



THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

51ST SITTING – SECOND MEETING – THIRD SESSION - FIFTH ASSEMBLY (Virtual Sitting)

Thursday, 3rd July, 2025

*The East African Legislative Assembly
met at 2.44 p.m. virtually*

PRAYER

(The Speaker in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Honourable Members, Good Afternoon. I welcome you to the meeting. I am very happy to announce to you that the Chair of the Council of Ministers is here with us in Arusha. The CTC is also here to facilitate her. We expect the Secretary General and the finance people to also be available to assist the Minister to present the EAC budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

Honourable Members, as I informed you in the last meeting, some of our senior staff will be exiting the service of the Community after successfully completing their tours of duty. I hosted their luncheon on Tuesday this week in Moshi.

We also have a motion on today's Order Paper to honour them. Last but not least, we shall hear from the Chairperson of the Committee on Purpose Committee if they are ready to proceed with the Committee's report on the budget.

2.47

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, at the moment, we are not ready to lay the report.

I will give a detailed explanation when we get to the section where the Minister will have moved a motion for us to constitute into Committees of Ways and Means and ask the Committee on General Purpose to report. That is when I will give a detailed explanation of the same.

I thank you.

2.48

The Speaker: We will proceed as scheduled.

MOTION FOR THE CONSIDERATION
AND APPROVAL OF THE EAST
AFRICAN COMMUNITY BUDGET
ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL
YEAR 2025/2026

2.48

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move

“THAT, This Assembly do resolve itself into:

1. A Committee of Supply to consider and approve the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/2026; and
2. A Committee of Ways and Means to consider and approve the Financial Instruments for the EAC Budget for Financial Year 2025/2026.

The Speaker: Do you have a seconders?

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, yes, I do.

(Seconded by Ms Falhada Dekow Iman, Mr Clement Musangabatware, Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda, Dr Gladness Salema, Ms Francine Rutazana)

The Speaker: Hononourable Minister, Chair of Council, it is time to justify your Motion.

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, on 25th April 2025, the EAC Draft Estimates for the FY 2025/2026 was adopted by the EAC Council of Ministers.

This followed a wholistic consultative process that we started in October 2024 when the pre-budget conference adopted the theme for the budget –

Inclusive economic transformation through domestic resource mobilisation and resilient strategic Investment for job creation and improved livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, in tandem with the above, I presented draft estimate before this august House on 30th April 2025 together with the financial instruments and the appropriation act. I made a follow up on 30th June 2025 by presenting the budget speech.

Honourable members, the council is seeking authority from this House to consider and approve a total sum of USD \$109,330,151 being the budget of the community for the financial year ending 30th June 2025 as specified in the schedule to mention the appropriation bill.

Mr. Speaker, I further request that the House approve the financial instrument along with the appropriation bill in order to give legal framework to the EAC budget for the financial year ending 30th June 2026.

Mr Speaker, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Chair of Council.

The Chair of the Committee on General Purpose informed us that he would give us more explanation. Chair, GP, you have the floor.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, thank you. As you may be aware, the Committee on General Purpose has been considering the EAC budget estimates for revenues and expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/2026 since 5th June, 2025, together with the two EAC supplementary budgets.

You will also recall we started considering the EAC budget estimates for revenues and expenditure for FY 2025/2026 from the 5th of June, 2025. We ended the consideration of these estimates on the 27th June 2025. Immediately after, 28th June, 2025 we had a special sitting where we started the consideration of the supplementary estimates that ended by passing them on 30th June, 2025. We therefore had a very limited time for the Committee to conclude the report of the main budget.

The reason we are not able to conclude the report of the main budget is that, one, we have to first of all make sure that after the conclusion of the supplementary budget, we have to start drafting the report for the main budget. We were unable to complete the drafting of the report on the main budget because, the speaker has just communicated that we will have a number of staff who serve in the Committee leaving. We have a limited number of staff that will have to jointly work on this report. As such, and in view of the above foregoing, I therefore request additional time from this Assembly so that

the Committee on General Purpose will be able to finalise this report.

The Committee on General Purpose therefore requests that they will need to adopt the report of the committee on Monday, the 7th July, 2025. The Committee will then meet with the Chair of Council and the other ministers in charge of EAC affairs of Tuesday, 8th July 2025 at 10.00 a.m. The reason we would like to meet the Council of Ministers is because there are policy implications in terms of what we have done in reconsidering the budget. We would like those policy issues to be addressed before we come on the floor of the House. Once the Committee adopts the report, we will then forward it to the honourable Members through emails for them to go through. If possible, we request that the Committee is granted leave to table the report on 9th July, 2025. The debate on the report will happen on Wednesday and Thursday to be able to consider this report. However, I am meant to understand that on 9th July 2025 is the Independence Day of South Sudan. I therefore request that the house deliberates on this matter, just as it deliberated on the other matters when we passed the supplementary budget on 30th June 2025 which was also a public holiday

Mr Speaker, I submit for your consideration. Thank you.

2.56

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Information, Mr. Speaker. As the Chairperson of the Committee on GP was making his submission, he stated that there is some important information that the Committee and the House requires to be provided by the Secretary-General

on the implementation of Section 8 and Section 10 of the EAC Budget Act.

When the Honourable Minister, Chair of Council and the SG are giving their response, we would like them to commit that they will avail that information because it should have been provided by 30th June of 2025 as per our rules and regulations. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Chairperson of the Committee on GP, is this information accurate?

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, yes, I am accepting this information. The Honourable Member is very right. As we stand now, Section 8 of the Budget Act has not been fulfilled. Failure to fulfill Section 8 of the Budget Act renders an approval of the budget null and void. We cannot understand how the Community is performing as far as grants, loans and tax exemptions. We are not able to tell the financial status of the Community without fulfilling Section 8 of the Budget Act.

The Honourable Member is right and I accept that information as procedurally right. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable Chairperson of the Committee on GP, I wish you could remind us the dates that you are proposing.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, on Monday 7th July, 2025, the Committee will meet and adopt the report.

Tuesday, 8th July 2025 at 10.30 a.m., the Committee will meet with the Council of Ministers.

We will proceed to table the report on Wednesday, 9th July 2025. However, as I said, on Wednesday will be a holiday, the Independent Day of the Republic of South Sudan.

The Speaker: You cannot table the report on Wednesday because it is an EAC holiday.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, we can table the report on Thursday, 10th July 2025 and have the debate on the report on Friday, 11th July 2025. We can start the debate on the report on Thursday, 10th July 2025 and then conclude with the procedural matters on Friday, 11th July 2025 in terms of adopting the bill. We can have the report on Thursday and then approve the financial instruments and also approve the Bill by Friday, 11th July 2025. That is my suggestion.

The Speaker: If this is accepted, can you circulate the report on Wednesday, 9th July 2025?

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, Excellent. We will do that. Immediately after the Committee on GP has adopted the report and met the Council will definitely circulate the report.

The Speaker: Very good. When will you meet the SG?

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, right now, the SG is *functus officio* on the budgeting process. We will only meet with the Council because we are trying to agree with the Council on policy matters. The role of the SG ends by submitting the budget to the Council for adoption. When it comes to approval, it is now the role of the Assembly and the Council of Ministers. So, we cannot meet with the SG because she is a *functus officio*.

The Speaker: Very good. Thank you.

We are with the Council of Ministers. I will give her the floor to respond.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr Kennedy Mukulia) (South Sudan): Right Honourable Speaker, can I make one request?

The Speaker: Yes, please.

3.00

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr Kennedy Mukulia) (South Sudan): Right Honourable Speaker, it is important that in terms of deliberation on this budget a few members of the Committee on General Purpose could meet in Arusha with the Council to deliberate on this budget. That will give us the visibility of the Community. I feel it is not good that only a few people to be sitting there yet this is an important instrument of the Community. It is an instrument that will give the Community a wider perspective if the Council and the Assembly is there.

I urge the Council to please look into this matter for consideration. I beg to submit.

That is the request that I am placing before you. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Chairperson of the Committee on GP for the proposal.

3.01

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Procedure, Right Honourable Speaker. We proceeded to have a special sitting on the day that the DRC had its Independence Day. Why do we not see the matter on budget estimates as very special and urgent, so that even the day of the Independence of the Republic of South Sudan, Wednesday, 7th July 2025, we can still do a meeting? We already set a precedent. I think we can borrow the good precedent for us to continue moving, given the timelines that we are in.

Right Honourable Speaker, would it not be well if we borrow that good precedent of meeting on a holiday as we met on the day the DRC had their Independence Day. We can carry on with the meeting. Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Dr Siranda, on the day the DRC had their Independence Day, we did not impose on them. We asked them if they could grant us that day and luckily, they understood us and supported. If the South Sudan Chapter grants that that day as the DRC Chapter did, we will consider it. I called the Chairperson of the Committee on GP and requested him to consult with the South Sudan Chapter so that they grant us Wednesday, 9th July 2025, their Independence Day, just as the DRC did. Thank you.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Mr Speaker, much obliged.

The Speaker: Let us hear from the Chairperson of the South Sudan Chapter, Dr Anne Itto and get some feedback from her.

Dr. Anne Itto Leonardo (South Sudan): Right Honourable Speaker, do I have the floor?

The Speaker: You do have the floor, Madam Chair.

Dr. Anne Itto Leonardo (South Sudan): Thank you very much, Right Honourable Speaker. I had asked Honourable Gideon to act, because I have not been feeling very well.

I request that if Honourable Gideon is here, let him give a response.

Mr Gideon Thoar Gatpan (South Sudan): Honourable Kennedy is the one who is acting?

Dr. Anne Itto Leonardo (South Sudan): Right Honourable Speaker, now you can see how sick I am.

Honourable Kennedy, kindly proceed.

Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, the South Sudan chapter will meet tomorrow, and we will communicate officially regarding this matter when we conclude our meeting tomorrow.

The Speaker: We need that information right now because from here, the Order Papers will need to be prepared.

Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I suggest that we

proceed, and then I will come back with the information. We will informally discuss it in our WhatsApp group. I will come back with the information. I will come up with the point of information, wherever we are, after we reach an agreement.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr Speaker, we have to act. The CTC is with us.

The Speaker: I directed the Secretary General to submit that report, which is required under Section 8 and 10 of the Budget Act, to submit on Tuesday morning, so that in the afternoon meeting, the afternoon meeting, it will be considered by the Council of Ministers and the Committee. I wish to give the floor to the Council of Ministers, because she has to tell whether she will be available. Once we hear from her, it could guide us on how we can plan.

Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya): Honourable Speaker, I would also like to consult my schedule. I am quite aware of the activities around the Kiswahili Day Celebration organized by the Kiswahili Commission in Rwanda, Kigali. Quite a number of Ministers within the Council are invited. The Council needs one or two days to consult, so that we agree when they will be available for the discussion. We will also agree on whether the ministers can come themselves. The challenge of virtual meetings on matters that may need serious engagement, is when we are not able to connect appropriately at the right time, and to deliver the right information.

Mr. Speaker, on matters that need information to be availed, the Secretariat must avail the information needed by this institution, because we have no option. We have to collaborate, we have to provide information that would strengthen what it is that would finally be seen as a Community initiative. The Secretariat should provide that information that is needed by the committee on a General Purpose. The Council of Ministers, needs to consult so that we clear ourselves from other engagements that are also pertinent to ministers in their own partner countries. We will agree on when to be all available to meet the Committee on GP. I urge all members of Council be present, so that we can exonerate the matter.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

3.10

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, I would like to clarify, that implementation of Section 8 and Section 10 of the Budget Act is a requirement of the law, and not the Committee on GP.

Mr. Speaker, the other thing is that the SG is supposed to present them in her official capacity as the accounting officer of the Community and a member of the House. We expect this information so that the house will be informed on the status of financial position with regard to loans and grants granted to the Community as well as how they have been used to meet the requirements in the budgets, and whether they were value for money.

This is a very critical piece of information that is of importance to the House, and more important so to the Council. Those

are important tools that we should be tracking; the donor funding, that is coming to the Community in the name of our partner states and that of the Community.

I beg to submit. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

The Speaker: Thank you for your information.

We have to agree on the days and the meetings. We have the agenda on Monday. Tuesday should be the meeting of the Committee on GP with the Council. Wednesday, we have no feedback from the South Sudan Chapter and on the Thursday, we do not have information. Friday, we need to hear from the Minister, Chair of the Council. She has said that the Council needs at least two days to consult.

3.13

Mr Kennedy Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I just want to pass some information. I consulted with the South Sudan Chapter. The reason we met on 30th June 2025 is because it was a necessary to pass the supplementary budget which would have elapsed. Unlike this one, where you have extended the period of timing. It will be important to respect the national holidays granted. Therefore, I now suggest that the Committee on GP will table its report on Thursday, 10th July 2025 and then debate it on the same day and make approval on Friday, 11th July, 2025. I beg to submit it.

The Speaker: Very good. Honourable Minister, you may proceed.

3.14

The Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe, Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development (Kenya):

Mr. Speaker, I would like to know whether we have other Members of the Council in this meeting so that we give input on the availability of the specified dates.

The Speaker: For this budget to pass, we need ministers to be present on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, if we are to pass it by the next week.

Honourable Minister, it does not mean that you all have to be here. You just have to be represented. What we need is for you to agree with the Committee on GP and their report. If you agree on the report, it should be easy for us to pass it on the same day. If we do not agree on Thursday, you will have to harmonise, so that we pass it by Friday. We just need to find a way to fit into these days as Council.

Chairperson, EAC Council of Ministers (Hon. Beatrice Askul Moe) (Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of East African Community (EAC), ASALs and Regional Development) (Kenya): Mr. Speaker, as I said, I would like all then Ministers present to respond to this matter so that are in concurrence.

The Speaker: You will go and consult your colleagues, and try to fit in the proposed schedule. Tuesday, you will meet the Committee on GP, you meet to discuss the report and sign it. On Thursday, the Committee on GP will table its report. On Friday, we pass it.

Honourable Mukulia, are we speaking the same language?

3.16

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr Kennedy Mukulia) (South Sudan): Yes, we are speaking the same language.

I plead with the Minister to ask her colleagues to join us on Tuesday because it will be the responsibility of the same ministers to transmit copies of the Bill for assent by the heads of state. We do not want a situation where we have already passed the budget and a partner just comes to say that they do not agree with some of these things.

It is important for the Chair Council to plead with her fellow Council Members to attend the proposed meeting with Committee on GP on Tuesday. We need at least four of them to be present.

The meeting will be virtual. I really do not see any problem with them joining online. They can join from anywhere; whether in the bush or in their house, so that we are able to agree on the report.

I plead with you, Chair Council, to ask your colleagues to be to be present for Tuesday's meeting. This is a Council Bill. So, council should take this as highly important. It is not a private member's bill. It is a Council Bill. The Council needs to take this seriously. There is an issue about the corrigenda and that is a very touching issue because it's going to affect the overall budget.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, we cannot debate today as we do not have a

report. We will wait for when the report of the Committee will be ready.

Let us proceed to the next Item on the Order Paper.

**MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION OF
THE ASSEMBLY COMMENDING
SENIOR STAFF OF THE ASSEMBLY
FOR SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDING
THEIR TENURE IN THE SERVICE OF
THE COMMUNITY**

*(Moved under Articles 49 and 59(1) of
the Treaty and Rule 26 of the Rules of
Procedure of the Assembly.)*

3.19

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, before I move the motion, I would like to announce that I am at the East African Kiswahili Commission Offices in Zanzibar. I am with our colleagues; the Hon Nadra Juma Mohamed and Hon Machano Ali Machano. The Executive Secretary of the Kiswahili Commission was also here with us, but she just went out for to make a call. I am sure that she will come back.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to announce that we are utilising the EAC resources while joining the sitting virtually from Zanzibar.

The motion before the House is for a resolution of the assembly commending senior staff of the assembly for successfully concluding their tenure in service of the community. However, before I move the Motion, allow me to make an insertion. It has come to my attention, that we are also going to lose a Member of this Assembly who is also exiting the service of the

Community; an ex-officio member of this Assembly; Honourable Dr Kafumbe Antony, is our Counsel to the Community (CTC) Allow me to also make an insertion at the end to recognise the services of our oldest member of this Assembly, Dr. Kafumbe.

Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, Thank you.

The Speaker: Do you have seconders?

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, yes, I do.

*(Seconded by Amb Fatuma Ndagiza,
Ms Françoise Uwumukiza, Dr Gladness
Salema, Mr Machano Ali Machano.)*

The Speaker: Now move our Motion.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, I beg to move that -

WHEREAS Article 49(2)(f) of the Treaty recognises that the Assembly shall recommend to the Council the appointment of the Clerk and other officers of the Assembly;

WHEREAS in 2008, Hon. Dr. Anthony L. Kafumbe, Counsel to the Community, joined the Community as a Principal Legal Officer and subsequently in 2015, he was appointed the CGTC of the Community making him an ex-officio Member of the EALA. Dr Kafumbe has an MBA from ESAMI and an LLM from the University of Pretoria as well as a PhD from the University of Glasgow. He serves as a part-time lecturer at the University of Makerere.

AND WHEREAS Mr. Charles Ngeleja Kadonya, Mr. Alfred Tugume, Mr. Asheri Michael Wimile, Mr. Ezekiel Nyakwara Migosi, and Ms. Anastacia Mbeba were appointed by the Council to serve the Community in the Assembly;

RECOGNISING that Charles Ngeleja Kadonya joined the service of the Community in the Assembly in July, 2006 as Senior Research Officer, having obtained a Master of Arts Degree in Public Policy and Administration from the International Institute of Social Studies in the Hague, Netherlands and was subsequently appointed Principal Clerk Assistant in 2015 where he is in charge of legislative, procedural and Committee services and during which appointment he also served as Acting Clerk of the Assembly from November, 2019 to August, 2021;

RECOGNISING that Mr. Alfred Tugume joined the Assembly in 2015 as Senior Clerk Assistant, having obtained a Master Masters in Management Studies and a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Administration and Management, and having served in the Parliament of Uganda as Senior Clerk Assistant and served as Acting Deputy Clerk from November 2019 to August 2021;

RECOGNISING that Mr. Asheri Michael Wimile joined the service of the Assembly in 2015 as Senior Clerk Assistant, having obtained a Master of Laws and Business Degree from Bucerius Law School and WHU Otto Beisheim School of Management, Hamburg and Vallendar, Germany;

RECOGNISING that Mr. Ezekiel Nyakwara Migosi joined the service of the Community as Assistant Serjeant-at-Arms in October 2002, having obtained a Master of Science Degree in Security Management from Loughborough University in the UK after having worked with the Kenya Police Service;

FURTHER RECOGNISING that Ms. Anastacia Mbeba joined the service of the Community as a Hansard Reporter in the Assembly in 2015, having obtained a Postgraduate Diploma in Mass Communication from the Kenya Institute of Mass Communication and a B. A (English & Geography) from the University of Eastern Africa, Baraton, Kenya, having worked as Assistant Hansard Editor at the Senate, in the Parliament of Kenya. She also served as a special assistant to the Speaker.

NOTING that due to the perennial shortage of staff in the Assembly, each of the five Senior Officers have had to take on extra responsibility and roles, including the administration and management of more than one Committee for Mr. Charles Ngeleja Kadonya – Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution and Legal, Rules and Privileges; Mr. Alfred Tugume – CTI and General Purpose; Mr. Asheri Michael Wimile – Legal, Rules and Privileges and Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources; Mr. Ezekiel Nyakwara Migosi heading and steering of procurement and transport, and logistics, and Ms. Anastacia Mbeba heading the Hansard Department as well as being the personal assistant to the Speaker;

AWARE that the departure of the five Senior Officers from the Assembly is going

to create a gap in the administration and management of the affairs of the Assembly and its Committees;

APPRECIATING the contribution of Mr. Charles Ngeleja Kadonya, Mr. Alfred Tugume, Mr. Asheri Michael Wimile, Mr. Ezekiel Nyakwara Migosi, and Ms. Anastacia Mbeba to the service of the Community. In a very special way we also appreciate the service of Hon. Dr. Anthony L. Kafumbe, Counsel to the Community and in particular their support to the quality and work of the Committees, Plenary, and the Assembly as a whole;

COMMENDING Hon. Dr. Anthony L. Kafumbe, Mr. Charles Ngeleja Kadonya, Mr. Alfred Tugume, Mr. Asheri Michael Wimile, Mr. Ezekiel Migosi, and Ms. Anastacia Mbeba for their outstanding and distinguished service to the Assembly and for steering the Assembly and providing technical support to the Plenary, the Speaker, the Commission, the various Committees, and Members of the Assembly;

COGNISANT of the provisions of Article 49 (2) (d) of the Treaty, which empowers the Assembly to discuss any matter pertaining to the Community;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY AS FOLLOWS: -

THAT in accordance with Article 49 of the Treaty, the Assembly:

- 1. Recognises the service of Hon. Dr. Anthony L. Kafumbe, Mr. Charles Ngeleja Kadonya, Mr. Alfred Tugume, Mr. Asheri Wimile, Ezekiel Migosi, and Ms. Anastacia Mbeba to this Assembly*

and the East African Community;

- 2. Commends Hon. Dr. Anthony L. Kafumbe, Mr. Charles Kadonya, Mr. Alfred Tugume, Mr. Asheri Michael Wimile, Mr. Ezekiel Migosi, and Ms. Anastacia Mbeba for their distinguished service to the East African Community and the East African Legislative Assembly.*

I beg to move, Mr. Speaker.

3.30

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Dr. Makame for this motion. I will now propose the Question.

(Question proposed.)

I open the debate starting now.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, indulge me just a few minutes, for purposes of justification.

The East African Legislative Assembly has nine members from each part of the state, nine ex-officio members who constitute; the members of the Council, and two ex-official members who serve in the Community; the Secretary General and the CTC.

The CTC is exiting in August 2025. We are commending and thanking him for his service, and wishing him all the best in his future endeavours. The Assembly has a total of 46 members of staff; 30 members of staff who are sitting in established positions while 16 members of staff are temporary.

We are losing five members of staff, the ones that I mentioned; Mr. Charles Ngeleja Kadonya, Mr. Alfred Tugume, Mr Asheri Wimile, Mr. Ezekiel Migosi and Ms Anastacia Mbeba; members of staff have worked tirelessly in ensuring that this Assembly is in functional. The staff are the engines of the Assembly. We are thanking them for their service. We wish them all the best in their endeavours where they are going to. We acknowledge that they did what they did, and they went out of their way to ensure that the Assembly business is functional.

Mr. Speaker, while saying this, I have been informed that there was a resolution taken by the Council to lay off temporary staff members who are very crucial to the functions of the Community and specifically the functions of the Assembly. These members of staff have been given a sunset and exit. While the Council has taken that decision and the Chairperson of the Council within us in this sitting, we beg her to reconsider that, and the table is before the Council that this Community is at the risk of being paralysed. The moment we lose the established positions and the temporary staff; the Community particularly the Assembly, is going to have serious shortages in manpower. The Clerk of the Assembly can attest to that.

We now want to add pain to the wound of losing a number of professional staff by also laying off temporary members of staff. We urge the Chair Council to ensure that she does what she can do and what is in her capability to convince the fellow members of the Council to ensure that they maintain these temporary staff until when we can get the established position

filled or until the Council articulates how they are going to fill the gap.

Mr. Speaker, we had advised the Chair Council in one of our past meetings and she said that she would look into the possibility...

The Speaker: Dr Makame, kindly be brief.

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Mr. Speaker, I request the Council to the Community to look into making internal advertisement so that they can recruit some of these temporary staff into the permanent staff positions so that we can address the issue of staff shortage as a short-term solution. The Council can make external advertisement later but they should try to absorb the temporary staff who have been in service of the Community for a long time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your indulgence. I beg to submit. Thank you.

3.36

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Dr Makame for your proposal. I hope that the Chair of the Council will consider it. She has just left the sitting but still have the CTC with us who will inform the Chair Council.

Honourable Members, the motion on the floor is that, This Assembly do resolve to commend Senior Staff of the Assembly for successfully concluding their tenure in the service of the Community.

The debate is now open. The Members will give their submissions as follows -

Hon Kim Gai, Hon Dr. Siranda, Hon Mary Mugenyi and then Hon Falhada.

Let us start with Hon Dr. Siranda.

3.37

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Right, Honourable Speaker, I thank Honourable Makame for this very timely motion. When people offer service, it is important to appreciate them. As members of Parliament, our role and mandate can never become a reality without the support of the technical people.

We do a lot of talking, generate a lot of ideas, but these ideas are aligned to the mandate of our Treaty and to our rules by the staff. Specifically, a lot of work is done through the committees. All the people enumerated, specifically when you talk about Mr Alfred Tugume, my own clerk assistant, Asheri Wimile, Ms Anastacia Mbeba and Mr Ezekiel Migosi, have supported us on a routine basis.

To start with from Mr Migosi, on arrival, the person you are going to be engaging with through the Clerk is going to be Mr Migosi who has been coordinating transportation and all those. When we are going to do training for the games very early in the morning, you will see Mr Migosi and the team. Late in the evening, you call me Migosi and the team. The availability of a person like Migosi and thanks to the framers and those that planned the Assembly, to me as a first-time MP, he was very helpful in terms of making me settle in, taking me here and there without getting lost. Mr Migosi ensured that you have the kind of diplomatic immunity that you deserve. The appreciation to him is timely and required. We wish that if there

is some appreciation as a token that is more than what we are doing in terms of the floor. That would be very helpful.

Hon Dr. Kafumbe, the CTC, as the Attorney General of the House, is a man who never gets annoyed even when you are taking him on. I remember when we were doing the investigation in our Committee, he is a humble man, he will present himself on whether he agrees with you or not, he will smile. You do not know when he is annoyed or not. He will say that is how things move and you find him on the corridor moving as a humble man. He is a very powerful man but you find him just moving around. I think the true definition of people who know where power should be is Dr. Kafumbe. You cannot easily understand that he wields a lot of power and energy. Every time you come with anger, like this is what I want to do, he looks at you and he goes to the interpretation of the Treaty and says something on whether you agree with it or not. You are not sure whether he means to be annoyed or not.

Mr. Speaker, we are losing a person who has offered service and is going somewhere. At a time when we have new Members in the Community that require a bit of that wealth of experience, I wish there would be a way of people who have worked before where they would maybe once in a while meet and share information and all those.

Mr. Speaker, I can speak a lot about Anastacia. When the Commonwealth Presiding Officers and Speakers came to Uganda, I was with you and we were moving along with her. When she is in the games, she is in the games. When she

is in the Hansard, she also excels. She is a person who is full of multi-tasking abilities.

I felt that I would say a few things in appreciation of the service that they have rendered to the Community. We pray that they continue promoting the community wherever they will be, in all aspects, because this has been part of their lives and routine for about 10 years or more. We want to appreciate them. I stand to second the motion in appreciation of all those enumerated. I wish them all the best. The page at EALA or EAC is closed, but when you read the page and finish, you are opening another page. I pray that the new page they have opened on their books and the new chapter will also impact their lives and those they're going to serve and encounter. We will continue meeting and engaging. Let us continue deepening, widening, tightening the integration. I beg to second the Motion.

The Speaker: Thank you for your good contribution, Hon Dr Siranda.

Now we can hear from Hon Mary Mugenyi, then Hon Falhada, and then the Chairpersons of Committees; Hon Francois Uwumukiza and Hon Kennedy Mukulia.

3.43

Ms Mary Rutamwebwa Mugenyi (Uganda): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker. I thank Honourable Makame for bringing this motion that is right and is deserving. I also join others to appreciate and recognise the work that our staff members have done in terms of supporting us to function as an institution. We all have kept alive and functioning through

the dedicated work of our staff. This also applies to the functioning of the entire East African Community, particularly when it comes to Dr. Kafumbe, the CTC, and also the rest of the staff by supporting the legislative organ of the EAC. They have, in many ways, supported the functioning of the EAC. I must say that many of you have done your work with dedication and interest.

You, our staff, have been very approachable, knowledgeable, and you have really guided us when it comes to our work. I must also recognise that it is not always easy to work with Members of Parliament (MPs). Politicians are cantankerous. We are not easy. I recognise that there are times when members would look unappreciative, put you to task, push you against the wall but that is part of our work because our work, our oversight work, also entails that we keep others accountable. Sometimes we overdo it with a lot of zeal. However, at the end of the day, we know that the institution is functioning because of your expertise, because of your knowledge, because of your patience, because of your professionalism. In a way, I would like to say we apologise when we made your work difficult, when we seemed too harsh on you or too hard. That is part of the work hazards.

I would like to recall that many times our CTC really had it rough with us on the floor of Parliament. As a member of the Secretariat, the executive, we put you to task many times. I must congratulate you for keeping your head up and doing your professional work as you are supposed to do it. Congratulations, you have reached the end of your tour of duty with a clean record. Congratulations, Dr Kafumbe. I

wish you all the best in your next place of work, because you are still young. I believe you are not going to retire with the experience, that you have, the kind of skills that you have.

I also want to recall the work of Mr. Kadonya. Mr. Charles Kadonya is an incredible, consistent, very firm worker who sticks to principles. I particularly recall the work that he did from November, 2019 to August 2021, as the acting clerk. Those were not easy times, but he saved through. I congratulate you. And indeed, wish you the best. Same as Mr. Alfred Tugume. Very bright guy. Unfortunately, I have not had a lot of time sitting in the committees where Mr. Tugume has been serving. I think I once sat in the Committee on Communications and Trade just for half a term. But he also worked during the same period when Mr. Kadonya was the acting clerk. Mr. Tugume was the acting deputy clerk. Those were really rough times. You did very well. I congratulate you once again.

When it comes to Mr. Wimile Asheri. As you know, I have worked with you a lot, particularly in the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism, And Natural Resources. Thank you for being an able clerk assistant, always present, providing us with information, and with coolness. I never saw Mr. Wimile losing his temper or anything. Just stays the same. Same as facilitating us when it comes to medical insurance.

Thank you so much. Mr. Migosi, our very able Serjeant-at-Arms, one of the best. He could be one of the senior ones here. Thank you for keeping us safe. The EALA has been doing very well in terms

of our security while we are in session. Those working under you have equally performed. I do not think there are many times when we have complained about the work of the Serjeant-at-Arms department. I wish to congratulate you. Whether you are retiring, like I am about to retire, or not, I wish you all the best.

Madam Anastacia Mbeba, congratulations and very well done. The work of the Hansard is mainly behind the doors. But for one reason or another, apart from you keeping the Hansard, we have been able to interact with you. Particularly when we travel, when we meet in other partner state, you have been visible and helpful, always willing to assist in whichever way we come up. I wish you well too. All the best in your next call of duty. Be good ambassadors of not only EALA, but of EAC. Good luck in your future careers.

I submit, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you very much, Hon Mary. Now it is time to hear from Hon Falhada. After that, we will hear from the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources as well as the Chairperson of the Committee on GP and then Honourable Gladness.

3.52

Ms Falhada Dekow Iman (Kenya): Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving me the floor. I join my colleagues in commending our senior staff for their service. We know that their tour of duty has come to an end. We thank them for the service that they provide for us. As they conclude their service, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Kadonya, whom I happened to

visit in his office when I came into the EAC Headquarters this morning. I found his office in a mess. At that time, I had not seen the Order Papers so I did not know that he was clearing to leave. I am grateful and I thank God that I met him before he left.

I also extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Asheri, Mr. Ezekiel Migosi and Ms. Anastacia Mbeba for their outstanding contribution to the East Africa Legislative Assembly and East Africa Community at large. Your commitment, your leadership, your unwavering dedication have left lasting impact. You served with honour and your effort have strengthened our region integration journey. Your commitment is notable. I wish you all the best, especially Mr. Kadonya for the two and a half years that I have known you, I have learnt that you are very humble person. I wish all the best to the rest as well in your next chapters. Your legacy will continue to inspire those who will follow. I wish you all the best. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, Hon Falhada. Now, let us hear from Françoise.

3.59

Ms Françoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for this great consideration for me to add my voice recognising the staff members whose names have been mentioned in the Motion by Honourable Dr. Makame. I also commend his timely motion and I support the content of the motion as we move forward in recognising all the names that are mentioned. In particular, Mr. Kadonya, who we have been together with from the Fourth EALA. I would like

to state that he has been supporting me by sharing with me, the decision of the Council of Ministers that he helped me to cope quickly with the other proceedings and other happenings of the Community. I acknowledge this and I thank him for that.

I would like to also appreciate Mr. Tugume, who have been meeting in some committee. I really appreciate his support. Always smiling and wise. Not willing to commit errors, but also supporting and also his wisdom is also acknowledged.

My sister, Anastacia, thank you very much for your support, for your energy as a woman. She has been supporting us in terms of games and the HANSARD. I recall the time when I joined the Fourth EALA, Ms. Anastacia could not get well whenever I made my contributions on the HANSARD. We had to meet again for me to clarify because we used to receive the transcripts and sign them. We no longer receive our transcripts but I wanted to acknowledge her tough work especially transcribing us, Members of the Assembly from Francophone countries because it was not easy to capture our English. Thank you very much for that and your resilience for us. It made us grown, study well and we have improved. Ms Anastacia recently told me that my English has improved a lot. I thank her for that encouragement and support.

I would like to appreciate the CTC also. The CTC has been working very well. He is calm and wise as it was mentioned by previous colleagues. It has been mentioned that he does not take a decision without reflecting like seven times. It is a quality that we have to appreciate for a CTC. For a decade, these dedicated

individuals have served with commitment, sharing the vision, and also the progress of the East African Legislative Assembly and the EAC. They have worked for the Community through their offices. They have also served the citizens of the EAC and the other organs and institutions. They are to be commended and their collective contributions have strengthened not only the organs and institutions, but also ourselves as humans.

On behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources (ATNR), allow me to commend an exceptional individual, Mr. Asheri Wimile, has been with us from the time when I was just a Member of that Committee. When I became the Chairperson of the Committee on ATNR, he has been really a resourceful person with his legal knowledge, but also with calmness and being a reverend pastor. Some Members do not know this, Mr. Asheri is a Reverend Pastor. I took advantage of that whenever I encountered trouble. It was such a privilege working with him.

As I wind up...

The Speaker: We had our event on Tuesday, this week, we all agreed that Mr. Wimile should be promoted very soon to be a Bishop because he is beyond being just a Pastor.

Ms Françoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, thank you very much for the information. I take it and I appreciate.

Mr. Asheri has been a pillar of dedication, resilience and excellence in his service to this Assembly, especially to the committee on Agriculture, Tourism and

Natural Resources. In his service to this Assembly, his role as a clerk has been marked by unwavering commitment to the committee mandate and also ensuring our work was moved forward. That's how to see our committee was vibrant and we hope we continue also to be vibrant because we continue to seek from his guidance. Not here, but we keep in touch for sure. He has been impactful and forward looking. We hope that you will prepare a handover report for the in-coming Chairperson so that they can continue on the path that you have constructed. We will continue to support you and the Committee. The Committee has been navigating complex issues, however, we have been supported with clarity and precision.

Besides his professional duties, Mr. Asheri has exemplified humility and faithfulness. I wish him well in all of his endeavours. As a reverend pastor, he has brought a unique blend of compassion and integrity to his work, fostering collaboration and inspiring those around him to strive for excellence. His result-orientated achievement and his resilience spirit has been a source of strength to all of us.

Mr Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism Agriculture and Natural resources and the entire East African Legislative Assembly, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Asheri for his outstanding job. I congratulate all the senior staff mentioned in the Motion and the CTC for their work. We pass our deepest gratitude for their decades of service and wish them well. I wish Mr Kadonya and the other staff members profound success, joy and fulfilment in their next endeavor. Thank you very much.

The Speaker: Thank you, honourable Francoise, now let us hear from honourable Kennedy

4.01

Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I want to begin by this quote from Dr. Seuss that says,

‘Do not cry because it is over, smile because it happened.’

This quote, simplifies a heartfelt and uplifting for perfect persons where we celebrate someone’s journey and honouring the bonds that we shared with them. I thank the Mover of the Motion for making it possible for us to appreciate the services offered to this Community by a very diligent staff that are leaving. As we say, how lucky I am to have something that makes and that says goodbye so hard in times of this moment.

Right, Honourable Speaker, let me begin by appreciating the Counsel to the Community (CTC). He has been one of the persons that as honourable Mary said, be harsh, but he has the composure and the humility to respond to you in the way he feels is right. He dedicated his life to this Community for long. Looking at the cases that the community has won, it is all because of the service of the CTC. We take this time to appreciate the work that he has done.

Let me say something about Mr Kadonya. He is not one of the people who appear in the front, he is always behind. In fact, most of the food that is cooked and that we are eating is through the service of Mr. Kadonya. He has been a steady person;

someone that is reliable whom you can ask for information from and he will provide it for you. I will give an example of the FY2024/2025 budget, when it was considered, in Zanzibar. Things that are not good were happening in Zanzibar. Mr Kadonya could call me and ask me to help. How would ask, “How do we do this?”. He is someone who you can always rely on if you need factual information, because he knows what he is doing.

Anastacia is a lady that had worked hard tirelessly. You remember that even our Hansard had problems including issues of printing. However, she was able to keep that docket moving until when she started helping the Speaker. She has been multitasking and we appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, one person that I also want to appreciate and say thank you to is Mr. Wimile. Fortunately, I happen to have also Chaired the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges. He has always provided the Committee with the guidance that is required. In fact, I talk like a lawyer, because he taught me what to do. Mr Wimile guided the Committee very well. [I the time that I was a member of that Committee, we produced a lot of reports that were adopted. We had so many sittings that the committee was able to undertake. None of our reports faced any backlash from the House, and that goes to him. I know Mr Wimile as a very good pastor. He always puts God first in all his endeavours, but nevertheless, he has been someone who is reliable.

Mr. Speaker, allow me also say this about Mr. Alfred Tugume, who has been the Committee Clerk for the Committee on General Purpose. I met Tugume as a

member of the Committee on General Purpose, I think, way back in the year 2017. We have worked together for about seven to eight years now. Colleagues, friends, I want to say that together, we gather not to say indeed goodbye to Mr. Alfred, but to offer our heartfelt thanks to a man whose quiet diligence, unwavering commitment, and remarkable institutional memory have shaped the fabric of our work as a Committee on General Purpose.

Alfred has been more than a Committee Clerk. He has been a steward of processes, a guardian of parliamentary integrity, and a trusted companion to all of us. With his patience and precision, he has supported countless the Committee on General Purpose. The Committee on General Purpose under his stewardship, has had a number of motions, number of bills. In fact, all the supplementary bills, all the appropriation bills that this Assembly passed since the inception is under the stewardship of Mr. Tugume. We must say that he supported countless Committee meetings that have taken place, ensuring that they just do not cover the minutes, but capture precisely what the mission states at course.

His work behind the scenes also has helped us turn policy into purpose, as well as our dialogues in the committee into what we call tangible progress. He worked very, very well with his assistants, that is the committee assistants including Olivia and Elizabeth in shaping the committee work. Those of us who had had this privilege of working with him closely know him very well. Alfred brings calm when the situation is chaotic. When you match Alfred and Kennedy, I think everybody thinks this will... I do not want to mention, but indeed

that is a combination of the Committee on General Purpose.

Alfred also brings clarity to issues that are complex. One word you can recall from him is when he will tell you that without fear of contradiction, that is the term he always uses, without fear of contradiction, I want to say this. And then courtesy to every conversation, navigating, of course, industrial reforms, alliance across all the sectors and dedicated agendas of his professionalism. Indeed, Alfred, your departure leaves a notable void, but more than that, it leaves a legacy, one of respect, of humility, and a life of service to the EAC corporation and accountability. We will miss your wisdom, warmth and unwavering presence.

As you move to your next endeavor, may the same dedication and grace that defined your journey here light the path ahead. We will miss your wisdom, your warmth, and your unwavering presence. With deep sense of appreciation and with a very good wish from the Committee on General Purpose, we bid to all those who are leaving us a farewell, not with the finality, but with the hope that our paths will one day cross.

Right Honourable Speaker, thank you so much. However, I would like to amend the Motion that the Honourable Makame brought. You will understand that in many of the institutions that are intergovernmental, staff do not retire. I do not know why staff retire at the EAC. They will have retired at the appropriate age, probably at the age of 60, or at the age of 65, or at the age of 70. It is the politicians who have term limits. I do not understand why there are term limits for services of

staff that are serving the Community. We keep on losing people and we are not filling the positions. We are losing institutional memory. There is a need for this Assembly to resolve that this issue of staff serving on contracts of two terms should not exist. The staff should serve until their retirement age. We are losing almost seven people. We will not replace the seven people in two or three years from now. That affects the continuity and the institutional memory of the community. This motion might not serve the current staff, but in future, we need to make sure that we are able to remove the issue of term limits for technical staff. I know the reason given is that, you know, people should serve and let other East Africans to join the Community and that we do not have enough space. But of course, they will continue to join as the staff are kept there.

This issue of professional staff retiring because of term limits is strange. I have never heard about it in my entire life. It does not happen in other institutions similar to the EAC; the European Union, the United Nations, other regional economic blocs, you name it, IGAD, SADC, ICAS, Sunset, UMA, ECOWAS, COMESA and many others have no retirement. The retirement of staff members after two terms should be removed. If the Mover can accept that, also we resolve that this issue of terminal contract, for the staff, for two terms, should be removed. I think that would be a very welcome resolution.

I thank you so much. Right, Honourable Speaker.

4.12

Dr. Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania): Mr Speaker, I thank you for

this opportunity. I appreciate Dr. Makame, for bringing this very important Motion. I was really touched when I saw the Motion. I was shocked somehow because I never expected it coming because both Mr. Wimile and Mr. Kadonya have been very supportive to me as a new member of parliament. I wished they could be here until my time ends with the EALA. We appreciate the opportunity that we have had to work with them. We thank God for that. We have to accept.

Mr Kadonya and Mr. Wimile, from this group of people that have been mentioned in this Motion have had a very direct interaction and experience with them. As they move to their new opportunities, I know they are going to move to the new opportunities because they are very strong and capable. They have all that it takes for someone to need them because they can add value wherever they are. I want just to express my sincere gratitude to them for the warm welcome that they extended to me when I first joined the EALA. Starting a job and quite different from what I was doing before was not easy. However, their readiness to help, their kindness, their guidance, their patience and willingness to help so that I navigate all the ropes of the new job really made my transition so smooth. I felt useful even at the very early days of my time at EALA. I really, appreciate their support and the positive impact that they have brought into my experience here in EALA because it was not easy. The change was quite significant from just being an academician and then you come to a very different ground.

I really appreciate Mr Kadonya and Mr Wimile because they carried me with care, kindness and patience. They really held

my hands. Whenever I asked for help, even at awkward times, checking their inbox, asking for this or that, they were always there for me. I really appreciate that. I know their dedication and their leadership, their commitment, their kindness, their positive attitude we will be missed while we are still here at EALA. I just want to wish them all the best. May they have good health, long life, more fruitful life that they deserve.

Thank you so much, Mr. Kadonya and Mr Wimile. Thank you. Right Honourable speaker.

4.15

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Mr Speaker, I did not want to speak but I feel it will be a disservice to our staff who are exiting service for me not to say something starting from the CTC, Mr. Kadonya, Asheri, Alfred, Ezekiel, and Anastacia. I take this opportunity to extend my profound appreciation to all of you for your excellent service to the Community. As the saying goes, there is time for everything. There is a time when you joined the Community. There is a time when we met you.

The first time I met most of you was in 2017 when I joined the Fourth EALA. It was my first to serve as a legislator. I relied on all of you a lot to learn about parliamentary work. They have all been pillars to my work in parliament. We thank you for your technical and professional acumen. It is something that is so much desired. We shall always remember you for your contribution.

The CTC, we thank you for your support to the Community. Your counsel has

been supportive to us, especially during the legislative matter, but also on any controversial matter in the Assembly. Wherever I we could not agree, you would come in and you are always there. You were also supportive and your office to the work of our Committees.

In particular, I would like to appreciate Mr. Kadonya. As already said, he has been an institutional memory to EALA and I think the Community. Every information you want, whether it is about the Council, the EALA laws or anything else, he really has that understanding. He has been supportive and approachable, but also firm in doing what is right.

I would also like to, in a special way, to appreciate Mr. Wimile. I worked with him when I was the Chairperson of Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges. When you are not a lawyer, facilitating meetings with people who are learned. I think I learned a lot for him. As it has already been said, despite the professional competence, he also has the personality of calmness even when you do not agree on issues, he was always there to support and guide. I thank you and wish you all the best in your next endeavor.

The same applies to Ms. Alfred. The first time I worked with Ms. Alfred was at the time when we had been assigned by the EALA Commission the duty to draft the strategic Plan for the period between 2019-2024. The strategic plan that he ended last year was drafted by a team of some of our members, including myself and Mr. Asheri was leading on the technical team. I can attest to his competence, intelligence and wisdom, as well as his excellent writing skills. Of course, English is not

our language, but I think he is really good. Today, I worked with him the Committee on General Purpose and I learnt a lot about matters of vigilance, but also his character of firmness and also integrity, as already alluded to.

I also want to appreciate Mr Ezekiel Migosi for ensuring that we are secure in the deliberation of our work and Ms Anastacia, the Hansard reporter, for your critical role you played in facilitating our games and also supporting our Speaker as the assistant.

Mr Speaker, with those many remarks, I wish you all the best in the next endeavours. Thank you. You are leaving an indelible mark. We hope that you will always be goodwill ambassadors for the Assembly and come back to support the Community in different ways.

4.20

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Right Honourable Speaker, I am sorry for coming back, but I have a message from the Chairman of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges, specifically for the Committee Clerk, Mr Asheri Wimile that has been very supportive to the Committee.

A specific message to appreciate Mr Wimile as he leaves. We saw him spend a lot of sleepless nights. It is very difficult to say goodbye but we know that the stronger ones always say goodbye at the hardest point and a new hello will open. The new hello for Mr Wimile will be the sleepless nights he spent in both Nairobi and Arusha with the team, specifically during the Committee investigation for the issues within EAC, specifically the disposal of assets and the investigation on

the Peace Fund. He will only say a new hello to his face when the tireless work he put in that report is laid in the House for the Community because we interacted with a lot of community members, members of the community, those who are crying, having spent their money and resources taken to the banks of within and up to now, the hopes of those members of the East African Community lie within Parliament and its representative.

Mr Speaker, we believe that a lot of the work was done. Wimile will smile when he leaves after we have said a lot of good things but a lot of the work, he put his hands and mind on with a lot of calmness come to reality and be presented in the House and recommendation to the Council and the Community are taken into action.

Mr Speaker, as the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges, we thought that that it is very important for us to keep the good works that Mr Wimile put tireless efforts put in the Community to become a reality so that they do not go and die. We thought on behalf of Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges, we say those words as we bid farewell to our Clerk, Mr Wimile, who was very helpful and who taught us hard work despite agreement.

The Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges is about laws and a bit of argument and a bit of order. Mr Wimile is also going at a time we have not been in position to lay our reports specifically on the new rules of procedure. We pray that a lot of the work left uncompleted, the work which was completed that requires to be laid on the floor but one which was also completely specific around the rules of procedure, under your leadership, will

become a reality. We continue to wish him well in the new chapter and where he is going.

On behalf of the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges, I beg to second the Motion while also supporting the earlier submissions of Honourable Kennedy.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Dr Siranda. Right, Honourable Speaker.

I will give the floor to two more Members and then we will stop there.

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Mr Speaker, Sir, I would also like to contribute . I have been having network problems.

The Speaker: Honourable Akol, you will speak after Honourable Victor Burkukiye and then we shall stop there.

4.25

Ms James Sebit Sadia (South Sudan): Thank you, Honourable Speaker for giving me this opportunity. I take this opportunity to convey my heartfelt appreciation to all of them, you know, for the wonderful work they have served the Community with and also served with integrity. We thank them for the positive encounters that I had with them. I really appreciate and I wish them all the best in their next endeavor. I urge them to go out and light the candle of the EAC in wherever they will be.

I also urge them that at their free time they should also, write books about the beauty and diversity of the Community. With the wealth of experience they have acquired in the Community, it will be good if they can utilise their free time to inculcate, the

spirit of the Community to the younger generations. I believe that there is so much for them to do as they have served the Community diligently.

Mr Alfred Tugume, we, the Members of the Committee on CTI really appreciate you for your constructive intervention, especially for us, new members. Whenever we visited partner states for committee work, he always ensured that we had constructive intervention to help us new members. We really appreciate. I wish that our Chairperson of the Committee on CTI had an opportunity too express his heartfelt appreciation for the wonderful work of Mr Tugume. With that, I do not have much more to say. I wish them the very best of life.

Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

4.27

Mr Victor Burikukiye (Burundi): Thank you, right Honourable Speaker for the floor granted. I thank the Mover, Honourable Dr Makame, for the timely Motion that he has brought before the House.

I join my colleagues who have spoken before me. I express my sincere gratitude for the tremendous work accomplished by our senior staff members that are exiting the service of the Community. I thank them for the accomplishment. As a Member of Parliament of the EALA, I am very cognisant of their contribution. I cannot find proper words to acknowledge the work that they have achieved.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, our best senior staff, Dr. Kafumbe, Mr Kadonya, Mr. Wimile, my good friend Alfred Tugume, Mr. Migosi and Ms. Anastasia, have offered their best

to the Community. They have tirelessly worked day and night, making sure everything is done in the best way. Their dedication and commitment for the EAC will have an indelible mark. I wish that their talent and expertise will be useful elsewhere in other capacities. I wish them all the best. I support the motion.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Victor. Now, Honourable Rose.

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Right Honourable Speaker from the onset, I support this motion. I also thank the mover of the motion for the timing of this motion.

I really appreciate our staff for the great work they have done for the Assembly. I concur with all that has been said by colleagues, but also to add that it is a very trying moment for the Assembly. Most of our experienced staff are leaving, and we have just a few, yet even the recruitment process is yet to take shape for the replacement of our experienced staff.

Right Honourable Speaker, to work in an institution like Parliament, there is nowhere where people are trained to come and work in this kind of institution. Someone comes from whatever background, you still have to learn. There is a learning process to understand how Parliament works, both for members of Parliament and staff. It is really very absurd that it is an institution like EAC that trains the experienced professional staff allows them to only work for two terms of 10 years only.

(Loss of connectivity)

The high turnover of staff members that there is always on the learning curve. The learning curve for members of Parliament creates a very difficult situation. Things must change. I appeal to the authorities; the Council and the Summit, for this kind of happenings to stop where we are churning out the most experienced brain in the name of our staff who are now leaving Parliament.

Right Honourable Speaker, at the moment, I just want also to add my voice in lamenting the loss of our senior staff members.

(Loss of connectivity)

Ms Françoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Mr. Speaker, we cannot follow.

The Speaker: Honourable Akol, can you hear us?

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Right Honourable Speaker I say a big thank you to our staff of Parliament. In conclusion, I would like to add my voice to that of the rest of my colleagues in wishing our members of staff well. Wherever they go, they should go with their heads high because they are the best.

(Loss of connectivity)

They have done all they could the Community.

The Speaker: Honourable Akol, thank you, for your contribution. However, it has not been easy for us to follow your contribution due to network problems.

Honourable members, I do not know if the Seconder is still around. Honourable Kim Gai, are you still with us? If he is not with us, I will allow the Mover to respond to the debate.

4.34

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, for allowing this motion to take place and for allowing this Motion to take place in the honour and respect of our colleagues who are soon departing the services of the Assembly and the Community, as we name them, the oldest member of the House; Dr. Antony Kafumbe, our brother, and Senior Clerk Assistant, Mr. Charles Ngeleja Kadonya, Mr. Alfred Tugume, Mr Asheri Michael Wimile, Mr Ezekiel Migosi and Ms Anastacia Mbeba.

Mr. Speaker, I was very lucky to work with these colleagues very closely during my time at the Assembly. I can attest to what all of the Members have said. We will miss them a lot. We wish them all the best.

Mr. Speaker, I will not prolong the debate because the Motion has been debated so we are just concluding and winding up. I appreciate the Members who took time to contribute and I will also appreciate the members who did not contribute but they were willing to contribute but could not do so because of time.

First, I appreciate my brother, Honourable Kim Gai who seconded the motion but was not here, the Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution, the Secretary General, Honourable Dr. Siranda Blacks. I appreciate my sister, Honourable

Mary Mugenyi, the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture, Tourism and Natural Resources, Honourable Françoise Uwumukiza, the Committee which I also happened to chair at one time with Mr Asheri Wimile as our Committee Clerk.

I thank the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose, my Chairperson in the Committee which I serve. I also thank the colleague from the Republic of Kenya, Honourable Falhada, Honourable Dr. Gladness Salema, Honourable Mashaka Ngole, the Chairperson of the Committee on Legal Rules and Privileges, Her Excellency, Honourable Fatuma Ntangiza, a member of the Commission, she also chaired the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges as well as the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Solution so she also worked closely with these colleagues.

As I mentioned earlier, I am here with Honourable Machano and Honourable Najra, they wanted to contribute but because they saw the time was running out, they decided not to contribute to the Motion. However, I recognise their presence and their intention to do so. I also recognize the Chairperson of the CTI who also indicated to me that he would have contributed. I also recognise and appreciate the contribution in the debate by Honourable Sadia James Sebit, my brother, Honourable Victor Burikukiye and Honourable Rose Akol Okullu.

Mr. Speaker, those are the members who contributed. There are many other members who wanted to contribute but because we are running out of time and that they would have addressed the same matters, decided not to. We will miss our

colleagues very much. I wish them all the best. We thank you because we know you are also wishing them all the best.

I beg to submit.

4.39

Ms Françoise Uwumukiza (Rwanda): Mr. Speaker, I have a clarification. If you can recall, there were some proposed amendments to this Motion. I have not heard from the Mover if they were taken on board, especially the amendments proposed by the Chairperson of the Committee on GP. He proposed that there should be no time limit for staff serving until they reach their retirement age.

4.40

Dr. Abdulla Hasnuu Makame (Tanzania): Thank you very much, Honourable Françoise Uwumukiza .

Mr. Speaker, there was an error of omission, I had noted that there is a proposed amendment from my chairperson, Honourable Kennedy Ayasason Mukulia. He proposed a very good amendment. He proposed to the Council that there should be no term limits for the members of staff. He proposed that the term limit should be waived so that we retain staff to the maximum age they can serve because we need the institutional memory. We do not have a great number of staff because we are seeing our staff moving to other regional blocs to offer better service there because we train the staff for them. If we could maintain our staff members and get the better services ourselves, that would have been better for the Community.

Mr. Speaker, that amendment is very important and we take note of it. I will

communicate with the Chairperson of the Committee on GP so that we get a good formulation to insert in the amended motion. The motion stands amended and will be amended accordingly. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker. There are comments from members who did not get the floor, but they have written their submissions on the platform. They have written that we have to remind the Council to scrap off the issue of term limits for staff members. Honourable Odongo has written that he would like to add his voice to congratulate our staff. They have been extremely diligent. Honourable Aisha Nyiramana has written that she wishes them all the best. Honourable Kayonga also wishes the exiting staff all the best.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the members who have contributed on the Zoom platform and all those who have contributed physically. I also thank all those who did not contribute. Every Member has enjoyed and benefited from the services of these members of staff who contributed very well to the Assembly and to each member at a personal level. I would like the HANSARD to record that every Member of the House appreciates and commends the services of these individuals who are exiting the service of the Community.

I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Member, it is now time to put the Question.

Honourable members, the motion of the floor is that this Assembly do resolve to commend the senior staff of the assembly for successfully concluding their tenure in the service of the Community.

(Question put and agreed to)

Honourable members, before I adjourn this Sitting, I would like to say something about the report of the Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges (LRP). I want everyone, every Member, to know that I have never and will never refuse to allow this House to debate the report. The cost involved in production of the report was more than \$200,000.

I have been in support that this report should be debated from the beginning. We were all in Kampala and it became apparent that debating the report was bringing issues. Some members were willing to go out and deny the Assembly quorum. We had an urgent meeting of the Commission where we concluded that consultations should continue so that we could get a harmonised report and debate.

I went to Nairobi physically to meet the Chairperson of the Counsel and the Kenyan Chapter Members of EALA to remind them and to insist again that they should consult with the Tanzanian Chapter. We had Members from Kenya in the Committee of the LRP. I told the Minister, the Chair Council that she could also consult with her counterpart from Tanzania. My wish was that we should debate that report during this plenary session.

Honourable Members and Ministers, please consult. It has been six months. If you have not finalised these consultations, please do it. And I am willing to get this on the Order Paper. It is one of my priorities. I would feel guilty if I was opposed to the debating of the report. I am not obstructing the report by the Committee on LRP. I

wish the report could be debated. Please help me. What I do not want is to debate a report that will divide the House. That is why I say please continue your consultations and give the House a chance to debate the report. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

Honourable members, I adjourn the house to Monday, 7th July, 2025, at 2.30pm. Have a pleasant evening.

(House adjourned at 4.48 p.m. to Monday 7th July 2025 at 2.30 p.m.)

