



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY (EALA)

Official Report of the Proceedings of the East African Legislative Assembly

SECOND MEETING - FIFTH SESSION - SECOND ASSEMBLY

Tuesday, 22nd November 2011

The East African Legislative Assembly met at 10.00 a.m. in the Chamber of the Parliament of Burundi, Bujumbura.

PRAYER

(The Speaker, Mr. Abdirahin Abdi, in the Chair)

(The Assembly was called to order.)

PROCLAMATION BY THE SPEAKER

The Speaker: Hon. Members, amidst us today is hon. Abdirahman Kinana, former Speaker of East African Legislative Assembly.

I have, in accordance with the provisions of article 54 of the treaty invited him to address the assembly. I would now like to make the following proclamation to welcome the presence in the assembly and the former Speaker of the EALA.

“Whereas article 54 (1) of the treaty provides that the speaker of the assembly can invite any person to attend the assembly and noting that she or he is not a member of the assembly, in his or her opinion the business of the assembly renders his or her presence desirable

And whereas in the opinion of the speaker the attendance and presence in the assembly of hon. Kinana, the former speaker is desirable in accordance with the business of the assembly

Now, therefore it is a great pleasure and honour on your behalf hon. Members to welcome in the assembly the presence of the former speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly.”

(Applause)

**ADDRESS BY THE FORMER SPEAKER OF THE
EAST AFRICAN LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**

WELCOME REMARKS BY THE SPEAKER OF EALA

The Speaker: Hon. Members, I rise to welcome Hon. Kinana the immediate former Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly. He is here on my invitation to address this house this morning. The address is part of the various activities we are undertaking to mark the 10th Anniversary celebrations.

May I take this opportunity on your behalf and indeed my own behalf to sincerely thank hon. Kinana for accepting my invitation to address the Second Assembly. Mr Speaker, you are most welcome.

(Applause)

You will recall that upon ratification of the Treaty in 2000, the Assembly inaugurated on 29th November 2001, Hon. Kinana was elected Speaker of the First Assembly under the new Treaty. I was personally privileged to be a member of the First Assembly and I know the challenges we faced to establish ourselves and even to know what to do and how to do it.

With Hon. Kinana’s strong leadership, we were able to find our ground and to quickly establish ourselves. I recognise the success so far recorded by the Second Assembly has a bearing on the strong foundation that was laid by the First Assembly.

Hon. Kinana is here to talk to us about that and any other issues he may consider relevant for us to know of. It is my humble pleasure to invite, I should say, my speaker – I think today even if you looked at my phone book, when my mobile rings, it says Speaker, and I stand up because I remember my former Speaker. So, it is now my pleasure and honour to invite hon. Kinana to come and address this assembly. Karibu sana, Mr Speaker.

The Former Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly (Mr Abdirahman Kinana): Rt Hon. Speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly, the Rt Hon. Speaker of the National Assembly of Burundi, the Rt Hon. Speaker of the Senate and hon. Deputy Speakers of both chambers, Hon. Ministers and particularly the First Deputy Prime Minister

and Minister of East African Co-operation, the Hon. Secretary-General of the East African Community, Hon. Members of the East African Legislative Assembly, Hon. Members of both chambers of Burundi,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

I am very pleased to be here this morning. I want to say how much at home I feel in this House. I feel privileged to join you in Bujumbura to celebrate the climax of EALA's 10th Anniversary. You have given me a rare opportunity and a great honour to address this august House and for that I shall remain indebted to you Mr Speaker and to the Members of the East African Legislative Assembly.

I have known few greater honours than the opportunity to address parliaments. I am well aware that such occasions are events reserved for Heads of State. I would like to believe that this is not a serious joke intended to encourage me to consider reaching that high office.

(Applause)

Allow me, Mr Speaker to extend my appreciation to the hon. Speaker and Members of the National Assembly of Burundi for the warm welcome. The pleasant weather and the generosity extended to us make our stay comfortable and memorable. Let me also join you Mr Speaker and the Members of the East African Legislative Assembly in congratulating the government and the people of Burundi for hosting the Assembly and the East African Community summit. This is another testimony of the lasting peace and stability enjoyed by the people of our sister member states of the East African Community.

The people of Burundi under the able leadership of present Pierre Nkurunziza are totally resolved and collectively determined to move from a divided past to a shared common future. I salute the government and the people of Burundi for restoring peace, for successfully establishing democratic institutions and for embarking on the herculean task of national reconciliation and economic development.

Let us all extend our full support to help our brothers and sisters achieve these goals they have desired for themselves.

Mr Speaker, when the National Assembly of Tanzania elected its Members to the East African Legislative Assembly I was voted to join my colleagues to represent the United Republic of Tanzania. In vying for an EAC seat, I was excited and prepared to discharge my duties and enjoy the parliamentary privileges that go with it.

However, as I arrived in Arusha my home town, from the elections on Dodoma, just a few days before the inauguration of the first assembly, I discovered that I was to become the only member of the newly formed House who would lose the rights and privileges to debate, question and vote in the newly formed House. This was as a result of unanimous vote by the new East African Legislative Assembly Members and to make me become the first speaker of the East African Legislative Assembly.

Let there be no doubt that it is through the support of the members of that assembly that I was able to smoothly and effectively provide leadership and was able to preside over the business of the House in fulfilling our mandate as enshrined in the East African Community Treaty. Given the heavy responsibility to preside over a wide range of activities of the assembly, the Members readily became cooperative. Speakers are given powers because they are the guardians of the rules of procedure but I also learnt quickly that a wise speaker is always cognisant of the fact that he/she is also the fountain of honour of the House.

Mr Speaker, the East African Legislative Assembly members come from different countries and subscribe to different political parties. I took it upon myself as a matter of priority to discourage members from advancing issues which would reflect sentiments of national or party interests. My first objective was therefore to build unity and comradeship between the members of the East African Legislative Assembly and encourage them to articulate shared agendas and promote common approach to issues in the interests of the people of East Africa.

Together, in the early days we agreed that whatever decisions we would make, they must be in the best of interest of East Africans as a whole and not just of the Partner States we represent. We had to work as a united team and strive to make the Assembly the institution to provide the best example in driving the integration and the ultimate unity of the people of our region.

It is no surprise therefore that the fast-tracking process commissioned by the Summit was initiated by the Assembly.

Mr Speaker, in the beginning, the first Assembly was faced with several challenges. We had to practice the rules, put committees in place, create working mechanisms with other Organs of the community and establish a credible political legitimacy. It was also necessary to build the capacity of the Members and of the institution. I had to embark on resource mobilisation from within the region from outside so as to be able to fulfil the tasks we charted for ourselves.

Sooner than later, we were able to make progress as resources became available. The East African Legislative Assembly went through a remarkable period of growth bringing in new developments geared towards the realisation of the objectives and ideals as stated in the Treaty. The Assembly immediately realised that for the objectives to become a reality it would only be achieved by promoting political will at all levels working towards informed and organised citizenry and advancing pro-active political activities as mandated in our area.

Mr Speaker, from its inauguration on the 30th November 2001, until it was dissolved in November 2006, the first EALA successfully established itself into a strong and effective regional legislature and register the number of achievements which you are quite familiar with. Our first and most important achievements was legitimising mandate of EALA within the fraternity of the EAC.

Most of you remember that it was not an easy task. The mandate now and then include the representation, debating, questioning, legislating, supervision and oversight, approval of

budget in liaison with national assemblies of member states. In order to play our role effectively, we realised that we had to legally enshrine and entrench ourselves firmly on the ground and create space for ourselves.

We therefore, through private members' initiative enacted certain fundamental legislations notable among them are the Powers and Privileges Act, the Acts of the Community Act and the Laws of the Community Interpretation Act. These with our rules of procedure gave us the legal basis upon which to operate. One of the most notable achievements was also that of taking the community to the people of East Africa. This was done through the outreach programmes which enabled the assembly members to familiarise themselves with the realities in the Partner States.

During these tours, the members had the opportunity to interact with common citizens in rural as well as in urban areas. We had meetings with peasants with the business community, professional associations and with civil societies. We had time to discuss with government officials in policies and priorities.

The frequent consultations we had with the heads of state provided the assembly members with occasions to deliberate on hard questions. In our meetings we were continuously taking into account the views of the type of community the people want. You will agree with me that as you tour the Partner States, then and even today, you are faced with a paradox, that while very few of our people know about the East African Community, but at the same time the majority of them are in favour of close cooperation whatever name you call it.

Mr speaker and honourable members, within its relatively short span of its existence, the First Assembly initiated a working relationship with the national assembly's partner states, the African Parliamentary Union, the Common Wealth Parliamentary Association, other regional parliaments such as the economic community of Western African states parliamentary forum, the SADIC parliamentary forum, and Inter-parliamentary Union.

The assembly spearheaded the establishment of a formal forum which became to be known as the Nanyuki series whose primary objective remained to provide parliamentarians of member states to regularly consult and interact with the EALA members on matters of regional intervention. The birth of Nanyuki series, the operational sittings of EALA and inter-parliamentary liaison committees have greatly contributed to the sensitisation and concretisation of the objectives of the region's goals and their speedy realisation.

I am glad to note that the current assembly has elevated this relationship to higher and more fruitful levels. I am informed that the Nanyuki series will take place in Bujumbura in the coming days of your working session. I take this early opportunity to wish the participants a fruitful deliberation.

Mr Speaker, it is my belief that the First Assembly successfully established itself into a relatively strong legislature the basis upon which the Second Assembly as he has correctly pointed out has been able to build upon and actually surpass what was achieved.

The work and the effectiveness of EALA is clearer and widely felt. The admission of Burundi and Rwanda in the community and into its organs brings extra strength. Their participation in the Assembly adds value to governance and progress in an enlarged community. Your presence is more visible and no one can today doubt the relevancy of this House.

I congratulate you Mr Speaker and the members of this House for giving the Assembly the high profile it demands, not only in the region but internationally.

Mr Speaker, your able and effective leadership in steering the demand in business of this assembly has solidified the working relationship between your institution and the other organs of the EAC.

The current assembly has become much stronger, passed more bills, widened and deepened the integration. You have been ably engraved yourselves in the records of history of the East African Community and scored tremendous achievements during your tenure of office.

I pray that you the members of this assembly get re-elected to the next Assembly so that you may continue to discharge your duties until the people of East Africa achieve their desired goal.

Mr Speaker and honourable members, the link between democracy and development is well established and I do not need to dwell on it. The challenge is how to ensure good governance and pursue development that will improve the conditions of our people.

As people's representatives we have an extra duty to perform, they have to be actively involved in development issues, rather than to conduct post-mortems on the failures or omissions of the executive to whom it is assigned the role of being responsible for development.

You therefore have to strengthen, East African Legislative Assembly mechanism which will recognise this challenge and make your institution full participant in this role. Mr Speaker, the main goal of the East African community as an economic and political entity stems from the desire by the governments of the Partner States to improve the standards of living of its people through increased productivity, competitiveness, trade and development and more.

The East African Legislative Assembly must remain and take the lead in promoting a sustainable economic development of the region, a key criteria for a secure stable and united region. The Partner States are in a better position to realise economic and social development by pooling their resources and their full potential. To address this issue, the East African Community has pronounced itself loud and clear as widely and deepening integration of economic, social and political aspects to benefit the citizens of our region.

To this extent, the integration is said to be at high pitch as reflected by the encouraging progress of the Customs Union entered in 2005, the establishment of the Common Market in 2010 and the negotiation from Monetary Union which commenced last year. With an area of nearly 2 million square kilometres, a total population of about 140 million and a GDP of US\$25 billion, the people of this region have everything to gain from cooperation.

What defines us in this region is our geography, our common culture, the shared economic activities and our two important common denominations, Kiswahili and the L. Victoria. We all speak Kiswahili, let us strive to make it a lingua franca of the community. We need not struggle to speak English when we are French speakers or speak French when we are English speakers. Let us adopt Kiswahili as our language for the community.

Lake Victoria, its waters and its sources remains a source of life for many of our people. It is estimated that 30 per cent of the region's population live around the lake, and 40 per cent live in the border areas of other countries. They are the natural architects of our bonding and the drivers.

Mr Speaker, for many years to come the stability within our countries and on the region, we largely depend on the level of delivery by our governments singularly and as a block. The issues of increased production and productivity, trade, investments, job creation and better living conditions will determine the continued relevancy and support to the East African Community.

Democracy is essential in order to create the conditions to score such games but if democracy is limited to formal political processes we would have positively changed the living conditions and advancing social economic developments or at least providing realistic hopes to our people then one should expect the eyes of negative tendencies with consequences of social unrest and political instability. It is no wonder Mr Speaker, that poverty continues to be a major challenge in our countries and in the continent and in all developing poverty eradication is one of the most important issues facing elected officials, while the technical relationships between national and regional and global poverty reduction initiatives may be alien to our constituency, voters care deeply about their poverty and their own quality of life.

Legislatures have an important role to play by articulating the needs of their constituents, framing of policies and debates of poverty reduction initiatives. Policies and programmes should not be determined by foreign agents. They must be locally generated owned and managed by our own institutions.

Development partners must respect the will of our people and must remain genuine partners and not drivers of policies. As representatives of the people, parliamentarians ought to speak loudly on behalf of the people who elect them, ensure that development plans are informed by the priorities on the ground, adopt a requisite legislation, approve budget allocations and exercise oversight over-expenditure.

In this regard, assemblies must be manned from the executive, legislative programmes which reflect the real priorities of our constituents. As a region we must give priority to food production. Real independence starts with the ability to feed ourselves but we also need to broaden our markets as a region and attract foreign investments. We have to lower the risk of doing business, derived from high business costs, inadequacy of transport communication and power infrastructure.

We have to take advantage of the community's well designed plans such as the customs union, the common market, the east African broad way, plan master plan, the East African power master plan just to mention a few. These plans when effectively implemented have proved to be of significance and benefit to our people.

Mr speaker and hon. Members, hon. Ministers, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, the rule of the regionalism, a belief in regional cooperation integration as a method to advance a region's shared political economic social or security interest has had profound effect on the people of countries forming such cooperation.

The East African Community remains relevant and useful to the people of our region. As we move to strengthen our integration, we realise more benefits from our cooperation. The assembly plays a crucial role in this process.

In this regard, I urge you Mr Speaker and the distinguished members of this house to double your effort in mobilising the people in our countries, the national assemblies and governments towards achieving the objectives of the East African Community. You have to continue to take full responsibility as you have always done in encouraging East African Community organs to meet the target dates for the implementation of agreements East African Community held so as to increase economic growth of our countries, to reduce poverty levels and raise the standard of living of our people, while at the same time mitigating the over reliance on official development assistance.

The East African Community member states need to share and pull resources together on research in all areas and in technology development which have significant economies of scale and are too costly for individual countries. Let us employ the past experience of the former East African Community where services and research centres and related activities were commonly financed, managed, fairly located and benefits commonly shared.

Mr Speaker allow me to touch on a matter whose cause though global but has a serious negative effect on us that is the on-going economic crisis. The impact of economic downturn is more telling. The risks are severe and the consequences are far East African Community thing. Our countries are experiencing hard times, falling of exports, rising fuel prices, declining value of our currencies, rising food prices, increased inflation, and reduction in financial flows.

Governments of Partner States have certainly taken several measures to address these problems which impact negatively on the lives of our people. The effects and the risks are even greater this time round, and we have already used large parts of our external resources to mitigate the impact of this crisis. I submit that parliaments must take time to understand the dimensions and effects of this crisis and actively participate in finding both short term and long term solutions.

Mr Speaker, the East African Legislative Assembly has every reason to celebrate and be proud of its successes. I salute you Mr Speaker and the honourable members for the great achievements. I commend the clerk and the staff of the assembly for the work well done.

After a challenging decade the East African Legislative Assembly has now arrived at a pivotal moment. Together you have discharged your duties and responsibilities and discipline, total diligence and with full commitment.

You have given the people of East Africa a distinguished service. As we enter a new decade in our shared history and common objectives, profound challenges stretch before us. The success and failures of our past should provide lessons for the future.

Mr Speaker, the honourable speakers of both chambers, the honourable members of the assembly, honourable ministers, in my concluding remarks I would like to once again thank you for honouring me with this exceptional event.

I wish you every success in your remaining months and once more I pray for your re-election to the next assembly.

I thank you Mr Speaker.

(Applause)

VOTE OF THANKS

Ms Lydia Wanyoto (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker and honourable members. It is very humbling that I have been given the honour to pass a vote of thanks to my first Speaker. This morning when I came in, I went to great hon. Kategeya, the secretary general and the others who were standing on my left and hon. Kategaya immediately noticed that I was behaving humble and he asked, “what is the problem?” he said, “there must be a problem because you act humble then there is going to be a serious thing.” But I was trying to behave the way the first Speaker taught us to – I was trying to be what he wanted me to be right from the First Assembly and I think I lost the test because the way hon. Kategaya talked, it looked like I had not changed much from the type of the first character that I was in the First Assembly.

Hon. Members, you will all agree with me that time cannot permit to pass a befitting vote of thanks to our first Speaker. But in summary I want to say that we want to honour the United Republic of Tanzania for grooming a fine, humble, intelligent, accomplished model East African in terms of a leader. (Applause) The two speakers have already told us that when we went to Arusha in November 2001, we actually found a small room which was our chambers and there was nothing to it, with one officer who was an acting clerk.

Some of us volunteered to be part time staff of the Assembly, I was a part-time staff of the assembly so that things could move. But that was because of the able leadership of our first speaker. He taught many things, I just want to mention quickly three because of time.

The first Speaker told us that the 1977 community that broke had a treaty but there was a treaty in the first community that broke and therefore there were rules and laws that were not in the treaty but would be able to move the second community to move on and be what it is. And he told us that if we believed in what he told us, then the second assembly from the old community would live and pass its infant mortality.

So, I am proud to be part of the team that has been able to see through you the two speakers, to see the second assembly of the East African Community following the old one, has lived beyond its infant life, it is now 10 years.

I want to thank you for your grounding leadership and for the second, now our Speaker that has picked on from where you left. The values are simple, but they worked for us given the type of treaty and the difficult times that we began the assembly. On issues of respect-, we were taught to respect people and – because if you have a microphone as a member of parliament, I mean you can say everything because you are protected, but most times the speaker told us to respect East African Community other's voice and views, to respect the council of ministers, to respect the secretary general and all that. And we have learnt and picked on from there.

The second issue he taught us was to be innovative and creative outside the treaty because most of these things are not in the treaty but then they work, they build the community, they build bridges. Appreciation of our different orientations, we come from different countries, different skills, different trainings but together we build the community.

We want to thank you for beginning us on that ground, we have been able to appreciate East African Community other, support East African Community other and build on to the gaps that our colleagues have- and also enhance the quality of others. And he lived the values he taught us. I want just to give one before I conclude. He talked about resource mobilisation; when we were in the assembly, we did not have money. There was no budget for the assembly; there was only something they used to call a token. But he formed a committee which again comprised of our current speaker and they went to look for friends for East Africa Community.

One thing they were able to bring on the first visit were vehicles. They brought some vehicles and amazingly, the generosity of our Speaker, they sat as a committee and gave one vehicle to the assembly another to the court and one to the secretariat. Now the bomb came, the Council of Ministers sat and wrote rules and regulations on how to use community assets and in their decision they said that the speaker is not entitled to a vehicle.

Hon. Members, you can imagine how I felt and the proposals I put on table when that matter came up, and the Speaker was very modest, the leadership that we deserve in East Africa. He was able to take that matter with humility, we re-negotiated the vehicles that he had brought for the East African Community and he was able to be allowed by the council of ministers to access one of the vehicles that he had brought for the community.

So, that is the type of person that we have amidst us, that is the type of person we had to begin the assembly for the East African Community.

The other issue that I would like to let you know as we appreciate his role was that he was a member of parliament for Arusha in the United Republic of Tanzania for Dodoma before he left to join us and therefore Arusha was a homely place for us who were new comers but also he used his personal house, he has a home, as he told you he comes from Arusha, our Speaker

was not present in Arusha. But he had been a member of parliament and a resident of Arusha. He used his personal house to perform East African Community duties.

I have been reading the oil documents in Uganda. They are doing exploration and there is a coming budget in case we now settle and begin exploring, that those that have been working will be paid back. I do not know whether in future there is any amount of payment we can give to a generous man of Kinana's calibre.

(Applause)

The mayor of Arusha promised us plots, those of us that had begun the community, I met him and he said, they are still preparing the land titles. We hope that the land titles will come for us to expand, deepen and widen the community in Arusha. But we want to thank you and I hope that I speak the voice of the first and second East African Legislative Assembly that some of us may not measure to the calibre of the East African that you are, but we will try to live to the virtues that you left and that you continue to execute but I would also like to propose that as an assembly, we should be able to move a motion or pledge to ensure that leaders of hon. Kinana's status are given their rightful space to contribute and entrench the values of leadership that we much need in East African today.

We thank you for being kind to wish those that would like to contest again- God may bless them to be able to forward your values to the third assembly.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, like you said, you remember the problems we had and how he solved them. And surprisingly, I think it depends on the person who brought those vehicles because the vehicles of the Assembly lasted seven years; we just replaced them recently and we are even still using some of them. So, I think we would like to thank hon. Kanana for what he did for this Assembly and for wishing the Members well.

(Applause)

You know in Arusha the other time I said, "People have to start thinking;" recently, hon. Speaker I got information that people are changing names. The first one was Abdi Kinana; the other one is Abdi Abdirahim and now I hear there is Abdi Ndahiro – *(Laughter)* – changing of names has started but I wish you well in the next Assembly.

With those few remarks, hon. Speaker, I once again say *asante sana* – thank you very much for gracing the occasion. Most of you are reading what is going on in the papers and understand what is going on in Tanzania; it is very important that he came here because there is a very big meeting of his party that is going on but he took time off to come and grace this occasion. Thank you very much.

(Applause)

The Speaker: I think we can continue to the next order and hon. Speaker, you can listen in and leave at your pleasure.

BILL

(Second Reading)

**THE INTERUNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST
AFRICA (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2010**

Mr Dan Ogalo (Uganda): Mr Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:-

THAT, the Inter University Council for East Africa (Amendment) Bill, 2010 be read for the Second Time.

Mr. : Seconded.

Mr Dan Ogalo (Uganda): Hon. Members, this Bill is coming up today for the second reading and I wish to give the justification. Mr Speaker, Sir the Bill's objective is to empower the Inter University Council for East Africa to accredit higher education institutions and universities to enable them function at a regional level. This will create opportunities for higher level university enrolment; more children will be enrolled. You remember, Sir that Minister Kamara, the then Chairman, Council of Ministers said that the World Bank had actually given the East African region a very low ranking in terms of enrolment.

Mr Speaker, this will also lead to investment in the education sector. I listened very carefully to the speech which has just been delivered by the Speaker, Emeritus Kinana and he touched on the question of investment; the question of research; and the question of pooling resources. This amendment Bill will enable the pooling of resources and investment in education, which will guarantee us a future for our children and our grandchildren.

Hon. Members, if this Bill is passed, it will allow for specialisation in the various fields of education and do away with duplicity. Instead of having five universities in five countries doing the same doing the same thing, it will be able to cut that out and thus save on costs, which will allow for specialisation in specific areas.

Mr Speaker, Sir the Bill with accreditation will allow for establishment of regional campuses. If a parent in Mbeya in Tanzania wishes is interested in Makerere University, there will be no need of him to have to incur so many costs to send the child to Makerere University, there will be a university college of Makerere in Mbeya and it will be cheaper.

This Bill once accreditation is allowed will create employment opportunities for the kids who are in these universities.

However, hon. Members there is what I believe to be the biggest justification of this Bill and I find it in Article 11(1) of our Treaty. It reads, "*The Summit shall give general directions and impetus as to the development and adherence and achievement of the objectives of the Community.*" The Summit is mandated under the Treaty to give general direction and impetus; where are we going? What should we do? And all organs under that should take that as a lead as to how we achieve development in the region.

Mr Speaker, Sir I wish to refer now to the speech of the present Chairman of the Summit, the President of the Republic of Burundi when he addressed this House in Rwanda and this is what he had to say on page 1 and I would like to quote it verbatim because it is quite important. But before starting my remarks, let me retaliate first of all the importance of the annual address delivered each time by the chairperson of the Summit of the East African Community Heads of State as indicated by H.E Jakaya Mwirisho Kikwete, President of the

United Republic of Tanzania in May last year while addressing this Assembly as the then Chairperson of the East African Community Summit.

The focus in this address which the President of the Republic of Burundi who was also speaking as the Chairperson of Summit decided to bold the words that I am going to read: *“To reflect on matters of general policies relating to the progress that our Community is realising while outlining the strategic challenges which require greater attention.”* When the Chairman of the Summit is addressing this august House, he is addressing it and putting to us challenges which require greater attention. He is passing the ball to the EALA, saying, “I am giving directions; I am giving impetus; these require attention.”

Mr Speaker and hon. Members, I will then go to page 6 of the Chairman Summit’s speech and quote what he said verbatim: *“One of our greatest challenges lies in quality assurance of our education system at a global level where science and technology are the prime drivers of social and economic transformation. We are then in need to strengthen the leading role of the Inter University Council of East Africa in quality assurance and accreditation.”* systems to ensure high standards of the products of our academic institutions in order to favour free movement of workers and services.” This is the challenge the Chairman of the Summit threw to the Assembly. He said this is one of our greatest challenges; having the Inter University Council of East Africa to have an accreditation function. And this is what this Bill seeks to do. So, the ball is in the court of the Assembly whether to give effect to the directive and impetus given by the Chairman of Summit by enacting this Bill into law or not.

The second most important justification I have for this Bill is to be found in the speech for the Minister of the East African Cooperation, Tanzania and Chairperson East African Community Council of Ministers, Dr. Diodorous Kamala who had something to say about this Bill to this very House in this very Chamber on Wednesday, 15 September 2010 . We were seated here and the Chairman said this; I will quote him verbatim: *“Mr Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to present the position of the Council of Ministers on this request presented to us by hon. Ogalo. The Council of Ministers proposed that this is the right time that we grant leave to hon. Ogalo”* There were applause from the House because they were very happy. It is recorded on the *Hansard* that the Council of Ministers is supporting this very Bill. (Applause)

Then he goes ahead to give very good reasons as to why the Council of Ministers supports this Bill; he says, *“Why do we think so?”* and then he answers, *“The World Bank report of 2008 on the global enrolment in universities gave East Africa only 5 percent. At the global level it 24 percent; in Europe it is 50-70 percent; now what do we do in East Africa to increase the percentage of enrolment? It is either continuing with the initiatives we are undertaking today or to establish a good environment to attract big universities to operate in East Africa.”* Then he says, *“One way of doing this is enactment of this Bill into law.”*

Then he says the second reason the Council of Ministers supports my Bill is: *“We think it is important is that there is need of reducing the cost of doing business.”*

Then No. 3 he says, *“As we move forward, we are moving towards a globalised world. We must work towards creating people who are thinking regionally. Sometimes you hear people talking about East African integration but talking parochially; talking nationally. One way of moving out of this is to have universities which think regionally.”*

Then No. 4 he says, *“We must equally encourage national universities to expand. I remember we used to have an East African University, which had campuses in all our cities and it*

operated very well. So, if we allow this Bill we will revive this system. On the current arrangement you cannot do this.” That was the position of the Council of Ministers as of 15th September, 2010. I am hoping and I believe that the Council of Ministers still hold this position.

It is line, Mr Speaker, Sir and hon. Members with the directive and impetus given by the Chairman of the Summit who also happens to be the President of the Republic of Burundi where we are seated today. The President and the Chairman of Summit will be keenly following what we say about his directive. He will be keenly following to see whether we are giving effect to that.

Mr Speaker and hon. Members, this Bill is about the future of our children and grandchildren. You can see what is happening with unemployment. Speaker Emeritus Kinana has talked about the problems of poverty; problems of underdevelopment, which we are faced with. We are faced with them because we are not opening up; we are not opening up to allow investment and research so that we can go ahead. I pray that you, hon. Members be pleased and support this Bill so that we enact it into law. I thank you, Mr Speaker. *(Applause)*

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the proposal on the floor is that the Inter University Council of East Africa Bill, 2010 be read for the second time; debate is open; Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose, hon. Lydia Wanyoto.

The Chairperson, Committee on General Purpose (Ms Lydia Wanyoto): Thank you, hon. Speaker and hon. Members. On behalf of the Chairperson of the Committee on General Purpose, I beg to lay the report of the committee on the Inter University Council for East Africa (Amendment) Bill, 2010.

Hon. Speaker and hon. Members, the report has been circulated; I beg to read through beginning with page 2; Mr Speaker, I beg to present before the House the report of the Inter University Council for East Africa (Amendment) Bill, 2010, which is a private Member’s Bill that was tabled by hon. Wandera Ogalo on 15th September, 2010 during the First Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Second Assembly that was held in Bujumbura, Burundi.

Mr Speaker, this Bill was introduced under provisions of Article 59 of the Treaty and in accordance with Rule 68 Of our Rules of Procedure. Allow me to remind the House that the Bill seeks to amend the Inter University Council Act, 2009 in order to confer power and responsibility on the Inter University Council for East Africa to accredit higher institutions and universities to enable them function regionally throughout the East African Community. It is believed that this will among others create opportunities for higher level of university enrolment leading to increased investment in tertiary education with greater regional specialisation across higher education as well as reduction in duplication and improved coordination between universities through greater free movement of students and academicians on a regional basis. Additionally, higher quality national and foreign universities will establish campuses or partnerships with institutions within the EAC.

Meetings of the Committee

Upon receipt of the draft Bill, the committee has over this period held meetings with the Council of Ministers, consulted with stakeholders in Partner States and met with ministers of Higher Education from the Partner States.

The committee received a letter from the Inter University Council for East Africa requesting the committee to withhold and postpone the consideration of the amendment Bill as they

were in the process of consulting their lawyers and preparing substantive and comprehensive amendments to the Bill.

The committee in its meeting on the 21st of September, 2010 agreed to grant the request to the Inter University Council for East Africa.

The committee further directed the Clerk's Office to write to the Partner States asking for comments and responses and also invited the ministers of the East African Community Cooperation to invite all stakeholders, particularly the national accreditation bodies to meet the committee or send written responses. No stakeholders, however, came to that session but comments were received from the Republic of Kenya.

The committee directed the Clerk's Office to once again write requesting for comments on the amendment Bill and subsequently during the Fourth Meeting of the Fourth Session of the Second Assembly in Kigali, Rwanda comments were also received from the Republic of Burundi.

Committee Meetings with the Council of Ministers

Mr Speaker and hon. Members, owing to the fact that the plenary of the Third Meeting of the Fourth Session had allowed the Council of Ministers time to consult on the pending Bills on the floor of the House including the Inter University Council (Amendment) Bill, the committee requested to meet with the Council of Ministers during the Fourth Meeting of the Fourth Session in Kigali, Rwanda. During the joint meeting, that is, the General Purpose Committee meeting and the Communication, Trade and Investment, which took place on the 6th of April, 2011 in the chambers of the deputies in the Parliament of Rwanda, the hon. Chairperson of Council of Ministers, explained that the Sectoral Council on Education, Science and Technology, Sports and Culture met on 1st January, 2011. She further explained that on the meeting they noted that national regulatory bodies exist by law in Partner States and are accrediting bodies, and therefore, this amendment Bill would create parallel systems.

She further stated that membership to the Inter University Council of East Africa was voluntary and, therefore, a decision was required to be made by the full council, which was due to meet in Arusha the following week.

Subsequently, during the 5th meeting of the 4th Session in Arusha, the committee sought to seek a final decision on the way forward for the Bill having considered the report of the 22nd meeting where the council ministers urged the ministers responsible for the east African Affairs to reject the Bill.

Meeting with Council of Ministers

Mr Speaker and hon. Members, a meeting was held with the Council of Ministers represented by hon. Peter Munya Minister for East African Community for the republic of Kenya and hon. Dr Sadara Abdullah deputy minister for East African Cooperation from the Republic of Tanzania and technical officers from the secretariat and the IUCA.

The hon. Ministers presented the position of the full Council of Ministers which was in essence a rejection of the Bill on the following basis.

- a.
 - a) that the two spiral systems of accreditation, one for national and another for foreign and regional universities, since they are university regulatory bodies established by law, give them the powers to accredit would be created.
 - b. That this would impinge on the national sovereignty as provided for in the retreat.
 - c. That the Inter-university council for East African was an inter-governmental body whose membership was voluntary and it was not an implementing body.
 - d. That the treaty does not provide for the third parties to be granted equal status with national entities in the region's integration cooperation without undergoing national institutional processes.

Meeting with the ministers for higher education from partner states on the 11th November, 2011

The Ninth Meeting of the sectoral council on education science and technology and culture and sports held on July 2011 directed the secretariat to convene a joint meeting of members of the committee and ministers for higher education from the partner states as well as the partner states national regulatory bodies to charter a way forward.

The meeting was held with nominated members of the committee and the mover of the Bill as schedules on November 11, 2011 at Laico Regency Hotel in Nairobi, Kenya.

The ministers responsible for higher education yet again rejected the Bill and supported the intention to carry out a comprehensive review of the inter-university council for East African Act 2009 which review however would not entail regional accreditation as envisaged by the Bill.

The committee agreed with the road map for the review that would go on until February, 2012 but did not consider it a contradiction if the committee went on with the due diligence of the Bill before the assembly.

Consideration of the Bill by the Committee

The committee met to consider the Bill and unanimously agreed that the Bill should be tabled before the house and proposes the following amendments – hon. Members and Mr Speaker, we have attached the amendment schedule. For purpose of regional accreditation, the committee makes members for the short title and amendment section two, four and six of the inter-university Council Act, 2009, consequential to the above amendment section eight and nine of the act are also amended.

And section 8(3)d, is amended to include the heads of authorities responsible for higher education from each partner state in the membership of the executive committee. This ensures that they too have a role in approving and granting regional accreditation.

Consequently, section 9(h) was inserted to complete 9(a) part (g) to add regional accreditation to the functions of the executive committee.

Conclusion of recommendations

- a) Mr Speaker and hon. Members, given the decision of the ministers responsible for higher education and upon decision of the options open to the committee on the way forward, the committee reiterates that it does not agree with the above position and finds that it is in the interest of the region and of the integration process for the Bill to be passed.
- b) The committee therefore, subject to the amendments attached hereto presents for consideration and adoption of its report and recommendation to the assembly that the house debates and approves the inter-university council for East African Amendment Bill, 2010. Mr Speaker and hon. Members, I beg to move.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, the debate is open. Hon. Akhaabi.

Mr. Gervase Akhaabi (Kenya): Thank you, Mr Speaker. Hon. Members, I stand to support the motion on the Bill. Mr Speaker, I support this motion on a number of grounds. The first one is that the treaty under the objectives for which the community is established clearly envisages cooperation in matters of education.

Mr Speaker and hon. Members, the treaty directs, as one of the objectives that the objective of the community shall be to develop objectives and programs aimed at widening and deepening cooperation among the partner states in political, economic, social and cultural fields, research and technology among others.

Mr Speaker, the tenant and spirit of this Bill aims at exactly this – promoting the objectives of the treaty as envisaged under article 5 of the treaty. Mr Speaker, in article 8(1) paragraph (a), the partner states have undertaken to cooperation plan and direct their policies and resources with a view to creating conditions favourable for the development and achievement of the objectives. One of the ways in which to plan and direct policies is through the development of common educational standards and quality assurance systems in education. Mr Speaker, this Bill aims at doing exactly that.

Mr Speaker, one of the areas in which the partner states have agreed to cooperation under chapter 16 of the treaty is in the development of human resources, science and technology. Through the inter-university council of East African and the proposed amendment in this Bill, this is supposed to be actualised.

Mr Speaker, with your permission, article 102(2)d reads as follows: “The partner states shall with respect to education and training -”

d) Develop such common programs in basic intermediary and tertiary education and a general program for adult continuing education in partner states as would promote the emergence of well-trained personnel in all sectors relevant to the aims and objectives of the community.

Mr Speaker, if the proposed amendments to the inter-university council of East African Act are adopted, then the inter-university council of East African will help in achieving the objectives contained in article 102(2) paragraph (d) to development common programs in basic, intermediary and tertiary education; and especially so, Mr Speaker, in tertiary education.

Mr Speaker, if you go further under paragraph (e) of the same article, the partner states have also agreed to cooperate to harmonise curriculum, examination, certification and accreditation of education and training institutions in the partner states through the actions of their relevant national bodies charged with the preparation of such curricular.

Mr Speaker, to harmonise the inter-university council for education – the inter-university council for East Africa will be a forum through which such harmonisation should be carried out. It is therefore important that when we discuss – debate this motion, we do not close our eyes to what the treaty tells us.

Mr Speaker, if you look at article – the same article, paragraph (f) it states: “The partner states shall with respect to education and training revive and enhance the activities of the inter-university council for East Africa.

Mr Speaker, this is precisely what this Bill proposes to do; to enhance the activities of the inter-university council for East African. This Bill and this motion is therefore squarely within ambit of the treaty and as the council of ministers charged with policy – the council of ministers of the East African Community should support this motion and the Bill.

Mr Speaker, I have read the report of our General Purpose committee on this Bill and I am frightened that the council of ministers is abdicating its responsibility to the people of East African. It is abdicating its responsibility and duty to the treaty. When the Council of Ministers and the sectoral committee on education state that there will be parallel systems – Mr Speaker, there is a problem here. Mr Speaker, you are presiding the preceding of this house; you are the leader of the legislature of the East African community. We have a court presided over by a judge – the judge president of the East African Court of Justice; he is the leader and he leads the judicial system in East African.

Mr Speaker, there is a legislature in each partner state, yet we have the East African Legislative Assembly legislating just like partner states legislatures legislate – that has never been a problem.

When the East African Court of justice decides they are also judiciaries in the partner states and the fact that the East African court of justice makes decisions that are binding on the East African partner states and therefore parallel, that does not mean that there would be a problem.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, this fear about parallelism is what kills the community; it is what is killing the community. There is also a declaration about sovereignty that this would impinge on the sovereignty of the partner states. Mr Speaker, it is not going to – we are trying to create institutions that will ensure that the education and training that we get in East African is of acceptable quality and relevant to the whole of East Africa. We are developing the East African Community as a community – a common market. We are not trying to create a small encrone somewhere and say that in this particular area it will be Kenya, the United Republic of Tanzania or the Republic of Burundi; we are trying to create and East African system.

So, Mr Speaker, this Bill is not saying that the national accreditation authorities will not perform their functions. it is simply saying that with regard to certain institutions of higher learning, these institutions that intend to operate regionally within the community, the inter-university council of East Africa should have mandate or the right to accredit; to see whether these education that this particular institution is trying to impart will be acceptable in the republic of Rwanda, the united Republic of Tanzania, republic of Kenya, Uganda or Burundi. Mr Speaker, we as members of this House should support this motion. If we do not support this motion, we will be doing exactly what failed the other community – failing to grow the community.

So, Mr Speaker, I support this motion and I urge my colleagues to support it too. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mrs Catherine Kimura (Kenya): Mr Speaker, I appreciate the comments that my colleague hon. Akhaabi and the person with which he says will support this Bill – I also take cognisance of the comments by the committee that has prepared the report on this Bill.

However, Mr Speaker, I look at the current Bill and what is being proposed and I do have a problem with one of the clauses that we are being asked to amend. I want to refer to clause 6(b)2 which reads, that one of the activities of the Inter-University Council for East African is a development in partnership with the national higher education commissions and accreditations councils of criteria for accessing standards and assuring the quality of teaching and research in the community through advising, quality assurance, mechanisms, ways of self-evaluation and comparability of degrees.

In other words, the current Bill recognises the mandate of the council to look at standards in conjunction with the accreditation councils. I am at pain to support this Bill when it has clause 6 – the amendment of clause 6 which aims at circumventing the mandate of the national accreditation councils.

The amendment of Clause 6 – clause (r); it is suggested that it will facilitate the establishment of foreign universities in the community by granting them on application a regional accreditation status enabling them to carry on their services in any partner states without going through national accreditation processes.

It will facilitate the establishment of any member university which may apply to operate in another partner state by granting it the necessary regional accreditation – Mr Speaker I do not understand how we are purporting to do regional accreditation and disregard national accreditation bodies and yet even the treaty talks about partnerships. The Bill itself talks about developing standards. Any national accreditation body will have to evaluate the standards, the quality of teaching, the research being undertaken by any university that is applying to accredit a particular university, whether foreign or local and that university is accredited by the regional body. Hon. Speaker I am at pain to understand why you would want to create this confrontation between national accreditation bodies and the regional accreditation body.

Therefore I would only support this bill with a deletion of that clause that aims at circumventing the mandates of our national accreditation bodies. Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mr Daniel Kidega (Uganda): Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is a tradition in this Assembly that when we convene in a Partner State, we must not only appreciate the good things that have been done to us but put it on record that we have been treated well. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government and the people of Burundi for once again hosting us and God willing, they will continue to host us in the next Parliament is many of us come back as wished by the Speaker emeritus.

(Applause)

Mr Speaker, we should not take some of these things for granted. I think I should thank your office and the administration of Parliament for giving some of us in-depth appreciation of this region through this rotation program. I have known Tanzania very well, I have known Kenya

so well – Uganda I was born there so I know it well. I have known Rwanda and Burundi as well. There is only one thing which remains confusing to me which I think I will make clear in this session – the hills of Rwanda and the hills of Burundi, which ones are taller. But I think I will come to a conclusion on that one during this session.

(Laughter)

Mr Speaker, on this bill, presented to us, I am in support of it. I am at a loss most of the time in this assembly on the argument of regional institutions vis-a-vis sovereignty. Why are we integrating then – at what point are we going to get easy in releasing certain authorities to the regional bodies. I think I cannot agree more with hon. Kimura that as long as this bill does not circumvent the national authority and provides for cooperation between the national institution and the regional body, I think this assembly has no reason to reject it.

We should move away from the fear of holding too much power at the centre and denying regional institutions from having responsibility to undertake the furtherance of the integration process. I have bothered to look through the issues of rating universities in the world. One of the most reputable institutions in the world is called QS – it is a UK based institution. It rates universities of the world. In the top one hundred universities of the world, there is none from Africa.

In the top one hundred universities from Africa, there is none from East Africa – Strathmore University which is in Kenya – *(Interruption)*

The Speaker: Hon. Kategaya will have an opportunity to debate later – Mheshimiwa Sebalu.

Mr Mike Sebalu: Thank you, I do not know which ranking you are using. But the most recent that I landed on included some universities from East Africa and they were ranked according to research and how they are sharing their research work electronically through the globe. Makerere University was one of them, University of Dar-el-Salaam and Nairobi University.

The Speaker: Mheshimiwa Sebalu I think he already told you the one he used, so which one is yours?

Mr Mike Sebalu: I do not want to go into that but –

The Speaker: Thank you, Mheshimiwa Sebalu, Mheshimiwa Kidega you can continue

(Laughter).

Mr Daniel Kidega (Uganda): I thank so much hon. Mike Sebalu for that patriotic thinking, but my source is QS and it is a UK based institution that does ranking. I invite you to look at it for 2011 – 2012. Last year, I did bother to look at the same ranking and indeed those universities you have mentioned were there. I think new universities did more research and the parameters this organisation does use is the number of researches you publish based on the different faculties: social science, engineering and so on.

So I think my data may not be very wanting as it may look to be. The issue of quality of education in the region needs to be addressed. And if this amendment and accreditation can deal with improving quality then we should support it. If the empowerment of the national institutions by the regional body in terms of accreditation can improve on quality then I think we should support this motion.

Mr Speaker, there are so many funny universities in this region. You find a small building being referred to as a university; they do not have the certain required standards for research, laboratories and so on. These are magnificent impact on our development agenda. If the human resource we are going to channel into this community is going to be half-baked human resource because of regulatory bodies then we are up to a lot of problems in this region.

Therefore, Mr Speaker, I support the motion and the bill with the amendment that the national institutions are not circumvented. I think you.

Mr Leonce Ndarubagiye (Burundi): Thank you very much, Mr Speaker for giving me the floor. When Rwanda and Burundi joined the East African the East African Community, the three founding countries had already integrated somehow to a certain level in such a way that we come from far way, having been under other influences of colonisation. If there are two countries that need to integrate as soon as possible then it is Rwanda and Burundi. We want to come to the same level where the others are.

We do believe that coming from two former French speaking countries and slipping slowly to English speaking before we joined the langue franka that the Speaker emeritus spoke about – we will definitely need this bill to help us integrate more and faster. You cannot talk about integration without integration in education so I support this motion fully. Thank very much, Mr Speaker.

Ms Dora Byamukama (Uganda): Mr Speaker, I would like to support the motion. But before I do that, I would like to add my voice to those who have spoken before me to thank the republic of Burundi and in particular our colleagues of the Burundi Chapter for the warm hospitality and all they have done to make us comfortable so far.

Mr Speaker, as someone who has interest in this part of the region, I would like also to commend the fact that since we were last here, there are clear developments. One of the clear developments that I have seen is the issue of cleanliness. Mr Speaker, I am informed that much as it was clean before, it is even cleaners because widows have been delayed to help in this aspect. So I would like to salute the republic of Burundi for this very progressive action and for ensuring that the widows and orphans are taken care of. Indeed when women are given a task, they do it very well and they deliver.

(Applause)

Mr Speaker I want to thank the Counsel to the Community and in particular hon. Ogalo for this motion. I have three points in support and I would like also to pose a question which I would like us to think about. First and foremost, we have a directive from the chair of summit which clearly supports this motion. And we also have on record, recommendations of council

which go against this directive. I think this is a conflict and we need to hear from the Council of Ministers why we are seeing this conflict whereas the directive was very clear.

I would like to believe that may be there is some small misunderstanding and that when the council of ministers stands up to clarify, we shall all be on the same page. Otherwise, it becomes very difficult for us to decide on the course of action when the supreme body of the East African Community has given one direction and the other body which is supposed to implement the direction is reneging on this particular directive.

My second point, Mr Speaker is what has been raised by hon. Akhaabi. When you look at article 102(f), it talks about this inter-university council for East Africa. This is one of the surviving entities referred to in article 9 and it talks about the fact that we should revive it and more importantly enhance it. So my question is, how do we enhance the inter-university council for East Africa – do we enhance it by crippling it or by giving it more power? I think these are critical questions we should ask ourselves.

Mr Speaker, when you look at the treaty, from chapter 11 onwards, you will find reference to the issue of cooperation. After establishing the entities – the organs of the community, we go into the area of cooperation.

So, I think it is time for us to define what we understand by cooperation. What did our forefathers have in mind when they talked about the issue of cooperation? Did they mean that we would keep on alluding to national sovereignty? Did they have in mind that we would keep on reneging on creation of super-national entities? What did they have in mind?

From my simple understanding of the word cooperation, it means that together – we would pool resources and together we go to where we intended to go in order to benefit all the people of East Africa.

So, Mr Speaker, it puzzles me to see that whenever we are trying to cooperate, utilising the instrument we have, which is legislation, the council of ministers comes up with challenges like those they have stated on page four of the report.

Mr Speaker, allow me to quickly refer to page four, which I find a little bit confusing. When you look at the reasons which were advanced by the council of ministers, they talk about parallel systems; it talks about the national and regional universities – that since there are other regulatory bodies established. But what is wrong with having a super-national entity? I do not see any contradiction at all. For me, rather than looking at it as an issue which impinges on sovereignty, I would see it as an issue of pooling resources. We are pooling resources.

It also goes on to address what has been highlighted in article 102, which requires us to harmonise curricular, examination, certification, accreditation of education, training of institutions in the partner states through joint action.

So I do not appreciate the reasons given where it is said that there will be parallel systems and that there will be impingement on national sovereignty. We cannot continue talking about

national sovereignty in a protective manner. We need to look at it and interpret it in a progressive manner whereby we view it as pooling of resources for realisation of the objectives of the community.

Mr Speaker, even so, when you look at article 8(3) of the Constitution, when we make laws and policies, these take precedence. So whatever may have been operating in the national states will have to take cognisance of the fact that there is this regional entity and feed in. So as far as I am concerned, these reasons given about parallel systems and national sovereignty are lame to that extent.

So, in conclusion, Mr Speaker, I would like to make reference to a point which was made by the right hon. Speaker emeritus hon. Kinana, when he said that this is a pivotal point. We are celebrating ten years. And in the last years I have served at this level in the East African Community, I have noted a few challenges. When we talk about cooperation, there is inertia – even in the text you see for example, under article 27 there is provision for initial cooperation. When you go ahead, there is progressive cooperation.

So, because we do not have time frames, there is some inertia which is being created because of lack of definition for example on the issue of cooperation on the progress that should be made in the area of customs union and the common market. This is a pivotal point and I believe that we as an assembly, together with the council of ministers, have got it within our means to ensure that we do not stagnate. Do not see any harm at all in supporting what has been proposed.

On page 2, the essence of the bill is very clear: we seek to amend the IUCA Act of 2009 in order to confer power and responsibility on the inter-university council for East Africa to accredit higher institutions and universities to enable them function regionally through the East African community. So really what harm is in this?

At one time, when we were making applications to join the universities, one of my choices was the university of Dar-el-Salaam because it was considered the best law university in the East African Community. Unfortunately, towards the end of my carrier, I changed my choice because my friends were also going to Makerere University. But this has been one of my greatest regrets because I would be speaking better Swahili now and maybe I would never have left the United Republic of Tanzania.

So what I am trying to say is that we should give different interpretation to issues of cooperation. Let us view it at pooling of resources. I would like to take the words of His Excellency Paul Kagame: he said that sometimes, when you are working with some people, you have to show them that this is a chair. Even when they do not see it, you insist that this is a chair – so we shall push and we are going to push and we will continue pushing to ensure that we work together; and I believe we will. I beg to support.

The Speaker: Hon. Members, we will continue with debate on this bill tomorrow. And before I adjourn, I would like to say that – I think you have been told of the procession that will be leaving to the stadium, which starts at 1 p.m., not 2 p.m. and His Excellency will be at

the stadium and the teams playing today will be Uganda Vs Burundi; that will be the first match followed by Kenya Vs Tanzania – that is the second match.

So honourable Members, the ones playing should go and change so that you can get ready for the matches this afternoon and also to say that we meet at the entrance of Source Du Nil at 1 p.m.

I now adjourn the house until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

(The House rose at)