



EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

For Immediate Release

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CONVENES ITS 1ST MEETING OF THE 5TH SESSION, 5th ASSEMBLY IN ARUSHA

ARUSHA, TANZANIA — The East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) has officially commenced the 1st Meeting of the 5th Session of the 5th Assembly in Arusha, Tanzania, running from September 30 through October 13, 2026. The two-week sitting brings together regional parliamentarians, leadership committees, and key regional stakeholders to deliberate on vital legislative bills, review extensive oversight reports, and advance the East African Community's integration agenda.

Assembly committees are currently in Arusha conducting intensive standing committee proceedings running through early October. EALA's six standing committees are actively deliberating on crucial legislative frameworks ahead of the plenary, including the final draft of the ***EAC Single Use Plastics Bill (2026)***, ***public hearing reports on the EAC Seed and Plant Varieties Bill (2025)*** and the ***EAC Medical Products Bill (2024)***, as well as considerations surrounding the ***EAC Financial Services Commission Bill (2022)***. Alongside these legislative efforts, committees are evaluating comprehensive ***oversight reports on public financial management, forced displacement, and regional health initiatives***.

The plenary phase of the Assembly officially commences on the afternoon of Thursday, October 8, 2026, in the Chamber. Members of the Assembly will receive committee reports and debate key legislation, including the ***Second and Third Readings*** of both the ***EAC Seed and Plant Varieties Bill (2025)*** and the ***EAC Medical Products Bill (2024)***. Plenary deliberations will also focus on trade and economic integration, featuring reports on the implementation of the ***African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)*** Agreement and strategic engagements with the Federal Republic of Somalia Business Community.

Following a pause on Friday, October 9, in observance of the Independence Day of the Republic of Uganda, the Assembly's program resumes over the weekend and into the final week. Scheduled activities include community outreach on Saturday, October 10, followed by plenary sittings on October 12 and 13 to deliberate on partner states' progress toward the East African Political Confederation and the performance of Regional Centres of Excellence in Health.

In addition to core legislative proceedings, the session features key strategic forums. On October 7, EALA hosts the African Governance Centre EALA Strategic Legislative Governance Forum 2026.

The session concludes on the afternoon of Tuesday, October 13, with a Joint Youth-EALA Engagement bringing together members of the EALA Youth Caucus and the EAC Youth Parliament before delegates depart on October 14.

Members of the media and the public are invited to follow the open plenary proceedings and scheduled committee briefings at the Assembly Chambers in Arusha.

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