex-officio, Amb. Mwapachu addressed the Assembly on several topical issues pertaining to the regional integration process and also made various presentations at the inter-parliamentary relations seminars; the Nanyuki Series.

The Members of the Assembly have planned a grand farewell party for Amb. Juma Mwapachu on 31st March 2011 on the side lines of the 4th Meeting of the 4th Session of the East African Legislative Assembly taking place at the Chamber of Rwanda Parliament in Kigali from 28th March to 8th April 2011.

The outgoing Secretary General has always regarded Members of EALA as the true representatives of the people and leading champions of East African unity and development. Bunge La Afrika Mashariki the official Magazine of the regional Assembly, will be able to publish highlights of both Amb. Juma Mwapachu's contributions to the House during his tenure and the farewell party in its next issue.

➡ The MERECP was thus re-designed following recommendations from the Assembly. A mid-term review of the project was carried out and a number of changes directed, including extension of the project life from December 2009 to December 2010 as well as transferring the responsibility of the management of the project to Lake Victoria Basin Commission effective from January 2010.

With the assistance of a specialized Technical Marine Engineer from the Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), the Committee visited RV Jumuiya to verify and ascertain the status of the ship. The Committee completed a three-hour voyage and witnessed that the ship was operational. It observed that in addition to research and rescue missions, the RV Jumuiya was also available for hourly hire to the public.

The Committee chaired by Hon Bernard Mulengani, also ascertained that RV Jumuiya engines were in satisfactory order. It called on the LVBC management to ensure the

vessel was insured by March 2011 and further urged them to institute a policy on regulation of the vessel usage that prioritized research and rescue missions.

The tour of MERECP in Kenya saw the Committee visit various project activities in Tuibei and Kapsokwony in Mt. Elgon District, Endebess and Chorlim in the Mt. Elgon National Park region in Kwanza District. The Committee further held meetings with the Assistant Minister, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Hon Ramadhan Seif Kajembe and the MERECP Focal Person in the same Ministry. It reviewed a number of reports on Accounts, MERECP Program Strategy, MERECP Annual report and briefs.

The Committee was satisfied with the follow up and the level of implementation of the recommendations by LVBC on RV Jumuiya and MERECP. The Committee is set to meet to review a special audit on the projects as it prepares to pronounce itself on the matter.





EALA APPROVES 2010/11 BUDGET

.. FOCUSES ON OVER 20 PRIORITY AREAS

The East African Legislative Assembly passed the East African Community budget for the Financial Year 2010/2011 at its 5th Meeting-3rd Session held at the Mombasa Municipal Council Chambers mid last year. The Budget which amounts to US\$ 59,963,040 focuses on 24 priority areas for the Community.

Themed: Operationalizing the Common Market and Laying the Foundation for a Monetary Union, the EAC budget for the Financial Year 2010/2011 supports the following areas inter alia: finalization of the 4th EAC Development Strategy and Information and Communication Policy and Strategy; consolidation of the Customs Union; operationalizing of the EAC Common Market; tabling to the EALA Bills required for the implementation of the Common Market; tabling to the EALA Bills on Counterfeits and Piracy, One Stop Border Posts, HIV and AIDS and Public Private Funding of Infrastructure Projects; setting the ground and launching the negotiations of the EAC Monetary Union; and strengthening the integration of Rwanda and Burundi to the Community.

Other areas are deepening co-operation in defence, security and political matters; promotion of sustainable management and utilization of environment and natural resources; enhancing the implementation of the Lake Victoria development programmes; continuation of the construction of the EAC headquarters; conclusion of the Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) negotiations; conclusion of the Tripartite Free Trade Area arrangements of COMESA-EAC and SADC; enhancement of the capacity of Inter University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) towards realization of a better working East Africa Education System; and putting in place the EAC- Development Fund.

The (then) Chairperson of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon. Dr. Diodorus Kamala commended Members of EALA for their oversight role on the projects of the Community and the quest to speed up the process of widening and deepening the integration process.

The EAC budget exceeds the previous year's budget which was USD\$ 54,257,291 by 11%. The budget is allocated to the Organs/Institutions as follows: East African Community Secretariat: US\$ 26,836,651; Defence Liaison Unit: US\$ 910,244; Customs and Trade: US\$ 3,696,411; East African Legislative Assembly: US\$ 10,520,361;



ONE PEOPLE: Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi presents the EAC flag to Mombasa Mayor, His Worship Ahmed Modhar during the Budget meeting held at the Mombasa Municipal Council Chambers



BAJETI: Hon. Dr. Diodorus Kamala, then EAC Minister, United Republic of Tanzania showing off the briefcase containing the EAC Budget Speech



GENTLEMEN: Hon. Harold Nsekela, Judge President of the EACJ (left), Mtesigwa Mangu, Executive Director, CASSOA and Dr. John Ruhangisa, Registrar, EACJ consult

East African Court of Justice: US\$ 2,841,777; and Lake Victoria Basin Commission: US\$ 15,157,596.

It is to be financed by contributions from Partner States of US\$ 30,748,369; Development Partners' contribution totalling US\$ 29,141,051; and miscellaneous income of US\$ 73,620.



EALA MEETS SADC-PF OFFICIALS, ROOTS FOR CO-OPERATION

The EALA wants sister regional parliaments in Africa to tighten collaboration and co-operation in a bid to strengthen the economic blocs in the continent, EALA Speaker, Honorable Abdirahin H. Abdi has said.

The Rt. Honorable Abdi noted the essence for cordial ties when he received the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF) Secretary General, Dr. Esau Chiviya in Arusha on March 2, 2011. "Today, EALA enjoys warm and cordial ties with a number of parliamentary institutions. We are happy to receive you - SADC-PF as well, as we begin the new venture which should also contribute towards strengthening the Pan-African Parliament", Hon Abdi observed.

The SADC-PF Secretary General was in the region on a three day study tour of EALA to learn of the mandate and operations of the EAC parliament and to explore possible areas of best practices that the SADC-PF can borrow from. He was accompanied by the SADC-PF Finance Officer, Mr. Mahendrasing Khooblall.

The Rt. Hon Abdi stated that EALA had made significant contributions in its ten years of existence towards the attainment of the objectives of the EAC. He noted that EALA's fundamental role revolved around legislation, providing oversight and a representative function to the EAC. At the moment, besides the European Union (EU) Parliament, EALA is the only other regional parliament that has legislative powers.

Present at the meeting were EALA Members, Hon Dora Byamukama, Hon Dan Wandera Ogallo, Hon Abdullah Mwinyi and the Clerk of the Assembly, Mr. Kenneth Madete.

The meeting observed that regional parliaments needed to liaise more closely with national parliaments to enhance legislative services for the betterment of the constituents and the citizens they serve.

The Speaker also received salutations from the Chairperson of the SADC-PF and the Speaker of the Parliament of Zimbabwe, the Rt. Hon. Lovemore Moyo. In his brief message delivered to EALA by Dr. Chiviya, the Chairperson lauded EALA for its vast contributions to the regional integration dispensation and pledged that SADC-PF was both willing to closely work with and learn from EALA.

The three-day tour also saw the officials hold talks with the respective EAC Deputy Secretaries General in charge of Productive and Social Sectors (PSS), Planning and Infrastructure (P&I) other high ranking officials of the EAC.

The SADC-PF is in the process of transforming itself from a consultative body in to a fully-fledged regional Parliament. The officials thus hope to report back the findings of the tour at the next SADC-PF plenary session scheduled for Angola in June 2011.

EALA has warm ties with the ECOWAS parliament. The Assembly has also fostered linkages by participating in Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and Africa-Caribbean and Pacific - European Union (ACP-EU) sessions among others.

As a result of its effective participation in the different parliamentary institutions, a lot of interest towards support of the Assembly and the Community has been registered.



ROLE MODEL: The visit by the SADC-PF Officials to EALA and the EAC Secretariat



ENGINEERING THE INTEGRATION PROCESS

By Bobi Odiko and Steve Machage



EALA Meeting at its Chambers in Arusha, Tanzania

The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) was established as a Legislative arm and Organ of the East African Community (EAC) on 29th November 2001 as stipulated in provisions of Article 48 of the EAC Treaty signed in 1999. The Assembly is thus celebrating a decade of existence this year.

The First Assembly made significant progress in carrying out its functions, particularly by enacting major Acts of the Community, drafting bills and conducting inter-parliamentary seminars to co-ordinate with National Assemblies and establishing relationships with its constituencies

The Second Assembly was sworn in on 5th June, 2007 for a term of five years. In the same period, two new Partner States namely; Rwanda and Burundi were admitted to the EAC. This had three main implications for EALA. Firstly, the number of elected Members of EALA increased from 27 to 45 in addition to the seven Ex-officio Members. Secondly, the Members from the two new Partner States grappled with a slightly different parliamentary-political-judicial background of the three original Partner States which is predominantly Westminster-Commonwealth system. Thirdly, was the question of official language, being English, which is not widely spoken in the two new Partner States.

Over the decade in existence, the EALA has successfully established itself into a strong, effective regional legislature that has lived up to the expectations of the East African people. As earlier envisioned by the EAC founding fathers, that the East African integration process would be people-centered and driven by the ideals of democracy underpinned by consensual decision-making, the EALA was formed so as to give expression to these democratic ideals in the Community.

It is with this background that the founding fathers deliberately gave the Assembly legislative, oversight and representative roles, which made the Assembly a proper functioning regional Assembly. Under Article 49 of the new Treaty, the EALA is mandated to exercise legislative, oversight and representative functions on all matters within the purview of the East African Community making it unique on the African Continent.

The Assembly has continued to fulfil its legislative, oversight and representative functions in a number of ways:

Legislative Function

EALA offers a unique and good opportunity for addressing issues of development through checks and balances on governments (through the Council of Ministers). The idea is to embrace an all-inclusive approach to policy and decision making and implementation mechanisms of the agreed upon agenda. In virtually all respects, pieces of legislation are the fundamental and most critical guiding and regulatory framework for shaping this agenda. In the EAC arrangement, EALA's role in the integration agenda is to provide legislation that ensures a balanced, equitable and sustainable integration process. EALA therefore ensures that it scrutinizes all the draft legislations proposed by Council not only for their feasibility, but for their impact on the goals of economic development that EAC has agreed to attain.

Since its inauguration in 2001, the Assembly has passed over 20 pieces of legislation, a number of

▶ which are fundamental in the EAC integration process. This is a function the Assembly has successfully done to ensure that the necessary laws that facilitate the implementation of the provisions of the Treaty and other attendant agreements that drive the integration process are, have been, and will be enacted.

Oversight Function

With regard to oversight, the EALA continues to play a crucial role by providing direction on the EAC spending and allocation of resources. This mandate is provided by Article 132 (5) of the Treaty thus: the resources of the Community shall be utilized to finance the activities of the Community as shall be determined by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Council. This mandate has provided an important opportunity to EALA to debate the budget and allocate resources in line with the priorities of the Community as rempowered under Article 134 (3) of the Treaty.

Representative Role

In terms of representation, EALA, like any other legislature is and should be the voice for the concerns of the citizens of East Africa to other decision making bodies. Similarly, it is and should be the voice to the citizens of East Africa, to let them know about the commitments and policies of their governments to the EAC. It is the duty of the EALA to ensure that communication is two way, by letting the people also know what their governments are or should be doing. EALA has performed this very important function in the integration process because it constantly consults the people of East Africa on issues related to the implementation of the policies and activities outlined in the Protocol/Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. It has done this through Public Hearing workshops on all major stages of integration and legislations. Notable among them were the Public Hearing workshops on the Customs Union (both the Protocol and the Act, and of recent on the proposed Protocol on the Common Market).

Relations with others

In terms of outreach, the Assembly has marketed the Community by taking it from Arusha to the people of East Africa in rural and urban areas and beyond through tours and outreach programmes. Further, the Assembly has been able to reach out to similar international bodies by making alliances in order to participate and contribute to international issues. As a result, EALA has participated in Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA), Pan-African Parliament (PAP) and Africa-Caribbean and Pacific – European Union (ACP-

EU) sessions.

Outside the traditional parliamentary functions, EALA provides an ideal forum for consensus building on issues affecting the region. Consensus involves debates, discussions and persuasion to develop a common understanding on issues of concern to institutions, interest groups and the population. Consensus building is a political process and no one can do this better than parliamentarians. The EALA has performed this very well through focused outreach programmes to create an understanding of the EAC Treaty and Community programmes and projects. EALA has also conducted tours and visits to natural resources-based conflict areas to broker an understanding with parties involved in conflict.

The Assembly has also liaised closely with National Assemblies of Partner States. There is constant interaction between the Assembly and their counterparts in the National Assemblies of the Partner States. Within its relatively short span of its existence, the Assembly has spearheaded the establishment of formal fora to allow parliamentarians from the five East African countries to regularly interact with those of the EALA and to discuss matters of regional integration.

They include: the annual Inter-Parliamentary Relations seminar (Nanyuki); the Inter-Parliamentary Forum on Population, Health and Development (IPFPHD); the Inter-Parliamentary Liaison Committee on Natural Resources/ Extractive Industries (IPLC-NR/EI); and the Inter-Parliamentary Liaison Committee on Budget (IPRLC-B); the Inter-Parliamentary Liaison Committee on Trade (EAPLC); the Eastern Africa Association the Public Accounts Committees (EAAPAC); and most recently, the East African Community Speakers' Bureau.

Apart from being the legislative body of the EAC, the EALA has provided a forum for the civil society and other non-state actors within the EAC to advocate the promotion of democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights.



AT YOUR SERVICE: H.E Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania (center), and Hon Samuel Sitta then Speaker of the Tanzania Parliament (seated right) pose with EALA Staff.

The EALA Pictorial



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1. UNITED: Hon. Farah Maalim, Deputy Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly (KNA) addresses participants at the interactive meeting between the EALA Members and their counterparts from the KNA

2. FLYING HIGH: EALA Members listen to a presentation during a visit to the Soroti Flying School in Uganda.

3. KARIBU JUBA: H.E. President Salva Kiir of Southern Sudan (left) welcomes Hon. Augustine Lotodo in Juba as other Hon. Members look on.

4. THIS WAY: Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi leads the procession to parliament

5. BANKING ON EALA: Kenya Commercial Bank CEO, Dr. Martin Odour-Otieno makes a point as EALA Speaker, Hon. Abdirahin Abdi and Clerk, Mr. Kenneth Madete pay attention. The KCB Board recently hosted EALA MPs to a dinner meeting in Nairobi.

6. ALL IS WELL: EAC Secretary General, Amb Juma Mwapachu and Hon. Janet Mmari share a light moment

7. HERE WE ARE: H.E Jakaya Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania (center), and Hon Samuel Sitta then Speaker of the Tanzania Parliament (seated right) pose with the Rt. Hon Speaker of EALA and Hon. Judges of the East African Court of Justice (back)

8. COLLABORATION: Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi, EALA Speaker with Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) officials, Paul Silk (left) and Ms. Hope Muli.

9. FREE AND FAIR: Hon. Mike Sebalu, delivering a press statement to the

media during an election observer mission.

10. BACK IN TIME: EALA Legislators visit a slave memorial site on the Zanzibar Island.

11. THE TEAM TO WATCH: EALA/EAC Soccer team pose for a photo before taking on their opponents.

12. ONE FAMILY: EALA Members congratulate their new colleagues, Hon. Nsambimana Yves (third from left), Hon. Bucumi Emerence (centre) and Hon. Sitta. Samuel (third from right)



AUGUST HOUSE MEETS STAKEHOLDERS



TOUCH DOWN: Hon. Members arrive for a stakeholder's meeting

The overarching mandate of the EALA's Committee on General Purpose Committee (GPC) is to provide oversight of the progress made in the implementation of Articles 16, 21 and 22 (but not limited to the same) of the Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community, which addresses matters of general application on the EAC.

In the same vein, the Committee may initiate studies and investigation, call for and receive reports of the work of bodies, programmes and projects on such matters. Over the last six months, the GPC has held a series of meetings and deliberations with various stakeholders in the region in partial fulfillment of that mandate.

At the recently concluded Third meeting of the fourth session of the Second Assembly in Nairobi, the committee assented to requests to meet, listen to and deliberate with stakeholders on topical issues at hand. In the field of medical research, the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI) pitched and made a strong case for increased resources for research, petitioning the GPC to appeal for increase in funding in Partner States to aid research on the HIV and AIDS vaccine. IAVI whose mission is to ensure the development of safe, effective, accessible, preventive HIV vaccines for use throughout the world has made significant progress so far in vaccine development.

The Voluntary Services Organization (VSO) on its part, pledged to support the work of EALA by collaborating and supporting the legislative process. VSO's work revolves around the six development goals of disability, health, HIV and AIDS, participation and governance, secure livelihoods and education.

At the same sitting, the East African Association of Grantmakers (EAAG) presented its findings on a recent

study on taxation of philanthropic activities and grants within East Africa. EAAG which carried out the study in the Partner States is advocating for a harmonized tax policy regime for philanthropy in the region. It also wants a Trust law instituted in that regard.

According to Lucy Githaiga, Chief Executive Officer of EAAG, such a move would create a favorable environment conducive for encouraging charitable donations. At the moment the environment around charitable giving differs from one Partner State to another. There are a number of challenges constraining tax philanthropy including the narrow thresholds for tax incentives and aspects of managing transparency around incentives.

The EAC Customs Management Act according to the EAAG, fails to address the basic issues central to promotion of philanthropy. There is no provision for exempting local Philanthropy Organizations from paying customs duties even for goods or services imported for charitable purposes. This emphasises the need for a regional approach in seeking to secure an enabling environment for philanthropy.

The Committee is to discuss the proposals when the next plenary convenes in Kigali, Rwanda.

In late 2010 as part of its oversight role, the committee carried out a spot assessment on the harmonization of EAC's education systems as well as that of opportunities for deeper integration in the context of Common Market in a number of sectors. The areas included science and technology and culture and sports.

The assessment sought to explore opportunities that have been opened up so far by each Partner State in the aforementioned sectors. The Committee also assessed the on-going processes of the Common Market with emphasis on political perception and policy approach. In Uganda, Mr. Aggrey D. Kibenge, Under-Secretary in charge of Finance and Administration at the Ministry of Education and Sports, lauded EALA's efforts, noting that Uganda was progressing to achieve the desired harmonization and mutual recognition of systems hinged on competencies and equivalences. "Harmonization need not necessarily mean the systems are the same but rather the processes", it was stated in the deliberations.

In Burundi, the Committee met with high ranking officials of the Ministry of Trade, Ministry of High Education and Scientific Research and the Ministry of Youth, ➡

➡ Culture and Sports. It also paid a courtesy call at the University of Burundi.

In Rwanda, the GPC learned of Rwanda's desire to continuously improve the quality of education. EALA Members and the Members of the Rwanda National Assembly agreed to collaborate to ensure the issue of harmonization was taken on board in the drafting of national laws in the country. The need for setting up of professional regulatory bodies to standardize accreditation and qualifications was also emphasized.

While touring Kenya, the Committee was informed that Partner States need to take stock of the skills set in the region as they address issues of disharmonies. The country was also promoting Kiswahili as a *lingua franca* by promoting its teaching, publication of literature, and research initiatives among others.

In Tanzania, the Committee met and shared notes with a number of stakeholders

GPC sits in Pre-budget conference

The committee also participated in the EAC Pre-budget conference as a first step to budget formulation for the financial year 2011/12 in line with the EAC Development Strategy and the Medium Term Expenditure Framework;

Speaking on behalf of the Chairperson of the GPC, Hon Lydia Wanyoto, Hon. Leonce Ndarubagiye, EALA MP, noted the conference clearly demonstrated the good working relationships between the various Organs and Institutions of the Community. He further reiterated the need for the Partner States to check the increasing dependence on donor funds to finance key Community projects and programmes given that it is not predictable nor sustainable.

FROM THE BURUNDI NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

By Clarisse Biraronderwa & Tharcisse Manirakiza.

Staff at Burundi National Assembly

EALA Members of Parliament from Burundi met with the Members of the Burundi National Assembly on February 18, 2011 and discussed at length matters related to operations of EALA and the EAC.

The meeting held at the Kigobe Palace was presided over by over by the Rt. Hon. Pie Ntavyohanyuma, Speaker of Burundi National Assembly. The EALA delegation was led by Hon. Léonce Ndarubagiye, Chair of the EALA Burundi Chapter. In attendance also was Hon. Frederic Ngenzebuhoro, Chairman of the EALA Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict resolution and six members of the EALA Burundi Chapter.

In the deliberations, the EALA MPs narrated the "EAC Story" depicting the origins resulting in the signing of the Treaty on November 30, 1999, a landscape of its developments and its developments to date. Hon Ndarubagiye noted the entry of Rwanda and Burundi was a positive measure and had contributed to strengthening the Community. Participants were taken through the components which make up the four integrative pillars of the EAC which are: Custom Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and ultimately, Political Federation.

Hon. Ndarubagiye informed delegates the EALA was one of the organs of the EAC established under Article 9 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community. Like most legislatures, EALA has as its core functions, legislation, oversight and representation. The EALA is composed of 45 Members who are directly elected for a five-year term by their respective National Assemblies and five ex-officio Members. "Each Partner State appoints 9 Members to represent it in this Legislative organ", the presenter noted.

At question time, participants queried the use of English as the official language of the EAC, a move many felt, disadvantaged citizens of Burundi as a majority were French-speakers. However in response, the EALA MPs stated

that Burundi joined the Community under the Treaty that recognises the use of English as the language of the Community. However, citizens of Rwanda and Burundi have engaged in advocacy efforts to amend the Treaty and to include French as another official language of the Community.

The EALA MPs called on all Burundian MPs to reinforce their critical role in educating the population to work very hard so as to reach the other EAC member countries on the path of development.

Together, the EALA Members committed to holding quarterly meetings with Members of the Burundi National Assembly reviewing the developments at EALA in particular and the region in general.





LEVEL PLAYING FIELD VITAL FOR INTEGRATION

Eleven years on –any analyst may possibly agree that the East African Community could well be progressing on to be “a bloc role model” when it comes to regional integration. Hovering somewhere in the shadows of that accomplishment is EALA’s Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (CTI).

The CTI is constantly contributing to leveling the playing field for doing business in the region. The CTI undertook a number of activities during the activity calendars of 2009/10-2010/11 financial years heralding the all important mandate.

The CTI has in the past vastly toured border posts and ports in the EAC region. The tours were specifically undertaken to verify whether implementation of the Customs Union is progressing well and in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The tours also served as an opportunity for EALA Members to engage with relevant stakeholders in accordance its (EALA) oversight role.

The CTI believes in the view that EAC’s citizens must be aware of the Customs Union with emphasis on its benefits. Sufficient sensitization is thus vital to help traders become more aware about sensitive goods, duty free goods and customs requirements. On cross border issues, it is imperative for customs and immigration officials to co-operate and hold regular joint meetings, in order to facilitate intra-regional trade. This can also be effectively done through the establishment of One-Stop-Border Posts.

The effervescent Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) that hamper business need to be weeded out. The CTI has recommended as much, calling for harmonized transit procedures, data processing and removal of unnecessary weighbridges.

The CTI also encourages speedy establishment of regional regulatory institutions for revenue collection, insurance industry, quality assurance and standards and anti-monopolies among others. It further recommends that “soft infrastructure” including banks, insurance, clearing and forwarding companies be established at the border points to minimise the costs of doing business in the region.

EALA takes into consideration the interests of the people of East Africa. This aspect has seen EALA endear itself to various publics including the Private Sector and the Civil Sector. This is exhibited by the role played by the CTI towards resolving matters affecting and afflicting the business community in the region.

The coming in to effect of the Common Market in July 2010 shall spur more economic growth. Its full realisation is however, crucially hinged on resolute political will and acceptance of the objectives by the Partner States.

Looking forward to the Monetary Union

EALA is looking forward to the Monetary Union – the third integration tier with as much enthusiasm. Way back in March 2010, EALA organised a stakeholders’ workshop on the East African Monetary Union.



HOW IT WORKS: EALA Members listen to their guide on how a Weigh Bridge works



INVESTORS: EALA Members visit an iron sheet factory in Mombasa

▶ The meeting in Nairobi brought together experts from EAC Secretariat and Partner States and Members of the National Assemblies to discuss the state of play with regards to the Monetary Union in line with EAC’s regional investment policy framework.

Participants benefited from sessions that among other things; broadened their understanding on the legal, regulatory and institutional framework necessary for implementation of the Monetary Union.

A year on, the EAC has commenced the process of negotiations of the Monetary Union.

In line with its representative role, EALA takes into consideration the interests of the people of East Africa. This aspect has seen EALA endear itself to various publics including the Private Sector and the Civil Sector. This is exhibited by the role played by the CTI towards resolving matters affecting and afflicting the business community in the region.

Challenges in implementing CETs...the case of General Motors

The motor vehicle industry recently raised the red flag on various challenges currently faced in implementation of the Common External Tariffs (CET) and the Rules of Origin at both policy and operational level. In its petition to EALA, General Motors (EA) Ltd, lamented about the continued violation of strict enforcement to the 25% CET for finished products in the EAC Partner States hampered business. The company also noted that the EAC has been

arbitrarily suspending the CET rate for some Partner States, thus giving importers undue advantage over local manufacturers.

The petition further noted delay in harmonization of Motor Vehicle Standards within East Africa with respect to: safety standards, emission levels, standards and testing procedures for used vehicles and age of used vehicles imported into the region.

The egg or the chicken? EALA receives petition by the business community

In September 2010, the CTI received and considered complaints from traders in Mwanza, Tanzania, “over perceived discriminatory treatment” by the Tanzanian authorities, following a ban on importation of eggs from Uganda. According to the petitioners, as this was taking place, the avenues for importation of the same products from Kenya continued. The Committee deliberated on this matter and noted the action contravened both the “law and the spirit” of the Customs Union Act and the Common Market Protocol. It thus recommended to the Council of Ministers to take action to restore trade in chicken/eggs between Uganda and Tanzania and that the Council of Ministers reports back to the House at its next Plenary in April 2011.

EALA further advocated the speedy formation of a regional Customs Management Authority as envisaged both within the EAC Customs Management Act and the EAC Development Strategy to administer and ensure compliance by Partner States with regional customs laws and policies.



GO GREEN TO COMPENSATE ENERGY SHORTFALL

EALA is emphatic that the EAC region is capable of meeting its energy needs through renewable sources so long as the sector is provided with the right policy support. Consequently, a very clear linkage between energy, climate change and ecosystem degradation is emerging, posing the need for harmonization of the three areas to create the right balance for development of renewable energy.

The sweet news for the region – that often reels from power shortages and outages, sums up the mood of a recent workshop on Renewable Energy organized by EALA's Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR) in Nairobi.

The workshop held on 5th Feb 2011, was opened by the Chairperson of the ATNR, Hon Safina Kwekwe. It brought together participants from the Committee, members of national legislatures from Partner States, senior government officials in charge of energy and independent experts from the region.

The objectives of the workshop were threefold:-

1. to build capacity of Members of Parliament and other relevant stakeholders on the potential and current efforts in development of renewable energy sources through out the region.
2. to enlighten Members on existing instruments (policies, regulations and laws governing the exploitation, use and development of renewable energy.
3. to update members of the EAC Master Plan on Energy.

Members urged the EAC to urgently develop a renewable energy master plan and to deploy all efforts to secure funds for its development. At the same time, they called for policy and legal reforms in the sector. Such a move, participants learned, would create an enabling environment for promoting renewable energy in Partner States and at Community level.

At the same time, the need for more information on renewable energy resource availability, investment opportunities, returns within the Partner States and at the Community level was encouraged. The workshop learned that technology and knowledge transfer among Partner States in the area of renewable energy development and

exploitation was vital and essential.

The workshop was divided into three sessions. In the first part, Members were taken through a presentation by Engineer James Wakaba from Global Village Energy Partnerships (GVEP), a UK registered NGO operating in four Partner States that focuses on helping entrepreneurs develop alternative sources of energy as a business. It emerged that use of renewable energy was on the increase due to impacts of climate change, rising oil prices, legislative incentives and commercialization. Engineer Wakaba noted that between 2008 and 2009, there was more investment in renewable energy by venture capitalists than in ICT sector.

The common uses of renewable energy include:

- Heating – Using solar, biomass and 'green' electricity
- Electricity generation with over 18% of all electricity generated globally in 2008 was from renewable resources
- Transport – biofuels are increasingly being used to displace fossil fuels in transport.

According to the presenter, statistics show 93 billion litres were used in 2008, being 5% of petroleum consumption.

EAC Energy Specialist, Peter Kinuthia, emphasised the role of the Energy sector at the Community as necessary to facilitate realization of socio-economic development, increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investment.

He informed participants that the implementation of EAC energy projects and programmes was succinctly mandated from Article 101 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, the EAC Development Strategy and the decisions of the Sectoral Council on Energy.

Members were informed that the development of the Master Plan will entail identifying the existing legal and policy frameworks and what is required to develop these resources to the maximum economic benefits possible for the region. The sector, Mr. Kinuthia added, was targeting the development of wind and biogas and was looking to India to support the development of expertise in these two areas. ➡



➡ It also emerged that the EAC Secretariat was also looking at the cross border electrification policy and the development of transboundary renewable energy sources. One of the projects identified is a 10MW hydropower project on the border between the United Republic of Tanzania and Uganda. The Project has a developer and is expected to take off soon.

Country presentations from Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania all depicted the current dwindling scenario of energy sources as well as the potential that new and renewable energy sources offer. It emerged that although all Partner States were at different stages in their development, policy intervention to promote renewable energy in the countries were in place, even though not all were clear-cut.

Of notable concern however were several obstacles prohibiting the realization of the full potential to develop renewable energy in the region. These include: Policy and legal barriers, Lack of information on resource availability, investment opportunities, returns; Low financial returns and no quantification of economic benefits. Other challenges are weak institutional and regulatory frameworks and heavy investment concentrated on big electricity/petroleum sector projects.

COMMON FORMS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

- Solar PV – Photovoltaics. Uses light incident on a semi-conductor surface to generate electricity. Rapidly growing source, with prices coming down rapidly.
- Solar thermal energy – heat is collected from the sun and concentrated for purposes of direct heating or electricity generation using turbines or phase change media.
- Solar water heating – simple robust systems for heating water for domestic use.
- Biomass: Renewable biomass is obtained from fast maturing trees (planted for that purpose), agricultural residues (such as straw, fibre or husk) and forestry residues such as saw dust. Biomass can be directly combusted, heating water into steam that turns a turbine to produce electricity, or can be gasified and the gas used to turn a turbine. Controversy surrounds the sustainability of biomass sources as strong regulations and enforcement are required to ensure replenishment;
- Geothermal energy: Earth's geothermal energy originates from the original formation of the planet, from radioactive decay of minerals, from volcanic activity, and from solar energy absorbed at the surface. It is considered practically inexhaustible. This heat is tapped to generate steam, which is in turn used for direct heating or electricity generation;
- Wind Power – Wind is used to turn a turbine, which in turn generates electricity, or can be used for direct pumping.
- Hydro Electricity: Use of flowing water in an incline to turn a turbine to generate electricity.



IS THE FOCUS ON FOOD SECURITY NECESSARY?

By Hon Dora K. Byamukama

As the year 2011 continues aging and edging on, the prominent issue of food security comes to the fore and continues dominating our minds. This is an issue that has of recent become a subject of discussion for all the East African Heads of State. The 12th EAC Heads of State Summit held in Arusha, Tanzania on December 3, 2010, was preceded by a one –day working retreat on Food Security and Climate Change on Agriculture. **The theme of the day-long retreat was “EAC: Transforming Agriculture through Innovation”.**

The fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger is established in Article 11 of the International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. This branch of International law is inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The six million dollar question is: Why discuss Food Security? Food Security is defined as access to sufficient and affordable food: It can relate to a single household or to the global population. Focus on Food Security is very important and indeed, the first Millennium Development Goal is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The reasons for focusing on food security in the region are various, key amongst them are:

The fact that most of the East African Community Partner States are agricultural based and heavily dependent on agricultural produce calls for adherence to the 2003 Maputo Declaration which requires 10% of the national budgets to be dedicated to agriculture;

The need to re-examine regional and global trade in agricultural products. World Trade Rules do not favour Africa’s share of global trade in agriculture, which has fallen from 15% in the 1960s to 3.2% in 2006. Developing countries such as those in the East African Community find their domestic markets undercut by cheap foods imported from developed countries whose farmers are heavily

subsidized by their governments.

Knowledge of the impact of climate change on food production. It is acknowledged that the most severe effects of climate change will be in sub-Saharan Africa where higher temperatures are expected to shorten growing seasons of staple crops and where concentration of poverty limits the capacity to adopt.

Issues of land tenure and gender. many farmers have insecure tenure, this is more acute with feminization of agriculture. It is acknowledged that women produce 60%-80% of food in developing countries and yet their land rights and access to local decision making is often minimal.

The need to discuss value addition and processing; and the introduction of Genetically Modified Crops;

Solutions to food insecurity are not sophisticated, thus, we need to reflect on how earlier generations have survived over time. Traditionally, most African homes had granaries, with the advent of modern housing, and increased use of money as a medium of exchange, most African homes no longer have granaries. The question is this:- if people no longer have granaries, where is the food being stored? One could argue that if one has money, that person can purchase food from the shops or market. Much as this is correct, it means that we have changed from being producers to being consumers and yet one can only consume if they have purchasing power, which realistically, can only be realised from production.

Much as the idea of granaries seems very simple, the modification and improvement of this form of food storage has capacity to generate raw material for cottage industries such as the production of bread from wheat, or flour, which has a longer shelf life and therefore can starve off hunger in times of famine.



EAC Heads of State at the 12th Summit that deliberated on Food Security and Climate Change.

One cannot talk about food security without making reference to environmental protection. A lot of work is currently being done to rectify environmental degradation that has led to environment changes. Environmental protection and preservation requires key players such as farmers to ensure that farming methods conserve and preserve the environment.

Turning to goals, this Year presents us with yet another opportunity to assess whether the goals of the previous year were met. It is time to make “our dreams our goals” and thus, turn them into reality. It is a critical planning period, because as the saying goes, “if you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” From a global perspective, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) have been set impacting on us individually. These goals focus on eight areas:

Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger;

Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education;

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women;

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality rate

Goal 5: Improve maternal health;

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria and other diseases;

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability;

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development.

The aim of the Millennium Development Goals is to encourage development by improving social and economic conditions in the world’s poorest countries. MDGs are integral part of our very own goals because they focus on improving our well being. Steps taken by the government such as increasing the budget on health and agriculture will no doubt go a long way in propelling us to realize the set goals.

With the advent of 2011, my prayer is that you reach higher, go further and achieve more – because you can! Belated Happy New Year!

It is acknowledged that the most severe effects of climate change will be in sub-Saharan Africa where higher temperatures are expected to shorten growing seasons of staple crops and where concentration of poverty limits the capacity to adopt.



EAC GETTING STRONGER EVERY DAY

By Hon. Augustine Chemonges Loile Lotodo

Prior to the inception of the World Trade Organization in 1995, our founder leaders, Presidents Jomo Kenyatta (Kenya), Milton Obote (Uganda) and Julius Nyerere (Tanzania) envisioned a united East Africa.

Historically, our Colonial masters exploited the region, thus for all intents and purposes, the region's co-operation as thought out and mooted by the founding fathers was established to benefit citizens.

In the current dispensation, trade in goods and services is a basic economic pillar for any country. A move towards Integration, then, enhances further, the gains accrued from regional blocs. Globalization, liberalization, good governance and adherence to human rights are all very useful concepts intertwined with the current globe. The world is so connected that any nation pursuing nationalist or sectarian agenda will find itself isolated. In the current environment, all regional and economic blocs subscribe to these universal rules of trade and democracy.

The East African Community (EAC) is no exception. It is based on firm objectives and principles that are enshrined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC. Its four development phases: Custom Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and Political Federation are uniquely thought out, to the extent that the fruits are already being realized. Intra-trade among Partner States has reached a combined GDP of US \$ 3.9 billion. While this may account for only 13% of our trade, the challenge is to exploit the remaining 87% of the trade. I am inclined to challenge our technocrats to consider the importation of goods from other countries, after exhausting our regional market. The potential within the region is so big, in terms of natural resources inter alia: land, minerals, water, tourism, human resources and the market (people).

Ideally, the recent rush by friendly foreign countries to seek accreditation of their ambassadors and envoys to the EAC attests to the fact that the region has indeed taken off.



The biggest challenge today is for the EAC to speedily implement council decisions and resolutions. In the past, a number of pronouncements have been made but, little follow up is done. A typical example is the lack of a livestock policy, yet the Council of Ministers took the decision. A large part of East Africa is occupied by pastoralism and the vast potential remains untapped, calling for more and deserved attention. It is imperative for the EAC to ensure the establishment of an Animal Resources department or a directorate for that matter, to complement efforts being undertaken by Partner States.

Similarly, delayed contributions by Partner States also cripples the EAC since projects and Programmes fail to run on the set timelines. It may be time to review the modalities around Partner States' contributions. Sanctions ought to be enforced on any Partner State defaulting on its obligation.

The Vision and Mission of the EAC can only be achieved when there is constant consultation and agreement.

Partner States need to be in the forefront of eliminating Non Tariff Barriers (NTBs) to spur free movement of goods, services, labour and capital and create a conducive environment. Customs officials, immigration, police and business people need constant updates while addressing challenges they face. Only a borderless region can give the people the freedom to move and serve other East Africans.

Finally, I welcome Southern Sudan on board. I congratulate President Omar al Bashir of The Sudan for giving a chance to the peaceful resolution of the conflict. Hats off also to H.E. Salva Kiir, 1st Vice President of The Sudan and President of Southern Sudan for guiding the new region to statehood, hence fulfilling the long struggle pioneered by the late John Garang.

OVER TEN MILLION EAST AFRICANS LIVE WITH DISABILITIES

By Hon. Dr James Ndahiro

The East African Community has a population of over one hundred million (120). The Treaty establishing the East African Community stipulates that the Community will be people centered and private sector led. According to statistics, over ten million people of the EAC live with disabilities. Disability issues are yet to be mainstreamed in all Partner States despite the fact that they have undertaken to closely co-operate amongst themselves in the field of social welfare with respect to: "the development and adoption of a common approach towards the disadvantaged and marginalized groups, including children, the youth, the elderly and persons with disabilities through rehabilitation and provision of, among others, foster homes, health care, education and training'.

It is therefore expected that Partner States should have by now mainstreamed disability and in so doing help persons with disability to participate in the EAC integration process. This would have enabled those living with disabilities to overcome the fear of isolation and access to basic education, justice and employment services.

According to World Health Organization (WHO), over ten percent (10%) of world's population live with disabilities. One could argue that although the level is nearer to ten percent, family members are also indirectly affected by disability, which means the number could practically and realistically be multiplied by a factor of four .

Disability mainstreaming has been defined by different people to mean the process of assessing the implementation, including legislation, policies and programs, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for incorporating and making disability concerns and experiences, an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluating of policies and programs in all political, economic,



economic and societal spheres, so that people with disability benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve disability equality.

The EAC needs to assess the effectiveness of Partner States laws, programs, policies and public services by evaluating their implementation on the daily lives of persons with disabilities.

People With Disabilities (PWD's) in the EAC find themselves in a situation where there are no real national strategies for mainstreaming disability in the Partner States and their role and participation in the integration process is not clearly defined. The disability initiatives in the civil society that are implemented are donor led rather than beneficiary led and tend to be on a small scale level or ad-hoc in their approach .There is no effective means of enforcing the implementation on the specific situation and needs of people with disabilities in particular, the differential needs of women, older people, youth and children with disability are not widely understood.

There is an inconsistent patchwork of disability policies and plans – some implemented with others waiting for implementation. This means PWDs are still generally excluded from effective public service provision including health care, and education. Generally, PWDs also have reduced opportunities for income generation hence greater unemployment.

In finality, PWD's have not benefited from the measured increase in social and economic developments reported for East Africa. Ideally, PWDs are yet to fully contribute to the Partner States' development initiatives.



EALA TURNS ATTENTION TO NATURAL RESOURCES AND FOOD SECURITY



The recently concluded Third meeting of the Fourth session of the Second EALA in Nairobi adopted three reports of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR).

At the two week Sitting, EALA debated and adopted the following reports:

- a) the Report of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee on the Regional Parliamentary Symposium on Strategic Planning to Address Climate Change.
- b) the Report of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee on Developing Mining Legal Frameworks in the East African Region.
- c) the Report of the Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources Committee on the Regional Dialogue on the Politics of Food Security in Eastern Africa Region.

The Chairperson of the Committee, Hon Safina Kwekwe, presented the reports to the House. Prior to that, ATNR had held workshops in the last quarter of 2010 to deliberate on the aforementioned sectors.

In September 2010, the ATNR held a workshop on the Politics of Food Security in Eastern Africa Region that was co-organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) on 6th - 7th September, 2010. The objectives of the Conference were to:

- (i) examine the role of politics in food security crises in Eastern Africa;
- (ii) establish responsibility of the households, community and state in the genesis of food insecurity;

There were a number of presentations on the topic and country papers delivered during the workshop. Also of interest was a paper on the EAC Common Food Strategy. During discussions, participants delved on land tenure and ownership regimes, issues of food security including gender issues surrounding the same. It emerged from the workshop that major areas of intervention/priority were necessary including: the provi-

sion of enabling policy, legal and institutional framework, Increasing food access and availability in sufficient quantity and quality and improving stability of food supply and access in the EAC region. The workshop noted weak policy implementation, monitoring and evaluation, poor prioritization of actions and poor co-ordination of food security initiatives as some of the challenges leading to food insecurity in Eastern Africa.

Another important workshop was that on the Mining Legislative Framework for East Africa. The workshop was held to give guidance to EAC Parliamentarians on modalities of utilizing legislative functions to strengthen governance and improve fiscal outcomes from minerals for the benefit of the citizens of East Africa.

In other interesting news, the committee also held workshops, deliberations and meetings that led to the preparation of a Bill on Transboundary Ecosystems. The First reading of the Bill was presented during the second meeting of the fourth session of the second Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda in December 2010. The object of the Bill is to provide for a legal framework to effectively streamline the management of transboundary ecosystems with a view to enhancing the quality of the environment and also ensure sustainable utilization of shared natural resources at the East African Community. The Bill makes provision for institutionalization of trans-boundary environmental impact assessment procedures, public participation and adoption of common environmental standards and exchange of information among others.



PARLIAMENT OF RWANDA

COMMITTED TO ENHANCING GOOD GOVERNANCE

By *HABIMANA Augustin*

The Parliament of Rwanda is bicameral. It is composed of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The Parliament of Rwanda is best known as a Parliament which ranks first in the world with the highest level of women's representation. In the region it has the reputation of being the Parliament which best utilizes ICT in most of its activities.

The Functions of the Parliament of Rwanda are :

i. To legislate

Following the 1994 genocide, Parliament was tasked with establishing a strong legal framework in order to reconstruct all sectors. Close to 90% of its activities were thus devoted to examining and passing laws. During the transitional period (1994-2003), 278 laws were passed while another 287 laws were passed during 2003-2008. The Parliament passed 120 laws during the period November 2008 to November 2010.

ii. To oversee the government action

Once a week, each Chamber of Parliament conducts oversight over the Executive and responds to the needs of welfare of the population.

iii. Representing the population

Members of Parliament perform their duties on behalf of their constituents during field visits organized individually or through Committees.

The Senate

The Senate seeks:

- to supervise the application of the Principles referred to in Articles 9 and 54 of the Constitution.
- to vet high-ranking officials of public institutions.

Sessions

The Chambers of Parliament hold three ordinary public sessions of two months each:

- the first session commences on February 5th ;
- the second session commences on June 5th ;
- the third session commences on October 5th.

Composition of the Chambers

- The Chamber of Deputies is composed of 80 members as follows:
- fifty three members elected by direct universal suffrage through a secret ballot from a list of political organizations and independent candidates;
- twenty-four women elected by specific councils in accordance with administrative entities;

- two members elected by the National Youth Council;
- one member elected by the Federation of the Associations of the Disabled.

The Senate consists of 26 Members elected or appointed as follows:

- 12 members elected by the specific councils in accordance with the administrative entities;
- 8 members appointed by the President of the Republic;
- 4 members designated by the Forum of Political organizations;
- 1 member from public universities and institutions of higher learning;
- 1 member from private universities and institutions of higher learning;
- Deputies serve for a 5 year (renewable) term while Senators serve for a period of 8 years (non-renewable).
- The President of the Republic and the Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies belong to different political organizations.

Standing Committees:

The Chamber of Deputies has eleven Standing Committees while the Senate has four Standing Committees.

Enhancing good governance

The Constitution provides for Commissions to submit their activity reports to the Parliament as part and parcel of enhancing good governance.

Using ICTs in the Parliament of Rwanda

Both chambers of Parliament use Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), to enhance their Parliamentary activities. Voting in plenary sessions is done electronically while all documents are sent to Parliamentarians via email.

Representation of women the highest

Women in Rwanda's Parliament account for 56% representation in the Chambers of Deputies, considered to be the highest level of women's representation in the world. Rwanda has achieved this tremendous progress in gender equality with the support of top leaders of the country and the citizens. The representation of women in the Rwanda Senate is 34%.

For more information, visit the Rwanda Parliament website on www.parliament.gov.rw

Habimana Augustin is the Director General of Communication & Outreach at Rwanda Parliament



Rt. Hon. ABDI, Abdirahin Haithar
(Speaker EALA)



Hon. MOSSI, Hafsa
EAC MINISTER BURUNDI
Current Chair EAC Council of Minister



Hon. Prof. SAMBILI, Hellen
EAC MINISTER KENYA



Hon. MUKARULIZA, Monique
EAC MINISTER RWANDA



Hon. SITTA Samuel
EAC MINISTER TANZANIA



REPUBLIC OF RWANDA



Hon. HABUMUREMYI, Pierre
Damien



Hon. HAJABAKIGA, M. Patricia



Hon. HARELIMANA, Abdul Karim



Hon. KAYIRANGWA, Claire



Rt. Hon. KATEGAYA, Eriya
1st DPM EAC MINISTER UGANDA



Hon. MUNYA, Peter
EAC ASS. MINISTER KENYA
(ALTERNATE TO MINISTER)



Hon. Dr SAADALLA Abdulla
EAC ASS. MINISTER TANZANIA
(ALTERNATE TO MINISTER)



Hon. Amb. MWAPACHU, Juma
EAC SECRETARY GENERAL



Hon. KAAHWA, T. Wilbert
COUNSEL TO THE COMMUNITY



Hon. MUHONGAYIRE, Jacqueline



Hon. Dr. NDAHIRO, James



Hon. NDIKURYAYO, Straton



Hon. NYIRAHABINEZA, Valerie



Hon. Dr. NYIRAMILIMO, Odette



REPUBLIC OF BURUNDI



Hon. BIZIMANA, Francois



Hon. BUCUMI Emerence



Hon. NGENDAKUMANA Issa



Hon. NDARUBAGIYE, Leonce



UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA



Hon. Dr. BILAL, Said



Hon. Dr. KABOUROU, Aman



Hon. KAMBA, Kate



Hon. MMARI, Janet



Hon. NIBITANGA, Georgette



Hon. NGENZEBUHOLO Frederic



Hon. KATABARUMWE Regine



Hon. NSAMBIMANA Yves



Hon. NZOBONIMPA Manasse



Hon. Dr. MASABURI, Didas



Hon. Dr. MASHA, Lwanyantika



Hon. MWINYI, Abdallah



Hon. Dr. NANGALE, George



Hon. NASSOR, Sebtuu



REPUBLIC OF KENYA



Rt. Hon. ABDI, Abdirahin Haithar
(Speaker EALA-Assembly)



Hon. AKHAABI, Gervase



Hon. BONAYA, Sarah



Hon. KARAN, Otieno Clarkson



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Hon. KIDEGA, Dan



Hon. MULEGANI, Bernard



Hon. Maj-Gen. (Rtd) MUNTU,
Mugisha



Hon. KIMURA, Catherine



Hon. LOTODO, Augustine



Hon. NAKULEU, Christopher



Hon. OYONDI, Reuben



Hon. TSUNGU, Kwekwe Safina



Hon. OGALO, Wandera Dan



Hon. SEBALU, Mike



Hon. TIPERU, Omar



Hon. WANYOTO, Lydia



Hon. ZZIWA, Margaret



EAC ANTHEM ADOPTED

By Hon Dora K. Byamukama

The East African Community Anthem was adopted by the East African Community Summit on December 3rd 2010. The next step is to grant it legal protection for its operation and usage. The adopted version was in Swahili, the lingua franca of the East African Community. Adoption of an East African Community Anthem marks yet another distinct milestone in the integration process. According to the Oxford dictionary and encyclopedia, the term “anthem” is currently used more often to denote a song in which words affirm a collective identity, usually expressing attachment to the same nation, institution or cause.

In reference to collective identity, this is expressed in the very first paragraph of the Treaty for Establishment of the East African Community; which states that –“...the people of the East African Community have enjoyed close historical, commercial, industrial, cultural and other ties for many years”. The Preamble goes on to enumerate formal economic and social integration in the East African Region commencing with among other things,

- the construction of the Kenya Uganda Railway as far back as 1897-1901,
- the establishment of the Customs Collection Centre 1900;
- the East African Currency Board 1905;
- the Postal Union 1905;

- the East African Governors Conference 1926; the East African Income Tax Board 1940; and the Joint Economic Council 1940.

In essence a proposal for a common currency is not far fetched considering that we had an East African Currency Board as far back as 1905!

An anthem expresses attachment to the same nation, institution or cause. The cause of the East African Community is to develop policies and programmes aimed at widening and deepening co-operation among Partner States in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology, defence, security and legal and judicial affairs, for mutual benefit.

In order to achieve deeper co-operation in all fields for mutual benefit, the East African Partner States undertook to establish a Customs Union, a Common Market, subsequently a Monetary Union and ultimately, a Political Federation in order to attain accelerated, harmonious and balanced development and sustained expansion of economic activities, the benefits of which are to be equitably shared.

The opening chorus of the East African Anthem calls upon all East Africans to action- to guard and protect the Community. It calls for accountability, unity and boldness in order to build a sustainable Community.

The first stanza implores God’s protection and a plea for peace so that the set objectives are met; while the second stanza focuses on citizenship as well as unity as the cornerstone; with a pledge to protect independence, norms and values. The third and last stanza is a call for diligent action wherever we are employed and self sacrifice in order to build a better Community.

Indeed the words of the East African Community Anthem affirm a collective identity; they express attachment to the same nation, institution and cause. What remains is for this Anthem to be recognized by enacting a legal framework. The law will protect and regulate usage of the anthem. The tune of the anthem can be accessed on the East African Community website. The legal framework will according to the program be presented to the East African Legislative Assembly in April, 2011.

Modalities for popularizing it should be use of the media extensively that is radio, television and print, inclusion of the anthem in the schools curricula and by playing it at every occasion that the National Anthems of the East Community Partner States are played.

Adoption of the East African Anthem is Acause to celebrate, it serves to unite us at deeper level as East Africans and has the potential to inspire a heightened commitment to the cause of integration.

Now is the time for each of us to learn the Swahili version of the East African Community Anthem - so that when it’s officially launched our voices will carry the message far and wide- across the African continent and beyond. Adoption of an East African Anthem is a stepping stone to the ultimate goal- Political Federation. May we live to see that day!

EAC ANTHEM

The East African Community Anthem was adopted by the East African Community Summit on December 3rd 2010. The next step is to grant it legal protection for its operation and usage. The adopted version was in Swahili, the lingua franca of the East African Community.

-The English translation highlighted in italics is not the official translation; it is the literal translation, merely to enable you appreciate the meaning of the content. The content of the adopted EAC Anthem is as follows:-

Chorus

Jumuiya Yetu sote tulinde

Lets all guard our Community

Tuwajibike tuimarike

We should be committed and prosper

Umoja wetu ni nguzo yetu

Our unity is our anchor

Idumu Jumuiya yetu.

Long live our community

1

Ee Mungu twakuomba ulinde

Oh God we pray that you may protect

Jumuiya Afrika Mashariki

the East African Community

Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani

Enable us to live in peace

Tutimize na malengo yetu.

So that we may fulfil our objectives;

2

Uzalendo pia mshikamano

Patriotism and togetherness

Viwe msingi wa Umoja wetu

Should be the foundation of our unity

Natulinde Uhuru na Amani

May we guard our independence and peace

Mila zetu na desturi zetu.

Our culture and traditions

3

Viwandani na hata mashambani

In industries and farms

Tufanye kazi sote kwa makini

We should work together

Tujitoe kwa hali na mali

We should work hard

Tuijenge Jumuiya bora.

We should build a better Community



SAUTI YA EAC

