



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**REPORT OF THE SIXTH INTER-PARLIAMENTARY
RELATIONS SEMINAR (NANYUKI VI) ON THE THEME:
“THE ROLE OF LEGISLATURE IN ACHIEVING
A POLITICAL FEDERATION”**

House of the Burundi National Assembly, Bujumbura,
Burundi: 27th to 29th November 2011

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LIST OF ACROMYMS

AWEPA	Association of European parliamentarians in Africa
CM:	Common Market
CU:	Customs Union
EA	East Africa
EAC:	East African Community
EACJ:	East African Court of Justice
EALA:	East African Legislative Assembly
EASF:	East Africa Speakers' Forum
ECOWAS:	Economic Community of West African States
FCC	Fears, Concerns and Challenges
IGAD:	Inter-Governmental Authority for Development
IUCEA	Inter-University Council of East Africa
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NTBs	Non-Tariff Barriers
PAP:	Pan-African Parliament
PF:	Political Federation
SADC-PF:	South African Development Community-Parliamentary Forum
SG:	Secretary General

REPORT OF THE MEETING

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2.1 Context for Nanyuki VI Meeting

The Inter-Parliamentary Relations Seminar held in Bujumbura between 27th and 29th November, 2011 was the sixth in a series of such seminars that have been held by the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) since the inaugural one in Nanyuki, Kenya on 25-27th June, 2004. The holding of the inaugural seminar was undertaken under the provisions and so as to implement the requirements of Article 49(2) of the EAC Treaty for the establishment of the East African Community (EAC), which empowers EALA to "Liaise with the National Assembly of the Partner States on matters relating to the Community." The "Nanyukis" thus provide a forum for EALA and Members of National Parliaments to *discuss their functional relationships, structures for communication and exchange of information so as to deepen and widen EAC integration.*

2.2 Significance and Objective of "Nanyuki VI"

The Nanyuki VI was held as a culmination of activities to mark EALA's 10th Anniversary as an Assembly. The 10th Anniversary celebrations were launched in April 2011 in Kigali, Rwanda by participating in construction of houses as part of an initiative to eradicate grass-thatched (*Nyakatsi*) houses in Rwanda. Between 29th June and 2nd July, 2011 in Arusha, a commemorative symposium attended by the forefathers of the EAC was held under the theme "*A Decade of Service towards a Political Federation.*" The Symposium concluded that EAC had made tremendous progress in deepening and widening regional integration and was on course towards achieving a Political Federation. However, fears, concerns and challenges have been identified on the path to a Federation that should be addressed. Thus, the Nanyuki-VI held under the theme "*Role of the Legislature in achieving a Political Federation*" was purposed to give the Legislatures an opportunity to discuss the EAC PF and what would be the role of both EALA and National Assemblies in its realisation.

2.3 Structure of Nanyuki VI

The seminar, held over two days, comprised of: (I) A Special sitting of EALA; (II) three substantive sessions on: recap of the 10th anniversary celebrations symposium; addressing fears and catalysing the EAC agenda towards a PF; and a presentation on the role of Parliaments in realizing a Political Federation. It also included a special Gala Dinner held at the end of day one; Inter-Parliamentary Games; and, an interlude of gifts presentation by the Speaker of EALA and of the Burundi Parliament. The Special Sitting of EALA was graced and addressed by: Speakers of Parliaments from: Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Zanzibar, Zimbabwe (and chair of Southern African Development Cooperation Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF), Pan-Africa Parliament (PAP); Deputy Speakers of ECOWAS and South Sudan. Also in attendance were President of Burundi Senate; Vice-President of Rwanda Senate, Representative of IGAD Parliamentary Unit, Secretary General of EAC, Council of Ministers, Members of Parliaments and other invited guests.

2.4 Conclusions and recommendations

Among the conclusions of the Seminar were that EALA had made commendable progress and realised notable successes in deepening and widening EAC integration. Key of these include enactment of 38 pieces of legislation, 26 out of which by the current Assembly and more than half as Private Members Bills and spearheading the establishment of an East African Speakers' Forum.

The meeting also noted that the integration process within EAC was half-way and some of the fears that existed at the initial phases of the Customs Union (CU) and Common Market (CM) had since been proved wrong; tangible benefits had been realised in the implementation of the CU, despite outstanding challenges. It noted that some of the outstanding fears and challenges on the road towards a Political Federation included loss of national sovereignty, dilution of languages and cultures, disparity in governance systems and practices and possibility of spill-over of bad governance practices, continued economic imbalances and inequitable sharing of benefits, possibility of increased conflicts and insecurities, loss of jobs and land.

The other important conclusion of the Seminar was that Parliamentarians had an important role to play in providing leadership and engaging citizens in discussing benefits of and nature of the desired Political Federation in East Africa. Towards that end; the Seminar reached the following **Recommendations**:

- All National Parliaments to urgently establish a dedicated committee on EAC Affairs.
- EALA's mandate and representative character should be strengthened and consideration be given to amending the EAC Treaty to provide for direct elections of EALA members.
- The Jurisdiction of the East African Court of Justice should be expanded.
- Development of an East African identity, beginning with promotion of Kiswahili, encouraging use of the East African Passport, establish Markets at border points and developing regional centres of excellence.
- Improve quality of education and harmonize education curriculum in the region
- Establishing and strengthening more supra-national institutions including an East African Customs Management Authority as building blocks for a Political Federation.
- Support comprehensive reforms of EAC Treaty to allow effective implementation of Political Federation.
- EALA and National Assemblies should form a committee to spearhead the process of allaying the fears and concerns that citizens have towards a Political Federation through sensitisation and engagement with citizens.
- The decision by EAC to develop and implement a score-card on implementation of the commitments within the EAC to be implemented and results shared widely with all stakeholders.
- An expert group to be formed to develop a Constitution detailing the type and content of the desirable Federation for East Africa as a basis for consultations and debate.
- EALA and national Parliaments should urgently and fully implement the provisions of Article 65 of the Treaty on their relations.
- Develop and implement a road map towards EA political Federation by building on benefits realized and continuously assess level of attainment of EAC objectives to

inform realistic plans for PF. In so doing, there's need to have clear benchmarks and an Monitoring and Evaluation mechanism, including sanctions for non-compliance.

- The Speaker of EALA to follow up with the summit, for it to provide a forum for debate with parliamentarians on the nature and progress of the EAC integration and future of Political Federation.
- EALA and National Assemblies to follow up on enactment of laws underpinning PF and implementation of recommendations of the Nanyuki Series and report on progress at subsequent meetings..
- EAC Ministers in each partner state should address national parliaments on state of implementation of EAC, at least twice a year.
- After the Seminar, all Speakers and national delegations to issue statements of support and commitments by parliamentarians to the process of political Federation.

2.1 Speech by Rt. Hon. Abdirahin Abdi; Speaker of EALA

The Speaker of EALA, in his welcoming remarks said the seminar constituted both a special and formal sitting of EALA and marked the climax of EALA's 10th Anniversary Celebrations. He underscored the historical nature of the seminar since for the first time the Assembly's sittings had brought together the Honourable Speakers of the National Assemblies of all EAC Partner States to grace and address it. He also noted with appreciation the presence of the Speakers or representatives of Speakers of sister Regional Assemblies, namely, from the Pan African Parliament, the ECOWAS Parliament, the SADC Parliamentary Forum, and the IGAD. Most notable in his address was also the hounourable presence of the delegation from South Sudan Legislative Assembly, with whom he said EALA had established close ties.

Altogether, Hon. Abdi thanked members of the National Assemblies in attendance, noting the importance of their continued support that has contributed to the successes of EALA's work at the national level. In the same vein, he thanked the Rt. Hon Pie Ntavyohanyuma, Speaker of the Burundi National Assembly for his support in putting together a successful meeting and extending to EALA the use of other office facilities. Thus said, Hon. Abdi underlined the milestones and successes EALA had achieved over a decade since its inception in deepening and widening EAC integration. Key of these included:

- From a humble beginning, starting with less than five staff, required to sit for only 30 days in a year with a budget of half a million dollars, EALA now had over 40 staff and controls a budget of 11 million dollars and has increased role on Community affairs under various Committees. It had increased its sittings to eighty days per calendar year for plenary activities and each Committee with a budget to hold three activities, each lasting one week.
- Enactment of 38 pieces of legislation, 26 out of which by the current Assembly and more than half as Private Members Bills.

- Strengthening EALA's role as a voice and link between the people of East Africa and decision-making organs of the Community through public hearings, rallies, tours, and stakeholder seminars.
- Interrogated public policies and use of public funds including oversight over EAC budget and expenditure.
- Spearheaded the establishment of an East Africa Speakers' Forum (EASF) through which EALA links with national Assemblies and learns what happens in other Partner States.
- Established and strengthened close links with other regional assemblies such as ECOWAS, SADC and Pan-African Parliament
- Consulted National Assemblies through the Nanyuki Series
- Popularised EAC both within the region and beyond.

Hon. Abdi also underscored that, other than the European parliament, EALA is the only other regional legislature in the world with legislative powers and has used this powers extensively for the benefit of the Community and its people. EALA's role in the integration process is played in three different areas as mandated by the Treaty: legislation, oversight and representation and under each EALA had made commendable achievements. EALA continues to advocate for increased citizen's awareness of the meaning and benefits of integration so the people can desire and pressurise for faster realisation of the political federation.

He concluded his remarks by underlining that the people of East Africa still require more awareness and the particular area he stressed that need to be addressed relate to the concerns, fears and perceptions of East Africans over the Political Federation. He, therefore, called upon all Members of Parliaments as people's representatives to take this matter seriously because the benefits of EAC integration far outweigh its perceived costs.

2.2 Speech by Hon. Pie Ntavyohanyuma, Speaker of Burundi National Assembly

Hon. Ntavyohanyuma thanked Hon Abdi, the Speaker of EALA for giving him the opportunity to grace the seminar, underlining that as Parliament of Burundi and indeed Burundi as a country they were delighted to host a series of high-level EAC activities which had been taking place in the country during the month. He thanked all those who participated in organising the seminar, particularly the EALA and AWEPA, the Government of Burundi and the Burundian Ministry to the Office of President in Charge of East African Community Affairs.

On the substance of his speech, Hon Ntavyohanyuma invited the national Parliamentarians and their regional counterparts to use the opportunity provided by the seminar to discuss and agree on a way forward to address the fears and challenges impeding the full realisation of the four stages of the EAC integration viz. the Customs Union and Common Market which are operational and the technical work remaining to establish both the Monetary Union and the Political Federation. He noted that all the other phases of integration had progressed relatively well even though effective implementation was still required but it was the Political Federation stage that appears riddled by challenges due to fears that were addressed during the 10th Anniversary Symposium, in June 2011. The present Seminar therefore provided an opportunity to revisit these challenges but also tap on the available opportunities to speed up the Political Federation process. He also added that the challenges and fears of having a Political Federation were further exacerbated by the present context of global economic crisis, which had even shaken the EU, a model of a successful integration. He therefore urged leaders starting with MPs at the meeting to propose mechanisms and proper laws that would help consolidate democracy and rule of law in the region but also to overcome the fears in achieving a Political Federation. He lauded the theme of the seminar for being not only topical but also timely as it sought to give MPs an opportunity to understand the roles they should play in achieving a Political Federation and discuss strategies for delivering on those roles. In doing so, he urged for honesty, boldness and a long-term vision as the guiding beacon during the discussions

2.3 Speech by Rt. Hon. Rebecca Kadaga, Speaker, Parliament of Uganda

Hon. Kadaga's speech was based on a paper she prepared to discuss the role of the legislature in achieving a political federation. In her presentation, she explained that increased parliamentary role in regional and multilateral affairs was required because of the fact that the distinction between foreign or international and national or domestic affairs had become increasingly blurred. She urged parliaments to step up their oversight role beyond the traditional executive prerogative in international affairs, and to subject governments to the same degree of oversight as in domestic policy arena. Her Speech underscored the importance of the Legislature in federating the people of East Africa. Because of the dichotomy in the roles of the National Assemblies and the Regional Assemblies, Hon. Kadaga called for a harmonization of the two sets of roles in the process of fast-tracking a Political Federation.

She stressed that for the people to appreciate the need to federate, it was imperative for MPs of both national and regional assemblies to focus on economic activities as economic matters dominate the world and issues of poverty were of concern to the majority of the population. She challenged MPs to be alive to and interrogate the decisions made at the WTO and different international fora that may have great influence on poverty in Africa. She called on all MPs from Partner States to understand and equip themselves with the necessary knowledge to face the realities of globalization since the role of WTO to which the EAC partner states were signatories was increasingly becoming critical in trade and other matters but also because decisions made outside the African influence were determining the position of the EAC as a regional body. She further urged for capacity-building of the people of East Africa to be able to take advantage of the emerging opportunities from within EAC integration.

She further emphasized that consolidation of democratic values and culture was necessary for achieving a sustainable cooperation. Common electoral laws, respect for human rights, political accountability, transparency in governance and common policies on major issues are aspects that the Speaker underlined as crucial for a successful cooperation and political

federation. Hon Kadaga called upon national legislatures to embark on a harmonisation programme to lay ground for a Political Federation even as she reported that the EAC Forum of Speakers that met in Uganda last October had agreed on the need to establish an EA Parliamentary Institute. This Institute would help build the capacity of MPs on important issues on EAC integration. She also reported that Uganda was on course in implementation of the decisions of the last EA Speakers' Forum including proposals to establish a dedicated Committee on EAC affairs, pointing out that the standing orders of the Ugandan national parliament incorporating these changes had already been prepared and was awaiting adoption by the Parliament of Uganda. She also underlined the need to facilitate sufficient expertise and support to both national assembly and EALA MPs for them to be able to put their questions to Council of Ministers.

Critically, Hon. Kadaga emphasized the need to discuss strategies for sharing sovereignty to enable achievement of PF. She underscored the one area where surrender of sovereignty was evident to be the failure by Head of States to commit to legislations passed by the assembly. Finally, she called upon EAC Heads of States and all other organs to renew their Commitments to the ideals of EAC while also explaining that in order to meet the requirements of EAC Treaty in Art 49 and 65:

- Partner states should establish a Committee on EAC in all national parliaments.
- Ministry of EAC in all Partner States should be called upon to provide special address to the national parliaments on issues of EAC integration at least once every year.
- EALA should enhance its engagement with the people of East Africa and hold its sittings in places outside national parliaments too
- Set aside special sections at national assembly libraries for literature on Pan-African Parliament.
- Expand capacity and funding for MPs on regional integration issues
- Democratise the process of election of Members of EALA

In conclusion, Honourable Kadaga urged for a rededication to the ideals of the EAC integration process.

2.4 Speech by Rt. Hon. Rose Mukantabana, Speaker of Rwanda Parliament

In her speech, Hon. Mukantabana recalled the discussions and conclusions of the 10th EALA celebrations symposium In June 2011 in Arusha, Tanzania. Specifically she drew the delegates attention to the recommendations made on overcoming the fears and perceptions towards a Political Federation, including: strengthening EAC institutions; involving the people in regional integration; increasing the role of regional and national parliaments; and enhancing the levels of implementation of commitments. She noted that considerable milestones had been realised over the last ten years and a lot more was still required to be achieved over the next decade under a Political Federation; thus, EALA's role should be stepped up as the Political Federation requires a strong legislation to implement effectively. Therefore, she suggested that MPs should reflect on and take seriously the need for implementation of the recommendations arising from the symposium of the 10th Anniversary. She recalled that the last symposium had agreed on crucial recommendations and it was now important for the meeting to discuss the "how and when" to implement those recommendations in order to realize a smooth PF. She urged EALA to enhance linkages with national parliaments and that national debates should begin to focus on maintaining the Vision of EAC while building bridges towards a PF to ensure that the Federation once adopted is a success for all people of east Africa..

The Speaker further explained that the PF once it came into force would have to be supported by existing national institutions hence it was important to identify and strengthen national institutions on areas that would buoy up the implementation of a PF.

On the path to political integration, she called upon EALA to work on a programme to enhance their relations with national assemblies, allowing issues of regional integration to be accorded special emphasis in national debates. The context of national debates in her opinion should strive to build bridges and break potential barriers. Finally, the Speaker called upon MPs to discuss and work on a programme that would help enhance an East African identity among the citizens of East Africa. On this note, she concluded her Speech by calling upon the people of EA, including their leaders, to set the stage for Political

Federation through changing their attitudes and beginning to feel and act like East Africans.

2.5 Speech by Rt. Hon. Kenneth Marende, Speaker of Kenya National Assembly

Hon. Marende commended EALA for their outstanding achievements during the last decade of their existence. He challenged MPs to ensure they constantly reminded themselves of the reason for EAC integration to ensure the vision and dreams of the EAC founding fathers were realised and citizens drew the benefits arising from integration. On the substance of his Speech, Hon. Marende addressed himself to two main issues: the mode of election of EALA Members and the relationship between EALA and the National Assemblies of the respective Partner States.

With regard to the mode of election of EALA Members, he recalled the requirements of the EAC Treaty in article 50. According to article 50, the responsibility of electing Members of EALA rests with the National Assemblies of the respective Partner States who are required to elect nine Members each to EALA. While this has been the practice, Hon. Marende recalled that there were proposals put before the EAC Summit of Heads of States to amend the Treaty so as to provide for the direct election of EALA Members by citizens of Partner States. He critiqued this proposal by posing the following technical questions:

- a) Would this be an equivalent of a general election where each Partner State would have to be immersed in a campaign mood purposely to elect EALA Members?
- b) How would the issue of cost be rationalised to avoid Partner States from engaging in an expensive exercise by way of a general election separate from the standard national general elections?
- c) What type of constituencies would inform the basis of the election of EALA Members in a particular Partner State –would the whole Partner State be turned into a single constituency or would it be divided into several regional constituencies equivalent to the number of seats a Partner State would have been allocated? and, finally,
- d) Are there any best practices in this regard from other regional assemblies?

These technical questions notwithstanding, Hon. Marende made a case for direct elections of EALA members, a process that would require each Partner State to be geographically zoned into electoral units (constituencies) equivalent to the number of Members each state will be allocated. He proposed that the actual election of EALA Members should happen after each Partner States has held its standard general elections and then it would be the duty of the parliamentary political parties through their members to elect the Members of EALA according to their respective strengths arrived from at the number of votes garnered at the general election.

As he concluded his Speech, Hon. Marende urged EALA to develop standards and guidelines to be shared with National Assemblies that will ensure effective monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the spirit of public participation envisaged by article 65 of the EAC Treaty. He made a case for the creation of a special committee of the House whose mandate would be to specifically monitor implementation of the said Article.

Relationship between EALA and the National Assemblies:

On the relationship between EALA and national assemblies, Hon Marende recalled the provisions article 65 of the EAC Treaty, which enjoins the Council of Ministers of the Community in pursuit of its objectives to be guided by the opinion of the general public in the Partner States as expressed through debates of elected Members of National Assemblies in the respective States. His interpretation of the Treaty requirement is that matters relating to the Community should form an integral component of the day-to-day business of the Partner State National Assemblies. Despite this requirement, Hon Marende noted that its practical realisation had been elusive. He sought to lay the principle responsibility of giving effect to article 65 on the Clerk of EALA, who he said is obliged to transmit to Clerks of the respective National Assemblies copies of records of all relevant debates and meetings of the EALA including copies of Bills introduced by EALA and Acts of the Community to be laid before the National Assemblies.

Honourable Marende also decried the reliance on Memoranda of Understanding and Protocols as a mechanism of developing binding obligations amongst partner states as

opposed to legislation and urged Council of Ministers to desist from this practice and instead generate Bills for EALA to process.

In conclusion, the Speaker pointed out that security challenges transcend national borders and urged for strengthening of EAC regional security response to address security challenges including piracy. He thanked members of the EAC for supporting the republic of Kenya as she deployed her troops in self-defence in Somalia.

2.6 Speech by Rt. Hon. Pandu Kificho, Speaker of Zanzibar House of Representatives

In his Speech, Hon Kificho pointed out that a Political Federation was not an event but a process. More importantly, Hon Kificho emphasised that any integration should yield shared benefits and so is a political federation. He therefore asked the meeting to assess how far the region had been successful in other stages of integration, what have been the challenges so that a PF can be carefully designed. He stressed the point that a PF should be based on democratic ideals and respect tenets of equality of Partner States.

On the question of practicality of a PF, Hon. Kificho was forthright that it could only happen if benefits were greater than the costs. So as to strengthen the PF, it would be important to take into account the historical, cultural and social peculiarities of the partner States. Hon. Kificho concluded his speech by thanking the government of Burundi for the warm welcome and generosity.

2.7 Speech by Rt. Hon. Daniel Awet Akot, Deputy Speaker, South Sudan National Assembly

In his opening remarks, Hon. Akot conveyed apologies from their Speaker who could not attend the seminar due to other commitments. He expressed his joy for the opportunity granted to him to make a maiden Speech. He also expressed the delight of South Sudan as the youngest world nation to have been invited to be part of the historic session of EALA.

Hon Akot recounted to the meeting the long journey Southern Sudan had walked starting from 1947, its struggles and emancipation following a national referendum in 2011. He said that the Transitional Constitution, 2011 of South Sudan in Article 36 (1) envisages a three-pronged typology of decentralisation which consists of political, administrative and fiscal decentralisation as a forte of people's empowerment through their representatives, civil service and the civil society.

Hon. Akot explained that Republic of South Sudan was only four and half months old and could hardly talk of well-established decentralised system worth sharing with the meeting. Nevertheless, it was important for the Republic of South Sudan to know where they were coming from and where they were going. For that reason, he said that the Republic of South Sudan was looking up to the EAC and requested for solidarity and support in, amongst others, admission into EAC and strengthening of capacity of its Assembly.

2.8 Speech by Rt. Hon. Ibra Diouf, 3rd Deputy Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament

This Speech was read on behalf of His Excellency Senator Ike Ekweremandu, Hon. Speaker of ECOWAS Parliament. In the Speech, the Speaker recounted that the idea of political federation had been the main focus and vision of many African States since they began to get independence in the early 1960s. While this dream diminished midway before it could be implemented, the Speaker noted that the idea had recently emerged and the role of Parliament is called into action to spearhead the process of Continental federation.

He emphasised the point that the importance of a Parliament in any democracy could not be over-emphasised, more importantly as there are many attempts in many countries to truncate democracy—whether through military adventurism or through civilian authoritarianism and that in either case, the Parliament was always the first casualty.

The Speaker explained that Africa's pluralism in the context of its multi socio-cultural differences if not handled well could be exploited by desperate and unpatriotic politicians and lead to massive division within and among the people of Africa but if properly managed could constitute a source of strength.

Based on ECOWAS experience, the Speaker pointed out that "Political Federation" can mean different things to different people depending on country and ideological leanings hence the importance of parliaments in dialoguing, harmonizing opinions and developing consensus on implementation of PF.

He concluded his speech with optimism that political federation was possible within the various regional communities in Africa, but that the realisation of which could only be based on the establishment of internal policies and mechanisms that would guarantee nation-building.

2.9 Speech by Rt. Hon. Lovemore Moyo, Speaker of Zimbabwe Parliament and Chairperson of SADC-Parliamentary Forum

Hon Moyo hailed the meeting as providing forum for exchange of best practices in improving quality of parliamentary administration. He said that regional parliaments were now a worldwide phenomenon in most continents and their development was a welcome development in Africa. In his speech, the establishment of regional parliaments had brought about interaction and exchange of ideas on best practices that aim at improving the quality of administration of National Assemblies. They also help to keep track of the domestication of the international and regional treaties, protocols and conventions that their countries have signed.

The Speaker commended EALA as one of the two Regional Parliaments in the world with legislative authority other than the European Parliament. He hailed the legislative role of EALA, saying the Assembly had done exceptional job in harmonising regionally agreed protocols, conventions and treaties with national legislation and recommended that EALA should help the EAC to transform its Secretariat to a Commission as a basis for PF, as it looked like the EAC integration was being modelled on the European Union.

With regards to the quest for a PF, the Speaker was emphatic that the EAC was right on course having laid the foundation with the existence of the EA Court of Justice, the EALA,

and the Secretariat. He said that the SADC PF was established with the ultimate aim of becoming the regional Assembly that would spearhead the regional integration of SADC; however, that resolution had not been implemented 14 years later. He said they were open to advice and looked forward to SADC PF learning from EALA in their transformation process to a Regional Assembly. The desire to learn how regional assemblies work is what informed the SADC PF study tour to EALA in March 2011. He said that their visit to EALA was rewarding as it widened their scope of knowledge on how Regional Parliaments operate.

Finally, Hon. Moyo said that the SADC and EALA had a cordial relationship and it was essential for both institutions to keep and strengthen that relationship. He urged for strengthening of and collaboration among Regional Parliaments across Africa in order to strengthen and give credence to the Pan-African Parliament. It was therefore in the interest of the PAP to also advocate for the establishment of Regional Parliaments with legislative powers even as the PAP was also lobbying for its own transformation into a legislative body.

2.10 Speech by Rt. Hon. Musan Idriss Ndele, President of Pan African Parliament

Hon. Ndele pointed out that PAP was pursuing its transformation from a consultative body to a legislative organ, and was seeking the support of Heads of States and Parliaments. He also commended EALA and said the PAP was being inspired by EALA's rich experience, not only because of its legislative powers but also what it had achieved with those powers.

He urged MPs that even as they wish to have a Political Federation it was important that their wish be informed by the wish of the people of East Africa.

Hon. Ndele underlined the main objective of PAP as being to promote peace and security in the continent besides guaranteeing the full participation of the people of Africa in African affairs. As thus, the PAP had since 2004 engaged in monitoring elections in African countries, working together in collaboration with the AU, national parliaments and civil society. That was why the PAP was progressively advocating for its transformation into a