



THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

THE EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

54TH SITTING – 2ND MEETING – 3RD SESSION - 5TH ASSEMBLY

Thursday, 10th July, 2025

*The East African Legislative Assembly
met at 2.50 p.m. virtually*

*Financial Year ended 30th June, 2022, be
adopted.”*

PRAYER

(Business interrupted on 7th July, 2025)

*(The Speaker, Hon. Ntakirutimana
Joseph, in the Chair)*

(The Assembly was called to order.)

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIR

The Speaker: Good afternoon Honourable Members. I have been informed that the Committee on General Purpose (GP) have just concluded their report. I therefore propose that we move to the next Order on the Order Paper so that we give them time to finalize the report.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS ON THE AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE, 2022

*“THAT, the Report of the Committee on
Accounts on the Audited Accounts for the*

The Speaker: The Chairperson of the Committee on Account had presented the report and members had debated. However, the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers was not able to reply and she requested to reply today. With this, I give the floor to the Chairperson of the Council. Thereafter, will give the floor to the Chairperson of the Committee to respond before I put the Question.

Honourable Members, the motion on the floor of the motion on the floor was that the report of the Committee on Account on the audited account for the FY ended 30th June 2022.

I give the floor to the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers to reply.

2.56

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 cannot hear you clearly.

The Speaker: Honourable chair, you remember that we couldn't put the question to the board because the chair of the Council of Ministers had requested to reply today. So I am giving the floor to the Honourable Minister to reply and then I will come to you and after you, I have to put the question. I am giving the floor to Honourable Minister to reply and then I will come to you and after you, I have to put the question Honourable Chair of the Committee on Account.

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, you are not loud enough but I assume you are asking me to respond on the current status of implementation of the previous audit recommendations?

The Speaker: Yes.

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, is that the one you want me to speak to?

The Speaker: Yes.

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, as I said in the course of the week that I was waiting for the Council to convene because I was to rely on the confirmation of the figures put here in terms of the percentage from the older members of the EAC Council of Ministers to agree with me. As I said I am only six months old in the ministry. I wanted some confirmation from the older members of the Council to confirm the implementation because the report dates back to FY2021/2022.

Allow me to confirm that we did not convene as the Council of Ministers. We made two attempts to have the Council deliberate on this, but it never came to pass. Allow me to let the Secretary General (SG) to speak into this just to confirm, in that respect, issue number one.

The Speaker: Honourable SG, if you are with us, you have the floor. If she is not around, the CTC can speak.

2.57

Counsel to the Community, EAC (Hon. Dr. Anthony L. Kafumbe): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker. The rate of implementation has improved tremendously. The most recent data was presented during the statutory audit of the Financial Year 2023/2024, and that report is available and is pending before you for consideration. The performance figures have gone up and Right Honourable Speaker, the subsequent reports we are going to consider, the Committee is going to consider, is going to give you a clear

picture. We appreciate that this report was done in 2022 and therefore the figures, at the time that were considered, have improved even in the reports, the subsequent reports that the same Committee is going to consider subsequently.

Right Honourable Speaker, I wish to submit that the figures are okay and that there has been an improvement. I thank you for your patience. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Chair of Council, do you feel comfortable with the response? I hope that you have agreed. The Committee will look into the figures, if needed. I will now give the Floor to the Chairperson of the Committee on Accounts to respond.

3.00

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Procedure, Right Honourable Speaker. Regarding the questions that were asked to the Council, I think it is not only that question regarding the implementation of the previous recommendation. There were other crucial questions that were raised to the Council, including, why the submission of a report of audited accounts to the Assembly is delayed. Report of audited accounts to the Assembly is delayed. We already have two audited reports pending. We are now considering FY2021/2022. The FY2021/2022. The audited reports of the FYs 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 are still pending.

We need to get a commitment from the Council on how and which strategy they are going to use to make sure that we catch up with those two reports which are in between. We should be parallel with

the audited report of the current financial year to what the budget implementation of the same year is talking about. This is very crucial and we need the Council to pronounce itself on this matter.

Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

3.02

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Right Honourable Speaker, I also have three questions with regard to the regulatory framework that we have currently, which is weak, and the measures that I requested the Council to enhance our financial regulatory framework. One of the questions I asked was, when they are bringing to Parliament the Financial Management Act for the EAC? Two, how far the Anti-Corruption Bill has gone with regard to signing it into law because we passed a Bill for an anti-corruption and an integrated Bill. Thirdly, is to do with the issues of the queries from the Auditor General, I also make reference to the fact that our Member States normally have a report they call the Treasury Memorandum which is presented to Parliament annually and that report seeks to answer, the position of the executive on audit queries. I request Council, whether we can also have a similar document that Council will annually present to Parliament on the status of their compliance or otherwise of the audit queries that have been raised and how far they have gone with answering those audit queries or ensuring that institutions comply. I remember I asked those three questions. I hope they were transmitted to the Council of Ministers because those are the things we expect the Council Chair to answer. Thank you.

3.03

The Speaker: Honourable Chair, you have the floor.

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Procedure, Right Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Members, let us give the floor to the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers to respond to these concerns raised by Honourable Rutazana and Honourable Akol Rose and then we will go to the Chair of the Committee.

Honourable Chair of the Council of Ministers, you can proceed.

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, allow me to say this for the record. These are questions that are supposed to be agreed upon as a Council, so that I have the legitimacy to speak on a consensus based opinion. We never got to meet and to agree with each and every one.

I propose that the Assembly puts every recommendation they would want us to speak into so that we convene a meeting that would also represent that would consolidate what we would forward before the Assembly. I request the Assembly to give the recommendations of each and every thing that they would want us to speak into so that we have time again to consult, including the personal set of opinion, on all the concerns that have been raised by the Members of the Assembly. I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Chair.

Members of the Assembly contributed on Monday. All the issues they have raised, can be taken to your office as a Chair, and then, as you said, share them with your colleagues, Members of our House, so that we get an appropriate answer. This is what I have understood, and should be given all of your concerns and contributions that were made when we debated this report from the Committee on accounts. With this...

3.07

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Information, Right Honourable Speaker. The Account Committee, prepared a paper which has summarised the concerns raised through the debate and which is addressing all questions that Members wanted the Council to respond to. The paper was submitted, if I am not mistaken, to the CTC. We are expecting to have the response from that paper, which we already have. The CTC is supposed to have submitted that paper to the Council. The debate from the Assembly should not be like a game we are playing. Those are serious issues. We need a commitment from the Council. We expect some commitment from the Council to respond to those questions. Otherwise, I do not see the value of the time and the resources we are using when we are doing our work. Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

Ms Mary Rutamwebwa Mugenyi (Uganda): Mr Speaker, Sir, I believe that the explanation that the Honourable Rutazana has just given really cancels my contribution as a member of the Accounts Committee. She made it clear that the issues have already been raised and submitted to Council. I discourage opening the debate once again to the Members to debate

on this same issue that we have already pronounced ourselves on. Given the time that we have, we do not have the time really for many debates. This is not the usual regular National Parliament where things can be referred to and you have more time and you can come to it because it is full time. I was also going to add that should there be anything that is not included in the list of issues raised by the Members of the Accounts Committee, let individual Members submit them through the Clerk so that they can be transmitted onwards to the Council of Ministers. I submit to the Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable Mathias, you will be the last to speak?

3.10

Amb Mathias Harabemungu (Rwanda): Right Honourable Speaker, I wanted to compliment my Honourable Colleague. Our debate is on the Hansard. Every intervention was recorded. Why should the Committee have a kind of handout submitted to the Chairperson of the Council again?

Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: The CTC, did you not transmit the issues to the Chair?

As I said before, the debate has been closed. If there is anything that we contribute, it may be taken to the Chair. As Honourable Mary Mugenyi and Mathias have said, if any Member has any other things to share with the Council of Ministers, they can do it via the Office of the Clerk.

Let us now give the Chair of the Committee the floor so that he can reply.

Honourable Mundela, you may proceed.

3.11

Mr Joseph Mundela Mbombo (DRC): Honourable Speaker, after all these contributions, it is time for me to conclude. I appreciate the following Members for their great contributions made towards the report of the Committee on Accounts; Honourable Gladness Salema, Honourable Amb. Mathias Harebamungu, Honourable Amb. Fatouma Ndaginza, Honourable Clement Musangabatware, Honourable Caroline Kayonga, Honourable Francine Rutazana, Honourable Olivier Nkurunziza, Honourable Francoise Uwumukiza, Honourable Aisha Nyiramana Honourable Akol Rose, Honourable Dr. Siranda Gerald-Blacks, Honourable Dr. Woda Jeremiah and Honourable Mary Mugenyi. I grateful for the contribution of Her Excellency Beatrice Askul Moe and Honourable Rebecca Kadaga.

The Speaker: I now put the question that the Report of the Committee on Accounts on the Audited Accounts for the Financial Year ended 30th June 2022 be adopted Those in favour, raise your hands.

(Question put and agreed to)

Let us proceed to item No 4 on the Order Paper.

MOTION FOR THE ADOPTION OF
THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE
ON REGIONAL AFFAIRS AND
CONFLICT RESOLUTION ON
IMPLEMENTATION OF EAC
SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICIES

“THAT, the Report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution

on implementation of EAC Security and Foreign Policies, be adopted.”

(Business interrupted on 8th July, 2025)

The Speaker: This business was interrupted on Tuesday, 8th July 2025. The Chairperson of the Committee presented the Report on Foreign and Security Policies and the members had debated in it. The Chairperson of the Council requested to respond today.

I will now give the Chair Council the floor to contribute.

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, your voice is breaking. I was unable to consistently follow you, but I guess you want me to give a response on the Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution on EAC Common Foreign and Security Policies.

Mr. Speaker, would you allow me to appreciate the fact that the Committee has done scrutiny and debate and we as a Council welcome all the recommendations on the report. The Council will ensure that we do thorough consultation on matters that affect our region. This is informed by the fact that I know so far we are having a consultation at the Summit level where the EAC and SADC are putting up a mechanism of dealing with the regional matters on conflict resolution. I request the Assembly to give me time to consult further at the Council. At the same time, we want to incorporate opinions of the broader collaborative effort between EAC

and SADC so that when we present the paper we give resolutions that are well informed and have also taken care of the diversity and the opinion of the entire region.

Mr. Speaker, that is what I would want to really bring forward that may the Assembly continue giving us the recommendations and allow us a bit of time to comprehensively compile more responses with the Secretariat to look at the variable levels that are supposed to be sticking into the resolution that will strengthen our bit of engaging conflict within the region.

I submit, Mr. Speaker.

3.17

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Procedure, Right Honourable Speaker. I understand the challenge that the Chair of Council is facing right now and that is the lack of our colleagues in this meeting and therefore the inability to take decisions outright.

Mr. Speaker, all our Council members are ex-official members of the Assembly. They are supposed to be present in Plenary Sitting. That is what the Assembly was facing and the Summit took a decision then to ensure every Council Member has a deputy and in fact offices were created in Arusha so that their deputies or whoever would be among them would be able to sit in Arusha and have a permanent presence of members of Council in Arusha. Now, we barely see the. Yesterday we had the Honourable Kadaga, today we have her deputy and the rest have not appeared and yet we know those offices have deputies.

Mr. Speaker, we are being delayed as an Assembly. Our issues are not being attended to and especially on very serious issues like matters of the Accounts Committee. It is very disturbing for the Honourable Chair Council to seek more time to consider, first of all to meet with her colleagues and then decisions are taken on reports that are being debated on the floor where they are supposed to be available.

Mr. Speaker, we need the indulgence of Council; Council members, whenever there is a plenary session, they should at least be present so that we do not have these kinds of scenarios because it renders our Assembly redundant. I do not know whether we have a role to play in this Community as an Assembly when even just decisions on a report are referred back. For the Council to meet and consider our decisions is another matter because they have to write first of all, convene, that is three or four months. I do not know whether we are going to get the treatment that we deserve on these matters that we are laying before the Chair Council right now.

The Chairperson of the Council really needs to help us to inform her colleagues that it is important that they are represented during plenary sessions. The Cabinet Minister or the deputies can be in Arusha to help us so that the Assembly can also move as fast as it can on this report. I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Rose. I think all the Members have expressed themselves on the wish to see all the Ministers present during the Committee meetings and during the

plenaries. We hope that the Chair and the Council of Ministers who is here with us has understood that if they are not with us to defend their businesses this Community will fail.

Honourable Chair, I hope that you will talk to your colleagues and inform them that the entire House is requesting for them to be responding physically in the activities of the Committees and the House.

I now give the floor to the Chair of the Committee to reply.

I was just about to put the question but the Chairperson of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution, Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda, has just walked in. Let me give him the floor so can he can respond before I put the question.

3.23

The Chairperson, Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda):

Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker, I am sorry I have come in late because of the many issues that are happening; I was in Nairobi attending to my sick son who is undergoing treatment. However, because of this very important aspect of work, I felt I should be here to join you physically to do responses.

Honourable Speaker, I appreciate the contribution that the Members made. I took clear notes. I want to start by appreciating the contribution by Dr. Makame who said that the United Republic of Tanzania and Zanzibar, have a foreign diaspora policy embedded within the ministry. We appreciate all of that. Just like many of our partner states have got the diaspora

policy embedded within their ministries; they also have diaspora desks. However, we commended the Republic of Kenya and the Republic of Rwanda because they have a whole ministry. What we are recommending is a whole ministry that is charged with matters of diaspora relations. When you look at what they give to the country in terms of returns, in terms of expertise, the medical expertise and all those, and the other countries, specifically we looked at the country, the diaspora people, when they return home, they actually assign them to hospitals, to engineering, so that they do a contribution. All the country does is they just give them a ticket and they lower a Bill so they offer this expertise.

We also appreciate the contribution from Dr. Makame, but the recommendation that we require a ministry in charge of diaspora is very important. We did not say that Tanzania does not have. They have as a policy embedded within, and Uganda has a desk and all the other countries. But Rwanda and Kenya have gone a bit ahead by recognising that as a whole ministry of diaspora, which we appreciate that the report should take.

Honourable Francine, we appreciate your contribution. It is time that the Secretary General does a follow-up with our partner states to find out why these policies or rather protocols, why are they not being ratified? These policies or rather protocols, why are they not being ratified? There is a lot of what we call the sides behind the kitchen cabinet, the engagements that are not formal, so that by the time you come for formalities, you have already done this engagement in terms of finding out what it is. These reports come late. All

the reports come late. I listened when Honourable Francoise asked why these things take long to come. It is not only that. For instance, we are dealing with a report of 2021, 2022, and 2023. We have not even dealt with 2024. We are already in 2025, half the year is already gone. So we appreciate that.

Honourable Mary, was very passionate, even in terms of the Committee. The question of harmonisation, looking at the Vienna Convention, we have ratified a lot of these policies, but sometimes they are not in tandem with the Vienna Convention. We recognise and appreciate that as a Committee, our recommendation is that we do a study to have what we call standardisation and harmonisation within the partner states, so that when a partner state has ratified a particular policy, for instance, the one of immunities, it should apply to all citizens of whatever particular state where they are. If they are in Uganda for instance, if they have ratified the protocol immunity, it should apply to all citizens that are employed and work, even when they are Ugandan. The partner states have ratified this 15 years down the road, but you know that it is not uniformed and not being implemented in some of the other states.

The question on follow-up on URT, it is now 15 years but the country is not giving feedback on whether they appreciate it or not, specifically this one on foreign coordination, the same to the defence pact; there is no feedback. We think that parliament can work with the national parliaments for us to do assessment and maybe follow up with the ministry, so that we find out where is the problem. The Secretariat in presentation, all their hopes

were in Parliament. They said, 'Maybe parliament can help.' Everybody's hope is in parliament, that parliament can push these policies and protocols so that they become a reality. Technical people failed, and they think that parliament has the capacity to do that.

Honourable Speaker for us as a Community, we trust that this Assembly has a duty for them to play in doing this. When you get to the one of disaster, we are finding out where a disaster Bill. It is a prerequisite, according to the Treaty for establishment of the East African Community, for us to have a disaster policy or disaster law. All countries in East Africa have been hit by disaster. So, we think that it is also time. Same with the one of refugees. Some countries have not even given feedback. The UNHCR has supported these processes; perhaps they do not have the funds. We, in the budget, have not allocated any budget specification to this question of refugee management policy. Right roundabout speaker, we host six million refugees in the region. Out of 6 million refugees; 4.5 million come from the region. It means we are manufacturing refugees.

So, the recommendation of the Community is to urges a disaster Bill. It is a prerequisite, according to the Treaty for establishment of East African Community, for us to have a disaster policy or disaster law. All countries in East Africa have been hit by disaster. So, we think that it is also time. Same with the one of refugees. Some countries have not even given feedback. The UNHCR has supported these processes; perhaps they do not have the funds. We, in the budget, we have not allocated any budget specification to this

question of refugee management policy. Right roundabout speaker, we host six million refugees in the region. Out of 6 million refugees; 4.5 million come from the region. It means we are manufacturing refugees. So, the recommendation of the Community is to argue the Council ministers to deal with these issues that cause the refugee influx in the region, but also have a policy and eventually as parliament, we will have a law. The policy guides on how we work, but the law enforces on how we are going to work.

I appreciate the contribution by Honourable Clement Musangabatware. Honourable Kalonzo Musyoka pointed out that when we were in Kampala, last November, President Museveni said that people have gone above the protection of the region. In fact, President Museveni said that people are on the moon. I agree with the Honourable Kalonzo that we cannot be speaking about regional integration when our airspace is not harmonized. We do not have a common law to manage our airspace. The cost of life in this region is the most expensive.

You can fly from Washington, DC to Utah for 10 hours at a cost of US\$200 or US\$190. I flew from DC to Utah with that amount of money. I cannot fly from Kampala to Nairobi, or even to Kigali at US\$400. Sometimes you require US\$400, US\$500 or even US\$600. Once we harmonise our airspace, design the commonalities in terms of how we protect even our moon. The question on security even goes to space. If you do not have the capacity to manage your space, airspace to coordinate and have a common road in terms of harmonisation, we are still lagging behind. I agree with Honourable

Kalonzo that these foreign policy security relations must be formed in order to also manage even US\$400. Sometimes you require US\$400, US\$500 or even US\$600. Once we harmonise our airspace, designed the commonalities in terms of how do we protect even our moon. The question on security even goes to the space. If you do not have capacity to manage your space, airspace to coordinate and have a common road in terms of harmonisation, we are still lagging behind. I agree with Honourable Kalonzo that this foreign policy security relations must be formed in question of also managing where we want to go.

Honourable speaker, I received by writing the contribution and appreciation of the SG as well, who commented on the report in terms of what we have done on the chat she had written. The report in terms of what we have done on the chat she had written. She thinks that this is one way of harmonising and supporting each other in terms of all the EAC organs and sectors to work together. That is the appreciation spirit under which we come as a Committee. Having said all that, I appreciate and commend the contribution of all members.

The Right Honourable Kadaga agreed and committed to a mechanism to ensure the actualization of everything that is always assigned or ratified. The mechanism to track or make sure that there is enforcement of whatever ratification of this policy, is an area where we need to think through and make sure that whatever our countries are ratified. We do not only stop, where the Article 59 assigns us to do. Our role is only to assess what has happened. If we do not have a way beyond that, how do we make sure that if we have assessed

something in the last report, the same things have come up. How do we make sure that as people's representative, we go beyond just assessing and coming to the problem so that may be under face-to-face engagement, there is details in terms of implementation and where we are so that the Council can present to this House, the detailed implementation structure and plan and progress of where we have gone with this initiative. If we do that, we will be on the right track.

Honourable Speaker, I appreciate the contribution by Honourable Mary Mugenyi. She agreed with the report entirely. I appreciate the contribution of Honourable Dr. Makame, thank you so much for the contribution. The Honourable Kalonzo Kennedy, thank you for the contribution. The Honourable Ndangiza Fatuma, thank you for the contribution. The Honourable Francine Rutazana, thank you for the contribution. The Right Honourable Rebecca Kadaga, thank you for the contribution. The Honourable Secretary General, thank you for the contribution. The Honourable Chair of Council, thank you for the contribution.

I appreciate the following Members of our Committee; the Honourable Bigirimana Goreth, Honourable Karerwa Mo-Mamo, the Honourable Manirambona Anastase, Honourable Ewanga Is'ewanga Iwoka Jean Bertrand, Honourable Kalala Kwete Evariste, Honourable Hassan Omar, Honourable Zipporah Kering, Honourable Shahbal Suleiman Said, Honourable Amb Matthias Harebamungu, Honourable Nyiramana Aisha, who stepped in to chair the last adoption of this engagement when I was attending to my son. Honourable Uwumukiza Françoise for the very great

input, Honourable Luke Thompson, Honourable Gideon Gatpan, thank you, for your enormous contribution, Honourable Dr. Leonardo Ann Itto, Honourable Machano Ali Machano, Millya James Kinyasi, Honourable Dr. Gladness Salema, Honourable Rumi Mary Mugenyi, and Honourable Amongin Jacqueline.

Right Honourable Speaker, we want to appreciate our clerks, Mr. Manzi Victor, for the tireless efforts rendered, despite all the pushing and the hard work. Sometimes we push the hard rock because we want good work like this. Thank you so much, We appreciate Ms Aidah Nakabugo and Ms Susan Namusosa who started the journey with us. That started with us on this journey. That started with us this journey. We want to appreciate all our clerks that supported this initiative.

Right Honourable Speaker we appreciate you for allowing us the permission to do this engagement, the Secretariat staff, the clerks and the entire team. Thank you so much for the connection of this engagement. We appreciate all those that supported us in carrying out this initiative. The technical people that appeared before us and that made work easy. We thank the Chairperson of the Council and all the Council members who took part in this report for allowing us to be in a position to assess it. us to be in a position to assess it. Without it, we would not have been in position.

Right Honourable Speaker with all those and all that people have said, I beg to reply and of course, propose that this report is adopted as a working document of the Assembly. Thank you.

3.38

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Chairperson of the Committee on RACR. This good report that has been submitted and I hope that as the Chair of the Council will acknowledge and consider it seriously with this.

I put the question that the report of the Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution (RACR) on the implementation of the security and foreign policy, be adopted. Those in favour, raise your hand.

(Question put and agreed to)

Chair of the Committee on General Purpose, is your report ready? *(Consultation)*

I will have to suspend the meeting. We will be back after 15 minutes.

(Sitting suspended 3.43 p.m.)

(Sitting resumed at 4.16 p.m.)

The Speaker: I apologise because we had a suspension of 15 minutes, but we were gone for 30 minutes. I consulted the Clerk and the others, and I found out that the report was not ready then. I am informed that the report is ready now.

4.17

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): I still do not have it. I am waiting for it. They say they have sent it in my email. I do not have it. I asked them to share it on my email. I do not have it. I asked them to share on my WhatsApp but I have not received it yet.

The Speaker: Do we have to suspend this meeting again?

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I can start reading the older report, then I will continue because the narrative is almost the same.

LAYING OF PAPERS

(I) THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026.

Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Right, Honourable Speaker, I would like to lay before the House the report of the Committee on General Purpose on the East African Community Budget Estimates for the Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/2026. I beg to lay.

(Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia laid the document on the Table.)

The Speaker: Thank you. Let us proceed, we do not have time.

Next Order.

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

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON GENERAL PURPOSE ON THE EAC BUDGET FOR FY2025/2026

(Business interrupted on 3rd July, 2025)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the Chairperson of the Council of the Community had started moving the motion. However, the Chairperson of the Committee of GP, requested for more time with the meetings from Monday this week. As you can see, the Committee has just completed this work some minutes ago. They worked around the clock to have the reports ready for us. We, I call the Chair of the Committee, proceed with the documentation for all the reports.

Chair of the Committee on GP, you may proceed.

4.21

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Right, Honourable Speaker.

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the provisions of Articles 49(2) and 132 of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community and Rules 74 and 75 of the Assembly Rules of Procedure, Chairperson, Council of Ministers laid on table the Annual Budget Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the East African Community for the FY 2025/2026 on 3rd June 2025. Accordingly, the Rt, Hon. Speaker referred the Annual Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure of the East African Community for the FY

2025/2026 to the Committee on General Purpose for consideration.

Pursuant to the provisions of Articles 49(2) and 132 of the Treaty, and as further amplified by Rule 81(c), (e), and (g) Annex 5 (f) of the Rules of Procedure of the Assembly, the Committee on General Purpose proceeded to consider the Annual Estimates of Revenue of Expenditure FY 2025/2026. The Committee hereby presents its report.

METHODOLOGY

During the consideration of the budget estimates, the Committee:

Interacted with the Chairperson, Council of Ministers, the Secretary General, Heads of Organs and Institutions and other relevant officers of the Community.

Reviewed among others, the following documents:

1. The Policy Statement by the Secretary General on the Budget Estimates.
2. The EAC Budget Summary for FY 2025/2026.
3. The EAC Summary of activities – MTEF for FY 2025/2026.
4. The EAC Annex to the Budget for FY 2025/2026 (Detailed MTEF).
5. The EAC Medium Term Expenditure Framework for FY 2025/26 – 2027/28.
6. The EAC Statement of Projected Revenue and Expenditure Summary for the Financial Year 2025/2026.
7. Projected Financial Statements for the EAC Budget for the FY 2025/26.
8. The EAC Annual Operational Plan for FY 2025/2026.

9. The relevant Council reports on the Budget Estimates.
10. The Staff Recruitment Plan for 2025/2026.
11. The Procurement Plan for 2025/2026.
12. The EAC Appropriation Bill for FY 2025/2026.
13. The EAC Budget Speech for FY 2025/2026.

The Committee also made reference the Treaty, the EAC Budget Act, the EALA Rules of Procedures and other relevant legal instruments of the Community.

3.0 ACHIEVEMENTS DURING THE FY 2024/2025

According to the Secretary General, during the year 2024/2025, the Community register the following achievements in line with the approved annual priority areas:

1. Strengthening of regional peace, security, political and governance mechanisms to maintain stability in the Community.
 - i. The Community played a pivotal role in restoring peace and stability in Eastern DRC through high level Summits and the joint AU/EAC/SADC Coordination Mechanism, thereby laying a strong foundation for the outgoing peace process.
 - ii. In July 2024, the Community successfully deployed the EAC Electoral Observation Mission to the Republic of Rwanda during the general elections, which were conducted peacefully and successfully.
 - iii. The Community enhanced cross-border cooperation and peaceful co-existence among border communities

- affected by unresolved border disputes through the peace caravan initiative at the trijunction of Kenya, the Republic of Uganda and the Republic of South Sudan.
2. Enhancing Intra-Regional trade and investment through enabling business environment.
 - i. In 2024, the EAC's total trade with the rest of the worlds increased by 14.17% to USD124.9 Billion, up from USD109.4 Billion in 2023. EAC grew by 24.72% to USD 56 Billion, while EAC imports rose by 6.83% to USD 68.9 Billion. Intra EAC trade also expanded by 9.35% to USD 15.2 Billion. This positive trajectory is a testament to the effectiveness of our Customs Union.
 - ii. 47 Non-Tariff Barriers (NTBs) were reported, with 16 successfully resolved. The remaining NTBs are at various stages of resolutions, including nineteen at the National Monitoring Committee level and two at the bilateral level.
 - iii. Partner States actively participated in the 24th EAC Micro, Small and Medium size Enterprises (MSMEs) Trade Fair held in Juba, South Sudan. The event attracted approximately 1,182 registered exhibitors from Partner States and 400 non-registered exhibitors from the Republic of South Sudan, the Host. The Trade Fair culminated in about 10 business deals and contracts signed.
 3. Strengthening Regional Commitments under the EAC Common Market Protocol.
 - i. The Summit adopted Annex VII to the Protocol on the Establishment of the East African Community Common Market on the Mutual Recognition Agreement of Academic and Professional Qualifications. This Annex provides a robust framework enabling Partner States to mutually recognize academic and professional qualifications obtained within the Community thereby facilitating the free movement of labour across the Common Market.
 - ii. The Community adopted the EAC Labour Migration Policy along with its implementation Plan, aimed at accelerating the facilitation of labour migration through harmonization of labour policies and laws across Partner States.
 - iii. Additionally, the Community adopted comprehensive Rules to promote consistency and enhance transparency in the handling of anti-competitive complaints, investigations and other competition related matters by the EAC Competition Authority.
 4. Establishment of the requisite institutions and acceleration of harmonisations of fiscal and monetary policies towards attaining prerequisites for the East African Monetary Union.
 - i. The Community adopted a comprehensive framework for coordinating monetary and fiscal policies to support the establishment of the Monetary Union.
 - ii. To modernize and integrate payment systems across the region, the Community adopted the EAC Cross-

- Border Payment System Master Plan, which outlines key strategic initiatives for modernizing and integrating payment systems in the EAC region.
5. Development of multi-sectoral infrastructure to improve connectivity in transport and ICT for timely services.
 - i. The Community adopted the Air Transport Liberalisation Regulations alongside the Multilateral Agreement for Aircraft Accident Investigations, enhancing regional air transport governance.
 - ii. The Community inaugurated Africa's first regional Center for Aviation Medicine in Nairobi, Kenya, to enhance aeromedical certification, human performance and aviation safety across the EAC Partner States.
 - iii. The Republic of Burundi commenced implementation of the One Network Area (ONA) Roaming Framework, joining the Republic of Kenya, the Republic of Rwanda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic of Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania in facilitating seamless cross-border mobile communication.
 6. Enhancement of the social and productive sectors to increase productivity and raise the standards of living for East Africans.
 - i. The Community adopted several key initiatives to boost productivity and trade within the agricultural sector, including a Quality Management Self Assessment Tool for MSMEs in the leather sector, an Action Plan to promote value addition and trade within the nuts value chain, regional potato seed regulations and harmonized certification guidelines to facilitate the intra-EAC trade in seeds potato and potato ware.
 - ii. The Community adopted the EAC Blue Economy Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2034) and the EAC Regional Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2025-2034), reinforcing commitments to sustainable use and conservation of marine and biodiversity resources.
 - iii. The construction of the regional Maritime Rescue Coordination Center (MRCC) in Mwanza, is 88 per cent complete. The center will feature a modern control and call center, a first aid clinic, and offices. In Kenya, the ground breaking ceremony for the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center was held on August 31st, 2024, officiated by H. E. William Samoei Ruto, the President of the Republic of Kenya. In Uganda, the Maritime Survival Training Institute at the Fisheries Training Institute in Entebbe is now complete.
 - iv. The Community advanced the promotion of solar light technologies and adopted a policy guidance on solar lights and net paneling in order to ensure efficient harvesting of Dagaa at Lake Victoria.
 - v. The Community adopted the EAC strategy for Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal Diseases (TADs) and Zoonoses (2024-2034)

- along with Harmonised Guidelines for Testing and Registration of Veterinary Ectoparasiticides, strengthening regional animal health systems.
- vi. To ensure sustainable regulation of medicines within the Community, the Community adopted the EAC Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation Sustainability Plan.
 - vii. The Community continued to facilitate academic mobility among higher education institutions. During the period under review, 32 academic staff members were successfully supported to undertake physical mobility assignments across Partner States.
 - viii. The Community trained 306 scientists from universities and research institutions across Partner States in technical scientific writing and grant proposal development. The initiative aims to enhance the dissemination of research and increase funding for innovation.
 - ix. The Community facilitated capacity building, knowledge exchange, and awareness creation for 33 experts and stakeholders from Partner States under the EAKC Mobility Program. These efforts address capacity challenges in the development and promotion of Kiswahili.
7. Enhancement of capabilities of all EAC Organs and Institutions to fulfill their mandate and raise awareness of the EAC integration process.
- i. The Assembly adopted four (4) Committee reports, seven (7) motions, approved the EAC Budget for FY 2024/2025 within the stipulated timeframe and issued several recommendations aimed at enhancing the Community's overall performance in advancing the integration agenda.
 - ii. During the period under review, a total of 79 matters were filed before the East African Court of Justice.
 - iii. The Community celebrated its Silver Jubilee, marking 25 years of integration. Commemorations were conducted at both national and regional levels, with Ministries responsible for EAC Affairs leading the efforts nationally. The celebrations provided an opportunity to raise awareness among EAC citizens about progress and achievements made in the integration process.
 - iv. The Community successfully mobilized support from Development Partners to compliment the Partner States contributions, securing funding amounting to USD 75.4 million. This included USD 41.4 million in direct support, USD 32.2 million in indirect grants and USD 1.8 million in Technical Assistance, all formalized between July 2024 – June 2025. These resources will significantly bolster EAC projects and programmes in the coming years.
 - v. The Community achieved unqualified (clean) audit opinions for all Organs and Institutions, and projects, demonstrating significant improvements in financial management, compliance, and internal controls.

KEY CHALLENGES

Despite notable progress, several challenges persist:

1. Delays in budget contributions from Partner States and heavy dependence on external donor support.
2. Termination of the United States foreign aid resulting in an increased funding gap and disruptions of USAID funded projects and programmes.
3. Institutional capacity gaps in critical functions of the EAC Organs and Institutions due to the expiration of the terms or mandatory retirement of staff. The Community anticipates having a total of 185 vacant positions by December 2025, representing 44 per cent of the total number of established positions.
4. Lengthy decision-making processes leading to delayed implementation of planned activities.
5. Delayed ratification of the instruments of amendments of the EAC Treaty as well as other legal instruments.
6. Inconsistencies and gaps in the current EAC financial management framework across Organs and Institutions.

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

The Secretary General informed the Committee that the EAC will address these challenges through:

- i. Strengthening compliance mechanisms for budget contributions and diversifying funding streams through expediting the finalization of the Framework on Investigation of Breaches, Amendments to Rules of Procedure of the Policy Organs

and Schedule of Sanctions, public private partnerships (PPPs), blended financing, and enhanced resource mobilization.

- ii. Expediting the ratification of the amendments to Article 132(4) of the EAC Treaty to provide for the budget of the Community to be funded by the Partner States, based on the financing formula adopted by the 23rd Ordinary Summit for EAC Heads of State.
3. Fast tracking the review of the job descriptions, review of the quota points manual, and modalities of implementing the new structure to facilitate staffing and capacity development across all EAC Organs and Institutions.
4. Advancing the comprehensive review of the Treaty and aligning institutional frameworks with evolving integration needs.
5. Development of an EAC Public Financial Management Act to address gaps across the current EAC financial management framework (Budget Act, FRR, etc).

STATUS OF PARTNER STATES CONTRIBUTION

The status of Partner States' contribution as at 25th April 2025 is as follows:

Table 1A: The East African Community Main Budget (EAC Secretariat, EALA, EACJ, LVBC, EAKC, EASTECO, EAHRC, EACA), Amounts in USD

Partner State	Arrears	Contribution Due 2024/2025	Contribution Paid 2024/2025		Total Outstanding
1. Republic of Burundi	10,085,384	7,007,747	1,322,187	19%	15,770,944
2. Democratic Republic of the Congo	14,704,248	7,007,747	1,000,000	14%	20,711,995
3. Republic of Kenya	-	7,007,747	7,007,747	100%	-
4. Republic of Rwanda	-	7,007,747	5,253,537	75%	1,754,210
5. Federal Republic of Somalia	-	7,007,747	3,500,000	50%	3,507,747
6. Republic of South Sudan	8,610,255	7,007,747	499,926	7%	15,118,076
7. United Republic of Tanzania	122,694	7,007,747	7,007,747	100%	122,694
8. Republic of Uganda	-	7,007,747	7,161,224	102%	(153,477)
Total	33,522,581	56,061,976	32,752,369	58%	56,832,189

Table 1B. Inter University Council Of East Africa (IUCEA), Amounts in USD

Partner State	Arrears	Contribution Due 2024/2025	Contribution Paid 2024/2025		Total Outstanding
1. Republic of Burundi	6,294,413	612,550		0%	6,906,963
2. Democratic Republic of the Congo	1,288,438	612,550		0%	1,900,988
3. Republic of Kenya	(1,875)	612,550	612,550	100%	(1,875)
4. Republic of Rwanda	4,039,443	612,550		0%	4,651,993
5. Federal Republic of Somalia	-	612,550		0%	612,550
6. Republic of South Sudan	754,461	612,550		0%	1,367,011
7. United Republic of Tanzania	11,574	612,550	612,500	100%	11,624
8. Republic of Uganda	-	612,550	612,500	100%	-
Total	12,386,454	4,900,401	1,837,575	38%	15,448,303

Table 1C. Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO), Amounts in USD

Partner State	Arrears	Contribution Due 2024/2025	Contribution Paid 2024/2025		Total Outstanding
1. Republic of Burundi	1,164,061	465,549	42,981	9%	1,586,629
2. Republic of Kenya	-	465,549	465,549	100%	0
3. United Republic of Tanzania	-	465,549	454,158	98%	11,391
4. Republic of Uganda	-	465,549	466,070	100%	(521)
Total	1,164,061	1,862,196	1,428,758	77%	1,598,020

Table 1D. Civil Aviation Safety And Security Oversight Agency (CASSOA), Amounts in USD

Partner State	Arrears	Contribution Due 2024/2025	Contribution Paid 2024/2025		Total Outstanding
1. Republic of Burundi	174,526	471,233		0%	645,759
2. Democratic Republic of the Congo	448,793	471,233		0%	920,026
3. Republic of Kenya	-	471,233	471,233	100%	-
4. Republic of Rwanda	-	471,233	471,233	100%	-
5. Federal Republic of Somalia	-	209,560	209,560	100%	-
6. Republic of South Sudan	343,685	471,233		0%	814,918
7. United Republic of Tanzania	-	471,233	471,233	100%	-
8. Republic of Uganda	0	471,233	471,233	100%	-
Total	966,954	3,508,191	2,094,492	60%	2,380,703

There is urgent need for disbursement of the outstanding contribution for FY 2024/2025 as well as arrears to facilitate

the activities for the last month of the financial year ending 30th June 2024/2025.

The EAC Budget Estimates for the Financial Year 2025/26

Chairperson, Council of Ministers, the expected sources of revenue for the Community in the Financial Year

According to the Budget Estimates presented to the Assembly by the

2025/2026 is as in the table below:

Table 2: Summary of the Proposed Revenue in FY 2025/26

SOURCE OF REVENUE	FY 2025/2026		
Description	Partner States	Development Partners	Total
Ministries for EAC Affairs	56,024,274		56,024,274
Ministries Responsible for Education	4,903,791		4,903,791
Ministries Responsible for Fisheries	1,862,149		1,862,149
Member Universities	586,200		586,200
Development Partners		41,582,772	41,377,175
Miscellaneous Revenue	1,462,335		1,462,335
General Reserve-IUCEA	835,550		835,550
General Reserve-EAC	2,450,709		2,450,709
	67,755,378	41,582,772	109,132,554

5.1 Budget Allocation to Global Priority Areas in FY 2025/2026

According to the Secretary-General, the proposed budget for Financial Year 2025/2026 is allocated to EAC global priorities as follows:

Global Priority Description	Estimate
Advancing the EAC Customs Union to increase regional trade and optimise supply chains across Partner States	7,255,635
Enhancing multi-modal strategic, climate-resilient infrastructure, digitalization to promote trade and regional integration	6,874,728
Enhancing regional peace, security, political processes, & emergency response mechanisms to improve the political environment in the Community	5,019,063
Expediting the harmonisation of fiscal and monetary policies and operationalisation of requisite institutions towards the realisation of the East African Monetary Union	9,394,640
Strengthening capabilities of all EAC Organs and Institutions to fulfil their mandates and promote the visibility of EAC and stakeholder engagement in the EAC integration process	62,872,002
Strengthening the implementation of regional commitments in accordance with the EAC Common Market Protocol and other relevant frameworks, ensure sustainable development and improve the social-economic welfare of East Africans	17,922,083
Total	109,338,151

Note: The detailed programs/activities to be implemented in the course of the financial year are contained in the detailed MTEF and Annual Operational Plan for 2025/26 which were electronically transmitted to all Members of the Assembly.

5.2 Expected Outcomes in the Financial Year 2025/2026

According to the Secretary General, it is expected that the implementation of the above priority programs will result into the following outcomes:

- i. Enhanced stability and security across the Community, leading to a more conducive political environment for regional integration and development
- ii. Improved EAC trade environment that boosts intra-EAC trade, optimizes supply chains, and enhances market access for businesses across Partner States.
- iii. Increased compliance with regional commitments, leading to improved
- iv. Harmonised monetary and fiscal framework in the EAC region and operationalization of EAMU

institutions, paving the way for the establishment of a single currency and stronger regional economic integration.

- v. A robust, climate-resilient, and digitally connected infrastructure network that facilitates seamless trade and mobility, reduces transportation costs and improves accessibility.
- vi. Enhanced institutional capacity to facilitate the effective implementation of regional policies and frameworks, leading to increased broad-based support and participation of all stakeholders, and increased visibility and awareness of the EAC's role and contributions.

5.3 Proposed Budget Allocation to Organs and Institutions in FY 2025/2026

During the FY 2025/26, the Community's total budget for the implementation of projects and programmes amounts to USD109,338,151. Out of this amount, USD67,755,378 (62 per cent) will be equally contributed by Partner States or raised as other internal revenues, while USD41,582,773 (38 per cent) will be sourced from Development Partners.

The proposed budget allocation to the EAC Organs and Institutions as follows:

S/N	Organ/Insitution	Amount in USD
1.	EAC Secretariat	55,209,392
2.	East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	5,056,413
3.	East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	20,495,264
4.	Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)	7,606,052
5.	The Inter – University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)	10,802,434
6.	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)	2,436,924
7.	East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTCO)	2,210,511
8.	East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC)	1,641,445
9.	East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)	2,354,504
10.	East African Community Competition Authority (EACCA)	1,525,212

OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Whereas the Chairperson, Council of Ministers had wanted to present the Budget Estimates to the Assembly on the 29th day of April 2025 as per the requirements of Section 4(1) of the EAC Budget Act, 2009, this was not possible because the Council had not yet secured funds to facilitate the Committee on General Purpose and the Assembly to immediately commence the consideration of the budget. Subsequently, the Chair Council presented the budget estimates on 3rd June 2025, and the Committee commenced work on 5th June 2025. Under the circumstances, the Committee could not fulfil the statutory requirement of Section 4(3) of the Budget Act, which enjoins it to present its report to the House by 30th May.

The Committee recommends to the House to direct the Council of Ministers to always present the Budget Estimates at per the requirements of Section 3 of the Budget Act, and provide the necessary funds for the consideration of the same in time as per Section 4(3) of the same Act.

2. The Secretary General informed the Committee that the budget performance of the Organs and Institutions of the Community stood at 58% as of 30th March 2025. This was attributed to the delayed or non-remittance of financial contributions by the Partner States. As a result of the liquidity challenges there was slow or none-implementation of the core programs by some Organs and Institutions. In some instances, the Community could not meet its statutory obligations, like salaries on time.

It was noted that due to liquidity challenges, the Assembly made a request to the Council of Ministers to borrow USD 660,960 from some Organs and Institutions of the Community to facilitate the meeting of the Committee on General Purpose and Plenary to consider the EAC Budget Estimates for FY 2025/26. This request was approved by the Council at its 57th Extra-Ordinary Meeting held on 29th May 2025. According to the Council decision, *“the Secretary General was directed to deduct in a phased manner, USD 660,960 from the Partner States disbursement to EALA to recover the amount borrowed from the Organs and Institutions”*.

While the Committee appreciates the decision by the Council to approve EALA’s request to borrow this money, it should be noted that the Council directive to the Secretary General to deduct the same amount from the Assembly’s budget for 2025/26 was erroneously made because it contravenes Article 132(2)(3) and (5) of the Treaty, and Regulation 29(1)and(2) of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations. In June 2024, the Assembly, in accordance with the provisions of Article 132 of the Treaty, approved the EAC Budget for FY 2024/25, and in the same budget, the House appropriated funds to facilitate the Committee and the Assembly during the consideration of the EAC Budget Estimates for 2025/26.

For the avoidance of doubt, Regulation 29(1)and(2) of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations provides that, *“appropriations shall be available to meet the obligations for the financial year to which they relate. The appropriation shall remain available for 3 (three) months following the end of the financial year*

to which they relate in as far as they are required to discharge the obligations in respect of the goods, supplies and services rendered during the financial year to which they have not been settled.” Therefore, the Secretary General can only recover this borrowing from the arrears owed to the Community by Partner States in FY 2024/25.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to direct the Council of Ministers to rescind its decision of the 57th Extra-Ordinary Meeting in which they “directed the Secretary to deduct in a phased manner, USD 660,960 from the Partner States disbursement to EALA to recover the amount borrowed from the Organs and Institutions” since it contravenes Article 132(2)(3) and (5) of the Treaty, and Regulation 29(1) and (2) of the EAC Financial Rules and Regulations.

The Committee further recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to direct the Secretary General to recover USD 660,960 from the EAC General Reserve Account when the Partner States remit the arrears of their financial obligations for FY 2024/25.

Mr Speaker, Sir, we had an interaction with the Council but it is not captured here. They promised that they will take the matter for consideration by the Council. It was supposed to be captured here. However, due to time constraints, we were unable to add the resolution to this report. The Chair of Council promised that this matter will go to Council because it requires changing of the budget. However, for purposes of reporting, the Council agreed that this matter will be tabled before the Council for reconsideration.

4. Section 8 of the EAC Budget Act 2009, enjoins the Secretary General to present to the Assembly reports on grants and loans before the 30th day of June in each financial year. Similarly, Section 10 of the same Act enjoins the Secretary General to present to the Assembly reports on non-exemption of tax on or before the 30th day of June in each financial year. Despite persistent reminders by the Assembly, the Secretary General has failed to comply with this statutory requirement. In the absence of these reports, neither the Assembly nor any other stakeholder can ascertain the level of indebtedness of the Community.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to direct the Secretary General to present to the House the reports on grants and loans, and non-exemption of taxes for the financial years 2023/24 and 2024/25 by 30th September 2025.

6. A review of the Annual Operational Plan and the MTEF revealed the following:
 - i. Some Organs and Institutions prioritised none-core programs and activities over critical ones.
 - ii. Some of the prioritised programs/activities neither have tangible outcomes nor realistic Key Performance Indicators.
 - iii. Some of the programs/activities are neither linked to the four pillars of the EAC integration nor aligned to the core mandates of these Organs and Institutions.

- iv. Some of the programs/activities are similar and attract funding from both the Partner States and development partners.
 - v. Some programs/activities are a copy and paste of the same programs/activities that were funded in the previous financial years.
 - vi. Some programs and projects were either erroneously or deliberately placed in the departments or cost centres where they do not fall.
 - vii. Despite the earlier recommendation of the Assembly to prioritise high-impact programs/activities, some vote holders have continued to deliberately split their programs into micro activities that have no impact.
 - viii. Most of the prioritised programs/activities attract frequent travels where the Community will spend a colossal sum of money on DSAs, tickets, hire of conference facilities and ushers.
 - ix. Some of the programs/activities have vague descriptions and lack specific timelines.
7. A review of the detailed costing of the programs/activities in the MTEF also revealed a mismatch between the DSAs and tickets; DSAs and the number of delegates/participants; provision of DSAs without tickets; and DSAs for staff domiciled in Arusha while attending meetings held in Arusha. These mismatches and inconsistencies raise serious questions about the time and attention given to planning and budgeting in the EAC.
 8. Given the funding and liquidity challenges that the Community is currently faced with, it would have been prudent for the Organs and Institutions to adopt austerity measures that give priority to critical and high-impact programs/activities that reinforce our pillars of integration. On the contrary, priority in some Organs and Institutions, has been given to programs/activities that attract frequent travels and DSAs to the extent that some officers are barely at their duty stations.
 9. Mr Speaker, Sir, as I said earlier, there is one officer with 400 days of travel. I do not know whether the officer has more days of the year than the 365 days in a year.
 10. Arising from the above findings and observations (5, 6 and 7), and in line with Article 132(5) of the Treaty, and Section 5 of the EAC Budget Act 2009, the Committee deems it important that the Assembly should make some reallocations within some Organs and Institutions as indicated in Annex 1 of this report.
- The Committee therefore recommends to the Assembly to approve the proposed reallocations within some of the Organs and Institutions as provided in Annex 1 of this report.*
10. The Committee expressed concern about the slow implementation of the adopted legal frameworks in the Community. There is a notable delay in the assent to Bills passed by the Assembly; implementation of Summit directives by the Council; and the

ratification of key legal instruments by Partner States, which greatly impedes the full operationalisation of the EAC integration agenda.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to expedite the adoption of a sanctioning mechanism as per the provisions of Articles 145 and 146 of the Treaty, to enhance the compliance by Partner States and enforce timely implementation of the commitments.

11. The Committee noted that, while the Accounting Officers of the EAC Organs and Institutions are required to submit Value Added Tax refund claims to the Partner States at the end of every financial year, this is rarely done. As a result, the current claimable VAT across the Organs and Institutions has accumulated to a tune USD 5,292,024 as at 30th June 2024. It was further noted that, even in cases where VAT refunds have been made by some of the Partner States, these funds have been abused by the accounting officers of the Organs and Institutions. There is no proof that the concerned accounting officers who have been receiving VAT refunds from the Partner States have ever declared this money to the Council for inclusion in the Budget for appropriation by the Assembly as per the requirements of Article 133(b) of the Treaty and the Budget Act.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to direct the Secretary General to ensure that all the Heads of Organs and Institutions:

- i. *File their claims for VAT refunds in time.*
- ii. *With effect from FY 2025/26, declare VAT refunds for inclusion in the budget estimates as a source of revenue.*

12. Whereas the Assembly had urged the Council of Ministers to come up with a comprehensive roadmap for the integration of the Republic of South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Federal Republic of Somalia into the Community, It was noted that the Council only adopted the roadmap for the integration of the Federal Republic of Somalia at its 25th Ordinary meeting held in June 2024. As a result, some institutions or departments of the Community have opted to selectively budget for and undertake some activities in these Partner States in 2025/26 in a disjointed and uncoordinated manner. In the absence of a comprehensive roadmap to guide the process of integrating all these Partner States, such disjointed programs/activities will not yield the expected outcomes.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to expeditiously develop a comprehensive roadmap for the integration of the Republic of South Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The roadmap should, among others, specific timelines and concrete deliverables.

13. A review of the budget estimates further revealed that the Council is proposing the allocation of a substantial sum of funds to procure consultancies for various works across the Organs and Institutions of the Community.

The Committee also expressed reservations about the rationale for the persistent allocation of colossal sums of money for the hire of consultants to undertake various works on behalf of the Community even in areas where Organs and Institutions have competent professional staff with the requisite expertise.

The Committee reiterates its recommendation to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to implore the EAC Audit Commission to take interest in the hire of consultancies in the EAC with the view of establishing whether there is value for money.

The Committee further reiterates its recommendation to the Assembly to direct the Council of Ministers not to provide funds to any Organ and Institution of the Community for the hire of consultancies with effect from FY 2026/27, unless they provide compelling evidence that the Community has serious competence gaps in that particular discipline.

14. During the consideration of the EAC Supplementary budgets (No.1 and No.2) for 2024/2025, the Assembly deferred the appropriation of USD 338,568 for a number of programs and activities under the EACJ- USD 209,375, EAKC – USD129,193 which could not be implemented in the course of the financial year due to liquidity challenges and time constraints (Annex 2). It was agreed that the funds for these programs and projects be included in the budget for financial year 2025/26.

The Committee recommends that the Assembly appropriates an additional sum

of USD 209,375 to Vote 002: EACJ; and USD 129,193 to Vote 008: EAKC to cater for the implementation of programs and projects indicated in Annex 2.

15. The Director Human Resources and Administration informed the Committee that a total of one hundred and thirty (130) established staff would exit the service of the Community by September 2025 following the expiration of their contracts. She noted that the Community is scheduled to undertake a recruitment exercise to fill these vacant positions in the FY 2025/2026. The recruitment will be done in two phases: sixty five(65) positions to be advertised and filled by January 2026, and the rest by June 2026. She also informed the Committee that before the recruitment is conducted, the Secretariat is required to first conclude the review of the Job Description and the Operational Manual for the Quota System– and submit the same to the Council for approval. These activities are yet to be undertaken.

The Committee noted that the exit of such a big number of staff will adversely affect the functioning of the Organs and Institutions of the Community. It was also noted that, given the history of staff recruitment in the EAC, it is very unlikely that the recruitment exercise will be carried out as scheduled. Besides, it is not realistic to expect the recruitment concluded in 2025/26 when the review and approval of the Job Description and the Operational Manual for the Quota has not been done by July 2025.

The Committee also expressed concern about the irregularities that often arise during the recruitment of staff in the EAC. Among others, the following were noted: inadequate publicity of the job adverts in the Partner States; failure by the Secretariat to notify the Partner States about the status of their quota points; shortlisting of only one candidate in the entire EAC for certain positions; biased job adverts that indicate that some Partner States are not eligible yet they are.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to take keen interest in the recruitment of staff by ensuring that there are no gaps during the approval of the Job Descriptions, before the release of the job adverts, and during the shortlisting and interview exercises.

16. The Director Human Resources and Administration further informed the Committee that a total of forty seven (47) short-term staff were expected to permanently exit the service of the Community following the expiration of their contracts by 30th June 2025. Most Heads of Organs and Institutions also informed the Committee that these short-term staff have been performing critical functions, and therefore, their exit will exacerbate the problem of staffing gaps. The Committee was also informed that the Secretary General had written to the Chair Council and the Partner States requesting for the extension of the contracts of the short-term staff, but the matter had not yet

been addressed at the time of writing this report.

The Committee recognises the need to retain the short-term staff especially at this time when one hundred and thirty (130) established staff have exited the service of the Community. Until the vacant established positions are fully filled, the short-term staff remain a critical human resource to the effective functioning of the Organs and institutions of the Community.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council of Ministers to extend/renew the contracts of the short-term staff until such a time when all the established positions are filled.

17. Whereas the Assembly has severally urged the Council to approve the appointment and remuneration of Aides to Members of the Assembly with disabilities, this request has been ignored. In the 4th Assembly and the current 5th Assembly, EALA has had among its membership the late Hon. Kasamba Mathias (Republic of Uganda), Hon. Bahati Alex (Republic of Rwanda) and Hon. David Ole Sankok (Republic of Kenya) who were elected to represent PWDs. The Treaty, the UN Conventions, African Charters and other labour laws recognise the rights of PWDs, besides warranting affirmative action to PWDs. The Committee noted that the Council has since 2021 been working on a policy to remunerate all persons in the service of the Community. However, the finalisation of this policy is taking long, yet the Aides to these Members deserve to be remunerated.

The Committee recommends to the Assembly to urge the Council to:

- i. *Consider and approve the retrospective appointment of the Aides to the late Hon. Mathias Kasamba, and Hon. Alex Bahati and Hon. Ole David Sankok at the next Council meeting scheduled for August 2025.*
- ii. *At the same Council meeting, approve the outstanding arrears of emoluments of these Aides and an extra budgetary requirement of emoluments for the Aides of the current two Members in a supplementary budget for FY 2025/2026.*

18. The Committee also recommends that the Assembly directs the Secretary General to:

- i. make appropriate adjustments in the EAC Budget Management System to accommodate the reallocations in the budget as approved by this august House.
- ii. submit and lay before the Assembly the final signed copy of the approved budget at the first sitting of the Assembly in FY 2025/26. of the Assembly in FY 2025/26.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, the Committees recommends to the Assembly to adopt this report and pass the EAC Appropriation Bill, 2025 with amendments to provide for a total sum of USD 109,676,719 to the various Organs and Institutions of the Community for the implementation of various programs and activities in the financial year 2025/26 as indicated below:

Vote	Organ/Institution of EAC	Amount in the Original Bill in USD	Amount in the Corrigendum in USD	Amount to be Appropriated
001	EAC – Secretariat	55,209,392	-	55,209,392
002	East African Court of Justice	5,056,413	209,375	5,265,788
003	East African Legislative Assembly	20,495,264	-	20,495,264
004	Lake Victoria Basin Commission	7,606,052	-	7,606,052
005	Inter-University Council for East Africa	10,802,434	-	10,802,434
006	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation	2,436,924	-	2,436,924
007	East African Science and Technology Commission	2,210,511	-	2,210,511
008	East African Kiswahili Commission	1,641,445	129,193	1,770,638
009	East African Health Research Commission	2,354,504	-	2,354,504
010	East African Competition Authority	1,525,212	-	1,525,212
	Total	109,338,151	338,568	109,676,719

Mr. Speaker Sir, I beg to report.

Mr. Speaker, sir, before I conclude, allow me to take this opportunity to officially thank the members of the Committee on general purpose for diligently working on the two terms and half years that the Committee has been undertaking. And I want to say that this is the last budget that the Committee is making and presenting to the Assembly.

I know in one way or the other, we might have made mistakes and stepped on some people's toes in the course of our duty. The problem with the finance is that you need to have a gloomy face so that people do not come closer to you. And that is the reason as to why we have been diligently working as a Committee on General Purpose to make sure that as far as the Committee is concerned, we are able to undertake our activities and of course, be able to conduct our activities in a manner that reflects the Community's operation.

I take this opportunity to say thank you to the following Members of the Committee: Honourable Gai Deng, Honourable Fatuma Ndagiza, Honourable Kim Gai, Honourable Namara Dennis, Honourable Paul Musamali Mwasu, Honourable Rose Akol, Honourable Bahati Alex, Honourable Alodie Iradukund, Honourable KK, Kanini Kega, a diligent member of the Committee, Honourable Maina Karobia, Honourable Winnie Odinga, Honourable Ewanga Is'ewanga Iwoka Jean Bertran, Honourable Ngate Mangu François Papa, Honourable Mwetaminwa Nyota Stella, Honourable Saidi Kibeya, Honourable Manirambona Anastase, Honourable Burikukiye Victor, Honourable Dr Makame Abdulla, Honourable Wakili

Ngole, Honourable Kachwaba Abubakar and myself. I think I have covered all the countries. Unless there is a country I have missed, I stand to be corrected.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I also wish to take this opportunity to thank the Committee clerks that have been assisting the Committee on General Purpose. I want to take this opportunity to thank our eyeball clerk, Mr Alfred Tugume, who has diligently worked for this Committee. I also take this opportunity to thank Ms Olivia Nantaba, who is also a Committee Assistant for serving this Committee. I take this opportunity to thank Ms Elizabeth Gitonga, who is a member of the support staff to this Committee. We have also received support from Mr Peter Asiimwe, who has supported this Committee. Even 'honourable' Manzi has been supporting this Committee. I also want to take this opportunity to thank the Clerk of the Assembly for also supporting the Committee. I also take this opportunity to thank the Deputy Clerk, who has also stood in terms of supporting this Committee.

Overall, I thank the Council that has supported this year the activities of this Committee. I also thank those at the Secretariat who supported the activities of this Committee. Indeed, it might not be possible for us to do our work without the support that the Assembly has also rendered to this Committee. In view of the above, I thank each and every member of this Assembly for supporting the Committee on general purpose. As we exit our tenure as leadership of the Committees, some of us will remain in the service of this Committee. For your information, I am waiting for a time I will be a member of this Committee so that I will bring my

minority report. As a chairperson, I was unable to bring a minority report, even if there are things I was not agreeing with. Now that I will be a member, it gives me the opportunity to look at things with very critical eyes. My eyes are very small, but they see very well.

Right Honourable Speaker, I beg to submit.

5.25

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Chairperson of the Committee on GP. We know how hard you have worked since June 2023 when our budget faced some issues. We also remember that in 2024 in June, we passed the budget. And now this is your third budget that you have worked on. We hope that it will not be rejected.

Honourable Members, the motion had been moved by the Chair of the Council of Ministers. The report has been presented by the Chair of the Committee. It is time now to open the debate. The debate is open for the Members to contribute to it. We will hear first from Honourable Veronica Kadogo.

5.29

Ms Veronica Babirye Kadogo (Uganda): Thank you Right Honourable Speaker. We have unfilled positions in all organs and institutions of the EAC. And some of these organs and institutions which are having unfilled positions, the performance is not really good. And the percentage of unfilled positions is really high. When you look at the East Africa Health Research Commission, the percentage is 85 per cent. If you look at the Kiswahili Commission, the unfilled position percentage is at 80 per cent. We need to renew the contracts of the short-term staff. We have some

staff who are retiring. We have some staff whose contracts have ended yet we need institution memory. We need to renew the contracts of the short-term staff.

I submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Kadogo for your consideration.

Now I give the floor to Dr. Woda, then Honourable Clement Musangabatware, then Honourable Maina, then Honourable Rutazana, followed by Honourable Mathias Harebamungu.

5.31

Dr. Jeremiah Odok Woda (South Sudan): Right, Honourable Speaker I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I thank the Chairperson of the Committee on GP and all the colleagues; the Committee members who endeavoured to produce such a wonderful report. Job well done. Right, Honourable Speaker, I will be very specific on three items. First is to add my voice to support what the recommendation of the Committee on South Sudan integration. South Sudan joined the Community in 2016. I know very well that by then the Community endeavoured to integrate the Republic of South Sudan, then Congo, and Somalia. There is a crucial need for the Council to develop a very clear and comprehensive roadmap for the integration of South Sudan, Congo, and Somalia.

Right, Honourable Speaker, I want also to comment on the financial commitment of the Community to the aides of some of our colleagues. We have been asking about this matter since 2021. There have been promises by the Council to develop

a policy to accommodate the aides of our colleagues. However, to date there is nothing that has been done yet it is the constitutional right for our colleagues who need it to have aides covered financially by the Community.

Right, Honourable Speaker, I beg to support the report. Thank you very much.

5.33

Mr Clément Musangabatware (Rwanda):

Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker, for granting me the opportunity to share my observations on the Report of the Committee on General Purpose regarding the EAC Budget Estimates for Revenue and Expenditure for the Financial Year 2025/2026.

I wish to express my full support for the report presented by the GP Committee. I congratulate the Chairperson, Honourable Kennedy Mukulia Ayasason, my friend, and all the honourable members of the Committee for a job well done. We acknowledge that we worked under challenging circumstances to finalise this report, and we commend your dedication and perseverance in this work. However, I wish to raise a concern regarding the status of remittances by the EAC partner states. The situation is worrying and continues to affect the functioning of our institutions.

Honourable Speaker, Honourable Chair of the Council, and honourable members, in my opinion, there are too many reasons why partner states are not fulfilling their financial obligations. I think one might be of political will. The next one is the competing national priorities. It is time we take bold and necessary measures to safeguard the future of our Community.

We must urgently explore and adopt enforcement mechanisms against defaulting partner states. I do request application of Article 143 of the EAC Treaty on sanctions for non-fulfilling of obligations.

If need be, apply also Article 146 on suspension of a partner state. To quote the report of EAC Council of Ministers from 2022, I quote, *'the non-remittance of contributions undermines the effectiveness of our institutions and delays the implementation of regional programmes.'*

Once again, I wish to reaffirm my support for the report.

Thank you, Honourable Speaker, I submit.

(Interruption of debate)

MOTION

EXTENSION OF SITTING TIME

5.35

Mr David ole Sankok (Kenya) Procedure Honourable Speaker, I rise pursuant to Rule 11(1) to move a procedural motion on the extension of time today. I have reliable information that the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers tomorrow will be having a meeting with the head of state, and if we do not complete this today, probably tomorrow, we may not be able to get her. I request the House to support my motion so that we can extend time until that time when we finish the business on the Order Paper. Thank you, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Do you have seconds?

(Seconded by Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda, Honourable Gai Deng, Honourable Falhada Dekow)

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Resumption of debate)

Honourable Members, I now give the floor to Honourable Maina, then Honourable Rutazana.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Mr Speaker, kindly give priority to Members who are no part of the Committee on GP.

Mr Godffrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): I am a member of the Committee on GP, but allow me to say that for purposes of just adding my voice to the reports, as much as I am a Member of the Committee.

The Speaker: Let us give priority to Members who do not belong to the Committee on GP.

Honourable Rutazana, are you a Member of the Committee on GP?

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): I am not a member of the Committee on GP

5.38

Mary Rutamwebwa Mugenyi (Uganda): Procedure Mr Speaker, Sir, given the time now and considering we shall proceed with the debate tomorrow, I propose that beyond those who have already been picked by the speaker to speak to the Motion, you do not add more names because we will be here until very late. We have just learnt that the Chair Council will not be available tomorrow so we will be here until late yet we have other scheduled activities that we have planned

prior to knowing about the extension of the plenary time.

I therefore propose that those who are not Members of the Committee on GP and have already been picked by the Speaker to speak to the Motion, be allowed to speak and that will be the end of the debate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I wish to propose.

The Speaker: Let us try to save time. We will go to Honourable Rutazana, then Honourable Gladness, followed by Honourable Mathias and then Honourable Siranda,

Honourable Rutazana, you have the floor.

5.40

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker, for the floor. I start by thanking the Chair of the Committee and members of the GP Committee for a good report, which I support.

I have some observations regarding the irregularities that have been raised through the GP report, but in my view not really considered when they have been allocating the line budget relating to those irregularities. Allow me to go through some of the issues that have been raised by the Committee; issue duplication of activities funded by the contribution of partner states and donor funds, which are really not following or meeting the objectives of the four pillars of the integration, among others.

My question is, when you go through the vote at the end of the report of the Committee, really I do not see any significant change when it comes to the

reallocation of the budget. You go, for example, to the vote one regarding the Secretariat, it is almost the same amount. I had a question. Is it because the GP Committee decided to overlook these matters in order to maintain the majority of the budget lines as originally proposed by the Council? I have not really detected any significant modification in the vote, which is related to the irregularities that have been presented in the report above, in the paragraph above, before concluding on the definitive vote that is that are given to every institution.

Right Honourable Speaker, I stand to be guided on how those two issues are related in the report. I thank you.

5.42

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Right Honourable Speaker, I want the Honourable Member to come again because I did not get what she talked about clearly so that I can reply her during my reply on the issues she wanted the Committee to respond.

The Speaker: Honourable Rutazana, kindly clarify.

Ms Francine Rutazana (Rwanda): Right Honourable Speaker, I would like to refer to the Chair of the General Purpose Committee to page...the Chair of the General Purpose Committee to page...

Ms Alodie Iradukunda (Rwanda): Information. I understood the question by Honourable Francine, so I want to help my Chairperson of the Committee on GP.

The issue you are raising is on votes that see a lot of changes. Maybe that is what you are referring to.

An Honourable Member: I am still online, so what I am suggesting... *(Interruption)*

The Speaker: Someone should mute her. These are the challenges of virtual meetings.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Right Honourable Speaker, let Francine continue to give clarification and then we can respond.

Honourable Alodie, I will ask you to respond on that in case I did not get it, but I expect her to bring it so that we are all on the same level. When the Speaker asks for a reply, I can request you to reply. Let us proceed.

The Speaker: We can proceed.

5.44

Dr. Gladness Ladislaus Salema (Tanzania): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker, for this opportunity to contribute to this very informative report. I appreciate and congratulate the Chairperson of GP and the members of the Committee and the Secretary for a job well done.

I have some questions. I am trying to connect issues which were raised today in the GP report and the report of the Committee on Accounts in the previous meeting. I see that there are a lot of unethical and governance issues coming out. As a parliament, at what point are we

going to have one report that speaks about these governance problems that we have at the Community?

It is very important that we have a report that picks the issues that were raised from the accounting and also the GP report. We should have one report that speaks about our reservations and observations and the issues that we think must be addressed in the Community. That is something that is in my mind, and maybe someone can explain whether that is possible. I think it is very important to have one report because there is a very strong connection between the two reports, and these are different things, but they are coming out with common issues such as malpractice and unethical behaviours and all those kinds of governance problems in our Community, so that is one.

At the same time, I am just trying to think out loud. We are going to pass the budget, and this budget is going to be implemented in an environment which is fragmented, with poor governance. What do we expect at the end of next year? What kind of report do we expect? Do we think there will be an improvement? I think we need to get a strong commitment from the Council, that they should assure the parliament that what are they going to do? What is the action plan that they have? What are the immediate actions that they have that is going to save this budget that we are going to pass this year? Otherwise, it will be repeating the same problems that we have. It is under those grounds that I thought it is very important that we have one report, which will have a very constructive directive or recommendations to the Council of ministers by indicating what we want them to commit in this

particular period of time. That is what I had to contribute.

Honourable Speaker, I thank you. I also thank the Chairperson of the Committee on GP and the whole Committee. Thank you.

5.48

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda):

Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. From the onset, I appreciate the very powerful Chair, Honourable Kennedy Ayasason Mukulia, and the Members that have tirelessly worked to produce this report.

I know it is a very difficult environment, working online. It is a very tight one, but I appreciate you, Honourable colleagues led by Honourable Kennedy Mukulia, and your team, and all the Secretariat staff that have supported you to produce this work. Let me start by what Honourable Kadogo mentioned briefly.

When you look at the reports, you see we are losing 130 staff. There is no institution in the world that spends a lot of resources and time, first of all, mentoring, grooming, and producing staff at this level, and then at the end of the day, you let go. Maybe there will be a mechanism where they can maybe do a bit of extension on contracts.

You see, even in football, even when a player is getting older, instead of giving them five years, they reduce by giving two or three years, so that there is a window to wind up. When you lose 130 officers you can never perform at the level of the 130 that you have set a goal. Maybe, the temporary staff who have been working with the professional and general staff can

solve the problem if we include all of them, so that there is a mechanism for filing the staffing gap. We as a Parliament can never perform without staff. I am sure that all organs of the EAC can never perform without the people that support them.

I think it was important that the Committee highlighted that. On the question of 400 days on outreach and activities. The Committee on Legal, Rules and Privileges (LRP), when doing its investigation came across a lot of those issues. There is no way on this planet that one person can have 400 days, because those are the days. Remember, you are paid a salary at the same time, now you have days beyond what is on the calendar. So at what time do you pay attention to your duty in the office? Unless there is no way in this planet that one person can have 400 days, because those are the days. Remember, you are paid a salary at the same time, now you have days beyond what is on the calendar. So at what time do you pay attention to your duty in the office? Unless if the question is about per diem and how much I collect. These issues should be mentioned and sent to the appropriate Committee to answer. If there are staff, I think it is important that we name, how do you travel for 400 days at the same time when you are working?

Mr. Speaker, let me go to my main area of interest. You know, I am the Chairman of Committee on Regional Affairs and Conflict Resolution. When I look at the matrix, specifically on Area 12, a lot of the issues of my Committee are affected. When you look at the reallocation that has been done and the justification given and where the money has gone, it is actually a lot of different activities altogether. The convening of meetings for

consultation on expertise to coordinate, to consolidate the report, for national consultation, for political federation and its recommendation. Political federation is a key pillar. When we address it urgently, maybe we will achieve the goal that we want to see. I see the justification for the Committee to reduce on this money, to reallocate the justification is that it is premature to have a meeting to consolidate the report of the findings when the consultations are yet to be done.

We do not have to wait for when the consultations are done. The purpose of budgeting is that you wait, even if one part of the state, like the URT, has not given the date. How about if URT gives the date tomorrow that they want to consult and yet you have removed the money? Where has the money gone? The money has gone to the Office of CTC. office of CTC. The money is coming from the political federation, going to the Office of the CTC. The justification here is that to convene a meeting of sector Council to consolidate on the pending Bill. You cannot remove money. And where did this money come from?? This money is coming from miscellaneous revenue.

From my consultation with this department, it is coming from the Office of the president of Kenya. He gave this money specifically for political confederation. You cannot remove money where a donor has given to a specific item. And you are assigning it to, contrary, a different aspect. That is, first of all, bad will. What is the reasoning for the Committee? This money should be reverted to that Committee so that we are ready. Because we have been saying, even when you saw my report yesterday, that there is a delay. is that there is a delay.

What if URT gives a date? I think we should push URT to give dates rather than removing the money. First, the meeting was already approved by the Council of Ministers. The budget is a donation. So it is irregular for you to relocate it to a different activity. My view is that the Committee should consider taking back this money so that it meets the requirements of what the source expects

Mr Speaker, Sir, looking at Matrix 13 which I will speak to. To convene the constitutional experts, national stakeholders, to collect views from Tanzania, to facilitate the drafting of the political confederation. Money was moved and what is the reason given is that URT has not confirmed the readiness to consult. This activity should be in the budget year of FY2026/2027. Where has the money gone? The money has gone to the Department of Finance. An amount US\$378,900 to facilitate the development of the EAC public finance and management administration.

Right Honourable Speaker, the same thing is happening here. You cannot move money from the same donor, from the main thing of political confederation constitution, which East Africans are asking and asking where are we and now where are you taking the money, the money has been directed to the Bill on financial management. This, I think the budget should have been focused separately rather than touching money on the political confederation constitution, which is the core pillar that we want to see as a region. I wonder how the Council approved it. The budget still is a donation and so it is irregular for the Community, in their wisdom, to reallocate it to a different activity and say that they move this activity to the Financial Year 2025/2026.

As a Community and an Assembly, it looks like we are not prioritising the matters of this political confederation. We have four years to implement it. Remember, we are coming from a political federation to a confederation. A confederation is downsizing to test drive, to make sure that maybe if the confederation is working, then we will be ready for the federation. I humbly appeal to the Committee to take back that resource. We can find money from the supplementary budget to cater for this question of facilitating the department of public finance and the financial management under the administration Bill. That is a Bill on public financing that should find money rather than waiting for this.

Finally, I will speak on the money that has been moved from holding the youth caravans to bring awareness to young people. on young people. Article 120, specifically requires us to involve the young people in the matters of the East African Community. The Committee in their wisdom feels that this youth caravan falls under the department of gender. The youth are basically under gender. The role of the gender department is to coordinate. It does not remove the question of youth and you put it in the armpits under the file of gender. Gender just coordinates. The East African Community can never move without the involvement of the young people.

Right, Honourable Speaker, this is one of the only budgeted activities of US\$20,000 to the young people. We represent the young people in this Community. I am sure that the Chairperson of the EALA Youth Caucus, Honourable Maina, sits in that Committee. I would love to pick his

mind on how he was convinced that you can remove the money for youth caravans and put it under gender. I mean, where have they put the money? Through the Department of Gender and Community Development for civil society. That is a good thing. Gender has personal disability, has women, has gender equality, has sexual violence, and a lot of those. You cannot budge that specific item, which brings and involves young people in the caravan to create awareness of youth ambassadors and budgets under gender.

My proposal and view as a person that also came here with the support of young people, as a person who has gone through youth structure, as a former president of the Uganda Young Democrats, as a former leader of the East African Youth Caravan, is that the Summit programmed the activities that young people should be involved in, in the political participation of East Africa, and therefore the integration agenda can never be visible, can never move without the young people. I request that the Committee seize the wisdom in making sure that they revert this money to provide for the youth caravans, and it is a moral item

Right Honourable Speaker, finally it is on the question of election observation. I am very privileged to have participated as Deputy Leader of the Delegation in the election observation. Prior or before the other budgets, this item is bigger and has gone through the overall ceiling. The days budgeted for are for 10 Uganda in Uganda and 14 days for the URT. In our proposal, because the money used to come from the reserve fund, now that there is no money in the reserve fund, my appeal and proposal is that we can reduce the days

for URT, remove 3 days or 4, and make it 9 or 10 days. For Uganda, remove 2 days and make it 8 days to cater for this very important aspect, so that we have the pre-visits, which helps us identify and assess what is the situation in that area. Later when we do the mission itself, we understand the hotspot, we have assessed the area, we have engaged the electoral management bodies and all those.

Right Honourable Speaker, we should find a way within the supplemental or borrowing, so that these deficits that are catered for within, that are seen here, are looked at. We do not only go to the election observation mission to tick a box that we have gone there. We want to go to that area, for instance, the Deputy Leader of Delegation, with their staff and all those that can support. Along the way, the role we do is to lead delegations or teams. Members of Parliament are the ones that lead the teams. However, you need the people that will write this report. You do the interrogation, the engagement, and you have technical people that do the writing. I believe that if we look through within, this can be reality. We are talking about election observation for URT, which is less than two months to come. You must find means within the budget line that you have to conduct this activity. The elections in Uganda will be coming in January 2026. You also have less than five months, so there may be no supplementary for you to deal with this matter.

I believe that the Committee, within their wisdom, can find an aspect so that they fully support this engagement. There are key engagements where the members of Parliament interact and engage with the leaders that will be at the Summit. Election

observation is a very important aspect because you are assessing a person who will be a Summit leader. You are observing elections where they will support a person who will take over the Summit; That is the key pillar for us.

I believe that the Committee, within their wisdom, they can find an aspect so that they fully support this engagement. There are key engagements where the members of Parliament interact and engage with the leaders that will be the Summit. Election observation is a very important aspect because you are assessing a person who will be a Summit leader. You are observing elections where they will support a person who will take over the Summit; That is the key pillar for us.

I beg Right Honourable Speaker, with all those few remarks, to appreciate the Committee once again and you for the opportunity. With these very few remarks that are heartily from my heart that they support this contribution because it is a key pillar for us to engage in matters of political moderation. I beg to submit. Thank you.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Dr Siranda.

Proceed, Amb Mathias Harebamungu.

6.03

Amb Mathias Harabemungu (Rwanda): Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker. Thank you for giving me this opportunity to add my voice to that of my colleagues. I support this report. I congratulate the Committee on GP for a job very well done. Right Honourable Speaker, I have two points to share with our Honourable

Colleagues, the Council and even the Secretariat. From the different audit reports and even the supplementary Bills, it came to our attention that during the budget implementation, some institutions excel either in underspending or in overspending, while others are struggling for their survival. I do not want to name them.

Right Honourable Speaker, I urge the Secretariat and the Council, by the way, that during the mid-term review of the budget implementation, they should evaluate whether the budget allocations are translating into expected outcomes. This is a very serious matter because they should proceed on reallocation to more promising areas. If this is conducted very well, we shouldn't and will never go back to what we have been observing during this last financial year.

Second, Right Honourable Speaker, I ask the Secretariat and the Council to lay out what, to lay out what are developed strategies and mechanisms have been put in place to ensure that we do have a sustainable and timely resource mobilisation for this financial year and even years to come. We should absolutely avoid and prevent similar disruptions and this will help the whole Community to move forward.

Right Honourable Speaker, I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you Honourable Mathias. Inow give the Floor to Honourable Maina followed by Honourable Mashaka Ngole

Mr Godfrey Maina Mwangi (Kenya): Thank you Right Honourable Speaker. Mine are just two issues. I have said this

in every budget cycle I have participated in. Our budget majorly is on recurrent expenditure, on issues of travel, part-time jobs, salaries, those recurrent expenditures. We also need to look at the productive sector of EAC. Even as much as you and I understand and even fellow members here understand that so much sectors are still held by the sovereign states or the partner states, we need to ask what we have in hand and we ask ourselves how can we leverage to ensure that we put resources in the productive sector and productive programmes for EAC.

Right Honourable Speaker, today, I attended a forum of young people who are brought together by EAC; an organisation that fights corruption in Kenya. Another one is called UNODC, which is the United Nations Office Against Drugs and Crimes. They were asking me about the programmes that we have for young people around fight against economic crimes and how we can positively engage young people in talent development in the EAC partner states. I challenge the Office of the Secretary General and other supporting organisations and organs of the EAC. We need to have our budget aligned around programmes that are going to develop our population in EAC.

The second thing is on the issue of human resources. The Committee of GP, has raised issues of human resource. The Council of Ministers already pronounced itself with regards to the staff who were given a temporary contract of maybe one year. Unless the Council of Ministers considers some of the issues that have been raised by the Committee, I want them to consider the distribution of staff and human resource across all partner states

of East Africa so that each country can get their fair share of their quota in regards to distribution of staff in EAC. We do not want to have one organ of EAC arbitrarily making decisions without considering that EAC is a Community of every partner state. We want to have fair distribution of human resources so that we do not have one partner state dominating a whole organ.

Right Honourable Speaker, those are my submissions with regards to the two issues of our budget, reflecting the productive sector of EAC and the population. The other one is on human resource, where every partner state gets their fair share of the quota of human resource.

Thank you, Right Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you for your contribution, Honourable Maina. I now give the floor to Honourable Mashaka Ngole followed by Honourable Machano.

6.10

Mr Khalfan Ngole Mashaka (Tanzania):

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity. Before I make my contribution, allow me to thank Honourable Mukulia for his strong leadership during the period of two and a half years of his tenure as a Chairperson of the GP Committee.

Mr. Speaker, my contribution is on the way the budget is prepared as provided before by the provisions of Section 3 of the Budget Act. There is a big problem with how the budget is prepared. If you read the provisions of Section 3 of the Budget Act, the Secretary-General has been given the power and mandate of preparing the budget of the Community. Through the same provision, when the

Secretary-General is preparing the budget of the Community, he or she is required to consult organs and institutions of the Community. I wonder how the budget of the of East Africa Court of Justice is prepared.

Mr. Speaker, when you read the budget speech that was presented by the Chair Council of the Community on 23rd of June, 2025 one of the priorities, I think it is the very best priority of the EACJ, is to reduce the case backlog. However, when you read the budget presented, you will find most of the activities budgeted are not meant to reduce the case backlog of the East African Community. You can also see, even in the budget speech, that the backlog of cases are increasing, and have increased from 265 cases in the previous year to 328 cases.

Mr. Speaker, these are cases which are not yet decided. According to the Budget Speech, the rate of case backlog increasing is 18 cases every year. Are we really expecting to reduce the backlog of the cases? The answer is very clear. There is no priority which has been given to the issue of reducing cases. There you can see, even this organ of the Community is not consulted when the budget is prepared. Our Committee on GP has proposed reallocation of 55,000 USD, which means that the planning of the budget was poor. That is why even the Committee found that 55,000 USD were allocated to the expenditure, which are not important.

Mr. Speaker, you can also see the budgets of the other organs and institutions. When you compare with the budget of the EAC, you see that, and you realise that we are not intended to reduce the case backlog. The

budget of the East African Community, East African Court of Justice, is only US\$5 million, while the budget of the other institutions like Inter-University is US\$10 million, while Lake Victoria is US\$7 million. You can say we are not serious. This important organ of the institution, the EACJ, is only budgeted to spend US\$5 million only, compared to this important organ of the institution, the EACJ, is only budgeted to spend of US\$5 million only, comparing to Inter-University Council and Lake Victoria Basin Commission.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, my comment is on, and I believe that is true, the East Africans are losing credibility to this court because of failing to timely deliver judgement of matters referred to it. The court is not delivering judgement. If you have 328 cases pending for the disposal, and the rate is increasing at 18 per cent. We will lose credibility to this court. No one will ever file his case to the East African Court of Justice in the future.

Mr. Speaker, with those comments, I thank you. I also thank the Chairperson of the Committee on GP for his good and well-elaborated report.

The Speaker: Honourable Mashaka, you are truly a lawyer. You have highlighted the issues of the court well.

I now give the floor to Honourable Machano Ali Machano who will be the last to speak.

Ms Alodie Iradukunda (Rwanda): Right Honourable Speaker, I have information to give. I kindly ask to be allowed to speak last.

6.15

Mr Machano Ali Machano (Tanzania):

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker, for the opportunity you have extended to me, to make my contribution to the debate on the report by the Committee on General Purpose.

I thank Honourable Dr. Siranda, for his submission. He talked largely about what I intended to submit. My submission is about the election observation mission, which took place in Kigali, Rwanda. I would like to add my voice on behalf of the youth ambassadors; the East African Youth Ambassadors. I have very sad information; the young people in East Africa are not fine., are not fine. I am told that the young people were only given transport to return to their home countries with the promise to receive their stipend thereafter. However, since they got back to their homes, they have never received their money. It is surprising how this Community treats its youth. We are planning to soon have other election observation missions to Tanzania and Uganda. My question is, how is the Community going to treat its youth members? How do we expect those people to join Honourable Members in conducting the election observation mission?

Mr. Speaker Sir, my advice to the Secretariat and this Parliament, is to let us value the brilliant work done by youth ambassadors. This is a very minor thing. The youth ambassadors just need to be given the money they are owed before we go to another election mission. When we call them again they will refuse to come before they receive what is owed to them, they will say that there is no need for them to...*(Loss of connectivity)*

I do not want to go back to what has been said by my Chair, Honourable Dr Siranda. I urge the Secretariat to respect the presence of youth and the importance of having these people in election observation missions. I support the report. I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you so much, Honourable Machano.

Ms Alodie Iradukunda (Rwanda):

Thank you, Honourable Speaker. Well, first of all, Honourable Ali Machano just mentioned something around the election observation mission in Rwanda, I just wanted to get clarification whether the liability is on EAC or it is to the Republic of Rwanda, so that we can probably make sure that we follow up on that. I would like to get a clarification on that.

Secondly, I want to come in to give information to Honourable Dr Siranda, because he talked about issues around the reallocation of funds from the youth ambassadors. If I can go to the specific item, he talked about the convening of a national sensitisation programme for EAC youth ambassadors to promote cross-border youth collaboration and strengthen the network of EAC youth ambassadors. As you mentioned, this is obviously a very important activity. By the way, as you rightly said, even me as the former Chairperson of the National Youth Council of Rwanda, I will not let this pass. I wanted to give clarity that this activity actually has not been removed or reallocated. It has been given to the rightful directorate, which is the agenda and is in charge of youth. While we were interacting with the activity holders, they told us that the reason why they did not want to give this

to the appropriate directorate was that they felt they had no capacity. That was the word that was used.

As a Committee, we did feel like, first of all, I do not think that it is fair to have a directorate that is viewed as incapacitated. This was an attempt of the Committee to try and reinforce this directorate, in fact. So this activity still remains. It just remains under the supervision of the right directorate and should be streamlined. If you talk about issues around youth management, we would think that while they are convening these events, they will have points of contact with these youth ambassadors so they can mainstream most of the youth interventions that are happening in the Community. I reassure you, Honourable Siranda, that we are actually trying to reinforce the directorate and not remove the activity.

Thank you very much, Honourable Speaker

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): Information, Honourable Speaker. First of all, Honourable Alodie, asked a question whether the obligation in the rate of diversion was granted. For me, as the deputy leader of the delegation, that obligation was tied to the EAC. But as to the issue of whether there was no money and the budgeting. We went to Rwanda, and there was no preparation to pick us from the airport as the deputy leader of the delegation. All attention was on the delegation leader. Yet, the Treaty is clear that this activity is specifically a big activity of the Assembly.

Honourable Speaker, I have always argued this activity, election observer

mission, was initially under the Assembly. How it moved to the Secretariat is another discussion you need to address yourself. So it is about the question of budgeting. Honourable Alodie, I also want to appreciate the initiative by your Committee, but remember, the Committee has no right to change the Summit directive. This Youth Ambassador activity is a Summit directive, and it places...

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Procedure, Honourable Speaker. Honourable Dr Siranda, you have already made your submission.

The Speaker: Honourable Siranda, you had already made your submission.

Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, Dr Siranda has already submitted. He cannot resubmit.

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda): This is a Summit directive, and I think it represents political participation. under political participation. It cannot just be under the Department of Gender. It is information. Chairperson of the Committee on GP, I trust you to be a good chair to take information.. It is in good will and good information.

The Speaker: Honourable Chairperson of the Committee on GP, you have the floor.

6.25

The Secretary-General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): Honourable Speaker, I was hoping to get a chance, if

possible, before the Chairperson of the Committee replies. This is the Secretary General.

The Speaker: Yes, you have the floor. I had not seen your hand up. Honourable Secretary General, you have the floor.

The Secretary General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): Thank you very much, Right Honourable Speaker. I thank the team that has compiled this Committee report. I wish to appreciate their good work and their thought process throughout this budget process. I just wanted to take the floor to shed light on some of the issues raised.

I think it would be remiss of me if I did not provide some clarifications, at least from the perspective of the Secretariat and other institutions and organs of the Community. I wish to appreciate the Committee first on their observation on the short-term stuff. We hope that a solution can be found. However, in the interim, considering the exit of the team that has had their 10-year contract expire. We are now losing the short-term staff and that would grind the institution to a halt. The short term staff are the people who really hold operations across all organs of the institution. I just wanted to thank you for that.

I wish to also comment on the youth ambassadors and the various observations that have been made. I just wanted to make two clarifications. One, yes, we do have youth activities under gender, but we also have youth activities under political affairs. In this specific case, these youth ambassadors are under political affairs, as a directive of the Summit. The second observation I wish to make is that the

Department of Gender is really affected on issues relating to staff shortages. The Department of Gender right now is zero staff. We do not have any staff working in gender. We do not have any staff working in the Department of Culture. We do not have a director for social services. Even if you were to remove this amount as it has been recommended, there would be absolutely no one to implement this. Therefore, the Committee in their wisdom can have a reflection on what that really means.

I have seen how the department of political affairs have been engaging with these youth and what they do. If you even go online and you see they have a whole youth ambassador platform. It is an active forum and the next generation that you need to be involved with. On political consultations, I wish to state and I am aware that the Chair of Council is here. This was a directive of Summit. The 25th Ordinary Summit that will be held this year expects a report on these political consultations. I am cognisant and worthy of the view that if we allow this to drop off, then we might be in an awkward position when it comes to justifying why we want to drop this.

Allow me to also just touch on the issue of the audit software and clarify the following. I think this clarification has been given. I will give three points on this matter. One, the consultant and the software are different. One budget line is on providing the software and hardware. And the second one is on the person who will run this software. While we take note and totally agree with the philosophy that we should have our activities being carried out by our staff, the truth of the matter is that there is no staff on this. This

was a direct recommendation of the audit commission to Council that there is a need for us to move to an audit software, which will address some of the issues, the bigger issues that the Committee has addressed itself to. The Council approved this. The third point on this is that this is actually supported by the Africa Development Bank. This is within a financing agreement. Therefore, I am not very sure that we would have to relook at the funding. We would have to relook at the funding agreement and see what leeway we have, because then it basically means that we would just have to return that amount back to them and then go back to the same issue that the Audit Commission has been raising.

Allow me to also just touch on the issue of the audit software and clarify the following. I think this clarification had been given. I will give three points on this matter. One, the consultant and the software are different. One budget line is on providing the software and hardware. And the second one is on the person who will run this software. While we take note and totally agree with the philosophy that we should have our activities being carried out by our staff, the truth of the matter is that there is no staff on this. This was a direct recommendation of the audit commission to Council that there is need for us to move to an audit software, which will address some of the issues, the bigger issues that the Committee has addressed itself to. The Council approved this. The third point on this is that this is actually supported by the Africa Development Bank. This is within a financing agreement. Therefore, I am not very sure that we would have to relook at the funding. We would have to relook at the funding agreement and see

what leeway we have, because then it basically means that we would just have to return that amount back to them and then go back to the same issue that the Audit Commission that has been raising.

Mr Speaker, I also observed in the report about borrowed money from institutions. We take note of the recommendation by the Committee that perhaps the money that the 57th Extraordinary Council asked the Secretariat to borrow money from institutions and deduct subsequently remit the same to EALA. But we note the recommendation that this should be deducted from the general reserve. I wish to just put on record, because this is a House of record. It is on the HANSARD that the institutions from which we borrowed money have since been asking back for the money because it was appropriated and budgeted for, against certain activities. Therefore, all of us are cognisant of the funding position of the Community and the state of the general reserve. It may be a matter that I wish to put on record and hope that it is captured by the HANSARD. We also take note of the comment on the report on governance of 2022. I appreciate a lot of this...

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Procedure, Honourable Speaker. I would like to give the SG information, so that the Secretariat can...

The Secretary General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): Right Honourable Speaker, I am just about done. Allow me to finalise...

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I shall forget. It is just one thing, so that you clarify in your reply.

6.32

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda) : I would like to seek clarification.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, clarifications are allowed by the proceedings.

The Speaker: I give this opportunity to the Chairperson of the Committee on GP to seek clarification.

6.30

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I just wanted to seek clarification from the SG on that matter of saying that the organisations are asking for their monies, because it is part of the budget. I wanted to ask the SG, should we budget and approve EALA's budget by negative US\$616,990, so that we are clear on record that EALA should now approve the budget of EALA negative that money, so that we are also on record? If she can clarify that one, then we can move on.

6.32

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda) : Final clarification, Right Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Proceed Honourable Rose Akol (*Honourable Rose Akol lost connectivity*)

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): Final clarification on the same matter. When we

make a budget, we approve this money for specific activities. If the SG deems it fit... (*Honourable Rose Akol lost connectivity*)... from EALA, then she should have also made a budget line.

We are looking for this kind of money, which is either we are dealing with a budget... (*Honourable Rose Akol lost connectivity*)

The budget this money in our budget. Then it is irregular. She cannot recover from it. I need clarification from her, how she wants to recover it from EALA, when there is no specific budget item related to what she is talking about. That I's the clarification that I am seeking.

The Speaker: Honourable Rose, we did not get your clearly.

Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Rose is asking, can the SG provide a budget line that indicates recoverable from EALA? In budgeting, you budget against items. You do not budget against nonexistent items. So, can she provide a budget line that indicates recovery from EALA, because of borrowed money? Failure to provide that, then we have a stalemate of no budget.

The Speaker: Honourable SG, kindly clarify those concerns.

Secretary General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): Honourable Speaker, let me just go back to my thought process. I am lost on two large phrases. Is there a stalemate on the budget? I am lost on the phrase that we cannot budget on nonexistent items. It is for that precise

reason, the general reserve is nonexistent, as we speak. I did not hear Honourable Rose Akol, I think she was lagging, but I have gotten the recap. I also take note of the information. We will provide real data to my Council. I am not providing any direction here. I am just pointing out the directive from the 57th Extraordinary Council, and flagging this new proposal which is there, and stating that we will flag it back to the policy organ of the institution. That is why I started by recognising that I am aware Chair of Council is there, and the Ministers are the ones who gave those directives, and they were captured. We will do the right thing. I am not the decision-maker on this particular item.

In terms of the governance issue I was referring to, I just wanted to note this, that this institution over the last financial year has, across board, all organs and institutions, actually received very clean audit reports. We have received a lot of good feedback on the changes we have made on institutions, on procedure and accountability. I take this opportunity to allay some of the fears of the Members, because the report that was considered today was for 2022. Since then, there is a lot that has been done, but also the observations from the Committee on General Purpose are very sweeping statements. Considering that this is a House of records, I just wanted to come in and say that we will look within my team for an opportunity, Speaker, if you allow, to work with Members so that we can even have an open day where my team can just go through some of the changes we have made. Because I feel like there is a bit of a disconnect in terms of what is actually being done, what are some of

the challenges. And that is what the Audit Commission, that has representatives from each of the partner states, Uganda now is taking the chair, to just come in and they look through our documents, they look through our processes. Some of the issues like VAT tax, those are issues that I have implemented under my term that were not there.

So, I am very confident when I say that the governance of the institution is in a good place. At a good place. The resourcing, the liquidity is the challenge, and a number of other issues. Resourcing, meaning the human resource, the tooling, the equipment, the housing, and some other processes. I really wanted that to be on record, because this is a House of records. We should give verifiable information that is evidence-led.

I also want to just talk about the budget process, and some of the questions that came up. I have looked through the allocations, and personally, I am comfortable. I mean, it is in the wisdom of this Committee. What I just wanted to note was just the process. I also want to just talk about the budget process, and some of the questions that came up. I have looked through the allocations, and personally, I am comfortable. I mean, it is in the wisdom of this Committee. What I just wanted to note was just on the process. The reduction by the 2090-2090, basically what it will mean is we will need to go back to the Finance and Administration (F&A) Committee, to review that we have a budget reduction, and then we would have to go through the entire Council process with a review so that the Bill then is representative of what Council approves.

Right now, there will be dissonance. This is going to delay everybody, whether it is the EACJ, the EALA or the Secretariat.

My humble appeal to the Chair of Council is that we make a request that, yes, reallocations can still be done, but the only thing that will allow me to issue debit notes to partner states when this distinguished House passes the Bill, the budget, would just be a similar budget as was approved by Council ceiling. Once the ceiling changes, whether minus or plus, then the whole process reverts back to verification. Lastly, I just wanted to comment on the court sessions and the case reduction. The EACJ has been part of the budget process. I am aware they interrupted the General Purpose Committee. And yes, they have budgeted for the court session. So, we always remain hopeful because just like EALA, they cannot fundraise for some of the activities. If they are funded, these court sessions will increase and hopefully we will reduce the backlog. However, I agree with the Honourable Member that the case backlog causes a reputational risk on the efficacy of the court to operate.

Mr Speaker, Sir, I want to stop there and just to thank Honourable Members for their support. I hope in future for a continued positive engagement. This is my last budget process and as I prepare to hand over to the next Secretary General as my term expires. My only wish and takeaway would be for a cordial, non-confrontational budget process of all stakeholders. I thank you for your kind attention.

The Speaker: Thank you, SG.

The Chairperson of the Committee on GP, you can reply.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, Thank you so much together with Honourable Members and everyone who submitted to supporting the report. There are various questions that were asked. The first question that was asked is from Honourable Francine, of which I had promised to give Honourable Alodie an opportunity to respond. Kindly allow her to respond to the question raised by Honourable Francine.

Amb Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Honourable Speaker, point of clarification on the procedure. I thought the Council Chair would speak before the Chairperson of General Purpose replies.

The Speaker: Honorable Ndagiza, this is a Motion by Council.

Amb Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Honourable Speaker, I am guided.

6.42

Ms Alodie Iradukunda (Rwanda): Right Honourable Speaker, I believe the question that Honourable Francine had was about the final report table that we have, that has votes. She was wondering why there were no changes, yet we had made some comments on some reallocations that were going to be made. I had made the clarification that the votes would not change, of course, except for the 200, the reduction on the EAC Secretariat, but the votes should normally not change because the reallocations are within the vote. So, the total amount should not change. That is the clarification. Thank you so much.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): I think you captured it very well. It is within vote reallocation. Colleagues, just to make us comfortable, reallocations are within votes, but it can take place within fund centres. So, cost centres, you can reallocate across, but then you cannot skip to another vote. For instance, you cannot take money from Vote 003 to Vote 002 or to Vote 005. So, that is a good clarification that we have given.

Another clarification came from Honourable Siranda. I request the Deputy Clerk (DC) to project the reallocation schedule. As I said, we were at a very end time in terms of our deliberation. Indeed, there were some reallocations that were supposed to be done, and that updated reallocation schedule that we have therefore provided. Some of those things are in the old reallocations. For instance, our first reallocation is from cost centre 011011, of which we would like to reallocate the amount of US\$9,800. And this amount is to be taken to the same office and to facilitate the enactment of the EAC Public Finance Management Act to streamline the management of the resources of the Community. If you can see the revised schedule of reallocation, that is what has taken place. And throughout, you can see from the reallocation schedule. The second reallocation schedule is to participate in two EALA plenary sessions outside Arusha. We clearly indicated that EALA will have one plenary session that will take place outside Arusha. Those resources are to be allocated to facilitate that.

The third item is to engage key stakeholders in the Federal Republic of Somalia. We

saw that the number of delegates is going too much, and again, we reallocated that amount of US\$47,700 to the same item on enactment of laws to make sure that our resources do not leak. Number four is to facilitate policy meeting organ convened by EAC organs institution. That is corporate communication, an amount of US\$11,500. We clearly see this money should go and conduct a comprehensive analysis of gender and social policies. You see, you cannot budget for recruitment and when we want to You see, you cannot budget for recruitment and when we wanted to give resources to that place that does not have staff, you do not want the resources to go there because there are no staff. do not have staff, you do not want the resources to go there because there are no staff. It beats the logic of why do we then budget for recruitment of staff to that department? What will that staff do once they are recruited?

6.46

The Secretary-General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): Procedure, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Honourable SG, you have the floor.

The Secretary-General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): I am just seeking clarification whether it is in order for the Chairperson to continue referring to the Office of the Secretary General as some other person?

The Speaker: Honourable SG, the Chairperson of the Committee on GP is not targeting you. This is a House of debate and it is not about you. Debate is for all of the Members who are here even you or

anyone else can get the floor and dig in. I think that for clarity, maybe the Chair of GP should be clear that it is not targeting you. It is not you who is in charge of the budget. This is an entire body which is in charge. It is not you.

The Secretary-General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): Procedure, Honourable Speaker, I am just saying that the Chairperson can feel free to just say Secretary General as opposed to some other person.

6.47

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, Thank you so much for your ruling. I will not contest your ruling. I will stand with your ruling. Thank you so much, Honourable Speaker. We are talking about an office, not an individual.

Honourable Speaker, for instance, when we say we are taking money of this amount to an office. And that office is supposed to be facilitated. Once you recruit someone to fill that office, then that person should have resources to go and conduct activities. We need to avoid these cases of what happened to EALA. I wanted to say this, that we were paid salaries for seven months for sitting and sleeping. Seven months' salary. Do we want to again recruit somebody on gender, Community development, civil society, to continue to receive salaries without her office having any resources? We need to make sure that as we also project the resources for recruitment, let us project the resources for an office to be facilitated to conduct the activities.

Honourable Speaker, something that we need to make it very clear here is that we are not, we are giving money to the same Community. Whether you are from gender, whether you are from the Kiswahili Commission or from health, these resources are for the Community. I do not see why people fight over resources. The resources are for the Community. So it beats logic when you allocate resources for a particular area that you see is very important. By the way, for the interest of the SG, let me address it this way through you, right Honourable Speaker, I have been in this Community for the last seven years, that the Office of Gender has always been neglected when we are trying to basically say that this Community should be gender sensitive. Gender is not only about women, youth, persons with disabilities, it is about everyone else. It is quite important for us to see that every time, even when that office had one person, that office had no money. So probably that is the reason why there is not much interest. And yet we preach that we want to make sure that gender is streamlined in all activities of the Community. I see no reason that if money is moved from, say, the same organ, I mean the same organ and activity line to another activity line, that still contributes to the objectives of the Community. Totally no difference. So it beats logic that we want to facilitate mainstreaming and we are getting resistance in terms of mainstreaming.

For your information also, we want to say that this morning, most of these allocations were agreed upon between Council and the Committee. In fact, the meeting was looking for where are the other, like where, how can the Committee interact when, I must be very honest, when the SG

is missing, the DSGs were missing, and there were officers who were present there and they cannot pronounce themselves. The Committee was there. The SG was missing. The DSG that she pronounced when she was providing her statement on the floor to the Committee that, "I have delegated the Deputy Secretary General for Monetary Affairs to be there" She was not there. So what do you expect us to do? The replies you are giving, they were the replies we were seeking for. During the meeting with the Council, nobody was there. We had the CTC, Ms. Beatrice and Mr. Magadu, who was giving us the replies to those things. This is something I just want to make it very clear here before the Committees, so that everybody in this Assembly, because when we say this is a House on record, we must be on record that the SG was missing, the DSGs responsible for these activities were missing. During the meeting with the Council, and the Committee and Council agreed.

Mr Speaker, there is an issue that was brought about by the youth ambassadors. The youth ambassadors. Indeed, I must make it clear before this House of record that the political federation department is the one that had a staff travelling for over 350 days. You can go to the Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF), if I am lying, go and start calculating the number of days staff in that department are travelling. From the top. I wish everybody who is here to go to the MTEF to start calculating the number of days that these people are travelling. You just go there, put their professional staff, just do a search, put professional staff, and add the number of days. It will give you the number of days that they are travelling. That will explain to you how people are not there in the

offices. They are all travelling. Then how are they going to conduct these activities?

That is why we are saying that an amount of money for the youth ambassadors, we are not taking them away. We are saying the gender convenes that, but the experts are from the political federation or political affairs department, whichever department, to go and provide the technical bit of it but rather the money be stationed at the rightful place. When we were interacting, the answers we got were not okay, by the way. The answers were saying this department is not having any capacity. How do you tell your colleagues that you do not have capacity? I do not think that is possible for someone to say you do not have capacity. Let us give that department or that unit that has no capacity, and let that unit prove itself to us that it doesn't have the capacity. Because if we just say that they do not have capacity, and that is the answer we are getting, then we feel there is so much human resource needed to be there.

We believe that the Department of Human Resource and Administration should have addressed these matters of others referring to others as not having capacity. It is quite perturbing to the Committee for staff of the same institution to refer to others that they do not have capacity. The Committee in whatever they are doing has never referred to anyone having no capacity.

That indicates how we look at everybody as an important person in the service of this Committee. So it would be not fair for us to be told that there is no capacity, and then we go ahead to now disqualify the statement that there is no capacity in that unit. That is why we brought this matter up,

and we have told the officers responsible here in the budget that we needed to capacitate the gender office and see if that capacity we are talking about is not there. We have not put it here but had earlier on said that we need a comprehensive review of the institution of the EAC. That includes the job description. That includes some of the policies. That includes a lot of things, the quarter manual, whatever. We are saying that the first step supposedly to be done is for us to go to a comprehensive institutional review of the HR matter, because most of the issues happening are because of the HR.

If you go to the budget Council members and members, you will find that a thousand of activities in the more than 1,000 pages are based on consultancy services. Nothing else. That means that we have an issue to address. It is not about... For me, I have no problem. This money does not come to me by this way. I am not going to benefit even a dollar here. But if you wanted to continue having the Community run us, it has been run. It has been run. Let us continue. It is not personal interest. It is for the interest of EAC.

If anyone feels that there is vested interest in some of us in this thing, then that is. Even the F&A must meet virtually to avoid lobbying across the corridor. We are aware of the F&A being lobbied behind the scenes to sometimes approve this thing. It comes to the issue that I have just been told here. If we approve this budget in minus, it has to go to the police organ. That is not right. In budgeting, ceilings refer to maximum limits. The upper limit. It does not refer to the lower limit. If we had exceeded the ceiling... And that is why in the wisdom Council, they have a

ceiling. They do not have a ceiling on the lower limit. Ceiling is up. A ceiling, as per the definition, is the maximum upper limit bound that is set for spending on a specific expense. It acts as a constraint preventing spending from exceeding a predetermined amount. The ceiling can apply to various areas such as the total, project, or even within a department. That is what the financial ceiling entails. I disagree that if we go to reduce the ceiling, therefore, it has to go to the police organ. That is not correct.

Right Honourable Speaker, as per Article 132 of the Treaty, the SG role stops at presenting the budget to Council for adoption and consideration of the Council. Thereafter, she becomes *functus officio*. The second stage is that after Council adopts the budget, it is now the responsibility of the Assembly to appropriate or authorise or approve. That is under Article 132(5). Again, this has been amplified by Section 5 of the Budget Act, meaning the Assembly can do reallocations. They can approve it within their mandate as far as the programmes are in tandem on what produces results. So, there is no way the loss of the Committee stops the Assembly from doing reallocations, from breaking the total amount of the ceiling down. If indeed we had exceeded, then the Committee is on the wrong. The Committee has even saved money from the partner state contribution.

If we are going to pass the Bill, it becomes the final document where the SG is supposed to issue a debit note. You cannot issue a debit note on an unapproved amount in a Bill. You only issue a debit note on the amount of money that has been approved and appropriated based on

a Bill. You cannot issue a debit note on a Bill. You need to issue that debit note on an approved amount in a Bill that has been passed by the House. I just want to make that one very clear.

Let us move to the next item, which is item 5. It is to organise a media briefing. And you can see that US\$42,400, had been estimated for that activity. We said, no, that is a lot; an amount of US\$15,000 is enough. Let the rest of the amount be allocated to the customs affairs so that they can be able to sensitise stakeholders in terms of transposed and revised EAC rules of order.

Right Honourable Speaker and Members, you may be aware that within the customs and within our people, that people are not aware of these rules of origin. Integration is not about streamlining something, but how do you touch it? Because of media briefing. And you can see that US\$42,400, had been estimated for that activity. We said, no, that is a lot; an amount of US\$15,000 is enough. Let the rest of the amount be allocated to the customs affairs so that they can be able to sensitise stakeholders in terms of transposed and revised EAC rules of order.

Right Honourable Speaker and Members, you may be aware that within the customs and within our people, that people are not aware of these rules of origin. Integration is not about having streamlining something, but how do you touch it? Because the new Treaty, it talks about people-centred integration. So, we need it to be people-centred, not just to be in the media

How many people, *mama wa mboga*, let me use that language, are able to go to streamlining things like, other than if they

are carrying their things across the borders and they know that an amount of money below US\$2,000, you are not subjected to taps. That is what we are saying. Why do not we sensitise the customs officers to know that if somebody, a woman, has just maybe a total amount of only US\$500 to trade across borders, she is not subjected to taxes. And that is what we are saying, that is why we want to reallocate. Let us move to the next item.

Deputy Clerk! Let us move to the next item.

I can use what I have from my side, if you are stuck in whatever.

Number six is to print and distribute 10,500 copies of Treaty. To distribute these copies, why do not we go online? Next is No.7, conduct quarterly sector-specific donor roundtables in terms of resource mobilisation. These items are already cut somewhere, and we are saying this is duplication. We say the role of resource mobilisation falls under the office of the SG. Therefore, to attend regional meetings and whatever, we take this money and brief the office of the Secretary General to conduct that activity. Another item is to facilitate administration at a cost of US\$36,000. We say this role goes to the SG to procure bags. We do not need that money, and we do not need those bags.

That is what we are talking about. These items are already cut at somewhere, and we are saying this is duplication. We say the role of resource mobilisation falls under the office of the SG. Therefore, to attend regional meetings and whatever, we take this money and brief up the office of the Secretary General to conduct

that activity. Another item is to facilitate administration at a cost of US\$36,000. We say this role goes to the SG to procure bags. We do not need that money, and we do not need those bags. That is what we are talking. To convene two workshops to review progress and validate consultancy design at an amount of US\$20,000 again, we have made it.

Let me go to substantive issue where Honourable Siranda has raised an issue to do with. Issue No 11 is on the Convene Constitutional Experts National Stakeholder Consultations to collect views in Tanzania to facilitate Drafting the EAC Political Confederation. Now, what we are saying is that the consultation have never been completed in all the eight partner states. It will be premature for you to convene a meeting of the constitutional expert to consolidate a report where consultation is done in Kenya, Burundi and Uganda. Consultation was not done in Tanzania, Rwanda, DRC, Federal Republic of Somalia as well as the Republic of South Sudan. What are you convening to do what? Our recommendation is clear, state approval of this money, the US\$106,000 and then bring it to a supplementary.

Once the Republic of Uganda, the Republic of South Sudan, the Republic, the United Republic of Tanzania, the Republic of Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and the Federal Republic of Somalia complete their consultations as per the Summit directive, bring this as a supplementary. We are saying the amount of US\$106,820 to make. We are saying the amount of US\$106,820 to making sure that once the activity of consultations are complete, you bring this as a supplementary so that we proceed ahead. What does

it mean? It means that the amount US\$106,820 will be added to US\$290,000 not to be approved for appropriation to ensure that we finish up the consultations. We agree that what we need to do is to give a recommendation that the partners that have not yet completed the consultation on the political confederation do complete their activities so that now we can convene the constitutional experts for them to be able to now go and review those things. be able to convene the constitutional experts for them to be able to now go and review those things. What are we convening? For what? The Committee took a keen interest in those things and did a very detailed look at how we are we appropriating amount of this nature, yet consultation was not completed.

The third item is now convening for URT. We are saying that as far as it is concerned, first of all, we are going to have an election in URT. Would it not be right that we ask for only deletion of the noun Tanzania so that we make it as a convening for political confederation? There was an error in terms of justification where this money was taken to the Public Finance Management Act. Why do not we kill the activity and the activity remain under that political confederation, I mean political affairs office, so that any country that is ready to conduct their consultation, the country can proceed other than us tagging it to a particular country. Because most of the countries have not confirmed that they are going to do so. For instance, what if tomorrow Rwanda says it wants to continue to do public consultation. If we tag the thing to URT, it will require a reallocation and because it requires Council, which takes time.

So, why do not we remove the noun URT and make the activity that is done for political consultation so that we do not have a country tagged? That is it. The other justification given there is just a justification that I think because of the timing, but it is not supposed to be reallocated to finance. It is simply to maintain the activity there. However, we just removed the noun URT. That is to answer what Honourable Siranda has said. Right Honourable Speaker, as I proceed to respond to many of the things that have been said, I just want to make it clear that the Committee took time and analysed some of these things with keen interest. There are things that we have never even put here because of time. The reason it is not here is because of time. We cannot put everything here. Honourable Members, we need to consider that what the Committee has done is a reflection of what you have tasked us to do. Otherwise, if you did not ask us to do this thing, you would not have known this. But again, you should understand how the Committee worked tirelessly to peruse through the 1,000 plus pages for them to be able to come up with this report. What we are doing is in the interest of the Community, not in the interest of anyone else. It is not in the interest of anyone else. As I have said, nobody will get even a single dollar.

I want to make it clear here to Honourable Colleague, if you consider some of the submissions given to us, one of the items we really need to be of keen interest is the removal of the US\$669,000 from EALA. As Honourable Rose, you budget for specific items, not budget for things that are not there. So if one of the items is that you, the money made for EALA of US\$669,000 to be deducted, it means that

vote 003 must be negative. So do you want to give an authority to a vote to your own vote starting in negative? Ask yourself that.

I submit, Right Honourable Speaker. Thank you.

The Speaker: I can see that the Honourable SG's hand is up. Do you want the floor or can we proceed?

7.09

The Secretary-General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): I would like the floor, Honourable Speaker.

The Speaker: Yes, you have the floor.

The Secretary-General – EAC (Hon. Veronica Mueni Nduva): Thank you so much. I just wanted to make a clarification. I hope you can hear me. I am soft-spoken. I really do not know how to shout very loudly.

I just wanted to make a clarification on the case of the ceilings being reduced, once a proposal is made to Council and they agree to this reduction, we would not have a problem. The Council can really agree on the floor. By stating that we always work on directives, it was just information how we do this. Once the EALA passes or when the budget is approved, we issue debit notes and we attach the directive, the excerpt from the last Council on how much we are supposed to bill each partner state. The Chair of the Committee on GP said quite loudly that the partner states would be more than happy to have a Bill that is less, especially because we have countries like South Sudan which have a really enormous backlog of payments

and perhaps will make good of that. I think we are in total and complete agreement.

I also wanted to take the floor to clarify that we will be writing officially to the political affairs to clarify if indeed they have been out for 400 days. This is a House of records and we did not want the records captured wrongly because history will judge us very harshly. I will take that very seriously and commit to report back to this House if indeed there was someone who was out for 400 days.

I also wanted to just clarify that perhaps it is a question of parlance and understanding. When we say 'capacity', it is just basically saying that it is not a negative statement. It basically means that the only person who was working on gender affairs is no longer there and the director is no longer there, so there is no one to undertake. Perhaps it is a question of, English is not our first language, and therefore perhaps it is a question of parlance that we, who are there to undertake this activity, is there to undertake this activity. I even gave an example there that the Department of Gender had an allocation of US\$124,000 last year that they were unable to expend, basically because there were no staff in that department.

As a female, and of course the first female Secretary-General of the Community, I would not cast gender in a negative way especially having served as a Principal Secretary in charge of gender previously. It is important that that comes out very well. I also wanted to put on record that, again, during the open engagement that I am really going to pursue with Members, I will put available all the financing

agreements for perusal. I think it is important for the outgoing chair of GPC to also just see all this, because as you know, South Sudan is set to take over as Secretary-General, and by chance that he assumes the seat of Secretary-General, it would be important that he has the right to information. I submit.

7.12

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I accept the appointment in early advance

Ms Rose Okullu Akol (Uganda): One final clarification, Mr Speaker. I know we are all not accountants in EALA, but I think the accounts department needs to guide the Secretary-General and also Council on the treatment of issues like when you profession and how you recover that money.

First of all, EALA does not have the mandate to look for money for its activities. That responsibility is totally the responsibility of SG. Secondly, if there was money that was borrowed for the activities of EALA, in this budget that concluded on 30th June, that money is only recoverable up to 30th June from any money that has been remitted to EALA under a similar item. When we cross the year, that money becomes arrears from that year, and it cannot be recovered from EALA. In the new budget, I just want the secretary-general to understand that this is a new budget, items of last year ended on 30th June, one, that this is a new budget, items of last year ended on 30th June. This is a new financial year, and we are dealing with items that are budgeted for. Not items

of last year. If she does work on the EALA budget, which they have not to submit to us as the Assembly, so they should have done that. Now that they have not done that, that money cannot be recovered from the current budget of 2025-2026. They can only recover it from any area that is due to EALA that has gone on the reserve fund. So, that is why they can only treat that money as recoverable from arrears. I want this one to be understood. Thank you.

The Speaker: The Honourable Chair of Council would like to make her contribution.

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, just to bring this to the attention of everybody else that has joined us and want to open a discussion again on matters that started in the morning. Some of us have been sitting, taking through these processes. I really want guidance from you, Speaker, that we allow the Committee to read the report, share, give recommendations, because all these things will finally come to the Council to be discussed.

On matters of political consultation, let us bring to the attention of everybody else that the money we are talking about was a goodwill from the Republic of Kenya to facilitate countries that were supposed to do consultation, interstate consultation, or country consultation on political confederation. As the Chairperson of the Committee on GP says, Kenya, Uganda and Burundi did consultations. The reason, the rest did not do was because of

a financial constraint. Kenya stepped in to bring that money, to bridge that gap. There were deadlines to it. I think the time they were given to have done it is already past. We need now to look at how do we make these other countries that were not able to consult, do it faster. The whole essence of experts being put, and I am honest here, I have no interest that is personal, but I am looking at the value for money. That was brilliant enough to have it brought forward.

The other four countries that are supposed to do consultations, are facilitating their processes. We can hire one consultant expert to do all those things that are joint. I concurred with the Committee on that matter, being a citizen and the Minister in charge of EAC from Kenya. We do not want a situation where this money will get exhausted and then miss countries consulting internally, politically.

The other issue is about the staff. It is very clear, and it is on record, that we need to create a review. We had given that instruction as a Council to the Secretariat. I do not know why the Secretariat wants the Committee to give recommendation to the Council on extension of people, when we need a review report that will look at the broader distribution of staff, I mean, terms and conditions of anything on human resource. You also gave a proposal that we need all human resources within the organ to be under one directorate, so that we do not miss some people having their contracts come to an end and they do not get gratuity or would not get recognition. We also find that some organs are paying salaries manually while others are not. All these gaps are what we want to speak into, so that we bring this into a

proper way of handling human resources in the entire organ. That recommendation was already concluded when we were handling the Committee affair with the Committee on General Purpose. I wish you guys that please put recommendations for the Council, and we will deal with it as it is. Some countries feel like they are not getting a proper deal in the representation of the institutions of organs in their countries, human resources, and all those things put together.

I do not know which reason the Secretariat want the Committee to give recommendation to the Council on extension of time for people, when we need a review report that will look at the broader distribution of staff, I mean, terms and conditions of anything on human resource. You also gave a proposal that we need all human resources within the organ to be under one directorate, so that we do not have some people having their contracts come to an end and they do not get gratuity or would not get recognition.

We also find that some organs are paying salaries manually while others are not. All these gaps are what we want to speak into, so that we bring this into a proper way of handling human resource in the entire EAC. That recommendation is already concluded when we were handling the report on staff affair with the Committee on General Purpose. I wish you guys put recommendations for the Council, and we will deal with it as it is. Some countries feel like they are not getting a proper deal in the representation in the institutions and organs in their countries, human resource, and all those things put together. Let us just be fair to each other, and fair to the process of Community, and let us forge a

way forward. Let us have the Committee read its report, let the recommendation come, and then we will deal with it at the Council level.

We have sat here since morning. Some of us have country work. We are supposed to plan for our Heads of State's visits elsewhere. We cannot do that because we are opening a discussion again on a matter that had room for consultation, for people to input, so that now at this level, it is just reading the final report.

We have sat here from morning. Some of us have country work. We are supposed to plan for our Heads of State's visits elsewhere. We cannot do that because we are opening a discussion again on a matter that had room for consultation, for people to input, so that now at this level, it is just reading final report.

I submit on behalf of the Council.

Mr Speaker, please guide the debate.

The Speaker: Honourable Chair of Council, can I consider what you have said as your reply to the debate?

Now, I give the floor to the Chair of the Committee, then I will put the Question.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, we have concluded only that we are going to propose an amount of US\$106,000 not to be approved. that an amount of US\$106,000 not to be not approved. When we go to pass the Bill, we will now give the amendments to the Bill. But most of those things we really agreed

in the morning with the Chair Council, and I do not think you really need to open the debate. Thank you.

The Speaker: Honourable members, I now put to the question that this Assembly adopts the Committee report. Those in favour say, raise your hand.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Next Order.

(The House went into Committee)

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY AND COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY APPROVAL OF THE EAC BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR FINANCIAL YEAR 2025/2026

The Speaker: Honourable members, we will consider vote by vote in the Approval of the EAC Budget Estimates for Financial Year 2025/2026

*Vote 001- EAC Secretariat -
US\$54,919,102*

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 001 – The EAC Secretariat, has a budget estimate of US\$54,919,102.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I request that with the non-approval of US\$106,000, the figure be revised to read US\$54,919,102.

Can the Deputy Clerk, Mr Mutega project the revised value. *(Consultations)*

Mr Speaker, I confirm the figure.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Budget estimate for Vote 001(as amended) adopted.)

*Vote 002 – East African Court of Justice -
US\$5,056,413*

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 002 - East African Court of Justice has a budget estimate of US\$5,056,413.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Budget estimate for Vote 002 adopted.)

*Vote 003 - East African Legislative
Assembly - US\$20,495,264*

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 003 - East African Legislative Assembly - has a budget estimate of US\$20,495,264.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Budget estimate for Vote 003 adopted.)

*Vote 004 - Lake Victoria Basin
Commission - US\$7,606,052*

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 004 - Lake Victoria Basin

Commission has a budget estimate of US\$7,606,052.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia)

(South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure is correct.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Budget estimate for Vote 004 adopted.)

Vote 005 - Inter-University Council for East Africa - US\$10,802,434

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 005 - Inter-University Council for East Africa has a budget estimate of US\$10,802,434.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure is correct.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Budget estimate for Vote 005 adopted)

Vote 006 - Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation - US\$2,436,924

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 006 - Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation has a budget estimate of US\$2,436,924.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure is correct.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(Budget estimate for Vote 006 adopted.)

Vote 007 - East African Science and Technology Commission - US\$2,210,511

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 007 - East African Science and Technology Commission has a budget estimate of US\$2,210,511.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure is correct.

Question put and agreed to.)

(Budget estimate for Vote 007 adopted)

Vote 008 - East African Kiswahili Commission - US\$1,641,445

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 008 - East African Kiswahili Commission has a budget estimate of US\$1,641,445.

Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure is correct.

Question put and agreed to.)

(Budget estimate for Vote 008 adopted.)

Vote 009 - East African Health Research Commission - US\$2,354,504

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 009 - East African Health Research Commission has a budget estimate of US\$2,354,504.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure is correct.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Budget estimate for Vote 009 adopted)

Vote 010 - East African Competition Authority - US\$1,525,212

The Speaker: Chair, do you confirm that Vote 010 - East African Competition Authority has a budget estimate of US\$1,525,212.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Chair, I confirm the figure is correct.

(Question put and agreed to)

(Budget estimate for Vote 010 adopted)

The Speaker: Chair Council. You are to move your motion.

COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS

MOTION FOR APPROVAL OF THE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS FOR THE EAC BUDGET FOR FINANCIAL YEAR, 2025/2026

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 the financial instruments for the EAC budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 be approved.

The Speaker: Do you have a seconder?

(Seconded by Honourable Kim Gai, Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda, Honourable Alodie Iradukunda)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the motion on the floor is that the financial instruments for the ESC budget for the financial year 2025-2026 be approved. Debate is open.

I do not see any Member willing to contribute.

Honourable Members, I now put the motion that the financial instruments for the EAC budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026 be approved. Those in favour, raise your hand.

(Question put and agreed to)

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

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 the House do resume and the Committee on Supply and the Committee on Ways and Means report that.

The Speaker: Do you have a seconder?

(Seconded by Honourable Kim Gai, Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda, Honourable Francine Rutazana)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I put the Question that the House do resume

and the Committee on Supply and the Committee on Ways and Means do resume and report thereto.

(Question put and agreed to)

(The House resumed)

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY AND COMMITTEE OF WAYS AND MEANS

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 report that the Committee on Supply and the Committee on Ways and Means has considered and approved the EAC Budget for the FY 2025/2026 with amendments together with the financial instruments.

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SUPPLY AND THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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 the report of the Committee on Supply and the Committee on Ways and Means be adopted.

The Speaker: Do you have a seconder?

*(Seconded by Honourable Kim Gai,
Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda,
Honourable Francine Rutazana)*

Honourable members, the Motion on the floor is that the report on the Committee of Supply and Committee on Ways and Means be adopted.

I do not see any Member willing to contribute. I will proceed to propose the Question.

(Question proposed)

I now put the question that the report of the Committee on Supply and the Committee on Ways and Means be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to)

We proceed to Order No.7.

BILLS SECOND READING

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2025

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, I beg to move -

“THAT, The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2025 be read for the Second Time.”

The Speaker: Do you have a seconder?

*(Seconded by Honourable Kim Gai,
Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda,
Honourable Francine Rutazana)*

Now you 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, The Council approved a total sum of US\$109,338,151 as the EAC budget for the Financial Year 2025/2026. For it to have legal effect, the Council introduced before the Assembly the EAC Appropriation Bill 2025, and the first reading was done on 30th May 2025.

Recognising that this House has demanded for a progressing the East Africa budget, and;

Further recognising that for the EAC budget to stand, it has to be acted by a legal framework;

It is, therefore, imperative that we proceed with the Second Reading of the Bill, and later the Third Reading;

As a Council, we have interacted at various levels, including with the Committee on General Purpose, and we feel the process can now move forward.

The Speaker: Thank you.

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, as I continue, I know the figures here are not as it were, so this was the amount which was approved by the Council, was amended by the Committee of the whole House, to US\$109,047,861. I submit

The Speaker: Honourable Members, the motion of the floor is that the East African Community Appropriation Bill 2025 be read for the second time. I call on the Chair of the Committee, in case he has a report, if you do not have one.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, the report is well put by the Chair Council, that the East African Community Appropriation Bill 2025 be passed for second reading, and the amount that will be in the Bill be US\$109,047,861. I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Thank you, Honourable Chair.

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Honourable Speaker, I wanted to find out what the Chairperson of the Committee on GP just said; the figure that will be captured. Is it the amended one or the original figure?

The Speaker: We will deal with that when we get to the Committee stage.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, as we are passing the Bill through the Second Reading Stage, you are using the amended figure. The figure that appears on the final reading, the Third Reading is the figure that has been passed at the Second Reading stage. The figure is US\$109,047,861.

Amb. Fatuma Nyirakobwa Ndagiza (Rwanda): Honourable Speaker, I still need clarification. I thought the

amended figure was US\$109,338,151. is US\$109,338,151. What the Chair is reading is the original figure.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan):

Honourable Fatuma, the original figure was US\$109,338,151. The amended figure is US\$109,047,861. I submit.

The Speaker: The debate is open.

7.50

Dr Gerald Blacks Siranda (Uganda):

Honourable Speaker, I understand when it becomes this late, there is a bit more frustration. However, this is a very important process. But I want to appreciate the Chair of Council because when I hear how she sounds, it is a commitment. I think what we have always lacked in Committees is the presence of the Council. Once the Council appears before the Committee meetings, a lot of work becomes much easier. By the time it comes to the floor, it is not about a lot of arguments in the line of where you want to go. is a commitment. I think what we have always lacked in Committees is the presence of the Council. Once the Council appears before the Committee meetings, a lot of work becomes much easier. By the time it comes on the floor, it is not about a lot of argument in the line of where you want to go. That would be the direct line. Once we are in Committees, that is where a lot of work is done.

When there is a presence, we get to understand each other, to appreciate that all of us work in the line of where we want to go. The Treaty has assigned us a direct mandate. We are not frustrating anybody.

The Treaty says that we must appropriate and we must approve in terms of where we are going. The Secretariat have already done their work. What I am trying to tell you, the speaker, is that this is a good practice that going forward, if we have a lot of this engagement and we interact, we solve a lot of work and then we will have avoided the question of saying this country A has not assented to the Bill and country B has not assented to the Bill because they participated and they got the buy-in of each of these Council ministers at the process.

I want to thank her for insisting that we could not proceed with the debate that day because she wanted to get the other Council members involved at the Committee level so that when we come to the floor, we are speaking the one language.

When there is a presence, we get to understand each other, to appreciate that all of us work in the line of where we want to go. The Treaty has assigned us direct mandate. We are not frustrating anybody. The Treaty says that we must appropriate and we must approve in terms of where we are going. The Secretariat have already done their work. What I am trying to tell you, the speaker, is that this is a good practice that going forward, if we have a lot of this engagement and we interact, we solve a lot of work and then we will have avoided the question of saying this country A has not assented to the Bill and country B has not assented to the Bill because they participated and they got the buy-in of each of these Council ministers at the process.

I want to appreciate her for insisting that we could not proceed with the debate that

day because she wanted to get the other Council members involved at the process of the Committee level so that when we come to the floor, we are speaking the one language.

Finally, from me, it is to appreciate the Chair of the Committee on GP that you can understand that what I was reading is a question for us to stick to the other area. The chair Council, I was mentioning that it was a donation but the chair Council has brought it. Once a particular person brings the money and he says this for a particular job, you cannot allocate it. I want to appreciate the chair for sitting and accepting the allocation which was said for a Bill. That the allocation which was said for a Bill. If the money remains in a particular department, I have no problem if it has remained in a specific department because they need answers from the other person.

Thank you Chair Council for insisting that we urge all these countries that have not completed the consultation. Maybe some of that resource should be used to find a way of encouraging them so that this process is done. With all that, I believe that this is the right way to go. All of us have the role to play.

Thank you Secretariat for whatever they have done, the Council, and of course the Committee that I beg to submit with all those remarks.

The Speaker: I now give the Floor to the Chairperson of the Committee to reply.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, everything is okay.

The Speaker: Honourable Chair of Council, you may proceed.

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 express my gratitude to all the stakeholders in the entire budget process. I want to appreciate the General Purpose Committee for the detailed scrutiny and the spirit of give and take within the budget arrangement.

I also want to appreciate the members of EALA who have really come out to really protect and be very objective in the matters of EAC. I also want to appreciate both staff from EALA and the Secretariat because with me here is the Deputy Clerk. He has been with me plus the team that came from Arusha since from morning. We have been attending the various Committees and this is a commitment that cannot be go unnoticed and I think this is very good. Somebody spoke of my voice. I am encouraged by the team beside me. Of course anything money is very important and sometimes it is nice to go through this and then gently agree at the end of the day. Thank you Mr. Speaker.

The Speaker: Thank you Madam Chair and the Council of Ministers.

Honourable Members, The motion on the floor is that the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2025 be read for a Second Time.

(Question put and agreed to)

(The Bill was accordingly read a Second Time)

Next Order

*financial year ending 30th June, 2026.**(The House in Committee)**(Question that Clause 2 (as amended)
be part of the Bill put and agreed to.)*

BILLS
COMMITTEE STAGE

(Clause 2 (as amended) adopted)

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
APPROPRIATION BILL, 2025

The Schedule

Clause 1

The Speaker: I put the Question that the Schedule (as amended) be part of the Bill.

The Speaker: I put the Question that Clause 1 be part of the Bill.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I request that the office of the Clerk, projects Clause 1.

*(Question that Clause 1 put and agreed to.)**(Clause 1 adopted.)*

Clause 2

The Speaker: I put the Question that Clause 2 (as amended) be part of the Bill.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I beg to move that Clause 2 be amended to read -

'The sum of United States Dollars one hundred and nine million, forty seven thousand eight hundred and sixty one thousand, is allowed out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the Organs and Institutions of the Community, as specified in the Schedule, for the

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I beg to move that the Schedule be amended as per the various votes -

Sn	Organ/Institution	Amount In USD
1.	EAC Secretariat	54,919,102
2.	East African Court of Justice (EACJ)	5,056,413
3.	East African Legislative Assembly (EALA)	20,495,264
4.	Lake Victoria Basin Commission (LVBC)	7,606,052
5.	The Inter – University Council for East Africa (IUCEA)	10,802,434
6.	Lake Victoria Fisheries Organisation (LVFO)	2,436,924
7.	East African Science and Technology Commission (EASTCO)	2,210,511
8.	East African Kiswahili Commission (EAKC)	1,641,445
9.	East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC)	2,354,504
10.	East African Community Competition Authority (EACCA)	1,525,212

(Question that the Schedule (as amended) be part of the Bill put and agreed to.)

(The Schedule (as amended) adopted.)

The Preamble

The Speaker: I put the Question that the Preamble (as amended) be part of the Bill.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I beg to move that the Preamble be amended to read -

‘The object of this Bill is to appropriate a sum of United States Dollars one hundred and nine million, forty seven thousand eight hundred and sixty one thousand, out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the Organs and Institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 2026.

(Question that the Preamble (as amended) be part of the Bill put and agreed to.)

(The Preamble (as amended) adopted)

The Title

The Speaker: I put the Question that the Title (as amended) be part of the Bill.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, I beg to move that the title be amended to read -

‘An Act of the Community to appropriate a sum of United States Dollars one hundred

and nine million, forty seven thousand eight hundred and sixty one thousand, out of the budget of the Community to meet expenditure for the Organs and Institutions of the Community for the financial year ending 2026.

(Question that the title (as amended) be part of the Bill put and agreed to.)

(The Title (as amended) adopted.)

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia (South Sudan): Mr Speaker, I have a procedural issue. Should I be the one moving these amendments or should they be moved by the Chair Council?

I would like guidance.

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 agree with the amendments.

MOTION FOR THE HOUSE TO RESUME

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 the House do resume and the Committee of the Whole House do report.

The Speaker: Do you have a seconder?

(Seconded by Honourable Kim Gai, Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda,

Honourable Francine Rutazana)

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I put the Question that the House do resume and the Committee on Supply and the Committee on Ways and Means do resume and report thereto.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The House resumed.)

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

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, this august House has considered and passed the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2025 with Amendments

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE HOUSE

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 the report of the Committee of the Whole House on the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2025 with Amendments be adopted.

*(Seconded by Honourable Kim Gai,
Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda,
Honourable Francine Rutazana)*

The Speaker: Honourable Members, I will propose the question.

(Question proposed.)

Thee debate is open. Since there is no interest in debating, allow me to put the Question.

I now put the Question that the report of the Whole House be adopted.

(Question put and agreed to.)

Next Order.

BILLS THIRD READING

THE EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY APPROPRIATION BILL, 2025

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, I beg to move -

“THAT, The East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2025(As Amended) be read for the Third Time and do pass.”

The Speaker: Do you have seconders?

*(Seconded by Honourable Kim Gai,
Honourable Dr Gerald Siranda,
Honourable Francine Rutazana)*

I will not put the Question. I put the Question that the East African Community Appropriation Bill, 2025(As Amended) be

read for the Third Time and do pass as amended.

(Question put and agreed to.)

(The Bill was accordingly read a Third time and passed.)

The Speaker: Honourable Chair of Council, I congratulate you.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Mr. Kennedy Aysason Mukulia) (South Sudan): Honourable Speaker, before the Chair Council speaks, since this will be an Act passed for enactment by the Heads of State or Summit Members, I request that the correct figures be transmitted to the partner states in terms of their obligation to the Community. I request that all reflections be made in the budget management system to reflect the changes to avoid a situation where these changes are made and in the end they do not reflect in the Budget Management System (BMS). This has been happening for long and in many cases, the Assembly is deprived of off the opportunity to go to the system to see whether the changes that the Assembly has approved in concurrence with Council reflect in the system.

Additionally this has an effect that once this is done, we do not receive the copy of the approved budget in terms of what has been reflected on the BMS you can see that the report of the Committee has always outlined 30th September as when the secretariat can submit the final copy of what has been reflected in the approved budget where are done.

Thirdly, we have had cases where the Assembly approves those changes but the Budget Office refuses to reflect the changes in the BMS. Thirdly, we have had cases where the Assembly approves those changes by the budget office refuses to reflect the changes in the BMS. that is the reason why we are not given access to see what has been reflected in terms of changes approved by this assembly.

Right Honourable Speaker, in your wisdom and in the wisdom of the Council, we believe that going forward, we need that information provided to the Assembly for us to see exactly whether what this Assembly has approved reflects what has been done.

I beg to submit.

The Speaker: Honourable Chairperson of Committee on GP, thank you.

I direct the Office of the Clerk to transmit the figures to the Secretary General as they have been passed.

I congratulate the Chairperson of The Council Of Ministers for her first experience of the budget process. she did it well.

I congratulate the Members of the Committee on GP who have worked under difficult conditions to deliver their report. They sometimes had to finish their meetings at 2.00 a.m. Those are the challenges of virtual meetings.

I also thank all the members of the Secretariat, my Clerk and everyone who

has done something to facilitate this budget process.

ADJOURNMENT

The Speaker: Members, I now adjourn the House to tomorrow, Friday 11th July 2025 at 10.30 a.m.

(The House adjourned at 8.13 p.m. to Friday, 11th July 2025 at 10.30 a.m.)

