



**EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY**

**5<sup>TH</sup> MEETING OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION OF THE  
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

**Kigali, Rwanda  
12<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**PRIORITY QUESTIONS FOR ORAL  
ANSWERS**

**18<sup>th</sup> April 2013**

**1.0 QUESTION: EALA/PQ/OA/3/07/2013 (By Hon. Susan Nakawuki)**

**The Youth of East Africa are considered the pillar for our integration efforts. That being the case, can the Chairperson of the Council inform the House:-**

- (a) Whether, the EAC has a regional youth policy and what its key principles are; if so,**
- (b) Were the youth consulted in coming up with the policy;**
- (c) Could he tell us what the implementation plan is, the key programmes for the youth and the future plans.**

**Madam Speaker,**

The East African Community has demonstrated deliberate commitment to develop policies and programs that facilitate the participation of a cross range of citizens, including the Youth, in the advancement of the EAC integration agenda.

Pursuant to Article 120 of the Treaty, which provides for cooperation in the area of Social Welfare with respect to the development and adoption of a common approach towards the disadvantaged and marginalized groups including children, the youth, the elderly and Persons with Disabilities, the East African Community has developed broad and specific policy frameworks in order to create an enabling environment for the wellbeing of the people of the East African region.

Guided by the multi-sectoral approach for social development and the Council Directive to implement the EAC Gender and Community Development Framework, the Secretariat, after consultations with various stakeholders at national and regional levels, developed a five year strategic plan on Gender, Youth, Children, Persons with Disabilities, Social Protection and Community Development (2012-2016). This Strategic Plan was adopted by the Sectoral Council on Gender, Youth, Children, Social Protection and Community Development at its 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting held in March 2012.

**Madam Speaker,**

While individual policies, like Youth Policy, are at an advanced stage of formulation in order to lay the foundation for future legal binding instruments, the adopted EAC Strategic Plan which has included a full component on youth is already an implementable tool, in view of some of the following key planned activities:

- a) Establishment of an EAC Youth desk;
- b) Establishment of an EAC Youth Council;
- c) Establishment of a Regional Youth Service Schemes with a component of volunteerism;
- d) Establishment of a Regional Youth Enterprise Development fund ;
- e) Facilitation of capacity building of youth in vocational skills, ICT, e- commerce and other special tailored programmes ;
- f) Facilitation of an EAC Annual Youth Exhibitions for MSME's ;
- g) Facilitation of the formation of an EAC Youth Chamber of Commerce ;
- h) Development of regional guidelines for incorporating entrepreneurship in school curricula;
- i) Institution of a regional incentive scheme for employers to invest in the skills development of employed and unemployed youth;
- j) Establishment of infrastructure that would lead to innovation and easy access to information for the youth;
- k) Facilitation of the participation of the youth in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of development plans, policies and poverty reduction strategies
- l) Facilitation of learning exchange visits between Partner States and Regional Economic Communities(RECs) ;
- m) Strengthening of youth sporting activities in the region;
- n) Establishment of structures that encourage and assist the youth in the Diaspora to return to and fully re-integrate into EAC processes; and
- o) Establishment of mechanisms to promote a culture of volunteerism, peace and tolerance amongst youth that discourages participation in negative cultural attitudes and acts of violence, terrorism, xenophobia, racial discrimination, gender-based discrimination, foreign occupation and trafficking in arms and drugs

**Madam Speaker,**

Most of the above-mentioned activities require human, financial resources and time. The Secretariat is engaged to work in collaboration with Partner States to achieve the majority of them by 2016.

## **2.0 QUESTION : EALA/PQ/OA/3/08/2013 (By Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo)**

***The majority of the citizens of East Africa rely on Agriculture, farming and therefore climate. However, a number of weather rigidities continue to affect our region due to adverse climate conditions some of which are engineered by human activity.***

***In light of this, would the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers update this House on the progress made in the implementation of the EALA Resolution on Climate Change?***

**Madam Speaker,**

In view of the adverse impacts of climate change in the region, a Regional Climate Change Policy and Strategy have been prepared in accordance with the directive of the EAC Heads of State Summit. Further to that, the 9<sup>th</sup> Extra Ordinary Summit adopted the EAC Climate Change Policy and EAC Food Security Action Plan that are currently under implementation. The EAC Climate Change Strategy, Master Plan, Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Strategy have also been approved by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources held on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2013 to guide the implementation of the Policy.

**Madam Speaker,**

With regards to the implementation of the EALA Resolution on Climate Change, critical actionable areas such as capacity enhancement for adaptation and mitigation practical, policy and institutional measures contained in the Climate Change Resolution have been prioritised for implementation as part of two ongoing medium term Climate Change projects that the Environment Office is implementing. Amongst the activities to be implemented include up-scaling climate-smart agriculture practice and supporting the accreditation of the EAC Climate Change Fund as a Regional Implementing Entity to access international climate change finance to implement regional projects/programmes aimed at responding to climate change impacts in vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and food security. Measures to enhance the capacity of both technical experts and policy makers including parliamentarians to effectively participate in the international climate change negotiations and enhance their legislative and oversight roles in the implementation of programmes and projects have also been taken. Efforts towards the establishment of the EAC Climate Change Coordination Unit are also underway. The adopted EALA Resolution on Climate Change will be submitted for consideration to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources that will take place on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, in Nairobi, Kenya.

### **3.0 QUESTION : EALA/PQ/OA/3/09/2013 (By Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo)**

***Harmonization of Mineral Policies and mining regimes is one of the Fundamental Precursors to deepen the Integration within the Framework of the EAC integration agenda through increased competitiveness, value added production, trade and investments;***

***Could the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers inform this august House on the steps so far taken to actualize these important measures with regard to mining and mineral sector? Does he envisage the establishment of a regional forum or Conference on Mineral Resources?***

**Madam Speaker,**

Pursuant to Chapter Nineteen of the Treaty, the Partner States have agreed to, among other things take concerted measures to foster cooperation in the joint and efficient management and sustainable utilisation of natural resources for the mutual benefit of the Partner States.

With regard to the management of mineral resources, the Partner States have agreed to among other projections, to promote joint exploration, efficient exploitation and sustainable utilisation of shared mineral resources; pursue the creation of an enabling environment for investment in the mining sector; harmonise mining regulations to ensure environmentally friendly and sound mining practices; and adopt common policies to ensure joint fossil exploration and exploitation along the Coast and the Rift Valley.

**Madam Speaker,**

Regarding the promotion of extractive and mineral processing industries although EAC Partner States are endowed with vast mineral resources ranging from gemstones, precious metals, base metals to industrial minerals, exploitation has been limited, with the main focus being on production for export without additional processing to add value in the form of intermediate goods or final products. A programme to facilitate the development of extractive and mineral processing industries is currently being formulated through technical support by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The objectives of the project include:

- (a) Review of regulations, policies and laws governing the extractive industries and mineral processing with a view making such regulations more supportive of the development of extractive industries and mineral value addition;
- (b) Strengthening regional and national capacities in mineral development policy, negotiations and capacities in extractive and processing; and

- (c) Identification of opportunities for investment in extractive industries and mineral value addition.

The Community carried out a feasibility assessment of mineral resources in the region with potential for local value addition to create local employment and ensure that the local Community derives maximum benefit from the mineral resources in the region. A baseline survey was conducted in all Partner States to market the project concept and gather baseline mineral information; e Country mineralisation reports were prepared, and the capacity building on best practices on mineral sector regulations and value addition promotion strategies was conducted. Analysis of mineral regulations and preparation of draft regulatory Framework is ongoing.

A draft Technical Report on rules and regulation governing extractive industries and mineral value addition has also been prepared. Regional and national stakeholder workshops will be held starting in July, 2013 to discuss the recommendations in the two reports and get further inputs from the wider stakeholder.

**Madam Speaker,**

Regarding the harmonization of mineral policy and regimes, each Partner State has her own policies and has put in place legislation to manage her own mineral resources. However, having recognized the great potential that mineral resources have in contributing to poverty alleviation and to national and regional economic development, the Partner States have decided to harmonize their mineral policies and laws. The areas to be considered during the harmonization process are: access to and ownership of land; access to and ownership of minerals; mineral royalties to Government and communities; procedures to follow for Environmental Impact Assessments and Monitoring of environmental plans; taxation regimes; benefits for the Communities during and after mining; review and rationalization of artisanal and small scale-mining; value addition to minerals with consequent employment and entrepreneurial development; role of the communities, local authorities, central government and the mining companies; marketing of minerals; as well as employment and human resources development.

Since the EAC Partner States are at different stages of development of their national policies on Minerals and mining regimes, there is need to take stock of what has been done in each country in order to harmonize the said policies and regimes. EAC therefore is conducting a consultancy to undertake an inventory of the status of national mineral policies and mining regimes in the EAC Partner States with a view of informing future harmonization of mineral policies and mining regimes. The report will be available in June 2013.

## **Madam Speaker**

Regarding the on establishment of a regional forum /conference on Mineral Resources I wish to inform this august house that cognisant that The EAC region had ample natural resources but had continued to languish from poverty, that equity, justice and sustainability of natural resources was needed as a pre-requisite to eradicate poverty and further the role that Parliamentarian play in policy making and advocacy, the Secretariat organized a workshop on Governance on Natural Resources in the EAC Region held in Nairobi in December 2013.

The objective of the workshop was to facilitate a collective understanding of what regional Parliaments can do to complement national efforts in ensuring equitable, accountable and sustainable utilization of natural resources and facilitating exchange of experiences and innovations on natural resources' governance, and to ensure a collective understanding of existing ownership and revenue models and to understand the inherent revenue risks in the existing policies.

The Workshop recommended among others the establishment of a regional forum on natural resources to serve as a platform for dialogue and sharing of information and experiences in the EAC region geared towards strengthening economic development and good governance in natural resources Management, a support to the Inter-Parliamentary Relations Liaison Committee on Extractive Industries, the development of Human Resources Capacity in the extractive industry Sector in order to acquire the relevant competencies, knowledge and skills for effective exploitation, and the development of a regional mining policy that shall take into consideration those of the Partner States, Africa's Mining Vision and other necessary international instruments.

At its 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the 1<sup>st</sup> Session, held in Bujumbura, Burundi on 21<sup>st</sup> January,-1<sup>st</sup> February, 2013, this august House debated and adopted the Reports of the Committee on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Tourism on the *Workshop on Natural Resources Governance* that was held on 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 in Nairobi, Kenya. The House adopted the Report. The Resolutions will be taken forward during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Environment and Natural Resources scheduled to take place on 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, in Nairobi, Kenya.

**4.0 QUESTION : EALA/PQ/OA/3/11/2013 (By Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo)**

***Notwithstanding that we have almost 9 months of rains, ample land for farming and aware that EAC has a Food Security Action Plan which received a favorable backing from this House.***

***Could the Chairperson of the Council inform this House on the progress so far made in the implementation of EAC Food Security Action Plan specifically with regard to irrigation and financial mobilization for the food security sector?***

**Madam Speaker,**

In pursuit of the implementation of the EAC Food Security Action Plan, the following priority activities, projects and programmes have been prepared and are being implemented at different stages :-

- (a) Development of Food Security and Nutrition Policy;
- (b) Regional Food Balance Sheet Framework;
- (c) Agricultural Development Fund;
- (d) East African Agri-Enterprises and Agro-Industries Development Program;
- (e) establishment of early Warning System for Monitoring Food Shortage;
- (f) EAC Strategy on Prevention and Control of Transboundary Animal and Zoonotic Diseases;
- (g) EAC Livestock Policy;
- (h) Regional Agricultural Inputs Systems Development Project;
- (i) Feasibility Study on Regional Fertilizer Production and Reinforcing Veterinary Governance Project.

Development of integrated water management project proposals including appropriate irrigation projects which are site specific is being undertaken by the Partner States and the Secretariat.

**Madam Speaker,**

Preparatory work for resource mobilization for implementation of projects and programmes is ongoing. In this regard, proposals have been submitted and discussions are ongoing with various development partners including The European Union, The African Green Revolution Alliance, The African Development Bank, USAID and The Australian Government. The EAC Secretariat is planning to hold a Donor's Conference during the next financial year to mobilize additional resources for implementation of the Food Security Action Plan



However, it should be reiterated that for the EAC region to overcome its current food security problems Partner States will have to make substantial investment in the agriculture sector development at national level, as regional interventions can only succeed if national strategies are successfully implemented. Towards this, Partner States should commit a substantial proportion of the financial requirements for implementing the Plan in their national budgets and further mobilize additional funds from development partners and other sources.

**5.0 QUESTION : EALA/PQ/OA/3/12/2013 (By Hon. Isabelle Ndahayo)**

***A single tourist destination and EAC as a single tourist destination are among factors of success of integration as they allow the region to benefit from international tourism as the region has interesting and varied tourist products.***

***Can this House be informed by the Chairperson of the Council on how far the negotiation for the single tourist visa have reached?***

**Madam Speaker,**

The proposal to introduce the single visa regime for East Africa has been a matter of great interest to many in the Region. I take this opportunity Honourable Speaker to update the House on the progress made thus far in realizing this great milestone.

The EAC Secretariat convened a joint meeting between the Chiefs of Immigration and Heads of the Tourism Boards of the Partner States to conclude a Study on determining the Region's preparedness to introduce the Single Tourist Visa. The Joint Meeting was held from 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 in Moshi, attended by the Chiefs of Immigration and Heads of Tourism Boards and Technical Experts from the Republics of Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda. The report of the meeting was forwarded to The United Republic of Tanzania for consideration and conclusion.

**Madam Speaker,**

During the said Joint Meeting, several challenges that may delay the adoption of a single tourist visa were noted. These challenges include the requirement for Partner States to harmonize their visa issuing regimes and fee structures; to develop a mechanism for sharing the financial cost of administering the single tourist visa and sharing the revenue collected; and the poorly developed ICT infrastructure at national level to facilitate connectivity of the entry/exit points.

Considering the above issues, the introduction of a single tourist visa would now require a multi-sectoral approach as it is not confined to the immigration or tourism sectors alone. Therefore, this issue is part of the agenda of the next Meeting of the Sectoral Council on Tourism and Wildlife Management which is scheduled for June, 2013. Thereafter, it will be considered by the Council for a final decision on the way forward.