



# BUNGE LA AFRIKA MASHARIKI



THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE EALA

ISSUE 06

APRIL 2013



**LET US ADDRESS STICKY ISSUES ON EPAs – EALA**  
**Bujumbura Session adopts key reports and resolutions**  
**Change of mindset key to develop region**

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# DESK OF THE HON. SPEAKER

Life is often considered a journey, and before you know it, a year habitually slips into the next. With a new year coming, a positive quest for fresh possibilities and prospects awaits. We have every reason to be grateful to the Almighty God for his favour in granting us yet another year. Though the first quarter is now behind us, may 2013 be a year of peace, harmony and prosperity.

I welcome you to yet another edition of your flagship magazine: *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki*. At EALA and at the EAC, we shall strive to consolidate on the gains made in 2012. Our signature call towards fostering a stronger EAC shall remain imprinted as we continue to deepen and widen the integration process.

The joint efforts of various stakeholders of the EAC have led to the successful implementation of various instruments such as Customs Union and Common Market Protocols with the objective of eliminating trade barriers, increasing economic prosperity and contributing to closer union among the Partner States.

The EAC region is bound not only by a long history of common heritage and culture but also a shared sense of destiny and prosperity. The Partner States stand together on a platform of solid partnership based on shared interests, ideals, objectives and friendship. Our collective efforts have contributed to further consolidation of our friendly relations and growth in trade and commercial interaction. Trade and investment sectors are some of the areas which have witnessed utmost growth. We have further witnessed increased contacts and exchanges between our people, as well as the enhancement of free movement across our borders.

In fact, due to the collective efforts, there has been greater expansion of the EAC economies, improved security and overall better quality life for EAC citizens.

The stage is set for the EAC region to re-double its efforts and to anchor itself as a strong bloc in 2013. My greatest hope is to have an East African regime integrated through sharing of common ideas, policies, market and currency; with a common language and



**RT. HON. ZZIWA MARGARET**

bondage and where stereotypes are eliminated among the citizens. My hope is to have a regime where I can drive from Nairobi to Bujumbura without being stopped at the border. I look forward to completion of the Internalization of the East African Passport, the single tourist visa, liberalization of East African airspace and the re-establishment of the East African Railway Network.

It is worth noting that the region has earmarked a number of plans and this shall have to be realised through co-operation. The Summit has adopted a very clear list of priority projects in infrastructure, especially in road and rail transport, energy, ports and harbors as well as inland waterways. Such development if realised, shall evidence in favor of socio-economic integration and the best single way to improve livelihoods of our people. The Assembly shall continue to play its erstwhile part in the integration agenda and expeditiously perform its mandate. EALA has continued to chart its place in the integration map given the fact that the integration process is at a defining moment calling for defining actions like legislation, oversight and representation. It is our solemn promise to work hand in hand with all partners in 2013.

Finally, on behalf of EALA and on my own behalf I congratulate our sister Republic of Kenya for holding a peaceful election. We join our Kenyan brothers and sisters as they continue in their quest to build the nation.

*I wish you all happy reading.*



MR. KENNETH NAMBOGA MADETE

It is not yet too late to wish one a prosperous 2013 whilst welcoming you to this edition of your flagship Newsletter- *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki*. In the event that you are still looking for a new Year's resolution - that is easy to keep, then, hereunder is our proposal: *"that we shall strive to serve you and the region better"*.

As the legislative arm of the Community, it is incumbent that EALA leverages its role as it strengthens the integration process. The Assembly must undertake this mandate with vigour, rise above and go the extra mile to bring integration closer to the people.

We are excited about the prospects of what the new year has to offer for the integration process. Various projects and programmes are lined up and expect the consolidation of the Common Market as well as the move towards establishment of the Monetary Union. On the other side of the coin, there are challenges which thankfully, are insurmountable.

Integration is a process and for that matter can sometimes be slow and even arduous. Lack of awareness further hampers the process.

The people centred approach as envisaged by the framers of the Treaty needs to be fully understood and owned by the people. In this regard, we intend to ensure our functions and mandates circumscribe to the aspirations of East Africans and in the very essence, connote the desires and wishes of the region's inhabitants.

## OFFICE OF THE CLERK

Ideally, integration is about creating opportunities and translating plans into tangible benefits that inevitably enable citizens to relate more closely with the process. It is thus imperative that we mainstream and inculcate integration sensitive plans at all levels of leadership. Specifically, it is important that we have a strong legal framework to support the process. It is vital for EALA thus to enact the pre-requisite laws to facilitate the integration of EAC.

In terms of legislations, a good number of Bills are thus expected to be brought forth for deliberation either as Council of Private Members' Bills. The Bills shall be key in strengthening the existing pillars – Customs Union and the Common Market and in laying the foundation for the uptake of the Monetary Union and the Political Federation. As the representatives of constituents, it is vital that EALA fully and comprehensively drives the process.

As we progress on this year, we take cognisance of the fact that the past lays the foundation for the future. The EAC is at a turning point in development and we must stand up and be counted as those who made significant contribution towards strengthening the bloc.

In this edition of the magazine, are a number of articles dedicated to the various activities of the EAC in the last quarter as well as bold contributions by the Membership of the Assembly.

In a bid to continuously improve the magazine, we have introduced a new column –'Penning Off', that is open to contributions from outsiders. The inaugural article is an educative piece on Parliament and Broadcasts as penned by a Parliament of Tanzania insider, Owen Mwandumba.

*Enjoy your magazine.*

# BUJUMBURA SESSION ADOPTS KEY REPORTS & RESOLUTIONS

...President Nkurunziza upbeat about integration



President Pierre Nkurunziza arrives at the Burundi National Assembly where he opened the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Assembly

Bujumbura played host to the Fourth Meeting of the First Session of the Third East African Legislative Assembly. President Pierre Nkurunziza opened the Session on January 22, 2013 at the Burundi National Assembly, Bujumbura, Burundi.

In his speech, President Nkurunziza urged the region to maintain the momentum of integration gathered by paying more attention to the drivers of integration.

In this respect, President Nkurunziza remarked that a greater internal market was necessary to increase the share in global trade and economy and to spur new jobs for citizens of the region. President Nkurunziza further urged the region to embark on value addition initiatives in agriculture through transformation and conservation, noting that it would boost up to 95% of the region's population who thrive on the sector

"This move will certainly boost higher intra-regional trade and raise the standards of living of our peoples", the President remarked.

The Head of State called on the EAC to re-focus on the opening up of its borders, the removal of Non-Tariff Barriers and the enhancement of trade facilitation initiatives. Head of State remarked that in addition,

the implementation of a single Customs Territory was 'key in making a difference' for the region.

"The EAC integration is in the eyes of analysts, one of the best models of integration. We must commit to keep the standards and the records high. We have got to consolidate the Customs Union and implement the Common Market Protocol, so as to pave the way for the Monetary Union and lay the foundation for the EAC Political Federation", President Nkurunziza added.

The Head of State reiterated that Burundi would continue to consolidate peace and security as the cornerstone for the promotion of democracy, good governance and the rule of law. He said that government would place economic growth and creation of employment at the centre of future programmes of poverty reduction.

"In order to move forward, the population, the Private Sector and the Civil Society shall be involved", the President emphasized.

In her welcome remarks, the Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon. Dr. Margaret Nantongo Zziwa, hailed President Nkurunziza and the citizens of the Republic of Burundi for their efforts and steadfast contribution towards the realization of the objectives of the EAC. The Speaker

noted that the Assembly would continue to prioritise Bills for debate in the *august* House and added that the Council of Ministers had likewise finalized its legislative calendar.

“I am pleased to note the progress in terms of proposed Bills to EALA after touching base with the Chair of the Council of Ministers. This is positive development and lays emphasis to the fact that the Legislature and the Executive are partners in development who must work together”, the Speaker noted.

Rt. Hon Zziwa hailed the successes realised by the Summit at its last meeting in November 2012 including identification of a clear list of priority projects for implementation in infrastructure, especially in rail transport, energy, ports and the inland waterways.

The Speaker however lamented on the existing challenges to integration citing Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs), lack of adequate funding to run the EAC programmes and projects and lack of awareness and called for concerted efforts in finding solutions.

During the Sitting, EALA adopted three crucial reports, three resolutions and posed various questions to the Council of Ministers.

A crucial report of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee (ATNR) on Climate Change was debated and adopted.

In the deliberations, EALA noted that Climate Change continued to hamper agriculture, affecting natural resources and largely degrading the environment. The Assembly thus advocated for a multi-disciplinary approach towards mitigating on adverse environmental impacts. In a related move, the Assembly also passed a key Resolution on Climate Change moved by the Chair of the ATNR, Hon Isabelle Ndahayo. The Resolution enumerates a raft of critical areas for consideration and succinctly urges the EAC Secretariat and Partner States to promote joint actions in the implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements (MEAs).

With it also comes the call for the establishment of a Regional Climate Change Parliamentarians Forum to enhance the understanding on issues related to Climate Change and to network with National Parliaments. The EAC has over the last few years realized some key achievements. The EAC Climate



The President makes his official address



A section of EALA Members and guests pay attention to the proceedings

Change Policy was approved by the Heads of State during the 9th Extra-Ordinary Summit held in April 2011 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Also developed are draft EAC Climate Change Strategy, draft operational modalities for the EAC Climate Change Master Plan and a corresponding draft Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy.

On Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA), the Assembly was resolute that the negotiations should fully take into account the regional integration agenda and ensure the agreements realised foster economic growth and development, (see separate story).

Other Resolutions adopted during the two week Plenary Sitting was a Resolution moved by Hon Hafsa Mossi congratulating President Barack Obama following his re-election as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America and another by Hon Mike Sebalu giving nod to the formation of a United Nations Parliamentary Assembly.

# SUMMIT MULLS OVER EAC INFRASTRUCTURE

The Summit of the EAC Heads of State held a Presidential Retreat on Infrastructure on November 29, 2012 where they deliberated on priority regional infrastructure projects as well as on funding options for the same.

The retreat, the second of its kind, follows a similar one held in Kigali in June 2008 which identified development of infrastructure as key to the region's integration and overall socio-economic development.

In attendance were the EAC Heads of State, government officials, EAC officials, investors and Development Partners. The day-long meeting was interactive and educative. The President of the African Development Bank (ADB) Dr. Donald Kaberuka set the mood with a comprehensive presentation delivered on his behalf by an ADB representative. The Director of Infrastructure at the EAC, Mr. Phillip Wambugu also made a key presentation at the retreat. The papers delved into the progress made with regards to the implementation of infrastructure projects in railways, ports and energy and the proposed priorities for the medium term.

The Heads of State were emphatic that infrastructure is key to the region and appreciated the depth of deliberations held. They endorsed the prioritised projects and urged the Council of Ministers to mainstream them in the EAC Partner States' infrastructure priority projects for implementation.

In a *Communique* released at the end of the Retreat, the Heads of State directed the Council of Ministers to

establish technical, financial and transaction capacities required to assemble and implement bankable projects at national and regional levels. At the same time, the Summit called for development of an investment strategy with clear financing options and timeframes for the priority projects as well as effective monitoring and evaluation mechanisms to ensure that projects are implemented and managed effectively.

The *Communique* also instructs the Council of Ministers to prioritise regional programmes that support effective industrialisation and trade facilitation in the region and to report progress at the next Summit.

The Summit states the need for development of a regional policy and legal frameworks that allow for financial blending including the participation of the regional and international Private Sector investors in infrastructure development and to strengthen partnerships with domestic and foreign Development Partners.

In a bid to take collaboration with other countries in the continent a notch higher, the Heads of State directed the Council of Ministers to develop a framework of co-operation with States neighbouring the EAC and to anchor the development of inter-regional infrastructure. A proposal to have the Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure Development and financing held biennially was also approved.

To access the copy of the *Communique* of the 2<sup>nd</sup> EAC Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure, please visit the EAC website [www.eac.int](http://www.eac.int).



Uganda's President Yoweri Kaguta Museveni, Kenya's President Mwai Kibaki, United Republic of Tanzania's President Jakaya M. Kikwete, Burundi's President Pierre Nkurunziza and Rwanda's Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Pierre Damien Habumuremyi stand for the EAC anthem at the start of the retreat on infrastructure



# EALA JOINS CIBITOKÉ RESIDENTS IN COMMUNITY WORK

President Pierre Nkurunziza has called on EAC citizens to invest more in their communities by participating in development initiatives and to re-double efforts towards free enterprise as a pre-requisite for economic development.

The President made the remarks on January 28, 2013 when he led EALA legislators and hundreds of local people in construction of a stadium during the *Ibikomwa Biterambere* (Community works for development), held in Buganda District, Cibitoke Province, 60 km north-west of Bujumbura.

President Nkurunziza remarked that though the region’s development was on track, its citizens were capable of further charting their own destiny. The Head of State urged people of all standing in the society to contribute to development.

“The participation of all is necessary and I want to appeal to everyone: legislators, religious leaders, government officials, the youth as well as opinion leaders and stakeholders to play their part”, the Head of State said.

The Speaker of EALA, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa called for social cohesion as a means to ensuring unity in the region and hailed citizens of Burundi for contributing to development. She remarked that



President Pierre Nkurunziza (in hat) with construction stones. In picture from left are Hon Nancy Abisai, EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa and Hon Mike Sebalu (right)

EALA was committed to development and would support any community initiatives in earnest.

In attendance were the Minister for EAC, Republic of Burundi, Hon Leontine Nzeyimana, Hon Abdulla Sadaalla, Deputy Minister for EAC, United Republic of Tanzania, EALA Members and Members of the Burundi National Assembly, led by their Deputy Speaker, Hon Mo-Mamo Karegwa.

The Stadium whose construction started in August 2011 is an initiative of the people living in Buganda district who have been involved in construction through their own donations and initiatives. The land on which the stadium is built was also offered by the Community.

The 6,000 seater capacity stadium is expected to serve the people from the region providing them with an opportunity to engage in sporting and cultural activities.

According to the Engineer-in-charge of the project, Ndabayirushimana Augustine, the works are expected to be completed in the next three months. At the moment, a local team, Gisenyi FC participates in the National League and it is hoped that once the stadium is complete, the team shall have a home ground.

*Please see Interview with H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza on opposite page.*



The multitude of residents who turned up for the Community works





By Hon. Hafsa Mossi

## CHANGE OF MINDSET KEY TO DEVELOP REGION – PRESIDENT NKURUNZIZA

**H.E. President Pierre Nkurunziza (PN) spoke to EALA Member and former Journalist, Hon Hafsa Mossi (HM) on the sidelines of the Ibikomwa Biterambere (Community works for development) in Cibitoke District recently. The President reiterated that citizens have a fundamental role to play in developing the Partner States and the EAC region. Excerpts below:**

**HM: H.E Mr. President, let me first of all congratulate you upon the recent Golden Jubilee of the Republic of Burundi. I congratulate you on behalf of the Members for the Cibitoke Community for the work initiated here since 2005. Can you please shed some light on the impact that Community work generally has on the Community?**

**PN:** First of all, let me say that since independence, Burundi has passed through many difficulties. The challenges are somewhat similar to what

is faced in the rest of the continent and they are very much developmental in nature. Upon the completion of one's education, it is important for citizens to return back and to support the local communities. This is the premise upon which we have initiated the program for community work throughout the country. Between independence and the year 2005, we were only able to build 1900 schools. Since we took over in 2005 and today, we have constructed 2500 schools. If you analyse, you see that what we have achieved in the last eight years is certainly more than the achievements of 45 years ago. It means that if all stakeholders from the President, MPs and Government work together we can develop our country tremendously. Such Community initiatives have enabled us to realize some progress. In this period, we have constructed 12 small Stadia like this one here in Cibitoke. Construction of a University is also underway in Gitega Province, similar to what we have done in Mwaro.



President Pierre Nkurunziza responds to questions from Hon Hafsa Mossi



EALA Burundi Chapter Chair, Hon Jeremie Ngendakumana (2nd from left) and Hon Emerence Bucumi (on his right) join other citizens in the Community work for development. The Assembly works closely with citizens to strengthen integration

The Community and Government initiatives have also enabled us to construct Hospitals and health centers.

**HM: Your Excellency, who participates in the Community activities?**

**PN:** The initiative is open to all citizens to share their expertise and skills. We have engineers and contractors for example who use their expertise in return for community development. We do not pay them. Students, police and people from across the divide all take part.

The programs are run on Saturdays. But we have now gone beyond just the weekends. If you were to visit here during the week for example, you would find close to 200 people supporting the construction. Such activities are essential to develop our African countries.

**HM: What is the contribution of the population and how are they involved in this kind of activities?**

**PN:** Before I respond, the first thing is that we must show and live by example. We are slowly changing the mentality of the past that when you go to school you cannot participate in this kind of activities. Today, when the people see all stakeholders supporting such initiatives, they become motivated. The citizens then begin to follow the good examples as shown by their opinion leaders. Citizens participate by contributing their time, materials and efforts. Support comes in different

ways including financial and moral. The contribution of the citizens is worthy and leads to unity and to reconciliation. At the same time, they gain experience. Once they spend six or seven months here, both men and women become more experienced and can create jobs for themselves to build their futures.

**HM: Lastly, Your Excellency, what are the lessons that other Partner States of the EAC can learn from this kind of Community work given the fact that we are still very much donor dependent?**

**PN:** The lessons are vital. We have picked such lessons from elders in the society and we must carry the good and positive ideas forward. I recall that Tanzania's founding father, Mwalimu Julius Nyerere encouraged community activities a whole lot. I remember in the past, Burundi encouraged activities called Echibiru which is an act of bringing people together to work. These were excellent cultures which Burundi and the entire region needs to borrow from to develop the region. During one of my past visits to the Republic of China, I was impressed to see what the Chinese were doing. I believe what the Chinese in the far East are doing, we Africans and East Africans for that matter can do better. There is no doubt that we can build our countries and we can develop them easily. In conclusion, what is necessary therefore, is a change of mindset.

**HM: Thank you very much Your Excellency.**

# PRESIDENT MUSEVENI ASSUMES LEADERSHIP OF THE EAC



President Mwai Kibaki presents the instruments of power to the new Chair of the Summit, President Yoweri Museveni in Nairobi

President Yoweri Museveni assumed the Chair of the EAC as the one-day 14th Ordinary Summit of the East African Community (EAC) Heads of State and Government took place in Nairobi on November 30, 2012.

During the Summit, the EAC leaders also witnessed the signing of the letter of intent of promoting trade relations between the EAC and the Government of the United States of America.

President Museveni commended his Kenyan counterpart, President Mwai Kibaki, for shepherding the regional bloc for the past one year and thanked leaders of the Summit for entrusting him with the duty of leading the Community.

*'I salute the outgoing Chair, President Mwai Kibaki for spearheading the leadership of the Community when he had the mantle'*, President Museveni noted. He called on the EAC to eliminate the delays that

impinge on transport operations so that efforts to speed up the use of railways which provide a cost effective mode of transport, come into play.

The in-coming Chair urged the EAC to take advantage of resources at its disposal.

*'As we continue with our integration process, we need to always evaluate the factors available to us: the land area, the minerals, the water and the human resource. These*

*are all important and must be treasured. The human resource, however, is the greatest wealth of Africa – they are the consumers, the innovators, the workers, etc. It is the greatest stimulus to production"* the Head of State remarked.

President Museveni remarked that the EAC, the COMESA and IGAD had between themselves a combined population of about 755 million people, noting that it provided a big market incentive for the



**President Museveni delivers his speech**

noted with appreciation that there has been steady progress in the integration process of the region. According to the Communiqué, the leaders approved a health initiative to improve maternal and child health and also acknowledged the progress on the road towards regional political federation.

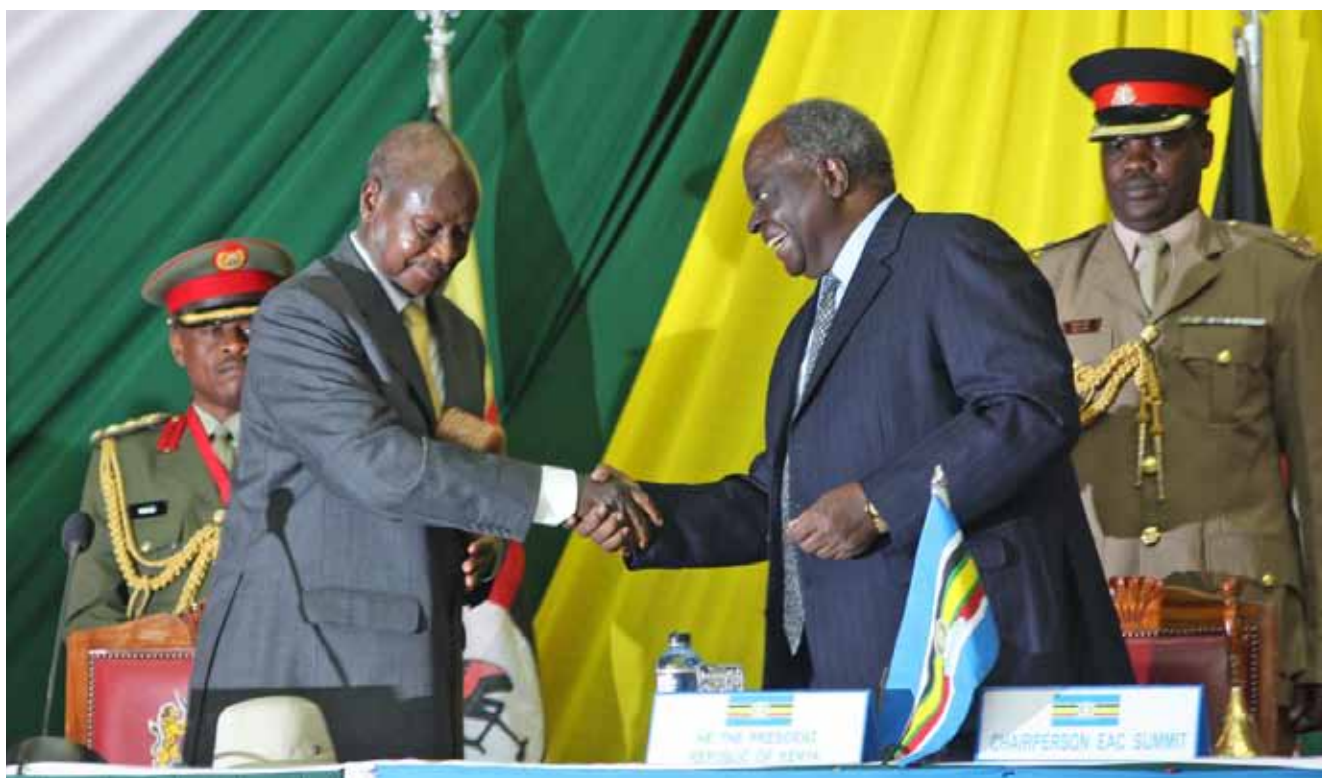
Regarding regional issues, the leaders commended the people of Somalia for holding peaceful elections and also congratulated President Hassan Sheikh Mahmood for his victory in those elections. President Museveni shall be at the helm of the regional body for a year.

goods and services produced in the 3 regional bodies. The outgoing Chairman, President Mwai Kibaki, noted that among the achievements of the East African Community was the establishment of the Customs Union and the Common Market.

He said that the regional leaders are fully committed to the development of roads and railways systems in the region. A Communiqué that was issued at the end of the Summit said the leaders had

He takes over at an exciting time for the region which is consolidating on the gains of the Customs Union and the Common Market and setting basis for entry of the Monetary Union.

At the meeting, the Summit identified and endorsed key multi-billion shillings infrastructure projects to be built in the five Partner States. In that regard, the EAC is to develop a ten year Investment strategy and plan for the priority projects (See separate story on pg 7).



**ASANTE SANA: President Mwai Kibaki and President Yoweri Museveni shake hands**

# RT HON KATEGAYA WAS A PAN-AFRICANIST - PRESIDENT MUSEVENI

Tributes flow freely as thousands bury fallen Uganda's 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Premier and EAC Minister



The passing on of Rt. Hon (Brigadier) Eriya Kategaya has dealt the EAC region a major blow. However, Rt. Hon Eriya Kategaya may be gone - but his legacy lives on. The 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for EAC Affairs in the Republic of Uganda who passed away on Saturday, March 2, 2013, was buried in his ancestral home in Itojo, Ntungamo District, west of Uganda on March 7, 2013.

Tributes flowed freely at the sombre burial occasion attended by President Yoweri Museveni, Ministers of EAC from Burundi, Rwanda, United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya. The EAC Secretary General, EALA Speaker and Members as well as dignitaries from the government institutions - including the judiciary, military and Parliament were also in attendance.

President Museveni paid special tribute to the fallen Deputy Premier describing him as a Pan-Africanist who died in the service of his country. The President, who is the current Chairperson of the Summit for the EAC Heads of State hailed the late Eriya Kategaya for his role towards the promotion of the East African Federation. He said that he and the late Kategaya had worked together to defeat sectarianism as far back as the 1960s. He remarked that it was time the continent became fully united.

The President further described the late Kategaya as a well-formed character. "Even if you disagreed with him, he would not remain petty," he said.

EAC Secretary General Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera described the late Kategaya as an unshakable pillar in the integration process.

'We have been privileged to have Eriya Kategaya as a leader and statesman in East Africa. His ability to bring people together, his focus on the bigger picture beyond narrow parochial concerns, his deep wisdom, and humility were instrumental in reaching agreement on the Customs Union, Common Market and negotiations on Monetary Union for East Africa' Amb Dr Sezibera noted.

EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon (Dr) Margaret Nantongo Zziwa described the late Rt. Hon Kategaya as a focused person whose character helped to fast-track the integration process. "By character, he has been a calm person, very focused and not an alarmist. He approached each situation as a statesman, as an East African, and full of wisdom. The Speaker noted termed Rt. Hon. Kategaya a great East African visionary, who always reminded the region of its commonness.

*"I can quote from his stand during the EU-EAC Economic Partnership Agreement negotiations where he insisted and upheld EAC to negotiate as a bloc in order to derive better terms of trade. He was totally against division among the EAC Partner States categorizing say Kenya as developing and the rest as least developing countries; a position which will negate the strength of EAC",* the Speaker remarked.

*'He always used the phraseology that "we are all dwarfs" and the bickering about who is taller will not help us in any way' she added.*

Also, written condolence messages were sent by the Rwandan President Paul Kagame as well as South Sudan President Salva Kiir.

Rt. Hon Kategaya will be remembered for steering the EAC through implementing the EAC Integration Agenda, having been the longest serving Minister on matters of EAC. He was indeed a 'walking encyclopedia' on matters of East Africa.

Rt. Hon Kategaya is survived by his widow Mrs Joan Kategaya and seven children.

# LET US ADDRESS STICKY ISSUES ON EPAs - EALA



A typical market day. Agriculture is a key component of the EPAs

EALA has maintained that the EAC-Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA) process should fully take into account the regional integration agenda and ensure the agreements realised foster economic growth and development.

In respect of the negotiations, the Assembly maintains that the negotiators should and must have policy space and the flexibility on issues of export taxes and on the Most Favoured Nations (MFN) Clause amongst others, in order to allow for value addition and enhance industrial development.

The recommendations are outlined in a report of the Committee of Communications, Trade and Investment (CTI) on the consultative workshop between EALA, Civil Society and the Private Sector on EPAs adopted by the Assembly.

The Workshop held on December 9-11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in Nairobi, Kenya, was called to sensitise and to build the capacity of the CTI Members on various issues pertaining to EPAs. The objectives were to update and inform Members on the opportunities and challenges associated with EPAs and to come up with possible recommendations on the way forward. The report outlines the fact that various areas in the agreement have been virtually completed and such include trade

in goods, fisheries, customs and trade facilitation as well as Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) and Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT).

According to the report, the negotiations between EAC-EU on the EPA Rules of Origin are about 90% complete while in agriculture, the outstanding work relates to domestic support and export subsidy. It wants a number of areas under the Rules of Origin, institutional agreements, dispute settlements and final provisions and market access issues critically looked into.

The concerns raised in the negotiations include revenue loss to governments although there is still a window of potential for the EAC to offset revenue loss, especially if the bloc exploits new market opportunities that have been realized under the EPAs. EAC's concern with export related taxes is based on the apprehension that restrictions on policy space shall impact on the export taxes as a trade policy instrument.

The report thus recommends that trade policy and negotiations have to be aligned with the industrial policy requirements and policy trade-offs and that the issues be made more explicit. On the supply side, the report implores the EU to support the region to develop infrastructure such as energy, roads and railways

so as to address supply constraints. The report alludes that the issue shall address the region's supply side constraints and trade predictability.

In finality, the Report notes that the EAC and EU commitment to EPAs is made in good faith and on the premise that once finalized, the agreements are critical tools for economic development. It thus reiterates that only political will between the concerned parties and mutually acceptable approaches to address legitimate concerns are fundamental.

Contributing to the debate, Hon Dan Kidega lauded the negotiators for taking a firm stance during the talks imploring for political support.

“We must ensure resources are found to support our experts in the negotiations.

We should not allow other Partners in the dispensation to provide the resources”, Hon Kidega said. Hon Frederic Ngenzebuhoro maintained that the EAC must continue negotiating as a bloc while Hon Christophe Bazivamo reiterated that it was important for the House to recommend that should trade disputes arise they be arbitrated in the region.

On his part, Hon Abubakar Zein Abubakar said it was vital for stakeholders such as the Private Sector and Civil Society to be involved in the process. The legislator invited the EAC to make use of the political arena noting that EALA was capable of lobbying with



**The port. It is important for the region to look for markets for its raw materials**

Parliamentarians at the EU. Hon Dr James Ndahiro challenged the Council of Ministers to share with the Assembly the progress realised with regards to some of the findings that were previously raised by the Assembly. Other contributors in the motion were Hon Sarah Bonaya, Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramillimo, Hon Mukasa Mbidde and Hon Sarah Nakawukki.

The EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera lauded the report saying it had fully addressed the work of the negotiators saying their task was arduous but one they had continued to handle with exemplary performance. He noted it was necessary to avoid unilateral offers but rather to negotiate terms of trade collectively. He noted that the sensitive list

accepted by the EU includes almost all food and agricultural produce and remarked that EPA is not expected to destabilize the sector.

Concluding on the debate, the Chair of the EAC Council of Ministers, Hon Shem Bageine remarked that while the region was looking for a market for its raw materials, imports coming in from Europe were largely finished products rendering the EAC net importers.

“We must be very cautious and focused. We should be looking at areas where we have comparative advantage so that we compete favourably on the world market – calling for investments in natural resources”, the Minister remarked.



**Trucks wait to be off-loaded. The region needs to enhance its infrastructure so as to address supply constraints**

# LAUNCH OF EAC HEADQUARTERS A MILESTONE...

**...Heads of State further commission key inter-connecting road and data exchange system**

November 28, 2012 shall remain etched in the EAC Calendar for decades on. On this sunny Wednesday morning, the EAC Heads of State officially opened the new EAC headquarters and commissioned the rehabilitated Arusha-Namanga-Athi River Road in Athi River town in Kenya.

Presidents Mwai Kibaki of Kenya, then Chairperson of the EAC Summit, Jakaya Kikwete of the United Republic of Tanzania and Pierre Nkurunziza of Burundi were joined by Rwandan Prime Minister, Rt. Hon Damien Habumuremyi and Uganda's State Minister for EAC Affairs, Hon. Shem Bageine in inaugurating the EAC's new home.

At the official unveiling, HE Mwai Kibaki described the event as symbol of "a renewal in the integration efforts", adding that the building, constructed with a 14.8 million euro grant provided by the Federal Republic of Germany, was a symbol of dedication and service to the East African citizens.

The President was optimistic that the new complex that brings three key Organs of the Community (Secretariat, Assembly and Court) under one roof would promote greater efficiency. "We expect and hope that it will enhance work effectiveness and continuous progress that the EAC Organs have to fulfil," President Kibaki remarked.

At the same function, a data exchange system for revenue authorities, known as RADDEx 2.0, was also launched. The system is billed to improve the efficiency of Customs operations by computerising the flow of information, facilitating connectivity among Customs offices in the region and thereby reducing transaction costs for revenue authorities and businesses alike.

The region's private sector is expected to register savings of as much as \$50 million in costs at border posts with the launch of RADDEx, according to the EAC's Director for Customs, Mr. Kenneth Bagamuhunda. The system has been developed with the support of USAID.



**We hereby officially declare the Headquarters**

Later in the day, the rehabilitated Arusha-Namanga-Athi River Road was commissioned in Athi River town in Kenya. The project, undertaken at a total cost of \$156 million and co-financed by Kenya, Tanzania, the African Development Bank and the Japan International Cooperation Agency led to the restoration and improvement of the 240 kilometre road, but also includes the construction of a One Stop Border Post at Namanga town along the Tanzania-Kenya border. The road, especially significant for promoting trade between Kenya and Tanzania, is similarly useful to travellers and business people connecting from the landlocked EAC Partner States of Uganda, Rwanda and Burundi making their way to Tanzania through Kenya.

Speaking at the ceremony to officially launch the new road, President Kibaki termed the developments progressive. He called on the region to institute laws protecting road network infrastructure.

On the cards is the EAC Vehicle Overload Control Bill. The Bill aims to give the region a uniform axle load limit of 56 tonnes which infrastructure experts say will eliminate Non Tariff Barriers in form of disparate axle load limits for each Partner State while assuring the sustainability of regional road infrastructure.

The Council of Ministers and the East African Legislative Assembly are currently debating on the Bill.

Tanzanian President H.E Jakaya Kikwete on his part described the road as "a testament the EAC is working and delivering on behalf of its people".



# WHAT INSPIRED EAC TO OWN ITS HOME?

Perhaps pride, Perhaps the desire to serve citizens better. Better still, in partial fulfilment of the aspirations of East Africans as a visible sign for integration and a symbolic purpose reflecting on the importance of the EAC.

Whichever way one decides to find answers to the question, the move is hailed as a significant achievement of all times.

Secretary General, Amb Dr Richard Sezibera succinctly summed it up, the EAC boss stated.

The idea to build the EAC headquarters was conceived back in 1996 when the Secretariat of the Permanent Tripartite Commission was launched. However, the process of construction only started effectively when the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania allocated the Community with headquarters site, measuring 9.85 acres.

The German Government agreed in the year 2004 to support the construction of a new headquarter within the framework of financial co-operation implemented by the KfW.

The construction project was officially commissioned by the EAC Heads of State on 20 November 2009, although actual construction work began on 28 January 2010. The project was fully funded by the Federal Republic of Germany to the tune of 14.8 million euros.

Following an international architectural competition tendered by the EAC, the best design was selected.

The EAC headquarters entails a complex covering a total built up area of 15,025 square meters. The buildings have been designed with maximum flexibility in case the need for future extension arises.

The modern office building provides space for about 350 employees and finally brings together the different organisations of the EAC under one roof.

The complex has three elements, the Plenary tower which contains the plenary hall of the Assembly, three storey wings connected by a lobby that accommodate



**The magnificent home that is the EAC**



**His Highness the Aga Khan is ushered in by the EAC Secretary General, Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, United Republic of Tanzania Hon Bernard Membe**



**Phil Kleruu Senior Estates Manager, EAC, explains the model and architectural design to H.E. Pierre Nkurunziza, H.E. Mwai Kibaki and H.E. Jakaya Kikwete among other dignitaries**

the offices and cubes in which the library, conference rooms and canteen are located.

The building complies with the latest technical standard with majority of the areas naturally ventilated and cooled.



1



5



2



6



3



7



4

EAC ANTHEM  
Ee Mungu twaomba uilinde  
Jumuiya Africa Mashariki  
Tuwezeshe kuishi kwa amani  
Tutimize na malengo yetu

8



1. The Heads of State and other dignitaries during the launch of the RADDEX system enhancing Customs connectivity in East Africa in Arusha
2. **PUTTING HEADS TOGETHER:** EALA Uganda Chapter Members led by Chair, Hon Bernard Mulengani (on phone), Hon Mike Sebalu and Hon Dan Kidega in discussions. The EALA Chapters have a role to play in ensuring visibility of the Assembly in the Partner States
3. Uganda's EAC Minister, Hon Shem Bageine, Hon Joseph Kiangoi and Hon Nancy Abisai are joined by an official from Burundi during a tree planting ceremony in Cibitoke Province in Bujumbura
4. **ATTENTION:** EALA Members and other EAC officials sing the EAC anthem at a function
5. Current and former EALA Members at a meeting. The Assembly engages with various stakeholders as it undertakes its mandate
6. Mrs Edith Mwanje, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of EAC, Uganda, Dr. Julius T. Rotich and Dr. Enos Bukuku, Deputy Secretaries General of EAC consult during the Council of Ministers meeting in Nairobi late last year
7. **THE POINT IS:** EAC Secretary General listens carefully as Burundi's Minister for EAC, Hon Leontine Nzeyimana makes a point
8. The EAC anthem rallies citizens of the region together
9. Rwanda's Minister for EAC, Hon Monique Mukaruziza chats with EALA Member, Hon Dr. Odette Nyiramilimo and former EALA Member Dr. F.L. Masha during the official opening of the EAC Headquarter in Arusha
10. **STRENGTHENING TIES:** EALA Speaker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa speaks with the United States Envoy to the United Republic of Tanzania, Amb Alfonso E. Leonhardt as EALA Members, Hon Shy-Rose Bhanji and Hon Dr Pepetue Kessy look on
11. The Counsel to the Community, Hon Wilbert T.K. Kaahwa addresses the Assembly
12. **Its here...no here:** A section of EALA staff seem to ponder over where the office block lies on the model. EAC staff continue to make a significant contribution to the integration process



# EALA COMMITTEES AT WORK



The Chairperson of the General Purpose Committee, Hon Dr. Martin Nduwimana (right) presents a copy of the *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki* magazine to the Executive Director of the African Youth Trust, Nahum Okwiya as other officials look on

Where and when do the EALA Committees meet? When not in Plenary, the Standing Committees of EALA continue with their oversight in the region as they fulfil their mandate.

Over the last three months, all Committees have been engaged in important activities in the region. The Communications Trade and Investments Committee (CTI) has recently completed a tour of the northern and central corridors to assess the state of the Non Tariff Barriers.

The objective of the assessment was to gauge the status of NTBs elimination in the region and to realise this effectively, the Committee divided itself into three groups. One group started in Mombasa all through to Malaba border, ending the tour in Kampala. The second group traversed Bujumbura via Akanyaru border to Rwanda, Rusumo border (Tanzania/Rwanda), Kabanga border (Tanzania/Burundi) through to Kagitumba border (Rwanda/Uganda).

The last group commenced the assignment in Dar es Salaam via Mutukula before getting to Uganda. At the respective border posts, Members interacted with the Chairpersons of NTBs National Monitoring Committees, Revenue Authorities, Immigration, Police, clearing and forwarding agents and Bureau of Standards' officials among others.

The Members then retreated to Kampala, Uganda to compile the findings. The findings are expected to be debated in the Kigali plenary. Scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> - 26<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

Following an earlier successful tour of the EAC region, the Agriculture Natural Resources Committee (ATNR) had two of its Reports debated and adopted by the House during the Plenary Session in Bujumbura, Burundi during the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session.

The Report on Good Governance on Natural Resources reiterated the importance of co-ordinating and monitoring Partner States' compliance and adherence to good governance in management of natural resources in the region. It further highlighted the need for the development of a regional mining policy that shall take into consideration those of the Partner States, Africa's Mining Vision and other necessary international instruments.

Complimenting this effort is the need to support exertion by the African Union to eradicate poverty by *inter alia* implementing the Africa Mining Vision 2050 and integrating mining into development policies at local, national and regional levels.

The Second report on Climate Change notes its adverse effects including that of hampering agriculture, affecting natural resources and largely degrading the

environment and advocates for a multi-disciplinary approach in mitigation. It thus recommends that a stand – alone Committee that adequately addresses technical and strategic issues on Climate Change be formed by EALA. At the same time, the EAC Secretariat and the EALA are urged to collaborate to ensure the full operationalisation of the EAC Climate Change Fund while the Council of Ministers should bring a Bill on the same to the House.

The General Purpose Committee on its part held meetings with a number of stakeholders. They included consultations with the African Youth Trust (AYT), the Tax Justice Network and a group of Parliamentarians from the German Parliaments. The Committee also met in early February 2013 to consider the EAC Annual Reports.

The Regional Affairs Committee actively participated in the Elections Observation in the Republic of Kenya.

The Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), and the Inter-Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD) jointly deployed an election observer mission in Kenya.

The Joint Mission was respectively led by Amb. Dr. Simbi Veke Mubako (COMESA), Rt. Hon. Abdurrahman Kinana, Speaker Emeritus (EALA), and Amb. Dr. Berhane Ghebray (IGAD).

The Joint Observer Mission made its assessment of the electoral process on the basis of the information gathered during meetings with relevant stakeholders and observation of the process. The Committee



**Trucks at the border point. The CTI committee undertook an assessment of the northern and central corridor to assess gauge the state of Non-Tariff Barriers in the region**

had prior to the mission convened in Arusha to consider the Bill on Civic Education. In early April 2013, the Committee on Accounts undertook an on-spot assessment of the EAC projects on support on organisational effectiveness, updated financial rules and regulations, risk and audit manuals.

The Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges held Public Hearing Workshops on the implementation of Community Laws. The laws that were considered included the:- The EAC Competition Act, 2006 and the EAC Quality Assurance, Metrology and Standardisation Act, 2006.

The objective of the assessment was to establish if the laws above are being implemented in the EAC Partner States and if not, the reasons behind the failures.



**The Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges during their meeting in Arusha**



# UGANDA RETAINS INTER-PARLIAMENTARY SOCCER TROPHY



**Goal Attacker, Rt. Hon Margaret Nantongo Zziwa attempts to make a pass to a team-mate during the inaugural Inter-Parliamentary netball tournament held in Nairobi**

## ...As Tanzania clinches netball

Uganda's Parliamentarians netted five of the seven penalties goals taken. Scoring for Uganda were Hon Nsereko Muhammad, Hon Nsanja Patrick, Hassan Tindyebwa, Nsubuga Joseph. Dennis Okuno and Hon Alintuma Nsamu missed the spot kicks. This was the third time in the tournament that both teams which were in Group B played each other. EALA had earlier on beaten United Republic of Tanzania 6-5 on post match penalties after a one –all draw in regular time. Uganda on its part sent Parliament of Rwanda packing after a 4-0 win in the semi-finals.

In netball, Parliament of Tanzania were capped the winners of the trophy after beating Parliament of Uganda 51-27. They topped the league with 6 points while Uganda was second with 4 points. the EAC/EALA team finished third with two points to its credit after beating Kenya 49-25 at the Nyayo National Stadium netball gymnasium. Kenya finished last with no points in the four team netball tournament.

Both the football and netball teams were treated to a gala dinner hosted in their favour



**EALA Captain, Hon Bernard Mulengani dribbles past an opponent of the Parliament of Uganda. Parliament of Uganda retained the trophy for a second year in a row**

Defending Champions, Parliament of Uganda have retained the trophy for a second year after defeating EALA 5-4 in post-match penalties in the finals at the Moi International Sports Centre, Kasarani. The tournament took place in Nairobi, Kenya on Dec 7-14, 2012.

Both teams drew 0-0 in regular time. Game-wise, it is EALA/EAC that will rue over the missed chances in front of goal. Strikers Wyclif Ketto, Hon Bernard Mulengani and Idd Jamal were the culprits missing out on a number of scoring opportunities in the first half after making purposeful raids.

Parliament of Uganda however settled in the second half and made sporadic attacks on the counter-play. Scoring the resultant penalty kicks for the EAC/EALA were Wyclif Keto, Boniface Ogoti, Idd Jamal and Proches Kamugisha while Vivian Condwan and Khalfan Mohammed shot wide.

by the Speaker of the Kenya National Assembly, Rt. Hon Kenneth Marende. In his remarks, the Speaker hailed teams for their participation and noted that sports was key in enhancing integration. He promised that the Kenya National Assembly which did not fare well in 2012, would field strong teams next year.

‘Our Parliamentarians have been busy on hectic campaign schedules and the calendar of politics was busy coinciding with the games’, the Speaker revealed.

Hon Grace Kihwelu (Parliament of Tanzania) was voted the Most Valuable Player (MVP) in netball while Hon Bernard Mulengani scooped the MVP in soccer. Parliament of Rwanda on its part won the fair team play in soccer while Parliament of Uganda walked away with the corresponding honours in netball.

This year's games shall be hosted by the Parliament of Uganda.

## BRIEFS FROM ORGANS & INSTITUTIONS OF EAC

### LVBC, Kisumu Stakeholders mull over Lake Kisat

The Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC) Secretariat has joined hands with various stakeholders in Kisumu City in a Public- Private- Partnership project to rehabilitate the heavily polluted River Kisat.

Speaking on behalf of the LVBC Executive Secretary, Dr. Canisius Kanangire, the Principal Administrative Officer, Ms. Odeth Bateta, emphasised the need for stakeholders in Kisumu to jointly support the implementation of this project. "At the end of this project, transporters, fishermen, industrialists, water users and others will be able to work in a less polluted, more comfortable and profitable Kisumu City," she noted. River Kisat is a four kilometer river in Kisumu that flows through farmland, informal

settlements and part of the industrial area, before discharging its waters in Lake Victoria at Kisumu Bay.

It faces heavy pollution from municipal effluent discharge from the Kisat conventional effluent treatment plant; industrial effluent discharge; solid wastes dumped from informal settlements; waste oil from informal car-services garages; and disposal of used molasses at informal alcohol brewing sites.

According to the LVBC Communications Officer, Charles Martin Jjuko, a series of meetings have been held pitting interested stakeholders from community organisations, the private and public sectors, to share and provide interventions aimed at enriching the project proposal.

### AfDB invests USD 24 million in EADB

#### ...Investment expected to bolster EADB'S Balance Sheet

The East African Development Bank's equity has been boosted, following a \$24 million investment by the African Development Bank (AfDB) in its kitty.

The new capital was approved by an AfDB's Board of Directors' meeting in Tunis on January 16, 2013. The investment consists of \$10 million to be "paid in" into the EADB, with the balance being in the form of callable capital. A technical assistance package,

financed by the Fund for African Private Sector Assistance (FAPA), to reinforce institutional capacity at the EADB, is to complement the equity investment. EADB Director General, Vivienne Yeda, stated that the equity investment by AfDB, which is already a key shareholder of the Bank, would improve the Bank's lending capacity, while at the same time giving EADB leverage to raise additional resources.

### JAMAFEST - A SUCCESS

Kigali residents have a story to tell. The residents recently joined hundreds of performers in the at the inaugural EAC Arts and Culture Festival (Jamafest Carnival). The carnival which had been billed to mesmerize Kigali did not disappoint.

As the carnival parade snaked through Kigali City's streets from mid-morning, several residents temporarily abandoned work to witness or partake

in the grand East African party. Draped in fascinating costumes, carnival performers and participants from Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and host country Rwanda proceeded to treat the city dwellers to exuberant East African dance and drama, starting from Club Rafiki, Biryogo on to Onatracom, connecting to *Institut Français*, the Kigali City Tower and then to the Kigali City Market, Nyabugogo.

### EALGA gets new boss

Dr Patrick Mwesigwa Isingoma is the new Secretary General of the East African Local Governments Association (EALGA). He replaces the outgoing Acting Secretary General, Mr Simon L.Bendera. Dr Isingoma holds a Ph.D. in Public administration from KwaZulu-Natal University, Republic of South Africa, where he worked as visiting Lecturer in the

School of Governance. The EALGA boss once served as Chief Administrative Officer for Hoima District Local Government, Assistant District Commissioner in various districts, and as acting Senior Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Gender and Community Development before becoming a Director of Prime Management Consultants.



By Amb Dr. Richard Sezibera

# STATUS OF INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT IN THE REGION



A key component of infrastructure is energy. High costs of production however dilute investors thirst for enhancing opportunities

It gives me immense pleasure to contribute an article on the 2<sup>nd</sup> EAC Heads of State Retreat on Infrastructure Development and Financing to the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Bunge La Afrika Mashariki* Magazine. The Retreat was held on 28 November 2012 at the Kenyatta International Conference Centre in Nairobi, Kenya.

The Heads of State decided on the holding of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Retreat to assess the status of infrastructure development in the region to support the realisation of the EAC Common Market, the expansion of regional and international trade and rapid industrialisation of the region. Their deliberations and the directives that they gave us is helping us to prioritize and consolidate our resource mobilisation strategies towards implementing the infrastructure projects that they have prioritised.

Generally, the main objectives for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Retreat were three-fold namely; to review the implementation

**Now is the time for implementation, and I look forward to a review by the Heads of State every two years, of progress in EAC's critical infrastructure priority projects.**

status of the directives of the Heads of State since the 1<sup>st</sup> Retreat; to establish and endorse a priority list of infrastructure projects in railways, ports and energy sectors to be promoted by the region for the medium term; and lastly to explore the financing possibilities for these priority projects especially targeting Private Sector and other hybrid financing strategies.



The objectives of the Retreat, therefore, spoke volumes on the commonly stated concerns of the Heads of State at the pace of the roll out of completed infrastructure projects in the region and the very high costs of transport and energy that dilute investors thirst for investment opportunities in our region.

And, there is an undeniable sense of urgency. For example, the region is producing about 4000 MW of electricity. We need over 38,000 MW for successful industrialization. The share of rail transport to GDP is very low. 0% for Burundi, 0.2 % for Kenya, 0% for Rwanda, 0.05% for the United Republic of Tanzania, and 0% for Uganda, down from 0.3% in 2003 (2010) figures. East Africa has only 899 km of pipeline and only in Kenya!

And yet, cargo is expected to triple in the next decade and a substantial portion of this will be heavy cargo, including minerals, oil and gas. These challenges offer the region, the Private Sector, Development Partners and investors, an opportunity for investment with predictable returns.

I pay tribute to our Heads of State long term vision for this region in terms of an integration process anchored on among others, well interconnected, efficient, equitably shared infrastructure systems that address the concerns of the businesses, investors, traders, manufacturers and the *wananchi*.

I do recognise that despite inordinate challenges, some of which have been spawned by the global financial meltdown, slower than expected economic growths in the region and the increasing average cost of oil, our region and governments have satisfactorily delivered on many of the directives arising from the 1<sup>st</sup> Retreat held in Kigali.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the African Development Bank for the technical support in organising the 2<sup>nd</sup> EAC Heads of State Retreat.

Now is the time for implementation, and I look forward to a review by the Heads of State every two years, of progress in EAC's critical infrastructure priority projects.



The Rail system. The share of rail transport to GDP is currently low

**Amb. Dr. Richard Sezibera is the Secretary General of the East African Community**



A section of the Arusha-Namanga-Athi river road. Inter-connectivity is key for economic growth of the region





By Hon. Pierre Celestin Rwigema

# KIGALI HOSTS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LIBERATION STRUGGLES



President Paul Kagame talks to Andrew Mwenda, Managing Editor of the Observer (left) and Robert Kabushenga, Managing Editor of the New Vision

a Political Scientist and Honorary Research Fellow at the School of Environment and Development, University of Manchester, UK and the school of Public Health at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa. Others were Professor Margee Ensign the President of the American University of Nigeria, whose current research is focused on Imihigo and finally Professor Shyaka Anastase the Chief Executive officer (CEO) of Rwanda Governance Board (RGB). *The Forum was opened by Hon. Christophe Bazivamo, EALA Member*

On December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 on the eve of Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Kigali held an international conference on liberation struggle which convened scholars and leaders to reflect on the past decades of African Liberation Struggles and continuing quest for freedom. The theme was **'Inclusive Governance, Prosperity and Dignity for our people.'**

The conference drew scholars, diplomats, politicians, senior government officials, civil society, EALA members and the media from the whole continent and beyond to discuss inclusive governance, prosperity and dignity of the African people.

The panel consisted of different well-known speakers including H.E Ambassador Berhane Gebre-Christos the State Minister of Foreign Affairs-Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia since October 2010, Hon Louise MUSHIKIWABO the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of the Republic of Rwanda, Jenerali ULIMWEMGU Chairman of the board of the Raia Mwema newspaper, political commentator and civil society activist based in Dar es Salaam, Hon. Senator Tito Rutaremara, a veteran senior cadre of the Rwandese Patriotic Front(RPF) and Dr. Golooba-Mutebi

*and Vice-Chairperson of Rwanda Patriotic Front. He exhorted Africans to revisit their history, stand up and struggle for freedom, create home grown solutions and become self-reliant.*

**To eradicate permanent wars; political instabilities and inhuman activities; African leadership needs to convert citizens into leaders not rulers.**

*All the panelists focused on fact that African governments have to adopt visionary leadership with clear policies that benefits all masses and put them at the forefront of African leadership. In this context Africa needs leaders not rulers. African leaders have to give to the people freedom of expression, education, democracy. Transformational leadership facilitates a re-definition of people's mission and vision, a renewal of their commitment and the restructuring of their*

*systems for goal accomplishment. It is a relationship of mutual stimulation and elevation that converts citizens into leaders and may convert them into moral agents. Hence, transformation leadership must be grounded in moral foundation.*

### **What points were made in the conference?**

#### **1. African assertiveness beyond the right to self-determination.**

Louise Mushikiwabo, Rwanda's Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, one of the panelists, said on self-determination that African countries should go beyond flags and national anthems.

She emphasized that Africans have a significant role to play in the international arena and there is no need to be aggressive. Self-determination is about making our presence visible and heard. Specifically, Africans need to make their voice heard in the global discussion. Africans have to make their presence visible and should not expect anybody else to fight their struggle of defining themselves.

#### **2. Liberation Struggles: cause and lessons learnt.**

At a panel moderated by the renowned South African Journalist Daniel Makokera, Jenerali Ulimwengu emphasized on main needs of Africa, highlighting that Africa needs to be liberated from Western influence to determine its own transformation journey and that Africans need to learn from their past history and strive for a better future. To eradicate permanent wars; political instabilities and inhuman activities; African leadership needs to convert citizens into leaders not rulers.

#### **3. Transformational Leadership and Nation Building.**

Transformational leadership qualities such as seen in East African Leaders, H.E Paul Kagame at the forefront have the qualities among others vision, inspiration and action; were discussed as means to promote long-term goals of Africans.

These include:

- empowering followers to do what is the best for the country;
- To be a strong role model with high values;
- listening to all viewpoints to develop a spirit of cooperation;
- creating a vision, using people in the action for better lives in their country;



**President Kagame: RPF Party has brought peace and developed the country**

- acting as a change agent within the country by setting an example of how to initiate and implement change;
- helping the country by helping its citizens contribute in the nation's life

The conference was also characterized by interactive discussions and other speakers emphasized on roles and mission of African leaders:

- African leaders have to be accountable to the people and liberation philosophy
- Africans need to choose the best management of their resources.
- African countries have to move forward in investing in education and human resources
- Africans have to stand up and fight for peace and unity and against corruption in other to create sustainable development.
- East Africans especially and Africans in general should accelerate regional integration to create synergies and economies of scale. African countries have to strengthen the networking between them to provide assertiveness needed against poverty and attain their settled goals.
- African governments have to choose good services delivery against poverty.
- Today's African leaders have to shift from successful liberation struggles to uplifting the welfare of their people.

So, EALA and indeed the EAC people gained from the conference and RPF's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary from liberation struggle to rightful nation building, transformational leadership and dignity. It is imperative that we learn from the conference outcomes to build a today and tomorrow's solid and splendid East Africa of dignity.





By Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo

# GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES KEY TO DEVELOPMENT OF REGION

The East Africa Community is the intergovernmental regional organization that brings together Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda. The region has a diversity of cultures, ethnic and religious identities and is home to a wide variety of exotic animals. It has beaches, lakes, waterfalls and abundant marine life.

This part of Africa is full of diverse natural resources such as nickel, platinum, copper, cobalt, gold, cassiterite, carbonate rocks, Gas, diamond, petroleum, rare earths among others. To cap it all, forests, woodlands and orchards provide exportable quality wood.

Management of natural resources is thus an important driver of economic growth in the EAC creating jobs and incomes for governments to put an end to economic dependency.

The EAC has opened horizons as it attempts to pool their efforts. Different Organs of EAC try to help the Community to improve its management of natural resources. The participation of the EALA Members in various international meetings and various regional sensitization workshops on management of natural resources is thus key. I was privileged to attend a series

of meetings. I intend to shed some light on the results of the International Conference on Transparency and Responsible Finance in the Extractive Industries, the Seminar on Managing African Natural Resources and the Workshop on Management of Natural Resources which ended up with salient recommendations and conclusions.

## **Workshop on Management of Natural Resources**

The workshop organized in collaboration with the EAC Secretariat and the UNDP Regional Office, took place in Nairobi, Kenya, on December 13th -15th, 2012. Its theme was anchored on the understanding that Partner States manage natural resources in the Community in accordance with the EAC Treaty.

Participants included Partner States' Members of Parliaments, representatives from Ministries of Natural Resources and Tourism, Energy and Mines, Forestry and Wildlife, EAC Affairs. Other institutions represented were the Lake Victoria Basin Commission, Lake Victoria Fisheries Organization, Tax Justice Network-Kenya and the Parliament of South Africa.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Julius Tangus Rotich, EAC Deputy Secretary General remarked that it was time for the region to concert its efforts in developing regional standards around the governance of natural resources.

The Chairperson of the EALA Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo also addressed the Workshop remarking that the Committee had embarked on the process of developing a regional legislation in the management of Natural Resources. EALA further held workshops to review on benchmarks and standards for a regional law in the sectors of Minerals and Petroleum and borrowed experiences from positive Ghana's Petroleum Legislation and the Tanzanian Mineral Law of 2010.



Hon Isabelle Ndahayo contributes during one of the Plenary sessions

## Seminar on Management of Africa's Natural Resources towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals

The Seminar was organized by Association of European Parliamentarians with Africa (AWEPA) in Roma, Italy on 28th September 2012. It brought together African and European MPs, public officials,

**“Different Organs of EAC try to help the Community to improve its management of natural resources.”**

representatives from international organizations, AWEPA Members, experts and parliamentary staff.

The objectives of the seminar were to discuss the ways to improve natural resources management in Africa and how Parliamentarians can play a role in ensuring that the benefit of the continent's resources endowment accrue to Africa itself.

Rt. Hon Gianfranco Fini, Speaker of the National Assembly of Italy, set the mood by stating that Parliaments needed to institute legislation to secure the future of the globe in the long term. In her remarks, Ms. Miet Smet, AWEPA President said Africa had a huge field of natural resources, but that the interests from the continent's resources did not always benefit the populace.

Honorable Bethel Amadi, Pan African Parliament President remarked that Parliamentarians have a job

ahead of them to ensure accountability and good governance otherwise the Millennium Development goals (MDGs) would not be met.

It was observed that EAC countries like other African countries earn income from natural resources but are yet to cross the limit of underdevelopment. The results of studies show that, approximately 69% of the illicit capital flight from developing countries emanate from Africa. That is to say that, developing countries lose between U.S. \$ 723 billion and U.S.\$ 844 billion per year as a result of illicit flows over the decade ending 2000 to 2011.

In addition, lack of adequate infrastructure, existence of tariff and Non-Tariff Barriers, low subsidy to exporters, poor markets, aggravate the situation.

## International conference on transparency and responsible finance in the extractive industries

This conference was organized by the African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD) and Malawian Economic Justice Network (MEJN) in partnership with European Debt and Development. It took place on December 6-7th 2012, in Lilongwe, Malawi. The conference brought together Parliamentarians, civil society organizations, media, regional Parliaments and other stakeholders working on extractives from Africa, Latin America and Europe.

The meeting observed that despite a plethora of global governance initiatives, there was still secrecy maintained around the negotiation and signing of mining contracts in Africa as well as utilization of revenues from the Extractive Industry sector.

## WHAT DID PARTICIPANTS TAKE HOME?

In all workshops, various governance issues were discussed including the status and the need to harmonize some of the existing agreements relating to the exploitation of natural resources, common challenges encountered as well as the possible solutions to address them. In particular, the role of Parliaments was debated, giving suggestions on Parliamentarians' involved in the process of management of natural resources.

The main requirement here is the commitment of individual stakeholders and consolidation of own efforts in ensuring that our communities benefit from the mineral resources. The issue of

environmental consideration should always be taken into consideration to avoid the effects of mining operations to local communities as they have impacts such as land degradation.

The EAC should promote the development of innovative approaches to natural resource management; promote dialogue on the exploitation of natural resources between various stakeholders. Likewise, there is need to enhance relationships between MPs, Stakeholders and Mining Companies to strengthen their mutually supportive role in dealing with issues of domestic resource mobilization and capital flight among other areas.



## AMIDST THE STEREOTYPE MEDIA IMAGES, AFRICA’S HISTORY OF CONFLICTS CAN BE THE LEVERS OF POSITIVE CHANGE

On two occasions last year, I watched President Paul Kagame being interviewed by two different leading global television networks on the same subject of Rwanda’s alleged involvement and support for rebel activities in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. And in both instances, he strived to explain matters both contextually and in perspective but as it were, that did not evidently register well with the interviewees.

The more the President belabored to give a historical and factual account, the more it appeared to elicit the apparent disinterest of the veteran interviewees who instead dwelt on very generalized views and what would otherwise largely pass for peripheral and often far-fetched opinions.

To paraphrase his exasperation, the Rwandan Head of State, certainly a darling of the international media houses for his accessibility and forthrightness, at various points in the course of the interviews snapped that his interviewers were essentially expected to pose the questions and exercise some modicum of patience while he answered it the way he felt fitting than continually interrupting and insisting on a pre-conceived stream of thought.

Tellingly, all that President Kagame, having submitted himself to an interview, wished for was audience and an appreciation for his point of view.

President Kagame’s latest confrontation with the leading western media channels thus mirrors a raging debate about Africa’s place in the pages and on the screens of these outlets that has in turn shaped policies and perspectives in dealing with the continent.

Perhaps it is owing to this realization that President Kagame, then a Vice President and Minister for Defence, granted me an interview in Kigali in 1994 shortly after the infamous genocide.

*“You are from a country in the neighborhood. I hope you report the facts and our best efforts to restore normalcy in Rwanda. Don’t fall into the trap of these so-called big news organizations that merely perceives*



Hon Ogle (then a journalist) interviews President Kagame (then Vice President and Minister for Defence) in Kigali in 2004

*us in terms of our supposed ethnic divide as though that is the only thing that defines us. Besides, they are notorious for their inability to provide any contextual analysis of whatever issue they are reporting on!”* he argued at the time.

Undoubtedly, Africa has always been an exotic destination, a fantasy world that has gripped the reporters’ attention from ancient explorers Livingstone and Morton, and literary critics Rudyard Kipling and Frantz Fanon to latter day commentators David Lamb and Keith Richburg (paradoxically, he of an African-American descent himself). But the one underlying and unchanging depiction in all instances thereafter has followed a sustained pattern of coups and catastrophe syndrome.

Moreover, Africa is a continent driven by disease and despair, punctuated by the usual senseless barbarity leading to wholesale destruction and death.

Or to put it more succinctly, the rapidity and magnitude of the ruthless bloodletting and mayhem that occurs in Africa, in the estimation of the international media channels, draws a striking parallel with the guiding maxim once set by the European imperialist, otherwise referred to as historian/

philosopher G.W.F. Hegel (1770 -1831), *“if you want to understand the African, you must subtract all elements of respect, morality and sensitivity!”*

Such unabashed but somewhat sentimental description by Hegel shared by the latest voyeuristic media voyagers admittedly finds justification in what has transpired in the African continent over the last decade and half. From Liberia, Cote d’Ivoire and Mali in the west, and The Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea and Somalia in the east, to Mozambique and former colonial stable mate Angola in the south, the so-called nation-state was almost on the verge of collapse. The Horn of Africa nation to this day is on tenterhooks after 22 years of self-inflicted forced leave from the global scene!

And as if to do a catch-up on the apparently contagious situation in Africa, the hitherto stable North African nations of Tunisia, Libya and Egypt are presently experiencing violent protests mutating into unprecedented catastrophic scenarios in what the international media bills as “The Arab Spring.”

## **“The Horn of Africa nation to this day is on tenterhooks after 22 years of self-inflicted forced leave from the global scene!”**

That state of affairs has consequently provided the perfect fodder for the international media to continually assault and relentlessly savage the very essence of our African-ness.

In drawing the colonial boundaries, the erstwhile European powers had taken no consideration of the wish and interest of the indigenous Africans.

Boundaries which criss-crossed the habitat of different ethnic nationalities were drawn by white explorers on horse backs with no prior knowledge of the African terrain and the traditional mode of settlement. It would appear that some boundaries were crafted to deliberately divide tribes or language groups and separate the same kin, which was not only reckless but a reflection of the cavalier indifference of the colonial powers.

How often, then, to appreciate President Kagame’s frustration, do the international media comprehend



**The media. They need to tell the African story in a balanced, accurate and objective way**

the raging conflict in eastern DRC, simply in the above context alone?

Besides, the Super Power rivalry between the US and the then USSR deliberately propped up dictatorships in numerous African countries, notably Barre’s Somalia, Doe’s Liberia, Savimbi’s Angola, Dhlakama’s Mozambique and Bokassa’s Central African Republic, not to mention, Mobutu’s Zaire, that allowed such callous tin-pot dictators to subjugate their citizenry with sheer contempt.

Be all that as it may, the negative images of Africa in the international media notwithstanding, it goes without saying that the continent is today in dire need of a comprehensive structural and constitutional reforms reflecting a renewed spirited attempt to extricate itself from the vicious circle that has haunted us more than half a century ago since Liberia became the first independent Republic in Africa.

Central to this pursuit must be a stipulation that any present and aspirant power seekers make a commitment to national unity and desist from the rhetoric of regionalism and ethnicity among other forms of chauvinisms.

Africa cannot forever be haunted by its past and the rather eccentric media images that persistently harp on negative traits and its supposed savagery.

Amidst the prevailing difficulties, Africa needs new, magnetic images and aspirations for the future. This is a time that calls for creativity in working together across all disciplines, policy institutions and political programs. Above all, our future firmly lies in faster economic integration for which the East African Community offers the most interesting realization of recent times.



## BROADCASTING PARLIAMENT LIVE... DO'S AND DON'TS FOR JOURNALISTS

Like their counterparts in the Commonwealth countries, the Parliament of Tanzania is now focusing on strengthening its live coverage through digital television and radio. To do that it aims to launch a new Television and Audio satellite channel that shall provide feed to the mainstream media across the country and reduce autonym.

Whilst giving some clarification on the floor during the 10<sup>th</sup> session of the Parliament, Clerk to the National Assembly, Dr. Thomas Kashililah, took time to revisit on the issue of live broadcast despite the public outcry to ban live coverage.

*“Opening Parliament to the public recasts the manner in which Parliament does its work. By modernizing our live coverage, the public will be participating in national debate by accessing the session through the digital means, real time, the deliberations of Parliament and its Committees on important national issues, as well as its duty to put the Government in check. The 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament is very robust and I promise you great content.” commented Dr. Kashililah*

The Clerk reiterated that Parliament is for public and ‘open’ therefore calling for live coverage of the Parliamentary sessions as well as the Standing Committees when the need arises.

It is against this background that I decided to analyse and compare how other Parliaments in the Commonwealth countries undertake coverage and engage with media. It seems many Parliaments have found it possible to strike a balance between openness and security, in such a way that Parliament is manifestly seen to belong to the people as a whole, and not just to its Members.

In a number of countries, such as South Africa, it is a constitutional requirement that the public must have

reasonable physical access to Parliament. In practice, of course, most people are unable to visit Parliament in person.

For Parliamentary proceedings to be open to the public, therefore, it means in effect being open to the press and broadcasting personnel who act as the ‘eyes and ears’ of the public as a whole.

Over the past few years, the Parliament of Tanzania has been making strenuous efforts to inform and educate the public about its activities, and to engage even its new forms of communication, such as the Internet, live-streaming and live Television broadcasting thus facilitating interactive platform between representatives and citizenry rather than just a one-way communication.

Tanzania is one of the Commonwealth countries that attempts to make Parliament more accessible to the general public.

The government is keen to improve communication with the public and achieve better relations with the media as part of its commitment to good governance, openness and accountability.

The Parliament of Tanzania also aims to strengthen capacities of Parliamentarians as the people’s voice as well as an institution that provides a forum for the expression and obtaining consensus on conflicting interests.

By contrast in Britain for example, it was a major and lengthy struggle to get the cameras and microphones into Parliament. The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) first suggested live broadcasting of Parliament’s proceedings as far back as the late 1920s but the idea was rejected.

Twenty years later, at the height of the Second World War, the government argued that proceedings in Parliament were too technical to be understood by



the ordinary listener who would be liable to get false impression of the business transacted. In fact, such arguments went on for years until permanent radio coverage was eventually allowed in 1978.

However, television was another matter. Supporters of televising proceedings argued that it would lead to greater public understanding of the work of Parliament; it would involve the public more in politics and it would also help to make the politicians more accountable.

As a former Conservative leader of the House of Commons told his colleagues: “to televise Parliament would, at a stroke of the pen, restore any loss it has suffered to the new mass media as the political education of the nation.”

**“The government is keen to improve communication with the public and achieve better relations with the media as part of its commitment to good governance, openness and accountability.”**

Against this, it was also claimed that television would trivialize and distort the work of Parliament; MPs would be tempted, by the presence of cameras, to play to the gallery to get themselves on television.

It was the Upper House of Lords, who first agreed to let themselves be televised - in 1985 - and only then on an experimental basis. It took almost another five years for the House of Commons to admit the cameras. So it was no easy feat.

But instead of allowing cameras and microphones in most Commonwealth countries, Members through different fora and associations around the world in consultation with senior political news reporters agreed to have a standard of Parliamentary reporting and have drawn up comprehensive guidelines for their journalists.

The guidelines have been used by a number of Parliaments including the UK Parliament who formally established a special dedicated Parliamentary channel, (BBC Parliament). First launched in 1992 by a group of cable companies as a non profit venture, and taken

over by the BBC six years later, the channel provides continuous unedited coverage of proceedings but is available only on satellite, cable or digital terrestrial television.

Arising from broadcasting guidelines, Parliaments in the Commonwealth countries have agreed to a number of issues to help viewers understand and follow proceedings healthily. For example, captions at the bottom of the screen, naming the subject under debate, the MP speaking and which party he or she belongs to, is a must to any television station telecasting live so that it is clear to the viewer who is talking and what they are talking about.

Another move was the guidelines to journalists issued by a Joint Select Committee of Parliament in Trinidad that stated: “Coverage should reflect a full appreciation of Parliamentary proceedings. That is to say the aims and objectives of Bills and arguments for and against them.”

The Trinidad guidelines that was almost adopted by Commonwealth Parliamentarians state that the press and public galleries should not be shown. Special care should be taken so that shots are not shown of the Presiding Officer of Parliament getting advice from the Clerk of the Table. “Roving or reaction shots may be taken but opportunities to embarrass unsuspecting Members i.e. shots not connected with the proceedings should not be used.”

Deliberate misconduct designed to secure TV coverage ought not to achieve this aim.” Interruptions and demonstrations in the gallery should in no circumstances be televised, as they do not constitute Parliamentary Proceedings.

In cases of un-Parliamentary behavior, it said“ i.e. should any Member be in defiance of the Chair, the camera should normally focus on the Presiding Officer not on the Member behaving out of turn.” And on occasions of grave disorder, the guidelines say, “The camera should focus on the occupant of the Chair for as long as proceedings continue or until order has been restored”.

The UK House of Commons rules are very similar: neither interruptions from nor demonstrations in the galleries are “proceedings and as such they should in no circumstances be televised.

If such an incident should occur, the director should cut either to a wide-angle shot of the



Chamber which does not show the offending incident, or to the occupant of the Chair”.

Moreover, the Australian and British Parliaments also prohibit the cameras from showing close up shots of Members’ papers. Great care must also be taken in showing the Speaker.

Westminster gives this directive to the camera operators: “Shots designed to show the Speaker receiving advice from a Clerk at the Table should not be used. Officers of the House and Doorkeepers attending in the Chamber should not normally be shown unless they are taking an active part in the proceedings.

From this background and little experience from other Parliament, its without doubt that Parliament

of Tanzania has made a tremendous move, first by accommodating Journalists in the Chamber and it is clearly in its Standing Orders (article 137) and that is why it was the first Parliament to come live on Public through Television in the region.

Through the Bunge Press Association of Tanzania (BUPAT) which is an umbrella of Journalists who report on Parliamentary activities, Parliament of Tanzania has been conducting training on how to healthily report on Parliament.

*Owen Mwandumba is the Information Officer at the Parliament of Tanzania*

## BRIEFS FROM THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLIES



### KENYA

#### Term of Kenya Parliament ends

Parliament of Kenya was prorogued on January 14, 2013 as the term of life lapsed, following a gazette notice issued in January 2013 paving the way for inauguration of a new Assembly after the elections. The 10<sup>th</sup> Parliament commenced Sessions *vide* Legal Notice No. 1 of 2008, in which the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Kenya Defence Forces issued a proclamation for its convention.

During the life, the Assembly passed key Bills, Motions and Resolutions. Upon the promulgation

of Kenya’s new Constitution on 27th August, 2010, section 10 of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution aforesaid preserved the National Assembly for its unexpired term:

The Parliamentary system is expected to change with the introduction of a two tier system – the National Assembly and the House of Senate.

Following the completion of the elections on March 4, 2013, the 11<sup>th</sup> Parliament is expected to convene on



### UGANDA

#### We are committed to the Commonwealth, Parliament affirms

Parliament has approved a motion pledging Uganda’s commitment to be an active member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

The motion was moved by Hon. Rosemary Seninde (NRM, Wakiso district) coming ahead of the Commonwealth Day marked on March 11, 2013.

The Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) brings together legislators from the Commonwealth who, irrespective of gender, race,

religion or culture, are united by community of interests, respect for the rule of law and individual rights and freedoms, and by pursuit of the positive ideals of Parliamentary democracy.

Parliament also resolved that Uganda shall continue to participate in the Commonwealth activities and requested that government recognizes the 11th day of March this year as the CPA Day.

## BURUNDI

### Burundi National Assembly moves to elect Standing Committees' Members

By Tharcisse Manirakiza & Clarisse Biraronderwa

Immediately after the opening of the Ordinary Session of February 2013, Parliament moved to register Members of Parliament into the eight Standing Committees. Under the Rules and Regulations of the Assembly, Members are encouraged to join any of the Standing Committees according to their preferences. This activity is done under Article 32 of Rules and Regulation of Burundi National Assembly which states that Members of Standing Committees are appointed at the beginning of the Legislature and at the beginning of the Ordinary Session in February

Each Standing Committee comprises of ten Members. The Bureau of the Standing Committee which is comprised of a President, Deputy President and a Secretary has the prerogative of ensuring the set up of Committees comply with all requirements and reflect the configuration of the National Assembly. It thus ensures the representation according to political groups, ethnic groups and gender.

Article 33 of the Rules and Regulation of Burundi National Assembly specifies that an MP can only be a Member of one Committee. Members of the Bureau of the National Assembly on their part cannot be Members of a Standing Committee. However, they may take part in Committee Meetings but without

the right to vote. MPs are required to participate in all Committee activities unless granted absence – subsequent to Article 58, Paragraph 7 of the Rules and Regulation.

The eight Standing Committees are the following:

- Committee on Political, Administrative and Foreign Affairs and East African Community Affairs;
- Committee on Public Accounts, Finances, Economic Affairs and Planning;
- Committee on Good Governance and Privatization;
- Committee on Defence and Security;
- Committee on Justice and Human Rights;
- Committee on Agriculture, Livestock, Environment and Communal Development;
- Committee on Social Affairs, Repatriation, Gender and the fight against HIV and AIDS and,
- Committee on Education, Youth, Sports and Leisure, Culture and Communication.

In addition, the House may appoint an *ad hoc* Committee charged with undertaking a special task.

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*The Authors are staff of the Burundi National Assembly*

## RWANDA

### Chamber of Deputies resumes business

The Parliament of Rwanda (Chamber of Deputies) resumed plenary on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

The 1<sup>st</sup> **Ordinary Session** shall see the Parliament debate on a number of Bills including a draft law authorizing the ratification of East African Community agreements in conformity with Foreign Affairs policies and that on military collaboration.

Meanwhile, Parliament is currently reviewing a law that seeks to broaden the Electoral College that votes for women, thereby raising their numbers in the National Assembly. Currently, the Electoral College votes 24 women to Parliament which is 28.9

per cent representation. The women are picked from national, provincial, district and village councils. In total, Parliament of Rwanda has about women in the House

The Parliamentary Elections Act is expected to be in force ahead of the September elections. The revised draft is part of progressive improvements that the Republic of Rwanda is making in its laws.

The Parliament of Rwanda has a bicameral Parliamentary system which consists of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies.



# SAUTI YA EALA

