



# BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EALA

ISSUE 14

DECEMBER 2015



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Assembly roots for concerted efforts  
to combat corruption  
EALA are soccer champs!**

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**ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY**



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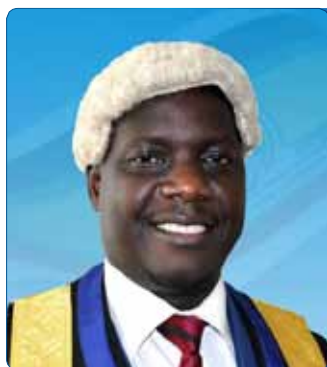
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## DESK OF THE HON. SPEAKER

Rt Hon Daniel Fred Kidega

I take the opportunity to welcome you to the 14<sup>th</sup> Edition of the *Bunge la Afrika Mashariki*, magazine.

This year, number fourteen is synonymous and special given the fact that EALA commemorated 14 years since its inception on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Allow me therefore to wish EALA and all East Africans a happy anniversary as we take cognizance of our achievements (and challenges) as well as map out the future.

In this edition, we highlight various activities of the Assembly including the various meetings and conferences regionally and beyond that the Assembly was involved in.

In all occasions, EALA used every opportunity to market itself and to espouse its mandate. The initiatives carried out by the Assembly are all geared towards enabling it realize its objectives set out in the work plan.

We are excited about the progress realized by the Assembly thus far from the ambitious goals we had set out. Ambitious because there was backlog of work at the Assembly, premised by the challenges we had for the better part of 2014.

The exciting part is that we have somewhat overcome and indeed realized a significant amount of success in this year.

Since January 2015, the Assembly has held five Sittings in Bujumbura (March 2015), Arusha (May 2015), Kampala (August 2015), Nairobi (October 2015) and Kigali (November 2015) in line with its principle of rotation. In totality, we have enacted 9 Bills, passed 9 Resolutions and adopted 16 Reports.

EALA remains dedicated to realizing its mandate as underlined in the Treaty for the Establishment of the EAC pertaining to legislation, representation and oversight. In October 2015, EALA was also part of the wider EAC Elections Observer Mission led by the former Vice President of the Republic of Kenya, H.E. Moody Awori that participated in monitoring the general elections of the United Republic of Tanzania.

Let me seize the singular opportunity to extend to His Excellency, Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, our warmest congratulations following his elections as the fifth President of the country and to wish him every success.

As we cork the champagne bottles to mark the achievements of EALA in particular and the EAC in general at the end of another year, let us also begin to focus on the year 2016.

Lastly, I take the opportunity to wish you and your loved ones, a Merry Christmas as well as a festive and restful season. 🇰🇪

# OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Mr. Kenneth Namboga Madete



**G**reetings to all our readers and a very warm welcome once again to the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of your flagship magazine-*Bunge La Afrika Mashariki*.

This specific edition highlights the activities of the Assembly over the last quarter while profiling our contribution to regional integration in terms of our mandate.

We are cognizant of the fact that a strong and functioning Assembly is mandatory for the progress of the integration process in our region. We need to ensure EALA's work which is hinged on legislative services makes a difference in the lives of the citizens of the EAC.

As we move on with the integration process, it is important that the Assembly keeps in sight the relevant pieces of legislation that support the pillars of integration.

Of recent, we have passed a number of ground-breaking Bills such as the EAC Electronic Transactions Bill, 2015, the EAC Culture and Creative Industries Bill, 2015 and the Forestry and Management Protection Bill, 2015 among others.

Other related pieces of legislation currently undergoing assent include; The EAC One Stop Border Post (OSBP), Bill, The EAC Vehicle Load Control Bill, and the EAC Elimination of Non-Tariff Barriers Bill. In furtherance to this, the EALA is looking at other possible pieces of legislation that shall support the

implementation of the Common Market Protocol. In the offing also are the EAC Whistle blowers Protection Bill, 2015, EAC Integrity and Anti-Corruption Bill, 2015 and the EAC Procurement Bill, 2015.

As you may be aware, the Speaker of the Assembly is emphatic that the Assembly should not only strive to implement its Strategic Plan whose overarching theme is enhancing a people centered approach to widening and deepening of the EAC integration process, but that such must be of value-addition to the citizens of EAC.

In effect, in a bid to realise this aspect, the Assembly has scaled up in its engagements with various stakeholders including the youth, private and civil sectors and the women groups.

In addition, the Assembly has received petitions addressed to it on matters that affect East Africans and these are currently under process and consideration.

We remain hopeful that through our hard work, we shall contribute to assist the East Africa Community to further realize the prospects of growth and solid development.

I welcome you once again to the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of Bunge Magazine and hope that you shall find it pleasurable.

As the holiday season approaches, I take the opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a peaceful Christmas and prosperous 2016. 🇰🇪





## LEAD STORY

# President Kenyatta addresses EALA

**President ...Lauds Assembly for improved performance, calls for more citizenry participation**

President Uhuru Kenyatta addressed EALA at a Special Sitting of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session on October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2015, calling on the Assembly to consolidate its work for the furtherance of the integration process.

The President further urged stakeholders in the integration dispensation to go the extra mile and create awareness to the citizens of the region noting they were yearning to freely move, work and enjoy the tangible benefits of integration.

*"I am convinced the imperative of integration must also be to communicate it better to our people. Too often, the integration of East Africa is taken to be merely a political matter - a job for politicians, not ordinary people.*

*True, leaders must lead. But we have failed to spark the imaginations of East Africans when it comes to integration"* the President remarked.

The President maintained that the Summit of EAC Heads of State was committed to ensuring the region's infrastructure is improved for the betterment of their lives. *"Some of you will recall that several of my brothers came to the signing and witnessing of agreements for the Standard Gauge Railway, some time ago.*



President Uhuru Kenyatta shares a light moment with Hon Chris Opoka Okumu as other EALA Members look on

*"Others – perhaps more, given that it was earlier this month (October) – will recall that my brother, President Jakaya Kikwete of United Republic of Tanzania visited Kenya to commission the Taveta-Arusha road"* President Kenyatta said.

*"These projects are representative of the hard work that has gone into knitting the nations of the community together by road, rail and air"* he added.

The President lauded the Assembly for its enhanced performance and challenged them to go the extra mile in realizing its mandate.

*"A key issue if I may speak directly to the Assembly, Mr. Speaker – is on the performance. Your mandate*



Members rise at the start of the Special Sitting in Nairobi addressed by President Uhuru Kenyatta

**The President further urged stakeholders in the integration dispensation to go the extra mile and create awareness to the citizens of the region.**

*ends soon. In the last few months, under the wise leadership of Speaker Kidega, you have done much: new Bills, reports, and resolutions have flowed at a steady pace. But if I may say so myself, we would all like to see you leave a legacy: a set of measures that will be remembered as long as this Community lasts”, the President said.*

On sustainability matters, the President was emphatic that direct funding of the Assembly would strengthen the capacity for EALA to deliver its mandate.

*“It has my complete support, and I will be happy to consult with you to see it introduced quickly and effectively”, The President added.*

The President also gave a nod to the request by the EALA Speaker to change the mode of Assent of Bills from the rotational mode to be a function on the sidelines of the Summit of EAC Heads of States meeting in order to enhance efficiency.

The Head of State further lauded EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr Richard Sezibera, for the role played in effective leadership of the EAC. In his remarks, the Speaker of the EALA, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega noted that East Africans were interested in seeing more tangible benefits of integration.

The Speaker called on the Partner States to ensure its full implementation of the Customs Union and the Common Market Protocols stating that bureaucrats in governments were causing unnecessary red tape in the processes. He called on government officials to follow procedures in a manner that facilitates rather than encumbers integration. The Speaker called on the Summit of EAC Heads of State to intervene to ensuring the Institutional Review of the EAC is finalized. He lamented that the Institutional Review process was an expensive affair to taxpayers and time consuming.

*“The process has been through a full round in circles much to the detriment of the EAC. On the one side the Secretariat and other Organs remain under-capacitated and under-funded. On the other side, the EAC is unable to realise its full potential”, Rt. Hon Speaker said.*

*“I appeal to you and through you to the Summit to intervene in the matter”, he said.* The Speaker also called for the full autonomy of the Assembly which he said was necessary to enable it realise its mandate. At the moment, the Assembly has a semi-autonomous status. – the ideal scenario would be full autonomy including the direct funding by Partner States.

Moving the vote of thanks, Hon Martin Ngoga noted that Kenya had progressed following the leadership of President Uhuru Kenyatta. Hon Ngoga lauded the President for reminding EALA on the obligations. “It is important for us to walk with the people at their pace”, He said.

At its Nairobi Sitting, EALA enacted the EAC Electronic Transactions Bill, 2014, a key Bill which paves way for the growth of e-transactions in the region by enabling the corporate world and the public sector to transact business using the digital means in a safe and secure environment.

A key Report on the Goodwill Mission of EALA to the Burundi refugees in Kigoma, Tanzania and Eastern Province in Rwanda was also debated and passed. EALA introduced then adjourned debate on the Forest Management and Protection Bill, 2015.

The adjournment at Committee stage followed the successful Motion tabled by the Chair of EAC Council of Ministers, Hon Dr Harrison Mwakyembe, to enable the United Republic of Tanzania to make further input. 🇹🇿





# EALA to play more central role in implementation of SDGs



EALA Members pose for a group photo with the resource persons and the European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) Representative. EALA is to play a more central role in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

In September, EALA held a key workshop themed “Role of EALA in implementing the SDGs: Promoting peaceful and Inclusive Societies for Sustainable development” as it gears up to take a more central role in the implementation of the Post 2015 Agenda through the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Addressing the legislators, EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega maintained that Parliaments had a fundamental role to play in ensuring implementation of the SDGs.

*“We must take a more prominent role in ensuring full realization of the SDGs. I can guarantee you that the fate of the SDGs will be equally sealed if Parliaments do not enact their own action plans and take up the mantle on some of the relevant areas to their mandate”,* Rt. Hon Kidega said. The two day meeting (September 7-8, 2015) drew

resource persons from institutions working round the clock to ensure Africa’s concerns are taken on board fully when SDGs are rolled out. The Institutions are Society for International Development, Africa Platform and the Institute for Economic Affairs.

The meeting also analysed performance at the EAC level, hindrances and challenges learnt from MDGs while focusing on EALA mandate in promoting good governance, Transparency and Accountability. The sensitization workshop also sought to explore strategies to ensuring the Global Development Framework (Post 2015 Agenda) is implemented and realized.

The Speaker said that EALA would hold Partner States accountable and enhance its oversight role in the dispensation. The Head of the Africa Platform Secretariat, Paul Okumu remarked that it was time for

**The sensitization workshop is also to explore strategies to ensuring the Global Development Framework (Post 2015 Agenda) is implemented and realized.**



African countries to fully implement laws and policies around development. He said a number of SDGs were in one way or another already encapsulated in policy frameworks.

*“We need to understand that developing countries want to ensure an open democratic space where we can all make decisions and have a vote. This is why the arena such as SDGs that bring together all countries is vital,”* He said.

He remarked that the continent may face challenges as the goals may be complex to realise.

“Some of the areas have not been completed such as that dealing with Climate change”, he added.

Associate Director of Society for International Development, Ali Hersi said it was necessary to have concrete binding commitments from Partners. He said the role of EALA was key in ensuring concrete steps are realised as the region moves to the comprehensive development goals.

Analysts contend that as the world transitions from a focus on MDGs to the more comprehensive SDGs, the need for effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels to achieve the goals will increasingly take centre stage. The United Nations held a global Summit in New York on September 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to adopt the Post 2015 Development Agenda. Lack of accountability has been identified as a major weakness in MDGs implementation.

From the Paris Accord to the Accra Declaration and the recent Busan statements, the international Community has continued to express hope that countries’ institutions be sufficiently capacitated to ensure internal supervision of national Government’s international engagements.



Paul Okumu, Head of the Africa Platform Secretariat addresses the Workshop

The proposed Sustainable Development Goals include the following:

1. End poverty in all its forms everywhere
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages
4. Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all
9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation
10. Reduce inequality within and among countries
11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum)
14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss
16. Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development. 🇺🇦

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

# Rt. Hon Kidega meets President of the Burundi Senate, tells legislators to help find peaceful solutions



EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega (left) shakes hands with the President of the Burundi Senate, Rt. Hon Révérien Ndikuriyo

EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega recently met with the President of the Burundi Senate Rt. Hon Révérien Ndikuriyo and called on legislators in Burundi to go the extra mile to help cement peace.

Rt. Hon Kidega said peace in Burundi was vital to enable the nation to realise any meaningful progress.

*“As representatives of the people, you have a role to play in ensuring stability of the nation is maintained,”* Rt. Hon Kidega told the President of the Senate.

*“As Parliamentarians, you are not just the representatives of the people, but you are their voice also and are capable of instilling confidence in the populace,”* he added.

The Speaker added that EALA would continue to stand firm with Burundi and that its position on the situation in the country was firmly aligned with that of the Summit for the EAC Heads of State.

The Speaker informed the President of Burundi Senate that the regional Assembly had in May-June this year, undertaken a goodwill mission to assess the

situation of the refugees from Burundi in Kigoma, United Republic of Tanzania and in the Eastern Province of the Republic of Rwanda. The report he noted, was further debated and adopted at its recent sitting in Nairobi, Kenya (2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly).

Present at the occasion was the Deputy Speaker of the Senate of Burundi, senior diplomatic officials of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Burundi to the UN Office and other international organisations in Geneva led by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, H.E. Pierre Claver Ndayiragije and the EALA Senior Public Relations Officer, Bobi Odiko.

The President of the Senate, Rt. Hon Révérien Ndikuriyo lauded EALA for the support so far shown to the Republic of Burundi. He maintained that all stakeholders were committed to finding a lasting solution to take the country forward.

*“The Head of State has called for national dialogue,”* he remarked and *“this shall help realise national consensus,”* he added.

Rt. Hon Ndikuriyo maintained though that Burundi was largely peaceful. *“Ideally, I have been to eleven of the seventeen Provinces in the country so far. I want to report that in a number of places visited, the situation is calm,”* the Senate Speaker added.

*“The authorities continue to do all that is possible to restore calm in some of the areas that may still be tense if any,”* he added.

He hailed the Summit of EAC Heads of State for their mediation efforts. *“I congratulate H.E. Yoweri Museveni who is heading the peace efforts on behalf of the EAC,”* he said. 🇷🇼



## OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER IN PICTURES

### EALA speaker lauds Speaker Ethuro following new posting, congratulates Rt. Hon Kadaga for achievements

**E**ALA Speaker has congratulated Speaker of the Senate of Kenya Rt. Hon Ekwere Ethuro following his election as a Member of the Executive Committee of the Inter-Parliamentary Union at the recently concluded Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) General Assembly and related meetings. Rt. Hon Ethuro takes over from the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon Rebecca A. Kadaga. He noted that Hon Ethuro's election was positive and a good sign for the region.

*"The African continent in general and the EAC region in particular is expected to gain a great deal from your expertise during your helm at the Executive Committee of the IPU", he said.*

*"Your election to the Executive Committee at the IPU is both laudable and valiant. You take the mantle from your predecessor, Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga at a critical time when the EAC region is scaling-up its pursuit to make significant contribution in Parliamentary affairs in the global arena", he added.*

Rt. Hon Kidega further hailed the Speaker of the Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga for her outstanding leadership.

*"The East African Community and the African continent have indeed benefited a great deal during your term of four years as a Member of the Executive Committee of the IPU. It is during the period that the Republic of Uganda hosted the 126<sup>th</sup> IPU General Assembly and related meetings in Kampala in March 2012", Rt. Hon Kidega said in his message.*

*"During the same period, you ably demonstrated leadership, enormous capacity and competence and often rallied the African Group to make an impact at the IPU. A key highlight was when you led the IPU team to the first ever talks with the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)", he added. 🇺🇬*



Rt. Hon Ekwere Ethuro and the EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel Fred Kidega



Rt. Hon Daniel Fred Kidega addresses a mammoth crowd in Gulu in Uganda. Sensitisation is key for integration



EALA Speaker and a section of members at a Press Conference

# Artistes set to benefit as House passes Bill on Culture and Creative Industries



A section of Members listen to the Chief Executive of the Kenya Cultural Centre/National Theatre, Aghan Odero Agan (right) when they visited the Centre recently

provide an environment conducive to the enhancement and stimulation of creativity and innovative endeavours among the citizens of the Community.

Once formed, the Council shall provide high quality training for skills and creativity development and formulate policies and strategies to stimulate creativity and innovations among the youth to ensure long term supply of talents.

Culture and Creative Industries are considered one of the fastest growing sectors in the global economy and contribute significantly to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of many developed and developing countries.

According to the mover of the Bill, Hon Dr. James Ndahiro, there

**T**he Kidums, Kanyomozis and the Diamonds whose music continue to wow the region represent an array of artistes and gifted performers expected to receive a shot in the arm following the passage of the EAC Culture and Creative Industries Bill, 2015 by EALA.

The Bill sailed through during the 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly held in Kampala, Uganda on August 16<sup>th</sup> -28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The key Bill recognizes people with talents and skills and creates an environment that promotes talents and the necessary infrastructure to develop the industries, many of which are considered nascent, while removing existing barriers.

The object of the Bill is to promote the Culture and Creative industries at the EAC. The Bill seeks to establish the Culture and Creative Industries Council that shall

are citizens with talents and if such (talents) are well exploited, then individuals and the nation would greatly benefit.

The Bill, Hon Dr. Ndahiro states, seeks to provide a legal framework for East Africans to excel in all forms of talent and creativity and contribute to the welfare of the Community.

We need to celebrate the integration aspirations but only if we take into consideration and overcome challenges been faced in the cultural and creativity industries.

Such include unfair treatment in terms of permits to operate, discrimination of citizens from Partner States despite our co-operation and the opening up of region due to the Common Market Protocol, Dr. Ndahiro maintained. The debate was preceded by a Report of





Some East African artefacts



Juliana Kanyomozi, Uganda's popular musician and actress



Tanzanian artist, Diamond Platnumz



Hon Dr. James Ndahiro, mover of the EAC Culture and Creative Industries Bill on the floor of the House

the Committee on General Purpose presented to the House by the Chair of the General Purpose Committee, Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo.

Hon Dr. Nyiramilimo said it was necessary for the Bill to consider Intellectual Property rights which is a specialised and wide technical issue requiring consideration. The report also states that it is important for the region to consider the relevant provisions of the EAC Common Market Protocol and their operationalisation.

During debate, Hon Shyrose Bhanji said it was necessary to support local artistes. *"There is not still a good market for artistes and it is vital for Governments to create budgets to enable them compete in the world market"*, Hon Bhanji said.

*"We have the likes of Juliana Kanyomozi, Ken Wa Maria, Bobi Wine, Kidum among others. They need to be marketed widely so that they also widen their scope,"* she said.

**We have the likes of Juliana Kanyomozi, Ken Wa Maria, Bobi Wine, Kidum among others. They need to be marketed widely so that they also widen their scope.**

Hon Dora Byamukama called for development and mapping of an inventory of artistes in the region as a marketing tool.

*"Let us market our products aggressively but such products should also be quality"*, the legislator added.

Hon Judy Pareno said there was creativity and energy among the youth that should be harnessed. *"The Bill will address some of the issues that concern our youth"*, she said. *"There is so much expertise in the bead work of the Maasai for example, Have we patented them? We must protect intellectual property and the regional law goes a long way in addressing some of the areas including protection and harmonisation"*,

Hon Pareno added.

Hon AbuBakar Zein lamented that the Sauti ya Busara which showcases the best of artistes and one that brings together the globe to East Africa is unlikely to take place in 2016 due to lack of funds.

*"This is sad thing should it happen, given that the occasion fuses a melt pot of creativity and innovation"*, he said.

*"The project of integration can wholly be inspired by arts,"* he added.

Hon Hafsa Mossi said the region was blessed by a rich culture and great potential in terms of arts. She said the media could play a key role in outreach.

The Chair of Council of Ministers, reiterated that United Republic of Tanzania was committed to the law and had submitted its inputs for consideration. Hon Frederic Ngenzebuhoro, Hon Valerie Nyirahabineza, Hon Leonce Ndarubagiye, Hon Ussi Maryam, Hon Susan Nakawuki and Hon Martin Ngoga duly supported the report. 🇹🇿



# EALA roots for concerted efforts in combating corruption

**...Speaker Kidega tells Anti-Corruption stakeholders Assembly is keen to close ranks to fight off vice**

**E**ALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel Fred Kidega wants Anti-Corruption Authorities in the EAC region to further concert efforts, establish linkages and support enactment of a regional law in their quest to rid the region of corruption.

Consequently, the regional Assembly is set to collaborate with the anti-graft authorities under the aegis of the East African Association of the Anti-Corruption Authorities (EAAACA).

The EALA Speaker recently presided over the opening ceremony of the 9<sup>th</sup> EAAACA Annual General Meeting themed; **Strengthening Efforts to eradicate Corruption** in Entebbe, Uganda. The AGM held on September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2015 saw the Director General of the Prevention and Combating of Corruption Bureau (PCCB) in the United Republic of Tanzania, Dr. Edward G. Hosea elected as the new President of the EAAACA.

Rt. Hon Kidega said that EALA and the EAC were committed to combating the chronic cancer of corruption. He said the Assembly would soon table and discuss key pieces of legislation to combat the scourge.

*“On our part as an Assembly, you will be pleased to note that we are considering enacting 3 key Bills to confront corruption head-on. The envisaged Bills are the EAC Integrity and Anti-Corruption Bill, 2015, the*



A section of delegates at the start of the Conference



Integrity House in Nairobi, Kenya. EALA is set to collaborate with the anti-graft authorities





Representatives from Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia at the start of the EAAACA Annual General Meeting in Entebbe, Uganda

EAC Procurement Bill, 2015 and the EAC Whistle Blowers Bill, 2015. The Laws passed by EALA supercede those of the Partner States on matters within the purview of the Community”, the Hon Speaker remarked.

He termed regional co-operation as a key component in containing corruption saying that it (corruption) undermined good governance, erodes the rule of law and hampers economic growth.

*“If left unattended, it could spiral to uncontrollable levels given the other criminal activities such as money laundering, bribery and abuse of Office,”* Rt. Hon Kidega remarked.

The Speaker was emphatic that it was necessary for the Association to have a closer working relationship within the EAC. *“As a key institution in the eradication of corruption, it is vital and necessary for EAAACA to explore means and ways of working with EAC including been considered for Observer Status at the Community,”* he remarked.

According to the Speaker, the Mbeki led Report on the High Level Panel on illicit Financial Flows released in February this year is telling. The Report narrates that illicit flows relate principally to commercial transactions,

tax evasion, criminal activities such as money laundering, bribery, corruption and abuse of office, which he said promote corrupt tendencies.

Moreover, it is reported that countries that are rich in natural resources and countries with inadequate or non-existent institutional architecture are most at risk of falling victim to illicit financial flows.

In attendance at the two-day AGM were representatives of Anti-Corruption Authorities from Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Ethiopia and South Sudan.

The meeting was hosted by the Inspectorate of Government led by the Inspector General of Government of the Republic of Uganda Hon. Lady Justice Irene Mulyagonja Kakooza. Lady Justice Kakooza maintained that ridding corruption needed political, legislative and the goodwill of all citizens.

The Minister for EAC Affairs, Hon Shem Bageine said corruption had spread its tentacles in various sectors in the region and largely manifested itself across the divide. *“Governments, Private and Public sectors must get to the bottom of and root out this evil,”* Minister Bageine added.

On his part, the Outgoing President of the EAAACA, Mr Clément Musangwabaware reiterated the need to embrace good governance and total fight on corruption which he termed costly to governments and businesses.

Analysts contend that promoting and facilitating co-operation among Partner States is crucial in ensuring effectiveness of measures and actions to detect, investigate, punish and eradicate corruption.

The AGM is the supreme governing body of the Association and comprises of Members of Anti-Corruption Authorities of EAAACA and Honorary Members.

The overall objective of the EAAACA is to promote and facilitate regional co-operation, mutual legal and technical assistance in the prevention and combating of corruption in the region, to share information and hold joint research and carry out joint research.

The Kampala based Association promotes the spirit of zero tolerance to corruption and encourages co-operating in preventing and combating corruption. 🇰🇪

**The Kampala based Association promotes the spirit of zero tolerance to corruption and encourages co-operating in preventing and combating corruption.**

## EAC and Interpol to lock Co-operation

Co-operation between the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the East African Community is set to be strengthened in the areas of Border Security, Operationalization of the Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (EAPCCO), Motor Vehicle Clearance Certificates, Training of Investigators, among others.

EAC Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera met the Secretary General of INTERPOL, Mr. Jürgen

Stock on the margins of the 84<sup>th</sup> INTERPOL General Assembly Meeting held in Kigali, Rwanda on November 2-5<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

The INTERPOL Secretary General reaffirmed his organizations commitment to deepen co-operation with the EAC within the context of the INTERPOL-EAC MoU concluded in Rome in November 2012.

Amb. Richard Sezibera shared with his counterpart the progress towards joint implementation of the investigations component under

the European Union funded Eastern and Southern Africa India Ocean (ESA-IO) Maritime Strategy, the operationalization of the Regional Forensic Referral Centre, and the establishment of a Police Liaison Office at the EAC Secretariat, to enhance coordination of Policing activities in the region.

Present at the meeting were the INTERPOL Director for Africa, Ms. Elizabeth Kuteesa and the INTERPOL Eastern Africa Regional Bureau Chief, Mr. Francis Rwego. 🇷🇼

## EAC Secretary General praises Mount Meru University's contribution towards regional intergration



The East African Community (EAC) Secretary General, Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera graced the 11<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony at Mount Meru University as chief guest on November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

While addressing the gathering, the Secretary General appreciated

the efforts by the institute towards achieving academic excellence, adding that it is a shining example of integration at work.

*"I cannot overemphasize the fundamental role that education plays in uniting people,"* said Amb. Sezibera.

*"Today you are all graduates of one university, and you share the common concepts of your institution - knowledge, wisdom, excellence, God fearing, skilled, proactive, visionary, hardworking and transforming servant leaders. It is these same concepts that have created a clear bond between universities and regional integration,"* he said. The EAC, through the Inter-University Council for East Africa

(IUCEA), is playing a key role in the harmonization of the education systems in the region.

This will not only ensure that the established systems conform to the international practices, procedures and guidelines, but will also lead to international credibility and competitiveness.

A total of 783 students from Mount Meru University's main campus in Arusha received their diploma, bachelor's and master's degree certificates in Theology, Education and Business

Mount Meru University (MMU) is one of the leading Universities in Northern Tanzania with the most diverse student population from East and Central Africa. 🇷🇼

## LVBC among top 20 global Water Co-operation Basins

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC), an EAC institution ranks amongst the top 20 World Water Co-operation Basins, according to the Strategic Foresight Group's Water Co-operation Quotient Index 2015. The Water Co-operation Quotient is a tool to measure intensity of co-operation in shared river and basins globally.

This was revealed by the LVBC Executive Secretary, Dr. Canisius Kanangire, during the 15<sup>th</sup> Sectoral Council of Ministers Meeting (SECOM) for Lake Victoria held on August 31<sup>st</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in Kisumu, Kenya. The Global Water Cooperation Quotient Index was launched on 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 in Dakar, Senegal.

*"This is a good piece of news from an independent and internationally reputable think tank,"* said Dr. Kanangire.

He, however noted EAC economies were dependent on water which is a finite resource, adding that there were significant imbalances between sustainable water resources management efforts and water withdrawals for socio-economic purposes such as urbanization and population growth. Ministerial Meetings happening on an annual or bi-annual basis focused on water co-operation and policy guidance on managing shared water resources constituted part of the indicators and scoring criteria of the Water Co-operation Quotient Index.

According to Strategic Foresight Group's Water Co-operation Quotient, the total annual renewable water resources available in the world is estimated to be 38,000 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM).

The total water withdrawal by of this year is expected to be 3,800 BCM and 5,700 BCM in 2050. The reduction of the waters of Lake Chad and Lake Turkana are examples of how serious Africa's water crisis is. The Chairperson of the SECOM Coordination Committee, Engineer Mbogo Futakamba, also the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Water in the United Republic of Tanzania, commended LVBC for its efforts in managing Lake Victoria's shared waters prudently. 🇷🇺

## EABC gets \$ 1 million for advocacy



Mr. Dennis Karera, EABC Chairman

Mr. Matthias Wachter, BDI Managing Director

The East African Business Council (EABC) has entered into a \$1 million worth of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Federation of German Industries to strengthen its policy advocacy in the East African Community (EAC) integration process.

Mr Dennis Karera, the EABC Chairman, signed the MoU on behalf of the council while the BDI managing director, Mr Matthias Wachter, penned the document on behalf of the Federation of the German Industries in July 2015.

The MoU follows the 2015-2018 Draft Strategic Plan of the EABC highlighting a number of weaknesses in the council which could be successfully addressed in partnership with its counterpart popularly known as Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie (BDI) in Germany.

Much as the progress of the EAC integration requires a robust Private Sector in terms of policy advocacy, the BDI will build the council's capacity to lobby professionally towards obtaining a conducive legal, administrative and institutional business environment for goods, services and labour to move freely across the region. 🇩🇪









1. The EAC Panel of Eminent persons pose for a group photo following a recent meeting held in Arusha, Tanzania. They are from left Rt. Hon Abdirahin Abdi, Speaker Emeritus, EALA, Judge Harold Nsekela, Former President, East African Court of Justice and Hon Amany Mushega, former Secretary General, EAC (second from right). They are joined by the EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera (centre) and the Deputy Secretary General, Dr Enos Bukuku (extreme right)
2. The Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega (left) the Secretary General of the EAC, Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uganda, Rt. Hon Dr. Ruhakana Rugunda in talks
3. The Cabinet Secretary of Commerce, Tourism and East African Affairs, Hon Phyllis Kandie in discussions with Hon Patricia Hajabakiga, Chair of the EALA Rwanda Chapter and Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo
4. The Minister of EAC Affairs, Hon Shem Bageine shakes hands with the outgoing Executive Secretary of the IUCEA, Prof Nkunya Mayunga moments after commissioning the institution's new building. Looking on are the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of EAC, Rwanda, Mrs Edith Mwanje (left) and other officials
5. LETS WIDEN INTEGRATION: Hon Abubakar Zein seems to be saying as he talks to other Members of the Kenya Chapter of EALA. The Chapters play a key role in strengthening integration
6. Hon Pierre Celestin Rwigema (left) and Hon Straton Ndikuryayo in discussions on the sidelines of an EALA meeting
7. Research Assistants, Adam Mamuya, Joy Uloy (centre) and Hansard Editor, Gloria Nakebu pay attention to proceedings of a meeting
8. Hon Nancy Abisai debates on the floor of the House
9. EALA's Committee on Trade and Investment listen to Revenue officials during a recent tour of a border post
10. EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr Richard Sezibera plants a tree in Gulu as pupils from Mother Ludare Primary School in Gulu look on
11. The Secretary General Amb, Dr Richard Sezibera, an Ex-Officio Member of the House
12. A section of Members with a staff Member, Victor Manzi on right at a meeting





# Global Parliamentarians sustain call for fairer migration and digital freedom at IPU Assembly in Geneva



The EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Kidega at the start of the 133<sup>rd</sup> IPU Assembly in Geneva. On right is Hon Straton Ndikuryayo. The Speaker later addressed the General Assembly

Geneva, Switzerland played host to the 133<sup>rd</sup> Inter-Parliamentary General Assembly and related meetings on October 17-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 with Global legislators sustaining calls for a fairer and more humane migration and digital freedom.

Adopting a Resolution on democracy in the digital era, the MPs sought to set new standards on protecting democracy and digital freedoms in an age of mass surveillance.

The Resolution urges Parliaments to review national laws to prohibit the interception, collection, analysis and storage of personal data without informed consent of concerned individuals or valid court order.

Legislators further reiterated the need for fairer and more humane migration. The Resolution outlined a set of measures that MPs could take to protect migrants

and maximize the full potential of the world's oldest human phenomenon.

They further committed to working towards the ratification of various international conventions that protect migrants' and refugee rights.

The President of the IPU, Hon Saber Chowdhury said that IPU had embraced an open door policy and was keen to continue collaboration with the national assemblies, regional and international bodies.

EALA was represented by the Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel F. Kidega and Hon Straton Ndikuryayo. In his remarks, Rt. Hon Kidega underscored the importance of focus on part of legislators towards ensuring countries undertake more humane migration.

He said the refugee problem would probably be a thing of the past in the EAC region once it attains the



Political Federation. He however lamented that the refugees' problem had continued to affect the region owing to instabilities in Somalia, South Sudan, and DRC and that it was larger than anticipated a few years ago.

The matter, he remarked, was more complicated given the entry of the Common Market Protocol which anticipates free movement of the citizens.

The General Assembly was attended by over 90 Speakers and 600 Members of Parliament from 130 Parliaments globally.

Parliament of Uganda was represented by a delegation led by Speaker, Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga while the President of the Senate of Burundi, Rt. Hon Reverien Ndikuriyo led his team. Rt. Hon Ekwee Ethuro and a number of legislators from both Houses represented Kenya while the Deputy Speaker of Rwanda Senate, Hon Jeanne D'Arc Gakuba led the team from Parliament of Rwanda.

Parliament of Tanzania which was dissolved at the end of the term in July 2015 sent a Senior Parliamentary staff, Owen Mwandumba.

The 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly approved the re-admission of Fiji into the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in a move welcomed by the Organization as a significant step forward in ongoing efforts to cement democracy in the country and in IPU's engagement with parliaments from Pacific Ocean Island nations.

The re-admission at Fiji increases the Organization's membership to 167 national Parliaments. Fiji had first

joined IPU in 1997 but was expelled from the IPU following a military coup in 2007. The 133<sup>rd</sup> Assembly further convened several IPU bodies including the Meeting of Women Parliamentarians, IPU's Forum of Young Parliamentarians, the Committee on Middle East Questions as well as the Committee on the Human Rights of Parliamentarians.

The next (134<sup>th</sup>) IPU General Assembly shall be held in Lusaka, Zambia in March 2016.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of the Senate of Kenya, Rt. Hon Ekwee Ethuro was elected to the Executive Committee of the IPU for a four year period. Rt. Hon Ehuro replaces the Speaker of Parliament of Uganda, Rt. Hon Rebecca Kadaga whose tenure of service at the IPU came to an end. (see Separate story on page 11). 🇰🇪

**In his remarks, Rt. Hon Kidega underscored the importance of focus on part of legislators towards ensuring countries undertake more humane migration.**



Hon Leo Housakos (left) shakes hands with Hon Galust Sahakyan, President of the Armenian National Assembly on the sidelines of the Inter-Parliamentary Union bilateral meetings in Geneva



Hon Housakos, Speaker of the Canadian Senate (left), Senator Joan Fraser (right) with Hon Saber Chowdhury, President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union



Acting Speaker of National Assembly of Pakistan Hon Murtaza Javed Abbasi addressing the 133<sup>rd</sup> Inter Parliamentary Union Assembly (IPU) in Geneva, Switzerland



By Hon Pierre Celestin Rwigema

# EALA holds busy session in Nairobi as it welcomes Hon. Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier to the family



The new Member, Hon Dr. Francois Xavier Kalinda takes the Oath of Allegiance. He is flanked by Hon Valerie Nyirahabineza and Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo



Hon Mukasa Mbidde contributes to the debate in Nairobi. The Plenary in Nairobi was extremely busy

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly held in Nairobi on 4<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, was extremely busy. The Session had two Special sittings: the opening address given by Rt. Hon. Ekwee David Ethuro, Speaker of the Kenyan Senate, and the address by H.E Uhuru Kenyatta, President of the Republic of Kenya in the second week of the plenary session.

At the Plenary Session, two important Bills and three key reports were debated.

The EAC Electronic Transactions Bill, 2014 which makes provision for the use, security, facilitation and regulation of electronic communications and transactions; to encourage the use of e-Government service and to provide for related matters was enacted by the Assembly.

Debate on the bill was preceded by tabling of the report on the Bill by the Committee on Communications, Trade and Investment. The Committee held public hearings to gather opinions, views and inputs to inform the Bill. The Committee presented the report which was similarly debated and adopted by the Assembly.

The EAC Forests Management and Protection Bill, 2015 which seeks to provide for the management and protection of national forests and trans-boundary forests ecosystems in the Community, to regulate national trade and cross border trade in forest products in the Community and to make general provisions for regional forests management, coordination, monitoring and evaluation and reporting was seriously debated and one



Partner State requested for its adjournment until the next plenary session scheduled in Kigali beginning on November 22, 2015.

The report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on Goodwill Mission to Burundi Refugees in Kigoma, Tanzania and Eastern Province, Rwanda: 31<sup>st</sup> May – 5<sup>th</sup> June 2015 was adopted. The Goodwill mission was undertaken to appraise the EALA on the humanitarian situation on the ground, express solidarity with the affected people of Burundi, and to assess the amenities available to the refugees in the two countries.

As the Sitting commenced, EALA welcomed on board a new Member, Hon. Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier. Hon. Kalinda was elected by a joint Parliament of Rwanda Session on September 11, 2015, to replace Hon. Kabahizi Celestin who resigned in June 2015. The new Member was ushered into the House on October 6, 2015 by Hon. Dr. Nyiramilimo Odette and Hon. Nyirahabineza Valerie according to the Rule 5(5) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly which states that *“when a Member first attends to take his or her seat other than at the first sitting of a new House, he or she shall be brought to the table by two Members and presented by them to the Speaker who shall then administer the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to him or her”*.

The Rules of Procedure specifically state that: *“A member shall not sit or vote in the Assembly before taking the Oath or Affirmation of Allegiance to the Treaty”*.

After swearing in, Hon. Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier was led to his seat by Hon. Nyirahabineza Valerie. Hon. Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier holds a PhD in Private Law from the University of Strasbourg in Strasbourg (France). He further holds a Masters’ degree of Law (LLM) from the University of Ottawa and an LLB from the National University of Rwanda.

Prior to his election, Hon Dr. Kalinda was Dean at the School of Law at University of Rwanda and a Senior Lecturer at the same University. He taught Labor Law and Social Security, Intellectual Property and Legal Research



**The Committee held public hearings to gather opinions, views and inputs to inform the Bill. The Committee presented the report which was similarly debated and adopted by the Assembly.**

Methodology and was a Member of the University Senate, representing Academic Staff from the College of Arts and Social Sciences.

Beyond academia, Dr. Kalinda Francois Xavier has been a Member of the High Council of the National Public Prosecution Authority (NPPA) representing Public High Learning Institutions, a Member of Rwanda Bar Association (RBA) and the East Africa Law Society (EALS).

- As a researcher, Dr. Kalinda’s areas of research are Labor Law, Social Security and Intellectual Property Law. He has published articles and books on those subjects. His recent publications include two books on Rwandan Law: François-Xavier Kalinda, *Labor Law and Labor Relations in Rwanda*, Amsterdam, Rozenberg Publishers, 2015.
- François-Xavier Kalinda and Titien Habumugisha, *Intellectual Property Law*, Amsterdam, Rozenberg Publishers, 2012.

While wishing Hon Dr. Kalinda success, I believe as a lawyer, the new Member will work tirelessly and contribute to addressing the issues and challenges that underpin regional integration.

Thus, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly was by and large successful. It was similarly an opportunity for Kenyans of all walks of life to interact with the EALA legislators. 🇰🇪



## REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

By Mosenda Robi Chacha

# Time for us to stand up with our brothers and sisters in Burundi

Over the past one year whilst serving as EAC Youth Ambassador, the main message I would share with the youth was the opportunity and hope brought about by the Community. The message I share is that as a Community we are stronger and that we can overcome challenges together because, *unity is power*.

I have had the privilege of visiting the Republic of Burundi on two occasions. The first was at the request and invitation by the Inter University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) to discuss and share experiences of the education systems as Burundi was looking towards revamping its education system. The second visit was to present a petition on Youth Representation to the Honourable Speaker of the East African Legislative

Assembly. On both occasions I met young people in Burundi who wanted to hear and understand more about the EAC. This was made possible by the Youth Ambassador in Burundi, Mr. Gilbert Ndayishimiye.

During my first visit, the Rwanda Youth Ambassador, Miss Peace Mukazi and I were invited to attend one of the meetings of the English Club at the *Institut National de Sante Publique* (INSP). Here, I met about 30 young people who had gathered to learn English, I was inspired not only by their initiative but by the zeal they had to do so. As I listened to their questions, it was clear that they wanted to become great people and improve their communities. They appreciated the fact that they have had challenges as a nation but they are willing to move forward and make their country greater.



The writer and other Members of the EAC Youth Ambassadors Platform when they visited Burundi



As I spoke to them, I shared the promising opportunities that East African Community offers for them. I told them of the benefits of the Customs Union, Common Market, Monetary Union and ultimately the Political Federation. From their eyes you could see a representation of what Burundi yearns for as a nation. You could see the faces of a Youth that are willing to do great things for their nation.

The events in Burundi thus break my heart, make my stomach cringe because I think of the effects it has on young people like me. I think of how they do not have the opportunity and the environment to grow and become the great people they crave to be.

In my understanding of the Community, we are, because they are, and this for me means that as a Community we fail when one of our Partner State's fail. If I were to use another analogy, the system is like that of an automobile where if one tyre gets a puncture, then the whole vehicle is affected.

In its Preamble, the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community appreciates and is "CONVINCED that co-operation at the sub-regional and regional levels in all fields of human endeavour will raise the standards of living of African peoples, maintain and enhance the economic stability, foster close and peaceful relations among African states and accelerate the successive stages in the realisation of the proposed African Economic Community and Political Union."

This means that as Members of the Community, we ought to be one another's brothers' keeper and enable each other grow.

The stalemate in Burundi affects us all and every individual as an East African should be able to stand with our brothers and sisters in Burundi. Having witnessed the Post-Election Violence in Kenya in 2007, I can confidently say that when such stalemates occur it is the Youth and children that suffer the most because their dreams, hopes and aspirations are reduced to mere thoughts and wishes. In these instances, the youth either become the victims or the objects both of which cause a negative impact.

The young man/woman in Bujumbura may not understand the politics of what is going on in his/her



**A youth at work. Youth in Burundi are facing an uncertain future if the situation does not return to normal**



**A bird's view of Bujumbura**

**The future of very many young people depends on this. Change may not come immediately but at the very least, let us live to tell the coming generations that we tried.**

country, the pregnant mother may never know what to tell her children when they ask where their father is, who died during the riots. The child that was forced to flee may never understand what it feels like to grow up in his/her own country but would read of her country's history from books like a foreigner.

I write this asking and pleading with the leaders, policy makers, and citizens of East Africa to come together and salvage the situation. The future of very many young people depends on this. Change may not come immediately but at the very least, let us live to tell the coming generations that we tried. 🇷🇺

**Editor's Note: Mosenda Robi Chacha is the EAC Youth Ambassador, Republic of Kenya and a Volunteer at the Amnesty International Kenya.**



## REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

By Jackline Kagume



# PMOs have a key role to play in Parliamentary Affairs

It is now time that Parliamentary Monitoring Organisations (PMOs) take a more prominent role in facilitating and promoting public knowledge for Parliamentary processes.

According to a 2014 report by the Ghana Centre for Democracy and Development, PMOs in Africa have played a less pronounced role and received less prominence for their work, relative to other parts of the world. The report on *'Enhancing the Transparency and Performance of African Parliaments'* attributed this finding to the inadequate and often inaccurate information on the role and mandate of PMOs by both National as well as Regional Parliaments.

In a bid to demystify the work of the Network of PMOs in Africa, a few representatives of the Network recently sought audience of the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) at its Plenary Sitting in Nairobi. The object of this meeting was to acquaint the Assembly with initiatives of the Network and to present the findings of the aforementioned study. The session was also intended to explore possible areas of future collaboration and mark the beginning of a sustained engagement between Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations (PMOs) in East Africa and EALA.

Noteworthy, there exists an apparent information gap regarding the mandate of Parliamentary Monitoring Organizations including those in the East African

region. While some perceive the role of PMOs as that of watchdog organizations keen on highlighting the successes as well as challenges of their respective legislatures, there is visibly an information gap on the component of parliamentary strengthening support offered by most of these institutions.

By their very nature, most PMOs implement projects whose core focus revolves around monitoring parliamentary processes including public budgets and expenditures and implementation of government policy. They monitor and assess the functioning of Parliaments with an aim to facilitate and promote public knowledge for political and parliamentary processes. To this end, PMOs in Africa have played a critical role in developing formal mechanisms for public participation in Parliamentary Processes.

Different PMOs have devised diverse strategies for the actual monitoring function depending on the priority focus areas of each organization. Some assess the individual performance of each Member of Parliament while others go beyond this to evaluate the performance of Parliamentary Committees, political parties or even the entire Parliament as an institution.

Individual monitoring of MPs has been shown to positively influence the behaviour of individual MPs while institutional-level monitoring helps Parliament's overall framework and often reveals how the institution





Hon Mike Sebalu addresses the House during Plenary in Nairobi

**The object of this meeting was to acquaint the Assembly with initiatives of the Network and to present the findings of the aforementioned study.**



A section of EALA Members during the tour of European Parliament last year. EALA is collaborating with other Parliaments and related stakeholders

can perform more effectively. Additionally, the parameters for this legislative monitoring range from Parliamentary attendance and presence, composition, numbers and quality of legislative pieces or oversight activities.

Granted, the operating environment within which this monitoring takes place largely determines the nature of the organizations activities including the socio-economic and political context of a region, the level of access to information in a given country among other factors. For instance, misuse of public resources remains rampant in a number of countries both in the East African region

and globally. With a substantial amount of money in the different economies being lost to corruption, the public must of necessity pay closer attention to money matters and how governments spend money to enhance accountability. For that reason, a number of PMOs in the East African region have dedicated their efforts and resources to demand and push for accountability.

Separately, the Parliamentary Strengthening element of most PMOs seeks to offer technical support to Parliaments for the implementation of the core parliamentary functions of enacting legislation, representing the citizenry and overseeing executive policy implementation and performance.

Through these initiatives, a number of PMOs have been able to provide technical assistance to Parliaments in terms of legislative development. For instance, the Parliamentary Initiatives Network in Kenya identifies critical Bills before Parliament, convenes stakeholder discussions and provides analysis and proposals for parliamentarians to make decisions based on facts.

Another PMO-Mzalendo Kenya, keeps an eye on the Kenyan Parliament, providing relevant information about the National Assembly and Senate's activities to the public for greater public awareness and participation. In Tanzania, 'HakiElimu' through its research and policy analysis program is able to provide policy proposals aimed at developing the right architecture for different laws for the improvement of the Education sector.

While noting the significant role played by PMOs in strengthening and monitoring the performance of legislatures, the report found that more could be done to enhance the relations between the two.

On their part, Parliaments could contribute to this process by promoting a culture of openness, adopting policies that ensure easier access to Parliamentary information; ensuring information is as transparent as reasonably practicable and embracing modern use of electronic communication to relay Parliamentary information expeditiously. 🇰🇪

**Editor's Note:** Jackline Kagume is a Program Officer at the Parliamentary Initiatives Network. She may be reached on [jackline@pin.or.ke](mailto:jackline@pin.or.ke)





## REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

By Bobi Odiko

# EALA are soccer champs!

...Four time winners, Parliament of Uganda are dethroned, coveted trophy in Arusha as Inter-Parliamentary Games end



Hon Taslima "Mandela" Twaha attempts to dispossess an opponent from parliament of Uganda in a match at the Nyarutarama Stadium. EALA beat Parliament of Uganda 4-3 on penalties

It has been a long time coming but finally, EALA are football champions of the Inter-Parliamentary Games tournament. EALA put to a halt, Parliament of Uganda's dominance in soccer, beating them 4-3 on penalties in the finals played at the Kigali regional Stadium in Nyamirambo on December 11th, 2015.

The regular time score ended 1-1. The match started on a high note with EALA dominating the play. EALA then took the lead through an early first half goal sending the crowd in to a frenzy.

Hon Martin Ngoga and Hon Taslima Twaha controlled the midfield in the earlier stages of the match. EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel Kidega, could have put the victors ahead in the 17<sup>th</sup>

minute but his snarling shot went wide with the Parliament of Rwanda Goalkeeper, Bosabose Emile beaten. Parliament of Uganda then settled and began making inroads into the EALA backline.

The defence marshalled by Peter Asimwe and Hon Straton Ndikuryayo however held on. Captain Hon Patrick Nsanja missed a sitter after receiving a pass from striker Hon Nsereko Muhammad mid-way as the match progressed.

In the second half, Parliament of Uganda came back a more rejuvenated side following Coach, Tom Lwanga's pep talk to his charges.

Hon Otto Odonga collected the ball from the midfield and beat two defenders to set a through pass

The match went into extra-time but ended in a draw resulting in a penalty. EALA Goalkeeper saved a crucial penalty taken by Hon Muhammad Nsereko as the match ended 4-3 in their favour.

to Hon Nsanja Patrick who slotted home the equalizer. The match went into extra-time but ended in a draw resulting in a penalty. EALA Goalkeeper saved a crucial penalty taken by Hon Muhammad Nserekoas the match ended 4-3 in their favour.

Hon Gatabazi Jean Marie Vianney won the Most Valuable Player's award after having tied with EALA striker Wycliff Ketto.

The rules governing soccer provide that where a Member of Parliament ties with a staff, then the former shall be accorded the prize.

The golden boot (top scorer) went to Hon Patrick Nsanja of Uganda while Parliament of Kenya won the most disciplined team.

Parliament of Rwanda scooped position three after beating Parliament of Kenya 4-2 in penalties after a match that ended in a barren draw.

Parliament of Kenya also bagged the volleyball men's tournament, athletics men and the overall trophy in athletics.

In women's volleyball, Parliament of Rwanda were declared winners beating Parliament of Kenya by 2 sets to 0 (25-20) and 25-16.

Parliament of Uganda were declared the champions of the 2015 netball tournament. Parliament of Uganda beat Parliament of Kenya 45-9.

Leading goal shooter, Hon Susan Netasiire, won the golden hand after amassing 79 points while Hon Winifred Kiiza was declared the Most Valuable Player.

In Golf, Parliament of Kenya's Hon Stephen Kariuki won the tournament after garnering 36 pointers. Hon Kariuki who is a handicap 12 beat closest challenger, Hon Peter Mathuki of EALA, handicap 28 who got 25 points. Rwanda's Hon Mporanyi Theo scooped 22 points

The week long inter-Parliamentary Games tournament were preceded by a Conference on December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 called to nurture bonding and a spirit of friendship during the games.

EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Daniel Fred Kidega urged the Parliaments to use sport to enhance integration.

The leader of delegation of the Bunge Sports Club, Kenya, Hon Wafula Wamunyinyi, said the region's legislators would help strengthen the integration process through enhanced collaboration in the sporting arena. Hon Bernard Mulengani of EALA and Chair of the Joint Planning Committee, termed as noble, the decision by the EAC Speakers' Bureau to institutionalise the annual games. 🇰🇪



Hon Peter Mathuki of Kenya prepares to tee off at hole 1 during the Inter-Parliamentary Games. Golf is a newly introduced sport



Lets' Psyche: Hon Bernard Mulengani encourages Hon Shyrose Bhanji and Hon Hafsa Mossi, moments before the races began



From left; Hon David Ochieng, Hon Dan Wanyama, Senator Isaac Melly and Hon Kanini Kega celebrate moments after winning the 100 x 4 Meters relay





## REFLECTIONS

By Hon AbuBakr Ogle

# Let the music play on...

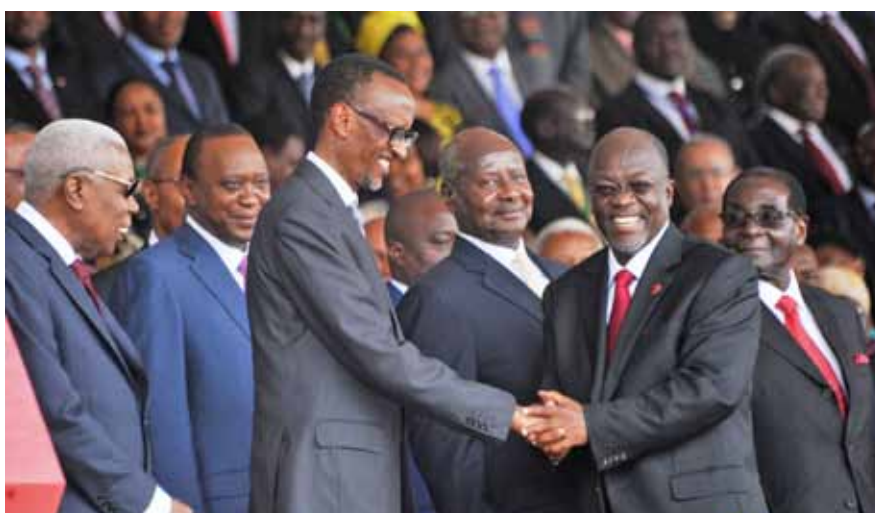
## East Africa dancing to the tune of competitive politics

**W**HETHER by design or default, the East African region has over time, assumed certain notoriety in global geopolitical perception. It was one of conflict, death, destructions and downright despair.

For good measure, anyone reflecting on the region's socio-economic history will at first be confronted by the series of the bloody armed conflict from the Horn to The Sudan, the 1984 Ethiopian famine disaster and the total collapse of the Somali nation-state in the early 1990s. The more horrific Rwandan genocide in 1994 could well have been the ultimate reminder that defined the region's unique status as a destination of sheer madness.

Two of the world's newest states, Eritrea and South Sudan, were born out of protracted bloody wars in the Eastern Africa region. Burundi and the spill-over of the bloody events in the Democratic Republic of Congo add to the list of the past and present hotspots that has earned Eastern Africa an odious label of relentless conflicts and its nightmarish characteristics.

Uganda's past history of dictatorship and political instability in the early 70s as well as Kenya's recent post-election violence, are poignant reminders the region at one time or another, looked unable to break free



H.E. Dr John Pombe Joseph Magufuli, the new president of the United Republic of Tanzania is congratulated by H.E. Paul Kagame as other Heads of State look on

of the lethal cocktail of armed conflicts, violent crime, extremism and communal violence.

But that was not going to be an everlasting feature. Indeed, it will be underestimating the resilience and adaptability of the peoples and Governments of East Africa, given the region's more recent spirited bid to rid itself of this horrid perception. The emergent competitive political campaigns experienced in the region are one such shift that introduce an exciting and hopeful future.

In the just concluded General Elections in Tanzania, for instance, commentators have variously referred to as the most competitive turning the hitherto sleepy



Tanzanian political landscape into an intense battlefield of ideas. The opposition umbrella under the Kiswahili acronym, UKAWA, gave the ruling Chama Cha Mapinduzi, a real run, largely refocusing the contest into issues and service delivery.

There is a likelihood that the Ugandan polls in February next year is shaping up to be equally exciting in terms of voters' interest and participation. Kenya had its own moment in 2002 and the political contest has since been razor thin.

This new found environment of open, transparent and competitive politics certainly provides an outlet for a broader paradigm shift.

Because a close political contest has the hallmark of attracting a huge swell of restless youth, the principal political competitors are therefore expected to apply all possible persuasions and concrete undertakings to re-direct the grievances of the youth bulge. These are fuelled in part by frustration over limited economic opportunities, poverty, unemployment and the politics of exclusion along ethnic, religious and clan categorization.

Where the political elite could easily tap and manipulate the youth in the past, the close political contest instead accords them a platform to advance and ventilate their interests amicably and in a more structured pattern. In such eventuality, the youth were no longer innocent bystanders, much less, hired goons and stone throwers as was the tradition during past electioneering period.

Like in Kenya, the Presidential candidates in the recently concluded Tanzanian polls, fleshed out their take on critical subjects ranging from regional and cross-border issues, food security issues, including climate change, environmental degradation, migration and land use policies, amongst other pertinent matters close to citizens' hearts.

Besides, the closeness of the Presidential contest generally made the political environment very robust that in turn, triggered huge consequential vibrancy in the local systems.

Further, another positive ripple effect of the close and competitive contest was that it gave rise to large



An East African casts her vote

**This new found environment of open, transparent and competitive politics certainly provides an outlet for a broader paradigm shift.**

motley of civil society groups as independent monitors, and in advocacy and in the dissemination of critical information to the local communities.

There was another important matter I observed at the recent 'TZ' polls. Though rivalry, mistrust and even outright hostility endured between the political parties, there was no denying of the much improved relations, camaraderie and respect exhibited for one another. This was driven primarily by a pragmatic realization that the numerous socio-economic problems obtaining in the country can only be addressed through co-operation by all its citizens, irrespective of political party persuasions.

Above all, the emergent stiff political competition now gives realistic hope that gradually, political contest will henceforth be limited to two main competitors akin to the way it has matured in the US, UK and other developed democracies; and that future political battles will be fought along strict libertarian ideology and formidable positive principles devoid of the ethnic chauvinism and parochial divisions

Ultimately, whilst each case has its own dynamics, drivers and trajectories, a broad trend exists across most of the EAC region to suggest it is quite certainly, shedding its hitherto infamous label as one of the world's leading conflict zone. So much so that one can now safely and proudly invoke something akin to the Lionel Ritchie lyrics of my generation " ***We are going to party....,karambo....,fiesta....,forever..... Come on...., Let The Music Play on...., All Night Long (All night)...., Whoah!!!!***" 🇲🇵



## BRIEFS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES



## KENYA

## Lift GMO ban for food security, Kenyan MPs ask

Members from seven Parliamentary Committees have backed scientists and asked the Government to lift the ban on Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs).

If allowed, all parts of the country will have a chance to grow maize, including areas with severe scorching conditions like Marsabit, Turkana, Wajir and Mandera they say. While explaining to the MPs how

the biotechnology maize would be adopted, Dr Richard Oduor, the head of Department of Biochemistry and Biotechnology at Kenyatta University, said the scientists would observe the traits of specific plants such as cactus that grow in dry areas and transfer such genes to plants like maize which are susceptible to harsh climatic conditions using biotechnology.

An example, he said, only a gene resistant to the sun would be removed

from a cactus tree and inserted to the maize crop.

*"We will not have made the maize plant a cactus but just removed the gene that is resistant to the sun,"* he said.

The MPs were drawn from Agriculture, Livestock and Cooperatives, Education, Research and Technology, Health, Environment and Natural Resources, Finance Planning and Trade committees. 🇰🇪



## BURUNDI

## Parliament of Burundi represented at the ACP-EU Parliamentary session in Brussels

The 30<sup>th</sup> Session of the Joint Africa-Caribbean-Pacific and the European Union (ACP-EU) Parliamentary Session ended in Brussels, Belgium on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015 with a Resolution on Burundi calling for calm and an end to the

violence. In a statement released after this resolution, the Honourable Anicet Niyongabo, head of the Burundian Delegation at the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly, pointed out that anyone who wants to help Burundi to strengthen peace and

security should not just send messages only to the Government, but also to the perpetrators of wrongful acts of violence, that has rocked various districts of Bujumbura. The Country has not seen calm since the elections were held in July 2015. 🇧🇮



## TANZANIA

## Parliament elects Job Ndugaias Speaker

Rt Hon Job Ndugai was elected the seventh Speaker of the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament of Tanzania on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015 in Dodoma, Tanzania.

The Speaker got 254 votes beating other contenders, Robert Alexander Kasinini, Democratic Party, Richard Shedrack Lyimo Labour

Party and Goodluck Ole Medeye, Chadema. Rt Hon Ndugai who served as the Deputy Speaker for five years in the recently ended Parliament sailed unopposed after two other contestants withdrew their candidacy in the party nomination race.

Ndugai has been Deputy Speaker of the 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament between 2010

and 2015. He has been serving as the Member of Parliament for Kongwa Constituency since 2000. Ndugai was named as the most active MP in the 9<sup>th</sup> Parliament. Dr Tulia Ackson, formerly Deputy Attorney General was elected the Deputy Speaker. They will now guide the 394 Member House over the next two years. 🇹🇿



## RWANDA

## Rwanda Senate examining the draft constitutional amendment

The Senate Standing Committee on Political Affairs and Good Governance commenced the process of examining the draft constitutional amendments passed by the Chamber of Deputies on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

At the Session the President of Committee, Hon. Jean Nepomuscene

Sindikubwabo requested Members to debate while reflecting on views of the citizens.

The Deputy Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, Jeanne D'arc Uwimanimpaye informed the Senate that Rwandans had spoken with persuasion and conviction through their petitions, which were followed

by countrywide consultations. The preliminary draft Constitutional Amendment was as a result of petitions brought before the Chamber of Deputies which was debated and approved by the Chamber of Deputies on October 28-29, 2015.

Over 3.7 million Rwandans countrywide and from diaspora petitioned the Parliament requesting the review of constitutional provision regarding Presidential term and some other outdated articles. 🇷🇼



## UGANDA

## Push for favourable terms at cop 21 – legislators demand

Ugandan legislators at the Pan African Parliament have signed a Petition calling on African leaders to push for favourable terms at the upcoming 2015 Paris Climate Conference (COP21). COP21 is scheduled for Paris, France at the end of November 2015.

The Conference has as its main objective to achieve an international legally binding agreement on climate; aiming at keeping global warming below 2 degrees. It will attract hundreds of delegates from governments, UN agencies, civil society and other bodies.

MPs Hon. Onyango Kakoba, Hon. Sam Amooti Otada and Hon. Elijah Okupa signed the petition after the PAP Plenary Sitting on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. In the petition, which was also signed by other country representatives at

PAP, legislators urged African leaders to commit to ambitious actions to reduce carbon emissions.

"We call on the governments of Africa and the world to stand with the people on the frontlines of the climate crisis, and in particular the vulnerable communities whose voices need to be heard," reads part of the Petition drafted by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA).

Hon. Sam Otada said agreements from the Climate Conference should be binding and have the force of law such that countries do not ignore them.

*"The issue of climate change cannot be over emphasized. Our position must be clear and simple: he who pollutes must pay,"* he said.

The Alliance said that winning the fight against climate change starts with protecting the people whose

lives and livelihoods are most at risk. They called on negotiators to the COP21 to come up with an agreement that delivers climate actions at a level adequate to stop Climate Change and keep global warming below 1.5 degrees.

The Alliance also called on African governments to commit new resources from national budgets for investment to help people adapt and build resilience for increased food security; prioritizing the needs of women food producers.

Robert Chimambo of PACJA said the signed petitions containing the views and positions of ordinary Africans will be forwarded to the African Union Chairperson, before the Conference starts. The Pan African Parliament is meeting for the First Ordinary Session of the Fourth Parliament in Midrand, South Africa, Oct. 5 – 17, 2015. Uganda's other representatives to PAP are Hon. Jacqueline Amongin and Hon. Beatrice Barumba. 🇺🇬





## REGIONAL PERSPECTIVE

By Elizabeth Gitonga

## Committee on General Purpose roots for protection of the child, access to treatment

On the occasion of the Convention of the Child which is observed on 20<sup>th</sup> November annually, we are reminded of the need to invest in children in order to stop the inter-generational cycle of poverty to give all children a fair start in life.

With the MDGS coming to an end and transitioning into the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the EAC region is tasked to enhance role of governments in fulfilling minimum requirements that mark the observance of basic human rights of their people. In this particular case, challenges in the observance of rights of the child are responsible for early marriages and pregnancies, child labour and exploitation, sexual exploitation in the form of human/child trafficking and child prostitution among others and Governments are enacting legislative and policy instruments to fight these vices and protect the rights of the child.

According to UNFPA, 3.3 million girls are still at the risk of Female Genital Mutilation. It is clear that accountability with effective monitoring is critical and where possible, Civil Society, children and adolescents themselves can help monitor progress.

EALA Committee on General Purpose conducted an oversight activity in the five EAC Partner States from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015 with the main objective to assess the legal framework and implementation of policies related to the rights of the child, as well as updating on the challenges being faced, strategies and approaches and best practices undertaken by the Partner States to combat the negative practices and protect the rights of the child. The Committee further explored avenues of collaboration to combat the acts and bad practices

taking place in the region such as child trafficking and child labour with the aim of considering a regional approach to implementation of activities toward protection of the child. In collaboration with Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation (EGPAF), it was noted that it is important to increase children's access to HIV/AIDS treatment, the large and unfair disparity in access to treatment between adults and children and the urgent need to ensure increased access to treatment and care by children.

**Children and Youth are without doubt a very important part of the Community and have to be protected by necessity as the future lies in their hands.**

Connecting HIV/AIDS to child rights, EGPAF highlighted the disparity between access to treatment for HIV between adults and Children which is causing death to almost 50% of infected infants who die before their second birthday. By using the guiding principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, a child rights approach will help reach most children infected by HIV.

The Committee noted that that there was adequate legal, policy and institutional infrastructure. The EAC Partner States have put in place impressive policy instruments that have ensured a measure of observance of child rights to a considerable extent.

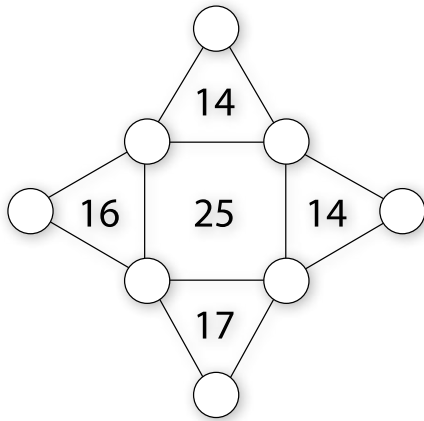
Children and Youth are without doubt a very important part of the Community and have to be protected by necessity as the future lies in their hands. A focused and productive young population has a lot to contribute to the socio-economic development of the region and more measures that go beyond legal and policy provisions need to be enhanced to ensure a sustainable and secure future, the achievement of which is possible if Governments act now. 🇰🇪

**Editor's Note: Elizabeth Gitonga is Secretary, Committee on General Purpose.**

# BRAIN BASHERS



Place the digits 1 to 8, into the grid. The numbers you can see are the totals for the surrounding numbers.



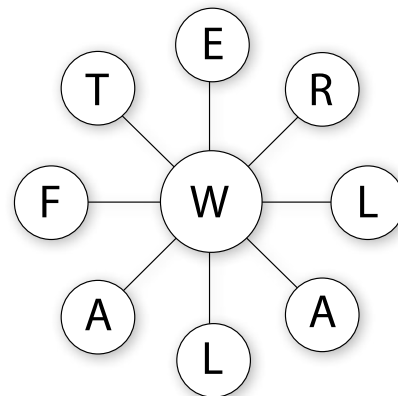
By changing the second letter of each word below, you can make another valid word. Can you change each word such that the second letters will reveal an eleven letter word when read downwards.

Therefore, what now reads VOKAHLIUPPW will be a real word.

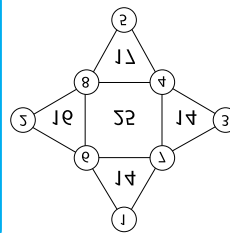
OVAL	MALT	MISS	SPED
POST	WHEN	FUND	SWA
SKIN	SLAB	APED	

OPAL, PAST, SPIN, MELT, WREN, SWAB, MESS, FIND, AGED, SHED, STAY

Using the BrainTracker grid below, how many words can you find? Each word must contain the central W and no letter can be used twice, however, the letters do not have to be connected. Proper nouns are not allowed, however, plurals are. Can you find the nine letter word? Excellent: 24 words. Good: 18 words. Average: 14 words.



ANSWERS



COMMON WORDS:

aware, awe, awl, few, flaw, flew, law, raw, trawl, wafer, waft, wall, wallet, war, ware, wart, water, WATERFALL, we, wear, weft, well, welt, wet.

## EAC....Tweets

Compiled by Bobi Odiko



Congratulatory Note to H.E John Pombe Magufuli, President of the United Republic of Tanzania:

@jumuiya



#Solidarity Paul Kagame, Uhuru Kenyatta, Yoweri Kaguta Museveni Dk. John Pombe Magufuli, Robert Mugabe...

@jumuiya



The East African Community Condemns the aggressive act by Burundian Security Officers to prevent the Secretary...

@jumuiya



EAC Head of Observer Mission Mudi Awori says Africa needs to learn from Tanzania for staging a peaceful and democratic voting exercise.

@isongole





## East African Legislative Assembly

*wishes you  
a Festive Season  
and a Prosperous 2016*

**ONE PEOPLE, ONE DESTINY**

