



EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Press Release

EALA MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA TAKE OATH IN ARUSHA

Arusha, Tanzania- March 16, 2026 - The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in its hybrid Special Sitting of the Third Sitting of the 5th Assembly in Arusha today, witnessed a historic moment as Nine (9) elected EALA Members of Parliament from the Federal Republic of Somalia took oath as members of the East African Legislative Assembly. The Nine (9) new Members from the Federal Republic of Somalia that took oath include: **Hon. Ilham Ali Gassar; Hon. Abdirahman Bashir Shariff; Hon. Amb Zahra Ali Hassan; Hon. Faisal Abdi Roble; Hon. Faduma Abdullahi Mohamud; Hon. Fahma Ahmed Nur; Hon. Hussein Hassan Abdi Hussein; Hon. Abdisalam Hadliye Omar and Hon. Amb. Abukar Abdi Osman.**

Additionally, three (3) new Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs from the United Republic of Tanzania, The Republic of Rwanda and the Federal Republic of Somalia also took oath as **Ex-Officio Members**(without voting rights) of the East African Legislative Assembly as prescribed by Rule 5(4) of the EALA Rules of Procedure *“That a member shall not sit in the Assembly before taking oath or affirmation of allegiance to the Treaty for the Establishment of East African Community”*.

Among the new Ministers that took oath included **Hon. Amb. Mahmoud Thabit Kombo**, the new Minister of Foreign Affairs and East African Cooperation, United Republic of Tanzania; **Hon. Ali Mohamed Omar**, State Minister for Foreign Affairs in charge of EAC Affairs, of the Federal Republic of Somalia; **Hon. Yuta Kayetesi**, the new Minister of State for Foreign Affairs in Charge of EAC Affairs, Republic Rwanda. The Minister in charge of EAC Affairs from the Democratic Republic of Congo was not available for oath-taking, therefore, was deferred to a new date to be established.

The oath was administered before The **Rt. Hon. Joseph Ntakirutimana**, The Speaker of EALA, marking Somalia’s full participation in the East African Community (EAC) integration process. The oath-taking signals Somalia’s full entry into EALA’s governance framework and reinforces a shared commitment to regional unity, security, and sustainable development through deeper economic integration.

Hon. Dr. Abdusalam Hadliye Omar, during the vote of thanks on behalf of the Somalia Members of Parliament, expressed their gratitude for having been finally called upon to take oath, and expressed their commitment to the Treaty, vision, principles and well-being of the citizens of EAC. He also assured the house of Somalia's commitment to its responsibility in the East African Community.

In their remarks, the new Ministers affirmed their commitments to the ideals of the East African Community. **Hon. Ali Mohamed Omar** of the Federal Republic of Somalia, expressed Somali's gratitude and "accept the responsibility and duty with strong sense of duty to serve EAC and broader integration vision of EAC". He also stressed the need for African solutions to African problems in order to realized "shared prosperity and realized a more prosperous, peaceful and integrated East African Community through The Members pledged to uphold the Treaty, safeguard the interests of the Somali people, and advance the principles of democracy and regional integration within the EAC framework the unity of purpose in the interest of the region".

On her part, **Hon. Dr. Kayuta Kayetsi** of the Republic of Rwanda expressed her gratitude for the opportunity to serve the community as an ex-officio. She expressed her commitment to "moving the community forward, sustaining the rule of law in the community with best interest of the community and her citizens".

Amb. Mahmoud Thabit Kombo of the United Republic of Tanzania congratulated EALA speaker and the members of the 5th EALA for "their outstanding efforts in passing legislations governing the integration agenda". He acknowledged the challenges facing the EAC and affirmed Tanzania's commitment to the integration agenda and promised to work closely with the EALA, the Council and the Speaker in the implementation of the Treaty and the well-being of the East African community.

As required by the House Rules and Procedures, two members from the Somalia Members of Parliament were duly elected to serve in the EALA Commission as follows: **Hon. Amb. Ali Hassan and Hon. Faisal Abdi Roble**. As required by the EALA Rules and Procedures, three (3) members were nominated by the Commission and approved by the Assembly to serve in each Standing Committee as follows:

1. Accounts Committee:

- a. Hon. Abdirahman Bashir Shariff
- b. Hon. Amb. Fatima Hamed Noor
- c. Hon. Zahra Ali Hassan

2. Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges:

- a. Fatma Hamed Noor
- b. Zahra Ali Hassan
- c. Faisal Abdi Roble

3. Committee on Communication, Trade and Investment (CTI):

- a. Hon. Ilhan Ali Gassar
- b. Hon. Abdirahman Bashir Shariff
- c. Hon. Fatima Abdullahi Mohamud Insaniye

4. Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR):

- a. Abdusalam Hadliye Omar
- b. Amb. Abukar Abdi Osman
- c. Hussein Hassan Abdi

5. Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (RACR):

- a. Hon. Hussein Hassan Abdi, Hon. Amb. Abukar Abdi Osman,
- b. Faisla Abdi

6. Committee on General Purpose:

- a. Hon. Dr. Abdusalam Omar,
- b. Hon. Ilhan Ali Gassar,
- c. Amb. Fatima Abdukahi Mahamed,

The ceremony reinforced EALA's role as a central legislative body in advancing regional integration. Somalia's active participation aligns with the EAC's strategic objective of inclusive growth and collaboration among member states. The gathering of newly appointed EAC Affairs Ministers three Partner States signals the commitment to the progress of the East African community.

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